



# LIVING VALUES

an educational program

## Values Education for Children and Young Adults

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### Living Values e-News

Living Values: An Educational Program Newsletter

**June to July 2000**  
Issue Number Seven

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## [To Our Readers](#)

[news@livingvalues.net](mailto:news@livingvalues.net)

Welcome to the seventh issue of Living Values e-News, the electronic newsletter of the Living Values Educational Program.

The past few months have been busy ones for the Living Values family around the world as the number of stories in this issue indicates. Our main story focuses on a pioneering seminar for the Arab region that drew together some seventy experienced educationalists from about twenty countries. Other stories reveal the warm welcome being given to values education initiatives around Asia.

In both regions there is a long history of holding learning and values in high regard and seeing the benefits they bring both society and the individual. For example, for Confucius the human being can be led towards perfection through education, and especially self-cultivation, while social relationships and society as a whole are also prime beneficiaries of education. This model was extended to the political realm fostering the ideal of a state where moral virtue was the rule and guiding law. And as we look at society today, and think of the years ahead, our perceptions are at least implicitly a view of the moral order around us and of which we too are a part.

While values are thus the sustaining force of human society and progress, education is at the core of our endeavours to maintain and strengthen our values foundation. Education may not, and indeed does not, promise an instant fix to the social, economic and political situation that we face but it does give the wisdom and capacity to deal with it and begin to lay down the foundations for the kind of society we want. It can help make us conscious of the inherent worth and dignity of the individual - and the rights and responsibilities that go with this - and is a powerful means of bringing about positive changes in thinking, attitude and behaviour. It is to these tasks that Living Values is applying itself and partnering with others around the world. A wave of values training and awareness-building has now touched many shores and continues to inspire people to bring values into the heart of education. Much progress has been made, the momentum is building and another wave is definitely on the way!

The LVEP [website](#) - at [livingvalues.net](http://livingvalues.net) - warmly welcomes hearing from educators with one or two success stories (or even not-so-successful stories!) of values activities that they've tried, whether in their classroom, home or elsewhere. So read on .... and, as ever, we hope that you'll do more than just read: please also send us your news - and go out and make some news!

With warmest wishes  
The Editor



# Forthcoming Events

[training@livingvalues.net](mailto:training@livingvalues.net)

## ▶ **Germany, Bremen**

23rd to 27th July, 2000.

### **Living Values: An Educational Program (LVEP) Educator Trainings**

The training will be conducted by LVEP Trainers Diana Hsu and Brigitte Loerchner.

For further information, please contact  
[germany@livingvalues.net](mailto:germany@livingvalues.net)



## ▶ **United Kingdom - Oxfordshire**

18th to 23rd August, 2000

### **International LVEP Train-the-Trainers**

For further information, please contact  
[training@livingvalues.net](mailto:training@livingvalues.net)



## ▶ **USA - Peace Village Learning and Retreat Center, Haines Falls, New York**

24th to 27th August, 2000

### **Living Values: An Educational Program Teacher Training Session**

[Invitation](#) | [Agenda](#) | [Q&A](#) | [Register](#)

For further information, please contact  
Ed Wondoloski - [usa@livingvalues.net](mailto:usa@livingvalues.net)



## ▶ **Vietnam - Hanoi**

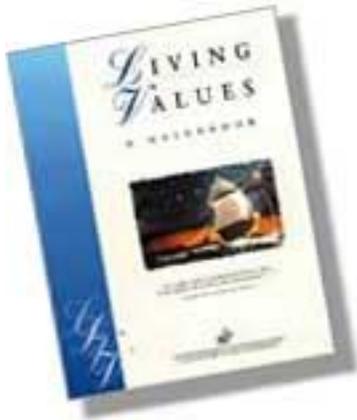
end September, 2000

Training for the Ministry of Education

For further information, please contact  
[vietnam@livingvalues.net](mailto:vietnam@livingvalues.net)



**Have you read the book yet?**



### **Living Values: A GuideBook**

#### **A Publication in Honor of the United Nations' Fiftieth Anniversary**

*"To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person ..."*

(Preamble, United Nations Charter)

## **Worldwide Happenings**

### **▶ Lebanon Arab Region Seminar on Quality-Based Education**

A regional seminar on "Quality Based Education: The Integration of Social Skills into Classrooms and School Programmes" took place in Beirut from 15-17 May 2000 and brought together high-ranking education officials from about 20 countries within the Arab region. The seminar was co-sponsored by UNESCO and Living Values: An Educational Programme. The purpose of the seminar was to consider programmes and pedagogy that would support the introduction of social skills into classrooms and school programmes and a very positive atmosphere prevailed throughout. Participants were well aware that they were taking part in a unique event as it was the first time representatives from Arab countries had met together in order to discuss values-based programmes as a way of developing social skills in pupils.

Sister Jayanti of the Brahma Kumaris - one of the sponsors of LVEP - set the context for the seminar in her opening address. She said: "Quality-based education is definitely the need of the moment. We are all concerned with the condition of the world and seek to have a world in which each one experiences a better quality of life. Quality-based education and quality of life both are definitely connected with values. Without a focus on values the quality of life has deteriorated and as values return to our lives we can hope to have a better world. Looking at civilisation we can see that the foundation of life and all aspects of civilisation is values. We believe deeply that within each individual there is inherent goodness and education is the process of allowing this

goodness to blossom and flourish. This is quite a different concept to the image of filling information into an empty vessel. Rather the spirit of learning is the awakening of the potential talent within the child and allowing the talents to develop through lifelong learning. As we recognise the original goodness of all and appreciate this and cooperate together, a better world will surely be realised."

The seminar went on to consider the work of Roger T. Johnson and David W. Johnson from the Cooperative Learning Center, University of Minnesota in the USA. David and Roger have extensive experience in researching the issue of cooperative learning. They presented a very powerful workshop in which participants were fully engaged in a cooperative activity. Roger and David's thesis was that effective learning only takes place in a cooperative atmosphere where each is sharing and learning from each other.

The next speaker was Manish Jain from Shikshantar: The Peoples' Institute for Rethinking Education and Development. Manish presented a lively and fascinating talk entitled "Expanding the Vision of Quality: Asking New Questions". He challenged the seminar to 'think out of the box!' He maintained that current failure was because of our failure to nurture adequate leaders. He also maintained that graduates lacked creativity. Interestingly, he posed the view that there is a lot of teaching going on but very little learning or understanding. He challenged us to consider learning outside of the confines of the school walls, maintaining that current developments are piecemeal and add on projects. He argued that quality is a process of building dynamic shared visions of our pasts, presents and futures. There is a need to open up and touch societal issues by asking questions such as: What is a good human being? What is a healthy society? What is our relationship with nature? Such questions led Manish to consider whose interests should education serve i.e., the individual, community, nation, global economy or humanity. We must understand that learning is dispositional and developmental and that it builds on prior meaning, that learning involves dynamic processes of questioning, exploring, doing, sharing, feeling, reflecting and creating. Unlearning is often as important as learning. Everyone in the school system should be considered as a learner/facilitator. The implications for schools were immense!

Later, Manish also talked about the effects of global media. He presented a number of startling facts about the effects of media on the development of the child, giving statistics such as that by the age of 11 the average urban child will have watched 100,000 acts of violence and brutality on television. In 73% of violent scenes shown on American television, the perpetrators of the violent crimes went unpunished. He went on to argue that schools need to develop media literacy in order for young people to be made aware of the negative effects that the media system can have on them. Media literacy is concerned with helping students develop an informed and critical understanding of the nature of mass media, the techniques used by them and the impact of these techniques.

Neil Hawkes, representing Living Values, then addressed the seminar, giving a clear and concise explanation of the background to the Living Values Programme. He outlined its historical development and gave evidence of how the programme was beneficial to particular schools and school systems. His enthusiasm and the authority of his extensive knowledge touched all. He was followed by Dadi Janki, the Additional Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris, and seminar participants sat in rapt attention as Dadi gave a solid rationale to underpin the development of social skills and values in young people. Later, Diane Tillman, from the Living Values team, gave a brilliant exposition of elements of the Programme. Together, these three sessions provided the seminar with a thorough understanding of Living Values. Participants were also given copies of Programme materials. There was much interest in the

Programme and there is no doubt that there will be requests for training programmes with educators.

Dr. Frank Dall, Regional Education Adviser of UNICEF gave a number of presentations concerning global education, quality education and particularly the need to develop child friendly schools. Drawing on a tremendous breadth of experience, Frank explained how UNICEF is committed to promoting the establishment of rights-based, child-friendly education systems. Frank passionately encouraged seminar participants to follow the models developed by UNICEF in order to make learning a more child-centred and socially relevant experience.

As well as the presentations, plenty of time was set aside for open dialogue and discussion. Such encounters and exchanges of views were extremely useful, enriching and a powerful learning experience for all who took part. They frequently endorsed the need to develop values and social skills in students throughout the Arab world.

UNESCO is preparing an official report but, in summary, the outcome included proposals, under UNESCO'S coordination:

- to exchange information and expertise in collaboration with UNESCO so that values education could be developed in the curriculum to integrate values in the school and extra curricular activities;
- to improve assessment methods with regard to social skills programmes; and
- to adopt school programmes that will support social skills/values work, recognising that the necessary training of educators will be a priority.

There is no doubt that as a result of the seminar the lives of many pupils will be positively affected and significant steps taken for the development of a values-based society. Living Values extends very special thanks to Dr Hegazi Idris and his colleagues at UNESCO, Beirut. The seminar's success owes much to Hegazi's commitment, consideration and dedication, both during the planning process and the seminar itself, many sessions of which he masterfully chaired. Already, news is trickling in of developments sparked by the seminar and doubtless much more will soon be on the way!



▶ **UK**  
**European Train-The-Trainer**

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From 27th to 30th April 2000, 70 educators from Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, the Netherlands, Portugal and the UK attended a Living Values Train-the-Trainers course at the Brahma Kumaris' Global Retreat Centre near Oxford. Forming regional groups, they created action plans to network and stay in close touch with each other.



▶ **Israel**  
**Pilot Project to Start in September**

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On completing the recent TTT in which they took part in the UK, the Israeli LV group has begun creating a support system for the core group of trainers that participated in the training. They plan to start a training course for the kindergarten teachers of Ramla, which will be the first city in Israel to pilot the project. LVEP will begin operating in those kindergarten classes from the beginning of September.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, work will also begin around this time on designing a first training course for nurses. A module for ages 0-3 will be created with the collaboration of both the Education and Health teams.



▶ **USA**  
**Living Values Educational Retreat**

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In early May a small but powerful group of twelve educators met to further the work of Living Values in the USA. It was the second time these educators met at the Peace Village Learning and Retreat Center in the majestic Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. In August 1999 they had participated in a Living Values Teacher Training Workshop and then explored implementing the lessons learned with children. They came together in May to share both their successes and concerns with the Programme. It was a wonderful opportunity for the group to gain sustenance from the beautiful environment and network with like-minded souls. Time was also spent in determining how these experiences could be woven into the second annual Teacher Training session to be held at Peace Village this August, from the 24th to 27th - see [Forthcoming Events](#), above.



▶ **Vietnam**  
**Training Arranged at Ministry of Education**

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Trish Summerfield, LVEP's Coordinator in Vietnam, reports that LVEP is just underway in Vietnam. LVEP's Values Activities for Children, Ages 8-14 has just been translated and LVEP trainers Diane Tillman and Ruth Liddle will be conducting a training for the Ministry of Education at the end of September, 2000, in Hanoi, Vietnam. Twenty-five teachers from various locations will attend - see [Forthcoming Events](#), above.



▶ **Cambodia**  
**First Steps**

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Trish, LV coordinator in Vietnam, sent Living Values e-News this summary report:

"We have just returned from a visit to Cambodia where we met with various NGOs and explained LVEP. UNICEF is looking into how it can be used in the kindergarten curriculum and UNESCO has offered to oversee the translation of the LV books should we decide to go ahead with a training there. We met with the Minister of Education and Culture who will present LV to others within the education sector."



▶ **Turkey**  
**Cooperation is the Way!**

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Assistant Professor Erol Inelmen wrote to Living Values as follows:

"Delighted with the idea of having a newsletter on values!!!!!"

I have been involved in LVEP for 3 years now and had tried to introduce the principles in my class of freshmen students. It is not possible yet in our community to start talking about honesty, humility, love or peace. Cooperation is the most important value students appreciate. They are supposed to help each other so the idea appeals them and I have used it in my first primitive web-page.

To practise, this last semester I have asked the students to work-up a play with the material they have learned on Excel programming. They divided themselves in 6 groups each with a different set of topics. We all really enjoyed it and, although it was the first time, many students managed to improve their presentation skills considerably.

I would like to share views with others working on similar circumstances. I remain in debt to Dr. Carmen Romia from Barcelona University for giving me the first kick off on drama.

Erol Inelmen  
Assist. Professor  
Turkey  
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▶ **Italy**  
**Living Values to Start in Florence and Perugia**

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Updating last issue's story, Living Values e-News has received the following report from the LV team in Italy:

"In May, Pilar from Spain visited us for a series of meetings in Florence, Gubbio and Perugia. In Florence we met with a mixed group that included teachers and scoutmasters. The result was that they want to meet each month and the Scouts will be using LVEP from September. Then we went to a very old and famous school which started around 1600 it seems. Antonella had organized with the head mistress that we meet for a day with the heads of the various departments. They all turned out to be of great quality, and this school, which is recognised as one of the most prestigious in Italy for boys, wants to take up LVEP in September too. It was particularly nice to see their own values come soaring to the surface as Pilar motivated them with her own experiences.

On the following two days Pilar was in Gubbio where a meeting had been organized by the head of a circle of schools. They also will use the Programme in the new school year. In Perugia, Pilar, Piero and the head-mistress met with the Academy Director of this area, so LVEP is likely to extend to other schools in the area too.

The realization is that these teachers need help and enthusiasm to develop their own methods of implementing the values, but that training would not be the right way to do this. For example, in the school in Prato, an old city outside Florence, the teachers are highly experienced and aware. They would like to see Pilar or Antonella again, but mostly to keep in regular contact through email. This would be a more regular and 'hands on' method of sustaining them."



▶ **Hong Kong, China**  
**Whole School-Piloting Planned for September**

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Discussions have been held with a local primary school, Hsin Tsi Wan, which wants to pilot Living values on a whole-school basis, starting next term, in September. One or two lessons a week would be dedicated to LV and, in liaison with the Government Education Department, progress will be monitored and evaluated.

Aiming to raise awareness of values, the "Values in Action Composition Competition" is being organised in Hong Kong over the summer holidays. Prizes are being offered in three primary age-group categories for compositions on LV's twelve values.



▶ **Thailand**  
**First Training in Thai**

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From Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand comes news that, for the first time, a Train-the-Trainer

programme was successfully held in Thai. Attending the TTT from two schools, including Ban Kun Maer children's' school, were 16 teachers for children aged 3-8. LV Coordinator Pinthip reported that all the teachers were happy with the training and the Programme and are planning to work with their family and their school.



▶ **United Arab Emirates**  
**Conference for Teachers, Parents and Students**

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A major LVEP conference was held in Dubai on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June. The title of the Conference was "Rediscovering Human Values - Living Values: An Educational Programme" and it attracted over 600 teachers, parents and students. A full report is being prepared; watch this space!



▶ **China**  
**Living Values Website Now in Chinese!**

[china@livingvalues.net](mailto:china@livingvalues.net)

After many days of translation, editing and layout work, an internationally-based team in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo, and LV's webmaster in Costa Rica, have completed the posting of key elements of Living Values' website in Chinese. Special thanks are due to Laura Lu, David Cheng and Lai Lai Fong for their dedication and commitment to this task. The site can be accessed through Living Values' [homepage](#) or directly at [livingvalues.net/chinese](http://livingvalues.net/chinese).



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Hard copies of text and/or images may also be sent to the Living Values Office in New York:

Living Values: An Educational Program  
Office for the United Nations,  
866 UN Plaza, Suite 436, New York, NY 10017 USA



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