

After Bill ... What? How? And By Whom?

I'd like to share with you a few questions that have been asked of me recently (since I've announced my retirement). For example, are you going to name someone else to take your place—or recommend someone else for us to learn from or be empowered by after you retire? What are you going to do with all your recorded teachings, inspired talks and expressions of wisdom that have been amassed during these last years? Who will be taking responsibility for or taking charge of insuring your legacy?

As you can imagine, these are not the questions that are either uppermost in my mind or a high priority in my soul. However, since these questions may continue to seek answers in our very practical and doing-based world and, well, because I now finally feel inspired to respond to these questions, please join me as I share my inspiration and decisions about them with you. Here we go.

Are you going to name someone to take your place? No! Not at all! While I recognize that a number of those who have spent sacred time with me as their helper will naturally look for someone else to support them on their journey, I have absolutely no inspiration to recommend to them (or to anyone) any specific teacher, healer, inspirer, transformer, empowerer or awakener of any orientation—or to name a successor to me (which is so, so out of the question). In contrast, my deep inspiration is to leave these next steps to their (your?) all-knowing, guiding spirit—whose wisdom and guidance I trust beyond measure.

Who will be taking charge of insuring your legacy? First of all, whether there is indeed a legacy of mine that is meant to be preserved and/or enhanced is a question whose answer is now unknown. My personal inspiration in this regard is not to seek the question's answer, but simply to put whatever collection of my writings and talks in the hands of a few people (cf. the very next question for details), then turn it over to the ever-creative Source of Life itself to make that decision. In that sense, this all-knowing Source of Life is in charge of this potential legacy. That answer satisfies me completely.

A different, and perhaps more appropriate, response to this question, however, is this: *You are! Yes, you are in charge* of insuring and completing this legacy of mine. "Much has been given me," as the saying goes, and I am now passing the baton of this 'much,' these gifts—including their wisdom, teachings, magic and grace—to you (can you feel that baton landing in your hands as we speak?).

Let's look at it this way: You found me because together we were born to make a personal contribution to this planet and to our human family. I've been the leader for a time, and now it's your turn. You have my complete blessing and committed endorsement, right here and now. I simply ask that you always look within your own heart and soul for your inspiration, truth and courage. In spirit I will always be by your side, at your back and within your soul. But you are now ready to take the next steps of creating this legacy, in your own way and from your own center. I congratulate you ... and I shall love and support you in spirit, for the full flowering of what is now *your* legacy, to the end of your life!

What are you going to do with all your recorded teachings, talks, etc.? My, but the questions never end, do they? This one actually has some practical importance, though, and I've spent much time meditating on the perfect "something to do" in assigning responsibility for whatever words of mine, written or spoken, are collected in print or recorder. Here's the result of those meditative moments: I have felt inspired, and have chosen, to honor four

special people—actually, three people and one organization—with the care of and future decisions about my collected words (and all of them have been silly enough to say 'yes!').

- First, the *Center for Soulful Living* (CSL), currently under the inspiring and brilliant leadership of Faye Bates, which as of now has all rights related to my words collected during the years in which Donna and I led that sacred organization (2002-2010), in the form of my books, CDs, DVD, teleconferences, seminars, etc.
- Second, *Patrick Bates*, who devotedly recorded and meticulously produced so many of my products for CSL and who is currently developing his own online programs for inspirational listening/viewing.
- Third, *Charlie Werner*, who has beautifully and committedly recorded so many of my talks in mentoring groups, retreats and other events during more recent years.
- Fourth, *Jim Gerlach*, who has brought great devotion and pure heart to recording many of my talks and presentations in seminars, mentoring groups and other events through these last many years.

I want you to know about these four special people, not just for your future reference (if needed) but so that you can support them in spirit for the immediate future. Each of them “gets” the spirit and sacredness of what my mission has been about. I gladly give them total custody and responsibility of what has been (but no longer is) mine—these words that carry so much more than concepts. Further, I have total trust that, as that ‘Source of Life’ inspires them regarding the inspired future of my words, they will be purely aligned with that inspiration. And, finally, I thank each of them heartily for giving themselves so beautifully and purely to this inspiration.

By the way, FYI, all of them have given me their solemn commitment to never share personal and/or confidential information about anyone (except me, of course) that may be on any of the recordings that they have, unless they have that person’s expressed consent.

So, there you have it—three simple questions, and three long-winded responses. Yep, when it comes to long-windedness, I never disappoint, do I?

