

Imagine a world in which all people flourished. Imagine all people freed and empowered to be and become their best selves, to pursue their callings, to offer their gifts to a world that wanted those gifts and appreciated them, to take in the gifts of others in delight and thankfulness.

Imagine all people at home and at ease in their bodies, fearless, gentle, strong, secure in the knowledge that they were safe from violence, danger, and harm wherever they found themselves. Imagine all people knowing that they would never lack for survival resources.

Imagine all people unafraid of their emotional lives because they knew they were capable of handling even the toughest emotions they faced and that they would have the support of others in such moments.

Imagine all people knowing that they were loved and capable of loving, unafraid to be dependent on other people and fully prepared to build their lives interdependently with those around them.

Imagine all people knowing that they could be their full selves with their families and friends without any fear of rejection.

Imagine all people able to make sense of their experiences in ways that opened their hearts and restored their spirits.

Imagine all people being able to tell their stories knowing that others were listening respectfully and with interest. Imagine all people being well and whole enough to cherish and prioritize listening to the stories of others.

Imagine all people able to use their self-efficacy for good, making a positive difference in the world and leaving a legacy that would long be remembered.

Imagine all people able to grow and learn over the course of their lives, unafraid of making mistakes, free to become more knowledgeable, more competent, more humble, more connected.

Imagine all people navigating society in comfort and with confidence, knowing that they would be treated well wherever they went.

Imagine all people able to act out of their best moral intuitions in societies that rewarded moral behavior and helped people repair harm when, as will inevitably happen, people made mistakes.

Imagine all people able to access their creativity and generate new ideas, things, and relationships out of that creativity, inspired by their full and free access to the creativity of others.

Imagine all people able to experience awe, reverence, wonder, and a sense of being part of something larger than themselves.

Imagine non-human creation restored to wellness and wholeness. Imagine clean air and water, a reversal of global climate change, a newly deepened relationship with the other beings with whom we share the planet.

What would it be like to live in a world of flourishing, a world so different from the world in which we live now? For me, the words that come to mind are peace, joy, and gratitude. Perhaps those are the words that you thought of, or perhaps this exercise evoked something else in you. Either way, I find it a beautiful image and hope you do as well.

We are not restricted merely to imagining this world of abundance. We can work toward making it a reality. We are, in fact, called to make it a reality.