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Dear Friend,

Some time ago I heard a remarkable story: A group of friends gathered weekly to study Sergei Prokofieff's book on forgiveness with the intention of providing spiritual nourishment and support for their local Waldorf school. One day they each decided to name someone they wished to forgive and to offer up a nightly meditation to that person.

The next week, when the group reconvened, they were astonished to learn that in one case after another, members of the group had been contacted by the very people they had resolved to forgive! They had received phone calls, e-mails, a post card, and in one case two of the named individuals had turned up unannounced in the driveway! Again and again, people who had been out of touch with one another were suddenly reconnected. Such is the power of forgiveness and conscious spirit resolve. It is a force of compassion that awakens our humanity, a force of interconnection that fosters true collaboration.

How can Anthroposophy become such a force for social change? One way is to help future Waldorf teachers realize their vocation. Waldorf education is a forerunner of what could become a reality worldwide. In these years of preparation, we need to activate our spiritual resources in order to bring spirit into matter.

As with the conscious practice of forgiveness, Waldorf teacher education provides an opportunity to awaken inwardly, while at the same time develop the practical tools for working in the world – in the case of teachers, in the classroom. Yet teachers cannot do this alone. Collaboration is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity.

At our Center for Anthroposophy we have tried to model new ways of working with teachers and schools: through our site-based foundation studies, pioneering summer sequence programs, renewal courses and an emphasis on action research and collaboration in teacher education.