LCL BRIEFING

ILLUSTRATION BY IEBO COCHRANE, FROM *THE BAREFOOT GUIDE*

The third LCLI consultation that took place at Mont Fleur conference centre on the mountainside above Stellenbosch near Cape Town in January of this year focused on 'the life of institutions'. In due course we will give you some idea of what happened there. For this briefing, we want to introduce the new LCLI Fellows who attended the consultation and have accepted our invitation to be part of this growing web of people. On this page, we also introduce one of the issues that has taxed us and that emerged even more strongly in this third consultation: what 'life' and 'power' have to do with each other.

On Power

... how does it fit? ...

A critical question arose at the third consultation held by the LCLI at Mont Fleur near Cape Town in January of this year. Implicit in earlier debates, it became explicit here: To what extent is the language of the leading causes of life 'happy talk', unrelated to the complicit structures and uses of power that hurt, damage or even kill people?

We want to pursue this question, give it a full and adequate answer. Some thoughts are already on the table.

So, for example, if LCL ideas reverse the public health language of the leading causes of death, they also draw upon related notions of the 'social determinants' or disparities that impact upon health – poverty, inequity, exclusion and the like, all having to do with the asymmetries of power. But does LCL language as such having anything to 'say to power'? Is it of any use in economic life or in politics on the ground?

To see power as 'control' or 'force' is one thing. But it can also be seen in positive terms as energy, a 'capacity to act', as agency, as that which produces the real, as something to be released that is generative or life-giving. This should, someone noted, free us from 'passive complicity' or the trap of 'powerlessness' in the face of control and force.

What would it mean to be accountable for power in that sense? What do you think?

The **LCLI** Manifesto

The Leading Causes of Life Manifesto is now available on our website, which you can reach at http://www.leading-causes.com (or as a redirect from 'leadingcausesoflife.org'). It explains what we are trying to do and why, setting out five ways in which we plan to take the initiative forward, and it tells you how the initiative is organized. As we note there, the LCL Initiative sees *the idea of generativity* as key to rethinking and reshaping disciplines and practices in health, business, education and other dimensions of social life, including the religious assets and spiritual capacities that contribute to this goal.

New Introductions

LCLI Fellows include people who have attended one of our consultations, and others who are part of particular activities we have begun to engage in.

This living web of transformational connections is open to each Fellow to draw upon.

All Fellows inevitably inhabit other networks. One dimension of the LCLI Fellows web, then, is also to help make those networks visible, to grasp the rich complexity within which we all live and work and help grow human connections that can contribute to enhanced life and flourishing for all.

In our last Briefing we introduced our first nineteen LCLI Fellows. In this growing group, you meet here the eleven new Fellows who have joined us more recently.

Our new **LCLI** Fellows

Fred Smith

Fred, Rev. Dr., is a Christian educator serving in communities dealing with long-term challenges and vulnerabilities. Educated at Harvard, SMU and Emory, he has worked at the foundation of the Interfaith Health Program at The Carter Center. He is the primary architect of 'Not Even One,' a highly creative strategy to treat every young handgun death as a "sentinel event" subject to broad community analysis to prevent the next one. He has adapted religious health assets mapping and leading causes of life into his participatory educational designs at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC, and been a key leader in Stakeholder Health and the congregational networks in both Memphis and North Carolina. A widely sought speaker and counselor in both religious and public health circles, he recently returned to his boyhood home, Valejo California, as a United Methodist pastor and community leader including running for the local school board.

Marlese von Broembsen

Marlese is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Public Law and Institute of Development and Labour Law University of Cape Town, and Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, with a Master's in Development Studies. Her work focuses on the nexus between poverty, informality, law and development, and draws on four years spent working with black-owned informal businesses in townships near Cape Town, as well as many years of policy work for international aid agencies, South African agencies, the UCT Graduate School of Business, as well as government. She has published on South Africa's small business development strategy, labour law and development, private sector preferential procurement, and legal empowerment of the poor. Marlese's particular interest is in labour market institutions that potentially facilitate the unemployed poor and informal producers participating in global value chains.

Rachel Sinha

Rachel (BA Hons, MA), co-founder/co-leader of The Finance Innovation Lab, UK, jointly convened by WWF-UK and Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, works on systems change & social innovation, collaboration, sustainable business, large group facilitation, design thinking, finance innovation, social entrepreneurship, women in leadership, and start-up incubators ((co-founding a social entrepreneurship incubator, UnLtd* Future). She has represented the UK on the European Commission Expert Group on Social Business, helped found The Natural Capital Coalition, and is Director at Point People, a group of 16 women who believe that large-scale impact comes from connecting disparate worlds. She believes in bringing people together, reminding them of their shared humanity, making safe spaces for ideas and support for outliers, and creating the conditions that allow friendship and understanding to blossom.

Bret Nicks

Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine; Associate Dean, Global Health at Wake Forest School of Medicine; Chief Medical Officer, Wake Forest Baptist Health Lexington and Davie Medical Centers. His interests include Emergency Medicine development, global health integration in resource austere settings, and Community/Health System partnerships. He has key relationships with colleagues in Tanzania and Nicaragua, and has been a Lead educator and care provider in more than 15 countries worldwide with numerous NGO and governmental organizations. Outdoor and wilderness activities are a particular passion of Bret's, as are ethnic foods, and family life. Coming from a disadvantaged background, Bret is motivated by a desire to serve others regardless of situation or circumstance.

Doug Reeler

Doug (BA, MA), an anthropologist and historian, works with the Community Development Resource Association (cdra.org.za), designing and facilitating processes for social change and transformation. He coordinates the Barefoot Guide Connection (barefootguide.org), and the Letsema Programme in South Africa, mobilising caregivers of young children to bring their voice, leadership and initiative to co-creative processes with government, community and other actors, for the well-being of young children – a foundation for future national sustainability. Skilled in adult education and organisation development, Doug plays traditional Shona music on the marimba and mbira. 'Optimistic and naïve,' he has great faith in the power of mutual learning as the basis for co-creative endeavor, a more human and fulfilled life.

Horst Kleinschmidt

Horst, 'retired' but very busy, loves researching Southern African History, German History, human rights and related matters. He has a long and deep history of political engagement against Apartheid in South Africa, and in rebuilding a free and just society since. He worked as Assistant to Beyers Naude, Director of the Christian Institute of SA (banned in 1977), and in exile, as head of the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa in London for 10 years. On returning to SA, he worked with Lawyers for Human Rights, Kagiso Trust (a major development funding organisation in Johannesburg), Mvula Trust (implementing water and sanitation supply in rural villages), and as a Civil Servant as the Head of the Fisheries section in Government (initially employed to investigate corruption and malpractices). Still very active in civil society for a more equal and just society, Horst is optimistic that people can change if given education, self-awareness and exposure.

Leslie London

Professor in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, Leslie is a physician with a strong occupational, environmental and public health focus oriented toward civil society participation and agency in realizing the Right to Health. After a few years working for Trade Union-linked health services before moving to UCT, he 'shifted from being a very quantitative epidemiologist to thinking about how to integrate human rights into Public Health practice.' Leslie, for whom social justice is fundamental and persistence a virtue, believes that 'we should constantly struggle to help to create a better world – which IS possible.' He lives this metaphorically by cycling, falling off bicycles, and getting back on again.

Heidi Christensen

Associate Director for Community Engagement, DHHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, previously with the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty, Heidi's work centres on the engagement of faith communities as agents of health care, and educators on wellness and prevention practices. This has included helping develop tools that prepared Muslim/Christian faith leaders to guide their communities in the proper usage of bed nets against malaria. She is passionate about implementing health reform, and her office facilitates First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative to address childhood obesity, helping provide nonpartisan access to national and local faith leaders in position to influence the behaviour of their congregants. Heidi is a visual artist-painter interested in the celebration of life and the role of imagination in tapping the agency in created things, and committed to hope when circumstances say otherwise. She holds a Masters in theology, which she sought so as better to understand the theological underpinnings of the creative process.

Evance Kalula

Evance (LLB, LLM, PhD; Rhodes Scholar, Oxford) is Director of the International Academic Programmes Office, University of Cape Town, and of Internationalisation and Outreach in the Faculty of Law, where he has been Professor of Employment Law and Social Security. Among many appointments and consultancies, he is or has been human rights fellow and external collaborator in the ILO in Geneva, Switzerland, and African Programme coordinator for Rights and Humanity in London, on the Ministerial Economic Advisory Panel in the Department of Economic Development, President of the International Labour and Employment Relations Association, a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, on the Board of the Children's Institute at UCT, the advisory board of the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory, McGill University (Montreal), chair of the SA Employment Conditions Commission (2000-2011), on the governing Councils of the Universities of Cape Town and Zambia, the advisory board of the Tourism and Business Institute of Southern Africa, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Commission of Inquiry into complaints of non-observance by Zimbabwe of freedom of association and collective bargaining conventions.

What's on our website?

The Leading Causes of Life Initiative website menus playfully reflect something of the ethos we hold dear – a moving, nomadic web of people who are not afraid of complexity and risk but who find it meaningful to stay in touch. We think of the image of a Bedouin tent: ready to move, open on all sides, held up by a few well-founded but flexible supports. Our home page is our virtual 'Tent', and here you will also find the LCLI Manifesto. 'Our Journey' has info on the LCLI, its core group, and Fellows. "Waystations' is where we capture some of our meetings, 'Drumbeats' is our blog, and 'Backpack' is where we will put resources.

Keep in touch!

Malusi Mpumlwana

Bishop of the Ethiopian Episcopal Church, Malusi aims at 'an all-inclusive African church experience whose spirituality empowers the weak … and engages the social and economic realities of our time for the common good.' He is chair of the Ubuntu-Botho Churches' Trust, on the South African President's Advisory Council on National Orders, the Board of TrustAfrica (a Senegal-based, supporting civil society organizations in Africa), facilitator of the Rolling Church Action for Social Change of the Church Leaders Forum, and involved in the South African Council of Churches., He trained at the Federal Theological Seminary and the University of Cape Town and has an honorary doctorate from Nelson Mandela Metro University. Until 2006, he was the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Southern Africa Regional Director for. With Steve Biko, he was a founder of the Black Consciousness Movement of South Africa.

Craig Stewart

Craig has degrees in Zoology and International Development, and at first a high school science educator, he now directs The Warehouse Trust in Cape Town, a very active and highly respected faith based community development organization engaged in community development and community-based advocacy. Interested in non-profit management and with a passion for leadership development, Craig most recently has developed a growing curiosity about water, sanitation and hygiene related issues. Calling himself 'a reasonably gregarious extrovert with a need for regular silence and times of solitude,' Craig also loves mountain biking and camping in the mountains. He is motivated by the belief that 'in wholeness of my life I can work towards the establishment of *shalom* in the world around me.'

As most of you know, Fellow Larry Pray has blessed us with his evocative watercolours and astonishingly powerful poetic insights. If you have not already been interviewed by Larry on behalf of the LCLI, expect it. As before, we end here with another of Larry's paintings.