



EDUCATING FOR PEACE

AUGUST 2008

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

~Martin Luther King Jr.

MORE ABOUT SHALOM

Shalom is a non-government organization with a focus on the Great Lakes region with the expectation of expanding to the entire African continent. Shalom is currently active in Rwanda and Burundi.

Shalom seeks to partner with development organizations that are active in these countries, equipping their staff with the ability to train others in peace principles. Organizations interested in being trained in peace principles must please contact Shalom for further information.

Shalom was founded by Jean de Dieu Basabose and Cori Wielenga (pictured right), former students of the Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies department of the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Both completed post-graduate studies which focused on sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region.

Shalom's vision is to empower African communities to:

- prevent violent conflict
- non-violently resolve conflict
- build a culture of non-violence
- move towards reconciliation

This vision is implemented through our three principal activities: peace education, research and non-violent action.

Subscribe to this bi-monthly newsletter to keep up-to-date with Shalom's activities!



SHALOM'S PROJECTS IN 2008

YOUNG PEACEMAKERS PROJECT

This project seeks equip youth leaders in training youth in peace principles. Shalom has developed a training manual to assist these leaders in this task. The aim is to reach 250 youth leaders in 50 local churches through this training.

PEACE EDUCATION THROUGH RADIO

Currently members of Shalom speak on a weekly community radio program in Rwanda, called Umcyo, where peace principles are discussed and debated and people can call in with their questions and comments.

NONVIOLENCE: A WAY OF LIFE

By Geoff Harris

I have learned the very important difference between non-violence and nonviolence. It is a difference which distinguishes peace studies, I think, from disciplines such as political science.

Non-violence is the opposite of violence in that it does not use violent methods. Rather than use corporal punishment, a parent might lock a child in their room and a teacher may require a child to write out lines. Note that the motive of the parent/teacher is to win and for the child to lose (and maybe, in order to avoid the punishment, to change their behaviour).

Nonviolence is much more than the absence of violence. Gandhi's use of the Sanskrit word ahimsa emphasises not just the absence of violence but the positive quality of its opposite. To Gandhi and Martin Luther King, nonviolence was **an intensely positive attitude towards human beings**, including those with whom they were in conflict, which encouraged them to give up any desire to injure an enemy and to replace it with an attitude of love. They identified this with agape, the Greek word for spiritual love. The action which stems from agape is satyagraha and has three main principles: respect for persons, an emphasis on persuasion instead of coercion and consistency between the ends aimed for and the means used to achieve these ends.

This distinction between non-violence (the replacement of violence by other ways of defeating an enemy) and nonviolence (built on love and respect for opponents and without the intent of defeating them) is a crucial one. This is a great challenge and goes far beyond using non-violent methods. It involves a different way of thinking about other people. For Gandhi and King, spiritual resources were vital in helping them build this new mindset.

Geoff Harris is director of the Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies program at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. He is editor of Achieving Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Cost-effective Alternatives to the Military and Recovery from Armed Conflict in Developing Countries.



SHALOM'S PROJECTS IN 2008, CONTINUED...

BEPEACE PROJECT

In partnership with the Peace Academy of Costa Rica Shalom hopes to implement this project which educates communities in nonviolent communication and emotional awareness.

PEACE EDUCATION THROUGH LITERACY

In this project, Shalom will assist in the development of adult literacy material, communicating peace principles through adult literacy. Further, Shalom will train adult literacy project staff in peace principles for them to carry these over in adult literacy classes.

PEACE EDUCATION THROUGH THEATRE AND SONG

Shalom seeks to educate communities through the use of song and theatre, which is an accessible and cost-effective form of entertainment for struggling communities.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Shalom welcomes anyone wanting to follow an internship, wanting a learning encounter or wanting to volunteer for whatever length of time. There are multiple opportunities for a variety of volunteer activities.

PARTNER WITH SHALOM

Shalom is entirely dependant on gifts and donations to remain operational. Help us make our projects a reality and transform communities for peace! Contact us for more information.