



Friends Peace Teams Peace Ways

Spring-Summer 2015
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Dreams of the Latin American AVPers (*Los Sueños de los PAVistas en América Latina*)

Written, compiled, and translated by Val Liveoak, coordinator, Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA)

We asked our partners in Latin America to share their dreams with us. I've included their responses in this article.

Guatemala: Friends Peace Teams partner AVP Guatemala recently hired a local woman to work as the Coordinator. For the last five years Saskia Schuitemaker has led the program on a volunteer basis.

Saskia's vision for AVP Guatemala includes developing a sustainable organization with legal Non-governmental Organization (NGO) status. She looks forward to the day when the group receives funding from other NGOs active in Guatemala and from businesses, in exchange for Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in their communities. Saskia hopes to increase support for AVP Guatemala from Friends in New Zealand, her home country.

Besides having a paid coordinator, AVP Guatemala wishes to have 20 active facilitators to lead AVP workshops and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops. This group will meet regularly and participate in continuing education.

AVP Guatemala is working with an alternative middle school in a poor neighborhood of Chimaltenango

where the director of the school dreams of extending AVP into all the schools in her department/state.

Among the facilitators are leaders who hope to extend AVP in their communities and to other communities to which they have ties. One is closely connected to the community of Nebaj, in northern

Guatemala, which suffered greatly during the Civil War in the '80s and '90s. Others are connected to Guatemala Village Health, a group that works in communities on the eastern coast, and has adopted AVP as part of their community development program. Quakers in the southeastern part of Guatemala have had several AVP workshops there.

Honduras: PLA has two programs in Honduras. One is with Tejedoras de Sueños program of the Sisters of Mercy that works with women in poor neighborhoods of San Pedro Sula (the economic capital of Honduras) and nearby cities. This program provides a credit union, training for income-generating work, women's health and spirituality services and advocacy for justice and fair treatment of women.

The group has enthusiastically adopted AVP as a way to promote nonviolence in communities and



Lorena Escobar, the new coordinator of AVP Guatemala (top right) with students at Hope Alternative Middle School in Chimaltenango.

PLA... continued on page 3

By Nadine Hoover of the Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWP)

Planning as a Tool, Spiritual Discernment as Our Guide

Pak Saring, North Sumatra, declared,

Who has been changed by your visits? Me! As a person who is considered an elder and called an Imam, I used to be very violent. I wouldn't give in. But since I have learned that living with violence is a waste, I have tried slowly to become a better and better person, who is of benefit to everyone.

At a critical juncture in our visits, Pak had a question he did not know how to ask. I finally said, "Ah, you want to know what we have promised, and to whom, in order to have the funds to be here."

"Exactly!" he replied.

I explained that we had promised our funders that we would use our best gifts to make plans that would preserve peace. He cocked his head to consider, "So, you and I really do get to make the decisions [plans]?"

I said yes, but noted that we were not free to carry out any plans unless he could explain the wisdom of the workshops to seven thousand refugees and I could explain them to thousands of additional people. If all these people agreed that our decisions



Pak Saring, in Barak Induk, North Sumatra, Indonesia.

rang true in the Spirit that gives forth all life and held up to the tests of discernment, then support would likely continue.

Planning activities is neither easy, nor safe. The reality is we still live in this same, hard world and we always have to take that into account. However, we fervently believe peace is possible as communities connect to other communities. We encourage people to make deliberate choices about how to live. In the past, these choices have led thousands of people in Indonesia:

- to gain identity cards
- to be recognized as full citizens
- to receive land claims, and
- to secure safe haven.

Pak Saring pointed out, "These plans will incur great debt [obligation]." I shared Friends' historic testimony to "settle debts promptly." Not to be debt-free, but to use debt as a short-term flow management tool. He reminded us, "When you are in debt, you are not free to follow your best judgment. So we stay vigilant to keep planning in its place, as an effective tool, but remain open, responsive to life as it unfolds among us.

See also "Asia West Pacific Plans" on page 7. ■

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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help groups work together better. Nelly Delcid, the director, writes,

I hope PLA can raise more funds to support AVP among young people and enlarge the workshops to include mediation, ... and ecology We hope to strengthen educational offerings, chiefly with children and young people, and in all of this we look forward to being accompanied by PLA.

Her co-worker Aida Gonzales adds,

The violence in which young people live has destroyed their hope, put them into a vulnerable state, and makes them likely to get involved in crime or gangs. Indeed, being young in Honduras is a big challenge. Since we live in a permanent state of war, with all the death and suffering that implies, we need to work that much more to heal the pain and losses ...

The second program in Honduras is through the Peace and Justice Program of the Mennonite Church of Honduras. Working in the National Prison El Porvenir men's facility, they have provided AVP workshops to inmates, and soon will train inmates to facilitate workshops in the prison. Ondina Murrillo, the coordinator, writes,

We hope to expand the program in schools, and to young people who are not attending school, who may be involved in gang activities. Also, we want to work in the northern part of the country and see more follow-up for trained AVP facilitators.

El Salvador: The Salvadoran coordinator, Salomon Medina, reports that AVP-El Salvador hopes to continue to focus on



Colombian AVP participants writing on Affirmation Posters, Franciscan Sisters among them. The Franciscan Sisters are the newest group to promote AVP workshops throughout Colombia.

young people, including those in the El Espino juvenile detention center. In addition, they have received several invitations to do workshops at Quaker schools and schools where AVP participants teach.

Colombia: Programs have been delayed because the coordinators have suffered serious diseases including the severe form of Dengue fever, Chikunguña. To make matters worse, the support they hoped to offer a displaced community outside Barranquilla had to be delayed due to death threats made on community leaders. Because facilitators must pursue income-generating

activities, they are often not available to deliver workshops.

All of the dreams detailed above will also require more funds and more fundraising, as well as your prayers. As I move toward retirement, we need new leadership so we can continue to help our partners widen their horizons.

Our Working Group is small. If you know of people interested in Latin America, please send them our way. That said, thank you for all that you have done and given to the work already. ■

Peacebuilding en Las Américas
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In AVP workshops, participants learn and practice trust and caring for others. Trust Circle exercise, El Salvador.

Has HROC Reached the Tipping Point?

Have you read Malcomb Gladwell's *The Tipping Point*? The essence of the book is that any new innovation, concept, book, gadget, fashion, etc. either reaches a certain point where it is accepted by the larger society or dies because it does not "catch on" with the general public. The book goes to great lengths to show how some things become accepted in the world. There is a clamor of new gizmos and ideas competing to pass that tipping point. Very few succeed.

Has the Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) program developed by AGLI reached the tipping point or am I just dreaming?

The HROC basic workshop was developed in Rwanda and Burundi in 2003. The next four years were spent refining the workshop, developing follow-up, planning community celebrations, creating an advanced workshop, and training four-person teams of healing companions who solve issues as they arise in their communities. In 2007 and 2008, AGLI tried the program in other countries/cultures. We introduced it to Kenya and to North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These introductions went well but AGLI did not have the resources to continue introducing it into other countries. In 2011 AGLI began the HROC International Trainings. Interest came from the United States, northern Uganda, and Nigeria. While there were some initial workshops, the program did not "catch fire," meaning that there weren't sufficient resources to launch a large successful on-going program.

Last year that all changed. Catholic Relief Services in the Central African Republic twice brought AGLI teams in to introduce the program and this year they have hired Florence Ntakarutimana from HROC-Burundi to guide their HROC program. Meanwhile the Church of the Brethren in northern Nigeria sent four people to our 2014 HROC International Training in Rwanda. They returned and did a few workshops. Now the Church of the Brethren, Alternatives to Violence-Nigeria and the Mennonite Central Committee-Nigeria are working together to launch a concerted HROC program in northern Nigeria, sending seven more people from



Florence Ntakarutimana explaining the symptoms of trauma in Obo, Central African Republic.



Trust walk in Ngovi, South Kivu HROC workshop, June 2014.

four organizations to the February HROC training. Meanwhile in South Kivu, the Mennonite Central Committee volunteer decided to promote HROC in North and South Kivu and received a substantial grant from MCC to do so.

Does this mean that HROC has reached its tipping point? Perhaps. Perhaps not. It depends upon how the new programs do. If they are successful in these various settings, then HROC will move

forward, hopefully at an increasing pace. If things are not so successful, we will just keep plugging away. Either way, the recognition and support the HROC program is now receiving in so many new places is an exciting development. ■

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By Amy Rebecca Marsico

Scaling Up: A Clinic in Transition

On September 6, 2013, the Friends Women's Association (FWA) in Burundi was accredited by the national Ministry of Health to dispense antiretroviral (ARV) treatment to its stage 3 and 4 HIV+ patients. HIV/AIDS is a cruel disease. Without access to ARV drugs, most HIV+ people will live only three years.

Not long after I arrived, Dr. Alexia patiently took me through the litany of requirements we had to fulfill before dispensing medication. It wasn't enough to have accreditation or that ARV treatment is free in Burundi. We had to determine eligibility, too. ARV treatment is only appropriate if someone has stage 3 or 4 of the disease.

Over the next few months the staff of FWA worked tirelessly to scale up services. The government paired us with FHI360. That international non-profit was tasked with training our medical staff on ARV dispensation and side effects.

We also formed a partnership with the Association Burundaise pour le bien-être familial (ABUBEF), a non-profit with the necessary lab equipment to determine eligibility for ARV treatment.

Despite some challenges, the system is working! Our first shipment of ARV medications and brand new cabinets for medicine and files has arrived. Under the mentorship of FHI360, we have added pre-natal consultations and testing in order to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Every Thursday, our newly diagnosed HIV patients get their blood drawn in preparation for two tests—the CD4 test, which determines a person's stage of HIV, and the Complete Blood Count (CBC) test which determines whether the body can handle the side effects from the drugs used in the ARV treatments.

The CD4 test is free but each CBC test costs \$3.16. Based on our current numbers, Dr Alexia estimates that each of the approximately 60 patients receiving ARV treatment will need to have the test five times a year. Though \$3.16 for a CBC test sounds like an extremely small



FWA nurse Claire Kamugisha, with the first shipment of ARV treatment!

sum, FWA does not have the budget for these tests. Paying for the CBC tests and transporting the blood will cost FWA \$1124 annually. Each step forward brings new problems to solve ■

African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) sponsored the start of the Friends Women's Association in 2002 and has been its main sponsor since then. Amy Rebecca Marsico is an AGLI Extended Service Volunteer working with FWA.



An Invitation to PeaceQuest 2015

PeaceQuest2014 in Baltimore was so successful that we are going to do it again with PeaceQuest2015.

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, IN.

This is a day for peace-action training; join peace activists from all over the world to learn and celebrate peacemaking techniques!

Mary Lord, Quaker peace activist, co-founder and first co-clerk of Friends Peace Teams, will be the keynote speaker.

Interactive workshops will run in four tracks: Personal, Local, Global and Parent/Child.

The registration fee is \$20, lunch included. No charge for children up to 16 years of age, and childcare will be provided. Scholarships are available. We will endeavor to assist with accommodations for visitors to Richmond.

To register or for more information, contact David Zarembka at dave@aglifpt.org. See the PeaceQuest2015 announcement on the FPT website, friendspeaceteams.org. ■

By Tom Martin and Nancy Shippen

An Invitation from Friends Peace Teams Council

Friends Peace Teams (FPT), now 21 years old (!), provides Friends' nurturing care for those engaged in peace work around the world. We abide by our beliefs, live into our values, and use the very peace tools we offer in all our workshops and projects in our meetings. In the manner of Friends we commit to being a listening presence to those we serve.

Please join us as you are led.

The Council is the governing body of FPT. Those serving are representatives of yearly meetings, coordinators of the global initiatives, members of the initiative working groups, officers of the FPT corporation, and other Friends so led. We focus on keeping the infrastructure solid and expenses low to assure a reliable, trustworthy, Spirit-led organization, grounded in practices of the Religious Society of Friends. We meet challenges with faithful discernment and make decisions carefully. We pledge to keep administrative and fundraising expenses to the small percentage that Quakers applaud and affirm. We trust that diligent and faithful work in the four focus areas below will bear good fruit and bolster our fundraising results to match the growth of Quaker peace work around the world.

Publicity and Outreach

- Connect with yearly meetings not yet affiliated—currently exploring affiliation with Aotearoa/New Zealand
- Engage with FUM yearly meetings, inviting their participation
- Seek new ways to reach Friends unfamiliar with Friends Peace Teams
- Offer an annual Peace Quest event—workshops and interest groups on our peace work

Communications

- Revise and enhance our websites to illustrate the full range of our work
- Enhance our presence on social media such as Facebook and Twitter
- Find new ways to publicize our work
- Invite Friends to engage in peacebuilding under our care
- Encourage peace workers to share widely their experiences and lessons learned

Infrastructure

- Increase the transparency of our income and expenses
- Seek more ways to engage with affiliated yearly meetings through their Council representatives
- Establish and document the process for adding new initiatives under our care
- Review the processes in place for leadership succession

Initiatives and Council Members

- Welcome and mentor new Council members
- Keep current Council members fully informed about the work and their important roles
- Update job descriptions for officers, part-time staff, and committees
- Expand ways to share innovations in techniques, tools, and workshops

Serving with FPT—on a peace team, with an initiative working group, or on the Council—nurtures us all and provides hard-to-match opportunities for joy. ■

FPT council contact:
clerk@friendspeaceteams.org

Welcome Kirsten Mandala



In January, Kirsten Mandala joined FPT as Communications Specialist, working on our websites, social media presence, brochures, table displays, etc. She has been an extended service volunteer several times with the African Great Lakes Initiative. ■

Asia West Pacific Plans

Current plans for early 2015 include visiting, training, and speaking in the following areas:

Gangchon, Seoul, and Daejon, South Korea

We have an extensive tour scheduled to these regions. In all our interactions, we hope to shape the national public dialogue about peace.

Pati, Central Java Province, Indonesia

This area will be the location of an international training about transforming power, trauma, and developmental play for peace. Participants from around the world run educational programs, the FPT guesthouse in Pati, and maintain relationships with several Islamic study centers and schools. They plan to establish an office to coordinate ongoing Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops and religious inter-visitation.

Jerusalem, Hebron, and Ramallah of Israel and Palestine

We will explore bringing Israelis and Palestinians together with inter-visitation and discover what such a program might offer and require of us.

Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces of Indonesia

Rural areas have been decimated by thirty years of war. We will conduct workshops on trauma in isolated villages.

Bohol, Philippines

We will use AVP training to strengthen Friends, so that they feel confident visiting areas suffering from violence. The end goal is to expand the pool



AVP Basic Workshop, Hebron, West Bank, Palestine, May 2014.



AVP Basic workshop, Bohol, Philippines, 2014. Some students hold pieces of a Transforming Power mandala with principles such as "Expect the Best," "Respect for Self," "Care for Others," and "Think before Reacting."

of AVP facilitators conducting workshops on their own.

Nepal

We will renew and nurture relationships in the Kathmandu Valley where AVP Nepal began. This group works in collaboration with Children Nepal and the Humanities Department of the University in Surkhet (mid-western Nepal).

We also continue work on the following projects:

Water Filter Research and Development

We aim to produce an inexpensive ceramic filter at 99.999% clean that does not "shed" dust from the material into the water.

Power of Goodness

This traveling exhibition of original artwork by children from around the world illustrates stories of nonviolence, healing, and reconciliation. We support Peacebuilding UK in their efforts to translate this global story pool into Ukrainian.

Likewise, translators in Indonesia and Nepal are working to translate stories into local languages. We hope this will lead to the recording and illustrating of more stories. See examples of pictures from *Power of Goodness* on the back page.

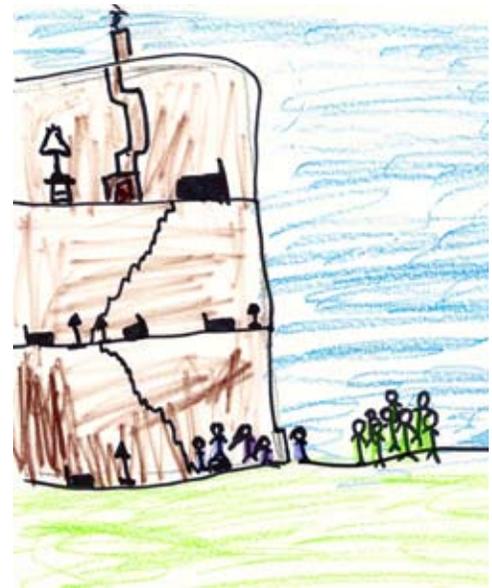
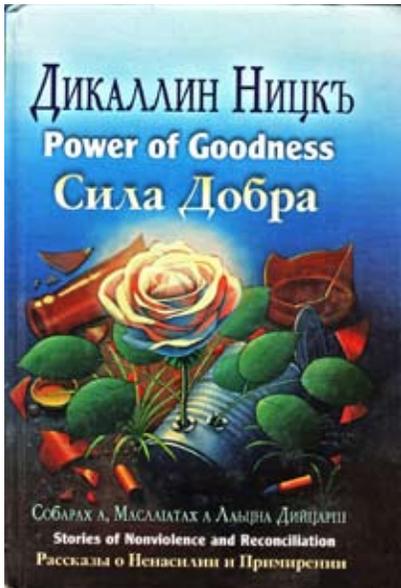
We in AWP continue to appreciate that FPT directs one hundred percent of our time and funds directly to the work at hand. Please consider visiting with us or supporting our efforts with funds earmarked to FPT/AWP or any of the areas named above.

View the FPT-AWP video at: vimeo.com/110023681. Sally Herzfeld gave a terrific talk about FPT, AWP, and AVP at Australia Yearly Meeting 2015. Order it at: ipoz.biz/Titles/Quakers.htm. ■



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Artwork from *Power of Goodness*

See “Asia West Pacific Plans,” page 7. The book cover is shown upper left. Proceeding clockwise, pictures from the book are by Said Khamzat Nunuev of Chechnya, for the story “Kunta Hadji”; by Yousef Bashir of Palestine, for the story “To Forgive is Divine”, by Carol Passmore of the United States, for the story “New Girl in School”; and another by Yousef Bashir for “To Forgive is Divine.”



To read the stories and see more pictures, go to the Story Pool at www.power-of-goodness.info.

Please contribute to the Friends Peace Teams Initiatives and to the general fund. Undesignated donations to FPT go to the general fund to provide shared administrative support to the Initiatives, publish PeaceWays, and maintain the website. Donations may also be designated for the initiatives. Checks in U.S. dollars should be made out to “Friends Peace Teams” and mailed to 1001 Park Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63104-3720 USA. Donations can be made online at www.friendspeaceteams.org. Other options for donating to the African Great Lakes Initiative and the Asia West Pacific Initiative are available on those initiatives’ websites, www.aglifpt.org and www.fpt-awp.org.