



EDUCATING FOR PEACE

DECEMBER 2009

SHALOM NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

CONTACT SHALOM

General Enquiries:

shalomeducatingforpeace@gmail.com

In Rwanda:

Jean de Dieu Basabose

P.O. Box 6210, Kigali, Rwanda

Tel.: +250 78840 3868

e-mail : basajd@yahoo.fr

In South Africa:

Cori Wielenga

Tel.: +27 82 400 2505

e-mail: coriwielenga@gmail.com

ABOUT US:

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

Shalom pursues the following objectives: (i) educating for peace, (ii) re-researching for peace and (iii) cultivating the culture of non-violence.

We begin this newsletter in expressing gratitude to Judy Norman and Robyn Hennings from the Australian Ministry for Peace (pictured below with Basabose) who have improved the effectiveness of Shalom through donating the funds necessary to purchase a laptop, printer and internet connection in Rwanda.



Basabose met these wonderful peace workers at the **Fourth Summit of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace** which was held in Costa Rica in September. This Summit seeks to advocate governments for Ministries of Peace.

Prior to the Summit, Basabose had the opportunity to attend the **BePeace Foundation training course**. We use the BePeace principles in our nonviolent communication training courses that we have already successfully run at the Ndera Day Care Centre and Doctrina Vitae Secondary school.

In October Shalom held a **Peace Day event** at the Doctrina Vitae Secondary school, Awards

were handed out to teachers who had completed Shalom's fifty hour 'teaching for peace' course, with students flying the flags of a variety of countries, and songs and theatre were performed to bring home the message of unity and hope.

In October Penine Uwimbabazi had the opportunity to represent Shalom at the **University of KwaZulu Natal Leadership** 10 year anniversary, where she spoke 'learning leadership', emphasizing the importance of self-transformation amongst leaders.

Cori Wielenga had the opportunity to represent Shalom at an event hosted by the **End Conscription Campaign and the Quakers of Pretoria**, where she described the work Shalom is doing in Rwanda. At this event, a conscientious objector from Israel also shared his story.



Pictured above: The attendants of the Fourth Summit of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace in Costa Rica.

PEACE THROUGH RADIO SHALOM ONLINE

Shalom holds a weekly radio broadcast on concepts of peace which many Rwandans listen to. We want to expand this project to include facilitated workshops around the broadcasted topics in communities. If you would like to contribute specifically to this project or would like more information, feel free to send us a mail!

Website: shalomeducatingforpeace.org. Our website needs some development. Anyone willing and able to do this or willing to donate \$350 to have our host company develop it?

Our fundraising site, www.shalom.givengain.org is up and running. This site allows us to receive donations from all over the world using Master or Visa cards.

PEACE DAY RAPORT

The 21st of September is the day dedicated to World Peace by the UN. Shalom Educating for Peace (SEP) joined other peacebuilders to celebrate the day in Rwanda. SEP, in collaboration with Doctrina Vitae secondary school, organized the ceremony at the school. Due to external circumstances, the celebration of the World Peace Day was organized on 9 October 2009. The activities reached the school community (more than 500 students and 20 staff members) as well as external invitees. What follows is an account of the event

Anti-corruption seminar

The day started with a seminar titled “*Promoting anti-corruption education as a way to building and sustaining positive peace*”. which was attended by teachers from Doctrina Vitae, teachers invited from primary and secondary schools and other invitees totaling 30 participants. It was facilitated by Jean de Dieu Basabose of SEP and Ruth Vumiliya of The Office of Ombudsman.

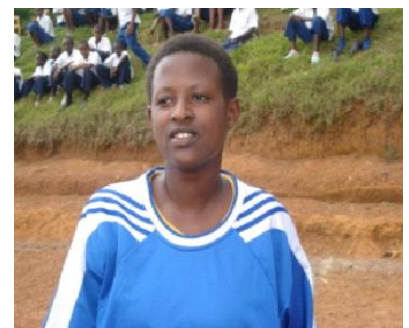
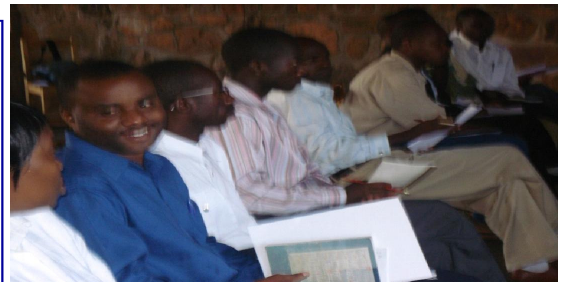
The session was very interactive. Participants manifested their interest in the topic. They insisted on the necessity of restoring integrity and a probity mindset as a way to prevent corruption and injustice and, as consequence, assure sustainable peace in the country. The participants are convinced that education systems should play a key role in this move.

Peace education through basketball

SEP, in collaboration with Peace Dream Foundation and United Initiatives of Peace, is running a peace education through basketball activity at Doctrina Vitae school with the following specific objectives:

- Training youth and developing their peacemaking skills (emphasizing negotiation skills)
- Developing a competitive spirit without harming others
- Promoting intrinsic values including teamwork, perseverance, discipline, respect of rules sense of responsibility, compassion, etc.
- Developing self-empowerment and self-confidence among young women
- Preparing mindsets for practicing fair and peaceful play sense of responsibility, compassion, etc.

In the final match of the two opposing girls-teams were Unity and Hope. Unity won the match!



Pictured, top to bottom: Participants discuss the question: why our school system does not prevent corrupt practices. Madam Ruth Vumiliya addresses the attendees to the seminar, explaining different strategies implemented by the Office of Ombudsman to prevent corruption. Girls play basketball and Olivia Mukayiranga wins player of the tournament!

IN GRATITUDE

Many thanks to those who contributed to our Peace Day event . We are in deep gratitude to Judy and Robin from the Australian Ministry for Peace who provided us with a laptop, printer and internet connection in Rwanda, helping Shalom become endlessly more efficient and effective in the work of peace! We further would like to thank Geoff Harris from the Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies department at the University of KwaZulu Natal and Jane Hofstetter for their generous contributions to Shalom's work.



Dialogue session

Teachers and students presented a role-play where they dialogued on frequent conflicts that arise in schools, their sources and how they are resolved. This was to illustrate their commitment to collaborate in order to have a peaceful school environment, as result of teacher for peace training given by SEP.

Lunch

Students, teachers, school authorities and guests had lunch in the same refectory, which is not common/frequent in the cultural context.

PREST

Peace and reconciliation education through songs and theatre: Students presented songs, cultural and modern dances and film

Prayer for the nations

Students and invitees took time to pray for nations to live at peace, continent by continent. Leaders called a representative of each country in the continent, who held the flag of called country. Afterwards, each country of the continent was represented at the podium, participants prayed for the nations of indicated continent. Different religious student leaders were represented at the ceremony (Catholic church, Protestant church, Adventist church and Muslim) and were requested to pray for nations.

Certificate presentation:

SEP has been training teachers from Doctrina Vitae on peacemaking. Certificates of participation were presented to teachers who have participated in the training. Senator Stephanie Mukantabana, the Vice- Chairperson of Amani Forum, Rwanda, led this session.

.Peace education through football:

SEP is running a Peace education through football activity at Doctrina Vitae School with the following specific objectives:

- Training youth and developing their peacemaking skills developing competitive spirit without harming others
- Promoting gender equity and respect of rules among youth
- Preparing mindsets for practicing fair and peaceful play
- Moving society towards sustainable reconciliation

The final match opposing two mixed teams (composed of girls and boys) were scheduled and should mark the peace day ceremony. Unfortunately, the match didn't take place because of rain.

Closing speeches

Senator Stephanie Mukantabana, in her speech, saluted this initiative. She reiterated the will of the Rwandan government to make all efforts to have a peaceful country. She called the organizers of the day to collaborate with Amani Forum/ Rwanda in educating Rwandans for peace.

Mr Gaspard Ahobamuteze, the legal representative of the school said that he is profoundly happy to have the event be organized in the school. 'we are lucky to have Shalom operating in our school. The organization helps in moving toward our mission of promoting positive values.' I would like to request Shalom to organize world peace day in our school every year, added the legal representative.

Mr Jean de Dieu Basabose, the executive director of Shalom Educating for Peace, thanked the guests, the school authorities, teachers and students for their active participation in the event. *We are committed to educating communities for peace and cultivating a new way of thinking devoted to nonviolent ways of resolving conflicts and striving social justice*, said Jean de Dieu Basabose.

Cultural songs and dance, theatre and film were held, presenting peaceful ways of living.

The day was closed with the singing of the school anthem.



Pictured from top to bottom: Staff and students present their role play; PREST dances; waving flags while praying for the nations; certificate presentation; closing speeches with Senator Stephanie Mukantabana, Mr Gaspard Ahobamuteze and Jean de Dieu Basabose.

FIVE PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENT ACTION

- ◆ **Respect everyone:** including yourself. Don't confuse people with the injustices they may be committing.
- ◆ **Means are ends in the making:** nonviolent means always lead to a positive result; not always the ones we intended. Violent means never lead to constructive end.
- ◆ **Seek win/win solutions:** give priority to building relationships over short term victories.
- ◆ **Persuade, don't coerce:** be prepared to take on suffering if there is no other way to awaken another's conscience.
- ◆ **Use discrimination:** never sacrifice your principles but be ready to change tactics and compromise on details. Don't cling to symbols. Be constructive wherever possible and obstructive when necessary.

Taken from: www.metacenter.org.

SHALOMS PROJECTS 2010

In the new year Shalom has several projects planned which you are invited to support:

- A tour and recording of the Intumwe Reconciliation choir in Rwanda.
- Peace through Radio program: weekly broadcasts on a community radio station along with related training sessions in communities.
- Peace and Reconciliation through Song and Theatre event like the one we held in June.
- Nonviolent communication training for teachers and medical staff.
- Training in conflict resolution for Self-help Cooperatives in Rwamagana district.

Proposals and budgets are available for each of these projects for those interested.



Pictured left: Basabose in conversation with Dot Maver, co-director of the US Peace Academy at the Summit for Ministries and Departments for Peace in Costa Rica.

Pictured right: People deep in discussion around how to prevent corruption during the Peace Day event hosted by Shalom in a community just outside the capital, Kigali, in October.



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.

Pass this newsletter on to others.

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