



*Excerpts from a conversation between Christy Shaver and Dada Maheshvarananda in Maui.*

When I meditate every day, I feel great peace. However when I open my eyes, my heart feels great pain at all the unnecessary suffering in the world. My orange uniform means service and sacrifice, and it reminds me that my life is dedicated in service to humanity.

Prout asserts that guaranteeing the right to live for everyone has to be the first priority of every country. Prout recognizes five basic necessities of life: food (including pure drinking water), clothing, housing (including sanitation and energy), medical care, and education. This birthright transcends citizenship—meaning that every human being, whether native or visitor to a country, must be guaranteed these necessities.

Providing the basic necessities should be the primary function and duty of every economy. Human beings require these in order to realize their true human potential, to develop culturally, and to achieve inner fulfillment. Without necessities, the “pursuit of happiness” remains beyond the reach of the world’s poor.

*(Go to Page 2)*

Dear Fellow Proutists and Supporters,

I have known Dada Maheshvarananda for almost 50 years. I met him on the day he learned meditation in New Orleans. I was the very first person who talked to him about Prout and I am so inspired to see all he has accomplished in less than 50 years!

I was traveling then and I am still traveling now to teach Prout. I traveled to Brazil this spring and taught Prout at a retreat and Prout Camp there. This summer I led a workshop on Movement and Mental Health at the annual Global Prout Convention in Denmark.

I look forward to being able to do a workshop like that in our new PRI Center in Marshall NC! I will be spending three weeks helping stain those beautiful decks you see in the photo below, and attending the Prout Alliance Annual Educational Convention and Meeting on October 6-9th. I hope to see you there! (See page 3 for information.)

Yours in Solidarity & Service,

*Prakash Laufer*



*We now have siding, decks and windows! Can you help out with costs of insulation and drywall?*

## How can we make Hawaii more sustainable in terms of food?

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency is also very concerned about food sustainability. They calculate that Hawaii, like all the other states, has a food supply that will only last three to five days if for any reason the air and ship transportation breaks down.

Our mutual friend, Steve Phillips, started Local Harvest, an independent local produce company, in 2011. Local Harvest distributes food grown on over 100 farms on Maui through the Napili Farmers Market, grocery stores and restaurants. With 10 employees, Local Harvest distributes 1.5 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables per year, about 30 percent of the total produce grown on the island.

Today the average age of Hawaii's farmers is 61.8. Most farmers in Hawaii today are reluctant to leave their tractor cabs and do the hard physical labor required to grow organic table food. Young people must be inspired and trained how to grow food, and banks and the US Department of Agriculture must be more willing to lend money to new farmers who want to grow organic table food.

Prout recognizes agricultural cooperatives as the ideal form of farm management for many reasons. Cooperatives enable farmers to pool their resources, purchase inputs, and store and transport their market produce more easily. Most importantly, they eliminate intermediaries – traders who buy produce very cheaply from the farmers and then sell it for a high price to city retailers. Instead in a Prout economy farmers' cooperatives would sell directly to consumers' cooperatives, benefiting both. Finally, agricultural cooperatives allow farm families to share the heavy workload and take vacations sometimes.

## What about Utilities? How could Maui approach this now?

Hawaii has the highest electricity rates in the country. The Maui Electric Company (MECO) is an investor-owned utility, which has a difficult time becoming sustainable because the company's primary concern is keeping shareholders satisfied. This means they focus first on maximizing profits before making decisions about the best way to produce and source energy for their customers.

The investor-owned electric company on Kaua'i was purchased 20 years ago by a group of entrepreneurs on the island who created the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. It has the lowest utility rates in Hawaii and is transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources. There are over 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states. The people of Maui could easily buy MECO and convert it into a cooperative to efficiently serve all the people.

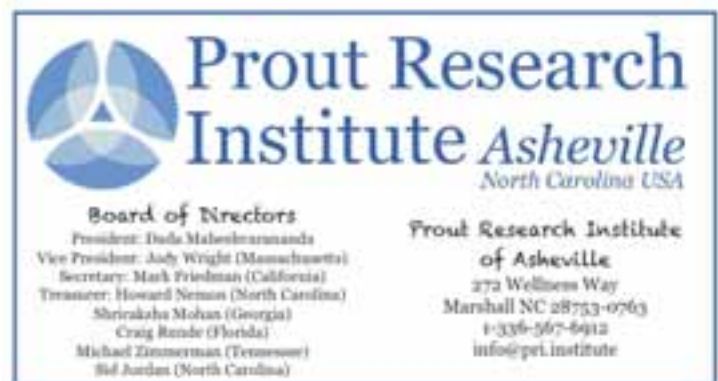
As you well know, the conflict over water rights on Maui between the plantation owners and the local people has been going on for 200 years. Water should be a public utility cooperative run on a no profit, no loss basis. Maui should prioritize surface water over well water for irrigation by constructing lakes and small ponds to capture rainwater. Everyone should be mobilized to reforest Maui with native trees.

## Is there a way to house all the people who are now homeless?

Every night in Hawaii, up to 10,000 people are homeless. At the same time, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that there are six empty houses for each homeless person. A tiny house should be provided to everyone who needs it.

The governor should declare a three-month moratorium on land sales in West Maui. During this time negotiations should begin with the Na Hale O Maui Community Land Trust. Its purpose is to secure and preserve a permanent supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income households. This nonprofit land trust was founded in 2006, and it presently has 46 homes throughout Maui. Only a 5 percent down payment is required by the homeowner and the land trust arranges financing. Today 38 states have over 250 Community Land Trusts.

*These excerpts are from an inspirational interview of PRI President Dada Maheshvarananda by Christy Shaver of Lahaina, Hawaii. See the full video at: [PRI.institute](http://PRI.institute).*





# Don't Miss these Upcoming Prout Events



## The African Reality and Tools to Change the World

August 11 - October 8, 2023. 28 90 Minute Classes by 25 esteemed lecturers. Organized by Amandla African Samaj and the PRI Institute. The time of the classes is: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 11 through October 8, 2023. 1:00-2:30 pm EDT. COST: Donation of \$25 for the course, payable through PayPal. You can register at: pri.institute

 A poster for a course titled "The African Reality and Tools to Change the World". It features a central circular graphic with a woman holding a globe, surrounded by icons for "Education", "Economic", "Political", "Social", "Cultural", and "Environmental" change. The text on the poster includes:
 

- August 11<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup> 2023
- 27 Classes
- Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- UTC-1 180-8:30 pm (West Africa GMT)
- UTC-2 180-9:30 pm (France, Germany, South Africa)
- UTC-3 180-9:30 pm (Italy, Egypt) UTC-4
- UTC-4 180-2:30 pm (East, New York, Montreal)
- UTC-5 2:00-3:30 pm (East Pacific, West Indies)
- English, French, and Portuguese Interpretation
- Course fees: 20 euros (donation welcomed and appreciated)
- Scholarship on request
- For information / Registration, please contact:
  - For Africa/Europe: *Sister Anandaji* +31 7 82 82 40 70
  - For South America: *Sister Anandaji* +31 36 9278 2040
  - For North America: *Sister Maheshvarananda* +12161 347 89 12 maheshvarananda@gmail.com

## Prout Alliance Annual Convention

Hosted by Prout Research Institute Asheville in Marshall, NC. October 6-9, 2023

Register at:

<https://proutalliance.wildapricot.org/events>

Prout Alliance meets together annually to plan our year's activities, choose our Steering Committee, and offer educational workshops online and in-person.

## A Conversation with Bill Ayers: When Freedom is the Question,

Abolition is the Answer

October 7, 2023. 10-11:30 am EDT. Zoom. Sponsored by Prout Alliance. Register at: [proutalliance.org/events/](https://proutalliance.org/events/)

## The Futures of the World System: Prout and the Grand Transition

November 11, 2023. 8-9 pm EDT. Zoom. Sponsored by Prout Alliance. Register at [proutalliance.org/events/](https://proutalliance.org/events/)

## Interested in Volunteering?

Any person who can volunteer their labor to help with the construction for a week or more this summer or early fall will become physically stronger, receive delicious food to get healthier, and free room. You will also have spiritual satsaung company with Dada Maheshvarananda and the Ananda Girisuta Master Unit community (24 adults + 7 kids live in a one-mile radius) to become more inspired. How can you say no to that offer? Please contact [Maheshvarananda@gmail.com](mailto:Maheshvarananda@gmail.com).

## Help Design an Online Course in Neohumanism and Prout

The PRI is designing an 8-week online course with the Neohumanist College of Asheville on "Neohumanism and Prout: A holistic model for socio-economic pro-gress". Anyone willing to help us with this task, please contact [Maheshvarananda@gmail.com](mailto:Maheshvarananda@gmail.com).

## From Disaster Relief to Long-term Self-Sufficiency: The experience of a hu- manitarian organization in capacity building and empowerment of rural Hai- tian communities

September 14, 2023. 8-9 pm EDT. Zoom. Sponsored by Prout Alliance. Register at: [proutalliance.org/events/](https://proutalliance.org/events/)

# Spiritual Insights from Inside

*Vidyeshya Latif has served 25 years of a life sentence. When Florida changes its draconian law to allow parole again, he would be immediately eligible. I initiated him into meditation practice in 2017 when he was attending a weekly yoga and meditation class led by Brother Mantresh (Lawrence Huff). He has been practicing yoga and meditation very sincerely every day since then. I visit him twice a year when I tour Florida. We correspond now by email via JPay, a private information technology and financial services provider serving the US prison system. These are a few of Vidyeshya Latif's recent messages:*

July 30, 2023: Namaskar brother. During your visit, you said that wisdom is the knowledge that doesn't change. I shared that definition of wisdom with an old friend of mine in here. He felt like me that it was deep. Brother, it's like you summed up the path. Knowledge that changes is what would be in the mind of someone who knew me 25 years ago before I came to prison. But, in this time, that is no longer knowledge. People who know me today, would deny that those old attributes are me. I am no longer that person... The knowledge that doesn't change has built civilizations brother. It's been around for thousands of years. It's there for the benefit of any and all. Arrogance and pride will block some from it.

When we think all we need is what our people and our nation discovered, then we lose access to those valuable tools. We fall behind. This is what happened to the Muslims, and Christians, etc. People think they have all the answers, that nations like India and ancient Egypt have nothing to offer. Western lands are starving for true

spirituality because they refuse to adopt the wisdom you mentioned, the knowledge that doesn't change...

Aug. 4: I wanted to say thanks for the pictures... There's so much light in the picture of the brothers and sisters from the Miami collective meditation. I pictured myself in it. Time in society amongst such people is a blessing from God. Those smiling faces speak volumes about good intention and peace... During meditation the other day the thought occurred to me that love is the driving force behind all our actions in one form or another, so we should choose a profession that we love to do... In that lies the greatest chance of success...



Aug. 12: In meditation this morning the importance of aligning our actions with the actions of the Master emerged. The Master or Guru is the model for our character. His lessons teach us the outside conduct, and God teaches via meditation the Truth... Peace.

Aug. 16: The birthday Prabhat Samgiit poem you sent me contains some gems. I certainly relate to the wish of intoxication on the divine name...

Aug. 25: I'm enjoying the bliss of life electrified by meditation (and) walking the path, which makes the soil of the mind conducive to meditation. Having one's lifestyle conform to a life of meditation is crucial. It's something that took a while for me to understand... Together, the lifestyle and the practices blend to make heaven on earth... May your day be full of bliss, peace, and love brother.



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