

Brief Descriptions of All IPCR Documents

Introduction

This section of The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative website is where visitors can access a brief description of all the documents The IPCR has to offer (see list below).

All IPCR documents can be downloaded for free

All IPCR documents can be downloaded for free, or requested as an attachment to an email (see “The IPCR Copyright Policy” below for further clarification). People who would like to request a document as an attachment to an e-mail may do so by contacting the founder of The IPCR Initiative, Stefan Pasti—by e-mail (stefanpasti@ipcri.net) or using the contact information in the “contact” section of the website.

The IPCR Copyright Policy

In light of the urgent need to build bridges and increase collaboration between communities of people, all of the documents, information, resources, etc. created by The IPCR Initiative are viewed as resources which ought to be made as accessible as possible to people who can make good use of them. Therefore, all such documents and information (including this document) may be reproduced without permission, and distributed in any way the user believes will be consistent with the goals listed in The IPCR Mission Statement. [Please note: Quotes, statistics, and other copyrighted material used in IPCR documents have been appropriately attributed to their copyrighted sources. Readers may thus be assured that The IPCR Initiative encourages and supports the proper referencing of copyrighted material to their copyrighted sources.]

In Special Cases, A Few Hardcopies Can Be Postmailed

For people with special circumstances, it is also possible that hardcopies can be post mailed to any address provided. The IPCR Initiative, however, is currently very limited in its capacity to create hardcopies and send them by postmail. At this particular point in time, The IPCR Initiative can only respond to a very limited number of requests for hardcopies of documents.

[Brief descriptions of documents begins on p. 2]

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1. **“1000Communities²”** (161 pages) (February 2008-June 2008)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

“1000Communities²” is a proposal advocating Community Visioning Initiatives, “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” with ongoing workshops, and “sister community” relationships, as a way of generating an exponential increase in our collective capacity to overcome the challenges of our times. This proposal includes over 150 excerpts and quotes from relevant sources, which are provided to demonstrate the need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before. A special feature of this proposal is a 15 step outline (see p. 22-42) for a Community Visioning Initiative. The goal of this proposal is to encourage others to create similar community-specific proposals for their communities, and to highlight the potential of this approach.

2. **“An Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times”** (31 pages)
(Compiled during the years 2006-2007, with significant revisions in August-September 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

This document includes a ten point assessment of the most difficult challenges of our times—and 43 excerpts (observations, commentary, analysis, and statistics) from relevant sources as supporting evidence.

3. **“Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form”** (41 pages) (August-November 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

The IPCR Initiative is an effort to apply the accumulated wisdom now accessible to us towards the general goal of integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life—and towards the specific goal of generating practical responses to the challenges of our times. “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” provides comprehensive supporting evidence for the above statement, and is recommended as a starting point for people who would like an in-depth understanding of The IPCR Initiative, and what it has to offer. (Includes a detailed “Table of Contents”).

4. **“Brief Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts”** (15 pages)
[Developed during the years 2001-2007 (with the exception of “Ecological Sustainability”, which was already a widely accepted concept)]
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

Also recommended as a starting point for people who would like to learn more about The IPCR Initiative, and what it has to offer.

The Eight IPCR Concepts are:

“Community Good News Networks”
“Community Faith Mentoring Networks”
“Spiritual Friendships”
“Questionnaires That Help Build Caring Communities”
“Community Visioning Initiatives for Peace”
“Spiritually Responsible Investing”
“Ecological Sustainability”
“IPCR Journal/Newsletters”

Three related fields of activity (from the “Related Fields of Activity” list in the IPCR navigation menu), and one sample question each (from “The IPCR ‘Building Caring Communities’ Questionnaire”) (see list of “All IPCR Documents” on IPCR homepage) are included with each IPCR Concept, as examples of starting points for workshop discussion.

5. **“The IPCR Workshop Primer”** (241 pages)
(December 2006—with revisions in May 2007 and in August-September 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

“The IPCR Workshop Primer” includes much of the material considered to be the “basic building blocks” of The IPCR Initiative, and is organized specifically to be a primary resource for people facilitating IPCR workshops—and people participating in IPCR workshops.

6. **“The IPCR ‘Building Caring Communities’ Questionnaire”** (19 pages)
(October 2006, with minor revisions in Spring and Fall, 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

Sixty questions are offered as a) an example of what could be created with contributions from many people b) a way of sharing understanding and inspiration and c) a real questionnaire, which can be administered to seek out—and thus create—useful information for building caring communities. Includes The IPCR Initiative definition for “caring communities”.

7. **“23 Different Ways of Describing The IPCR Initiative”** (10 pages)
(Revised in August, 2007 from a version in the Spring 2007 issue of The IPCR Journal/Newsletter which offered 13 different ways)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

The IPCR Initiative identifies, provides supporting evidence for, and advocates the practical application of many elements of “cultural sustainability. It is, therefore, difficult to describe The IPCR Initiative in two or three summary statements. This document is a collection of excerpts from other IPCR documents—excerpts which are brought together to help readers appreciate what The IPCR Initiative has to offer.

8. **“Inspiring Role Models and Service-Oriented Initiatives”** (26 pages)
(Compiled during 2006-2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

There are a number of core beliefs which have contributed to the development of The IPCR Initiative. Here are three examples:

- a) As a result of the unprecedented opportunities created by the expansion of the Internet, we have now arrived at a very auspicious moment in time... for at no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives.
- b) Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world.
- c) There are countless numbers of ‘things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives’ which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

This document, “Inspiring Role Models and Service-Oriented Initiatives”—considered together with the many other resources accessible at the IPCR website (at www.ipcri.net -- provides evidence in support of the three above mentioned core beliefs of The IPCR Initiative...and this writer believes that such evidence is sufficient for the conclusion that we have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

9. **“Spiritually Responsible Investing”** (12 pages) (March-April 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

This paper is an attempt to define “spiritually responsible investing”, and was presented (in absentia—by a graduate student there) at the “Faith, Spirituality, and Social Change” (FSSC) Conference held at the University of Winchester, Winchester, United Kingdom, April 14-15, 2007.

10. **“Spiritual Peacebuilding: 47 Quotes and Proverbs”** (12 pages) (August 2007)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

This document is an attempt to define “spiritual peacebuilding”. This writer specifically recommends a close and careful reading of the section titled “The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions”.

11. **“An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)”** (313 pages)
(Fall and Winter, 1997)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

“An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)” is an unpublished collection of quotations, which includes sections on Sadhana, Satsang, Education, Guru, Namasmara, What to Avoid, More About Difficulties, Baba Himself, Seva, and Prayers. This resource is made available for people who wish to explore the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba; however, as clearly stated in the essay “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” (see the section “Three Most Important Points”), it is not necessary for anyone who would like to become involved in The IPCR Initiative to know anything about Sri Sathya Sai Baba (or to want to know anything about Sri Sathya Sai Baba). [Note: “Sathya Sai Speaks” are compilations of discourses given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which are published by the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publication Trust (Prasanthi Nilayam, India) (Vol. 1-15 are compilations of discourses given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during the years 1953-1982).

12. **“The Spirit of the Sacred Hoop”** (10 pages)
(First version in Fall 1984; first revision in Spring 2004; second revision in Spring 2006)
by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative

Many years ago there was a tribe of people who were experiencing challenges that were threatening their very existence. During this “time of fear”, a young woman experienced a vision—of a bird, which said to her:

“You must all leave where you are, and travel to a place far away.... You must look for the tree at the center of the sacred hoop. You will know when you have found this tree when you hear birds singing from the branches of a tree and you understand their song.”

The tribe of people eventually begin this “great journey”. Do they find the tree at the center of the sacred hoop? “The Spirit of Sacred Hoop” is a 9 page short story which describes significant events in the history of a tribe of people in ways that recognize intuition and spiritual wisdom as important elements of community and cultural sustainability.