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GNR *focus*

SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR RECONCILIATION

Duke Meeting Reinvigorates GNR

Over a beautiful autumn weekend in North Carolina, Duke Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation played host to the Global Network for Reconciliation and its leadership team.

From 15-18 November, ten members of the Global Network for Reconciliation (GNR) and five newcomers gathered at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina in the U.S. to renew friendships, make plans to collaborate, and pray together for the work of reconciliation throughout the world.

Chris Rice and Emmanuel Katongole, Co-Directors of Duke's Center for Reconciliation and World Vision International's Director of Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, Bill Lowrey, opened the event on Friday. Through stories and photos, participants recalled the founding story of the GNR in a windowless basement meeting room at the 2004 Forum for World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand. Rev. Celestin Musekura facilitated sessions to allow each member of the group to share their own experiences of reconciliation and to get to know some of the new members at the gathering, including the Center for Reconciliation's two Practitioners-in-Residence: Chris Heuertz, Executive



Participants gather around a sculpture depicting the parable of the prodigal son. Standing L-R: Stefan Stankovich, Moss Nthla, David Porter, Nunus Subandi, Jean Bouchebel, Rick Sessoms, Bill Lowrey, Phileena and Chris Heuertz, Celestin Muskura. Crouching L-R: Chris Rice, Fatuma Hashi, Emmanuel Katongole, Matt Scott. Not Pictured: Syngman Rhee.

Director of Word Made Flesh, and his wife, Phileena, Director of Community Care.

Phileena and Emmanuel began the second day leading prayer in the Duke Divinity School chapel. Emmanuel and Chris Rice then led participants in a discussion of how things like lament and hope shape the reconciliation

process. The participants brainstormed in small groups about the core aspects of leadership for reconciliation. Chris Heuertz gave a brief presentation about the community practices and leadership style of Word Made Flesh, focusing on the need their organization had identified for dependable leaders, focused

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CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY IN IRELAND

Next Gathering – June 2008

The Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Belfast, Northern Ireland, will host the next GNR gathering and a major reconciliation conference from 18-21 June 2008. Costs, registration, speakers, and accommodation info should be available by mid-January at www.contemporarychristianity.org. GNR members should plan to arrive in Belfast by Tuesday 17 June for a half-day GNR meeting on the 18th. After the conference closing on Saturday, GNR members are invited to speak in churches around Northern Ireland on Sunday morning, meet again Sunday evening and depart Monday.

...Gathering (cont'd)

board members, and a restless structure. Syngman Rhee showed a video telling the story of his own leadership in reconciliation efforts in the Korean peninsula through the Presbyterian Church.

In the afternoon Bill Lowrey led a group exercise to identify common areas of work, declare needs for assistance, and collaborate in the months ahead (see below).

Moss Nthla and David Porter led the final Sunday morning prayer, worship, and healing service. It was



Moss Nthla delivered the reflection during the concluding communion service.

a fitting end to such a contemplative gathering that included such warm hospitality and rich fellowship.

For more information about the gathering contact Chris Rice at crice@div.duke.edu

GNR Profile: Celestin Musekura

Meet GNR leadership team member Celestin Musekura: Founder and President of African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries

After spending the last ten years managing African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM) from Dallas, Texas, Celestin is hearing a call back to his home continent. ALARM's programs are carried out mostly in the Great Lakes region of Africa as well as Southern Sudan and Celestin is feeling a call to focus on developing leaders, something he feels needs to happen out of ALARM's Nairobi office.

It's been a busy year. Women's Peace building training workshops have taken place in recent months in Uganda and southern Sudan. ALARM is running conflict management programs in Uganda, training community leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for community development and building bridges in Rwanda between pastors and community leaders. ALARM's work is focused on partnering with organizations to help local communities and bridging the gap between emergency relief efforts and longer-term community development.



Rev. Celestin Musekura, PhD

Celestin is enthusiastic about efforts to get Christian lawyers to move from law to mediation and rehabilitation, to expand their horizons into restorative justice practices that have worked in Rwanda.

One of the biggest obstacles Celestin finds in his work is overcoming tribalism. Church youth groups using drama, sports, and other informal communication methods are having some impact in teaching about peace but youth often have to be 'missionaries' for reconciliation among older leaders.

Celestin invites partnerships in East or Central Africa. He can be contacted at ALARM.

For more information visit: www.alarm-inc.org

Looking Ahead

GNR Members Brainstorm Ways to Collaborate in 2008

Some events in the coming year where GNR members can work together:

- **January 7-11 - Geneva**
Consultation On A Decade Of Interreligious Dialogue And Cooperation For Peace
Contact: bill_lowrey@wvi.org
- **January 21-25 - Kampala**
Duke Center for Reconciliation, Mennonite Central Committee, ALARM and World Vision co-host a second gathering of Christian reconciliation leaders in the Great Lakes.
Contact: ekatongole@div.duke.edu
- **Spring – Durham, North Carolina, USA**
Duke Center for Reconciliation gathers fifty US leaders in reconciliation at Duke.
Contact: crice@div.duke.edu
- **June 17-22 - Belfast**
Conference and Gathering of Global Network for Reconciliation
Contact: david.w.porter@ntlworld.com
- **October 25-30 – Thailand**
World Evangelical Alliance General Assembly
Contact: crice@div.duke.edu



Jean Bouchebel, Fatuma Hashi, Nunus Subandi and Syngman Rhee study a brainstorming chart of upcoming areas of collaboration for GNR members.

For more information on the Global Network for Reconciliation please contact:

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