

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR RECONCILIATION

Pursuing God's mission of reconciliation...



GNR NEWSLETTER

HOW DO WE FORM CHRISTIANS WHO SAY 'NO' TO KILLING?

The question was posed last summer in Rwanda by a major church leader, reflecting on the 1994 genocide. The people in the Great Lakes region of eastern/central Africa (Uganda, Southern Sudan, Rwanda, eastern Congo, Burundi) continue to experience great social turmoil and political conflict—from AIDS to civil war. Almost 70 percent of the population is Christian. So how does being Christian make a difference in confronting these challenges? Duke University's *Center for Reconciliation* is working with leaders from four practice-based partners to design a leadership training initiative grounded in a biblical and practical framework: World Vision International, the Mennonite Central Committee, Africa Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, and the Global Network for Reconciliation. A small catalytic gathering in November in Kampala, Uganda will bring together 30 key regional Christian leaders to share stories of pain and hope, listen to what is going on, and design a vision. More information on the Center for Reconciliation may be found at www.divinity.duke.edu/programs/center.

YOUNG ADULT DESERT ENCOUNTER

Israeli and Palestinian young adults are now being invited to sign up for Musalaha's annual trip to the beautiful desert of Wadi Rum from October 7-11. This encounter is a great opportunity for young adults to build relationships with people from the other side, to pray and praise God together, and to learn from Scripture. Please pray that God will lead the right people to participate in this encounter, and that their hearts will be prepared. Pray for safety and easy passage through the Jordanian-Israeli border. More information on Musalaha may be found at www.musalaha.org.

NORTHERN IRELAND PRACTITIONER TEACHING THIS FALL

David Porter, a member of the GNR Leadership Team and leading witness for peace amid the Protestant-Catholic 'troubles' in Northern Ireland, arrived in August with his wife, Fran, as Duke University's *Center for Reconciliation's* first Visiting Practitioner Fellow. Porter, co-founder and director of the Belfast-based Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland, is teaching a course to 25 students and writing a book around "Thinking Biblically, Building Peace: Perspectives on Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation from the Northern Ireland Experience." David preached at the Sept. 7 divinity school chapel service and will speak to churches in Durham on a date to be decided. More information on the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland may be found at www.contemporarychristianity.org.

BURUNDI DEDICATED TO GOD

When Jehoshaphat became King of Judah (2 Chron. 17), he recognized that it happened because of the power of God. In turn, he knew that God who gave him the responsibility to lead His people should be entrusted with the guidance and the protection of the Kingdom. Jehoshaphat dedicated his Kingdom to God and as he appointed leaders of various activities, he commanded them to do everything in the fear of the Lord. (Chron. 19). As a result, even when kings from other nations plotted to fight against Judah, God himself fought the battle. (Chron. 20). His Excellency the President of Burundi Pierre Nkurunziza and his wife have understood well how important it is to dedicate the nation to the Living God. This truth is attested to by the fact that they organized Christian Crusades to dedicate the country to God.

As mentioned above the wife of the President with her husband organized a Christian rally to dedicate the country to God in Ngozi, Muyinga and Gitega Provinces. The first was held in Ngozi from August 18 to August 20, 2006. Pastors and Christians from various parts of the nation gathered together in order to join their hands for the ceremony of dedication. The theme is from Ezekiel 33:19 "And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so!" More information on Burundi may be found at the ALARM website (www.alarm-inc.org).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Meeting—Africa
February 19-23, 2007
Kigali, Rwanda



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