

Herwig's comments to the report about the first meeting of the EPAIC Organizers:

Dear Neil and all,

as you know I continue to put a lot of thought into the venture of community living. Since most everyone (unwittingly) adopted a more individualistic lifestyle as a couple and family during the last 30 years (despite frequent church activities) it is important to be aware of that and consider the "paradigm shift" as a necessary requirement of change to build a successful community together.

I think much of the groundwork is already done and in shaping the community we will quickly adjust.

In reading HDH everyone has heard Father's words, but to build a "model" community (Father would call it "God's Family") I have to elevate my personal/family lifestyle from the "me first" paradigm to the "we first" paradigm.

THIS is our huge ADVANTAGE, to BE FAMILY FIRST (by putting the wealth of our individual uniqueness and creativity in perspective!)

(CSG, Book 13, Chapter 6. True Parents' Textbook for the Unification of Korea and the World, Section 4. The Path for America and Humanity in the Last Days)

In reading the report about the first meeting of the EPAIC Organizers I could definitely see the vision for the "we" paradigm represented.

Feb 3, 2013

This was the first meeting of the Eastern Pa Intentional Community organizers. Present were Neil Angelino, Geoff and Joe Hinkle, Eric Wenzel, Gregg and Elke Noll, Sally and Rob Sayre, and Dan and Sue Stoia.

Here is a breakdown of the conversation we had last Sunday.

- *In the first part of the meeting everyone spoke about their vision, what inspired them to pursue this, what would make them happy and what were their fears going forward.*
- *Then the group broke up into smaller groups to brainstorm a vision statement. We finalized a vision statement*
- *We moved on to our ideas for mission/activities that the community could pursue*
- *We discussed what kind of structure(s) and type of land would be needed for those activities and other aspects of the physical set-up*
- *We talked about the kind of activities that each of us personally are interested in pursuing - what we could see ourselves doing within the community*
- *finally we agreed to certain tasks going forward and a short term plan for the future*

The opening conversation, leading up to the visioning process was recorded and I've been reviewing the recording of it in order to comprehensively present each person's ideas. Unfortunately, the whole first tape didn't record for some reason. So, the first few people's ideas are culled from my notes and the notes that Elke made.

Please feel free to add details to your personal info if it is not adequately stated here.

Neil, said that he had lived in a commune before the church. He's looking forward to a more peaceful lifestyle than he has now in a quieter setting. He envisioned his whole family being drawn to this.

[Herwig: a good move according to TF speech, December 7, 2000: "To this day, human civilization has been based on Christian culture. But this Christian based civilization tends to flock people into cities. If this

continues, the pollution of physical world and morality will drive humanity to extinction. So the only sure way to survive is to go back to the state of original nature. It will not be easy to convince people to do so. That's where religion has to teach people to understand God and the value of nature. Then they will voluntarily decentralize.”]

Geoff Hinkle said that one of his life's major ambitions, going forward, is to create this intentional community. He is willing to live very simply (as long as there are hot showers). He envisions common space where crafts and hobbies can be pursued and apartments for visitors

[Herwig: I like the idea some Eco-villages pursue to establish “neighborhoods”, that is certain areas of the common property designated for people with the same interests]

Eric Wenzel wants the connection to community – that we would be like an extended family to one another. He would want smart design, access to nature and proximity to civilization.

[Herwig: many smart utilities and business opportunities come to mind here:

<http://www.okofen-e.com/en/okofen-e.html> (home pellet power plant producing heat and electricity – pellet wholesale advantage!)

<http://www.sma.de/en.html> (wind and solar technology for home and community)

<http://dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?re=0&ee=0&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=PA> Pennsylvania (state incentives for clean energy)

<http://www.dowpowerhouse.com/index.htm> (solar shingles)

<http://sphelpower.com/technology/> (spherical solar cells – Japanese connection)

<http://www.micro-hydro-power.com/micro-hydro-power-product-showroom.htm> (micro-hydro power)

<http://www.ceelite.com/products/> (Colmar, PA company producing LEC light panels and FIPEL “plastic light”, marketing start 2nd quarter 2013)

Gregg Noll spoke at length about the opportunity such a community would give us to expand our hearts, learning to harmonize with different types of people in preparation for our eternal lives. He would want the setting to be beautiful - a place that we could be proud of and that second gen would be drawn to, also a witness to the outer community – a tangible manifestation of our values. He would like to pursue organic farming.

[Herwig: organic farming as an extended family (community) business: produce 365 days a year in all seasons <http://www.growingpower.org/index.htm> or <http://thefamilyfishfarmsnetwork.com/>]

Elke Noll added that creating this community would mean stepping out of her comfort zone. They now live in a scenic area and would not want to sacrifice that beauty. She would want the community to be inclusive of people beyond our church as long as they were in alignment with our vision and standards.

Rob Sayre sees that this could be a great place for his extended family to connect. The idea of integrating our work and daily living appeals to him. Living in harmony with nature and having the increased opportunity to learn from each other was mentioned. He feels that all people are less attracted to the idea of belonging to an organization, but they love the idea of community - the feeling that we are extended family to each other. He would hope that our mission would involve services that would be attractive to the larger surrounding community.

[Herwig: for that vision, which I very much agree with, it would seem best to have a larger or expandable property as well as a sophisticated (business) model, since a well-harmonized and communicated community will attract many people, some of them also may want to settle.]

Sally Sayre said that she wants to live in harmony with people. She was less enthusiastic about the idea of the ‘harmonizing’ process Gregg mentioned. She hopes that harmonizing wouldn’t be a huge struggle. She wants to feel at home, comfortable and at peace with her surroundings and neighbors. She does not want this project to create indebtedness. She worries about the cost and does not want to take on a mortgage at

this stage of life. She'd want guest accommodations at the common house. Being eco-friendly in construction was fine with her as long as it didn't increase the cost.

[Herwig: don't laugh, but that's where it starts for some people:

<http://brie-hoffman.hubpages.com/hub/How-much-money-does-it-take-to-go-Off-Grid>

financing is a big concern for most people, but in a **good community business model** there must be ways for everyone to pursue his/her dream from a nice, newly build home to a rental apartment, from a custom designed to a cob cottage, depending on the resources; a good community **MUST** be an advantage for the individual!]

Joe Hinkle hopes that this community would involve lots of activities and opportunities for those who live there - exposure to all sorts of things that would be educational for young people. He would not want it to be a place where people come to retire, but to continue to work at something meaningful to them. (There was a lengthy discussion about the perils, both physically and emotionally, of retirement). He would want enough common space that extended family could be accommodated. He could see space in the common building set up like a hostel – dorm style for unmarried visitors. He would like to be an extension of the NGA program that addresses issues young people miss in public education, such as how to be happy, how to have good relationships, how to find your passion in life. NGA goes into schools and does character education – he'd like to house it there. Thought we should start out with a core mission rather than spreading our effort too thin.

Dan Stoia mentioned that Father has had an idea like this for a while.

[Herwig: TF speech, December 7, 2000: "We have to decentralize. People flock into the cities to eat more, learn more and take advantage of the culture. But that era is over, because of email and internet. You have the same privileges in the boondocks. You can even view the Broadway musicals. So why bother coming into the grave of sin and crime? Soon no schools will come into the cities. In nature, why do you need boundaries? There you can enjoy God and the natural world. Humanity is sick and tired of the way things are going. If you build a fish farm of 1/4 acre, you can feed more than 10 people. That kind of fortune is waiting out there. What do you need most in nature? Water. Without water, nothing will survive. All the food we consume requires water. **Whoever controls water will control the future world.**"]

Sue Stoia said that beauty and the quality of construction is important – to maintain resale value. She's concerned about the cost of financing both a common facility AND one's own home. Hopes to start small and grow the community organically – concerned with trying to start too big. If there was a business at the heart of the community she would like to see a business started in the area before all moving there.

Concerned about there being too many people coming into the discussion with too many diverse ideas, she's glad that the initial group is small. It is such a complex undertaking that she's concerned with the process bogging down. She thinks everyone should read Diana Christian's book 'Creating a Life Together', so we get a realistic idea of the process, based on what others have experienced.

[Herwig: I still think a workshop with Diana Christian would be best; she would help prioritizing the issues and address all questions and concerns coming up – that could clear up a lot and give way for the actual start.]

(Gregg Noll here interceded that we have far more a foundation of unity than most of the groups that were featured in the book. Eric mentioned that groups he's known personally have struggled over seemingly silly issues that we would not encounter, and that almost any neighborhood of complete strangers must create consensus on various issues)

[Herwig: True, but it still doesn't exclude us from structuring the group (like a tribe); a group is bigger and more diverse than a family and needs a structure to stay stable]

At this point the conversation ranged around the topic of finding land and financing the whole project. Neil gave a ball park figure of \$600,000 to build an 8,000 square foot common house with meeting space, kitchen on the first floor and perhaps 6 to 8 apartments on the second floor which could be a source of

income. He figured another \$400,000 for land (and homes?) making it a million dollar venture. Gregg talked about the fact that many groups are forming this kind of community all over the place; his point was that it's eminently doable.

[Herwig: another option could be a property with an existing public structure, which can be adapted and expanded over time; to really make some calculations there it would need the enterprise setup with shareholders]

It was deemed that without vision and mission, it was impossible to speculate on the real estate questions.

We broke into 3 groups to brainstorm a vision statement and took quite a bit of time as a whole group to finalize it. Here it is:

We are a multi-generational community, guided by ethical and moral principles [Herwig: True Family values], that nurtures sustainability, learning and service.

This vision may need to be tweaked going forward.

Next we brainstormed about missions that we could pursue in a common space. Some of these were:

- *training, education*
- *community meeting space*
- *community kitchen*
- *small garden, perhaps 1+ acre with a greenhouse and orchard*
- *music and artist workspace/studio*
- *space for outdoor sports*
- *indoor gym*
- *store*
- *thrift co-op*
- *apartments, rooms for rent*
- *dorm style youth hostel*
- *workshops with equipment (woodworking, florist...)*

We then asked each person what desires, skills, projects they personally would like to bring into the mix

- *Joe Hinkle would like to start an east coast Next Gen academy. His skills include web design, computers, repairing of equipment*
- *Sally could see herself tutoring*
- *Rob Sayre was interested in continuing his training/consulting business*
- *Many of us were interested in working a large garden that could also turn into a business*
- *Elke and Gregg Noll would like to give health seminars and also develop the organic garden along the lines of a farmer's market or co-op. They were also interested in having an organic catering business. [Herwig: see my comment to Gregg]*
- *Gregg Noll mentioned a craft business consultancy*
- *Neil Angelino is interested in a property management business*
- *Rob Sayre mentioned property investing (buying and selling property)*
- *Eric Wenzel mentioned providing training in computer technology; programming and marketing*
- *Geoff Hinkle is interested in teaching pottery making, organizing seminars in advanced Unification principles. He mentioned landscaping work*
- *Dan Stoia would like to help with greeting visitors*
- *Sue Stoia had mentioned her desire to run a bed and breakfast. She has a floral design degree and a small floral business which she could develop on-site. She has always wanted to start a training program in construction technology for young bcs who would rather not pursue academics, using community college and internships with local contractors*

[see <http://shop.fechnermedia.com/katalog/filme/4th-revolution> about Energy Autonomy starting with construction]

- [Herwig: partake in developing the organic gardening project and landscape design, doing research in various areas of efficiency, promoting the community project by travelling, making interviews, documentary, exchanging information and expertise;*
- my wife Angela would like to contribute in witnessing connected to the seminars and Unification Principle.]*

The meeting ended with assignments going forward: Sue Stoia to write up these notes and Eric Wenzel to create a survey that would rank our interests going forward.

We agreed to meet again at the end of March with the goal of creating a marketing piece by mid-April