



Through Three Portals

Helping Tomorrow Unfold
By: *F. Nelson Stover*

About the Author

Born in the refinery town of Robinson in the oil fields of southern Illinois just days after the ending of WW II, 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 established a preaching ministry in Kansas. 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 of Marketing for Ohio Oil Company. Nelson's father retired from a sales management career with Marathon Oil Company to become the gardener at the Village in Gatlinburg, TN where 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. He married Elaine Kay Williams in June 1967. Three years later, he received his B. Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary. His thesis focused on the church's role in social change. Through the decades that followed, Nelson pursued endeavors that addressed contemporary social issues, integrated technological and sociological practices and enabled people of all perspectives to address depth human concerns.

The Stover family joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro in 1992. Over the years, they have played an active role in the life of the congregation. Nelson served a 3-year term on their Board of Directors. He has conducted a variety of adult education programs and preaches periodically. In 2004, Nelson was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Institute of Cultural Affairs International (ICAI). In 2006, he was elected to a 4-year term as President of the Board. In 2012, Elaine and Nelson received the Greensboro Public Library's Thomas Berry Award for their various projects over two decades that helped give practical form to the thinking and writing of Greensboro native, Dr. Thomas Berry.

F. Nelson Stover – Systems Integrator: Nelson financed part of his graduate education writing computer programs for companies in Chicago and Detroit. Later, he combined his management and facilitation skills with his computer background to design and implement office information systems and web-based Constituent Managed Relationship programs for Belgian companies and North Carolina non-profit membership associations. For 18 years, his computer consulting career involved working as a Senior Technical Consultant with Intelligent Technologies, Inc. His MCSE qualifications, SQL programming skills and particular software expertise fostered an innovative blend of business practices combined with leading-edge technologies to meet the changing needs of a diverse client base.

F. Nelson Stover – Cultural Engineer: While living in Australia, Belgium, Egypt, India and the Appalachian Mountain region of the US, Nelson worked with businesses and villagers to catalyze comprehensive human development projects at the grassroots level. He facilitated planning and evaluation programs involving persons of diverse perspectives within non-profit organizations, multi-national corporations and village 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. Through these encounters, he learned to appreciate the perspectives that each bring to the situations at hand.

In 2013, he founded Emerging Ecology, Inc., a non-profit organization (www.EmergingEcology.org) that conducts contextual training programs and facilitates grassroots social change using the ICA's *Technology of Participation* (ToP)[®]. Emerging Ecology promotes a worldview for the next generations' solutions. Furthermore, he lectures and writes about foundational principles relevant for developing a mutually enhancing relationship between the human and non-human worlds.

F. Nelson Stover – Ecumenical Guide: After his seminary graduation, Nelson was ordained by the United Church of Christ and assigned to their social ministry. 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). Nelson conducted a wide range of human development training programs for individuals at all levels of society on several continents. He officiates at wedding celebrations for couples from diverse perspectives and leads training programs focused on integrating science and religion in a common context – the emerging natural world. He worships with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greensboro and plays an active role in that congregation. Through his affiliation with the church's Justice Action Team, he helped found and lead, Environmental Stewardship Greensboro, an association of congregations promoting a spiritual understanding of ecological responsibility.



A child of the Universe and a citizen of Planet Earth with an American passport, Nelson has lived in: Robinson, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; East Lansing, Michigan; West Lafayette, Indiana; Hyde Park/Chicago, Illinois; East Lake/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.

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