# The Founding Directors

The rest, as it is said, is history.

Alpheius Global Enterprises was founded by three people: Annabel Lewis, Aaron Laversonn and Adele Lee.

All three founders share similar backgrounds.

They were all nominally born on Tuesday, February 29, 1972. We say, “nominally” because this was the day that all three were left as new-born babies on the steps of the orphanages run by the Holy Sisters of Divine Benevolence. The peculiar thing is that Annabel was left on the steps of the orphanage in Clonmel, Ireland, Aaron on the steps of the old orphanage in Manukau, New Zealand, and Adele on the steps of the orphanage in Guiyang, China.

Each had a similar note enclosed in the basinet which instructed the sisters to look after the child until February 29, 1992. An envelope was also enclosed with a wad of cash notes equivalent to 2 million US dollars. The note for each further instructed the orphanage to educate each child up to but not including university level and to then put each child to work tending the poor, the sick and the elderly until the child turned 20. During their education each child was to become fluent in at least three languages, one of which was to be English. At the end of the period and if the orphanage had complied another envelope would be sent to the orphanage with a further 2.5 million US dollars − 2 million for the orphanage and the rest for the child.

The Holy Sisters of Divine Benevolence are well-known for their integrity and honesty, and while they were all initially affronted by the note and the money, they quickly decided that it could be put to good work to help those in need. The sisters all unquestioningly complied with the note and on February 29, 1992, received a further envelope delivered without sender information or return address.

The three charges were then released from their respective orphanages together with the allotted sum of money. Natural curiosity immediately took hold of each young adult, but no matter how hard they tried they could find no clue as to their parents or their background. The sisters had no information to go on, and Aaron even tried to contact the courier company, only to find that it had never existed.

All three, Annabel, Aaron, and Adele, set off to explore the world. They had no need of the small fortune they had each inherited, but they wisely invested the money for future use. They wanted this to be an adventuresome time in their lives so they decided to wander wherever and whenever their fancy took them, doing odd jobs here and there to survive.

And then after two years of wandering, chance and coincidence again played a significant part in this story.

On a balmy spring day in May 1994, Aaron walked in to a small but crowded café on the Champs-Elysees, looking for a cooling mineral water and a rest for his weary legs. He had just been to visit the Arc de Triumph and had been emotionally moved by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He needed to sit and reflect on the stupidity and senselessness of war. Before him, and off in the distance down one of the worlds finest boulevards, lay an even grimmer monument to man’s unremitting ability to inflict great suffering and pain – the ornate ferris wheel in Concorde Square marked the exact spot where two centuries earlier thousands of nobles had had their heads lopped off. Their arrogance and ignorance of the plight of the general population, resulted in the general population resorting to a form of mass murder and violence previously the reserve of barbarians.

As he negotiated the packed café, dodging and weaving his way around the tables of Parisians busy chatting and gossiping, he caught a glimpse of an object laying on a corner table. It was a hand made diary with the words “A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle” embossed upon the tanned leather cover and the initials AL. Aaron immediately thought he’d absent-mindedly placed his diary on the table because he recognized it instantly as the one given to him by the sisters when he left the orphanage.

He swung his rucksack off his shoulders and rummaged inside only to find that his diary was still there. How can this be? And then he noticed a stranger sitting at the next table in a city renowned for it’s glamour and glitz.

He moved quickly over to the table and asked this stranger whether she spoke English. She did, and he then drew her attention to his diary and began to quiz her about her background and tell her about his own.

No more than three minutes into their conversation a woman sitting with her back to them instantly spun around and placed yet another leather diary on the table with the same inscription and the same initials. Together they all spent the rest of the afternoon in a crowded café recounting their lives stories.

The trio formed an unbreakable bond – there was truly something spiritual happening here but they could not decide what it was and where it was heading. Long into the evening they chatted about life in the orphanage, the values that the sisters had imparted, their collective longing to know their parents, and much, much, more. Finally, around 3:00 am, overcome by sleep they agreed to part, and to meet again in the same place in exactly five years time.

All three continued on their wanderings until the next year, when again, coincidentally, all three enrolled in university. Aaron enrolled to do economics and finance in Melbourne, Australia, Annabel to do arts in Dublin, and Adele to do law at Harvard. All three worked very hard at their course, showing commitment and passion that truly amazed their respective lecturers and tutors. All three completed their courses with honours and high distinctions, and within four years.

In May 1999 the three met up again in the small café in Paris. They had seen much, and done a lot in their relatively short lives and imbued with the values of the Sisters they decided that they had a lot to offer the world. The three agreed to pool their inheritances and form Alpheius Global Enterprises.