



**The IPCR Initiative**  
Interfaith Peacebuilding  
and Community Revitalization

Responding to the challenges of: global warming and reducing carbon emissions; peak oil and reducing dependence on petroleum based products; global inequities and the tragic cycles of malnutrition, disease, and death; an increasing number of people using resources and ecological services indiscriminately; and the need for more proactive and preventative peacebuilding

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Introducing the “1000Communities<sup>2</sup>” Proposal:  
“1000Communities<sup>2</sup>” advocates for 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

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Expanding the concept of “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” so that these community centers function as resource centers, meeting places, educational centers where workshops are offered, practice sites for the development of “teacher leaders”, and clearinghouses on how residents can deliberately channel their time, energy, and money

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Offering a new definition of job fairs (in “1000Communities<sup>2</sup>”):  
“The job fairs which come at the end of the Community Visioning Initiative process provide opportunities for all key stakeholders in the community to demonstrate their upgraded awareness—and their interest in the welfare of the community—by offering and facilitating new employment opportunities...”

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Because it is possible for communities of people to deliberately create countless “ways to earn a living” which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

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Because one of the most persistent ironies in life is that with so many opportunities to provide real assistance to fellow human beings—and with the potential for such assistance to result in happiness “to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it”—there are still many, many people in this world who cannot find a “way to earn a living” providing such assistance.

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Contributing to the building of “close-knit” communities of people... communities with a healthy appreciation for each others strengths, a well-developed capacity to resolve even the most difficult challenges—and communities which demonstrate a high level of compassion for their fellow human beings.

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Free 161 page “1000Communities<sup>2</sup>” proposal includes:  
A Summary of the Potential of Community Visioning Initiatives  
15 Step Outline for Community Visioning Initiatives  
15 Suggestions for Preliminary Survey Questions  
Comprehensive Section on “Problems That May Arise”  
Over 150 quotes and excerpts from relevant sources

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Building bridges between diverse communities of people; both as a response to the implications of global warming, ecological footprint analysis, and the “peaking” of our finite supplies of oil—and to be proactive about individual spiritual formation, interfaith peacebuilding, and the creation of ecologically sustainable communities.

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Free Access to The IPCR Journal/Newsletter Summer, 2008 issue, which includes an introduction to the "1000Communities<sup>2</sup>" proposal, Section 9 of the proposal (15 suggestions for preliminary survey questions, in advance of a Community Visioning Initiative), the “Workshop” section from the IPCR Initiative website, and more.

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Facilitating the practical application of The Eight IPCR Concepts (Community Good News Networks, Community Faith Mentoring Networks, Spiritual Friendships, Questionnaires That Help Build Caring Communities, Community Visioning Initiatives for Peace, Ecological Sustainability, and IPCR Journal/Newsletters)

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Bringing to the fore what has been confirmed again and again as essential to individual well-being and social harmony by the saints, sages, spiritual leaders, and sincere practitioners of all faiths and moral “world views”.

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Because an exponential increase in compassion for our fellow human beings is not, currently, widely recognized as an essential and critical element of a truly comprehensive response to the challenges of our times.

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Because if many people can learn to find contentment and quality of life while consuming much less, this limiting of desires at the “root” will save much trouble trying to respond to the symptoms as they materialize worldwide. This is part of the “spiritual teachings” element which often gets overlooked....

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Highlighting the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives (see the “1000Communities<sup>2</sup>” proposal)... because people in all parts of the world—keenly attuned when it comes to resolving challenges which require urgent solutions at all levels of society— *could be* inspired to carry out similar Community Visioning Initiatives.

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Because everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets that supply the “ways of earning a living”.

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All IPCR documents are accessible for free, including:

“1000Communities<sup>2+</sup>”

“An Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times”

“Brief Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts”

“Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form”

“The Spirit of the Sacred Hoop”

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In light of the urgent need to build bridges and increase collaboration between diverse communities of people, all of the documents, information, resources, etc. created by The IPCR Initiative 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.

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Raising important issues through questionnaires and surveys, such as what would best fill in the blank in the following statement: “In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, \_\_\_\_\_ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.”

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“... bringing to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it.”

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Free access to community building tools (for example, the “1000Communities<sup>2n</sup>” proposal) which will assist with accumulating and integrating the knowledge and skill sets necessary for the highest percentage of people to act wisely in response to challenges identified as priority challenges

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An effort to inspire, encourage, and support the creation of many local community specific and regional specific variations of the “1000Communities<sup>2n</sup>” proposal—so that such Community Visioning Initiatives take place in as many ways and in as many communities as possible.

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Because overcoming the challenges of our times will require fully utilizing all the knowledge, tools, and resources accessible to us for the highest good possible in every area of capacity building (physical, ecological, medical, spiritual, educational, social, economic, technical, political, etc).

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Because “The more we realize the repercussions of our actions on our neighbours and strive to act according to the highest we are capable of, the more shall we advance in our spiritual development.” [J.C. Kumarappa in “Why The Village Movement?” Rajchat, Kashi (India) 1960 p. 73]

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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.

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Because there are many important initiatives which are critical to overcoming the challenges of our times, but which are not quite “coming through the mist as much as they should be.”

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Because 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.

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Because the most advanced societies are the ones which are successful at integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life.

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Offering free access to the story “The Spirit of 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.

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In “The Spirit of the Sacred Hoop” (accessible at [www.ipcri.net](http://www.ipcri.net))  
a young woman experiences a vision—of a bird, which says 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....”

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