

## Musings on Global Satyagraha

**25 May 2020**

I hope it will go down in history that in the month of May in the year 2020 CE, amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, a Global Satyagraha Movement was introduced to the world with the aim of saving humanity from tyranny and suffering. Yes, I do hope history will recall this grand event because that is what we have accomplished. The Declaration of Global Satyagraha now has 10 participating organizations and 33 participating individuals – a trifling of Earth's population but the forefront of the mighty Global Satyagraha Movement. Let us all acknowledge that achievement and move forward.

I believe the next step is to let the world know we have declared Global Satyagraha. Each participating organization could post the Declaration of Global Satyagraha on their website and explain that all of their actions and activity are now conducted in unity with a Global Satyagraha Movement to achieve the world vision spelled out in the Global Constructive Program. There is more talent out there among us than I can offer for introducing Global Satyagraha to the world. A definition of Satyagraha would also be in order.

While using every inventive idea we can think of to announce our Declaration of Global Satyagraha, we must simultaneously continue to build the Global Satyagraha Movement; both in spirit and in numbers. Music, logos, badges, slogans, and gesticulations can forge solidarity and spirit in the Movement. They can also express goodness thoughts to motivate other organizations and individuals to participate.

Music especially, can reveal our pathos to be shared with others. By sharing our pathos we can raise emotions in others and emotions are what overcome inertia and motivate moods to do something. Rap is a catching style for telling stories. For instance, it could explain Mother Earth with her trees, rivers, water, earth, fire, and all her interactive cycles; and highlight their sacredness.

Ballads set legends to music. There is emotional unification in reminiscing our nonviolent heritage; and pathos revelation through exhibiting the goodness for which we yearn. We have the talent in the nonviolence movement to create all types of music to promote unity in the movement and express goodness to invite others.

Logos and hand signs can trigger goodness thoughts, as can mottos and slogans. Chapter 14 of *The Goodness Field* addresses ways to prime goodness thoughts while dispelling egoistic stereotypes as a meaningful way to create a *culture of goodness*.

Please, let's start sharing ideas and talent as a Movement so we can get this Movement moving.

In hopes for peace and love to all, Bob Aldridge

**29 May 2020**

Congratulations everyone. Good news! Our Global Satyagraha Movement is moving. Lilo is our first Participant from Germany. I wrote about Lilo in the first chapter of *The Goodness Field* – how she grew up in Nazi Germany and how she was so strongly influenced by Nazi propaganda. Later she became a strong leader in the German Peace Movement. Now she is part of our Global Satyagraha Movement.

Lilo also responded to the importance of songs and poetry in promoting solidarity and sharing pathos. She sent to us a poem she wrote in 1987; a poem in which she speaks from her heart – her inner goodness.

**Peace Journey**

**Building bridges over land and sea  
finding ways to the hearts of people  
The minds have long been overcrowded  
with arguments worn and dull  
But longing for love lives in the hearts  
longing for warmth, for peace**

**Building bridges out of Trust  
of Light, of Love  
Building bridges  
until no more hands will strike  
until no more hands will threaten  
until no more hands will kill  
Finding ways to the hearts of people  
until only tenderness is living there.**

— Lilo Klug (1987)

Thank you for that Lilo. We are all on a Peace Journey. We will remember to speak from our hearts to dispel the egothink in overcrowded minds.

More good news came today. I received an email from Carl Kline that the Coordinating Committee of the Satyagraha Institute voted this morning to sign the Declaration of Global Satyagraha.

The Satyagraha Institute sees a global need for leaders grounded in the tradition of nonviolence. The mission of the Satyagraha Institute is to promote the understanding and practice of Satyagraha as a way of life and a method for social change.

The Institute's first 2-week leadership training program was held in the Black Hills during August of 2015. Leadership training continues in the Black Hills for Indigenous nations as well as in Mexico and Africa. To learn more about the Satyagraha Institute see <http://www.satyagrahainstitute.org>

We are growing. Let us be glad. But let us also continue to motivate organizations and individuals to participate. Let us share ideas on how to proceed. Let us apply our talents to

creating lyrics, poems, logos, and mottos that will bring us tighter together in higher unity. Let us really make Satyagraha relevant.

In peace and love, Bob Aldridge

## 16 June 2020

*The movement born at Standing Rock has since grown into a beautiful worldwide network of relatives and allies ... Our youth united Oceti Sakowin in a way most of us never imagined possible, and we are endlessly humbled by their capacity for imagining a better, more sustainable future for us all.*

-- White Buffalo Woman (Jennifer Weston)  
A Hunkpapa Lakota citizen of Standing Rock

Now youth again raise their voices; this time to stomp out the curse of racism and prejudice. Black Lives Matter (BLM) is getting people to think in new and better ways: National Guard troops are laying down shields to join protesters; police chiefs and mayors lend a supporting knee; city officials paint street slogans and re-name plazas to honor BLM; law enforcement is getting new rules of conduct. Proactive nonviolence is all about changing thinking processes and attitudes; and that is what BLM is doing with its visibility.

Precedents are being set. Soldiers won't be so reluctant to ignore unlawful orders. Neocons received a door-rattling wake-up call that people won't be bullied. Fascism backfired by triggering a demand for something better; and that something better is emerging. Black Lives Matter has joined Standing Rock in flexing the unimaginable muscle power of nonviolence.

What next? Reforming the criminal justice system and defunding its Pentagon connections are monumental accomplishments. But that won't solve the addiction to entertainment, the capitalist's unquenchable lust for more, the corporate compulsion to own and exploit. There is much more to do. Global Satyagraha against *egothink* must prevail.

So far, 13 organizations and 38 individuals have committed to Global Satyagraha. We have committed to a huge job and we must start doing it. Most important, we must make Global Satyagraha visible.

Visibility is needed to stir up the spirit of unity and the sense of being part of something big and good. Visibility is needed to let people know something enormous is taking place; to give people a much-needed sign of hope. Visibility is needed to make Global Satyagraha work.

I recently contacted an organization leader about committing to Global Satyagraha. He said he'd do some studying and look it up on the web. He found one – only one – organization that had posted anything about it. That is not good. That is not fulfilling our commitment. Let us please get something on our websites and in our publications and let the world know.

While on lockdown we can agitate in place. We can help people think good thoughts. We can tailor our normal organizational activities to have a recognized connection to the Global Constructive Program. And if people don't know what all that means, we can tell them.

We can do more. We can study proactivity, beginning with *The Goodness Field*. We can inspire talented individuals to create actions, songs, mottos, poems, logos, art, anything doable with their talent that will glorify goodness. We can make Global Satyagraha a household phrase from east to west, north to south, with our websites, newsletters, speaking engagements, writing, actions, whatever. We can do it. We must do it.

We need visibility. A logo and motto may be the starting point. Small logo pins with a motto are great conversation starters. Any ideas?

I put so much emphasis on visibility because I think much if not all of the advantage of having a cooperating movement is psychological. That relates to the thinking process and how it is affected, which is the primary aim of proactive nonviolence (Satyagraha). When the unifying spirit and camaraderie of a cooperative movement is vividly displayed it psychologically affects both participants and observers. Participants are energized by the solidifying friendship of working together for a valued goal. Observers are impressed and, through ideomotor action (see Chapter 14), their thinking process stimulates good activity. All of this leads to priming habitual goodness. But that cooperative movement must be visibly displayed.

In peace and love, Bob Aldridge

### **30 June 2020**

I am worried. I am worried because people don't know we are being attacked by a weapon of mass destruction. ( See <http://www.plrc.org/docs/200501A.pdf> ) I am also worried that this pandemic is not an accident. And I am worried that the attack is still taking place. It is hard for anyone to believe that even *egothink* can be so evil.

In Chapter 3 of *The Goodness Field* I tell about the rise of the neoconservative (neocon) faction of politics – how they started in the 1960s because of declining military spending; how they flourished under Reagan: how Cheney's *1992 Defense Planning Guidance* reflected neocon ambitions but didn't survive public outrage.

Neocon determination is obsessive, however. In the spring of 1997 they established their own think tank called 'Project for a New American Century' (PNAC). Its *Founding Statement of Principles* reads in part:

... the United States stands as the world's most preeminent power. ... Does the United States have the resolve to shape a new century favorable to American principles and interests?

[What we require is ] a military that is strong and ready to meet both present and future challenges; a foreign policy that boldly and purposefully promotes American principles abroad; and national leadership that accepts the United States' global responsibilities.

... If we shirk our responsibilities we invite challenges to our fundamental interests. ... (Flyleaf of *Rebuilding America's Defenses* – see below for PDF copy)

Following that, the Pentagon's 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review and the National Defense Panel's report did not show the protective resolve to guard fundamental [neocon] interests.

So in January 1998 they delivered a letter to Clinton just prior to his State-of-the-Union address, urging him to announce military action to prevent Iraq from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

That also failed so in early 1998 PNAC initiated a study of Pentagon plans and resource requirements. Then, using Cheney's 1992 *Defense Planning Guidance* document as a blueprint, PNAC in September 2000 published *Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century*. It blatantly details neocon plans for world domination. (PDF copy at <http://www.visibility911.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/rebuildingamericasdefenses.pdf>)

They knew their lavish spending would be hard to sell. The PNAC report stated:

... the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, *absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor.* (p. 51, emphasis mine)

George Bush Jr became president at the turn of the century and the neocons took control of government. The required catastrophic and catalyzing event took place on September 11, 2001.

9/11 initiated the War on Terrorism to justify ballooning military budgets. The Constitutional Bill of Rights was gutted by the PATRIOT Act – a 342-page document with ten titles and over 150 sections that miraculously appeared just a few days following 9/11. It was obviously already prepared and waiting.

When Congress balked at passing the Act without scrutiny, the CIA launched its anthrax attacks. (See <http://www.plrc.org/docs/080930.pdf>) A terrified Congress quickly passed the PATRIOT Act virtually unchanged.

The Administrative Branch of government was completely overhauled to more efficiently carry out neocon plans. I detail these early years of the century in *America in Peril*; with a shorter and updated version in Chapter 4 of *The Goodness Field*. *America in Peril* is no longer in print but I will furnish a copy to anyone interested who will read it.

The PNAC report made some other interesting 'predictions.' COVID-19 was alluded to on page 60:

Although it may take several decades for the process of transformation to unfold, in time, the art of warfare on air, land, and sea will be vastly different than it is today, and "combat" will take place in new dimensions: in space, "cyber-space," and *perhaps the world of microbes.* (emphasis mine.)

Farther down the page is more explicit wording:

... advanced forms of biological warfare *that can "target" specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool.* (emphasis mine)

Wow! That is blatant. But the neocons were never known for subtlety. Now, two decades later, their plans are unfolding

Lack of a timely response to this pandemic by the neocon government has resulted in the US (with only 4.29% of the world's population) having almost 26% of the global COVID-19 cases and over a quarter of the global deaths. The virus is obviously being used as a political tool to weed out certain genotypes and the elderly – those particularly vulnerable – who drain resources.

Last week, using the pandemic state-of-emergency as justification, Trump invoked the Defense Production Act of 1950 ordering civilian agencies to produce hypersonic missile parts – something he should have invoked months ago for personal protective equipment and ventilators to help COVID-19 patients, but didn't.

Now we are in a more severe spike. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced yesterday that “coronavirus is spreading too rapidly and too broadly for the US to get it under control.” (CNBC, 29 June 2020) Such growth is not being experienced by the rest of the world.

Today Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), predicted the daily rise in US cases could surpass 100,000. (CNBC, 30 June 2020) They currently surpass 40,000 per day which is the highest during the pandemic.

Recall that Fauci and his NIAID were providing major funding for gain-of-function (GOF) research on the coronavirus until the US ‘paused’ such research in 2014. Fauci then moved that funding to Wuhan. Fauci is now the White House health adviser.

These morale-shattering announcements, coupled with out-of-control phenomenon unique to the US, prompt me to suspect that failing to control the virus is not the whole story. It tempts me to think something is aiding its spread.

As I said at the beginning, I am worried. I am worried about the virus, sure, but I'm also worried that it has become a political tool. I am worried that Global Satyagraha against *egotthink* is moving too slowly.

In peace and love, Bob Aldridge

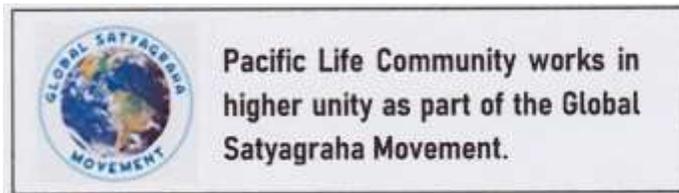
## **19 August 2020**

I do not think it necessary to stress spirituality. The commitment to nonviolence is, itself, a strong moral statement. Gandhi recognized the diversity and did not press his beliefs. In the Introduction to *The Goodness Field*, I quoted Joan Bondurant regarding the ‘Gandhian Dialectic’: “Despite the tremendous faith Gandhi had in divine power, the technique of Satyagraha is based upon the admission of relative truths and the rejection of [absolute truths] which are not knowable to mortal man. God was, in Gandhi's definition, even the atheism of the atheist. ... For despite the ever-present overtones of religion in Gandhi's thought, concern for

human needs lies at the core of Gandhi's teaching." (*Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict*, pp. 192-193)

I hope the theory of a Goodness Force operating in the Universal Goodness Field will satisfy all spiritual/moral persuasions. In Appendix-A I have proved its existence as scientifically as many, if not most, of today's scientific theories have been proven.

I agree that promoting support for the Global Satyagraha Movement is a high priority at this stage of its evolution. I do believe that displaying a logo on all websites and documents, as well as at all activities and demonstrations, is the logical first step. I have been playing around with a possible logo. My talented millennial granddaughter, Tierney, helped me format it. This is one possible arrangement:



Using logos to announce affiliation with a movement is not new. During the Labor Movement's long, hard struggle for recognition, those industrialists who hired union labor were anxious to announce their support to a labor-sympathizing public. Garments and other merchandise prominently displayed various logo designs emblazoned with the statement "Union Made."



Similarly, in the 1970s when the United Farm Workers Union was struggling for recognition, growers who hired union workers conspicuously displayed the Farm Workers' logo on their grape and lettuce containers. Both the "Union Made" and the "United Farm Workers" logos became familiar symbols and the unions gained widespread visibility. With that visibility came a growing support.



In peace and love, Bob Aldridge

## 2 November 2020

Global Satyagraha cannot send out a call to support issues because Global Satyagraha is not an organization. The concept of Global Satyagraha has gradually become clearer to me. Perhaps it was a mistake to call it a "Movement" without better explanation. More recently, I have been referring to it as the spirit of the times. The "Movement" is more mystical than physical.

We all know that Satyagraha means Truth Force. In *The Goodness Field*, I introduced my concept of a Goodness Force working in the Universal Goodness Field to continuously form matter and energy to support life. To me, the Goodness Force is Truth Force – primordial and Universal. It follows then that Satyagraha is primordial and Universal. That means Global

Satyagraha is the process of applying the power of a Universal force to our lonely little planet to make it life friendly.

I have always known that we could never maintain a roster of the millions (billions?) of nonviolent warriors who will eventually participate in Global Satyagraha. Yet it seems necessary to have a tangible commitment from various people and organizations in order to grow. I now refer to those who have “signed-on” as the Global Satyagraha Pioneers.

But it is not necessary to “sign-on” in order to perform Global Satyagraha. One only needs to feel the passion of higher unity and the pathos of inner goodness residing in every other person on Earth – to feel the muscle of participating in a force more powerful than all humanity: Truth Force.

All we have to do is start working together, globally, each of us controlled by our inner goodness, to initiate Global Satyagraha. I would like to see the 25 January 2021 day of action calling for an end of the war against Yemen be a *call in the spirit of Global Satyagraha*. When this ability to apply a force of the Universe to quell violence and enhance goodness is better understood, it will be readily embraced and spread exponentially.

Likewise, if any necessary actions in the wake of tomorrow’s election were proclaimed to be in the spirit of Global Satyagraha, it would be a long stride toward higher unity.

So please understand that Global Satyagraha is not an organization. At age 94, I’m not trying to be the founder of a new entity. Global Satyagraha/Truth Force has been around prior to the beginning of time. I am merely trying to call people’s attention to it. I believe that only the solidarity of a higher unity among all nonviolence organizations can stop the wrongness and violence rampaging today. To help achieve that solidarity is my only wish.

In peace and love, Bob Aldridge

## **25 November 2020**

Gandhi introduced Satyagraha in South Africa a couple centuries ago and brought it back to India at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. There he added a constructive program that crystallized the Indian people into the higher unity that makes a movement. The great depression of the 1930s was the trigger event that brought people together under the spirit of self-rule (Swaraj) and the economic advantage of self-help spelled out by Gandhi’s constructive program.

Satyagraha was never an organization. It became a movement when Gandhi was inspired to spell out India’s non-negotiable goals in a constructive program. The spirit of Satyagraha spread worldwide but the constructive program pertained to India. Therefore, at that time, it was a regional movement with multiple regional goals. The constructive program inspired goodness thinking. The opponent was the wrongful thinking of minds controlled by greedy and self-centered egos.

I outlined in an earlier message how Martin Luther King Jr. craved a higher unity among his civil rights leaders. They were all good and capable people but divided by separate allegiances. Then Rosa Parks was too tired to move back in the bus which sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott. That trigger event brought people together in higher unity under the Civil Rights Movement – not just black people but goodness thinkers of all races. Again, this was a movement, not an organization. The constructive program was spelled out in MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

The Civil Rights Movement was successful in prompting legislation to stop Jim Crow, at least legally. It focused on the United States and the support garnered was mainly in the US. It was a regional movement addressing a regional issue.

Greedy and self-centered egos persisted. Repression became more subtle. Laws were enforced selectively. Justice was administered unequally. Court rulings were biased. Prejudice led to police brutality, massive incarceration and all the other malevolent activity that Michelle Alexander calls *The New Jim Crow*,

Trigger event after trigger event sparked the Black Lives Matter Movement. Again, this is a movement, not an organization. But with modern communication and transportation it has become a global movement with the higher unity global cooperation generates. Its constructive program, however, focuses on a single issue – repression of minorities and the poor.

We have come a long way since Gandhi introduced Satyagraha in South Africa during the waning years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now we have the opportunity to carry higher unity to a loftier level – Global Satyagraha with a Global Constructive Program that engages all issues. The infrastructure is in place. The groundwork has been laid. The world is waiting. We are ready for the trigger event.

In peace and love, Bob Aldridge