



## A DIALOGUE

‘When, in the course of human events . . .’

*An approach to studying the Declaration of Independence*

By Eric H. F. Law  
and Lilline Dugan

Since the November elections are approaching, the Kaleidoscope Institute thought it would be appropriate to provide some tools for dialogue around what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America.

Through the Kaleidoscope Institute, we have developed a method for studying important texts, specifically the Holy Scriptures. A similar method can be used to study important and beloved texts that have formed and shaped this country, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The text we suggest for the first session is the Introduction and part of the Preamble. In the next couple of newsletters, we will explore studying parts of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Again, the key tools for ensuring a dialogue process that include everyone in the

*Please see DIALOGUE, p. 3*

# An alternative color-coded threat system

*Yellow alert? Orange alert? This system has been set up by the government to address peoples’ fears of another terrorist attack. In this excerpt from his forthcoming book, ‘Finding Intimacy in a World of Fear,’ Eric Law proposes a color-coded system that can realistically address our fears.*

By Eric H. F. Law

Eric’s new book, *Finding Intimacy in a World of Fear*, is due to be published in the summer of 2007.

The color-coded threat-level system created by the newly formed Department of Homeland Security is a system of rules and technology that is supposed to help the citizens of the United States address their fears of a terrorist attack.

According to the official information published on the Department of Homeland Security’s website, this system “is used to communicate with public safety officials and the public at-large through a threat-based, color-coded system so that protective measures can be implemented to reduce the likelihood or impact of an attack. Raising the threat condition has economic, physical, and psychological effects on the nation; so, the Homeland Security Advisory System can place specific geographic region or industry sectors on a higher alert status than other regions or industries, based on specific threat information.”

Code Green means a LOW RISK of terrorist attacks. Code Blue means a GUARDED RISK of terrorist attacks. Code Yellow means ELEVATED RISK. Code Orange means a HIGH RISK of terrorist attacks. Code Red means a SEVERE RISK of terrorist attacks.

On August 22, 2006, a week and a half after the revelation of a terrorist plot against airlines heading for the United States from London, I checked the “Current Threat Level” on the Homeland Security website. It said:

**August 22, 2006**—The United States’ threat level remains at Code Orange, or High, for all domestic and international flights. The ban on liquids and gels in carry on baggage remains in full effect.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ban now includes the following prohibitions, with some limited exceptions:

- ✦ *small doses of liquid medications permitted*
- ✦ *removal of shoes now required*
- ✦ *low blood sugar treatments, including glucose gel for diabetics permitted*
- ✦ *clarifications include: aerosols prohibited, solid lipstick and baby food permitted*

Travelers will continue to see an increase in visibility and use of canine detection teams. Random gate inspections and bag searches will continue.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

All Americans, including those traveling in the transportation systems, should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately.

Everybody should establish an emergency preparedness kit as well as a communications plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency situation.

*Please see THREATS, p. 2*

# Threats: A new color-coded scale

*Continued from page 1*

These new set of color-coded threat rules that illustrate a set of behaviors appropriate for a given threat level were supposed to help us deal with our fear of a terrorist attack by helping us to know both where to get information and what to do with that information. Except for the last sentence in the DHS plan, where we are reminded to “establish an emergency preparedness kit” and “a communications plan” to stay informed, the bulk of the alert message has to do with a prescribed set of rules. They do not help us deal with our real fear.

In both the Yellow and Orange Alerts, one of the prescribed behaviors is for people to “continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately.” This could be interpreted by many to mean that we are supposed to be suspicious of others and even to spy on our neighbors. In the beginning of 2006, we found out that the U.S. government had a secret program to eavesdrop on its citizens. People might therefore get the message that we are supposed to do that, too. This prescription of behavior not only does not help people address their fear, it increases our fear by creating division and distrust among people and communities.

What would an alert system that could truly help us address our fear look like? As I pondered on this ques-

tion, I recalled a significant event while I was traveling one month after September 11, 2001. I was on a plane heading for New York City. The passengers did not just carry their belongings and baggage on board—they were bringing with them the tension and anxiety that had started early that morning when they were moving through the ordeals of getting through security. But no one was willing to talk about it, so we all silently settled into our seats. I had been randomly selected to be searched for the last three times I had flown (since September 11th). Today was no exception. But I had resigned myself to the fact that I was going to be searched, and so I had prepared for that. Since this was the first time I had returned to New York City after the attack, I was more concerned with what I was going to do or say to my mother when I saw her; she lived and worked about 20 blocks from the World Trade Center. My mind was occupied with thoughts of what I was going to do when I gave my workshop on Congregational Development for members of a church in midtown Manhattan.

As the plane was moving, the flight attendants had given the safety instructions, which, I observed, was not helping us to lower our apprehension. The plane finally took off. The pilot, in what I assumed as his usual communication to the passengers,

came on the loudspeakers. He said, “I know this is a time when flying on a plane could be scary. But I want you to reach over to your neighbors on this plane and introduce yourselves. Get to know each other. Talk about your experiences getting onto this flight. Learn about your neighbors’ experience in the last month since 9/11. Talk about your family and loved ones. Welcome to this flight, relax and enjoy meaningful conversations and we will be arriving in New York City in about four and a half hours.”

I introduced myself to the person sitting next to me who was a publisher of a magazine based in New York. Once we started talking, we could not stop. We talked for most of the flight. Apparently we needed to do that. I needed to connect with someone and to articulate my feelings which had been bottled up until this moment. I needed to know that I can get to know a stranger and establish trust again. Together, we turned a potentially stressful experience into a time of constructive dialogue. When I arrived in New York City, as I approached the Lower East Side in a taxi, smelling the burned ashes and dust from the World Trade Center that was no more, I felt a little more prepared to face my friends, colleagues and relatives who lived through that terrible event.

The recollection of this event prompted me to ex-

plore in more concrete terms an alternative color-coded threat-level system that does not focus on behavioral rules and rituals, but suggests ways for people to get together with their neighbors and develop trusting communities in which they can address their fear faithfully, leading to constructive actions. Here is what I came up with:

**Code Green**—This is a time to get to know your neighbors at this LOW RISK time.

- ✦ Go to the regularly scheduled neighborhood meetings. If there is not one scheduled, get together with your neighbors and approach community organizations to start one.

- ✦ Visit your neighbors on your street and in your apartment buildings. Invite your neighbors over for tea or coffee or to have lunch or dinner. Discuss what to do to support each other in case of a terrorist attack or an emergency.

- ✦ If you belong to a faith community, join a group that meet regularly to share experience of God.

**Code Blue**—In this time of GUARDED RISK, gather at your place of worship, or community center.

- ✦ Review the emergency procedures with your community. If there is not one, create on together.

- ✦ Test out the communications technologies to make sure they work in keeping people informed.

*Please see THREATS, p. 3*

## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER AND THE FIRST SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER 2006

# Community Bible Study

By Lilline Dugan, Ada Nagata, and Mary Martin

**OCTOBER 8, 2006:** *Mark 10:2–16*

✦ How would you understand Jesus' teaching in this passage if you were a powerless person, i.e., a woman or child, etc.?

**OCTOBER 15, 2006:** *Mark 10:17–31*

✦ What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

**OCTOBER 22:** *Mark 10:35–45*

✦ How does this passage guide you to seek and serve Christ in each person

**OCTOBER 29, 2006:** *Mark 10:46–52*

✦ How does this passage help you to regain your sight and follow Jesus?

**NOVEMBER 5, 2006:** *Mark 12:28–34*

✦ What is the relationship between loving God, loving your neighbor and loving yourself?

We suggest that you study the Gospel passage one week ahead. For example, for the week of Oct. 2–7, study the text for Oct. 8. This way, the participants will go to church on Sunday having already listened and reflected on the Gospel for that Sunday.

These questions are suggestions only. As a leader of the Community Bible Study process, you need to keep the theme of the biblical text and the context of the participants in mind as you determine what is the most appropriate reflection question for your group.

(Go to our website at [www.ladiocese.org/ki](http://www.ladiocese.org/ki) to download the Community Bible Study process.)

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## Threats: A community-trust-based system

*Continued from page 2*

✦ Join a dialogue program with people and groups from a different religion and neighborhood. Share honestly about your feelings and listen to others' hopes, dreams and fears. Discuss what to do to in case of a terrorist attack or an emergency.

**Code Yellow**—In this time of ELEVATED RISK, educational institutions and workplaces should gather people in their organizations.

✦ Invite people to dialogue about their fears and to create a network of support in case of a terrorist attack or an emergency. The gatherings should also help people get more familiar with their environment at work, at school, and at home in the neighborhood.

✦ Walk through the emer-

gency procedure that the schools, communities and workplaces had set up.

✦ Faith communities should invite people to worship services and liturgies that help people to connect with each others and reaffirm their relationship with God. Interfaith prayer services are especially important.

**Code Orange**—In this time of HIGH RISK, contact your networks of support established during the Code Green, Blue and Yellow alert times.

✦ Attend meetings and gatherings that have been set up previously.

✦ Make contact with people through the technologies that have been set up.

✦ Assess if there is imminent

danger for your community. If your community is in danger, activate the emergency plan. If not, stay and share honestly your feelings and listen to others' concerns.

✦ Pray together, if appropriate.

**Code Red**—In this time of SEVERE RISK, gather together with your family, and when possible, with your neighbors.

✦ Access if there is imminent danger or harm for your family and neighbors. If there is a major threat to your family's and neighbors' safety, activate your emergency plan. If not, stay together and share honestly about your feelings and listens to others' concerns.

✦ Pray together, if appropriate.

I think this kind of com-

munity-trust-based alternative alert system should be designed and made available to airlines, churches, family, hospitals, schools, workplaces, and community centers—anywhere where people gather. Fear is projected all around us these days – fear of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, mysterious diseases, increasing crime, risk in relationships, etc. We need to develop communities of trust in which relationship and intimacy can be reestablished because our true security comes from knowing and trusting our family, our neighbors, and our co-workers. The Kaleidoscope Institute will be more than happy to help any community and institution to design a similar alternative alert system.

# Dialogue

Continued from page 1

group are the Respectful Communication Guidelines and the process of mutual invitation. For this process as outlined below, a group of 6 to 12 people will be optimal. You can estimate the time needed for the whole process by multiplying the number of participants by five minutes. For example, if you have six participants, the time allotted for the process should be 30 minutes, and for a group of 12, one hour. For groups larger than 12, divide participants into groups of 6 to 12 and make sure you have facilitators who know the process to facilitate each group.

## The dialogue process

1. Read the Respectful Communication Guidelines and invite members of the group to affirm them for their time together:

### Respectful Communication Guidelines

**R** = Take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others.

**E** = Use EMPATHETIC listening.

**S** = Be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles.

**P** = PONDER on what you hear and feel before you speak.

**E** = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions.

**C** = Keep CONFIDENTIALITY.

**T** = TRUST ambiguity because we are *not* here to debate who is right or wrong.

2. Inform participants that parts of the Declaration of Independence will be read three times. After each reading, participants will be invited to share their reflections using the Mutual Invitation process. If participants have not been introduced to the Mutual Invitation

# Declaration of Independence

## Introduction

*In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.*

*The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,*

*When, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.*

## Preamble

*We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.*

tion process, describe it clearly, in this way:

### Mutual Invitation

In order to ensure that everyone who wants to share has the opportunity to speak, we will proceed in the following way:

The leader or a designated person will share first. After that person has spoken, he or she then invites another to share. Who you invite does not need to be the person next to you. After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share. If you are not ready to share yet, say "I pass for now" and we will invite later to share. If you don't want to say anything at all, simply say "pass" and proceed to invite another to

share. We will do this until everyone has been invited.

3. Invite participants to capture a word, a phrase or image that stood out for them from the document.

4. Invite someone to read the text.

5. Observe a moment of silence to capture a word, a phrase or image that stood out from the document for them.

6. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or her word, phrase or image briefly. (This should take no more than five minutes.)

7. Invite participants to consider the following question as the text is being read for the

second time:

**What does this document say to you about what it means to be independent?**

✦ *As an individual.*

✦ *As a nation.*

8. Invite someone to read the document a second time.

9. Observe a moment of silence to reflect on the question.

10. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or his reflection.

11. Invite participants to consider the following question while listening to the document again.

**As a result of listening to this document, what are you being called to do or change as a citizen of the United States today?**

12. Observe a moment of silence to reflect on the question.

13. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or her reflection.

14. End the session in a circle: Invite participants to join hands in a circle. Invite each person to mentally complete these sentences:

*For a Non-Religious Community:*

**I am thankful for ...**

**My hopes are ...**

*For a Christian Community:*

**I thank God today ...**

**I ask God today ...**

The leader will begin by sharing his or her prayers. After he or she has shared, the leader then squeezes the hand of the person to the right. That will be the signal for the next person to share his or her prayers. If the person does not want to share, he or she can simply pass the pulse to the next person. When the pulse comes back to the leader, he or she can end the dialogue with a closing thought, or (for Christian group) start the Lord's Prayer and invite everyone to join in.

## *Interested in training at the Winter Institute? (No ski clothes or heavy jackets required.)*

**T**here are five people so far interested in a Kaleidoscope Winter Institute (KWI) training similar to the one we did in August, 2006.

We need at least seven more people in order to schedule this event.

If you're interested or know someone who might be, please let us know as soon

as possible at [kscopeinstitute@aol.com](mailto:kscopeinstitute@aol.com).

At this point, the format, time and place have not been finalized. However, we are exploring the month of January, 2007. The cost would be \$500 per person, not including room and board, for the six-day course.

—LILLINE DUGAN

# Become a member of the Kaleidoscope Collective

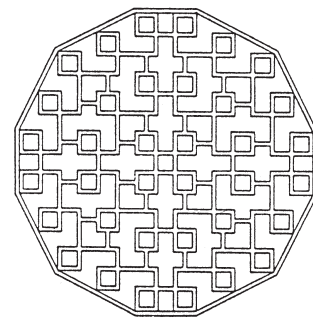
As a member of the KALEIDOSCOPE COLLECTIVE, your church community will receive:

1. **A monthly newsletter** with helpful suggestions on facilitating meaningful dialogue sessions on hot issues of the month, thoughtful questions for weekly Community Bible Study group, information on the latest learning opportunities, book reviews and more.
2. **An annual retreat** (8 hours) facilitated by Kaleidoscope Institute Associates for your vestry. Think of it as an annual check-up on the health of your church community. Based on your ministry goals for the coming year, the Kaleidoscope Institute will strive to meet your leadership training needs by providing monthly training programs that members of the Collective can participate in at a discount rate.
3. **Ten additional hours of consultation/coaching** via telephone and internet with a Kaleidoscope Associate
4. **One scholarship** for the **Kaleidoscope Summer Institute**

Whenever possible, we encourage you to join as a cluster of three to five churches. The clustering of churches can be based on geographic location, and/or common needs and concerns.

**COST:** \$300–\$1,200 annual fee per church depending on the availability of your resources.

See the application included in this newsletter (on page 6) or visit our website, at [www.ladiocese.org/ki](http://www.ladiocese.org/ki) to download an application.

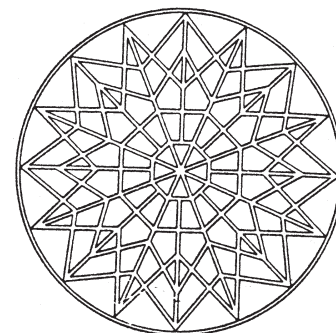


*If you only  
want the  
newsletter,  
not the entire  
package*

**I**f you want to receive the monthly newsletter only, the subscription fee is \$60 per year.

Please send the subscription fee to the Kaleidoscope Institute with the following information:

Your **NAME**, **CHURCH AFFILIATION**, **ADDRESS** where the newsletter is to be sent, and **E-MAIL ADDRESS** if you prefer the newsletter to be sent electronically.



# Kaleidoscope Collective

*Fill out this application and become a member*

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: *(day)* \_\_\_\_\_ *(evening)* \_\_\_\_\_

We will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the year 2006–07 to be a member of the Kaleidoscope Collective.

**Describe your weekly worship services:**

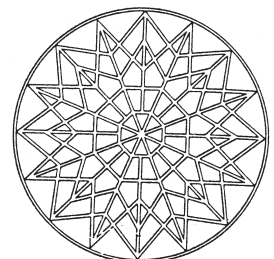
<i>Day of the week</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Average attendance</i>	<i>Language(s)</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**We are joining the Collective with the following church communities:**

<i>Church</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Denomination</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Please return the application to:**

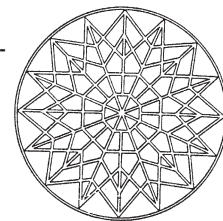
KALEIDOSCOPE INSTITUTE  
840 Echo Park Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90026-4209



If you have any questions, please contact us at [kscopeinstitute@aol.com](mailto:kscopeinstitute@aol.com)

# Become a Kaleidoscope Trainer

As the Kaleidoscope Institute receives and accepts applications from churches that want to become part of our Collective, the Institute will need to develop more competent trainers who can facilitate workshops and retreats for our member churches. Many of our trainers and associates in the past have been our workshop participants who expressed interest exploring doing this work as part of their ministries. If you feel called to this ministry, here is the process:



## To become a Trainer for the Kaleidoscope Institute:

1. **PREREQUISITE:** Complete the two basic courses of the Summer Institute:
  - a. Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community.
  - b. Model and Processes for Community Transformation.
  - c. Or the equivalence which covers the 10 basic training Kaleidoscope Training Modules (see KI Training Modules descriptions).
2. Once you are accepted as a Trainer, in order to move toward becoming a full Associate of the Institute, you will need to:
  - a. Log at least 48 hours assisting in the delivery of Kaleidoscope Training Programs.
  - b. Demonstrate proficiency in delivering five basic modules of the Kaleidoscope Institute's basic training (see KI Training Modules descriptions).
  - c. Four volunteer hours per month in support of the Kaleidoscope Institute.

### Once you're accepted as an Associate:

1. You will be deployed as lead-trainer (and paid) in delivering our training and consulting services.
2. 4 volunteer hours per month in support of the Kaleidoscope Institute.
3. Attend Associate meetings quarterly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to apply to become  A TRAINER  AN ASSOCIATE

*Here is a list of my qualifying experiences (you may use an additional sheet of paper):*

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*My plan for 2006-07 in order to move toward becoming an Associate is (you may use an additional sheet of paper):*

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# Kaleidoscope Training Modules

*The knowledge you'll need to learn how to lead*

## MODULE I

- ✦ Respectful Communications Guidelines
- ✦ Mutual Invitation
- ✦ Community Bible Study

## MODULE II

- ✦ Who Am I?
- ✦ Cultural Make-up
- ✦ Iceberg Analogy of Culture
- ✦ Table Exercise

## MODULE III

- ✦ High/Low Context Communication Styles Presentation
- ✦ Facilitation of self-assessment, small-group sharing and large-group debriefing

## MODULE IV

- ✦ What Color Should the Church Be? — Roleplaying and Debriefing
- ✦ Power Distance Presentation

## MODULE V

- ✦ Pentecost—Debriefing of Bible Study
- ✦ Power Analysis
- ✦ Gospel Cycle of Living

## MODULE VI

- ✦ Bennett's Intercultural Sensitivity Stages
- ✦ Band-Aid – Play and debriefing
- ✦ Facilitate exercise and discussion on “privileges”

## MODULE VII

- ✦ Photolanguage
- ✦ Steps from Stereotype to Destructive “Isms”

## MODULE VIII

- ✦ Exclusive Boundary Function
- ✦ Inclusive Boundary Function
- ✦ How to Create a Grace Margin

## MODULE IX

- ✦ Exploring the History of Your Church (*timeline*)
- ✦ Is Your Church's Ministry Balanced?— Three-legged Stool
- ✦ Life Cycles of a Congregation and Church Sizes
- ✦ Linking this to the future of the church

## MODULE X

- ✦ Process for Planned Change
- ✦ Overview presentation
- ✦ Presentation and facilitation of each step