

Personal Reflection – May 20, 2022

## How Did I Get Here - A Sketchy Memoir

A nineteen-year-old fell in love, went off to Maryknoll and then to *Africa: Tanganyika*. Learning Swahili. Teaching at the new Girls High School in Morogoro.

A visit home to New York City after ten years in Africa, and a Master's degree in Education at Fordham University. Theory emerges.

Back in Tanzania – a new country now!

Teaching in communities, at University of Dar es Salaam.

*Nushka*: counselor “You cannot be a Sister and be a Jane”. The terrifying decision to be a Jane!

Back in USA the scholarship at University of Massachusetts' Center for International Education: *Community Education for Self-Reliant Development*.

Emerging theory...

Director of Training at *Save the Children*.

Director of Training at *Bread for the World*.

Bought my home in Raleigh in 1984.

Professor!

North Carolina State University for 2 years! Adjunct Professor at School of Public Health, University of North Carolina. Met Dr. Joachin Montero of Chile and met Paula Berardinelli.

Opened Jubilee Popular Education Center. Offered courses in my home, then at Avila Retreat Center in Durham. Met Peter and Jeanette. Joan worked at the Center and then she went off to seminary!

Publication of *Learning to Listen Learning to Teach* in 1994.

More courses with Paula: *Advanced Course, Evaluation Course*, and more books.

Peter Perkins and Valerie lead a course in Cleveland! JUBILEE taking off.

Peter Noteboom phoned me at a crisis moment: the Partner was gone, The Board said ‘close it’. I was alone: penniless, trying to pay the mortgage. 1999.

Peter and Jeanette bought the company.

I retired 2001 at 70 years of age. 21 years now in a rocking chair.

*THEMES NOTICED: God has my back: in the midst of radical changes and paralyzing fear. Someone was there to rescue me, support me, enlighten me to awareness of "Shekinah" (the felt Presence). I live now in chronic pain and abundant grace: with two words THANKS & PRAISE.*

Wow.

--Jane Vella