JFY ePartner

Special Edition January 2012 "How A Wave Is Formed"

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aves are majestic. They're powerful, They're refreshing. They evoke wonder and awe. They invite participation. They bring renewal. They gain power with forward movement. They redifine the shoreline.

There is nothing like sprinting on a summer's day across golden mounds of powdery sand into the slick shiny surface from which a wave has withdrawn, knowing that in a matter of seconds a wall of massive, invigorating water and energy will knock you off you feet.

Such is the disarming and alluring power of a wave.

There is a lesson here. Waves offer a metaphor for the world we live in. Terms like "the wave of the future" and "catch the wave," and "crest of the wave" have become synonymous with becoming part of a movement that is is bigger than you, something so bold and powerful that it is sure to sweep you off your feet. There are movements like this today. Justice For Youth is a part of one of those movements---abolition of the modern day slave trade. Momentum is growing, and we invite you to join us!

Water presses the edge

To understand the dynamics of wave formation, we can observe the behavior of water in a tub or a pool. Water presses against the edge constantly. Every molecule of the water is joined together and works in harmony for this purpose of producing "surface tension." To relate this to a wave - if you move a section of water in the tub, it 'pulls' the water around it along with it.

So too, social movements involve people working together to bring pressure to bear on the critical issues of our time, like <u>youth poverty</u> and <u>human trafficking</u>. We influence one another toward that goal.

Water seeks lower ground

Given the opportunity, water will always seek a lower level and fill up the gaps. So too, there is something that drives the social entrepreneur to reach out to the one who is less fortunate.

How A Wave Is Formed

As the wind blows over the surface of the water, because of friction, it pulls the water along with it. The analogy is clear: we are inspired into motion by something bigger than ourselves. It might be an example of heroism, inspiring words, or an experience that creates a heartfelt conviction. We are moved into action that initially may be ever so small---but in time, united with others, grows in strength.

is a metaphor for truth. In this day of cyber-communications, truth can be released in massive ways, creating powerful movements for justice. Millions of people can be influenced to action. Drops of water may seem insignificant by themselves, but enough drops combined can create a powerful wave with increasing momentum.

The size of a wave depends on how far, how fast and how long the wind blows. A brief, gentle breeze forms patches of tiny ripples on the surface called catspaws; strong, steady winds over long distances create large waves.

But even during those times you feel no wind at all, you may encounter large swells created by distant storms.

Carrying the right lesson forward: we are all effected by what is happening around the globe.

The only thing that needs to happen for evil to triumph is for good men and woomen to do nothing... Edmund Burke