

BY PAUL WERDER

Leadership in the First Year of the Last Decade*

DEEP ROOTS

The urgency is real. The scientists we trust have warned us that we have ten years before it will be too late to reclaim our planet's sustainability. Speakers at Living Future, Cascadia's annual UnConference, challenged us to "be outrageous and make a commotion."

We need to do that: hasten our pace, work harder, and more insistently raise our voices. On one level it feels right to make some noise and rev up our activity level. On another level, I have never found it possible to work hard enough or fast enough to achieve what seems impossible.

Yes, tons of hard work is necessary. But what is the active ingredient in the historical moments that have changed the course of civilization? Real

leaders are thoughtful and strategic. They engage people's hearts and inspire excellent actions among large numbers of influential people. Think Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Their "way of being" was what moved society in a new direction. It was not about what they did as individuals. It was the depth of their conviction and willingness to withstand adversity that ignited the hearts of their people.

Real leadership is like an amazingly beautiful tree with enormous branches that provide delicious fruit. It only thrives when we have roots deep enough to allow us to blow away the belief that the sky's the limit. When our roots are deep enough, we discover that there are no limits.

* JASON F. MCLENNAN, CEO OF CASCADIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LIVING BUILDING INSTITUTE, COINED THIS PHRASE AT LIVING FUTURE 2010 IN SEATTLE, WA.

SHARE YOUR STORY

We would love to hear about your successes and use them in future articles about leadership in the green building movement. Please send us 100 words or less that describes:

- **How you've deepened your leadership roots**
- **What you've done to make a positive commotion**
- **What you've accomplished as a result**

Let's blow the lid off! Send your submissions to Paul Werder at paulw@lionhrt.com!

Our way of being can not be hurried, casual or superficial. It must be deep, profound and enduring. To become a person with deep roots you will need to be reflective. Cynics call this endeavor of slowing down to be reflective “navel gazing” and consider it a waste of precious time. Mystics call it “knowing.” It is a visceral experience of understanding universal truth so strongly that you have no choice but to act upon it. It is profound enough to have you rise above your mind’s usual obstacles and focus on your mission above all else. It is inspiring enough to attract others to rise above their own day-to-day concerns. Synchronicity occurs as the strategy unfolds from your heart just when you need it. You simply take one step after another, while being totally present to your mission.

In today’s society we have ample evidence that millions of people crave this way of being. For decades we’ve lined up at the box office for movies like Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings and Avatar. For six years we’ve sat spellbound in front of our television sets watching Lost. We crave heroic leadership that prevails over the darker aspects of humanity. Unfortunately, we can never get enough of what we don’t really need. We do not need fictional heroes. We need to find the heroic way of being that is buried deep within each of us. We need to touch into our own hearts.

To do this work well we must slow down and find our hearts on a regular basis, not just for a few moments at the movie theater. We must fill our hearts with insight, inspiration, creativity, strength and wisdom on a daily basis. We must surrender our personal agendas every day to a way of being that unleashes the treasure chest of virtues that are buried in our hearts. To consciously expand our hearts in this manner, we must remember who we are underneath all of those frantic thoughts and feelings that render us ineffective.

If this approach to leadership is foreign to you, I am not surprised. It is very uncommon and only embraced by a few rare people. It requires being self-actualized enough to realize that our own powers are insufficient to make our full contribution to the world. It is an approach to leadership that relies on developing a personal and intimate connection to the mystery or life-source that is at

the core of our existence. Using this approach allows us to remember that we have infinite resources within to draw upon. We need only to remember that to ask our hearts to talk to us and sustain us as we expand upwards.

To become the Lincoln, Ghandi or Mandela of your time you will need to spend time in reflection. There are many ways to do this and finding a trusted teacher is a good idea. We teach a powerful practice called “remembrance” that assists leaders to find, open and expand their own hearts. It begins an indescribable journey for people who choose to become their own heroic version of themselves. These people are not satisfied with getting a vicarious dose of heroism from their favorite fictional characters.

The remembrance is a practice you use to call upon the *All That Is Within You*. It allows you to bring forth much more than your full contribution. You simply choose a word or name that represents the Oneness at the core of our existence. It is your word that is sacred to you and consistent with your understanding of the mystery of life. You focus your attention on your heart conscious-

Real leadership is like an amazingly beautiful tree with enormous branches that provide delicious fruit. With deep enough roots we discover that there are no limits.

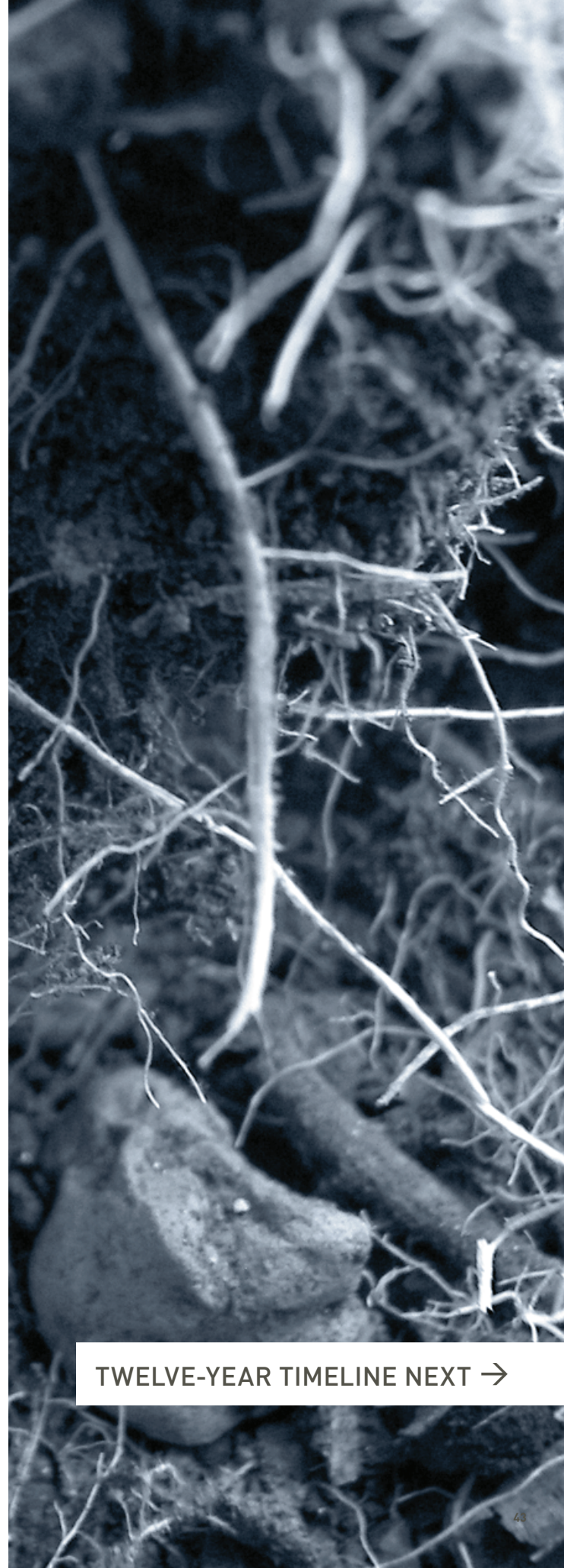
ness and repeat your word quietly. If your mind continues to chatter or tries to debate the value of your practice, you simply notice this mental distraction and continue to deepen the recitation of your sacred word.

With sincere effort over sufficient time your heart will receive more positive energy than you expect. With dedication, you will develop a way of being that is deep, profound, enduring and more powerful than you ever imagined possible. You will become a real leader. Perhaps you will become well known or maybe you will continue to work without that burden. Either way, if you slow down and develop your heart, you will get there faster. You will make a surprisingly bigger impact on your immediate world that genuinely is outrageous.

You will make the right kind of noise, at the right time and in the right way. If ten of us are successful at this endeavor, it will be huge; if a hundred of us do so, it will be miraculous; and if a thousand of us make this way of being our own, we will perhaps change the course of history. I invite you to be an exceptional human being with deep roots. Begin your journey of heroic service in an entirely new way by finding the strength within...to slow down...reflect...and prove that what really matters is not impossible.



PAUL WERDER, CEO of LionHeart Consulting Inc, is the author of *Mastering Effectiveness*. You can reach him at paulw@lionhrt.com.



TWELVE-YEAR TIMELINE NEXT →