

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Education - Words of Peace

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: John Holt

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Room: Alt/Correctional Ed Group

LynneW joined the room.

BJB2: hi, Lynne. Welcome!

LynneW: Hello to you both

BJB2: John has so much interesting information to share, Lynne. He just returned from a trip to Australia

LynneW: BJ, I recently joined the board of an agency serving adjudicated youth - last stop before or after jail and the street

LynneW: Several programs and housing options and proctor families.

BJB2: great, Lynne....send the agency folks to this group in Tapped In ;-)

LynneW: Big focus on teen sex offenders

BJB2: that transition piece is so important

BJB2: let's be official and start with introductions, please

LynneW: I will. Thought I should join to help me get up to speed about good options to offer

BJB2: and then we'll see what John has to share that you may be able to use

LynneW: Great

LynneW: Hello John. I am a professor of educational technology at Concordia University, Portland, OR

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

LynneW: Our federal grant ends this year. Part of my teaching load is community service.

BJB2: tough with the sexual offenders. zero recidivism

BJB2: we have quite a few where I work...and the number of mental health cases is skyrocketing

LynneW: That is what I saw in the girls program I visited.

LynneW: Mental retardation as well. Profound learning disabilities

BJB2 nods. Those are the kids that 'fall through the cracks' of public education

LynneW: I will be focusing on developing policy recommendations and programming for safe Internet use by their population. Right now they are prohibited because no one knows how it could possibly be "safe".

BJB2: good luck! That population is very creative

LynneW: I'm showing them various Web 2.0 Tools and just beginning the process of demonstrating potential fits.

JohnHo: Hi Lynne

LynneW waves

JohnHo: Should I introduce the Words of Peace Program now?

BJB2: yes, please, John.

JohnHo: The award-winning television series, "Words of Peace," now appears four times weekly on the Correctional Education Association's Transforming Lives Network, making it available to residents and staff of correctional facilities nationwide.

JohnHo: For more than forty years, Prem Rawat has traveled the globe offering inspiration to millions of

JohnHo: Anne Charles, director of the CEA's Transforming Lives Network, explained why Words of Peace is a welcome addition to its weekly programming: "For a person living or working in a correctional facility, we hope that something in our schedule is going to hit home with them and make a difference."

JohnHo: "What we want is for offenders not to come back to prison and for those serving long sentences to be successful inside [prison]," she said. "Recognizing who you are and what you are about is important to that success. We believe that Words of Peace will help bring positive change to offenders and corrections workers."

JohnHo: “What we want is for offenders not to come back to prison and for those serving long sentences to be successful inside [prison],” she said. “Recognizing who you are and what you are about is important to that success. We believe that Words of Peace will help bring positive change to offenders and corrections workers.”

JohnHo: Words of Peace has won awards for public access programming in Brazil and the United States. It is available for viewing at correctional facilities in Africa, India, New Zealand, Mexico and South America. Many correctional officials have noted life-changing results. “Prem Rawat gives hope to all, including those people in our society who are from less-advantaged backgrounds and could be easily forgotten or unheard,” said a prison administrator in the UK.

BJB2 smiles...interesting that Words of Peace would benefit both inmates and correctional officers

JohnHo: A prisoner in a regional prison in the United Kingdom commented, “This makes such a difference. It makes being in here almost bearable, and for this I thank you from the bottom of my heart.” A municipal jail inmate in Cancun, Mexico, commented, “It has changed my life inside the jail because I enjoy the time more and don’t want to fight or argue like before.”

JohnHo: There are many resources available

JohnHo: www.maharaji.net

JohnHo: The site of Prem Rawat, also known as Maharaji. Inspiration at its best. Exquisite glimpses of Maharaji’s message in poetic mode, as his original music plays in the background. Poetic excerpts appear randomly for 1, 2, or 3 minutes so that each visit is unique.

JohnHo: Inspire

JohnHo: A weekly e-newsletter with highlights of Maharaji's message and updates about the humanitarian initiatives he is spearheading through his Foundation. Subscribe.

JohnHo: "Peace is Possible" - Podcasts

JohnHo: Subscribe and download short audio excerpts from Maharaji's addresses. Listen to them on your computer, or download them to your iPod or MP3 player and enjoy them wherever you are. Subscribe (if you have iTunes, subscribe directly here).

JohnHo: "Peace is Possible" - Videocasts

JohnHo: Subscribe and download short video excerpts from Maharaji's addresses. Watch to them on your computer, or download them to your iPod and enjoy them wherever you are. Subscribe.

JohnHo: Webcasts

JohnHo: Webcasts of Maharaji's recent addresses are available in a variety of languages and formats.

JohnHo: www.thekeys.maharaji.net

JohnHo: There is more to Maharaji's message than words. He offers a practical way to find peace within, which he calls Knowledge. There is a process of preparation, called "The Keys," before a person is taught the techniques of Knowledge. Going through the Keys process involves watching video materials in which Maharaji helps the person develop the understanding necessary to learn the techniques of Knowledge

JohnHo: www.contact-info.net

JohnHo: This site directs the visitor to points of contact in many countries around the world. The site provides telephone numbers and website addresses to obtain information about upcoming events with Prem Rawat, about the process for preparing to receive his techniques for going within, and about available publications

JohnHo: Prem Rawat is very happy that inmates and staff have access to these materials and is very keen to help with personal contact and visits

JohnHo: Phew!

JohnHo: Can I have a break now?

BJB2 smiles...sure! Any questions, Lynne?

BJB2: you've given a lot of information, John. Lynne may be sorting through it all

LynneW: Could you tell me where you are from? And a bit about your background?

LynneW: I was just subscribing in iTunes

JohnHo: I live in Santa Barbara, and originate from the UK, via a WW!! marriage between my mother, from Egypt and my Dad, an Englishman. I have been in the States since 1994, have 5 children. My wife is an architect. I was trained as a teacher, but went into business.

LynneW: How did you come to the Words of Peace project?

JohnHo: I have been a student of Prem Rawat for many years and I want to help others benefit from his wisdom and Knowledge, as I have.

LynneW: I have a Bahai background so am very interested in Peace organizations.

JohnHo: Prem Rawat is really interested in individuals and directs his message to each individual.

LynneW: I will definitely follow up on this project. Thank you for bringing it to TI

JohnHo: You are very welcome

LynneW: Sounds like I will personally benefit from Prem Rawat.

BJB2: did you see Lynne's introduction before you lost your connection, John?

JohnHo: No I did not

LynneW: John, I am a professor of educational technology at Concordia University in Portland OR

JohnHo: What do you think of Tapped In?

LynneW: I recently joined the board of an agency providing education and other programs for adjudicated youth.

LynneW: I love Tapped In. Can't imagine my life without this community.

JohnHo: I will be at the San Jose CEA conference on Nov 5th. Will you be there?

BJB2 smiles happily

LynneW: I have been active in TI since 1994

LynneW: No I am not attending.

LynneW: If I attend a conference this year, it will be sometime between January and the end of April.

JohnHo: It's really exciting. I've been invited to attend a victims support group conf. in Denver in Nov.

BJB2: this is an opportunity to spread the words of peace to the at risk population, John

LynneW: Sounds like you can offer a gift to folks who really need it.

JohnHo: I was at a conf in Australia recently with Prem Rawat and he said that this is the time for it. That technology and resources were all in place and we could really make a difference this coming year.

LynneW: Of course, can't we all use it?

JohnHo: Yes

JohnHo: The US is a bit different from the rest of the planet. I understand that 20% of all the incarcerated people on the planet are in the US?

LynneW: I, too, believe this is a powerful time for personal/spiritual growth and broad communication.

LynneW: I'm sure that is true John. It has become the "solution" to broader social problems that have not been addressed.

LynneW: John, may I contact you if I want to follow-up or ask questions?

JohnHo: Well I think that we as humans are supposed to experience, serenity, contentment, fulfillment. and if a transformation needs to take place it is just getting back to that state that is our natural state of being

JohnHo: Yes please do. 805-649-3241 iinside@mac.com

LynneW: Thank you.

JohnHo: Shall we finish now?

BJB2: if you are done, John...unless there are any other questions?

LynneW: None here.

JohnHo: OK, thanks for this opportunity.

LynneW: Again, thank you John. BJ I appreciate you sharing him in this session.

BJB2: Thanks so much for coming and sharing your information about words of peace, John!

JohnHo: Bye

BJB2 waves bye to John.