

# ***Greenleaf Servant-Leadership Conference, London, 7th November 2012***

***We face the biggest challenge in our  
history***

***It's a great opportunity!***

***Never has servant leadership been more  
needed***

***Bruce Nixon***

# **Structure**

**11-30 to 12-45**

**11-30 Talk – 20 minutes**

**11-50 Review – Key insights, additions or questions – 10 minutes**

**12-00 Table discussions on actions – possible re-forming of groups**

***What will we do as servant leaders to make a difference?***

***Each person briefly shares their thoughts in turn. Dialogue: personal and/or group commitments.***

**12- 30 Sharing in whole group actions**

**12- 45 Finish – continue at lunch**

***Where I am coming from***

***It's alright for your generation; it's different  
for us.***

***We'll have to face the consequences of  
your inaction***

***A student***

# ***What we stand for***

***"If a better society is to be built, one that is more just and more loving, one that provides greater creative opportunity for its people, then the most open course is to raise both the capacity to serve and the very performance as servant of existing major institutions by new regenerative forces operating within them" Robert Geenleaf***

# *Seeing the system clearly*

*“System blindness permeates all facets of western society”*

**Bob Doppelt**

*When I get discouraged I turn to inspiring thoughts like this*

*“Everything that is done in the world is done by hope”*

**Martin Luther King**

*I'd add love, courage and truth*



***Climate change is just one symptom of our failure to live in harmony with our planet and all life on it, including each other***

# *Five inseparably linked issues*

- *Climate destabilisation – some scientists say just 50 months before a tipping point \**
- *Peak everything – not just Oil which made our extraordinary way of life possible*
- *We are destroying the ecosystem on which all life depends – air, soil, water and other living things*
- *Poverty and economic injustice*
- *Violence, war, terrorism and the threat of nuclear annihilation*

\* [www.onehundredmonths.org](http://www.onehundredmonths.org)



# ***Our home is “Spaceship Earth”***

## ***What we are doing to it***

### ***Countries getting wealthier***

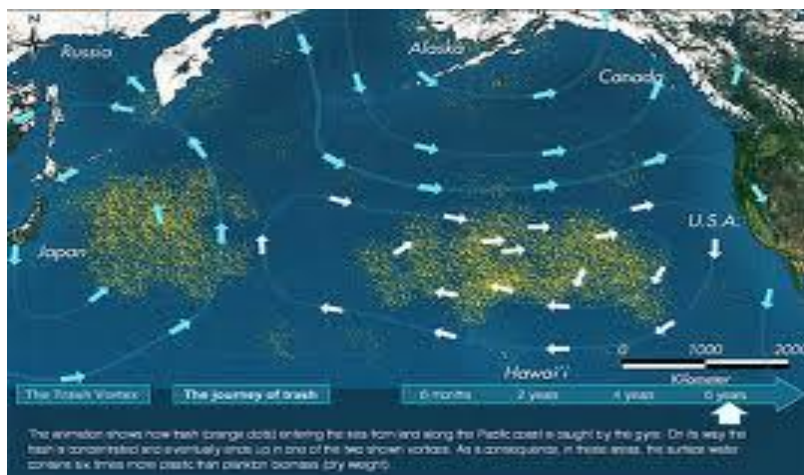
***BUT..... All the stuff we use USES UP the planet and heats it up - our cars, our phones, power tools, our gadgets, our food***



***And it's not making us happier***

# ***Symptoms of our failure to live in harmony with mother earth and all life, including each other***

***Indian families living in burning open coal mines, air pollution - 200,000 early deaths pa (FOE) , plastic particles, oil from tar sands, gas from “Fracking”***



# ***Spiralling inequality: The 1 % are getting richer and the 99% are getting poorer***

***The wealth of the world's 475 billionaires is now worth the combined income of the bottom half of humanity***





# ***Kiribati – they'll have to leave Who next?***



# Madness

## **When ....**

- *We're already consuming 30% too much - and our consumption is rising*
- *Population growing from 7bn to 9bn by 2050*
- *Poor peoples' expectations are rising*

## **Current orthodoxy defies common sense**

- *Continuous growth – measured by GDP*
- *Consume more and more to be happy and provide jobs*
- *Cut, cut, cut = more distress, more costly benefits and more debt*
- *Trying to delay the inevitable*

***Suicide and ecocide - Instead of dealing with the biggest threat to humanity, Governments are fixated on the economic crisis they created with the banks***

# *The global system exposed*

- *It fuels climate change and consumes more than “Spaceship Earth” can provide - we were warned “Limits to Growth” Club of Rome, 1972*
- *Systematically transfers wealth from 99% to the 1%. Bears down on people who make things, serve and feed us. Taxpayers subsidise Big Cos and the 1%*
- *Big Cos – above all Oil, motors, superstores, food, agribusiness, health, finance – have hi-jacked global and national institutions, government, democracy, our streets & communities - our minds taken over*
- *Mono-thinking creates mono-culture, mono-crops, mono-everything, “clone towns”*
- *Our security and sovereignty at the mercy of global markets*
- *Supported by war and huge military economy - destroys precious lives; \$ trillions that could be better spent*

# What drives the system

*“When the capital development of a country becomes a by-product of a casino, the job is likely to be ill-done” J M Keynes*

- *Neo-Liberal Ideology*
- *Globalisation and Great God GDP – not a measure of progress or real wealth*
- *Free Trade in pursuit of lowest cost – destroys local economies, jobs and sovereignty, “all roads lead to the ports” Essentially Colonisation*
- *Debt Money – the need to pay interest and repay debt fuels unsustainable growth*
- *Big solutions, big tech – not getting things done at the right level*
- *Cuts and “structural adjustment” – didn’t work in South – why would it work in North?*

## ***At the root – Money***

***The process by which banks create money is so simple that the mind is repelled. J K Galbraith***

- ***Debt Money – 97% of our money created by banks “out of thin air” for profit; causes property inflation; everything costs more.***
- ***Creates massive burden for nation, poorer and young people and poor countries***
- ***Unstable financial markets – about 90% transactions are speculative***
- ***Lack of regulation and due diligence = subprime crisis, credit crunch, recession, bailouts - the taxpayer pays***
- ***Perverse taxation and enormous hidden subsidies – reward unethical and unsustainable; fail to reward sustainable enterprise, the good and penalise the harmful***
- ***Vast avoidance and evasion - UK tax havens, laundering - blue suit corruption and abdication of responsibility***



# *Deeply flawed democracy obstructs change*

- *Governments lack political will and long term strategy – influence of Big Business; short term perspective; “fixes” instead of what works based on rigorous research and involving people “on the ground”*
- *Vested interests prevail – lack of integrity and due diligence*
- *Centralised power rather than Subsidiarity*
- *Adversarial politics polarised when collaboration and common ground needed*
- *Unfair voting system; unrepresentative parliament*
- *Media - power of the press, sensation, conflict, violence, celebs = uninformed, confused, depressed electorate*
- *Disempowered citizens - cynical, frustrated, disengaged from politics, “nothing we can do”*

***“Ordinary people” know instinctively***

***Taken for a ride; heading for catastrophe***

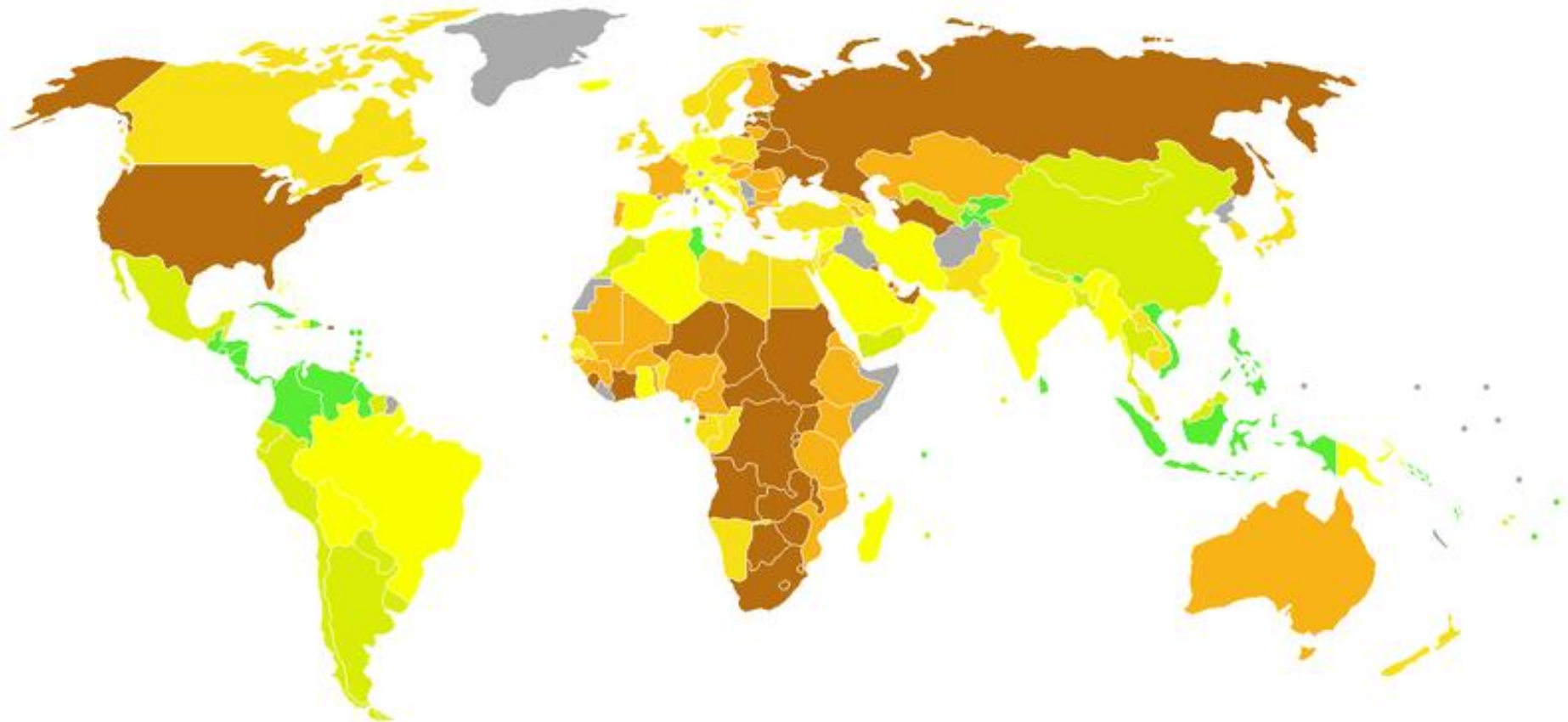
***Desire for change is widespread; yearning for something better***

# ***The Alternative***

***A Global Economy whose purpose is the  
Wellbeing of all, including all life on the  
planet***

# ***Wellbeing*** *(nef)*

***Happier countries are green, yellow; least happy are brown.***



## ***A Transition to Wellbeing Economics*** (nef)

- ***“Contraction and Convergence”*** *Rich “ West” contracts – carbon rationing. Trading carbon. Converge to equal per capita footprint – a gradual transition timetable. National Carbon Budgets. Safe 2050 target 2 tonnes p.p. = 90% reduction for us*
- ***Green the economy - localise, bio-regionalise, make global trade the exception, FEET index\****. ***Sovereignty and Security***
- ***Double win – the way out of both depression and environmental catastrophe***
- ***Creating the good society - providing opportunity, education, health, good work***
- ***New values - not stuff, power and status but love, fulfilment and joy, One World***
- ***Reduce military, arms expenditure – spend on resolving conflict and preventing war and Road deaths***

***\*FEET index = foreign exchange earnings per transport tonne***

## ***Positive Money – James Robertson and Ben Dyson***

- ***Money - Only central banks create money, free of interest, to meet democratically defined national objectives = £75bn annual saving***
- ***Banks - redefine and separate their roles: investment banks, “boring” banks; national, regional, local banks, local money***
- ***Regulate the markets again - Tobin tax on transactions***
- ***Sustainable taxation and subsidies - Reward sustainable enterprise and work; tax “harms”; Carbon Tax; end avoidance and evasion; Land Value Tax***
- ***Citizens Income - a right for everyone including students and pensioners - ending the humiliation of benefits - can cost the nation less***
- ***Tackle excessive top pay –transparency, required maximum pay ratios, adequate minimum, supervisory boards, shareholder responsibility***



# ***Green Homes and Communities***

***Kevin McCloud's Triangle project, Swindon; Bedzed in Sutton; Hockerton, Southwell, Notts***



# ***Sustainable Cities***



***[http://www.ski-epic.com/amsterdam\\_bicycles/](http://www.ski-epic.com/amsterdam_bicycles/)***



# ***Local Food***

***our garden***



# ***How to make it happen – a sustainable, fairer society.....***

***Include all 193 nations **in voting in the UN;**  
**not just wealthy western ones*****

***Create common ground, “win; win”***

***Sit in a circle – not opposing rows***

***Better informed citizens***



***Better democracy: **fully representative of our diversity - equal women, fair voting, people are involved and feel listened to*****

***Two options: **Collaborating to survive, not shouting at each other and war, and threats of war, or we face Catastrophe*****

## ***Mass mobilisation is needed - Being the change not enough***



***Activism is my rent for living on the planet*** Alice Walker

***Green New Deal - nef; “Prosperity without growth” Tim Jackson; “Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization” Lester Brown; “Occupy World Street” Gaian league of sovereign nations Ross Jackson; A global carbon tax - James Hansen; “The Energy Glut” Ian Roberts; Avaaz and 38 degrees Key Campaigns for System Change [www.bruce-nixon.com](http://www.bruce-nixon.com)***

# ***Review and Decisions***

***What will we Servant Leaders uniquely do to make a difference?***

***11-50 Review – Key insights, additions or questions – 10 minutes – 1 min per person!***

***12-00 Table discussions on actions – possible re-forming of groups***

***What will we do as servant leaders to make a difference?***

***Each person briefly shares their thoughts in turn. Dialogue: personal and/or group commitments.***

***12- 30 Sharing in whole group actions 1-2 min per person!***

***12- 45 Finish***



# Appendix

## *Deaths from war and road crashes*

- *1.2bn war deaths since 1700*
- *40m 1945 to 2000*
- *War in Iraq and Afghanistan thousands killed, injured or displaced, almost half the world's 11 million refugees created and ruined lives*
- *Annual road deaths – now around 2m, 300,00 children, predominantly in poor countries, highest amongst young men, similar to those in war and conflict. Expected to rise to 3.6m by 2030 exceeding those from war and conflict. Source W.H.O.*
- *Aid for investment in roads in Africa is of doubtful benefit to poor people – bicycles would offer much greater multiple benefits, especially for women (“The Energy Glut” Ian Roberts)*