

CHAPTER · 13

SUMMARY/FINAL THOUGHTS

*“Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method
which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation.
The foundation of such a method is love.”*

— MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



IN THIS BOOK WE HAVE LOOKED AT CREATING PEACE BY connecting to life at three levels—and how each of us can learn to do that.

- First, within ourselves, how we can connect to the life within ourselves so we can learn from our limitations without blaming and punishing ourselves. Our training shows people how to create peace within themselves. If we can't do that, I'm not too optimistic how we're going to relate peacefully out in the world.
- Second, how to create life-enriching connections

with other people that allows compassionate giving to take place naturally.

- Third, how to transform the structures we've created—corporate, judicial, governmental, and others—that don't support peaceful, life-enriching connections between us.

Our training shows people how to function at all three of these levels: within ourselves, with other people, and with structures that can support and create compassionate giving.

I hope you will realize that we need a different economic system than the one we have now, not just in this country but internationally. I hope you read what David Korten has to offer in his books *The Post-Corporate World* and *When Corporations Rule the World*, Paul Hawken's *Natural Capitalism*, and Margaret Wheatley's work. I hope you will see that there are other economic systems possible—systems that can greatly increase peace and protect this planet. I fervently hope that you also will see these systems are within our grasp, and that you will join our work toward this goal.

Further, I would hope that you become familiar with restorative justice. Our judicial system is catastrophic. It creates more violence than it prevents, yet most people can only perceive a choice between anarchy and our present system. We think if we're not going to punish people and kill people that we're going to have anarchy. I hope you realize that there are more powerful ways of creating judicial systems

based on restorative justice that would be safer for us all.

So, those would be two things I would hope everybody would become familiar with:

- Radically different economic systems.

- Judicial systems different from the ones that are presently creating great pain on our planet.

I believe, as did Teilhard de Chardin, that a peaceful world is not only possible, it's inevitable. I think we're evolving in that direction. Of course, he was very patient because he was a paleontologist; he thought in terms of tens of thousands of years. And he wasn't naïve about all the violence that's going on now, but he saw the violence as just an evolutionary snag. He sees our evolution and I do, too, but I'm not as patient as he is. I can't wait thousands of years for it, so I'm interested in how we can speed it up. But I think it's inevitable and, unless we destroy the planet in the meantime, I think we're moving in that direction.

I, along with my associates at the Center for Nonviolent Communication, will continue to provide this education for people so they can create a world within themselves that will support and sustain an outer world of peace. We do this because we want people to know how to create peace in their relationships—and also know the power they have to create structures that support compassionate interactions, compassionate exchanges of resources, and compassionate justice.