

Chime In Youth Ambassador Call 9.2.15

Jeetan Part 2 Sustainable Education 4 a Sustainable World

Susan led off the call with an update for the ambassadors, noting several opportunities that are available to the ambassadors to further publicize their projects, most notably the upcoming Peace Day. Kelly said she will be sending scripts to the ambassadors that they will be able to use if they choose to participate in this virtual gathering.

Jeetan then asked everyone for a check-in:

Lea Anne said she's in Texas now and is happy to announce that she has her old job back and is excited about it.

Mariah turned in her resume for a job yesterday and is optimistic about getting it. She also has a story in the upcoming "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Dreams and Premonitions".

Susan is in Rhode Island is a certified biofeedback technician and counselor and is excited about the plans for Guatemala.

Benjamin has had to deal with some deaths in the family but is doing well now. Going back home enabled him to connect with family members, some of whom he had never met before, and he was able to learn more about his family's history. He's back in Washington and is working on a mural and building his art studio. He's working with another artist on creating mosaics in several countries.

Jessica is in Enid, Oklahoma, and is excited to be able to unite with everyone in the group. She is working with youth in her community in creating a youth rally to light their passions. She has applied for permission from local authorities to make this happen.

Then it was Jeetan's turn to talk about his project. He is working on universal primary education for all people. He is inspired to work on education as a way of paying back for the aid in education he received as he grew up. He's looking to see how he can make a difference in places like Nepal which are hard to reach and in need. He described his own journey in Nepal and how hard it was to navigate his way in difficult terrain and was amazed at how the people who live there don't complain about the difficulties at all. It made him realize how he has to change his own perspectives and attitudes. He saw how even though he came there to inspire them, he was the one who was inspired by how they handle their daily lives. He came to see that he has to look at their situations from their perspective, to see how they want to handle things.

Lea Anne connected with Jeetan's observations. She was reminded by something her mother told her, which was that any time you feel doubts or difficulties about what you're doing, to

step back and remember that this is what you really want to do, and to use that remembrance as inspiration to keep you going.

Kelly noted how all this relates to the Hero's Journey, that the "refusal of the call" is something that is always with us, always in the background, as we set forth on our projects and passions. So if you treat that refusal as a companion and acknowledge that it's always there, it will help you keep going. Having that refusal is not an excuse to stop—it's a reminder to keep going so you can be the hero on the hero's journey. Kelly also noted how important it is to get to know the people you want to serve, so you can be their best advocate.

Benjamin could also relate to Jeetan's remarks and the importance of understanding the local culture and attitudes. He used as an example, the rainbow, which in Western culture represents good luck but in places like Africa portends the end of rain and the drying up of crops. He also noted an NGO which instigated the banishment of genital mutilation that had the unintended consequence of actually encouraging more genital mutilation. Seeing the bad result, they went back and started to talk to the mothers of young boys and educated them on the horrors of genital mutilation. By helping to change the culture and the attitudes of the people living there, they ended up encouraging the desired results. He noted how important it is not to go to Third World countries with Western-style arrogance.

Jeetan also noted that what worked in the countryside in Nepal might not work in an urban setting. So solutions to problems, like SDG's, have to take into consideration the local situations, that utilize the skills and opportunities available in those specific situations.

Lea Anne said that SDG's are like a guideline that don't always work the same in different places. She agreed with Kelly that they are like a map, and that the specifics of a plan have to evolve in each individual place.

Right now Jeetan is working by himself but looking to create a group to help him with his goals. He's also working on updating his website. He then talked about the photos from his trip to Nepal, including photos he took in the refugee camp. Jeetan said he saw the refugee camp as a place of salvation, the place where he grew up, and doesn't see it as a place of deprivation, as some other people might see it. There is a community there, with people happily living their lives. They may live in poverty and don't have the computers and other Western-style items, but they are able to learn using the facilities that are available to them. He enjoyed going back there.

Jeetan raised funds to build a hostel in Nepal and construction is underway right now. He is trying to raise another \$2000 to be able to build a roof on the structure. He created a group "Vermont for Nepal" and has gathered supporters to help with this fundraising.

Kelly asked Jeetan how it feels to be him right now. He said nothing feels different. However, he has more energy and drive to move forward to help more people.

Susan said she's proud of what Jeetan has done. Kelly also praised Jeetan for his fine photography and suggested he might be able to use them in future fundraising endeavors.

Kelly also reminded everyone of the Crowdfunding campaign. Almost \$800 has been raised since last week. She also spoke about the people who are on the Board of Advisors. She also said it doesn't cost any money to "encourage" on the site and advised everyone to get people to visit the site.