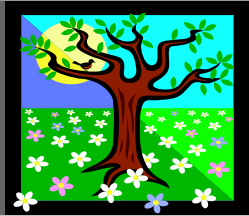


Spring, 2005



Plowshares Institute Newsletter

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Adding the Third “R”, Reconciliation, to Post-Tsunami Relief and Reconstruction Efforts

By Bob Evans

In early March, Alice Evans and I were invited by Hafid Abbas, the Indonesian Director General for Human Rights Protection to join governmental officials on a fact-finding visit to Aceh and Northern Sumatra in early May.

This mission will be the first step towards implementing a five-point peace strategy in Aceh and the adjoining provinces most affected by the almost three-decade civil war. These five areas include:

- ◆ Capacity building for reconciliation for target groups of grassroots leaders in Aceh and the five surrounding provinces.
- ◆ Harmonization of international and local legislation on human rights as it affects Aceh.
- ◆ Adaptation of human rights and conflict transformation curricula and text books to the Aceh context covering primary through university levels
- ◆ Promotion of local social cohesion and development of a comprehensive program for human rights, conflict transformation, and reconciliation by working in collaboration with local authorities to identify and give priority to 14 target groups in Aceh and surrounding provinces.
- ◆ Development and application of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting processes.

The May visit will begin the trust- and peace-building strategies through dialogue with key Acehnese and North Sumatran leaders. Including the Northern Sumatra provinces within this initiative is seminal to its success due to unresolved issues surrounding the migration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Corresponding conflicts over land and resources exacerbate the tension between the primary combatants- the Indonesian military and the “Free Aceh Movement” or GAM. As of this writing, negotiations in Helsinki appear

promising for a permanent cease fire between the government and GAM.

The next-steps in the anticipated multi-year project would be capacity-building and trust-building for key leaders from throughout the region through “peace skills” training sessions held in neutral venues. Plowshares is uniquely positioned to assist in shaping and supporting these workshops based on more than 10 years of work in Indonesia which includes work in East Timor and our current joint-project with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights titled, “Human Rights, Democracy, and Conflict Transformation: Addressing the Roots of Terrorism.”



Hope in the midst of tragedy for some women in Aceh.

Plowshares is honored to be invited by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s administration to be involved in this follow-through of our decade-long work in peace-building and reconciliation in Indonesia. Large international investments in relief and reconstruction in Aceh will be threatened unless Indonesia can secure a permanent cease-fire and ultimately, reconciliation, in Aceh province. We are hopeful that the combination of official negotiations, developing networks of mutual trust among former enemies, and on-ground capacity building will bring about a lasting and just resolution to the decades of violence in Aceh.

Plowshares Transformation Training Has Important Role in 2004 US Elections

My Experience as a Plowshares-Trained Election Monitor

By: William Scheu,
2004 Election Monitor for Duval County, Florida

In 2000 Jacksonville, Florida was one of the Florida cities where the presidential voting process was angrily disputed. In 2004, the possibility for more disputes loomed large, primarily because of the illness of the supervisor of elections and disagreements about early voting and other election processes. The supervisor's illness kept him from participating in the leadup to the election, and the process disputes were divided along racial and party lines. By mid-October, serious battle lines were being drawn, litigation had commenced, and news media from all over the world had descended on Jacksonville to report the fracas that was expected to occur.

Two weeks before the election, the supervisor resigned and I was selected by Governor Jeb Bush to supervise the election. Having helped Bob and Alice Evans begin the Jacksonville "cities program" in 1993, I had been trained in Plowshares' approach to conflict transformation and helped equip other community leaders with these important skills. In my assessment, many factors led to the overwhelming success of the Jacksonville election process, but for me, my training as a community mediator was crucial in helping to lower tensions and get all parties to work together to bring about a fair, accurate, accessible and legal election.



Rev. Jesse Jackson and Bill Scheu, supervisor of elections in Duval County, FL, assess each other in Jacksonville on the day Scheu was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush (photo by Bob Self, the Times-Union).

Every day I met with representatives of all candidates, parties and community organizations involved in the election process. While the meetings often began with anger and emotion, the Plowshares process in each case led to understanding (though not necessarily agreement) on the issues that came up each day during early voting. That meant that by election day itself, most of the issues had been dealt with and trust built so that additional issues could be resolved quickly and without rancor. God prepares us for what He calls us to do, and the Plowshares training I received and the previous mediation efforts I experienced, were gifts from God to me and Jacksonville in the 2004 election.

Perspectives from Plowshares-Sponsored International Election Observers

In November 2004, Plowshares nominated two international partners, Joao Dias, a Brazilian professor, and Jaime Joseph of Alternativa in Peru, to visit the US as international election observers as part of a joint Pax Christi USA/NAACP delegation. After much negotiation, the election observers were able to access the polling places themselves rather than having to observe from 50 feet away. Many observers commented that their presence helped to change the dynamics inside the polling places. Overall, despite some long lines and scattered problems, the elections in Florida went much more smoothly than in 2000. That said, the 23 observers from 14 countries, had a number of recommendations regarding the US election process including:

1. It is not conducive to a healthy democratic system to have the political parties who contest the election so intimately involved in actually running the electoral process.
2. It is crucial to establish an independent, fully funded, non-partisan Election Commission to run the electoral process.

For a full report of the election monitors' experience and additional suggestions, please refer to the Plowshares website at www.plowsharesinstitute.org

Addressing the Roots of Terrorism: An Indonesian Update

Plowshares' joint program with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (formerly Ministry of Justice and Human Rights) continues to equip Indonesian leaders to implement innovative, peace-promoting action plans throughout the country.

In late November and early December, Alice and Bob Evans and Elizabeth Vélez accompanied the second team of Indonesian leaders in the South African immersion component of the program. These diverse leaders, which included senior staff from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights; university presidents and faculty; and representatives from provincial governor's offices, the Ministry of Culture, and the media, had a series of fruitful meetings and training sessions with senior South African leaders.



The 2004 Indonesian delegation takes a break from study in a visit to the Cape of Good Hope.



Indonesians prepare strategic action plans in a workshop at the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town.

The Indonesian delegates report that their strategic planning and dialogue sessions with key South African policy makers and trainers were essential for their emerging action plans. Action plans to be implemented by this second team include:

- a web-based human rights curriculum for Indonesian universities
- intensive conflict transformation workshops in provinces affected by ongoing inter-ethnic or independence struggles
- a training program to equip government officials to employ democratic principles and processes

Bob and Alice Evans will meet to assess action plans of these 20 delegates in April and will conduct the in-country training of the third Indonesian delegation in this joint South-South program with the Ministry in August.

Plowshares 2004 Global Gifts

Plowshares supports partners around the world through financial grants. Partners apply these funds towards areas they identify as most crucial to their work and ministry. This past year recipients applied these donations to a broad range of needs including: trauma healing workshops, space heaters, cross-cultural dialogue events, and general support. In 2004, contributions to Plowshares supported the following organizations:

African Evangelical Church of Jabavu, South Africa
 Alternativa, Peru
 Amity Foundation, Hong Kong
 Centre for Conflict Resolution, South Africa
 Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace, Indo.
 College for Tertiary Studies, Uganda
 Diakonia Council of Churches, South Africa
 Hong Kong Christian Council, China
 Hong Kong Christian Institute, China
 Gun Free South Africa, South Africa

Jiangsu International Cultural Exchange Center, China
 Church Community Leadership Trust, South Africa
 Koinonia House, South Africa
 Medical Ministry International, Bolivia
 Nanjing Theological Seminary, China
 Matanzas Theological Center, Cuba
 South Africa Council of Churches
 St. Paul's Church Youth Project, South Africa
 The Hope Community Sisters, South Africa
 Uganda Joint Christian Council, Uganda



Continued Partnership with Chinese Colleagues

Hong Kong Consultation. Ongoing cooperation with Christine Loh and Civic Exchange in Hong Kong culminated in a November 2004 event, "Constitutional Development: 2007/2008 and Beyond." Plowshares staff served as program co-designers, consultants, and trainers for an innovative event to facilitate Hong Kong's move toward universal suffrage as guaranteed by Hong Kong's "Basic Law" or constitution.

The November conference, using trilingual simultaneous translation, provided a non-threatening opportunity for dialogue among Hong Kong government and civic leaders and representatives of the National People's Congress and the Communist Party from Beijing. Following plenary presentations, the participants were divided into dialogue groups of 12 people, each with a facilitator and recorder who had been trained previously by Plowshares and Civic Exchange.

Mainland China. Prior to the November Hong Kong Constitutional Convention, Bob Evans traveled to Shanghai and Nanjing to continue the partnership with the Chinese Academies of Social Science. He presented a lecture to the Jiangsu Academy of Social Science in Nanjing on conflict transformation and its application in international settings in Asia, Africa and North America. The Chinese Academies of Social Science are the primary



Ms. Christine Loh (right), Executive Director of Civic Exchange, with Mr. Paul Yip and Professor Anthony Cheung, co-sponsors for the constitutional convention.

advisors to national and local government and the Communist Party. Bob was appointed as Special Researcher to the Jiangsu Academy.

Plowshares staff will continue to build relationships with these partners through a May visit to Nanjing initiating a new program focused on sustainability skills, poverty reduction, and income disparity.

An Update from South Africa

A Festival, Consultation with International Council Members, and a New Initiative



Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and Prof. Piet Meiring, Festival Program Coordinator and TRC member, share future plans with Bob and Alice Evans.

In February 2005, members of Plowshares staff participated in the "Arts and Reconciliation 2005 Festival and Conference" to mark the tenth anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Bob and Alice Evans conducted a three-day workshop on conflict transformation as preparation for reconciliation as one component of the Conference which was co-sponsored by the University of Pretoria and the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation. The course included participants from Zaire, Congo, Northern Ireland, Sweden, the US, and South Africa.

This time in South Africa also provided an opportunity for personal consultation with Desmond Tutu, as the chair of Plowshares International Advisory Council, and with other South African Council members including Piet Meiring, Stanley Mogoba, Barney Pityana, Joe Seremane, Craig Arendse, and Alison Lazarus.

While in Pretoria, Plowshares staff consolidated a new initiative with Alison Lazarus, the founding Executive Director of the Dennis Hurley Peace Institute of the Catholic Conference of Bishops of Southern Africa. Alison was formerly director of the Senior Government Program at the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town. Plowshares will partner with the Institute in the development of case studies focused on community peace building and the use of case teaching for training and research in conflict transformation in Africa.

2004 Plowshares Institute Supporters

Plowshares thanks the following people who make our worldwide peacebuilding ministry possible through their generous support

Anonymous	John W. Gilmore	Nancy Normen	Clarissa Watson
Paula Adkins	Joan Given	Gaylord B. Noyce	Erin Wheeler
Al Ahlstrom	David Good	David O'Connell	Ronald White
Bill Aldrich	Robert Goode	Eric Oliphant	Clark Wiens
Katherine Allen	A. Murray Goodwin	Betty Pagett	David Wiley
Betty and Daniel Allen	Bob and Sally Gore	Geraldine Parker	Eliot and Susan Williams
Anne Alvord	Jim and Meg Griffin	James Pellot	Ann Wilson
Jean Appenzellar	Lyle Guttu	Hugh and Lois Penney	Walter and June Wink
Kent Arnold	Heidi Hadsell	Alice De V Perry	Bruce and Linda Worley
Erica Avena	Albert and Nancy Hajek	James Phillips	Carolyn Wright
Ivan Backer	Daniel Hall	C. M. Plochman	Arthur and Mary Wright
Jill Barshay	Robert and Wendy Haller	Robert Porter	George and Mellinda Yocum
Barbara Barshay	Elizabeth and Stuart Hamilton	Lyman and Amy Potter	Deborah and Byron Yost
Robert Batchelder	Paul Hammer	Jerry Ann Putt	David and Marilyn Yourdon
Sarah Batchelder	Marye Gail Harrison	Jim Richardson	
Joe and Barbara Baxer	Virginia Hastings	Jack Riege	Council Member Churches
John Berman	Robert B. and Nancy Hoffman	Nancy and Michael Rion	Faith Congregational Church, CT
William and Virginia Berney	Elizabeth and Robert Howells	Mark Robbin	First Church in Windsor, CT
Barbara Blackstone	Eleanor Hubbard	Nancy and Stephen Roberts	First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, CT
James and Jane Bledsoe	Richard Huleatt	Jack and Sharon Rogers	First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, CT
Courtney Bourns	Wilma Hundley	Nancy Rolland	Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, SC
Chris Boyd	Helen LaKelly Hunt	Ruth Salter	Immanuel Presbyterian Church, VA
Mary Ann Bumgarner	Janet and Irwin Jennings	Kathryn Schiaroli	Riverside Presbyterian Church, FL
Willette Burgie	Bradford Jones	Martelle O. Scott	Simsbury United Methodist Church, CT
Ted Carroll	B. F. Kaiser	William Shelby	South Congregational Church, CT
Thomas and Anne Caruso	Katheryn Keene	Donald J. Shellenberger	St. John's Episcopal Church, PA
Kent and Gwen Childs	Nancy Kemmerer	Drew and Kate Smith	Westminster Presbyterian Church, CT
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Robert and Alice Evans	Hugh and Kate McLean	Yvonne & Owen Vandesande	
Lowell H. Fewster	Charles and Patsy McLure	Kitty Vangunten	
Garnett Foster	Robert Melichar	Samuel and Myrna Vélez	
David Fox	Ken Meyer	Eldin Villafañe	
Mrs. Emmett B. Frazer	Carolyn Olds Mikels	Richard Waddell	
Sue Fuller	Mary Lee Morrison	David Walker	
Margaret Gaines	Cynthia Morse	Rinaldo Walker	
Dick and Ann Gallion	Nelson Murphy	Gaylord and Marie Ruth Wall	
Sylvia and Kenneth Gentili	David Neff	Arthur and Roberta Walmsley	
	Mark Nelson	M. Jo Ann and Joseph Ward	

Becoming Agents of Reconciliation: Local Training Opportunities

Plowshares often gets asked, “How can I become involved in Plowshares peacemaking work?” We are pleased to share several events over the next few months that staff will be offering on mediation and conflict transformation.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact the Plowshares office. Join Us!

1. Conflict Transformation Training in Tulsa— May 21, 2005

In cooperation with Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and Neighbor for Neighbor, Plowshares staff will lead a conflict transformation workshop in Tulsa from 9AM-4PM, May 21, 2005. This event will serve as a refresher course for many of the individuals Plowshares previously equipped through the Cities Program as well as an introduction for new participants. The same weekend includes a film premier of an African movie at the newly restored Circle Cinema in Tulsa. Proceeds will benefit Plowshares international peace programs.



2. Becoming Agents of Reconciliation in Congregations and Communities: A Hartford Seminary Course Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

This course will use case studies of congregational conflict to help pastors, educators, and lay leaders develop skills to become agents of reconciliation within their congregations and communities. We will explore the biblical and theological theme: “Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice.” Participants will be equipped to promote constructive dialogue in conflicted congregations on controversial issues from homosexuality to pastor abuse.

3. Ghost Ranch Presbyterian Study Center, Abiquiu, New Mexico

Week-long Summer Courses July 11-17, 2005

A. Equipped to Make a Difference

A National Workshop for Young Adults

Who? Young leaders aged 18-22 passionate about transforming their world.

What? A focus on issues of diversity, global interconnectedness, and inter-faith dialogue.

Why? Because passionate people can bring about change!

How? Case studies, interactive role-plays, skill development in conflict resolution, exposure to local multi-faith leaders working to promote a just peace.

Leadership: Elizabeth Vélez of the Plowshares staff will lead this workshop.

B. Reconciliation for Congregations, Movements, Communities, and Families

Bob and Alice Evans of the Plowshares staff will join Helen LaKelly Hunt, a feminist scholar, and Harville

Hendrix, a noted psychologist, in offering a two-part course focused on bringing reconciliation to areas of brokenness. Through training in listening skills, conflict analysis, empathic identification, and mutual problem solving, participants will be equipped as agents of reconciliation in their families, congregations and communities.



High Desert Country of Ghost Ranch

Plowshares Promotes Peace in US Cities

BRIDGING the Divide:
Racial Reconciliation for the 21st Century

In November 2004, Bob Evans traveled to **Little Rock, Arkansas** for several events conducted as part of the inauguration of the **Clinton Presidential Library**. Bob served as one of the panelists for an evening presentation, “Bridging the Divide: Racial Reconciliation in the 21st Century” and made several presentations at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Alice and Bob will serve as faculty at the Clinton School of Public Service this fall.

Plowshares board member, Rev. Barbara Headley, joined Elizabeth Vélez and Alice Evans in a two-day conflict transformation workshop for **Hartford** and **Bridgeport** area **AmeriCorps** leaders and staff. Elizabeth’s year of service in AmeriCorps and Barbara’s experience in the city of Hartford were crucial elements in this training experience. The training was especially appropriate given recent tragic acts of violence in Hartford. Positive evaluations by the participants emphasized their desire for future training in conflict transformation, mediation, and diversity.



Please post these announcements and share with friends and colleagues!!!



INDONESIA:

Democracy and Development in an Inter-Faith Context August 1-15, 2005

**** Spaces Going Fast– Send in Your Registration Immediately****

Plowshares Institute, the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace, the Hartford Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary are partners in offering this traveling seminar to Indonesia. This educational immersion will consider issues of Western/Muslim relations, terrorism, sustainable development with special attention to steps to recover from the recent earthquake and tsunami, and human rights and democracy in an Indonesian context. The world's fourth largest country, Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population. A secular state, Indonesia also has active Buddhist and Hindu communities and is seriously addressing issues of decentralization, the protection of human rights, democracy, ethnic/regional conflict, and stability.

Participants will visit Yogyakarta, Jakarta and Bali, three distinct regions which reflect Indonesia's scenic, cultural, and religious diversity. In each location participants will meet with academic, government, cultural, and religious leaders who will share their views on Muslim-Christian relations, economic development, and Indonesia's transition to democracy.

Seminar leaders will be the **Rev. Dr. Robert A. Evans**, Executive Director of Plowshares Institute, **Elizabeth Vélez**, of the Plowshares staff, and **Rev. Dr. Judo Poerwowidagdo**, Founding Director of the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace, Indonesia.

The total cost of the seminar, \$3800, includes tuition, all room and board, and travel from the West Coast

Application deadline, May 15, 2005: Academic Credit and Limited Scholarship Aid Available

CHINA and HONG KONG (SAR)

Transition and Democracy: Human Rights, Economics, and the Role of the Church

May 22 – June 5, 2006



Plowshares Institute, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Hartford Seminary are co-sponsoring this traveling seminar to Hong Kong and mainland China. The seminar will examine leadership changes in China, renewed global engagement with the US and North Korea, and the world's most robust economy. We will also consider issues of democracy, human rights and the role of religion in China. Unique to this seminar will be personal dialogue with senior government, civic and religious leaders in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Participants will visit Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, as a stimulating complement to life in mainland China. Our hosts in Hong Kong will address political and economic changes and dramatic moves toward greater democratic participation. In mainland China the group will meet with religious, government, and education leaders in Shanghai, Beijing, and Nanjing (Jiangsu Province). As guests of the Jiangsu International Cultural Exchange Center and Nanjing Union Seminary, the group will anticipate meeting with Bishop K.H. Ting, representatives of the Church in China, and academic and government leaders who will share their views on China's transition. The delegation will also visit renowned cultural sites such as the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square, and the Forbidden City.

Seminar leadership will be provided by the **Rev. Dr. Robert A. Evans**, Executive Director of Plowshares Institute and Chinese colleagues in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

The total cost of the seminar, \$3800, includes tuition, all room and board, and travel from the West Coast

Application deadline, March 1, 2006: Academic Credit and Limited Scholarship Aid Available

*****Apply Early for this Opportunity to Engage with China at the Beginning of the Asian Century*****

Plowshares New Staff Member



Stephen L. Roberts joined the Plowshares staff as Financial Director in December 2004. Stephen is also a professor at the University of Hartford and Capital Community College, teaching classes in website design and accounting. Stephen and his wife Nancy are both very familiar with Plowshares work, having participated in five traveling seminars.

Continuing Relationship with Cuban Colleagues

The Cuban partnership continues. Bob Evans visited Cuba in April to continue peace-building work with Plowshares partners including the Cuban Council of Churches, Matanzas seminary, and the Center for Reflection and Dialogue. In this fruitful visit Bob was updated on numerous factors leading to changes in Cuban society and the role that churches are playing in seeking to equip their leaders with skills of conflict transformation and peace-building.

The need to strengthen ecumenical relationships between Cuban churches and American congregations remains strong. Bob had the opportunity to discuss this need and strategies to address it through meetings with Reinario Arce, the former president of the Cuban Council of Churches and the new President of Matanzas Theological Seminary, Raimundo Garcia, the Director of the Center for Reflection and Dialogue, and several seminary faculty members. Plowshares appreciates the ongoing interest and commitment of those who have



An image from a street in Havana taken by Jim Young on the 2004 a traveling seminar to Cuba

participated in previous traveling seminars to Cuba and who, through their prayers and support, continue to build relationships with brothers and sisters in Cuba.

Human Rights and Ecology in Brazil

Bob Evans and Heidi Hadsell, a Plowshares board member and President of Hartford Seminary, traveled to Brazil in February 2005 to co-lead a two-day workshop in conflict transformation for participants from the Institute for Theological Education for Bahia (ITEBA), an ecumenical seminary in Salvador. Plowshares work with ITEBA supports church leaders who serve as advocates for justice in poor communities, especially for Afro-Brazilians and women.

Bob and Heidi also made arrangements for a future Plowshares traveling seminar to Brazil focusing on "Economics, Human Rights, and Ecology." This seminar will take a delegation of religious, civic, and sustainable development supporters to Brazil to experience the Amazon, called the "lungs of the world;" the Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wet land; and the city of Salvador. The seminar will give participants special exposure to the Pantanal, which includes a watershed larger than France, and is a paradise for birds such as the endangered hyacinth macaw, the world's largest parrot. Both the Amazon and the Pantanal are endangered

by poaching of endangered birds and animals and agribusiness focused on short-term profits in soybeans, shipping, fishing, and forest products.



Mid-day in the Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wetland and the site of a proposed 2007 traveling seminar.

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***Cultivating Peace for a
 Just Global Community***