

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

Good morning

Let me tell you a story

Many of us have suffered wounds of war and bruises of battle fighting to protect the Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life. We finally realize that fighting is not the answer. As my friend Durwood says, we cannot work ourselves harder than we already do. We have to work smarter.

That led me to explore a new pathway.

We see that most of the stories of the world is not bad. It is neutral and much of it is even good. But why do we heard only of the bad and sad? Because bad news sells? Because media makes money from mankind's misery?

This has resulted in us feeling stressed, depressed, helpless, and hopeless.

NO! We are *NOT* helpless!

We can change the story of the world if we change the storyline – from bad to good. We can change the narrative from negative to positive. That is the bridge to the new normal, to a new, better and brighter world.

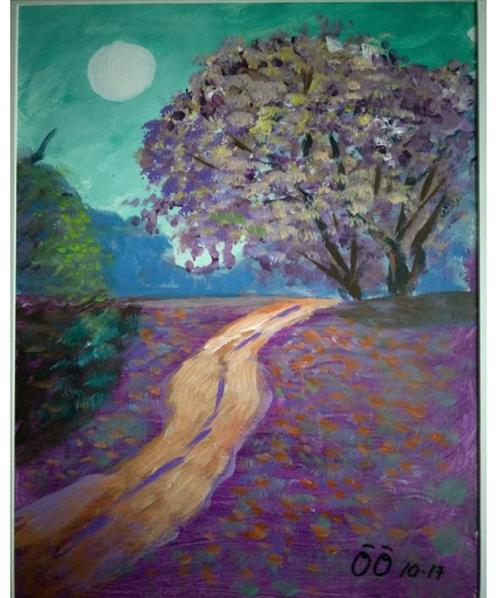


How?

Law and Science – of which many of us have been trying to do -- try to change the mind. If you change the mind, it can change tomorrow. But when you change the heart, it is forever.

But how can we change the heart? By feeding it. The greatest human hunger is not the hunger for food. It is the hunger of the human heart for approval and appreciation. As a wise man of Asia once said, "The seeds of goodness live in the soil of appreciation for goodness."

That, dear friends, is the back story of the Good Stories Movement. It is founded on the premise that we will have peace on Earth when we have Peace *with* the Earth.



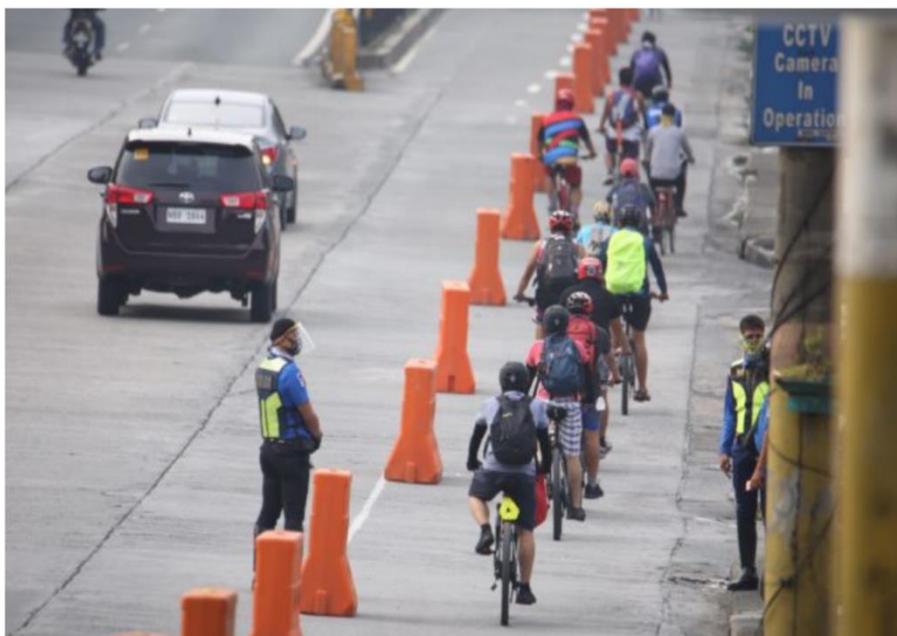
Thus, we will search for good stories of people making peace with the Earth, of people caring for the life-sources of the Land, Air, and Waters (LAW) of Life.

For example, there is a small town in Bantayan Island in the Philippines that started a food garden in a 50 sq. meter land. They received a congratulations letter from the Normandy Chair for Peace and other international luminaries. In less than 30 days, they expanded the food garden into 20,000 square meters, and growing.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan did a good deed. He hired tens of thousands of people who became jobless to plant trees in the denuded mountains.

In the Philippines, the Metro Manila Government supported and helped the bicyclists start the EDSA Evolution. EDSA (E. de los Santos Avenue) is the main highway of Metro Manila that connects many cities. It is probably also one of, if not the most traffic-congested roads in the world. It was also the site where millions of Filipinos launched the first peaceful power revolution in 1986 that led to the overthrow and exile of then President Marcos. Magically, the Metro Manila Government (known as the Metro Manila Development Authority-MMDA) supported the EDSA Evolution last May 24, 2020. Together with the Departments of Transportation, Health, Public Works and ordinary cycling citizens, these are now putting up a dedicated and protected bike lane along EDSA.

Another story is that of a young man who graduated with a degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from a prestigious university. Instead of going into foreign service, he went into serious organic farming with partner farmers. During the pandemic, he gave away his produce to frontline health workers and hospitals.



In Paris, the Mayor expanded the bicycle pathways to a stunning 650 kilometers and supported the putting up of 300,000 square meter urban food gardens.

Are they not good stories? If they are, we must hear of them, and gift them with words of appreciation.

Stories to Search

To give focus to our search, we can look at the following and find stories of people making peace with the Earth.

1. solid waste management
2. marine conservation
3. coastal governance
4. road sharing and non-motorized mobility.
5. edible landscaping and food gardens
6. eco-governance
7. environmental legislation
8. environment education
9. arts for the earth
10. environmental jurisprudence
11. youth leadership
12. women leadership
13. environmental diplomacy
14. marine enforcement
15. renewable energy
16. cultural heritage
17. lifetime efforts
18. others.



From ridge to reef, so much good is happening all around the world.

Take Home Messages

1. "How we choose to see the world creates the world that we see."
2. Our mission is to search for good stories. Together, we will transform today's doom and gloom to happy boom and bloom.

If you are interested in joining this movement, please feel free to sign the Covenant of Cooperation. Together, we will shine the spotlight of appreciation and recognition on the good stories of the world.

3. "Kind words do not just praise the goodness of others.
Kind words have the power to change story of the world."

Together, we will change
The story of the world,
By changing the storyline.



the

In closing, may I ask everyone to please read this little poem aloud.



Above the Wild Waves,
the Raging Rain,
and the
Clashing Clouds
of today's
Crisis of Life ...

is the

Golden Sun of Hope

Thank you, good morning, and good luck!

Closing Remarks