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December 5, 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at IPM! This past week I was scheduled to travel to El Salvador, but the vicissitudes of airlines and the aftereffects of the pandemic kept me grounded in Cleveland. While it was good to have the extra time with my children's burgeoning scholastic & extracurricular schedules, I was also grateful for a few moments of solitude after what has been a rather difficult year.

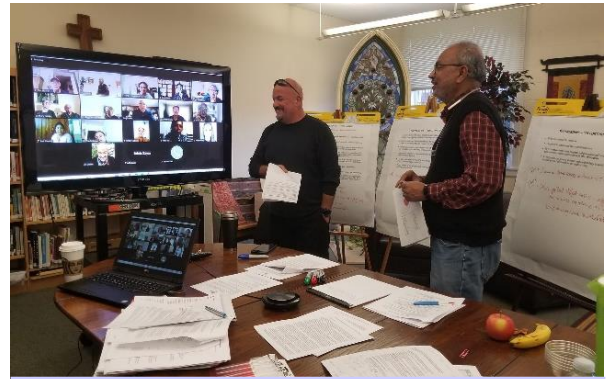
When I wrote you at this time last December, we were in the midst of another winter surge with growing weariness around mask-mandates & physical distancing. 2022 brought some welcome relief. IPM has significantly expanded our presence on-line & in the *Zoomiverse* while happily renewing our signature in-person Immersion Experiences & reaffirming our Partnerships with locally-led programs worldwide.

While facilitating an Italian Immersion last month, through the extended visit of longtime IPM South Asia Regional Director, Mahesh Upadhyaya, to the USA, and in planning for travel to El Salvador, I have been moved by reacquaintance with dear friends and reminders that the struggle for justice & peace in an age of growing authoritarianism is as challenging—and necessary—as ever!

In times like these, it was especially moving to accompany members of the IPM Family who gathered-together virtually for our virtual III International General Assembly on October 27-28. We came from Kathmandu to Kisumu, Saint Louis to San Salvador. We were reminded of the life-affirming space IPM holds when others so seek to divide us: *the promotion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice through accompaniment, solidarity, and love, has been at the very heart of IPM as we were created to bridge the borders, identities, and realities that so often divide our global community & natural world.*

While it's hard to get a literal world of people to agree on anything, we concluded our gathering with a powerful exhortation. That when we reunite to celebrate our half century in 2024 *IPM shall be recognized worldwide for our 50-year history as the premier, intersectional, multi-faith organization for international transformational learning experiences and direct person-to-person, community-based, partnerships, exchanges, and programs that nurture & affirm justice, solidarity, and peace.*

The last three years have been as challenging as any I can recall in my three decades with the IPM Family. We've made it through this unprecedented time through the extraordinary commitment of our




IPM's CEO Joe Cistone (left) and South Asia colleague Mahesh Upadhyaya, capture valued feedback and creative ideas shared by members of IPM's 48 invited Delegates representing nine countries of our core constituencies who gathered virtually across the globe to help guide our interim Bridge Strategic Planning focus leading us to IPM's 50th Anniversary in 2024.

~ continued on back ~

Project Partners & Regional Fellows, the shared sacrifice of Board & Staff, the personal generosity of friends near & far, and the humility & grace with which our founders bequeathed us. We won't get to 50 without you.

I hope you will pay special attention to the important ways, highlighted throughout this mailing, your support makes a transformative impact in the lives of our Partners & the communities they call home. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, & a New Year, embody the promise of light & love. Thank you for ceaselessly standing beside us as we continue changing lives around the world ... one child, one woman, one community at a time!

Faithfully Yours,


Joseph F. Cistone
Chief Executive Officer



#IPMRESPONDS ... DEEPENING OUR BOND OF ACCOMPANIMENT, SOLIDARITY, TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, AND TRUST

As we commemorate our 48-year history and reflect on the extraordinary events & unimaginable challenges faced by IPM and our Project Partners during these past nearly three years, it is with deepest gratitude that we wish to acknowledge the vital impact your friendship, support, and consistent generosity has helped make possible in our work and direct response to the ongoing socio-economic aftereffects of an unprecedented pandemic and other tumult.

The virtually overnight cessation of IPM's signature in-person Immersion Experience Programs (IEPs), in early 2020, has dramatically altered the lives of our Partners who have been unable to experience the direct person-to-person solidarity inherent during an IEP. The pandemic precipitated the shared sacrifice of IPM's Regional Fellows & Leadership Team in support of IPM's mission while simultaneously creating new opportunities for Virtual programming—new Virtual Immersion Experience Programs and Virtual Forums—and IPM's expanded social media presence that has grown dramatically over the past three years.

With this mailing, we are pleased to highlight just a few of IPM's remarkable Partners and inspiring programs that, together with your support, allow us to witness the resiliency and solidarity of communities who are committed to working together to address material poverty, environmental injustices, gender inequality, and many other emergency needs & disparities that have been further accentuated by the pandemic for those most vulnerable worldwide.

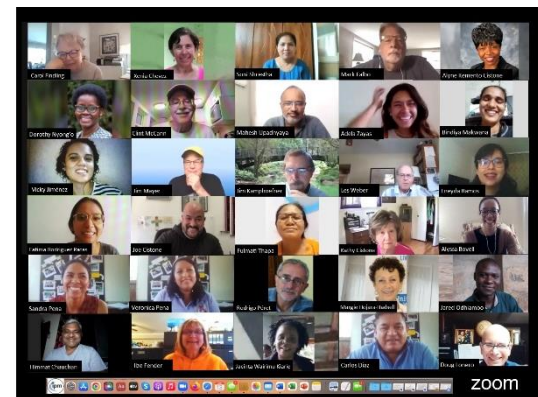
Thank you again for all that you continue to make possible in IPM's important work to bridge the borders, identities, and realities that so often divide our global community by joining hands and hearts to nurture a more just, equitable, inclusive, and loving world!



Members of IPM Project Partner, ACACCPAMU/Musas Creativas, in Armenia, EL SALVADOR are grateful for the accompaniment and technical assistance provided by IPM Regional Staff in applying for necessary funding to repair their well and water tank that benefits almost 900 people in their community. Over \$13,000 has already been raised from a private philanthropic partner with related repairs and infrastructure improvements expected to begin in January 2023.



Bindiya Makwana (back row at right), one of IPM's leading International Fellows in India, has done remarkable work alongside Inaugural Fellow Himmat Chauhan (left) and the Pochabhai Foundation, Gujarat, INDIA, providing leadership support in their work with more than 27 villages, with over 3,000 women, 700 children, 500 youth, and 1,800 women farmers. Their activities include mobilizing women and accessing government services to providing education to ostracized Dalit children and a space for them to learn and play.



Developed in response to the global pandemic, IPM's new Virtual Immersion Experience Programs and monthly Virtual Forums have expanded our transformational learning opportunities and a better understanding of IPM's work to promote gender & racial equity, environmental & migration justice, and multi-faith collaboration. This year's virtual programming featured more than 35 speakers and panelists from eight countries around the world including Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, and the USA.