

March 5, 2004

Dear '79ers,

I have agreed to coordinate the production of a Class Book for this coming year's Reunion. This is what I would love - to compile a rich volume of at least one message from every class member of 1979 (all 680 of us!) - the ones who graduated; the ones who didn't; the ones who "feel successful"; the ones who don't; the ones who've "done the thing they should"; the ones who've "taken their own path"; the ones whose lives have gone smoothly and well and easy; the ones who've faced unexpected or expected hardships and challenges, and may still be struggling; the ones who are still alive; the ones who've died already.

So this letter is an appeal for input! You've had 9,135 days (that's 219,240 hours) of life since 1979! **If you knew you only had ONE MINUTE to live, what is THE most important message you would want to share with others - the gesture, the word, the photograph, the sound, the whatever moment medium you would best express the essence of "you" and your life here so far/or what it's been. Identify one word that would sum up your most important notion - and then play from there or let it stand alone - whatever you choose.** I'd love to receive this, at a minimum from each of you! Any kind of electronic media is fine - send it along via e-mail or put it on CD and mail it to me. Or if you have to write it longhand, I'll take that too! Electronic writing should be either a Microsoft Word document or a simple e-mail. There is a questionnaire with more standard (I'm not into too much standard stuff these days) demographic information that you can also complete if you wish (on the next page). You might also find the questionnaire useful as a set of "prompts" for an essay or other piece of writing.

Finally, I want this opportunity to be validating, rejuvenating, and healing for each of us. To this end, I've added an **"Anonymous Board"** into the mix. Messages for this section will be in the Book or on the web or in some form perhaps at the Reunion. I hope I've captured your attention enough that you will take the time to read more about this on the final page included here - and to submit what might be "burning" for you!

There are many ways to speak - if you choose to remain silent, that's ok, too. I just find people interesting and am intrigued by how well so many weave such different ways together to create a life of meaning. I'm curious to learn about yours.

Hope to hear from you soon -

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25th Reunion Questionnaire
1979-2004

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

"Significant Others" (spouse, children, pets, friends, neighbors):

Who is the "family" in your life? What might you like to share about them?

What do you feel most proud of in your life since 1979? This can be as profound and simple as getting up each morning to face the day or publishing a book that has changed the lives of 3 million people in Tanzania! What makes this meaningful to you?

What has life given you to deal with that you never expected in 1979? How have you handled this? What have you learned? What might you like to share about this with others?

What is your brightest moment since 1979?

What is your darkest moment since 1979?

THE "ANONYMOUS BOARD":

What is the most burning thing you'd like to share with your classmates - the sentence you hesitate to speak? Here is your listening moment... a chance to share without judgment and just being received - the "anonymous" board will capture these pieces in a collective area that shares only messages without names - as a source of reflection, and place to hear and offer you peace about those pieces that may welcome a chance to speak without yet having a place to... If you want to send this in separately so it cannot be traced to you, mail to:

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