



EDUCATING FOR PEACE

MARCH 2009

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"Change is not about simply mainstreaming women. It's not about women joining the polluted stream. It's about cleaning the stream, changing stagnant pools into fresh, flowing waters."

~Bella Abzug

SHALOM NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Shalom Educating for Peace is a non-governmental, non-profit organization working for building and sustaining positive peace through education.

At the end of last year, Basabose and Megan (our volunteer from the US) met with members of self-help cooperatives in Rwamagana. From these meetings, we have developed a proposal for a much needed conflict resolution program for which we are seeking sponsorship.

In November last year, Canadian writer, Gary Gedd, visited some of Shaloms projects. In March this year, Diesa Seidel, Founder and president of the United Initiatives of Peace (UIP) in the USA ran some basketball for peace sessions at Shalom sites.

From the beginning of this year, Basabose has been training students, teachers and parents at Doctrina Vitae Secondary school to transform the entire school environment into a school of peace.

We have held sessions with assistants at the Centre de Jour Humura, a centre



Basabose Jean de Dieu directs Shalom and is based in Kigali, Rwanda. He holds a Masters degree in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies and has five years experience as a peace practitioner in the field.



Cori Wielenga co-directs Shalom and is based in Pretoria, South Africa. She is currently completing her doctorate in Peace Studies and is working on a project for nonviolence in schools.



Jean Prime Harerimana is launching Shalom's work in Bujumbura, Burundi. He holds a degree in African Literature and History. He has a passion to see peace become a reality in Burundi.

For disabled people, to discuss peace education and run various programs.

Basabose has continued to broadcast our weekly peace program on a community radio station in Rwanda. For the first few months of the year the theme has been 'peace, war and the Christian conscience'.

IN GRATITUDE

The tremendous increase in activity in the past three months is primarily due to the donation from one supporter in Durban, South Africa. We would like to extend a big thank you to him and others who have continued to support our work in a variety of ways.

NEW WEBSITE!

Shalom now has a website! This is largely thanks to Mike Abkin, and more especially, Bill Stevens who has put hours in to help us get things up and running. It is still a work in progress and we welcome any input or contributions. Feel free to visit:

<http://www.Shalomeducatingforpeace.org>

CANADIAN WRITER VISITS SHALOM

Canadian writer, Gary Gedds, spent some time with Shalom in November, 2008. In Rwamagana district, he visited youth assisted by African Evangelical Enterprise (AEE), Rwamagana branch and Centre Sportif de Rwamagana. Shalom would like to partner with these entities for its project, Educating for Peace through Sports.

He also visited Rwamagana Pentecostal church (ADEPR). Shalom is partnering with this Christian community of around 900 members through our PREST (Peace and Reconciliation Education through Songs and Theatres) project.

In Kigali, Gary visited the Centre Enfants de Dieu. The centre is located in Ndera sector and assists former street children. Shalom would like to partner with the centre in emotional healing and peace education through sports, songs and theatres. Also, Gary visited the studio of Umucyo Community Radio where Shalom has a weekly show on building peace within our community. While he was there our broadcast was on 'Capitalism as nonviolence promoters view it'.



Educators and learners at the Centre de Jour Humura who benefited from Shalom's Education through Sports project.

PEACE EDUCATION THROUGH SPORTS

Last month Diesa Seidel, founder and president of the United Initiatives of Peace (UIP) in the USA visited Shalom. The visit was jointly organized by the Peace Dream foundation, UIP and Shalom in Rwanda. Educational sessions, community services and basketball play sessions were organized for young women at the Kabuga Youth Centre and Doctrina Vitae College. We are looking for how the program could be sustained through our PES (Peace Education through Sports) project.



Girls at the Doctrina Vitae Secondary school during one of the basketball sessions with UIP.

OUR RADIO BROADCAST

In partnership with Umucyo Community Radio FM, the show entitled "Building peace within our community" is going ahead. From 15 January until 2 April 2009, Shalom has been discussing the theme CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE, PEACE AND WAR.

Listeners' mindsets are being challenged. Although the majority of Rwandans (some 80%) are said to be Christian, the country has a history that is marked by wars and genocide whereas the Christian

Bible seems to speak against violence.

We plan to revise the program and establish listener clubs in different localities in order to be more effective. The clubs would be considered as community peace building classes. These classes would allow listeners to put into action what they are learning through the radio broadcast and would impact whole communities.



Young people at the Doctrina Vitae Secondary school during a peace through football training session.

SHALOMS PROJECTS

Resolving and Transforming Conflicts in Cooperatives

This project aims at consolidating cooperatives and self-help groups by equipping them with the capacity to positively resolve and transform internal conflicts and motivating their members to become peace-bringers in their communities. Shalom is approaching different development organizations, operating with community cooperatives for partnership. In October 2008, Shalom conducted brainstorming and exchange sessions on the project with Self-Help groups assisted by AEE- Rwamagana branch. Megan Colnar, a volunteer from the US, focused her efforts on this project. Her work generated a basic proposal for the RTCC project. Shalom is looking for potential partners to implement this project.



Pictured right: Megan Colnar with members of the Self-Help Cooperative

BePeace Project

Shalom and the Rasur Foundation are continuing to work together to find funding for the pilot BePeace project developed for Rwanda. The project focuses on nonviolent communication and emotion management. Meanwhile, Shalom has organized a 15 hour course on the "Introduction to nonviolent communication" for educators at the Centre de Jour Humura, located in Ndera sector, Kigali city. This center gives care to children and youth with mental disabilities. Additionally, the center educates parents to accept and understand their children with disabilities. "This course is very important for our work and every educator should learn the course," one of the participants on the course said. Shalom finds the course very imperative not only for educators but also medical staff, parents, leaders and others who deliver public services.



Pictured above: Educators at the Centre de Jour Humura receiving training in nonviolent communication.

Peace and Reconciliation Education through Songs and Theatres

In collaboration with Rwamagana Pentecostal Church (ADEPR), Shalom is undertaking a pilot PREST project. On 14 March, Shalom organized a workshop on peace and reconciliation for the *Intumwa* Choir (pictured right) in order to sharpen and guide the content of their production. *The entire world needs reconciliation, my contribution is significant and needed* is the slogan from the workshop. In June this year, we plan a three days great PREST event in Rwamagana District to impact local leaders, the church and whole community. Conferences on forgiveness and reconciliation, concerts, testimonies and drama will be used. The event will contribute to the efforts to move Rwandans toward sustainable peace and reconciliation. Whoever wants to contribute to the success of this event is welcome.



SCHOOL FOR PEACE!

From the beginning of this year, Basabose has been helping to transform Doctrina Vitae Secondary school in Kigali into a school of peace.

Shalom is conducting a 50 hour training course on conflict resolution and making a peaceful school community throughout the current school year. For the first school term, teachers will be trained in central peacemaking related concepts, understanding the nature of conflict, analyzing conflict, approaches of conflict resolution, exchange on conflicts that frequently occur in the school community, creating a conducive and how to develop a democratic school environment.

Further, Shalom has run Education through Sports programs with learners, starting with a football session in early March with Bosco Uwizeye and basketball sessions with Deisa Seidel at the end of March. These projects are promote peacemaking, gender equality, respect for others and fair play.

Partner with Shalom so that we can transform more schools for peace!

NONVIOLENT DISCIPLINE

Many people feel that there is no alternative to corporal punishment as a means to discipline children. 'If I don't use corporal punishment, I will be over-run by these children' is a common attitude amongst teachers. But there are always alternatives. I visited an orphanage about 50 km out of Bulawayo and there I saw an alternative in action. It is for teachers to love and respect the children. This has not resulted in teachers being over-run; it has resulted in love and respect by the children towards the teachers AND to each other. There are virtually no discipline problems. [There are also a few classes in basic values - truth, peace, love, nonviolence and right conduct - each week]

The usual way of trying to get teachers to stop using corporal punishment is to train them in non-violent methods of discipline. Maybe this isn't the most effective approach because the use of such methods without love and respect may have a limited impact. I am convinced that a better way is to build teachers' love and respect for themselves; then they will more easily love and respect other people, including their students.

Geoff Harris heads up the department of Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies at the University of KwaZulu Natal.



Pictured above: Teachers from Doctrina Vitae Secondary schools and girls from the school during a Education through Sports session.

SUPPORT SHALOM

There are many ways you can assist Shalom to bring the message of peace to Rwanda and Burundi.

Bring your skills and expertise to Rwanda.

Assist us through regular or once-off financial donations.

We are in need of a second-hand lap-top and other office equipment.

Connect us with organizations who can partner with us on our projects.

SHALOM'S BANKING DETAILS

Account name: Shalom Educating for Peace

Account number: 12049-01-97

Bank: Ecobank, Rwanda

Swift code: ECOCRWRW