

# A Cultural Tsunami:

## Sweeping Changes in the Cultural Foundations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*An Illustrated Presentation by F. Nelson Stover*

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century presents ecological, economic and social challenges unique in human history. The fundamental cultural patterns that undergirded civilization through the past century are being called into question from many perspectives. The dominant cultural patterns – especially those that adopted by the economic powerhouses of the western world – require reevaluation in a totally new context. Mr. Stover presents, through the use of photographs taken in his extensive travels, an overview of the unique characteristics of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century social and environmental situation. His presentation includes insights into how the predominant cultural patterns of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are preventing resolution to the major crises being experienced in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He also provides practical suggestions as to the kinds of foundational cultural pattern changes that are required in order to creatively respond. The photographic presentation draws heavily on the insights of cultural historian Thomas Berry in his book, *The Great Work*. Some people will experience the changes being suggested in this presentation as the equivalent of a Cultural Tsunami.



Mr. Stover received his Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University and completed his graduate work at Chicago Theological Seminary. Between 1970 and 1993, Nelson conducted a wide range of human development training programs for groups at all levels of society on five continents. He also facilitated planning and evaluation programs involving persons of diverse perspectives with non-profit organizations, multi-national corporations and village associations. Since 1993, he has worked as a senior application specialist for a North Carolina based company providing computer software to professional associations.

He now serves as President Board of Directors of the Institute of Cultural Affairs International, a global non-profit organization focused on achieving sustainable, just solutions to global challenges. A collection of 60 of his poems entitled *The Rocks Sang Om* was illustrated and published in Nepal and sold internationally with the proceeds being used for women's literacy training in the Himalayan foothills. He also designs and leads seminars dealing with contemporary social issues and the individual journey to profound consciousness. He recently developed curriculum that enables participants to move from a human centered perspective to an Earth centered perspective in their thinking and action through a six-week guided study of Thomas Berry's book, *The Great Work*. Mr. Stover has lectured in Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, India, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands and Sweden as well as across the US. He now resides in Greensboro, NC.

*A Cultural Tsunami* can be presented in 20 minutes or used in one-hour settings where follow-up discussion is included. To arrange for a presentation to a group or organization, contact Nelson electronically at [StoverN@BellSouth.net](mailto:StoverN@BellSouth.net) or phone (336) 605-0143. Updated: December 5, 2008