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# THE INSTITUTE FOR SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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## TURNING POINT

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*"The author who speaks about his own books is almost as bad as the mother who speaks about her own children."*

*Benjamin Desraeli (1804-1881)*

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### Wanna Buy A Book?



In his tart scorn of authors who crow about their own books, Desraeli may be right. So be it. I don't mind being compared to a mother happy enough with her children to talk about them. Birthing a book must be a motherly kind of work: labor pains followed by joy to have found a publisher who sees the child with critically appreciative eyes.

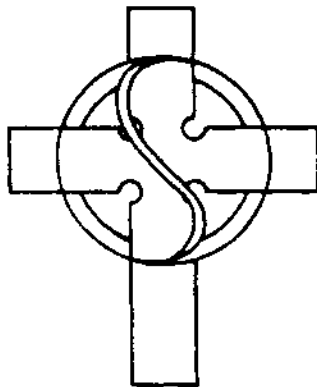
Cowley Publications of Boston will bring out my book this summer. Copies at a pre-publication discount

will be available in late June to Turning Point readers who order now from **Education-Liturg Resources**, either by **phone** (919-693-5547) or by using the order blank on the back page of this issue. What follows is the Title and Dedicatory pages, the Table of Contents and the Preface—plus some favorable remarks by friendly reviewers.

From these ingredients it should be possible to judge whether you **WANNA BUY A BOOK**.

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# SERVANTHOOD



Leadership for the Third Millennium

by Bennett J. Sims

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Excerpts from

# SERVANTHOOD

Leadership for the Third Millennium

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## Dedication

For three stalwart servant leaders in church and society:  
*Edmond Lee Browning, 1929-*

Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, USA  
New York, New York

—compassionate pastor and courageous captain of a national church body sailing the heavy seas of momentous social change and divisive internal stress.

*James Wilson Rouse, 1914-1996*

Founder of The Rouse Company and The Enterprise Foundation, both of Columbia, Maryland

—visionary ground-breaker in the management of American business, for whom the bottom line was always the quality of company relationships, and whose concern for the poor in the cities of America was a foremost personal commitment.

*Willis W. Harman, 1918-1997*

President Emeritus, The Institute of Noetic Sciences  
Sausalito, California

—scientist, educator and seer, a practitioner of servanthood in several careers, who saw contemporary science leading the way to a recovery of "spirit" as fundamental to a scientifically accurate worldview, and which he called "Global Mind Change."

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Preface  
VELVET AND STEEL

This book seeks to integrate the religious and secular dimensions of life in a fresh understanding of power. "Servanthood" is a proper term for the integration, but it needs a sturdier definition than either religion or the secular order usually give it. From the religious standpoint, "servanthood" tends to mean a lofty ideal appropriate to Sunday School classes and the Boy Scout movement, but isolated from the so-called "real" world of win/lose competition. From the secular perspective "servanthood" often means "servitude"—either imposed on women and racially different groups by male-dominant cultures, or self-imposed by both men and women from fear of their own powers and self-worth as those whom Jesus names "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

This is the reason for doing the book. It seeks to recover for "servanthood" its power to transform human experience—and, in consequence, the character of God's interwoven world. It will be argued in this book that "servanthood" is the way of fulfilling the human longing for peace and the planet's need of preservation as the theater of all life. "Servanthood" is the name for leadership that describes the change in consciousness needed to secure the world as we move into the third millennium.

"Servanthood" means that great power functions as a two-way exchange of power, not as a subjugating dominance. Servanthood not only influences others, but is also open to being influenced. Servanthood calls forth the inherent power and freedom of another and seeks to enhance the other's capacity to make a difference. This is the "velvet and steel" of servant leadership—a mystic blend of gentleness and strength. It is a paradox that gains by giving.

The emergence of servanthood as a fresh hold on an old truth coincides with a vast Turning Point in human history—a sea-change of greater magnitude than any since the agricultural revolution of 10,000 years ago that inaugurated the use of human power to manipulate and exploit the earth. More and more we see the futility of "superpower" politics and its reliance on domination, threat, weaponry and violence as problem solvers. The atom bomb drops of 1945 cracked the door to this perception. The peril to the planet by the unchecked advance of human population and

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industrial plunder has thrown the door wide open. Slowly, very slowly, the values of care for one another and for the earth gain the respect of the powerful. For their leadership of the world, made increasingly one, they need the unrelenting challenge and supportive "velvet and steel" of millions at all levels of human leading—from parents at home to presidents of global corporations—all of us plain people who can be committed to the power of love as servant leaders.

Love appears to have been here since the dawn of human consciousness. Contemporary science would go much further back in the

history of the universe to speculate on the antiquity of love. Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), the French Jesuit paleontologist, building on molecular bonding as an empirical reality, developed a view which quantum physics now ratifies. Quantum theorists are certain that there is a caring pulse of energy that animates and interconnects all the entities of the cosmos. Teilhard put his speculation outrageously for his time. "Molecules make love," he said. For this statement, and others like it, his Church's hierarchy banned the publication of his books. But time has moved many hearts. Progressive thinkers in all contemporary fields now know and favor what Teilhard pioneered as scientist-theologian. Molecules do make love—or something akin to it—in their compulsion to reach for one another in creating the communities we call living organisms.

This book travels even further back in time than quantum theory to find the origin of the concept. The scriptures of one of the world's faith communities locates its roots in God. Writing of Jesus, his criminal execution and resurrected life, St. Paul declares, "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block...and foolishness...but to those who are called...Christ [is] *the power of God and the wisdom of God* (I Corinthians 1:23-24, italics mine).

The servanthood of the crucified God is the two-way exchange of wise power that spins the stars and undergirds all that is—the velvet and steel of unyielding love—the tender/toughness gentle enough to cradle the cosmos in patient care and strong enough to outlast and forgive all assaults on its compassion.

# ORDER FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ copy/copies of *SERVANTHOOD* at the pre-publication discount of 10% on the retail price of \$12.95.

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## Friendly Assessments

"We need more books like this, those that ask us to re-think boldly our ideas about leadership and power. Bennett Sims guides us through a compelling, necessary and spirit-full journey that changes our ideas about how we lead, and how we follow."

*Margaret J. Wheatley, Ph.D.*  
Author of "*Leadership and the New Science*"

"Amid the growing literature on leadership, *Servanthood* is a book we need. Rooted in ancient wisdom, but responsive to the demands of the emerging age, this book offers inspiration, insight and guidance for leaders of every kind. . . . May thousands read this book and benefit from its wisdom."

*Parker J. Palmer, Ph.D.*  
Author of "*The Active Life*," "*A Company of Strangers*" and other widely read books

"In a world, and in churches, so often caught up in a relentless pursuit of power, Bishop Bennett Sims challenges us all to look afresh at what it means to be servants of one another. It is an invigorating, deeply enriching experience! His conclusions are sometimes radical, and we shall not all agree with all of them, but they always stem from his own deep love for God and God's people. I commend it for study, discussion and, where appropriate, prayerful action.

*The Most Rev'd and Rt. Hon. George Carey*  
Archbishop of Canterbury

"This book is a winner. It provides the key ingredient to an understanding of what leadership is all about."

*The Honorable Amory Houghton, Jr.*  
U.S. Congressman (R) from New York State and former Chairman and C.E.O. of Corning Glass

"Bennett Sims provides us with unique insights into the servant nature of the Christian pilgrimage. He writes with the conviction of a true servant whose vision must be shared with a Church which faces a period of special challenge."

*The Most Reverend Robert H. A. Eames*  
Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland

