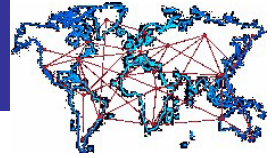


GLOBAL NETWORK FOR RECONCILIATION

Pursuing God's mission of reconciliation...



GNR NEWSLETTER

TRAINING IN KISANGANI (CONGO)

by Rev. Manasse Mbusa Thaluliba (A.L.A.R.M. Congo)

Kisangani is the 3rd economic pool in the country of Congo. But it has been ruined by the civil war. All the roads that used to bring life to the town are no longer operational. The River Congo is no longer used the way it used to be because of lack of security on it. Everything coming into the town is done by plane. This makes life unbearable and very expensive. The only hope of the town would be the church but lack of leadership training makes the church unable to face the challenges of the time and use the offered opportunities to witness for the gospel of Jesus.

During the last civil war, the Ugandan and Rwandese troops that were backing the rebels fought in the town to control the town known for its diamond resources. Many people were killed, houses were ruthlessly destroyed, people are homeless, many children have become orphans in the town and many women have become widows. Many women have raped and have been HIV AIDS.

There is hope! That is what we discovered after the week we spent there. It is our prayer that the Lord will raise up disciples and disciplers as well as new Christian leaders committed to discipleship and reconciliation.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1
MAY 2006



UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Meeting—Africa

February 2007

Kigali, Rwanda

(more details to follow)

If you are interested in participating or learning more about this event, please contact [Voltaire Caca](#).

ECONI CHANGES IT'S NAME...



The transition from ECONI to the Centre for Contemporary Christianity is now well advanced. We have been delighted with the many positive responses to our new name and logo. Hopefully, as our new programme takes shape over the coming year, you will find much in the new that addresses the needs of our diverse communities and churches as we share in the mission of God to our world.

However, some things won't change. The new website welcomes visitors with Paul's words, writing to the church in Colossae, 'For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.' (Col 1:19-20) This, as Paul goes on to say, is the good news. And for us at the Centre for Contemporary Christianity, it is at the heart of biblical faith for a changing world.

During our transition, we have been involved in a significant new initiative with others from countries where conflict has demanded a faith where reconciliation is not an optional extra. Last October, David Porter took part in the reconciliation issue group at the Lausanne Forum for World Evangelisation in Thailand. Led by Chris Rice (USA), Celestin Muskura (Rwanda) and Moss Ntsha (South Africa), fifty participants met to explore the challenge of reconciliation as the mission of God.

The group shared their experiences of many of the world's deepest conflicts and discussed a paper, prepared by the leadership team. The result of this reflection is now available in a booklet, launched on 8 April when representatives from the Thailand group met in Coventry. This document was the last public initiative with which we identified as ECONI.

The event also marked the formation of a new Global Network for Reconciliation. Celestin Muskura will lead a small international leadership team, including our Director, David Porter. Commitment to this network is one of the first acts of the new Centre. It affirms our ongoing commitment to reconciliation and is a major step in developing a key activity of the new Centre – sharing with people from other parts of the world.

'The 1974 Lausanne Covenant made social justice a new priority in Evangelical mission. We have always been part of that stream and want the new Centre to contribute to and learn from a global church that is engaged in these priorities,' said David.

SUDANESE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP CONSULTATION

The Sudan Evangelical Alliance was formally registered in the Southern Sudan in November 2003. In April 2004, in partnership with ALARM, the Sudan Evangelical Alliance was able to bring together for Sudanese Church leaders from both the Northern and Southern Sudan for a consultation on cooperation and working together. At the end of the Consultation, all leaders at the consultation unanimously approved SEA and many registered as members. This consultation was the first to bring all evangelical denominations (including those members of the Sudan Council of Churches) together for the first time in 20 years.

This year, from March 13th through 17th, ALARM organized the Sudanese Strategic Leadership Consultation that brought together leaders from all major denominations from Khartoum and Southern Sudan. The consultation was held in Yei, Southern Sudan and 60 leaders representing all major denominations serving in the whole country of Sudan attended the consultation. The goal was to develop together a strategic plan that Churches will rally behind together in view of the political and religious changes happening in the Sudan and in response to the current strategy of Islam to Islamize the Southern Sudan through education, medical facilities, and relief.

"I have never seen such a spirit of unity and togetherness among different national denominations like I witnessed last week in Sudan," said Celestin Musekura (Interim General Secretary, Sudan Evangelical Alliance). On the second day, the leaders worked on a purpose or mission statement that will guide their efforts. After discussing this in five different groups, the leaders came up with one statement that summarized common themes that were occurring in different discussions and different groups. The adopted purpose statement for the Sudanese Church is "***To Glorify God by empowering the community through holistic ministry resulting in transformed life.***"

After discussing current needs and ministry opportunities in the country of Sudan, the delegates identified five key ministry areas that the church of Sudan is committed to deal with together as a body of believers: These areas are: (1) Economic Empowerment, (2) Evangelism and Discipleship, (3) Education and Training; (4) Health and Sanitation, and (5) Counseling/Reconciliation and Rehabilitation.

At the end of the consultation, all leaders unanimously decided that these five areas will constitute the Commissions of Sudan Evangelical Alliance. Members of these commissions were elected from groups that worked on these areas. A committee of five key church leaders was put in place to follow-up on these commissions. The Sudanese Church leaders invited ALARM not only to continue providing the direction, mentoring SEA leaders and partnering with SEA in those areas of our expertise but they also asked ALARM to help in enlisting support from the Evangelical community worldwide.

Rev. Celestin Musekura has been acting as the Interim General Secretary of the Sudan Evangelical Alliance since its foundation and is mentoring its leadership until the end of 2007. He is requesting the community of all Evangelicals to take this golden opportunity to support, encourage, and partner with Sudan Evangelical Alliance which has potentials to change Sudan and Africa for Christ in the next few years. The time is now for AEA to stand behind the brethren in the Sudan.

www.reconciliationnetwork.com

Questions or comments? E-mail us at voltaire@reconciliationnetwork.com.