1: SIT Graduate Institute - Peace & Justice Study

In , FAITH offers a new column, Discipleship , based on Sherry Weddell's books, Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus () and Fruitful Discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World ().

Context An analysis of the context is necessary to guide the choice of the most effective strategies of intervention to prevent violence. Given a specific context, appropriate early warning signs and indicators can be selected and the suitable tools for intervention can be identified. The context is here defined in terms of the causes of the conflict and the different phases of the cycle of conflict. Causes of Conflict Knowledge of the originating factors of a conflict is fundamental in choosing the right tools for prevention and the right targets for intervention. The Conflict Management approach implies looking at the causes while thinking about the solutions. For this reason it is important to identify elements on which it is possible to act, in order to influence the evolution of the conflict. General theories of war that point to structural elements such as anarchy see Kenneth Waltz or the security dilemma see Barry Posen are not sufficient. Some authors suggest looking for causal chains, as the interconnected factors and events that led to the development of a dispute and then to the ignition of a conflict. Hidemi Suganami recommends asking the question: This kind of analysis helps define different categories of causes, each influencing in a different way the evolution of the conflict. The field of social psychology has also furthered our understanding of the causes of conflict by focusing upon the attitudes and behaviours of individuals and their collectivities. Preventive intervention is more effective when addressing some factors rather than others, each entailing different policy implications. We consider the following categories of causal factors. Michael Brown distinguishes between: Underlying Causes or Permissive Conditions Proximate Causes, or Triggers Underlying causes create the conditions that are necessary for a conflict to develop. Permissive conditions can be of different kinds: While the presence of these preconditions determines whether or not a society is conflict-prone, it does not tell anything about when and how the conflict is going to escalate to violence. Conflicts are often an integral part of social dynamics and the engine of social and political development. Only conflicts that turn violent are disruptive and harmful. Triggers and Proximate causes fuel escalation and determine if and when a conflict will turn violent. These are the variables that must be known to control escalation and that must be targeted in a preventive action. Proximate causes can generally be defined as rapid and unexpected changes in any of the underlying causes. Change acts as a catalytic factor causing the ignition of violent conflict. Brown introduces a further distinction between Mass-factors and Elite-factors. Mass-factors refer to structural, economic, and cultural forces that influence shared perceptions and diffused hostility. Elite-factors refer to the behavior of specific leaders, assigning precise political responsibilities to the promoters of policies that deliberately fuel conflict. These last factors constitute the category of triggers that are more easily recognized, and on which Preventive Diplomacy can focus for effective, punctual interventions. Permissive conditions, conversely, would be the target of initiatives of Structural Prevention. In a similar way, Michael Lund classifies different factors as: Structural Factors Dynamic Factors Structural factors produce acts of violence only "remotely and indirectly;" dynamic factors are more "direct and immediate. Lund notices that the definition of the relevant structural factors is not always helpful to policymakers and practitioners that must act with limited resources, in a limited amount of time. Dynamic factors that influence the evolution of the conflict must be spotted in order to "identify strategic points at which interventions can have real results. Received legacies and socioeconomic conditions - These are factors that are inherited from the past and cannot be changed in the short term. Institutions and political process - Norms and institutions that can be acted upon and changed in the medium term, influencing the behavior of the conflicting parties. Actions of protagonists - Show how groups and their leaders perceive the situation, and how they react to it. These behaviors could be influenced and changed in the short term. Phases of Conflict Many authors describe conflict as a cyclical repetition of different phases, with recurring processes of escalation and de-escalation. Distinguishing between these different phases is useful to guide Conflict Prevention. Once the targets of the preventive actions have been defined, the knowledge of the phase of

conflict in which we decide to act also has important policy implications. In a conflict there are no clear trajectories, in which distinct phases follow one another in precise order. Nevertheless, it is possible to distinguish more acute and complex moments from more open and flexible ones in which it is easier and less costly to intervene. Given the resources and the tools available, it is possible to decide if and when they can be used effectively. Intervention in the first phases is less costly and more effective, but third parties often lack the information and the incentives to act sooner than later. Some models of conflict cycles are presented in the ; here we adopt the division of conflict into five phases suggested by Donald Rothchild and Chandra Lekha Sriram. The five phases are: Structural factors and underlying causes fuel division among groups along socio-economic, cultural, and political lines. Elites start mobilizing collective discontent, but without catalyzing it into organized groups. Preventive action at this point is not risky and has high potential payoffs. Inter-group relations are politicized and popular mobilization is such that even elites that were not manipulating incompatibilities must react and address popular discontent. As polarization between groups increases, the possibility of violence is higher and small-scale incidents can occur. Crosscutting ties and inter-elite linkages are still present, and issues are still negotiable. The costs of preventive actions are increasing but the potential payoffs are still positive. The start of mass violence constitutes a fundamental threshold in conflict. Inter-elite ties break down, social interactions focus on organized violence as political exchanges fade. Violence increases; adversaries loose confidence in each other and feel they cannot compromise. Violence makes intervention risky and costly. Even at this point it is possible to act in order to prevent violence to escalate further and eventually spillover to other regions or groups. The phase can be divided into two separate parts: Institution building and democratization should lay the foundations of a sustainable peace. Social Psychology of Conflict Escalation The field of social psychology offers important insights into the escalation phase of conflicts. For instance, according to Rubin, Pruitt and Kim, escalation occurs when a group is faced with aggression, or when one side perceives the other as the cause for loss or unfulfilled aspirations. Whether conflicts are internal or external, responses to such situations most often lead to actions which exacerbate tensions and result in violence. Escalation of violence is often described as a security dilemma, the situation that occurs when both sides attempt to pre-empt aggression by the other. Information failures, in which neither side is precisely sure of the plans or intentions of the other, lead defensive actions by one side to be perceived as offensive by the other. Leaders believe that they have no other choice than to match or surpass actions taken by the other, leading to a cycle that can quickly spin out of control. Identity can also play a key role in the escalation of conflict, when individuals or leadership feel threatened. When threatened, individuals in groups tend to cleave to factors of identity in order to establish a sense of security. According to Lederach , perceived threats encourage people to seek their security in increasingly narrow identity groups. Leadership whose legitimacy is threatened, either by their own actions or by an immediate crisis, can manipulate the identity of its population. Rothchild Forthcoming terms the "rallying cry" to be the call of leadership to mobilize along nationalistic terms for collective action. The evolution of conflict can be attributed to: The role of public opinion and collective moods When conflict has a protracted history, it is easier to mobilize public opinion towards escalation rather than de-escalation. Long experience of distrust or conflict means violence can be easily re-ignited. Group Loyalty In order to successfully affect their actions, leaders need to mobilize the support of the population. In crises of legitimacy, such mobilization is often completed through the manipulation of identities through nationalistic appeals. Threats to Decision-Making Threats from opposition groups or other threats to power often discourage steps towards peace and compromise, as compromise is often perceived as a weakness. Negotiation and Bargaining Negotiations are only ever entered into when parties perceive that gains from joining the negotiation are greater than those that would ensue by a continuation of conflict. However, while admitting that these factors may play a role, Michael Lund claims that they are not of primary importance. Rather, the most fundamental factor, he explains, is that politicians and middle-level elites in the US and elsewhere, have very little knowledge and understanding of the nature of post-Cold war conflict, as well as the mechanisms that can be used to reduce them. In order to promote effective preventive diplomacy, policy makers need to know a number of things about the potential real cost of conflict, the risks and effectiveness of preventive action, and

the mechanisms and ways by which prevention can be implemented. Developing frameworks that can predict conflict and devise the most effective operating procedures on the basis of the nature of the conflict, its context, and dynamics, is therefore vital for policymakers to feel confident enough to support preventive initiatives. Further, organizing and synthesizing pre-conflict information into meaningful categories that clearly indicate threat levels in each unique case, will be needed in order for such initiatives to be implemented. In order for third parties and the international community to better be able to predict and prevent violent conflict, we have to know the warning signs that precede it. The earlier the reaction to an incipient conflict, the greater the opportunity of reversing a deteriorating situation. We can be forewarned of impending crises through early warning indicators or signs: Indicators are certain figures or groups of figures that, when monitored over time, tell about changes in political and economic conditions of a country or group. They are long-term in perspective and include issues such as crime rates among certain groups, trends in unemployment, negative attitudes, forms of expression, and political association. Signs are more short-term indices that do not necessarily appear regularly but whose appearance signals fundamental changes in a country? They are, for example: Models There are numerous early-warning systems at work in conflict-prone regions around the world. The Clingendael Institute of International Relations in the Netherlands, has made an effort to track these systems in their report "Conflict Prognostication: Toward a tentative framework for Conflict. The report creates a three-fold typology of Conflict Prevention models: Whereas the correlation model focuses on structural indicators and causality and how these will help us understand why conflicts occur, the sequential model focuses on shorter-term early warning by studying the sequence by which events that can trigger conflicts have occurred in the past. The response model is different in that it is "policy-driven? Early-warning models differ in terms of their objective, structure, manner in which data is collected, and mandate of the monitoring authorities. When choosing a methodology each system has to determine whether to use short-term or long-term indicators, take a qualitative or quantitative approach, or collect generic vs. Most of these choices have to be adapted to the specific context of the region where the data is collected, as well as to the availability and reliability of information. In addition, the task of setting up an early warning structure is far from simple:

2: The Path of Transformation

Conflict Prevention faces serious problems in this respect because it is extremely difficult to evaluate whether conflict prevention initiatives have been responsible for a conflict not having happened.

Drew Institute participants from Indonesia and Nigeria. The inaugural Drew Institute on Religion and Conflict Transformation, held in June , was attended by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim men and women from around the world. By the end of the pilot phase of these three institutes, inaugurated in , Drew University aims to have 18 trained emerging leaders from each country, thus establish a vibrant global network of young religious peacemakers. Maples is an experienced executive and intelligence officer; he served for over ten years in many leadership positions at the Central Intelligence Agency and U. With a career focused on both security operations and strategic management, he continues to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the federal Government Employee Voluntary Investment Fund. Previously she served as the Resource Development Coordinator for a joint Israeli-Palestinian peace education program, Windows: In addition to grassroots peacebuilding projects in Israel and the Palestinian territories, Robbins has been involved in development projects in West Africa. Robbins is a mother of two, wife and social justice advocate by nature. A human rights activist and peacemaker from Sudan, Abubakr created his first organization at the age of 14 in response to the genocide in Darfur in Since then, he has founded several humanitarian and human rights organizations in Sudan and has led a variety of international initiatives focused on peace, regional security and intercultural and interfaith dialogue. In particular, he played a pivotal role in the YaLa Young Leaders movement to promote understanding between Israeli and Arab youth and has led several initiatives to engage Jews, Muslims, and members of other faiths across the Middle East and North Africa in dialogue and cooperation. Since his arrival in the United States in March of , Abubakr has shared his story and experiences with audiences at various institutions, including Stanford University, U. Previous to his appointment at Drew, Dr. He is the author of In the Vicinity of the Righteous: He is currently working on a study about the social construction of moral imagination in the medieval Islamic world. An avid scuba diver, Dr. Taylor is also a certified scuba instructor and frequently teaches scuba at Drew. Azhar Hussain Azhar Hussain is the Founder of the Peace and Education Foundation PEF , a Pakistan-based non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting peace and tolerance by building civil society capacity and empowering religious actors. PEF workshop alumni have initiated numerous interventions within their communities to halt the spread of extremist narratives, developed various peace- and tolerance-building programs, facilitated educational enhancement initiatives, and established sustained mechanisms to protect embattled minority communities from extremist violence in some of the most vulnerable and conflict-affected areas in Pakistan USCIRF, Hussain has also served as Senior Vice President for Preventive Diplomacy at the Washington-based International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, an organization that seeks to build religious considerations with the practice of international politics in support of peacebuilding. Hussain has provided educational and intercultural consulting services for numerous multi-national organizations, and has a well-established history of successful training and development initiatives throughout the world, including in India, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, the United States, and Mexico. He has also organized and delivered presentations at numerous conferences around the world, including at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum at Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, and to foreign guests of the U. David Thaler David Thaler has a B. He currently serves as Commissioner of the U. Commissioner Thaler has over 15 years of experience conducting labor mediation, advising joint labor-management partnerships and training business and labor leaders on five continents in both conflict management and related areas. WISE is dedicated to empowering Muslim women to fully participate in their communities and nations, as well as amplifying their collective voices. ASMA also works towards building bridges between Muslims and the general public. She continues to mentor American Muslims on the assimilation process, balancing faith and modernity, challenges of living as a minority, and intergenerational relationships. To strengthen the voices of women and youth within the global Muslim community, Khan created a cutting-edge international program:

Khan also worked for twenty-five years as an interior architect for various Fortune companies. A former commercial litigator with a B. She currently lives in Riverdale with her husband, Rabbi Aaron Frank, and their four children. Kate Ott, Drew University Dr. Kate Ott is assistant professor of Christian social ethics at the theological school at Drew University and a lecturer at Yale Divinity School. She is co-author of the second edition of A Time to Speak: Faith Communities and Sexuality Education, author of the report on a program she leads, Sex and the Seminary: She believes the moral choices we make affect who we are and show who we want to become. Ott is passionate about the intersections of health, education, and the environment for young people, and tries to never disconnect issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality in her work. Stuart Dezenhall Stuart Dezenhall is currently a social media manager at Drew University, as well as a member of the game day staff for the New York Jets. He has a background in communications and worked as a manager for United Entertainment Group where he presented media and radio and television interviews for sporting events, corporate programs, and sponsorship initiatives. He has also worked for Dezenhall Resources as an Independent Contractor where he managed crises and public relations issues for Fortune corporations. He was born in Iowa, and received his B. His research focuses on how climate and weather changes impact violence in war, with a focus look at the Taliban in Afghanistan. His classes in Political Science focus on international security and foreign policy, and in Environmental Science his lectures analyze the effect of climate change on politics and security. Carter also teaches seminar classes on the social impact of climate change. Her teaching and research interests focus on the use of Geographic Information Systems GIS in environmental justice, public health, and population geography. In particular, her current research explores demographic changes in countries experiencing acute food insecurity. Jordan currently teaches courses which support the undergraduate Civic Engagement curriculum on the Drew campus. Drew Institute Alumni News. It also aims to foster a sense of mutual responsibility among the students toward Israeli society. He reached out to a friend at the Interfaith Encounter Association in Israel to help match the school with a similar one in the Israeli Arab community. Drew Institute Faculty, Ashafa grew up in a conservative environment, as the eldest son of a Muslim scholar and spiritual leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi order. He followed the family vocation and became an Imam himself, in the context of an Islamist movement in northern Nigeria. In , violent interreligious conflict broke out in Kaduna State. Muhammad Ashafa went on to become Secretary General of the National Council of Muslim Youth Organizations, an organization promoting debate and confrontation against Christians. Imam Ashafa recalls a critical turning point, when a mutual friend of the Pastor and Imam said to them: In , the two former opponents decided to work together and build bridges between their respective communities through the founding of Interfaith Mediation Centre, a religious grassroots organization that has successfully mediated between Christians and Muslims throughout Nigeria. He was ordained in at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Fellner began his rabbinic career in Alaska as a military chaplain. He was the sole Rabbi for the entire state, and responsible for the spiritual needs of all branches of the military as well as the Jewish civilian population. In the past twenty years, Rabbi Fellner lectured on homiletics to rabbinical students at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Fellner also studies motion pictures and television, focusing on Jewish images and themes, and has given a series of lectures on film at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. Azhar Hussein As a Pakistani-American and a Muslim, Azhar Hussain has been personally affected by global extremism as well as sectarian violence in Pakistan. Today, he leads a critical effort to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary for peace and reconciliation. Growing up in Pakistan, Azhar Azi witnessed firsthand the influential role of the madrasa education system on Pakistani students and society. On behalf of ICRD, Azi has worked in partnership with local Pakistani religious and civic organizations to design a system of comprehensive training programs for madrasa leaders that equips them with the skills necessary to facilitate these changes. Through his commitment to the Islamic principles of peace, tolerance, and reconciliation, Azi is laying the groundwork for sectarian harmony within Pakistan and for the reduction of global extremism. With PEF, Azi seeks to deepen the work of ICRD to include trainings for madrasa teachers and leaders while building on work with universities to develop certificate programs for madrasa teachers. What drives his efforts to reform the madrasas is his conviction that religion can be a force for peace and unity rather than division and violence. WISE is dedicated to

empowering Muslim women to fully participate in their communities and nations and amplifying their collective voices. Khan is also Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement ASMA , a New York based non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening an expression of Islam based on cultural and religious harmony, as well as building bridges between Muslims and the general public. She continues to mentor American Muslims on assimilation issues, balancing faith and modernity, the challenges of living as a minority, and intergenerational questions. To strengthen the voices of women and youth within the global Muslim community, she created two cutting-edge programs of international scope: Born in Kashmir, she spent twenty-five years as an interior architect for various Fortune companies. The Technology and Ethics of Everyday Living. Her other books include: Soloveitchik, and his Ph. Rabbi Riskin founded and serves as Chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone, a network of educational institutions based upon the synthesis of Torah values with contemporary living and tikkun olam. He is a veteran contributor to The Jerusalem Post and author of multiple books. He belongs to the Modern Orthodox stream of Judaism and is active in interfaith work, founding the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation. Director Chris Rodriguez, PhD. Prior to his appointment, in July , Director Rodriguez served for more than a decade in the U. Director Rodriguez has been recognized with several awards from the Director of National Intelligence. He served in Iraq in â€"07 and has traveled to over two dozen countries. Prior to becoming a history educator, Laura was a commercial litigator. Laura has a B. She lives in Riverdale with her husband, Rabbi Aaron Frank, and their four children. Summa Cum Laude from Tulane. He currently serves as a Commissioner of the U. Commissioner Thaler has over 15 years of experience performing labor mediation, advising joint labor-management partnerships and in training business and labor leaders on five continents in both conflict management and related skills. Professor Thaler teaches courses in practicum of conflict resolution and mediation and advanced mediation. Continued fighting and resentment would be the easy choice, but James Wuye was convinced otherwise. With this aim in view, the pastor and imam launched the Interfaith Mediation Center of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue, an organization with over 10, members providing interfaith training to young people in schools and universities, to women, religious leaders, and politicians. The center has thus contributed to defusing tensions in the and clashes in Kaduna and Yelwa. Ehsan Zaffar Ehsan Zaffar currently serves as an advisor on civil rights and civil liberties issues at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington D. He is a panel member and mediator at the Agency for Dispute Resolution where he mediates intra and inter-community disputes. Zaffar works to help build strong and resilient communities. Prior to government service he worked with communities in post-conflict and post-disaster environments both domestically as well as internationally.

3: The 5 thresholds of conversion | Faith Magazine

By Tamice Hasty, Black Campus Ministries staff at Emory University The five thresholds of postmodern conversion are concepts developed by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp in their book, I Once Was Lost.

These strategies and tools are often used in combination; moreover, the conceptual distinctions among them are sometimes blurred in use. Page 6 Share Cite Suggested Citation: The National Academies Press. The intent is that over the course of the meetings the participants will come to reinterpret the relationship between their groups and the possible futures of that relationship and that this change in the perceptions of a small number of individuals will lead either directly through concrete peace proposals or indirectly e. In recent years, conflict transformation strategies have also been promoted by NGOs that are spreading ideas such as alternative dispute resolution to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The so-called truth commissions in South Africa and some Latin American countries use a strategy of conflict transformation when they work to construct a shared understanding of history that can be a basis for emotional reconciliation, tension reduction, and the creation of a more cooperative political climate see Chapter 9. Structural prevention typically focuses on the problems of culturally divided states, especially those with weak democratic traditions, deep ethnic divisions, and histories of collective violence perpetrated by one group against another or by past governments against civilian populations. Various tools are available for structural prevention, including institutions for transitional justice, truth telling, and reconciliation Chapter 9 ; electoral and constitutional design see Chapter 11 ; autonomy arrangements within federal governance structures Chapter 12 ; laws and policies to accommodate linguistic and religious differences Chapter 13 ; training for law enforcement officials in following the rule of law; institutions assuring civilian control of military organizations; and the development and support of institutions of civil society. The third strategy is normative change, defined as developing and institutionalizing formal principles and informal expectations that are intended to create a new context for the management of conflict. Norms may also define responsibilities for states to prevent violent conflict. Although norms were established to manage conflict between states during the Cold War, a notable feature of the post-Cold War period is the effort to use international norms to regulate or prevent conflict within states. In previous eras the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of sovereign states provided that sovereigns had license to control conflicts within their borders, free from outside influence. Although this norm was often breached by great powers acting in their own national interest within their spheres of influence, it was rarely overturned in favor of universal principles that held all states responsible to common standards. This situation began to change in the later decades of the Cold War, when norms such as human rights, democratic control, and the self-determination of peoples were increasingly invoked against states that abused their citizens. In Europe the Helsinki Final Act of was an historic watershed in this regard, permitting oversight by the 35 signatories of human rights conditions in each of their territories. Of course, we are a long way from a world in which what is good for humanity consistently outweighs the prerogatives of states. Nevertheless, there are signs that universal norms, many of which are stated in the United Nations Charter and other international documents, are becoming embodied in transnational institutions that can exert influence on states. For example, human rights norms have, through the operations of the CSCE and OSCE, provided increasing leverage for the international community to curb organized state violence against minority groups. Continuing dialogue about the tension in international law between the norm of noninterference on the one hand and those of human rights and self-determination of peoples on the other may be leading toward a new international consensus on how to provide for the rights of minorities. And the growing international acceptance of norms of democratic decision making are making it more legitimate for states, international donors, and NGOs to support struc- Page 8 Share Cite Suggested Citation: It is too soon to be sure that the increased prominence of these new strategies of international conflict resolution is an enduring feature of a new world system. However, it seems likely that many of the forces that have made these strategies more attractive are themselves enduring. If intrastate conflicts continue to pose serious threats to global security, if nonstate interests remain important, and if global integration makes foreign policy

increasingly difficult to organize exclusively around coherent and unitary notions of national interest, conflict resolution is likely to rely more than in the past on the transnational activities of nonstate actors and on techniques that do not depend on traditional definitions of national interest. Nation states are likely to remain important actors in international relations for some time to come, however, and the possibility of violent interstate conflict remains a serious concern. But recent events presage a more complex multidimensional arena of international conflict in which both state interests and nonstate actors are important parts of the mix. Under such conditions some recent trends are likely to stabilize. For example, NGOs with humanitarian and conflict resolution missions have a good chance to remain prominent players in world politics. Their comparative advantage lies in using conflict resolution tools that do not depend directly on power politics. Although NGOs can facilitate negotiations that trade off interests, states are probably better positioned to do this. NGOs are uniquely able to contribute by deploying the emerging tools of conflict resolution, as they have increasingly done in recent years. They have promoted conflict transformation by sponsoring interactive conflict resolution activities see Chapters 7 and 8 , providing training in informal dispute resolution techniques, and supporting various institutions of civil society that participate in democratic debate. The roles for NGOs in structural prevention are sometimes more prominent than the roles for states. And they have contributed to the development and enforcement of new international norms by promoting and monitoring conditions of human rights, treatment of minorities, and democratic governance e. Their continued importance will depend not only on their usefulness to diplomats in the aid-donor states but also on their acceptance by the parties to the conflicts they want to resolve. Thus, to be effective, these NGOs must be accepted by their potential clients as democratic, accountable, and true to the humanistic principles they espouse. They must also find ways to ensure that their activities do not make conflicts worse see Chapter If the post-Cold War world is qualitatively different from what came before, does it follow that what practitioners know about conflict resolution is no longer reliable? A provisional answer comes from the results of a previous investigation by a National Research Council committee that reviewed the state of knowledge relevant to preventing major international conflict, including nuclear war. Between and this group commissioned 14 comprehensive review articles covering major areas of knowledge about international conflict National Research Council, , , Stern and Druckman identified propositions that the authors of the reviews judged to be supported by the evidence available at the time. Each proposition was coded in terms of how well it stood up against a list of five political surprises of the period. First, the great majority of the propositions about 80 were not tested by the surprising events. Thus, these conclusions from historical experience remained as well supported as before. Second, of the propositions that were tested by events, most were supported by the events that occurred. This knowledge was also unchanged by the shift in the world system. Third, however, some of the most critical events of were not addressed by any of the propositions. Available knowledge about the international system had virtually nothing to say about the conditions under which an international epidemic of democratization would break out, or a great empire would peacefully liquidate itself, or a new historical era would dawn without a great-power war. So, although much of what passed as knowledge before was still reliable knowledge after that time, much of Page 10 Share Cite Suggested Citation: The main lessons of the end of the Cold War were not that previous knowledge was wrong but that there was no knowledge about some of the most important phenomena of the new era. The results of that analysis suggest that, although it makes sense to look carefully and critically at what is known about the traditional strategies and tools of conflict resolution that have received considerable attention from scholars and practitioners, it is especially important to examine what is known about less familiar strategies and tools that received limited attention in the past and that may be of major importance under the new conditions. This book does not attempt to comprehensively review knowledge about the effectiveness of the conflict resolution techniques based mainly on the influence of tools of traditional diplomacy. Instead, the contributors were asked to examine only a few of these techniques and only in some areas of their application: Generally, what the contributors find is that the new conditions in the world have not invalidated past knowledge about how and under what conditions these techniques work. However, the new conditions do call for some modification and refinement of past knowledge and suggest that the old tools sometimes need to be thought of and used in new ways. Each of the

above chapters includes a summary of the state of knowledge about the conditions favoring effective use of the techniques it examines. Much closer attention is paid to the emerging strategies of conflict resolution and to the techniques that embody them, about which much less has been written. For most of the conflict resolution techniques that involve conflict transformation, structural prevention, and normative change, there is no systematic body of past knowledge from the previous era that is directly relevant to current needs. Therefore, careful examination of what is known about the effectiveness of these techniques is particularly needed at this time. Fortunately, these techniques, though underutilized, are not new. For example, one type of structural prevention strategy is to offer autonomyâ€"special status and governance rightsâ€"for certain culturally identified subunits in a unitary or federal state. There is a fairly long history of happy and unhappy examples of autonomy that may hold Page 11 Share Cite Suggested Citation: But it is only very recently that scholars have looked to cases like Scotland, Puerto Rico, the Soviet republics and autonomous regions, Catalonia, Greenland, the Native American reservations of the United States and Canada, the French overseas territories and departments, and the like to find lessons that might be informative in places like Chechnya, Bosnia, and Hong Kong see Chapter In the past, when such structural arrangements were the subject of scholarly attention, it usually came from specialists in domestic politics e. The same situation holds for constitutional design. The world is full of constitutions and electoral systems, and their consequences for conflict management in their home countries are available for historical examination. However, until recently, relatively little systematic attention was paid to the question of how electoral system design shapes the course of conflict in a society see Chapter 11 for a review and analysis of the evidence. This book gives detailed attention to several nontraditional conflict resolution techniques in order to shed light on the potential for using techniques that employ the strategies of conflict transformation, structural prevention, and normative change as part of the toolbox of international conflict resolution. The intent is to draw out lessonsâ€"what George calls generic knowledgeâ€"about the conditions under which each type of intervention in fact reduces the likelihood of violent conflict and about the processes that lead to such outcomes. Our primary intent in conducting this exercise is to provide useful input to the decisions of conflict resolution practitionersâ€"decision makers in national governments, international organizations, and NGOsâ€" who must consider a wider-than-ever panoply of policy options, some of which they have not seriously considered before. The contributors to this volume were asked to summarize available knowledge with an eye to informing these decisions. We also hope, of course, to advance knowledge among specialists about the functioning and effectiveness of the various techniques of international conflict resolution. But the rationale for developing this knowledge is more than the curiosity of science. It is also to help in efforts to reduce both organized and nonorganized violence in the world. Page 12 Share Cite Suggested Citation: Some essential knowledge is highly situation specific and can come only from examining features of particular conflict situations in the presentâ€"the political forces currently affecting the parties in conflict, the personalities of the leaders, the contested terrain or resources, and so forth. Other kinds of essential knowledge apply across situations. They tell what to expect in certain kinds of conflicts or with certain kinds of parties, leaders, or contested resources. These kinds of knowledge are generic, that is, cross-situational, and therefore subject to improvement by systematic examination of the past. Problems are situations encountered repeatedly, though in different contexts, in the conduct of the practice of diplomacy or conflict resolution, such as deterring aggression, mediating disputes, managing crises, achieving cooperation among allies, and so forth. Practitioners typically consider several specific policy instruments and strategies for dealing with each of these generic problems. In this process they can benefit from several types of knowledge about them. First, general conceptual models identify the critical variables for dealing effectively with the phenomenon in question and the general logic associated with successful use of strategies or techniques to address a type of problem. For example, deterrence theory in its classical form e. It presumes that the target of a deterrent threat is rational and thus, if well informed, can make a reasonably accurate calculation of the costs and risks associated with each possible response to the threat, and it prescribes the characteristics of threats that are effective with rational actors. A conceptual model is the starting point for constructing a strategy or response for dealing with a particular conflict situation. Second, practitioners need conditional generalizations about what favors the

success of specific strategies they might use. This kind of knowledge normally takes the form of statements of association—that a strategy is effective under certain conditions but not others. Although conditional generalizations are not sufficient to determine which action to take, they are useful for diagnostic purposes. A practitioner can examine a situation to see whether favorable conditions exist or can be created for using a Page 13 Share Cite Suggested Citation: Good conditional generalizations enable a practitioner to increase the chances of making the right choice about whether and when to use a technique. Third, practitioners need knowledge about causal processes and mechanisms that link the use of each strategy to its outcomes. For example, one indication that an electoral system in a culturally divided society is channeling conflict in nonviolent directions is that each major party is running candidates from several ethnic groups. When party conflicts are no longer reflections of raw ethnic conflict, future political conflicts are likely to be less highly charged. Knowledge about such mechanisms is useful for monitoring the progress of a conflict resolution effort and for deciding whether additional efforts should be made to support previous ones. Fourth, in order to craft an appropriate strategy for a situation, practitioners need a correct general understanding of the actors whose behavior the strategy is designed to influence. Only by doing so can a practitioner diagnose a developing situation accurately and select appropriate ways of communicating with and influencing others. Faulty images of others are a source of major misperceptions and miscalculations that have often led to major errors in policy, avoidable catastrophes, and missed opportunities. Area specialists in academia can make useful, indeed indispensable, contributions to developing and making available such knowledge, as can diplomats and other individuals on the scene of a conflict who have personal knowledge about the major actors. All of these types of knowledge are generic in that they apply across specific situations.

4: Field Diplomacy - Reychler

The increase in conflict intensity has been driven to a much greater degree by an increased polarization that falls below this threshold, but is observable in nearly all regions of the world. In the BTI , social, ethnic and religious tensions were assessed as being at a very low level in around 40% of the sample's countries.

It is our heartfelt wish to see everyone in every nation living in peace and prosperity, free from the threat of crime, terrorism, and war. Even though there are many sincere individuals and organizations dedicated to the cause of peace, establishing permanent peace requires more than political agreements, discussions, or attempts to maintain a peaceful mood. Permanent peace can only be achieved through a transformation at the deepest level of the human mind and physiology. Further research has shown that this calming effect extends to the surroundings. The research on this effect has shown a dramatic and immediate reduction in societal stress, crime, violence, and conflict and an increase in positivity in the society as a whole, nationally and internationally. The reduction of violence and conflict through the group practice of the Transcendental Meditation and Transcendental Meditation Sidhi programs is the most extensively researched and thoroughly field-tested phenomenon in the history of the social sciences. It has been confirmed by more than 50 demonstrations and 23 scientific studies. This research has been carefully scrutinized by independent scholars and accepted for publication in top peer-reviewed academic journals. Ending the Epidemic of Stress and Violence in our Society The individual influences the surroundings through every thought, word, and action. People who are calm and happy naturally radiate a peaceful, coherent influence in their surroundings. When many people in a society are unhappy and tense, the atmosphere becomes saturated with stress â€" crime, terrorism, and war are the inevitable result. As long as many individuals in a society are filled with stress and tension, peace can only remain an abstract and fragile idea. The simplest, most cost-effective way to end the epidemic of stress and violence in our world is to create permanent groups of individuals practicing the advanced programs of Transcendental Meditation together morning and evening. These groups will silently neutralize social stress and maintain an influence of positivity and coherence in the collective consciousness of any city, province, or nation. This is the only approach that effectively targets the root cause of national, regional, and global conflict. It is the only approach to national security and world peace that is extensively field-tested and backed by rigorous scientific research. To produce the desired effect, the number of individuals required is equal to the square root of one percent of the population. In their professional peace-creating role, the Mother Divine participants are silently radiating a powerful, nourishing influence of coherence in world consciousness every day through their extended practice of Transcendental Meditation and its advanced programs. The goal is to create a group of Mother Divine on each continent to benefit the whole world most profoundly. Open the tabs below to learn more. How does it work? The Unified Field Progress in theoretical physics has led to an increasingly more unified understanding of the laws of nature, culminating in the recent discovery of a single, universal, unified field of intelligence at the basis of all forms and phenomena in the universe. Millions of times more fundamental and more powerful than the nuclear force, the unified field is the ultimate source of the order that gives rise to and maintains our vast universe. Extensive published research demonstrates that human consciousness can directly access and experience the unified field in the most expanded state of human awareness, known as pure consciousness. This experience of the unified fieldâ€"pure consciousnessâ€"constitutes a fourth major state of human consciousness, physiologically and subjectively distinct from waking, dreaming, and deep sleep. This experience is marked by the onset of global EEG coherence and increased alpha power, indicating maximum orderliness of brain-functioning and utilization of the total brain. These techniques are the most widely practiced and extensively researched technologies in the world for the full development of human potential. The Transcendental Meditation technique allows the mind to settle down and experience the source of thought, pure awareness, or the unified field of all the laws of nature. The TM-Sidhi program including Yogic Flying cultures the ability to think and act from this level, where thoughts are most powerful and easily fulfilled. When individuals practice the Transcendental Meditation technique and the TM-Sidhi program together in groups, they create powerful

waves of coherence that spread throughout the environment. The research on this effect has shown a dramatic and immediate reduction in societal stress, crime, violence, and conflict and an increase in coherence, positivity, and peace in society as a whole, nationally and internationally. The unique effectiveness of this approach has been confirmed by more than 50 demonstrations and 23 scientific studies. The research has been carefully scrutinized by independent scholars and accepted for publication in top academic journals. This research has been carefully scrutinized by independent scholars and accepted for publication in top academic journals. In every case, this approach produced marked reductions of crime, social violence, terrorism, and war, and increased peace and positivity in society. Decreased War and Terrorism A critical experimental test of this approach was conducted during the peak of the Lebanon war. Other possible causes weekends, holidays, weather, etc. Each assembly had approached or exceeded the participation threshold 8, predicted to create a global influence of peace. In this carefully controlled experiment, the coherence-creating group increased from to 4, over the two-month period. Although violent crime had been steadily increasing during the first five months of the year, soon after the start of the study, violent crime measured by FBI Uniform Crime Statistics began decreasing, and continued to drop until the end of the experiment maximum decrease These are just a few of the more than 50 scientific demonstrations and 23 published studies on this unified field-based approach to peace. These studies are backed by more than other published studies conducted at over independent universities and research institutes in 33 countries on the individual and societal benefits of these unified field-based technologies of consciousness. To learn more, see expanded scientific research on the Transcendental Meditation program here. Receive our latest updates for courses, webinars, and more.

In this same vein, the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, which promotes the practice of transformative mediation, has invited mediators to apply for their panel of certified mediators, but only if the mediators agree to practice only transformative mediation.

A World in Crisis One of the most important challenges facing the global community in the next decade, is the prevention of destructive conflicts. Listening to the discourse in the United Nations and other governmental and non governmental organizations this may sound like kicking in wide open doors Bauwens and Reychler, But the failure of conflict prevention and the high number of conflict zones, indicates that we still have a long way to go. A global survey of contemporary conflicts counts 22 high-intensity and 39 lower-intensity conflicts, and 40 serious disputes PIOOM, In five groups were victims of genocides or politicides. The risks of future victimization of 47 communities in different parts of the world is assessed as high of very high PIOOM, The growth of nationalist feelings at the end of the Cold War is only the beginning of more suffering. More conflicts are expected, with old and new causes, such as the unequal or unfair trade balances between North and South, unemployment in the North, the environmental pollution, religious extremism, mass immigration and the growing number of failed states. These problems could hurt people so much that they would be prepared to fight for them. Proactive conflict prevention refers to measures taken before the conflict has escalated; reactive conflict prevention to measures taken after the conflict has escalated. The aim of the latter is to contain and reduce the intensity, duration and geographic spill-over of the violence. When one has failed to prevent a conflict from crossing the threshold of violence it becomes much more difficult and costly to manage a conflict. Not only does one have to settle the dispute s which initiated the conflict, but in addition one needs to end fighting, and keep and rebuild the peace. The costs of the destructiveness of war and of rebuilding peace are very high. It is practically impossible to find an accurate and complete accounting of those costs. A complete assessment of the costs should not only include the human and economic costs, but also the social, political, ecological, cultural, psychological and spiritual destruction. These eight dimensions of the destruction of war give us an idea of the size and complexity of peace rebuilding. Despite the fact that proactive conflict prevention is a more cost-effective way of handling conflicts, the international community has difficulty in getting rid of its propensity to respond to conflicts in a reactive manner. The fault for the latest violent spasm in Liberia rests mostly with the warlords. The international community refused adequate financing of a disarmament effort by the United Nations and the West African peace keeping force that has been in Liberia since But in the past six years Washington has poured almost half a billion dollars of humanitarian aid into the country, not including the cost of the evacuation -- the third such operation since Goldberg, How does one account for the failure of conflict prevention? Several explanations can be put forth: The three most important causes on this list are: Inadequate foresight or warning systems have turned diplomacy into a chronic crisis management operation. Despite the recent efforts made by major intergovernmental organizations -- the UN, OSCE, NATO, the EC and WEU -- and by academic institutions to improve their diagnostic and prognostic tools, much more will have to be done to achieve a better insight into and foresight of conflict dynamics. A great deal of attention has been paid to early warning systems in worst-case developments of possible violent escalation. Practically nothing has been done to develop warning systems that can provide opportunities to intervene. The genocides in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Burundi, are to a great extent histories of missed opportunities. There is also an urgent need to develop a system for conflict impact assessment CIAS. The peace keepers in Bosnia became an obstacle for effective peace reinforcement. The Khmer Rouge of Cambodia became parasites in the refugee camps in Thailand. The threat of a war crimes tribunal can under certain circumstances protract a violent conflict. Democratization pressures could be a blessing, but could also enhance centrifugal forces, and lead to anarchy and end up in a dictatorial system. Africa is full of alarm bells and flashing lights. But as long as major countries or their international organizations do not perceive their vital interest at stake, proactive conflict prevention will remain a pipe dream. Moral or humanitarian concerns do not seem to guarantee effective conflict prevention measures. This

leads to paradoxical results. Instead of more cost-effective proactive efforts, justified by enlightened self-interest, we see costly reactive measures, triggered by belated moral considerations. It will take great effort to convince the international community that in a complex interdependent world conflict prevention is of vital interest. Efforts need to be made 1 to help decision-makers to better assess the costs of alternative conflict strategies, and 2 to hold them accountable for the destruction of war. It would help if conflicts were embedded in a democratic environment, or if decision-makers had to justify their war activities before something like an International Accountability Office. Today it is practically impossible to get reliable information about the costs and benefits of violent conflicts. The available data tend to be partial, incomplete and not very trustworthy. It is high time to break down the taboos surrounding honest accounting. This would allow a more objective analysis of the huge costs of conflict prevention failures, and validate the thesis that proactive conflict prevention efforts are more cost-effective than the reactive ones. The third major cause of the failure of conflict prevention is the lack of conflict transformational skill. For most of the serious problems in the world one finds research and training programs. Medical doctors are required to study for seven years, layers and civil engineers five, economists and psychologist five, etc. Yet, for dealing with large-scale violence no comprehensive academic program is provided. Until recently international conflict management training was considered the exclusive domain of diplomats and soldiers. The training was provided in the military academy or on the job. The conflicts handled were predominantly interstate conflicts. The traditional approaches to conflict proved to be of limited relevance for coping with the most dominant type of post WW II conflicts: Several characteristics of traditional diplomacy tend to inhibit an effective prevention of the escalation of ethnic or nationalist disputes. There is, for example, the tendency to draw a sharp distinction between civil wars, in which no external power is supposed to interfere, and international wars which are the concern of all states. Civil war will only pose a threat when it spills over the boundaries or when major powers become involved. Then the "right" approach is to isolate or quarantine the war zone. The handling of the new types of conflicts requires a more sophisticated analysis of conflict dynamics and a better acquaintance with the available battery of conflict prevention instruments. According to the Agenda for Peace of Boutros-Ghali , it requires not only skills in peace making and peace keeping, but also in peace re building. As the newest addition to the diplomatic vocabulary, peace building tends to be loosely defined. Peace building refers to the creation of an objective and subjective context which enhances a constructive transformation of conflicts and leads to a sustainable peace. A sustainable peace is a legitimate peace, supported by the people involved. Such a peace is built on the concept of conflict transformation, underscoring the goal of moving a given population from the status of extreme vulnerability and dependency to that of self-sufficiency and well being. In the more specific terms of conflict progression, transformation is the movement from latent conflict to confrontation to negotiation to the peaceful relationships of a secure community Lederach, a. Peace building requires two sets of efforts relating to: The most visible efforts are the structural measures which are meant to improve the conditions of life, to reduce discrimination and to provide ways and means for settling disputes. A great deal of the peace agreements include structural measures of a political, economic, legal, educational, military and humanitarian nature. All of this translates into efforts to organize and supervise elections, to rebuild the economy, to strengthen the legal system and stop impunity, to rebuild the educational infrastructure, to resettle refugees and to implement an effective arms control system. Less visible, but as crucial, are the re conciliation efforts. These efforts intend to create a new moral-political climate in which people are committed to the restoration of ruptured relation-ships and to the construction of a new future. This implies not only reconciliation with the present a peace agreement settling particular disputes , but also reconciliation with the past healing psycho-historical wounds can take a great deal of time , and reconciliation with the future. A reconciliation with the past, present and the future is necessary for achieving a sustainable peace. Another essential part of the new moral political climate is the re conciliation of contradictory but, in fact, interdependent values and forces such as the search for truth, peace, justice, welfare, and mercy , which will help the conflicting groups to heal the wounds of the past and to envision a common interdependent future. Truth involves the longing for acknowledgment of wrong and painful loss and experiences; it seeks a better understanding of the causes of the violence, and to avoid misperception and misunderstanding. Mercy

articulates a benign attitude, a disposition to show kindness or compassion; a need for acceptance, letting go, a new start. Peace underscores the need for security and harmonious relationships devoid of violence or oppression. Welfare reflects the longing for adequate material or financial resources, for prosperity and well-being. Justice represents the need for fairness through the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments. These and other values are played out as political concepts with their own constituencies. Reconciliation creates the possibility and the social space where all those values or needs are validated, rather than a framework that suggests that some must win out over the others Lederach, b. The Rise of Unofficial Diplomacy The diplomatic overload and the growing complexity of the international environment has led to an increasing involvement of "outsiders" in relations within and between countries. At a conference organized by the Communications Institute of the Academy for Educational Development at Bellagio, in , there developed a consensus that the role of non-officials in international peace making had been far too neglected and that their importance would increase Berman and Johnson, Since then we have seen a near exponential growth of peace activities rendered by non-governmental actors. The peace services range from enhancing communication, improving mutual understanding, disapproving violence, mediation, reconciliation, to interpositionary peace keeping. Non-governmental actors have developed a whole series of practical tools for peace making, peace keeping and peace building. One of the better known tools of the peace making approach is the problem-solving workshop, which brings together representatives of conflicting parties for direct interaction in an unofficial, private context, with a panel of social scientists acting as facilitators Kelman, Workshops are designed to encourage an analytic approach to joint problem solving of a conflict that will be conducive to the emergence of creative "win-win" outcomes satisfying the basic needs of both parties. Other methods of peace making can be found under such headings as unofficial diplomacy, Track II diplomacy, parallel diplomacy and multi-track diplomacy. A great deal of creativity is also found with respect to keeping the peace Schirch, Four different methods for separating the parties in a conflict are distinguished: Buffer zones are demilitarized and unpatrolled areas. Peace zones are civilian-occupied spaces where, by agreement, no fighting takes place. In the Philippines, civilians successfully created peace zones as demilitarized spaces for alternative development and consensus building in several communities Gaston Ortegas Peace Institute, Interpositionary peace keeping is based on the idea of trained teams placing themselves physically between groups engaged in violent conflict, in an impartial stance toward all parties. There are several examples of civilian interpositioning. This human shield was deployed to prohibit the imminent invasion by US and contra forces and to monitor events in the area. While interpositioning maintains equal distance between hostile parties, many civilian peace keeping groups use intercessionary peace keeping which maintains unequal distance between the parties. Intercessionary peacekeepers hope to deter violence by accompanying certain individuals or groups in danger or by being a presence in a threatened community.

6: Breaking Down The Hero's Journey Plot Structure â€" Well-Storied.

At the climax, the hero is severely tested once more on the threshold of home. He or she is purified by a last sacrifice, another moment of death and rebirth, but on a higher and more complete level. By the hero's action, the polarities that were in conflict at the beginning are finally resolved.

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email. The thresholds were derived from the stories of postmodern skeptics who shared their stories of coming to faith. All of them seemed to pass through the same five distinct stages: Trusting a Christian The postmodern journey of conversion usually takes place when a skeptic begins to significantly trust a Christian. Today, Christianity and religion are suspect and distrust has become the norm. This hurts and is unpleasant for believers and can result in any number of the following five knee-jerk reactions. Five Knee-Jerk Reactions from Christians: Defend We begin to close our hearts to non-Christians and treat them with contempt. We begin to point fingers and judge. A better response is to pray. As we pray for the person, God will give us his heart for them. Bruise We become personally offended and feel a sense of shame and despair. Often, we retreat and decide never to try taking a risk again. A better reaction is to learn. Try and understand where the person is coming from. Ask questions about why they feel distrust. Avoid We distance ourselves from people and decide not to go near their circles. This is an opportunity to find common ground and meet them on their own turf. Sometimes a shared experience can break down walls of distrust. Judge We can often feel the temptation to write off non-Christians because they are not following Christ and use their shortcomings as a reason to treat them rudely. A better reaction is to affirm. Seek to find good and truth in whatever is upsetting them, and affirm those things. Argue We engage in unhelpful and fruitless debates where the goal is to win an argument rather than win the person. Apologetics are not often helpful at this stage. A better reaction is to welcome. Inviting someone into your space to see you walk out your faith in community is very disarming. Three Common Pitfalls to Avoid: Be honest about the uniqueness of Christ. Becoming Curious The stage of curiosity tends to blossom over time and usually has three levels of intensity. Awareness This is when the person becomes aware of options they never considered, and they become open to other possibilities than their own reality. Engagement This is when the person actually begins to seek answers and affirmations to their currently reality, i. Exchange This is a more vocal stage when the person begins to invite others into their curiosity and reasoning. How to Provoke Curiosity: Ask Questions Jesus was asked questions in the gospels and he only answered three of them! Yet, he asked questions back to the people who questioned him. Questions have a way of getting to the heart of the matter and that is one of the main places a decision to follow Christ takes place. Use Parables Pay attention to the world around you and use everyday reality and circumstances to communicate deeper truths. Jesus used this method to draw out hunger in listeners. Live Curiously Live a life that causes people around you to ask questions. This cannot be faked. The way that we live in secret will affect the way we are perceived in public. Opening to Change This is the hardest threshold to cross and where a lot of people turn back or stay where they are without moving forward. However, this is the stage where the Holy Spirit is especially at work, and when a person can finally become willing to make changes in their lifestyle. How to Encourage Openness: Be Patient Choosing to make Christ the Lord of your life is a really big decision and the person is more than likely considering the cost. Pray This is a very vulnerable and scary place to be; it involves dying to oneself. The secret prayers of friends like you matter immensely at this threshold. Seeking After God This threshold is about coming to a conclusion. There may not be a lot of behavioral change here because they are just about to make a decision about Jesus. Counting the Cost They have been around enough to know the implications of becoming a believer. Even if they are not fully aware of what is going on, they still feel it is worth going. Entering the Kingdom This is the point when the person decides to repent and follow Jesus! They have decided they want to cross a real and eternally significant line. They go from flirting to commitment. We want to walk closely with them into this phase and thereafter. We can find creative ways to communicate the gospel clearly , being careful to not oversimplify. However, we can invite them in ways they can understand:

THE WORLD IN CONFLICT; A THRESHOLD FOR TRANSFORMATION pdf

Bachelor of Conflict Transformation Studies While conflict among people is a constant in our world, how we can best approach it is an evolving science. The study of conflict transformation will teach you critical skills to enable you to respond to conflict at many levels in a productive way.

By Sherry Anne Weddell March The 5 thresholds of conversion In the mids, a campus minister named Doug Schaupp was struggling with how to awaken faith in students. Our evangelistic labors resonated less, and had less fruit. They asked these students to describe their spiritual journeys. At the end of the year, we interviewed most of the 37 students to find out what kind of internal and external dynamics helped them into the Kingdom of God. What we found was that they actually all went through the same phases of growth and transformation, though each student obviously took different amounts of time to grow from one place to the next. First, Schaupp and his collaborators found that all 37 students passed through a series of thresholds or stages of conversion â€" five in all â€" that culminated in a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as a disciple. Each transition to a new threshold was a genuine work of grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, but each threshold also required real spiritual energy and real choices on the part of the person making the journey. It required their ever-increasing commitment to more and more profound choices. A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same as active personal faith. Without some kind of bridge of trust in place, people will not move closer to God. A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, his life, and his teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith. This curiosity can range from mere awareness of a new possibility to something quite intense. Nevertheless, a person at the threshold of curiosity is not yet open to personal change. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust. A person acknowledges to him or herself and to God that he or she is open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. This is one of the most difficult transitions for a postmodern nonbeliever. Openness is not a commitment to change. People who are open are simply admitting they are open to the possibility of change. The person moves from being essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God who is calling him or her. Our Sunday Visitor, , pp. InterVarsity Press, p. Subscribe Enjoy inspiring witness stories, insightful advice for daily living, clear and accurate teaching about the Catholic faith, and news from around the world and across the Diocese of Lansing with FAITH, our award-winning publication.

8: Conflict Prevention | SAIS

Read chapter Conflict Resolution in a Changing World: The end of the Cold War has changed the shape of organized violence in the world and the ways in whi.

Suddenly, someone or something should present your hero with the opportunity to move outside their known world. For example, in The Hobbit, Gandalf arrives in Hobbiton to encourage Bilbo to join the dwarves in their journey to reclaim their homeland. In many instances, as in The Hobbit, the hero will initially decline or ignore the call-to-adventure, fearing the dangers â€" whether real or imagined â€" that the unknown world presents, believing themselves to be in some way unworthy of the adventure, or feeling initially duty-bound to stay where they are in life. Acceptance of the call. In some cases, if the hero does decline or ignore the initial call-to-adventure, they may simply change their mind after some deliberation. However, in most cases, a hero who has declined the call will only take it up when compelled to do so as a result of raised stakes. After accepting the call-to-adventure, the hero typically encounters a being of famed, mysterious, or supernatural origins who sets out to aid them in their journey. The hero crosses the threshold when they leave behind their everyday life in a known world and journey into an altogether new and unknown world. Often, crossing the threshold requires the hero to complete a difficult task presented by a "threshold guardian". Keep in mind that this unknown world does not have to be an altogether separate land. In some cases, the hero crosses the threshold when they come to see an entirely different version of the world they thought they already knew. Experiencing the Unknown World. After entering the unknown world, the hero experiences a series of events that open their eyes to both the wonders and dangers of this world. The Belly of The Whale. Just as the hero begins to acclimate to the unknown world, an event occurs that marks the point of no return for your hero. Trials and tribulations begin to crop up, forcing the hero to fight hard to keep moving forward. Still, your hero presses forward, determined to achieve their story goal and complete their journey despite the heightened stakes and increasingly dangerous conflicts on the road. Approaching The INnermost Cave. This recognition often presents itself fully as your hero knowingly heads into the thick of that danger. But before facing this epic conflict, the hero takes a moment to reflect upon all they have learned, sometimes wrestling with doubts and fears they experienced earlier in their journey, and may also face a small series of additional trials and tests. Facing The Great Ordeal. Upon making their approach to the innermost cave, the hero is faced with a task of great and dangerous importance, such as a physical fight, a complex and life-threatening puzzle, or a deep inner conflict. In most cases, the hero will emerge victorious, though not without great cost. A metaphorical â€" or sometimes literal â€" death has forever changed the hero, transforming them into a stronger version of themselves. Despite finding victory at a steep cost, the hero is often rewarded for facing the great ordeal by receiving some sort of prize or reprieve, either for themselves or for their people. This most often comes in the form of receiving a magical object, receiving new insights or powers, or reuniting with a kidnapped or long-lost relation. Atonement on The Journey Home. After finding victory during the great ordeal and receiving their just reward, the hero sets out for home. The hero may try to overcome this strange feeling by atoning for any wrongs committed during the first half of their journey. However, while the dangers of the unknown world have been replaced by the acclaim of being a known hero, conflict far worse than the great ordeal lurks just over the horizon At last, the hero finds themselves in their last and most dangerous encounter with death. In finding victory over literal or metaphorical death, the hero saves their people from harm and at last finds acceptance for their new sense of self. Returning to the Known World. Having found and forged lasting peace, the hero crosses the threshold and re-enters their known world a changed person, having grown much and learned even more. This return may mark a celebration, a moment of great self-realization, or the saving of those the hero left behind. In some cases, the return to the known world is a radical transformation in and of itself, and the hero must forge for themselves a new normal in which to thrive. I highly encourage you to check out the books and films we mentioned today.

9: World Peace | The Mother Divine Program

THE WORLD IN CONFLICT; A THRESHOLD FOR TRANSFORMATION pdf

I would say the world is in an unstable condition due to the passing of power from the national cohesion oriented organizations to that of the international corporation, which are looking more and.

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