



May News

Greetings!

"Is to return to what I am really. In any case, to climb the mountain where in the end was God."

Lukas Meyer

Children of the Earth inspires and unites young people, through personal and social transformation, to create a peaceful and sustainable world.

One Earth....with all her Children smiling!

Children of the Earth, founded by Dr. Nina Meyerhof in 1990, offers young people leadership skills programs, educational workshops and attendance at distinguished conferences. We instill the concepts of global cooperation multicultural understanding, spiritual values and ethical living.

Children of the Earth's programs focus on building the youth spiritual movement for world consciousness. We offer educational, interactive and interfaith gatherings, work with local community groups to develop self-sustaining projects and invite young people to a virtual platform designed for positive social exchange.

Children of the Earth supports young people in actualizing their personal intention, becoming inspired to altruism, and weaving a web bridging all personal, cultural, national and religious divides.

Our vision is that one by one, young people become spiritually awakened, socially responsible, and active peace builders; inspired and united by our organization.

A Journey From Poverty to the Wealth of Hope



How many times have we walked passed street kids and wondered what the future holds for them? It can't be easy for such a child to have a positive vision of the future and have the courage to rise above his/her situation. Geduld Veldsman

recently told me his heart-touching childhood story and I would like to share it with all of you. He grew up in Paarl, a small town close to Cape Town, South Africa. His parents were very poor and couldn't afford to take care of him, so they decided to give him away at the age of 13. This unfortunate event led him to live on the streets, but unlike many children in a similar situation who get caught up in crime, gangs, drugs, alcohol abuse and who have lost all hope in life, Geduld (which in Afrikaans means "patience") believed that someone "up there" liked him and that when one door closes, God will always open another one for you. While he was living on the streets together with three of his friends, he always prayed to the Lord to keep him safe so that one day he could tell other kids that there is hope for even the poorest of the poor. He continued going to school despite the hardships in his life and managed to graduate. At the age of 17 he left the streets and started living in a tent on the grounds of a church and helped the Pastor with the ministry. One day, as the Pastor was busy giving a sermon, Geduld felt an inner voice telling him: "This is your time... ". That was the best day of his life, he told me.

His faith in God, positive attitude towards life and hope for a better future have manifested wonders in his life. He received a loan from people who trusted and believed in him, giving him the opportunity to study further. In 2008, at the age of 25, Geduld started working

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Featured Article: The European Hub Gathering in Switzerland

Worldwide people from all cultures and religions stand up and create a power, which makes this world more peaceful, fair-minded and more honest. We, as the young generation, want to share this power: "Be the change now!"

We want to live a community for 8 days, in which we are going to open new perspectives, discuss, create, laugh and sing. All of this surrounded by the beautiful Swiss mountains, which will give us calmness, power and inspiration. [Click here](#) for more information.

Featured Article:

Generation Waking Up / A Movement- Building Training for Young Leaders

An exciting [Generation Waking Up](#) training taking place in Colorado this July for young leaders representing diverse communities, organizations, and movements. The training is taking place July 11th - 18th on a ranch 2.5 hours from Denver.

Participants will learn transformative leadership skills including public narrative, systems thinking, collaborative leadership, and movement-building across lines difference, along with being trained to facilitate a "Wake Up" experience, a powerful organizing tool and adaptation of the [Awakening The Dreamer Symposium](#) that effectively motivates people to take personal and collective action toward the creation a thriving, just, sustainable world.

Further details about this training can be found [on our website](#).

Donate to our cause



for a Charity Organization called Badisa and could move into a house. Today, he is a dedicated young man whose passion is working with children from poor communities all around the Western Cape. He is implementing "Youth outreach", "Skills Development" and "Sustainable Community" programs, which provide youth with basic life-skills training and education. These programs give many children the hope of a better future and help create an empowered, self-sustaining youth population, that is assisting with the upliftment, care and training of its own community members.

We are very proud to welcome Geduld, our new Chapter leader in South Africa, to our COE family.

Article by Karoline Buys

Meditation Brings Peace to Rural Pakistan



Ashfaque Hussain, our Chapter Leader in Sukkur, Pakistan attended his first WSYC gathering held in Thailand at the Dhammakaya Foundation in 2008. Ashfaque and other WSYC members participated in a 4-day event called "The Middle Way Meditation Retreat", where they learned Buddhist leadership and Peace-building skills through a special meditation practice that took them to find inner Peace, Joy and Happiness. This Buddhist meditation technique was well accepted by all participants from different religious and cultural backgrounds. On his return to Pakistan,

Ashfaque was inspired to share what he had learned with the people in his community. Many of them suffered from frustration due to their jobs, traffic noise, environmental issues, etc. These factors led to family quarrels, home violence and low productivity at work. After teaching and facilitating a group of 20 people for one month, many noticed a positive change in their lives as they started focusing more on resolving issues rather than complaining about them. Their productivity and relations at work improved considerably; they started sleeping better and even changed their eating habits. Many became more tolerant with their family members and some wives even called Ashfaque in amazement and wondered what kind of magic spell he had cast on their husbands! The impact of daily meditation in the lives of ordinary people was so noticeable that their family members and friends were inspired to also learn and practice it together at home. This touching story shows that external Peace can only manifest when we find true Peace within ourselves.

Article by Karoline Buys

Dare To Be Positive



At the University of Vermont 80 participants gathered in an intimate space where a friendly, enthusiastic and caring community was formed. The focus of this gathering was to build a community with a strong foundation, peaceful

communication and that dared to be positive! The featured presenter Rita Marie Johnson, an American who moved to Costa Rica when she found out that they do not have a military, and started the Academy for Peace of Costa Rica. She led us through a meditation that focused our hearts and minds to understand that peace begins within ourselves. She demonstrated, using bio-feedback technology, that our heart controls our brain and therefore can help us communicate in a peaceful manner. The undivided attention of all the participants for the COE presentation as well as Rita, showed the amount of presence that enveloped all who were there. We ended the evening in a song that reminded us all of power of 'Higher Love'!

Article by Kelly Ramer

West African Youth Gathering



One never knows what will come about when



Innertainment

[The Conscious Convergence](#)
[What Gives Blog](#)
[World Parliament of Religions](#)

Featured Poem

EDUCATING ALL CHILDREN FOR NONKILLING

a poem-plea by Francisco Gomes de Matos, an applied peace linguist from Recife, Brazil

All children let 's educate
so many roles they can play
All children let 's educate
so the right things they can say
All children let 's educate
so responsibilities they can take
All children let 's educate
so good decisions they can make
All children let 's educate
so opportunities they can enjoy
All children let 's educate
so growing up can be a joy
All children let 's educate
so their creativity can grow
All children let 's educate
so worthy ideas they can sow
All children let 's educate
so compassion they can show
All children let 's educate
so in goodness they can flow
All children let 's educate
so a peaceful world they can see
All children let 's educate
so NONKILLING citizens they can be



you bring inspired youth together!

On March 9th, youth from 6 African nations came together to dialogue about their spiritual journeys and moving their spirituality in to the realm of action. The WSYC

gathering was organized by Lawrence Yealue and Samue K. Fianko, who are both active leaders with COE. Youth spoke eloquently of their lifelong sense of being different and their gratitude to find those who shared a sense of the deeper meaning of life. Many spoke of the burning desire to move past good words to spirituality in action. Little did we know at the beginning of our time together that specific actions would emerge before our eyes!

Dr. Harriett Nettles, a longtime elder with COE, travelled to the conference from Liberia, where she lectures on issues of peace and conflict resolution. In a miraculous bit of synchronicity, after Harriett expressed her deep concern over the recent riot in northern Liberia over ethnic/religious issues, one of the participants shared that his two parents are from each of the two tribes in conflict. In Fofee Kamara's own family, the Muslim side had refused to accept his sister when she decided to follow her mother's Christian heritage. Fofee threatened to leave the family altogether if his sister was not accepted and thus brought about reconciliation. He and Harriett are now planning to travel to North Liberia together to offer interfaith dialogue and hopefully bring the two sides together. A long conversation ensued about how the WSYC hub could alleviate the greater Muslim/Christian crisis in West Africa. We realized that we possessed a great capacity to work together while being guided by our deep spiritual centers. The capacity to act from a deep spiritual center alongside those who share our sense of concern was recognized as our greatest strength as we collectively move forward as part of the larger global family.

Article by Kelly Ramer



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We are very proud of our fellow colleagues from all over the world who live their truth in support of their communities. We walk with them and show their example to the world.

Sincerely,

Corina Simon
Newsletter Coordinator

Email Marketing by

