

F. Nelson Stover

A Brief Biography

Born in the small refinery town of Robinson in the oil fields of southern Illinois during the summer of 1945 just days after the ending of the Second World War, Frederick Nelson Stover lived in three states before graduating from high school. Three of his sets of great-grandparents had been farmers in Ohio; the fourth was a Baptist circuit rider. His maternal grandfather graduated from Denison University and worked in a pharmaceutical company; his paternal grandfather worked his way up from mail clerk to Vice-President in Charge of Marketing of Ohio Oil Company and also visited children's hospitals as a member of the Findlay Shrine Zenobia's clowns. Nelson's father retired from a sales management career with Marathon Oil Company to become the gardener at the Village in Gatlinburg, TN. He also served in leadership positions in a Lutheran Church.

Nelson graduated from Purdue University with a BSc in Computer Science and minors in English and Philosophy. In order to finance his education, he worked as head waiter in the men's dormitory where 700 men were served 3 meals each day. During his final year, he moved into the Campus Ministry Center of the United Church of Christ where he served as the interim campus minister. Nelson was married to Elaine Kay Williams in June, 1967 and graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary three years later. He was ordained into the United Church of Christ soon after and assigned to the social ministry. Part of his seminary education was financed by summer jobs writing computer programs for companies in Chicago.

Having participated in religious studies programs conducted by the Ecumenical Institute between 1964 and 1970, Nelson and Elaine joined the staff of the Ecumenical Institute and its sister organization the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) upon his seminary graduation. Nelson conducted a wide range of human development training programs for individuals at all levels of society. He also facilitated planning and evaluation programs involving persons of diverse perspectives with non-profit organizations, multi-national corporations and village associations. While living in Australia, India, Egypt and the Appalachian Mountain region of the US, he worked with businesses and villagers to catalyze comprehensive human development projects at the grassroots level. He has combined his management and facilitation skills with his computer background to design and implement office information systems and web-based Constituent Managed Relationship systems for Belgian companies and North Carolina non-profit membership associations.

In his work and travels Nelson has befriended some of the world's poorest citizens and some of its wealthiest; he has dined on mud floors and at the most ornate hotel facilities. He has worked effectively with men and women of all educational backgrounds, economic levels and religious persuasions and learned to appreciate the perspectives which each bring to the situations at hand.

Upon moving to North Carolina in 1991, Nelson began working with the North Carolina Poverty Project, Inc. as the Associate Director for their Influential Sectors Program. Two years later, he returned to his computer consulting career by accepting a technical support position with Intelligent Technologies, Inc. During the 1990's the ICA@Greensboro's programs focused on: LifeStyle Simplification, Sustainable Development, *Technologies of Participation*® and Fostering Global Understanding. The Stover family joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro in 1992 and Nelson was elected to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors. He has also served on the Community Relations Council of the Sandy Ridge Correctional Center and as the president of a Square Dancing Club. In 2000, the Stovers became founding members of the Center for Ecozoic Studies (CES). Nelson served as Treasurer of the CES Board and chair of their curriculum development team for 5 years. In 2004, Nelson was appointed by the board of ICA-USA to represent them on the board of the international organization. Two years later, he was elected President of the Board of Directors of ICA International.

A citizen of the globe with an American passport, Nelson has lived in: Robinson, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; East Lansing, Michigan; West Lafayette, Indiana; Hyde Park/Chicago, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Paddington/Sydney, Australia; Mt. Lawley/Perth, Australia; North Adelaide, Australia; Rochester, New York; Widen, West Virginia; Byculla/Mumbai, India; Chikhale Village, India; Ghorpurigaon/Pune, India; Bayad Village, Egypt; St. Josse/Brussels, Belgium and Greensboro, North Carolina.