

Shalom, Educating for Peace Newsletter, December, 2010



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In brief

The last quarter of 2010 has been a busy one, with activities with two volunteers from the US, our World Peace Day celebration, a conference in Astana, a youth peace camp, and continued radio broadcasts, which you can read about in this newsletter.

We would like to thank everyone of you for supporting our work. We particularly would like to thank Mary Coffman, Joseph

Terrell and all of those who participated in the Durham Fundraiser where \$750 was raised! Thank you also to the West Tennessee Business College, the Australian Ministry of Peace, the Arias Foundation and Umcyo Community Radio.

Volunteer Contributions

Joseph Terrell, from North Carolina, helped in developing SEP's approach to educating for peace through sports and assisted with organizing a mini-tournament of peace education through sports at Doctrina Vitae College in the Ndera district and at the Institut Baptiste de Buberuka in Rulindo. He worked on the development of PREST (Peace and Reconciliation Education through Songs and Theatre) project. He contributed to writing a paper on the role of spiritual culture in building a resilient human society, a paper presented at World Forum of Spiritual Culture. SEP appreciates his invaluable contribution to the development of the organization!

Mary Coffman, Rotary World Peace Fellow, has helped in shaping the RTCC (Resolving and Transforming Conflicts in Cooperatives and self-help groups) project. She helped in

We thank every one of you for your interest in and support of our work and wish you all a peaceful transition into 2011!

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SEP intern, Joseph Terrell, in action with students from Doctrina Vitae Secondary school.



writing the RTCC project proposal submitted to the USIP annual grant competition. She helped in organizing and conducting the World Peace Day celebration held at Doctrina Vitae College on 24th September 2010. She participated in producing Shalom's DVD, presenting the celebration of the International Day of Peace in 2009. She contributed to the initial activities for the reconciliation and social cohesion initiative in Gako cell, Rulindo district. Mary also represented SEP at the Virginia Tech conference in November. Her contributions have been tremendous!

World Peace Day

This day is the highlight of the SEP calendar. This year, various activities were held at the Doctrina Vitae Secondary school under the theme "**Promoting peace values in formal education: a way toward building and sustaining positive peace**". Students, teachers, invited guests, and representatives from the Rwandan National Unity and Reconciliation Commission and the Amani Forum Rwanda all participated in our celebrations.

We started with the final match of our **Peace through Sport** program that has been running throughout the year. Through basketball, we have been teaching students at the school about nonviolent ways of resolving conflict in a competitive environment. After a delicious lunch, students performed song, dance and plays that had been developed through our **Peace and Reconciliation Education through Songs and Theatre** program. Here, students learn about peace concepts through the Arts.

During the **Prayer for Nations** ceremony, students prayed for peace, continent by continent. Students then **committed to nonviolent ways of resolving conflict** by putting on bracelets as a reminder of their commitment. As they made this commitment, fellow students held up flags of peace (donated by the Australian Ministry of Peace) as a sign of bearing witness to the commitments made.

To end the day off, SEP screened some short films about life challenges and how to resolve these peacefully. All in all, it was a successful day that made a significant impact in the lives of the students, teachers and guests who participated.

Community Initiative

The Gako Cell of the Rulindo District (northern Rwanda) have asked SEP to get involved with a community project towards reconciliation and social cohesion. SEP would like to work alongside the existing community development project and facilitate the process of rebuilding trust and consistently moving towards a vibrant reconciled and prosperous

SEP intern, Mary Coffman, talking about social cohesion and community health with the Gako cell community.



Students at our World Peace Day celebration wave the flags of all nations during interfaith prayers for peace.



Students put on bracelets as a sign of their commitment to nonviolent ways of resolving conflict.



Mary Coffman and Jean de Dieu Basabose meet with local leaders from the Rulindo district.

For a full report on the Gako Cell project, the needs and the proposed intervention, feel free to email us.



society.

Gako cell is riddled with challenges, as relatives of those who died during the genocide live side by side with released prisoner who were perpetrators of genocide. These released prisoners have to do several years of community service as part of their rehabilitation program.

SEP will work with local authorities and the community cooperative that has been established to transform potential conflict into a positively reconciled community

World Forum of Spiritual Culture

Jean de Dieu Basabose participated in the forum that took place in Astana, Kazkstan from 18 to 20 october 2010. The forums theme was ***Ways towards Spiritual Concord and Spiritual Culture – Ways towards Peace of the World Community***. At the Forum, where more than 70 countries where represented more than 400 scientists, religious leaders, academicians, political leaders, artists , business persons, and leaders of NGOs. Jean de Dieu Basabose presented a paper on the role of spiritual culture in building a resilient human society, with Rwanda as a case study.

The Forum was a good opportunity for networking and partnering with like-minded organizations.

Youth Peace Camp

The camp, under the theme of ***Youth, Catalysts of Peace within Communities***, was organized by Peace of Life and the Baptist Churches Association in Rwanada (AEBR). SEP was invited to facilitate the session on Educating for Peace through Drama. The session took place on 20 November in Nyange, in the Western Province of Rwanda. Basabose called the youth to transform their communities and use drama as powerful tools in African communities. He also took opportunity to share the experience of PREST (Peace and Reconciliation Education through songs and theatre), one of projects developed by SEP. On 1 Dec. 2010, the achievements of the camp were presented at the listeners of Umucyo community radio during the radio show *Twubake Amahoro Iwacu* (let us build peace within our community), organized by SEP in collaboration with the radio station.

Peace through Radio

In collaboration with Umucyo community radio, the weekly radio shows have been continually broadcasted. During the past three months, the show presented the process of making peace in our communities through building the capacity for conciliation. Also, the model of Costa Rica as an

Jean de Dieu Basabose attended the World Forum of Spiritual Culture in Astana, Kazakstan.



Basabose and Wilhelm Augustat, the president of European Association of Peace through Culture, and his daughter, Liza.



Young people at the Youth Peace Camp held in November.

Upcoming event:

Shalom Educating for Peace will participate in the Great Lakes Initiative Leadership Institute, hosted by the Duke Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation from January 16 to 22, 2011, at Ggaba National Seminary in Kampala, Uganda.

For reflection:

We do love children and their curiosity. In Astana, children want to chat and take photos with Jean de Dieu Basabose. They are celebrating color difference and enjoy being with someone different. If all of us had the hearts of children, our efforts toward peace would be easy.

example of a country that is moving towards positive peace were presented and discussed.

Finances

Our audit report for the financial year 2009-2010 has been released at last. Feel free to ask for a copy. Our primary financial need for 2011 is funds for the **Schools for Peace** program. To run this innovative, holistic program at one school for a year will cost us \$5785.



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