



Friends Peace Teams PeaceWays

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By Val Liveoak

Peacebuilding *en las Américas* Grows Trauma-Healing Program in Colombia

In July and November, we did four basic community-based trauma-healing workshops, three of which were on the northern coast of Colombia, as part of our pilot of the Latin American version of the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) workshops. (The pilot program was introduced to readers in the Fall 2008 issue of PeaceWays.)

We now have a pool of people from which the first group of facilitators will be trained. Some have been forcibly displaced from their homes in the countryside, some have suffered the loss of family members to violence, others have lived through sexual abuse and other family violence. Almost all work in their churches, communities or schools with displaced people and other survivors of violence.



"Trust Walk Ducking": Blindfolded participants cross an obstacle course, guided by their partners' voices.

A participant of one of the recent workshops said, "During the workshop, I realized that at times our lives are marked by some traumas that began in childhood and continue for the large part of our life. I believed that I didn't have any psychological trauma, or any traumatic stress, but in each session I realized that I had many wounds that had not healed. At times pain from the past tears up our souls in the present and deprives us of our future. I recommend this workshop because through it one learns to transform pain into happiness and to heal wounds. This workshop taught me that in the midst of weakness, there is strength and that no trauma is forever."

In Central America, we have done more Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops: Basic workshops in Nicaragua and El Salvador and the first Advanced workshop led by Guatemalan facilitators. Guatemalan facilitators have now co-facilitated all the levels of AVP and are well on their way to being able to work without international presence. ■



Rolling an imaginary ball in a "Light and Lively" game

Join Peacebuilding *en las Américas*' new e-mail bulletin list and receive biweekly updates on events and volunteer opportunities in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. E-mail: PLA@friendspeaceteams.org to join the list.

Rocket Stoves Take Off

Replacing the open fire cooking methods with rocket stoves has been one of the major projects in Baruk Induk, the refugee settlement in Northern Sumatra where Nadine Hoover has spent much of her time during her current Indonesia Initiative trip. The rocket stoves use little fuel, require wood small in diameter and length, and produce little smoke. The smoke is taken out of the dwelling by a chimney, leaving the indoor air much cleaner. The rocket stoves are being introduced in many places where people still cook over open fires. Because the stoves use much less wood and produce less pollution, they should decrease the cutting of the forests and the number of

respiratory illnesses. Since they boil water faster and guide the smoke out of the dwelling, cooks should be pleased.

Jamie Carestio, a ceramic potter from western New York who has extensive experience with kilns, has been assisting Pak Ali, a brick maker from Bustanul Fakri, an orphanage in Langsa near the coast of Sumatra. Jamie wished to let Ali lead the kiln building and firing of the homemade brick in Baruk Induk. They started the firing when the air began to cool one afternoon. As the evening wore on, Jamie and Nadine kept trying to get Ali to pick up the fire. At 11:30 pm, Jamie and Nadine finally dragged five huge piles of dry palm branches to the kiln and loaded them on. The fire went from red to blue to white. They piled enough on top to get a solid foot of ash to close the top, then closed the kiln's air vents and left it to fire for the rest of the night. They picked the fire up from 330 degrees centigrade to 600 or 650, by Nadine's estimation. Pak Ali was shocked.

In the morning Nadine tried to get Pak Ali to help her open the kiln. Jamie was sound asleep. Pak Ali told the other Indonesians it would be three days before they could open it. Nadine went down and began pulling the ash off the top to let the heat out. Slowly, then, they lifted the bricks off the top and set them out. The bricks were great! Light, orange, strong – perfect! Everyone was amazed. Their firings had been just drying out the clay, not firing

it. They made more than 350 insulated bricks to contain the fire boxes and heat chambers for the rocket stoves.

Then they went from house to house and made enough cob for each house from clay in their yards, sand from the river, and dry grass from the field. Cob is a building material, much like adobe, made of clay, sand, straw, water, and earth. It is fireproof and can be made in many locales from easily available materials. It has regained respect in the green movement and for use by refugees. They made drawings, then laid up the stoves one by one with the fire bricks, forming the cob around the bricks. They cut and prepared bamboo chimneys and built metal racks for the firebox and chimney tops to keep the rain out. Everyone in the families from toddlers to great grandparents helped. All of them were filthy for a week. Nadine said that people were shocked to see foreigners working in the mud!

Marti, one of the men of Baruk Induk, has used his stove to boil and fry, and says it works great. The others are still waiting the three to five days for the cob to dry before using their stoves. The men are pleased and tell great stories about the stoves in the coffee shop. Nadine is anxious to see what the wives think once they've used them. Men and women both cook, but women do most of the cooking. They will provide the real test of the stoves. ■

Friends Peace Teams

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. FPT's programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

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From the Editor

Although this spring's newsletter is short, we want you to know that the projects of each of the Friends Peace Teams are moving forward. Each project has its own problems, of course, and each has experienced wonderful accomplishments. You get a summary of some of the latter in the report from the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI).

Each Initiative also has its own wonderful individual stories. You'll get a taste of one of those from Indonesia.

And, each Initiative has on-going plans for the kind of peace work that folks in particular communities request. You have a sample of that from Latin America.

Each project has opportunities for volunteers from teenagers to oldsters this summer. The oldsters may know where the resources lie or have special expertise; the youth will be carrying the projects forward. Think of someone, old or young, in your community, church, meeting or yearly meeting who could contribute to and learn from such an experience. Encourage and support them with funds and clearness committees. Such work is a spiritual commitment.

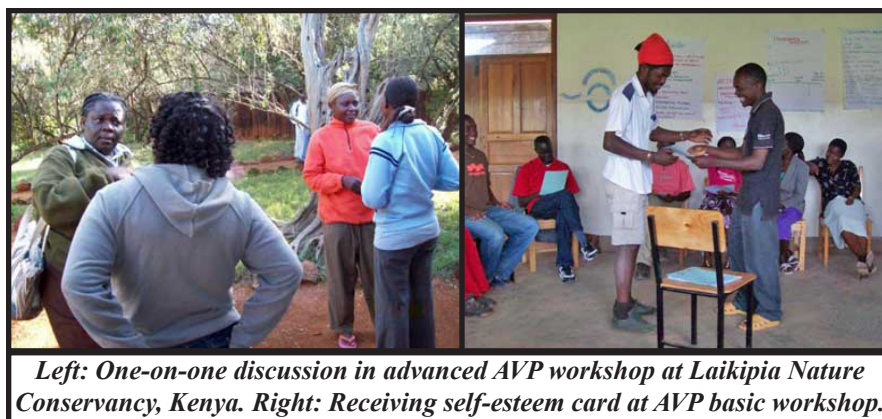
Finally, remember that communication goes two ways. We would enjoy receiving your letters, comments, questions and suggestions.

Working towards peace,

Sharon Hoover

AGLI Accomplishments

In 2008, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) had projects in Burundi, Rwanda, North/South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Uganda. There were 390 events ranging from one-day listening sessions to two-week Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) trainings. A total of 10,554 people participated in these events. After the post-election violence in Kenya at the beginning of 2008, AGLI's partner Friends for Peace and Community Development conducted 58 listening sessions for 1216 participants; 151 Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops for 3,335 participants; and the introduction of the HROC program with 14 workshops for 343 participants. AGLI also supported 242 orphans/students.



The many accomplishments of AGLI and its partners include:

- The Friends Women's Association's Kamenge Clinic met the standards required, is now recognized as an official clinic by the Burundi Ministry of Health, and is therefore able to do blood testing for malaria and HIV.
- AGLI conducted four five-week summer work camps in Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya.
- The Bududa Vocational Institute supported 34 students in four programs. It also provided short computer courses.
- AGLI sponsored three speaking tours of the United States by staff members of our African partners. The AGLI coordinator made three speaking tours to the United States and one to England and Scotland.
- AGLI, with its Kenyan partner, Friends for Peace and Community Development, hosted the AVP International Gathering for 115 AVP facilitators from around the world.
- Malesi Kinaro was released for peacemaking work during the year - the first released Friend in Kenya.

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AGLI, continued from page 3

- Four issues of *PeaceWays-AGLI* were distributed with a production run of 6500 each.
- *Friends Journal*, *The Friend* (England), *Peaceworks*, *Comunidad Segura English* (Brazil), and numerous local publications printed AGLI articles written by team members.
- AGLI received grants from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) Bequest Fund (for mediation) and the United States Institute of Peace (for AVP in Kenya) and completed grants from the Chace Fund of PYM (AVP with the Turkana and Pokot) and the Drane Family Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Fund (AVP in Rwanda resettlement villages). ■



An outdoor game at an AVP basic workshop in Kenya

Please contribute to the FPT initiatives and to the general fund. Undesignated donations to FPT go to the general fund to cover the costs of *PeaceWays* and provide financial accounting and administrative support to the initiatives. Checks should be made out to "Friends Peace Teams" and mailed to the address at right. Online donations can also be made at friendspeaceteams.org.

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