

ReSource, continued

Then Vinnie took the mike again. "This is not the Challenge Day," he said. "Check it out. Tomorrow is the real Challenge Day, because tomorrow you will walk through the doors of this school and not everyone you see will have been part of this experience. Only you will know what is possible if you choose to 'be the change'."

Those three words, "be the change," were screened boldly on the back of Vinnie's shirt. They are all over the web site. The leaders often punctuated their witnesses with "be the change." Jyoti pointed out early on that they were part of a longer quote from Gandhi, a mystical prophet of humble origins who helped return India to her native people. "Be the change you wish to see in the world," he said ages ago. We might recognize it as a variation on phrases like: "walk the walk," or "do unto others," or a pro-active "what goes around, comes around."

"Be the change" is more than an invitation. It's the solution - an answer to a prayer. Those words make everyone a player.

While in Washington DC last September, I bought a bumper sticker with Gandhi's image and that quote printed large enough for passing motorists to see. But I bought it to remind myself that wishing things to be different does not go far enough.

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, nearly one hundred individuals went further than wishing. Adults led the way but students quickly followed. Trust was established; fear subsided. Strong personalities spoke up; the crowd quieted down. The challenge to build a better world was offered; the students accepted.

The leaders from Challenge Day have come and gone. The students who walked the halls before the Thanksgiving break are walking the halls today. But about 80 of them are different. They have a new appreciation of themselves and of each other. They have a new respect for their struggles and a conviction that they can be overcome, a day at a time. They have hope, for a change.

If this interested you in organizing a Challenge Day for your school, you can see a video on the Challenge Day web site or borrow a CD from the Beacon Street office.



December 2005

Dear friends,

There is about as much space for this letter as there are days left in 2005. This newsletter comes to you courtesy of the hundreds of Beacon Street supporters who call on our services, attend or contribute to our annual fundraisers, or send us a donation in the mail. From our humble but determined beginnings in 1988, we have relied on your goodness to sustain us year to year. And here we are.

We still respond to every request. We still adjust our fee to the client's ability to pay. We still design each program to meet the stated needs of the minister or teacher. We still proclaim the gospel. And we still have fun. God is good, and you manifest that goodness in your support.

Our end of the year appeal envelope is tucked in the pages of this Beacon to minimize costs and to put the request where our heart is. We hope you find it in your heart to continue to support what we do. Call on our services; come to our benefit; make a donation. Perhaps you could manage all three.

In any case, the envelope is there for your convenience. And so are we. At your service.

We wish you all the best of this season of new birth, new hope, and a new year.

Much peace,

for [signature]

Bob Kloos, artistic director, for Pat
and our board of directors