



## About OUR School

### About OUR Organization

#### **OUR Vision**

OUR School's vision is of a more logical world and a more emotional one; more serious and happier; more scientific and more spiritual; more naïve, and more critical.

#### **OUR Mission**

OUR School works to cultivate moral values, independent thinking, social awareness and political activism through bottom-up education, in an attempt to facilitate constructive social and political change.

OUR School focuses on the educator's role in the creation of free-thinking, free-spirited individuals, who are eager, willing and able to improve their personal, social, communal and political lives.

OUR School's mission is carried out, using the **OUR School Method** – a vast array of methods, which our founder Haggai has been developing for more than three decades, and which is being successfully employed for over 15 years in the NIR School of the heart. These methods and OUR philosophy are described in detail in Haggai's book, *Live the Life. Give*

OUR School works to introduce this method to educators and social change-agents world-wide, by teaching it in our training courses and using it in our other projects.

### About OUR Method

The OUR School Method is a practical set of tools for making lasting long-term change in mindsets. It is meant primarily for educators who share OUR vision. These tools allow educators to make each interaction and each activity more meaningful, and their impact more sustainable, while refraining from being imposing. It is based on respect for the recipient (be it student, trainee, apprentice, etc.), and relies on his or her free thought and free will. It is thus very effective in facilitating the personal and interpersonal development we aim for.

Below is a very brief (and far from comprehensive) explanation of the method – its advantages and key characteristics. Greater detail can be found in *Live the Life. Give* the Life. For those with the courage and determination to truly master the Method, we offer our range of training courses.

#### In General

The OUR School Method is based on the realization that the human psyche is multi-layered and thus – cannot be easily changed by superficial means. The Method is a synthesis of several approaches and ideas from the fields of education and of psychology, and rests on the Taoist notion of (Wei) Wu-Wei (action without action): the change (in mindset) is best achieved, not through imposing it, but rather through creating the right conditions for it to occur spontaneously and organically. Instead of trying to get our ideas into our recipients' minds in the form of *messages*, we spread the ideas around, as reiterating *themes*, in many

forms, both direct and indirect, for our recipients to absorb if they so wish; instead of trying to pull recipients to our point of view, we make it easy for them to approach it voluntarily.

### Ecosystem of ideas

By providing the right combination of stimuli, using various communications methods - direct and indirect – we expose our recipients to these themes on various levels, and in various forms, creating an ecosystem of ideas, which allows each recipient to come as close to our ideas as their emotional and mental state allows them.

### Non-Linear

Traditionally, messages are conveyed in a linear\sequential way – from one idea stems another, from which stems a third, and so on and so forth, until we reach the conclusion(s) we aimed for. Reality - as well as the way we actually think of it - is not quite so linear. In this, messages do not follow the same structure in which ideas are stored in our mind, making them not very easy to understand for anyone whose thought process and logic are not identical to ours. OUR Method mimics human thought in this respect – themes are not presented in a specific order, but are rather introduced (or hinted at) at different points in time. This synchronization with the way the mind works enhances greatly the absorption of ideas.

Through the placement of themes in numerous structural contexts with other themes, a structure which “sits well” with the recipient thought processes is far more likely to occur, and thus - our message is far more likely to be well absorbed.

### Multi-layered

As theme are introduced and hinted at both directly and indirectly, both verbally and non-verbally, many themes could be served at each given moment. This means that no matter how much time we have for our interaction - we can do much more with it. Think about it: we can have a month’s-worth of interaction, squeezed into less than a week!

### Repeating

The fact that each theme is introduced several times, in different points in time, and in different contexts ensures better retention of it, both by simple repetition, and by the fact that each recipient gets more chances to accept it. When using more conventional methods, if a recipient loses attention (or is not in a receptive mindset) when a message is conveyed, she might lose the message, and not be as susceptible to understand and accept the following ones, and we end up “losing” her. In contrast, when using OUR School Method, if she misses a theme, at any given point, she will still have plenty of other opportunities to absorb it – her learning and personal development are not hindered in any way. Recipients do not need to be 100% focused, 100% of the time.

### Polymorphic

The fact that themes are introduced more than once means also that they can be introduced in more than one way. This rids us of the necessity to come up with the “best” way of conveying a message – it is not so important that each time we say something, we reach each and every one of our recipients – they don’t all have to “get it” each time we say it; if one way of introducing a theme did not create the desired impact, the next will, or the one after that. Together with helping us ensure more of our recipients are positively affected by our activities, this gives us greater freedom in designing our activities.

### Non-Imposing

Conveying messages in the traditional way – which assumes we know what our recipients need to think, and why they need to think it – naturally gives rise to resistance and some rejection of the ideas conveyed. In contrast, when using the OUR School Method, the recipient isn't being told what to think, but rather – is encouraged to come up with their own thoughts and conclusions. The ownership of the ideas which stems from the voluntary nature of their intake releases the recipient from this rejection, and ensures higher absorption of the ideas and more sustainable impact.

### Strict Wide Boundaries

Conventional educational methods define a very specific end result – a conclusion, if you will, which we have to head directly toward. The path, though, is often defined in very lax and broad terms. This forces us to be very cautious all the time, not to wander off this unpaved road, or we might not get where we're going.

In contrast, themes define - in a very strict manner - a very broad “playing field”. Being aware of the boundaries in which we operate gives us the confidence to improvise. When we master the Method, it gives us unbelievable amounts of freedom, as the Method itself acts as a very strong safety-net.

Themes are widely defined, and thus - can be used not just to determine what we want to say, but also how we want to say it – they can be used to define the organization's “personality” – the atmosphere and character of our actions. This allows us to form a unique “fingerprint” for our organization, which will be present in all its actions and activities.