

Reflections from January 2007.....Truly, life-changing, as all of life's experiences are. But, this is even more powerful. I find myself simplifying....."emptying" the physical things that I've held onto. We were born with "nothing" (physical) and leave with "nothing" (again, physical). What we have in between our own birth and our own death, as we know it, is the time and space (in between) to grow and go towards light, be attracted to and seek joy, to make connections with others and nature, to help and inspire others. We need to see way beyond our sometimes-very-selfish selves and let go of our ego, because that ego is what hinders all the growing we need to do.....

I was very struck by the story of the wonderful high school librarian who spoke her story. I was moved to tears and moved to give all that I brought with me in the ways of money and gift cards. We wrote to one another and I'd like to see her again. She was beautiful in innocence and faith of hoping to "build the library up" once again. She made *me* believe, too....

I connected with The Cunninghams, who Todd also connected with.

I was moved by Eileen's story of a nervous-breakdown and having hope once again. I look forward to seeing them again, as well. They live in faith.....Through these people, I realized that I truly have no complaints at all. I have no problems at all. I have a roof over my head, I have a job that pays me, I have faith. I don't worry about floods. I have no complaints. I have wonderful opportunities for growing in the light, seeking and spreading joy. I have a job to do!.....

"The only way we are ever going to ensure peace on this planet is to adopt the entire world as 'our family'. We are going to have to hug them, and kiss them, and dance with them, and play with them. And, we are going to have to sit and talk with them, and walk and cry with them. Because, when we do, we'll be able to see that, indeed, everyone is beautiful, and we all complement each other beautifully. And, we would all be the poorer without each other." --Stan Dale--

Shantia, thank you, too, for your inspiration, light, joy, belief, and perseverance. You are *such* a model for all the world to see!

God bless, and God bless us *everyone*, Jamie Pratt