

VALUE CHANGE FOR SURVIVAL

By Oren Lyons, Faith Keeper, Onondaga Nation

We are living in the time of the prophecies. My grandson always asks me, "What's going to happen to me?" The prophecies are here, they are happening now. We look around and say, that's happened and that's happened. The prophecies are being fulfilled before our eyes.

It's our job to change people's minds, to change the direction of their thinking. Values Have To Change!!! There is no mercy in Nature – none – only the law. If we don't change we will suffer the results. We will be judged by what we do and how we live.

In 1950, there were only 2.5 billion people on the earth. In 2007, there are 6.5 billion people living on the earth. It only took 57 years to increase our population by 4 billion people. Every 5 seconds there are 5 more babies born. More people needing water and food, wanting more of the earth's resources.

Think about how we use/waste water even in taking a bath or a shower. The people of the desert can take a bath in a cup of water, they have to. We have to become more aware, become more responsible and think of how we use the precious resources of the earth. We have to be careful about who you raise as a leader. You have to stand by your leaders. Leaders are judged by the people.

In our traditions we have these principles:

- 1) Principle of Peace – with peace comes health
- 2) Justice & Equity – with fairness comes justice
- 3) Power – there is power in being united, having a good mind, having One Mind. Indigenous people can put their minds together and bring the rains, like the Hopi. There is power in Unity.

I have been working with an international group, the Global Environmental group called the 'Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders', many high ranking officials and Spiritual leaders meeting to discuss Global Warming. After many meetings a question was posed to ask what we had learned from all our meetings. This was their message in 4 words: **VALUE CHANGE FOR SURVIVAL!!!**

We have to either change our (the world's) values or we won't survive. Nature has no mercy, so we have to abide by the laws of Nature or suffer the consequences. Business as usual is OVER! Carbon is OVER! Oil is OVER! We'd better find alternatives for our future. There will no longer be \$200 billion to support war because we will be spending all our money dealing with the extreme damages caused by the devastating environmental issues that are coming! These issues will create havoc for the economies of the world.

It is up to you to get into the face of your leaders, in your community, with your family and friends to help them to change. For the youth, when the young people ask the Elders for our help, we'd better be there. One important lesson of our people is to 'never take hope from the people.' Hope is good leadership, leaders who are out front fighting the big fights for our future.

The one country that has to change the most is US because we are the worst offenders. We are going to go through bad times; we'll be going back to raising our own foods, drying corn and beans, and going back to the time of our grandparents. Get ready!