



WELCOME TO

The Compassionate Way

we're so glad you're here!

The Wrong Purse at the Right Time

I am not known for my fashion sense. I possess two everyday purses: one for the spring and summer months and another designated for fall and winter. The spring/summer purse features butterflies, while the fall/winter purse is black and brown. Recently, I wore an outfit that did not coordinate well with my butterfly purse; however, due to time constraints, I was unable to switch purses. Throughout the day, I became increasingly aware of the mismatch but accepted there was no alternative.

I stopped at a retail store to purchase items for our blessing baskets—prayers cards and journals with Bible verses on them. These blessing baskets are given to women in recovery.

At the checkout, the clerk noticed my butterfly purse and remarked on her fondness for butterflies, mentioning they served as her spirit animal during her recovery journey. She went on to reveal that she had maintained her sobriety for two years and was part of the "2% club," indicating successful recovery from methamphetamine addiction—a rare achievement. I congratulated her, encouraged her to continue her progress, and commended her for her new beginnings.

Upon leaving the store, I reflected on the experience and recognized the significance of carrying the butterfly purse that day. Its presence fostered a meaningful connection and conversation, overshadowing any concerns about fashion choices. I now carry my butterfly purse with a renewed sense of purpose. And when I look at my purse, I remember to pray for the remarkable woman I met. I thank God that I had the "wrong purse at the right time!"



Charter of Compassion

is a document that transcends religious, ideological, and national differences. Supported by leading thinkers from many traditions, the Charter calls on us to activate the Golden Rule around the world.

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women~to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion~to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate~to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures~to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity~to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

This was written in 2009 by a diverse group of individuals.

Karen Armstrong was the catalyst for this endeavor.



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING BAGS



As school approaches, we have a wonderful opportunity to share joy with students through blessing bags. Residents at Good Samaritan Society – Woodland helped to fill these bags with thoughtful items including pencils, pens, markers, juice boxes, fruit snacks, colorable magnets or coloring books, and a clip-on squishable for their backpacks. We took time to pray for the students who would receive these special gifts.

The smiles on the children's faces as they received their blessing bags were truly heartwarming. It was a delight to spread kindness to these precious kids.

Exciting Opportunity!!!

CONNECTION & COMPASSION ARE FOR EVERYONE

We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting meals and conversations around the topic of compassion. We believe that compassionate connections have the power to transform the world! Dates and times will be posted in the near future.

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