

A Contemplative Reflection

as the members of IPA gather to create a path for Presentation people to be part of

a New Dreaming and the Wholeness of Creation

The Earth as a Village

If we could turn the population of the earth into a small community of 100 people, keeping the same proportions we have today, it would be something like this:

Ethnicity

61 Asians
12 Europeans
14 Americans (from North and South America)
13 Africans
1 Australian (Oceania)

Sex

50 women
50 men
10 of these would be homosexuals

Religion

33 are Christian (Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox)
18 are Muslims
16 are Hindus
16 are non-religious
6 are Buddhists
11 practise other religions

Basic Needs

41 live without basic sanitation
16 live without an improved water source
1 adult, aged 15-49, has HIV/AIDS
13 are hungry or malnourished

Education and Technology

14 can't read
7 are educated at a secondary level
8 have a computer
4 have an internet connection

Security

If you keep your food in a refrigerator
And your clothes in a closet,
If you have a roof over your head and have a bed to sleep in,
You are richer than 75% of the entire world population.

Wealth

6 people own 59% of the entire wealth of the community
If you have a bank account
You're one of the 30 wealthiest people in the world.
25 struggle to live on US\$1.00 per day or less...
47 struggle to live on US\$2.00 per day or less.

We call each other to deepen our passion for the poor
by nurturing a contemplative stance
in our work for justice.

IPA Expressions of Purpose #1

Reflection

Imagine yourself as a member of Village Earth.

Ask yourself:

Who am I in the village? – Where do I fit?

Everyone in the village has something to say – a story to tell.

Whose story do you want to hear?

Who wants to hear your story?

What do we have to say to each other?

What does each of us in the village have to share with each other?

*Work with passion
Love without needing to be loved
Appreciate what we have
And do our best for a better world.*

Prayer for the IPA Assembly 2003

God of our ancestors, of Nano
and of all those who have walked this earth
before us,
we thank you for the Community of Life.

May we recognise that in the midst of a
magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms
we are one human family and one earth
community with a common destiny.

Come Spirit of God, Breath of God,
Fire of God, be with us as we join together
to bring forth a sustainable global society
founded on respect for nature,
universal human rights, economic justice
and a culture of peace.

God of our dreaming,
may our Assembly be a sign of hope and unity
and a time for seeking wholeness of creation.

Our Lady of the Presentation, pray for us.
Amen.