KANZ NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2015

Have a complete break with the past and see what happens.

Stop being a Brahmin, a Hindu, a Christian, a Muslim. Stop your worship, rituals, take a complete retreat from all those and see what happens. In a retreat, do not plunge into something else, do not take some book and be absorbed in new knowledge and new acquisitions. Have a complete break with the past and see what happens. Do it, and you will see delight. You will see vast expanses. When your heart is open, then reality can come. Then the whisperings of your own prejudices, your own noises are not heard. That is why it is good to take a retreat, to go away and to stop the routine, not only the routine of outward existence but the routine which the mind establishes for its own safety and convenience.

Click for full text: From J. Krishnamurti, *The Collected Works of J. Krishnamurti, Vol. VI 1949-1952: The Origin of Conflict (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1991)*

International Committees Meeting

Held at Brockwood Park, England, July 3-5, 2015

The Krishnamurti Association in New Zealand (KANZ) was established by the UK Krishnamurti Foundation Trust in 1991 with the aim of KANZ enabling people in New Zealand to be able to gain ready access to Krishnamurti's teachings. KANZ is a Charitable Trust and has three Trustees, Warren Snow, Kevin Gaunt, and Bill Taylor. Warren represented KANZ at the recent bi annual KFT International Committees Meeting (ICM) held at Brockwood Park in the UK. The following is Warren's record of his visit and also of his associated visit to the Krishnamurti Foundation of America Centre in Ojai, California.

Attending the International Committees Meeting was a wonderful experience. Starting from viewing the beauty and charm of the English countryside from the London to Winchester bus, the meetings themselves, and through to the very end where we all said goodbye. It was an educational and uplifting experience for me.

The meeting was attended by 32 people from 20 countries. The nine staff from the Krishnamurti Foundation Trust, representing nine countries, were equally diverse.

I had no idea what to expect prior to arrival, but had in my mind that the meeting would be rather formal and conservative. So it was surprising to see how casual, warm and friendly the whole affair was. It wasn’t long before I was getting to know many of the attendees, most of whom seemed to know each

other from previous events. Everyone spoke English, so communication was easy and relaxed. One thing that was quite noticeable was that the general age of attendees was in the middle to older age bracket – and this was an issue that was brought up during the meetings several times.

In spite of so many different cultural backgrounds being represented at the meeting, it reinforced for me how much we are all the same. The same issues that we face as individuals, trying to understand ourselves, and those that are generally facing humanity as a whole came up throughout the programme meetings, as well as in the informal discussions at meals and in the lounge, library, or on walks.

Also, the way each committee makes Krishnmurti's teaching available to more people were remarkably similar. In one of the meetings the question was asked why we are involved in the committees, and the responses were once again quite similar.

In general, people felt that the world was in a bad state and that the old approaches to solving human problems had not worked. Krishnamurti offered a way of dealing with the pressing issues facing all humanity. He stressed the important role of the individual as outlined in his opening remarks at a talk in Madras in 1947: *'The reformation of society can come only through the regeneration of the individual. There is hope in the individual, in you, not in a system, not in the blueprint of a planned society, not in any religious organisation, but in you, the individual. Your relationship with another is society, which brings into being the state. The state is not a separate and uncontrollable entity; it is the outcome of individual thought and action".*

This focus on the role of the individual in changing society through his/her own thoughts and actions is a radical departure from the traditional approach of expecting change to come from movements, organisations, religions or the state.

International Committees Meeting, Brockwood Park, July 2015, Photo: Peter Florentsen

The possibility of making Krishnamurti's teachings available to more people seems to me to be a good reason for being involved and I think this was more or less the same with everyone present as evidenced by a number of comments made in one of the group meetings in the main room.

Making the teachings available is quite different from proselytising, which is the approach taken by mainstream religions who seek to 'convert' people to their various faiths.

The committees are different in my view because they are not seeking to convert anyone or sell anyone anything – but simply making available the teachings to those that are open to them.

The International Committees Meeting programme was very full with some feedback that there should have been more informal time available for participants with perhaps an extra day added. I was comfortable with the programme though, which was well planned and organised. The meals were vegetarian and the luxury of not having to worry about cooking a real treat!

Questions which all of the attendees gathered in groups to explore included: Are we flowering in our work as committees? What is meant by reading the

book of ones life at a single glance or with a single look, and how can we gather our whole energy to see what is?

It was good to enter into these issues with people that were already familiar with close examination of personal motives and able to challenge without condemnation. On the issue of flowering, readers unaware of Krishnamurti's work might think this a strange question but 'flowering' was a regular theme in his writings. In a meeting with staff and students at Brockwood Park school in 1976 he said: *'I mean by that word flowering that nothing hinders us, nothing blocks or prevents us from actually growing deeply, inwardly. Most of us hardly ever flower, grow, bloom. Something happens in the course of our life which stultifies us, deadens us, so that there is no deep inward nourishment.'*

My sense from the discussions and enquiry is that now that Krishnamurti has been gone for some time, people involved in the committees when addressing the questions and challenges he put are facing them more directly rather than relying just on what Krishnamurti said – that is, seeing that the change will only come about when we look dispassionately at ourselves and our daily lives. In that sense, I think that Krishnamurti was successful when he proposed that we look on him not as a spiritual leader to follow, but as a mirror held up to our daily lives and that to see what is true, we must 'break the mirror'.

The session that addressed the question, "How can we gather our entire energy to see 'what is?" was the one that I felt most drawn into. It was towards the end when I felt a little more acquainted with the people who I joined in the conservatory. I felt that the group was truly thinking as one in the spirit of enquiry to seriously address the question. Nobody was attempting to convince anyone of anything, as is often the case when spiritual matters are discussed by people with strong beliefs. The questions sat there and more questions were added. It was a powerful session for me and I could have stayed with that group and the questions for a lot longer. It was ironic that although the members of this group were from places such as Greece, Germany, and Algeria, and I think one from France, they all spoke French with ease. For at least one participant, French was an easier language to converse in than English, so the dialogue often broke into French. I was the only one who couldn't speak French, but it didn't seem to matter, as the spirit of the group and the dialogue that took place was deeply moving to me regardless.

Development Office

On practical matters, Bill Taylor with Michael Ledwith outlined the work of

Brockwood's Development Office and some of the issues that they are addressing. Along with the daily work of spreading the teachings of Krishnamurti, the Development Office helps the various departments raise their profiles, manages Friends of Brockwood Park, carries out fundraising and undertakes special projects. Bill also outlined the need to attract more guests and students to Brockwood and finding new ways to publicise both the centre and the school.

From left: Mike Davies with partner Pia, Warren, Leila Taylor, Michael Krohnen. Photo: Bill Taylor

One major project is a review of all departments of Brockwood that has been carried out by management strategists, Nasser Shamim and Mina Masoumian, who also have a deep interest in the teachings of Krishnamurti. The purpose of the review is not to impose business models on the organisation, but to consider the intentions and objectives that have previously been set for Brockwood to ensure these are still relevant and that there are appropriate management structures, staffing, and other resources to implement them.

The first phase of the review has already led to changes and the second phase is now underway. It is hoped that a release of new energy, ideas and creativity will follow as a consequence of this thorough review of the organisation.

Mature Students Programme

Bill also mentioned the mature students programme which is for young adults aged from 21 to 30, to come to Brockwood out of their own interest to study Krishnamurti's teachings within the context of the School. Mature students participate with staff and students in the life of the School and contribute to the atmosphere of Brockwood with their own serious inquiry. They are junior colleagues of the staff and they may have specific duties with respect to the students, which might include academic tutoring, coaching in sports, etc. As with staff, mature students have a duty of care with respect to the students, who sometimes look to them for guidance and assistance.

Krishnamurti – to the Young

Staying on the topic of the young, Ramon Patel who works with Frederich Grohe on ways to make Krishnamurti's teachings available and relevant to young people, gave a presentation on an exhibition prepared by Vikram Parchure entitled Krishnamurti – to the Young. The purpose of the exhibition is to disseminate the Teachings among university students and has recently been shown in India and is currently doing the rounds in Thailand. The following excerpt from the opening panel spells it out: *Krishnamurti's deep concern for the young—the unfortunate inheritors of a very disturbed, violent and insecure world— led him to exhort youth to insightfully understand and address the global crisis that looms before them. He alerted them to the fact that old ways of problem-solving have proved too inadequate to deal with the complexity of present-day dilemmas. This crisis demanded an entirely new approach, and this was possible only to a mind that was fresh, youthful, perceptive and ever-willing to face the challenges of uncertainty.*

The artwork is freely available from Vikram. KANZ will investigate the possibility of developing an exhibition at least partly based on these panels.

Students viewing the display panels

On the last day at Brockwood, I went to Bill and Leila Taylor's home for dinner. It was a lovely meal on a beautiful warm summer's evening. Architect Mike Davies, his partner Pia and Michael Krohnen were also there. Bill Taylor a delicious vegetarian meal – it was such a lovely way to spend the last night before leaving for London.

I visited Ojai on the return trip and met again with Michael Krohnen who made a lovely dinner which we had on the lawn at the Pepper Tree Retreat. Michael was also on the same Air New Zealand flight from London to LAX and we had a lot of fun chatting about his life and things we had shared interests in.

I also visited Richard Waxburg and Deborah Kerner at Ojai. They have for some years now run a Study-Intensive & Retreat Programme at the Pepper Tree Retreat. I have attended two of these retreats and found them to be challenging and inspirational. Richard and Deborah have a wonderful way of proposing topics to follow as a group and gently guiding the dialogue and allowing the conversations to go at times very deeply into the issues of living a whole sane life in our crazy world.

Richard and Deborah explain their retreats as a "Living Experience, in the here and now, of what Krishnamurti is pointing to, as an in-depth shared

exploration into the limitations that conditioning has on our perceptual life".

We spoke about the possibility of them coming to New Zealand to run an intensive retreat for say one week. In an email they said: "Perhaps our programme can 'kick-start' many other Krishnamurti-centred programmes for New Zealanders and help to create an even larger community of like-minded people interested in deep explorations into what is preventing us from making a leap out of the old brain to a mind that is fresh, fully alive, unburdened and free".

"The experience that our programme provides can potentially allow Krishnamurti's teachings to act as an open door that can bring all of us to the threshold of a shift of perception; a shift out of fear, worry about the future, inner-conflict, a sense of separation from life and each other, to having a direct insight, a 'seeing', that there is no need to postpone feeling completely alive, unburdened and clear right now".

KANZ will look into the possibility of Richard and Deborah running a retreat in New Zealand in the future.

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend the International Committees Meeting at Brockwood and will use the experience to help KANZ grow awareness of K's teachings in New Zealand.

A final note: Before I left for Brockwood, I had a thought about the importance for everyone to find their true authentic voice. It became a theme for me throughout the trip, and so it was great to find this sign below in a shop window in Ojai.

Warren Snow
August 2015

J. KRISHNAMURTI

HIS LIFE AND LEGACY

A presentation by Bill Taylor, Development Director for The Krishnamurti Foundation Trust, UK

During August KANZ hosted two presentations by Bill Taylor, who was visiting New Zealand from England. The first was held in Auckland, on 2nd August, at the Sunnynook Community Centre, and the second was in Christchurch, on the 9th August, at the Nova Montessori School, New Brighton.

Bill gave a very interesting overview of Krishnamurti's two visits to New Zealand, in 1934 and 1939. During his first visit his talks were banned from New Zealand radio as being "too controversial". However, this was not an issue during his second visit. George Bernard Shaw had been visiting NZ in 1934 and had commented that that New Zealand was missing out on not allowing the broadcast. The presentation included the only known photograph of Krishnamurti talking in New Zealand at the Theosophical Society Garden Vasanta School on the slopes of Mount Saint John in Auckland.

Bill then gave a synopsis of Krishnamurti's life from the time he was "discovered" in India by the Theosophical Society through to his "Truth is a pathless land" speech in 1929 when he dissolved the order that the Theosophical Society had built around him and declared, " My only concern is to set man absolutely, unconditionally free".

The talk continued with an overview of Krishnamurti's life following the dissolution of the Order of the Star and the development of the various schools, based on his teachings, around the world in India, England, and America. Bill also covered the development of the Krishnamurti Foundations and how they are archiving the teaching material and are holding duplicate copies in each of Foundation locations.

Bill finished his talk by presenting a series of quotes from Krishnamurti which set the scene for the second half of the meeting. The audience arranged themselves in a circle and for the final hour of the meeting held a dialogue on themes that were raised from within the group.

Both meetings were well attended with around 40 people at each.

KANZ would like to express its appreciation to Bill for taking time to give these presentations during his busy New Zealand schedule. We would also particularly like to thank Warren Snow and Pauline Matsis for organising the Auckland and Christchurch venues.

Showings of Krishnamurti videos and group dialogues:

CHRISTCHURCH
- monthly: contact Pauline Matsis 03 312 1470 / paulinematsis@clear.net.nz
- monthly: contact Kyoko Giebel 03 329 4789 / aakaasha@ihug.co.nz

HAMILTON
- every second Sunday: contact Clive Elwell 07 856 6523 / clive.elwell@gmail.com

AUCKLAND
- the last Sunday of every month: contact Krishna Umaria 09 488 7482 /

Postal lending library of books, dvd's, and cd's - www.krishnamurti-nz.org/library-sales

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