

A MILLENNIUM VISION

by David Woolfson

Marking the arrival of the new Millennium on January 1, 2001 means marking 1,000 years of human history. This presents each and every one of us with a unique opportunity to reflect on the past, address the challenges and possibilities of the present and shape a positive future together.

Today humanity faces enormous challenges and opportunities. The challenges are extraordinary as both our civilization and survival as a species are in jeopardy. The opportunities are also extraordinary as they are being driven by unprecedented revolutions in scientific knowledge, new technologies, global communications and human understanding.

What effect will these unprecedented changes have on the future of humanity? Increased knowledge doesn't guarantee increased understanding. We must also strive for deeper insights into each other and ourselves, as well as the mutual recognition of our shared past, mutual interests and common future. In so doing we will be poised for a major leap in the evolution of human thought - the development of collective wisdom!

With our new tools and potential wisdom we may be on the verge of a truly new world, a world which will finally deliver the eternal dream of humanity - the dream of a peaceful, harmonious world and a healthy, vibrant earth.

The turn-of-the-millennium can be the climatic moment in human history. It's arriving at a time when we have reached a major crossroads in our 15 billion-year evolutionary journey. There are now two broad paths before us: the unsustainable one we are currently on which may lead to disaster and the sustainable one we must strive for which can lead to prosperity for all.

The choices and actions we collectively take over the next number of years may well determine humanity's ultimate survival and success. We will either finally develop true wisdom or may well perish. Our tools are now much too powerful to allow us any substantial margin for error. Any conflict today between nations or peoples can quickly lead to a global disaster. Our rapidly growing impact on the earth may soon result in a widespread eco-collapse. We are in real danger of destroying the greatest gift of all - the Gift of Life!

In the midst of this crucial time the Year 2000 and the new millennium have appeared. Whether by coincidence or otherwise it's "just what the Doctor ordered!" It provides the single greatest opportunity each of us will ever have to communicate a positive message to the world. Through our thoughts and actions we can link with others around the planet, who share the vision of shaping a 'Great Millennium of Peace and Well-Being for All'!

Today, for the first time in history, we have the tools, resources and abilities to achieve this greatest of goals. Global communication networks are now being developed which are rapidly connecting people worldwide just as this special moment arrives. It appears that only "old" thinking may now be standing in our way.

Millions of people have already transcended the "old" thinking - perhaps a critical mass. We need to link up so that we can know of each other's efforts and communicate. We also need an initiative broad enough to unite us toward a peaceful and sustainable world in the next millennium.

Each one of us can help make this dream a reality. Together we can co-create a future for humanity that is worthy of humanity's immense potential. The opportunity to do so is now before us. It's inherent in the impending arrival of the new Millennium!