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The Center for Reconciliation

Spring 2007 Update

<http://www.divinity.duke.edu/reconciliation>

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Advancing God's mission of reconciliation in a divided world through cultivating leaders, research and resources, and connecting with places of pain and hope

Connections are deepening in the African Great Lakes region

Center Hosts Gathering of Christian Leaders in Uganda

The Center convened a [major gathering in Kampala](#), Uganda in November of 40 Christian leaders from nine countries to reflect on the search for peace in the African Great Lakes region of Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Uganda and the Sudan. The focus was on how a Biblical vision of reconciliation might offer fresh resources in dealing with the urgent challenges of conflict there. The Center is discerning ways to respond to the needs which emerged from the gathering. Present from the Center were co-directors Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice, board chair Nancy Rich, and PhD student John Kiess. Co-convenors included the Mennonite Central Committee, World Vision, and African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM).

Blood Brothers author shared his journey of pain and hope

Elias Chacour Visits Duke

Three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Elias Chacour spent four days in Durham and at Duke in March. Chacour is Archbishop of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, president of Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Galilee, Israel, and author of **Blood Brothers**. The Center hosted a breakfast with seminarians and a public conversation moderated by Dean L. Gregory Jones. The Durham Herald-Sun tells the story of [Divinity student Michelle Shrader](#), the catalyst for Chacour's visit. Michelle will be the Center's first alumni fellow this fall.

Chris and Phileena Heuertz of Word Made Flesh visit this fall

Announcing Our Fall 2007 Visiting Practitioner Fellows

We are grateful to announce that Chris and Phileena Heuertz, leaders of the international ministry Word Made Flesh, will be at Duke this fall semester as the Center's Visiting Practitioner

A new column is featured on the Center's Web site

Fellows. Chris was recently featured in Christianity Today's Christian Vision Project ("[A Community of the Broken](#)," February 2007). With 200 staff, Word Made Flesh focuses on serving Christ among the poorest of the poor throughout the world.

See New Web Site Reflections

Read "[Journeys of Reconciliation](#)," a new periodic reflection by Emmanuel and Chris, posted on the Center's Web site.

Noteworthy

The [Center for Reconciliation video](#) won an award in the 28th Annual Telly Award competition. Congratulations to Susan and Ray Ellis of Footpath Pictures for their great work.

Emmanuel is teaching the course "Rwandan Genocide: Challenge for the Church" this semester to a class of 40 students.

2nd annual Teaching Communities apprenticeships begin in May

In May, six Master of Divinity students begin 10-week [Teaching Communities](#) apprenticeships at L'Arche Daybreak, Canada; Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.; Circle Urban Ministries, Chicago; John Perkins Foundation, Jackson, Miss.; and New Song Church and Urban Ministries, Baltimore. Pray for rich and transformational experiences.

Good news from advisory board members

Honorary board member John Perkins is featured in a March *Christianity Today* article "[Grandpa John: A New Generation of Urban Activists is Being Shaped by John Perkins](#)." This summer M.Div. student Eric Vogt will be serving a teaching communities placement with Perkins' ministry. Another board member, Curtiss DeYoung, has just published "Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Social Justice." [See the Sojourners magazine review](#).

We are close to announcing the launch of a Small Books Series on Reconciliation in partnership with a major publisher. Stay posted...

We are grateful to God for four students and recent alumni offering part-time service to the Center: Amanda Earp, John Kiess, Chanequa Walker-Barnes, and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove.

...And how hard it is to say goodbye to Kate Goodall, the Center's assistant, whom we often call "the Center of the Center." Kate and her husband Jonathan are moving to Columbia, S.C. where Jon will teach at the University of South Carolina. We will greatly miss Kate's vibrant presence, and we and wish her and Jon God's blessings on a new chapter (and a

*How L'Arche's life
with the disabled
speaks to the call
to gentleness*

*The Center will
present at Duke's
Alumni Weekend*

baby on the way!)).

Recommended Resources

Divinity professor Stanley Hauerwas has engaged in two recent public conversations with Jean Vanier, founder of [L'Arche](#), one of the Center's five Teaching Communities partnerships. See Hauerwas' reflections on L'Arche, "[The Politics of Gentleness](#)."

Listen to the March 21 Duke event, "[Lessons of Caution and Promise from South Africa and Greensboro for Durham](#)," featuring Peter Storey, professor emeritus of Duke Divinity School and former Methodist bishop of South Africa; Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president, NAACP-NC; Cynthia Brown, commissioner of the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and moderator and Divinity professor J. Kameron Carter.

Upcoming Events At the Center

April 12-13: Center for Reconciliation Advisory Board Meeting.

April 14: [Duke Alumni Weekend](#): "Journeys from Brokenness to Hope: Reconciliation in Africa." Chris Rice, Emmanuel Katongole, Nancy Rich and John Kiess offer a university-wide presentation.

April 18: Emmanuel lectures on "Postmodern theologies and/or postcolonial identities? African Theology in the 21st Century" at [Garrett Theological Seminary](#).

April 19: Emmanuel speaks on "[Witness of the Body: Past, Present and Future Of Christian Martyrdom](#)" at DePaul University Catholic Studies Program.

July 15 – Aug 8: [Rwanda/Uganda Pilgrimage of Pain & Hope](#) led by Emmanuel, administered by Rev. Tiffney Marley and the Office of Black Church Studies.

Words to Ponder

"Responding to the insanity of human strife and warfare, and using language just as relevant today as in his own age, Charles Wesley cries out in prayer for the healing of a broken world:

'Our earth we now lament to see
With floods of wickedness o'erflowed;
With violence, wrong, and cruelty
One wide-extended field of blood,
Where men like fiends each other tear,
In all the hellish rage of war.

O might the universal Friend
This havoc of His creatures see!
Bid our unnatural discord end;
Declare us reconciled in Thee!
Write kindness on our inward parts
And chase the murderer from our hearts!' "

From a paper by Divinity visiting professor Paul Chilcote, "[John and Charles Wesley on 'God in Christ Reconciling.'](#)" quoting Charles Wesley's hymn "[On Earth We Now Lament to See](#)"