

Introduction to Chapter 4 of “Harvest Song”

[\(Complete Chapter 4\)](#)

by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative

www.cpcsi.org

(4 pages; April, 2020)

The “Harvest Song” Document

The [“Harvest Song”](#) document [78 pages (3.9 MB); Nov-Dec, 2018] is the most comprehensive and concise CPCS Initiative document for

- 1) making it very clear that the convergence of unprecedented challenges which is now with us requires “uncharted territory” cultural transformation
- 2) making it very clear that there are countless number of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” to accelerate solution-activity.

[Note: Confidence will be dimmed by a lack of clarity until there is truthful public discourse on the full dimensions of the unprecedented challenges ahead. Confidence will be built up when people believe that the efforts of everyone working together is a greater force than the challenges they are facing.]

Chapters #1 and #2 documents a Convergence of Unprecedented Challenges (*before* COVID 19)

Content includes 31 links; 18 tweets from many people; 12 text boxes w/ information, statistics, and graphics; 5 text boxes (by this writer).

Topics: Climate Breakdown; Toxic Air; 6th extinction event; U.S. Govt. Debt, U.S. Household Debt, Global Debt, Costs for Weather Damages; Migration, Displacement; Water and Sanitation; Floods and Chemical Sites; Radioactive Waste Disposal; Plutonium Disposal; Minerals Absolutely Critical to U.S. Security; Violence, Corruption, Cynicism; School Shootings; Marginalization of Human Morality and Wisdom; Cities; Global Food System; Meat, Dairy and Emissions; Food Waste; Solid Waste Management; Oceans; Plastic Pollution; Deforestation; Cement Emissions; Thawing Permafrost; Cyber Threats; Gambling; Media Literacy; Information Overload

Commentary: However much we may move forward with the technology pieces needed to hold global warming at 1.5°C, there are many other pieces to the unprecedented cultural transformation which we must also achieve--and failure to also reach positive tipping points on the many other pieces may cause us to lose positive traction, and slide downhill into cynicism and anarchy.

[Note: This writer has also compiled a 19 point list of evidence specifically associated with the urgent need to reach Zero Carbon ASAP (Climate Emergency Op-Ed [“We interrupt this broadcast...”](#) p. 1-3)(6p; Jan., 2020)--which is a condensed and updated version of p.17-25 in [“Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign”](#) (157p; June, 2019)]

Chapter #3 and #4 documents a Convergence of Unprecedented Solutions

Content includes 34 links; 2 tweets; 14 text boxes with information, statistics, and graphics; 12 text boxes (by this writer).

Topics in Chapter 3: Investor Commitment; Fossil Fuel Divestment; 56 newspaper with Same Opinion Piece about Climate Change; Community Education; Solar Power; 100% Renewable Energy by 2050; IRENA Renewable Energy Brief; Community Microgrids; Centre for Alternative Technology; Zero Carbon Britain; Findhorn Ecovillage; Household Energy Use

Commentary: Highlighting significant movement towards avoiding catastrophic climate breakdown plus potential steps towards positive tipping points on climate breakdown, and many other unprecedented challenges... movement which coincides with the kind of strengthening of local resilience needed to respond to economic, social, and cultural disruptions associated with COVID 19.

Some Highlights from Chapter 4 of the “Harvest Song” document

Here is an overview of the collaborative problem solving, community education, and citizen peacebuilding this writer advocates for in [Chapter 4 of the “Harvest Song” document](#)--

- 1) Universities/colleges assisting with Community Visioning + related curriculum, workshops, teacher training, to support many Neighborhood Learning Centers = exponential acceleration of solution activity (Example of Community Visioning: 13 minute documentary [“Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision”](#)--Highly Recommended)
- 2) Creating many Neighborhood Learning Centers can provide places--in local neighborhoods--for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship--so that the exchanging of information and resources will also include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each other’s strengths
- 3) Local Newspapers: can report on Community Visioning [150 key leaders -> preliminary surveys (identify challenges, solutions); Neighborhood Learning Centers workshops; Visioning stages; job fairs]; Neighbor to Neighbor Community Education section in newspapers can help identify contributing people, valuable resources

4) Residents (especially unemployed) who volunteer time, energy to assist w/ Community Visioning, Neighborhood Learning Centers--and/or advance resulting action plans--could receive, as compensation, local currency.

5) Local leaders of religious/spiritual traditions: demonstrate what is possible along lines of living lightly and practicing wisdom, compassion; help restore confidence in higher values of life; encourage and support Interfaith Prayer Vigils

All Topics Covered in Chapter 4:

Community Visioning; Neighborhood Learning Centers; Neighbor to Neighbor Community Education (NTNCE) Project (proposal for a new section in local newspapers); Local Currencies; Appropriate Technology Library; Food Sovereignty; Local Food Policy Councils; Interfaith Prayer Vigils; Questionnaires to Build Consensus for Collective Action; Living Lightly; Practicing Wisdom and Compassion; 13 Steps for Long Term Culture Change; 178 Related Fields of Activity (Agrarian Reform; Appropriate Technology; Circular Economy; Civic Responsibility; Community Visioning Initiatives; Food Security; Forgiveness; Gender Equality; Hard Work; Honesty; Inspiring Role Models; Interfaith Peace Vigils; Local Currency; Mentoring; Permaculture....)

[Special Note: the title for “13 Steps for Long Term Culture Change” (78 pages; May, 2017) has recently been changed to [“Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities \(13 Steps\)”](#)]

The Appropriate Technology Library

(at Village Earth website

<https://www.villageearth.org/home-2/resources/appropriate-technology-library/>

Worth Mentioning in Detail:

1) “The Appropriate Technology (AT) Library contains the full text and images from over 1050 of the best books dealing with all areas of self-reliance, do-it-yourself technology--over 150,000 pages. Portable and easy to use on 1 USB drive. The AT Library is currently in use in over 74 countries worldwide.”

2) “The AT Library gives you the knowledge to solve real-world problems such as: harvesting clean drinking water, making tools, growing your own crops, building and maintaining an irrigation system, preserving crops, reforesting a denuded watershed, starting a small fish hatchery, building a small-scale hydropower scheme, building and maintaining pumps, treating human and animal waste, utilizing solar energy, improving rural cookstove efficiency, constructing energy efficient structures, caring for the sick, non-formal education, preparing for a natural disaster, etc.”

Concluding Comments

Content below is from a [4 tweet series](#) (by me @StefanPasti on Twitter) on cultural transformation in response to the convergence of unprecedented challenges. This 4 tweet series is being directed to universities and colleges in hopes that they will take up the call, and be lead organizers for strengthening local resilience.

The tweet (with an accompanying text box) is below--

3/4

Re Stay at Home time

People: please think carefully about our future.

We need more resilient local economies for #COVID19 and Global Heating mitigation.

Local asset inventories, local discussion forums, can help support local suppliers (see below)

COVID 19/Climate Action--Increasing Local Community Discussion/Info Exchange

- 1) Neighbor to Neighbor Community Education Project advocates for new section in local newspapers to highlight and accumulate stories, personal experiences, and other forms of reader contributions which identify helpful people and valuable resources, reinforce important community goals.
- 2) ProBoards: largest host of free forums on Internet, providing best forums and customer service to help your online community <https://www.proboards.com/> . [Note: one example of the potential of such local discussion forums: The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative “CPCS Initiative Discussion Forum” at <https://cpcsdiscussionforum.freeforums.net/>]

Key benefits overall:

- a) COVID 19—online community discussion/information exchange will record many requests for assistance, and information—and responses--thus organizing and minimizing outings and supporting “protective supplies and practices”, “quarantine”, “medical care”, “stay at home”, “shelter in place”
- b) Climate Action—use “stay at home” time to maximum benefit, thru local newspaper forums, and local online forums (working out downsizing energy use, and planning Zero Carbon local economies)

(and, most important, local online community forums will--)

→ help keep people actively engaged with each other along positive and constructive lines ←