

# PeaceWays **AGLI**

Spring 2012 Volume VII Issue I

## Healing Wounded Hearts:



**AGLI's Programs in  
Central and East Africa**



The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Teams strengthens, supports, and promotes peace activities at the grassroots level in the Great Lakes region of Africa (Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda). To this end, AGLI responds to requests from local religious and non-governmental organizations that focus on conflict management, peace building, trauma healing, and reconciliation. AGLI sponsors Peace Teams composed of members from local partners and the international community.

Visit AGLI's website at:  
[www.aglifpt.org](http://www.aglifpt.org)

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**PeaceWaysAGLI**

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# Editorial Comment

In November 2011, my wife, Gladys, and I did a three-week speaking tour in England, Scotland, and Wales. At my presentations I outlined the work of the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams and suggested that Britain Yearly Meeting could join Friends Peace Teams since communication costs by Skype and phone were now so cheap. At the end of the tour, I realized that AGLI had never produced an issue of *PeaceWays-AGLI* that described all of our programs in one place. This issue of *PeaceWays-AGLI* gives a brief overview of each of the various programs we have started and supported over the last fourteen years.

There are a number of interesting aspects to the following reports:

- It is only when I started counting all the programs and projects that AGLI is involved with that I marveled at our progress in promoting peace building in the African Great Lakes region.
- The worth of our programs has been certified with the influx of cooperation from other organizations. At one time AGLI developed programs by itself – introducing AVP and transformative mediation, developing the HROC program, helping to start the Kamenge Clinic of the Friends Women's Association in Burundi and the Bududa Vocational Institute in Uganda. If you look at the authors of the reports, you will find great diversity. But, in addition to the AGLI program coordinators, there is a Mennonite Central Committee volunteer, a Peace and Social Witness (UK) peacemaker, a Global Health Corp fellow, a Canadian work camper who has remained involved in the Bududa programs, and a former American extended service volunteer who has traveled to the region four times with AGLI. As the programs have expanded and matured, AGLI would have been unable to accomplish this all by ourselves.
- Our dedicated African staff, numerous volunteers over the years, and the financial resources of our supporters have been the building blocks for the success of these programs.
- AGLI's concept is not the short term of a year or two but the long term, sticking with the same program as it develops and changes over time. AGLI is like the long distance runners that are the main athletic achievement of people from this region, not a flashy sprinter.
- When I was in high school I realized that if I didn't spend money, I wouldn't have to make it. This has allowed me personally to not be captured completely by the rat race. I have used this frugality in the financing of AGLI. Our annual budget is around \$300,000 per year. AGLI stretches the dollar a long way.

*David Zarembka*  
AGLI Coordinator

Cover photo: Florence Ntakarutimana demonstrating good listening during HROC workshop in Burundi. *Photo by Elin Henrysson.*

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## HROC Training Opportunites

### HROC Basic Workshops in the United States

Dates: May 23 to 25, 2012 before AVP-USA

Location: Annual Gathering at Brethren Center, New Windsor, Maryland

Facilitators: Adrien Niyongabo, Bill Jacobsen and others

Dates: May 30, June 1 and 2, 2012

Location: Stony Run Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

Facilitators: Adrien Niyongabo, Bill Jacobsen, Anne Swoyer and Amy Cox

### International HROC Facilitator Training

*HROC International Training in the United States*

Dates: June 17 to 30, 2012

Location: Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point, New York

Cost: \$1,700 per person (Scholarship Assistance Available)

Trainers: Adrien Niyongabo and others

*HROC International Training in Gisenyi, Rwanda*

Dates: July 29 to August 18, 2012

Location: Gisenyi, Rwanda

Cost: \$800 per person

Trainers: Theoneste Bizimana, Zawadi Nikuse, Adrien Niyongabo and Florence Ntakarutimana



Adrien Niyongabo of HROC-Burundi leading training on Self Help Group Procedures. *Photo by Elin Henrysson.*

For further information contact David Zarembka, AGLI Coordinator at [dave@aglifpt.org](mailto:dave@aglifpt.org)

# Awareness

David Zarembka, AGLI Coordinator

When AGLI began in 1998, it was clear that many American Quakers had little knowledge or understanding of the conflicts in Rwanda, Burundi, eastern Congo, Kenya, and Uganda. Moreover there was little discussion of how the Quakers in the region were impacted by events there and the peacemaking work that they were doing. One of AGLI's objectives became to educate Westerners and to promote greater awareness of the African Great Lakes region of the world. When I thought about this objective, I also wanted audience to hear the African voices. To this end, AGLI has the following activities.

## Speaking tours by African partners

Early in 2001, AGLI brought its first group of speakers to the United States when Adrien Niyongabo, Charles Berahino, and Carolyn Keys (then an AGLI volunteer) came to tell Americans about the trauma healing work they were doing in Burundi. This tour was so successful that it made me realize it was invaluable to bring our partners from Africa to speak directly about their experiences. Since that time, AGLI has organized twenty-six tours to the United States, two to England, and one to Canada. We try to organize two or three speaking tours each year. Our biggest problem has been to get our young African speakers a visa to enter the country where they are supposed to speak. We have failed four times in receiving the visa.

## PeaceWays-AGLI

From the first AGLI delegation in January 1999, AGLI has written reports of its activities. These were sent to the donors to explain how their funding was used. As time went on these reports became an

outreach tool to inform people of AGLI's work and the issues in the region. Then in November 2003, Adrien Niyongabo and Peter Yeomans conducted an assessment of the Alternative to Violence program in Rwanda: *I Still Believe that There is Good in All People*. This was AGLI's first substantial report. In winter of 2005, AGLI published its first report as the new periodical of *PeaceWays-AGLI*. Since that time AGLI has published two or three issues of *PeaceWays-AGLI* each year. To subscribe, send your name and address to me at [dave@aglifpt.org](mailto:dave@aglifpt.org).

## AGLI Listserve

In early 2007, my wife, Gladys, and I moved to Kenya. In order to keep people more updated than a publication every four to six months, I began writing *Reports from Kenya* via email. I covered topics that I thought would interest people and also forwarded interesting reports, testimonies, and activities from our African partners. I usually posted something every week or so. During the post-election Kenyan violence in January and February 2008, I wrote reports more frequently, sometimes two or three per day. These were widely circulated as people appreciated an alternative source from the mainstream media on what was occurring in Kenya during that time. I have continued posting *Reports from Kenya*. If you would like to sign up for this listserv, please send your name and email to Dawn Rubbert at [dawn@aglifpt.org](mailto:dawn@aglifpt.org).




From left, Mary Strata (FCNL), Getry Agizah (FCPT Kenya), and Cassidy Regan (FCNL). AGLI's African partners touring the United States are frequently hosted by the Quaker policy organization in the US – FCNL and QUNO-NY, thereby connecting the grassroots in Africa with the lobbying work at the UN or US government. Photo by Cassidy Regan

## Books:

In order to give a more comprehensive presentation of what I have learned in over forty years of working in this region, in April 2011, I published *A Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region*. See [www.davidzarembka.org](http://www.davidzarembka.org) to obtain a copy.

The peacemaking work that Quakers in Kenya did in 2008 after the post-election violence is inspiring. An AGLI extended service volunteer, Judy Lumb, has spent three months researching and writing on this activity. By the time you receive this issue of *PeaceWays-AGLI*, Judy's *Ending Cycles of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response after the 2007 Election* will be available. See [www.aglifpt.org](http://www.aglifpt.org) to order a copy.

People no longer ask me if Burundi is near Nepal or an island in the Pacific Ocean. This outreach/awareness of the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa and the extensive peacemaking work of the Quakers in the region has been one of the significant achievements of AGLI. 

# Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities – Burundi

Elin Henrysson, Quaker Peace and Social Witness Peacemaker

When war hits a community, people's hearts are wounded, their loved ones lost, and their belongings destroyed. The closer the perpetrator is to the victim, the deeper the wound. This is what happened in many Burundian communities during the civil war that lasted from 1993 to 2005 and claimed 300,000 lives. Communities were torn apart along ethnic lines as neighbor killed neighbor and friends destroyed and stole each other's homes and property. HROC-Burundi was formed in an effort to create spaces of healing in the midst of this cycle of violence.

## Healing Wounded Hearts

In 2003, Adrien Niyongabo, a Burundian who had himself directly experienced violence, was convinced by his Quaker faith to join other Quakers in Rwanda to develop a community healing curriculum, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC). At that time they were struggling to face the consequences of the 1994 genocide. The result was a three-day workshop that brought together twenty community members from both sides of the conflict to learn about trauma, to share and begin to heal from their inner wounds, and

to start to rebuild the broken tissue of their community. The curriculum is grounded in Quaker values, with the notion that "there is that of God in everyone" at its heart. With great courage, victims and perpetrators choose to sit together, to talk to each other, to listen to each other, to share food, to cry and laugh together.

After developing the curriculum in Rwanda, Adrien returned to Burundi to begin organizing the workshops there. To date, HROC-Burundi has reached over 3500 people, working in eight provinces of Burundi. The program has developed organically, and is now composed of a series of basic trauma healing workshops, follow-up workshops, community celebration days, advanced workshops and Healing Companion trainings. The staff has grown to three people, as Desire Nzeyimana and Florence Ntakarutimana have joined the team as the accountant and trainings manager.

An abundance of testimonies and stories from participants witnesses to the power of the HROC curriculum to transform hearts and communities. One man said, *Before the workshop, I liked to be alone most of the time. My heart was exhausted from*

*Sometimes I see them [internally displaced persons] as those who have come to take our land and property, like our enemies. Ask them! We didn't visit each other. They were in the village and we were in our home community, and that was that. Together in this workshop I've become convinced that they are my brothers and sisters, that we need to live together in peace and develop good relationships. I really appreciate your way of bringing us together with our friends from the village.*

Augustin, member of surrounding community

*carrying all the bad stuff I had. After the workshop, I remember that is when I slept more deeply than any other single night since 1993. In another example, a group of workshop participants were inspired to bring food to prisoners – the perpetrators of violence in their communities – as a sign of reconciliation.*

HROC has now expanded the trauma healing workshops to three new key communities, focusing on Integrated Peace Villages. These government-sponsored settlements provide housing to some of the most vulnerable Burundians, including ex-combatants and returned refugees. With a target of sixty workshops over a period of three years, HROC is providing vital spaces of healing for people struggling to build meaningful lives in the context of unhealed wounds from years of traumatic experiences.

## Restoring Hopeful Communities

As HROC-Burundi continues to hold workshops, it has become clear that along with the essential benefits from trauma healing, a vital component for rebuilding strong peaceful communities is the



Light and lively game during HROC workshop. Photo by Elin Henrysson

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development of skills and opportunities to meet the practical needs of people struggling with poverty and lack of access to essential services. In line with this expansion of HROC's healing vision, the organization has come alongside communities in small-scale development initiatives.

In 2009, a group of widows who had taken part in the HROC basic workshop envisaged a way to keep supporting themselves by raising shared goats. They asked for HROC's support in purchasing female, pregnant goats. Women partnered across the ethnic divide to raise the goats, each returning home with her own goat after the birth of kid goats. In an overwhelmingly agrarian society with exhausted soil, goats are important sources of fertilizer, occasional meat and can serve as insurance for larger expenses like hospital bills or schools fees. But these goats do more than support agricultural livelihoods. They continue the process of healing and relationship-building by offering an opportunity for former enemies to cross each other's thresholds. HROC has now expanded the goat project to fifteen other communities



HROC-Burundi staff: from left Desire Nzeyimana, Florence Ntakarutimana, Elin Henrysson, and Adrien Niyongabo. *Photo by Elin Henrysson*

across Burundi, and many groups are now exchanging their sixth generation.

In 2010, a group of ex-combatants who had taken part in the HROC basic workshop approached the organization to ask for support in learning skills for peaceful, sustainable livelihoods. They were looking for a way to contribute positively to their communities. As a result, a group of ex-combatants, internally displaced people and surrounding community members were trained in the construction of bio-sand water filters. There is no lack of water in Burundi, but many people drink untreated water from rivers and streams, often falling sick. The group has now constructed ninety-eight filters and is in the process of forming a cooperative to sell the filters and support themselves. So far, fifty families and institutions such as schools or clinics have benefited from the filters. The filters not only lead to healthier lives, but also serve as a redemptive symbol of community healing. HROC is hoping to expand this initiative to other parts of Burundi, reaching communities that are in particular need of clean water.

### Building Democracy

When Burundi started preparing for elections in 2010, HROC found itself particularly well placed to empower communities at the grassroots level to act for an open, democratic society. HROC trained eighteen communities as peace and democracy groups to report, mitigate, and respond to incidents of violence during the election period, using the innovative FrontlineSMS reporting system. The organization also mobilized 135 national and international volunteers to act as election observers, providing oversight and a peaceful presence at the polling stations.

Unfortunately, the elections resulted in a *de facto* one party state as opposition parties pulled out, and the country has since seen mounting instability. As a result, HROC is continuing to support the Democracy and Peace Groups to respond to developments in their communities and to act for peace. To ensure sustainability, HROC has also trained each Peace and Democracy Group as a self-help group, providing savings and credit at the community level.

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*I have found the information during the HROC workshop to be very important. It has opened my eyes. Looking at the causes, symptoms and consequences of trauma I have seen that in me, in my family and in my community there is a lot of trauma. I sincerely hated people who were not from my ethnicity. I saw them as the reason for my misfortunes here in the village. But I have decided to forgive. I would like the tree of peace and trust to grow in me and in my community.*

Francois, ex-combatant,  
integrated peace village

# Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities – Rwanda

Theoneste Bizimana, Coordinator, HROC-Rwanda

The Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) program started in 2003, some years after the war and genocide of 1994. Though there was security in the country, people were still suffering from the consequences of war and genocide including psychological trauma, loneliness, and helplessness. Many people still feared each other. There was no trust in the community, especially between the Tutsi and the Hutu. Trauma among the Tutsi, the survivors of genocide, was characterized by much anger, depression, hopelessness, and mistrust. On the other side, the Hutu were afraid, shameful, angry, guilty, anxious, and suspicious.

The situation became worse when the government started releasing people who were accused of participating in the killings of their brothers and sisters. More than a hundred thousand, mostly men, were imprisoned accused of participating in the 1994 genocide. The reports said that with the normal

justice, the trials of these cases would have taken more than two hundred years. As a response to this huge challenge that the government was facing, traditional justice, called *gacaca*, was adopted. *Gacaca* means “grass” where community wise men use traditional ways to resolve conflicts. People in conflict are brought together in a community meeting. All people sit on the grass under trees. AGLI supported Alternative to Violence Project (AVP-Rwanda) as it conducted more than one hundred three-day AVP workshops with the *gacaca* judges.

When the prisoners started coming back to the community to be tried at the *gacaca* courts, most of them were afraid of their neighbors. Great hatred and much trauma existed in both survivors and released prisoners. To have a sustainable peace in Rwanda at that time, deeper healing of psychological trauma and community rebuilding were needed.

*I am so happy with the teaching. My wife and I are old and we are alone. After the teachings, I began to be active and to grow food for the two of us. In my small garden, I have harvested three times and I try to water even in the dry spells. The teaching encourages us to try to live in this hard place.*

Gregorie, Twa participant

In partnership with the Quaker church of Rwanda, the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams created the Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) program. Healing trauma and rebuilding trust were the main objectives for starting HROC. Since then, the program has evolved and this is what has been achieved:

- More than two hundred three-day HROC workshops were held in different corners of the country.
- Five community support groups or associations of survivors and released prisoners were created.

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## Looking to the Future

In 2012, HROC-Burundi is looking forward to start a new initiative focused on primary school teachers. Schools were often sites of violence during the war and many teachers suffered from traumatic stress, which is then passed on to their students through harsh treatment. HROC is partnering with five Quaker schools to conduct trauma healing workshops with teachers, followed by skills-building sessions, finding ways of integrating what they've learned into their curriculum and relationships with students.

HROC also aims to continue the vital work of healing inner wounds with a focus on key locations including Peace Integrated Villages and refugee camps. Furthermore, the organization is eagerly pursuing the expansion of the bio-sand filter project and is actively seeking ways to support the Democracy and Peace Groups to effectively and strategically advocate for peace. In each of these ways, HROC-Burundi is committed to remaining a place of healing, hope and peace for individual hearts and communities.

- The program has helped initiate HROC in North Kivu in the Congo and Kenya.
- Since 2003, the program has been a resource for peace building, healing and reconciliation researchers and interns.
- Development of the Twa/ Growing Together as a special program for the Twa, a marginalize group of former hunters in the forests.

Last year, a series of HROC basic workshops were conducted only for the Twa. The objective of the workshops was to help the Twa understand and heal from generational trauma. These workshops were followed by kitchen gardening trainings (Growing Together) to help the Twa improve their nutritional health. Elizabeth Cave, a Quaker from England, was the initiator and the trainer on the Growing Together project.

Currently, these are the activities HROC-Rwanda is working on:

- HROC, AVP and kitchen gardening trainings with the Twa and other groups,

- Development of the Gisenyi Peace Center,
- And scholarship program for secondary school students (see page 19).

The goals of the program for the future are:

- Continue developing the Gisenyi Peace Center,
- Promoting lasting relationships between the Twa and other tribes by mixing them with others in the HROC, AVP, and kitchen gardening trainings,
- Implementing clear procedures for follow-up,
- Creating a HROC resource center,
- Using HROC to deal with crucial problems in Rwanda, like HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction, gender and domestic based violence,
- Continue developing the scholarship program, and
- Networking with other programs to promote complementarities and collaboration. 🌍

*I was among the people who were invited to attend the workshop, but I could not come. The reason for me to attend this one is because my wife came to the previous workshop. She was totally changed. We used to fight almost every day, but after she came from the workshop she testified to me, and her positive changes made me want to attend, too. I want to thank HROC and the people who send you here in Kageyo [the place of the workshop] because you helped us. I now know how to deal with my anger and decided to live peacefully with my wife. We are going to plant the tree of trust in this village and elsewhere. Thank you also to train our people, who are going to help us to heal from our wounds. I'm sure that that they are going to be important people to others [Hutu and Tutsi] not only for the marginalized people [Twa].*

Etienne, Twa HROC participant



*Three people volunteered to show me what they were growing. Two had small circular 'kitchen gardens' and one in addition had mushrooms in one section of her unfinished house. The third, Agnes, was the star. Using only seeds saved from my donation last year or collected from her own plantings, she had squashes and gourds climbing over a framework to shade her compost heap, beans for drying and beans for eating green, five car tire beds of African greens, a patch of spinach and beets, and some raised beds of potatoes and maize. There was even a tomato growing against the side of the house.*

Elizabeth Cave, extended service volunteer.

*Photo by Elizabeth Cave*



# Healing and Rebuilding Our Community - North Kivu

*Zawadi Nikuze*, HROC-Coordinator, North Kivu

The HROC program in North Kivu began in May of 2007 as a way of helping people of Eastern Congo and North Kivu in particular who had experienced war, violence, and a volcanic eruption in Goma. All these events made people traumatized in one way or another, for there are some people who had experienced trauma first hand for more than seven years. Since people did not have any understanding about trauma and its effects, they used to think that those who are behaving in a bizarre manner may be demon possessed and should be subjected to heavy prayers and deliverance. This, of course, did not bear any fruit for they were dealing with the wrong problem.

Having some knowledge and understanding of trauma, after seeing the suffering of people, Levi Munyemana and I decided to approach David Zarembka to request help to begin HROC in North Kivu. Dave did not disappoint us and in May 2007 the facilitators from Rwanda and Burundi were sent to begin the basic HROC trainings. This was followed by a Training of Facilitators and by September 2007 we had our first team of nine facilitators. This team did a lot of work. That same year in December, we had four internally displaced persons' camps in Goma and all the people, about fourteen thousand, needed help. Some had seen their loved ones being killed, their houses being looted and torched; others had physical and emotional wounds. We were able to train different people at all levels, but we mainly focused on people who we thought could be influential and pass the message to others. We trained women, men and young people from associations, schools,



Sewing class for the rape survivors. Photo by Zawadi Nikuze

universities, church leaders, local authorities and internally displaced people (IDP).

Major accomplishments in our program to date are

- To have been able to train more than three hundred people in the community in Goma and Masisi.
- To have trained more than two hundred and fifty people in the IDP camps with basic HROC workshops.
- To have a team of twelve facilitators who have a willing heart to share their knowledge.

Currently, we are focusing on a group of one hundred rape survivors in Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, and Masisi, a community upcountry in the mountains. This activity began in September 2009 after the official closure of IDP camps. We are helping these women to rebuild themselves after the sexual violence they experienced. We train them in different skills such as basket weaving, sewing, crocheting, cooperative farming, and

literacy and had them tested for AIDS.

In 2011, the HROC program bought a plot of land in Goma in order to build a center for the rape survivors. This will save the funds that we were using to pay rent. We plan to start with a small building with a classroom/meeting room, a sewing room, a counseling room, and an office with an outside latrine. This building can be erected quickly and cheaply because houses in Goma are built with the lava stones which fill the plot and wooden planks with corrugated iron sheets. The longer range plan is to build a safe house for Congolese women who are abused and/or raped.

## **Challenges of the rape survivors' program**

We now have more survivors requesting to join the group due to its success. We know that we are not able to respond to all their needs but whatever we offer is helping them as we see them improving day

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## Ways to Give



1. Stay informed on the progress of peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region of Africa.
2. Pray for/hold in the Light the success of AGLI programs in the region.
3. Attend an AGLI presentation.
4. Coordinate an AGLI presentation for your meeting, church, and/or community.
5. Choose a specific AGLI program and actively follow its development.
6. Join an AGLI workcamp or become a short/long term team member in the region.
7. Support AGLI or a particular AGLI program with your tax-deductible donation:

\* Mail a check to Friends Peace Teams/  
AGLI, 1001 Park Avenue, St Louis, MO  
63104 USA

\* Make an on-line donation with your credit/  
debit card by visiting the AGLI website,  
[www.aglifpt.org](http://www.aglifpt.org)


\* Become a regular monthly or quarterly  
donor. Contact [tzarembka@comcast.net](mailto:tzarembka@comcast.net) for  
details.

\* Host an AGLI fundraising event.

\* Ask your meeting, church, or other  
organization to include AGLI in their annual  
budget.

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by day. We still plan to care for the children, but the space is not enough. A friend who is a child therapist in the USA sent me a bag full of kids' therapy tools. This is a good start for us. We believe that parents do

pass their trauma to their children, and we also know that some children saw the killings of people, the different forms of violence, the brutality, and others saw their mothers being raped. 

### Renewed and Hopeful

*I am 41 years old and a mother of six children. I come from Masisi. I am the first born in a family of three girls and four boys. In my village, parents privileged boys because they say that girls belong to another family where they will get married. Therefore there is no need of investing in a girl by taking her to school as it is wasting money. My dad took all my brothers to school but not the girls. Six years ago, I came face to face with death even though my life was spared. We were in a group of eight and, as we were picking firewood in the bush, three armed men in civilian clothing landed on us. Five of us managed to run but three couldn't including myself because we were carrying babies. We were ordered to put our children down and we were raped systematically. Those who fled went to call for help, but by the time they got people it was too late because the bush was far from our homes. When the news reached my husband, he abandoned me and the children saying that I am very dirty and might infect him with HIV/AIDS. I got treated two months later and I tested HIV negative and I was excited because I feared that I might die and leave my children on the streets. Life was not that easy taking care of six children single handedly in an IDP camp.*

*I joined the women group in December 2009 and I have benefited a lot from it and am grateful for the teachings and skills you are teaching us. It is through workshops and sharing groups that I gained my self-*

*esteem and hope for the future. God works in mysterious ways and He can make you to go through difficult situations to make you a better person or to open a door of blessings. I have learnt the benefit of listening actively to everyone - child or adult - and to being listened to, not to be judgmental when I see someone having signs of trauma. I got encouraged through other people's testimonies because there are those who experienced worst things than I did.*

*I benefited from the loan even though I went at a loss when one of my children got sick and was admitted in the hospital. I didn't know how to read and write but now I can write a letter without getting help from someone. I am so excited for no one can take advantage of me by asking me to sign papers which are not in my favor. I was chosen by my fellow members as their chairlady and this has really boosted my self-esteem because I was chosen by people who are more educated than me, who know to write better than me. This has confirmed that I am of value. I have also learnt how to weave baskets and now am in the sewing class and enjoying it. I can't wait to make something for myself. Instead of giving me fish, better teach me how to fish. Please don't give up on us; we still need your support, your love, your accompaniment, and your understanding. I would like to say thank you to whoever has contributed to our cause, may the Almighty God bless you a thousand times. Kahindo, Congolese rape survivor.*

# AGLI Supported Quaker Peacemaking - Kenya

David Zarembka, AGLI Coordinator

AGLI introduced AVP to Kenya in 2003, both in Nairobi and western Kenya. At that point, Kenyan Quakers were not particularly interested in learning about AVP because many, like most Kenyans, thought Kenya was a peaceful country different from many of its neighbors. Nonetheless, with the help of a number of lead American AVP facilitators, AVP was successfully introduced in the country. In 2007, AGLI did a “teaser” HROC workshop to see if Kenyans would be interested for AGLI to bring the program from Rwanda and Burundi. The answer was in the affirmative and AGLI planned for the initial workshops in January 2008. Alas, the 2008 post-election violence interfered and it wasn't until the summer that the first HROC training was held.

During 2008, through a local non-profit organization, Friends for Peace and Community Development, AGLI supported 151 AVP workshops for 3400 mostly youth participants, a two-week HROC facilitator training and 14 basic HROC workshops for 362 participants, and 58 one-day listening sessions for 1216 participants including 43 listening sessions with the US Center for Disease Control staff in Kisumu. By this time, Kenyan Quakers had formed Friends Church Peace Teams (FCPT) and became very interested in AVP, HROC, and other peacemaking activities. AGLI worked with them in hard-hit Turbo Division near where I live. After FCPT initially provided some humanitarian relief to those missed by the Red Cross, peace teams from FCPT did listening sessions with both sides in the conflict, escorted the internally displaced persons when they returned to their homes, and later did a survey which

indicated that, while calm had returned, both sides were fearful of renewed violence.

Other groups, including Change Agents for Peace International, in Nairobi (a program mostly supported by Norwegian Quakers), the Uzima (Wellness) Foundation founded to promote healthy living among youth, Friends Theological Seminary, and some Quaker churches, were also very involved in peacemaking work in Nairobi and western Kenya. For the December 27, 2007 election and the August 14, 2010 referendum on the Kenyan constitution, all Quaker groups joined together in the Quaker Peace Network to do election observing.

It is important that Quakers involve themselves in the prevention of election violence in the next Kenyan election in 2012. Consequently, in 2010 FCPT formed the Turbo Division Interfaith Peace Task Force (TDIPTF) in the area where they had done their work in 2008. In order to increase the visibility of peacemaking work, FCPT and FDIPTF organized peace parades and celebrations in Turbo Division on International Day of Peace. September 21, in both 2010 and 2011

Starting in 2011, AGLI has supported two programs in western Kenya. The first is a major AVP project with youth from Turbo Division. Six youth (meaning people under 35 years of age) in each of the seven locations of Turbo Division have been trained as AVP facilitators. They, in turn, with the help of a lead AVP facilitator, have conducted four basic AVP workshops in each location. These were so successfully received that in six of the seven locations, the youth AVP facilitators have organized what they have called “voluntary workshops” where the

AGLI is one of a number of local and international organizations doing peacemaking in Kenya. There is more than enough for these organizations to do as the challenge is immense.

participants and well-wishers supply the food, venue, and facilitator accommodations so that a three-day workshop for twenty to thirty youth was costing less than \$50. To date over sixty AVP workshops for more than 1600 youth in this division have been completed.

As the next election nears, these AVP youth facilitators will develop a voter sensitization seminar which they will conduct with other youth in their location. Twenty youth in each location will be trained as citizen reporters who will observe the whole election cycle from the enrollment of voters, the campaign period, election-day itself, and the post-election period. They will send text messages about events in their community to a Call-In Center supported by a new cyber-program called FrontlineSMS.

AGLI's other project is to conduct HROC workshops on the slopes of Mt. Elgon where a land dispute between two clans of the Sabaot led to the death of up to 600 people and the displacement of more than 100,000 people from 2006 to 2008. With the up-coming election, tensions in the area hit by this violence are rising again. The HROC program is healing the personal wounds from this violence and rebuilding the relationships between the groups that were involved in this violence.

# Transformative Mediation in Central Africa

George Brose, AGLI Extended Service Volunteer

*The transformative mediation program in this region was a cooperative enterprise between the African Great Lakes Initiative and Change Agents for Peace International (CAPI), a Nairobi-based organization supported mostly by Norwegian Quakers.*

AGLI became involved with mediation in late 2006 when Judy Friesem and her husband, Kim Bush, arrived to conduct the first mediation trainings in Burundi (Bujumbura), Rwanda (Kigali), the DRC (Goma), and Kenya (Kakamega). The groundwork was set down by Judy, an experienced mediator from Seattle and Kim who was returning to East and Central Africa where he had been an AFSC volunteer in the early 1960's. Recipients of the trainings were able to start practicing mediation and developing a process that was based in the principles of the process but also adapting to the cultural climate of the region.

I am a mediator from Kettering, Ohio and a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania and Kenya. Six months after Judy and Kim left, I followed in their footsteps and

conducted a second round of trainings with many of their same students. Thus, there was a reinforcement of the principles but also an opportunity to listen and discuss the experiences that the mediators had been having in their practices. In addition, a course was taught to some of the refugee community in Nairobi and to students from the Universite Libre de Kigali. This endowed the region with over one hundred community mediators in place. Goals were set to become involved in mediation where it would not disrupt the judicial systems of the region but also to serve the needs of communities that found themselves outside the net of the judicial process.

In 2008, I returned to do trainings in other parts of the region including Uvira in South Kivu, Congo, Bulengoan IDP camp near Goma, North Kivu, Byumba,

Rwanda, and Gitega in Burundi. The earlier sites were also visited. By this time it was evident that the mediation process was seen as a viable tool for conflict resolution and that the Quakers were beginning to make good use of the process.

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*The mediators are on the right and left and the disputants in the front and back. This is at the internally displaced camp in North Kivu, Congo. Note the many relatives and neighbors in the background listening to the mediation. Photo by George Brose*

## Example of a mediation in Burundi:

In Burundi mediators from the capital, Bujumbura, and some outlying areas were trained. Their practicum was done in a remote village where several conflicts had been going on for years. The conflicts were within families. In the dispute in both cases were traditional rights of partitioning land after the death of the head of the household in one case and after a divorce in the other case. The disputes had produced some very serious domestic violence. Because the families lived in small communities, the conflict was closely linked to daily village life and activities. The mediators were able to adapt the formal training they had received from Westerners and apply it using a more traditional African method. Two mediators were used instead of a single mediator. There was gender balance as well. Instead of mediating solely between the two disputants, members of the village, the village Peace Committee, and extended family members sat and observed the mediations. This would be much less likely to happen in the West. These sessions resembled a conciliation technique called Restorative Justice. Both cases settled after close to four hours.

At the end of one of the mediations, several remarkable things happened. The disputing parties and their observing families and village members rose together, prayed and sang. Impassioned speeches were given asking why they had not been able for three years to resolve the mediated dispute. An adult addressed several youth who were present at the mediation, saying that they should learn from this experience that there were better ways to resolve conflict than the violence they were so used to promoting. *George Brose*

Inclusiveness in the trainings enabled Islamic peoples to participate as well as several other Christian sects. Local trainers were developing and spreading the teaching to other parts of the Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi.

I returned a third time in 2009 accompanied by Renee Bove from Portland, Oregon and Cushman Anthony from Portland, Maine. We taught in Goma, Bulengo, Uvira in the Congo, Kigali and Kidaho in Rwanda, and Mutaho in Burundi. Bringing in Renee and Cushman

proved valuable in that they had additional perspectives on mediation and added to the knowledge base. By this time, it was estimated that over three hundred local mediators had been trained directly by the outside staff.

When I returned to train once more in 2011, I learned that the training done by local mediators had now put a total of two thousand mediators in the field. This far exceeded any expectations of the early participants. In 2011, a training

was done in Muhondo Catholic parish through the coordination of Project Congo and the Salesian Catholic fathers who have missions throughout Central Africa. Trainings were also done in Bujumbura and Kigali, and a completely new program was started in Tanzania on the Island of Pemba, north of Zanzibar. Students in this session included social workers, Sharia judges, magistrates, a primary school headmistress, and one member of the Catholic church.

### Mediation in Kenya

After the initial mediation trainings in Kenya were held, AGLI and CAPI were not able to continue with their development as they were putting their resources into the Central Africa mediation described above. Then in 2011, AGLI realized that trained mediators would be very useful in Kenya for the 2012 election cycle as they would be able to resolve some long-simmering issues that sometimes led to election violence. The program was restarted in Nairobi and western Kenya where most of the Quakers in Kenya live. By this time, it was not necessary to bring mediation trainers from the United States as Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda and Samuel Kamanzi from North Kivu, Congo, led the mediation trainings. In April 2012, Renee Bove, who in 2009 accompanied George to Central Africa, and Ann Dusseau, a former AGLI work camper in Kenya, returned to mentor the apprentice mediations including working with the best mediators as they develop skills in teaching mediation to others. *David Zarembka*

## Turning the Tide Initiated by QPSW and CAPI in Kenya

*David Zarembka, AGLI Coordinator*

In Kenya, youth usually respond to an injustice by rioting and violence, negating the goals of their complaints. One example is a school not having electricity at night for the students to study so they demonstrate on the road, overturning vehicles, and then clashing with the police. They need the lessons of non-violent direct action as a better means for redressing problems and improving Kenyan society. This type of program would directly complement the AVP, HROC, and mediation work that AGLI was already doing.

John McKendy from Canada was an AGLI work camper at the Kamenge Clinic in Burundi for two summers. He was a professor of peace studies at the University of

New Brunswick. AGLI had arranged for him to come to Kenya during his sabbatical year to develop a non-violent direct action program. Unfortunately two months before he arrived, he was killed by his son-in-law as he was trying to protect his daughter from abuse. What a tragedy!

Then Laura Shipler Chico, a former AGLI extended service volunteer in Rwanda and now Programme Manager for Peacebuilding in East Africa at Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) in London, suggested that QPSW have a non-violent direct action program called Turning the Tide (TTT). TTT seeks “—to improve people’s knowledge about nonviolence and their ability to use

the tools and techniques it offers to take practical, effective steps towards that goal of a just and peaceful world.”

After an initial TTT workshop, QPSW decided to introduce the program in both Nairobi and western Kenya with Change Agents for Peace International being the Kenyan implementing partner. This began in 2010 with a two-week training, practical application of the lessons learned, and follow up seminars to analyze the results. To effectively implement the program at the grassroots, Bernard Agona was appointed Field Coordinator in western Kenya and Betty Atieno as the Field Coordinator for Nairobi. Bernard Agona’s report,

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*Nonviolent Protest Turns the Tide for Kenyan Students*, on one successful implementation of TTT can be found at [www.quaker.org.uk/nonviolent-protest-turns-tide-kenyan-students](http://www.quaker.org.uk/nonviolent-protest-turns-tide-kenyan-students).

I myself heard of one action where TTT had trained the motorcycle taxi drivers in a community. Usually when they had a complaint they would march to the official's office, shout, wave branches, make a lot of noise, and

disburse, having let off steam but with no appreciable results. After the TTT training, the group of motorcycle taxi drivers decided to send a small delegation with their written demands such as building shelters in town for the taxis and their customers and presented the mayor of the town with their concerns. The official involved was so surprised at this non-violent conduct that he immediately agreed.

Turning the Tide in Kenya is now capable of conducting training

sessions for those who want to launch a successful campaign of nonviolent direct action. In 2012, they are planning a third group in the northern Rift Valley where violence is pervasive. While AGLI has not needed to contribute any funds or personnel to this program, it has contributed emotional and enthusiastic support for TTT. 🌍

## Volunteering with AGLI

*Dawn Rubbert*, AGLI Program Manager

*It's possible to have a very direct, concrete impact.* Andrew Peterson

Perhaps the best way to tell you about volunteering with AGLI is through the words of former volunteers, and a few photos.

*Going on a four-week camp is in some ways an out-of-this-world experience. I have been in a totally different place and have had 24/7 experiences of life with a group of people I had never met a month ago. I came in a new place totally different from my home but in 4 weeks it has become in some ways like a home and the people like another family.* Anna Crumley-Effinger, Rwanda work camp, Summer 2005

You can choose between becoming an Extended Service Volunteer (ESV) or joining one of our five-week long work camps held in multiple locations each June/July. ESVs volunteer for 3 months to a year or more. We have no age requirements; acceptance is done on an individual basis. Twice we have had entire families participate in a work camp together. Learn more at: [www.aglifpt.org/get/get.htm](http://www.aglifpt.org/get/get.htm).

### Extended Service Volunteers (ESV)

Andrew Peterson grew up in Denver, Colorado, USA. In May of 2008 he traveled to Burundi as an ESV serving until July 2009. Andrew's last weeks were spent on the goat project.

*The week before last, I traveled to five communities in the interior of the country to oversee the distribution 150 goats, each to a pair of people that will jointly take*

*care of the goat [one Tutsi woman and one Hutu woman], giving them an excuse to interact more regularly and build relationships.*

Asked about his experience, Andrew wrote,

*The time I spent in Burundi working with AGLI was an experience that not only taught me a lot about a part of Africa and about myself, but also brought me closer to my values and sense of purpose. In a world*

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Work campers, Anna Considine and Martin Nahishakiye, play in the mud to make mortar for the clinic walls. *Photo by Lin Considine*

*fraught with confusion, doubt, and despair, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and believe that we are helpless to change things, but volunteering for HROC I saw that it's possible to have a very direct, concrete impact when work is undertaken with respect, love, and commitment.*

Andrew returned to volunteer in Burundi during the summer of 2010. Read more and see his fantastic photos on his blog <http://www.quakerfront.com>.

Emily Higgs spent 3 months in Rwanda often helping to conduct AVP (Alternatives to Violence) workshops. As her work there drew to a close she wrote,

*My time in Rwanda is drawing to a close - hard to believe it!... I'm starting to feel sentimental about leaving: no more rogue rooster under my window, fruit so delicious it feels sinful, warm sunny days without fail, music to make your heart melt, and the five lizards who have kept me company for these many weeks. That said, I am ready for a shower and some ice cream too.*

## **Work Camps**

In 2011 AGLI conducted two work camps; one in Burundi at the Friend's Woman's Association (FWA) clinic and one in at the Gisenyi Peace Center in Rwanda. Coincidentally each of them built walls around a compound of buildings erected during earlier work camps. An orientation is held in the Washington DC area for North American work campers in late June and they depart together for Africa. Once at the work camp locations the international work campers meet the African members of their team and together they are led through a 3-day basic AVP (Alternatives to Violence) workshop.

Lin Considine and her 20 year old daughter were at the clinic. Lin says,

*My experience was a life changing event.... The AVP workshop was helpful to see that peace efforts and forgiveness programs are active in Burundi. It was a meaningful connection to me to be done as soon as we arrived as it helped all of us see*

*that we are more connected than disconnected. ...*

*The physical work was perfect. Hard labor, but many breaks! There was a lot of down time, however, that was the time when we got to just sit quietly, and learn how to "be" and to enjoy each other. This is the time when we would be with the Burundian work campers and get to know them and their language. I would very much like to find a way to come back to Burundi, to FWA, as an extended service volunteer.*

Erik Nelson was on the Rwanda team. He wrote,

*The weekend excursions were all fun and were a great use of our time. They fostered bonding between all of the work campers, gave us a taste of Rwanda outside of our immediate area, and showed us things that we're better off having seen (the orphanage, in particular, was an emotionally taxing but rewarding ordeal).*

You can find more photos and writings of our volunteer alumni on the AGLI website. Our Volunteer Handbook is also available online.

**Please contact me at [dawn@aglifpt.org](mailto:dawn@aglifpt.org) with any questions. I do enjoy telling people about our work.**

## **Expectations for Work Campers and ESVs**

Work campers and extended service volunteers fill out an application and form a clearness committee. When the application and report of the clearness committee is received, the material is sent to the AGLI section committee for their determination. These volunteers must sign a statement on expected behaviors. These include willingness to work under the direction of the African leader, respecting local culture and laws including no use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs, wear appropriate dress, and go out at night only in the presence of local Africans.

Work campers and extended service volunteers need to raise the minimum amount needed for travel (around \$2,000), living expenses (\$400 to \$500 per month), and administrative costs (\$500). North American work campers attend a one-day orientation in Washington, DC. Extended service volunteers and work campers are also expected to donate \$1200 towards the program they are involved with. AGLI prefers that people raise these funds from their family, friends, and religious and civic organizations because this publicity promotes the AGLI programs.

# The Friends Women's Association and the Kamenge Clinic

Leah Hazard, Global Health Corps Fellow

The stories patients tell when visiting the Friends Women's Association's (FWA) Kamenge Clinic are often difficult to hear. HIV+ pregnant mothers who were unable to secure anti-retroviral drugs in time to ensure a healthy pregnancy, women struggling to raise children after being chased from their lands by the relatives of a deceased husband, and women seeking adequate health care from a woefully deficient system.

But there are also stories of women filled with pride after being trained as a Community Health Worker, stories of HIV+ women who have successfully started small businesses with a small amount of seed funding, stories of women who finally feel better after accessing medical care and affordable medications. These are the stories of the partnership between FWA and the women it serves.

As Burundi's 13-year civil war was drawing to a close, women in Kamenge gathered to determine how they could help their community recover from the violence. Together, in 2002, they formed FWA in order to respond to the unique needs of women in the post-conflict environment. FWA's founders wanted to address the issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, sexual violence and post-genocide trauma facing women in their community.

Today, the organization's mission is to provide holistic health care to women and their families, while promoting women's leadership and strengthening peaceful communities throughout Burundi. In pursuit of this mission, FWA operates a small health clinic in Kamenge, a neighborhood hard hit



FWA social worker, Grace Horanimana, leads a trauma healing workshop in an exercise about healing the whole community. Photo by Leah Hazard.

by the civil war. The clinic's services range from primary and preventative care to laboratory testing and HIV services. With the goal of providing comprehensive health care, patients with a demonstrated need are incorporated into home visits and microfinance programs.

However, FWA's major accomplishment has been in working with communities to help them recover from trauma. Through a partnership with the American Friends Service Committee and funds from AusAID (Australia government), FWA has greatly expanded its trauma healing services. With the belief that in Burundi the most common form of re-traumatization is poverty, its programming aims to combine trauma healing with poverty alleviation efforts. Women go through both a basic and advanced trauma-healing workshop with other women in their community. At the end of the advanced training, women are given tools to support the start

of their own business, or expand their agricultural efforts.

Program Manager, Sapphire Williams, a Quaker Peace and Social Witness peacemaker from England, explains that the organization is *looking for women who are suffering from extreme poverty. The whole idea of our trauma healing program is that it's holistic. As much as it focuses on trauma healing, it focuses on poverty reduction. It relies on the idea that even if you suffer from trauma and undergo healing, you will not be able to fully recover from that trauma if you are in a state of extreme poverty.*

In the future, the organization expects to improve their services, slowly but surely. They have plans to become a vaccination center for the community, secure a generator to ensure the consistent supply of electricity, and continue to expand their trauma healing services to even more communities throughout Burundi. 🌍



# Bududa Learning Center

*Sheila Havard, Bududa Volunteer from Canada*

Set in the lush volcanic foothills of Mount Elgon on Uganda's eastern border is Bududa Learning Center (BLC), an African Great Lakes Initiative project that has made its mark on the sprawling, rural, mountainous Bududa District community. Bududa Learning Center provides a triple-pronged program addressing the issues of unemployment and children orphaned by AIDS, landslides, and disease. The three components are the Bududa Vocational Institute, the Children of Peace program (see page 19), and Women's Microfinance Initiative.

## **Bududa Vocational Institute**

From 2003 to 2006, Western and Ugandan volunteers worked side by side at summer work camps building a vocational school in the rural Bududa District. At the end of 2007 the school moved to a new site, two miles from the village center. A Philadelphia Friend, Barbara Wybar, moved to Bududa and took charge of the project. It is thanks to her persistence and determination that Bududa Learning Center with its Bududa Vocational Institute has flourished. From the one original classroom block a whole compound sprang up, comprising a kitchen and storehouse, a bricklaying and carpentry shelter, latrines, and a guesthouse. Programs were developed for four subject, bricklaying and concrete practice, tailoring, computer skills and nursery teacher training. Students flocked to register! By February 2008 there were thirty-four students. In November 2011 for the first time, four students took national exams at the highest level, the craft exam, and

eight others took the Uganda National Examinations Board exams at the junior level in brick laying and concrete practice, carpentry and tailoring. Most importantly, graduates generally find jobs in their field.

## **Women's Microfinance Initiative**

It is widely agreed in development circles that improving the fortunes of women has beneficial effects on the whole of a society. The Women's Microfinance Initiative aims to help women become more independent. Head administrator, Betty Bigala, started recruiting industrious women for this loan program in 2010 when Bethesda, Maryland-based Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI) launched a BLC chapter. Forty women were provided with loans, up to the value of \$150 each, and trained in marketing and accounting. Now the loan recipients are busy selling produce and staples. Since they have paid back their original loans and have received further loans, they have paved the way for a third group of twenty women who received their first loans in February 2012.

## **Future Plans**

Thanks to a major fundraising drive, BLC has expanded and at the beginning of 2012 has moved to new quarters in the center of the village of Bududa. The new site will belong to BLC, whereas the former one was rented. This "downtown" location will boost visibility, provide greater convenience for teachers and students, and be a better catchment area for new students. No longer will it be necessary for

the Children of Peace orphans to scramble into the back of a rented truck every week for the trip to and from Saturday School. A major asset will be electricity to run computers and sewing machines. In addition, boarding girls will be safer as they can be housed on site. The district authorities have been most supportive and encouraging during this major change. Additional land adjacent to the new site may be available from the district should BLC need to expand in the future.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers make a big difference in every way, by their financial contributions, their enthusiasm and their unique skills. By the end of 2011, the volunteer program had hosted more than fifty-five volunteers from North American, Canada and England. They have brought countless riches to Bududa Learning Center: girl's dresses sewn by the Quakers of Coldstream, Ontario; an array of musical instruments brought over from New Jersey by Scott Douglas; medical supplies collected by eager supporters in the West, etc. Each volunteer also makes a financial contribution. Skills contributed have ranged from painting a map of Uganda on the wall for children who had never seen their country depicted in print, so scanty are public school learning materials, to a school photography trip on which each orphan was furnished a camera to take photos. Volunteers love their experience so much that some come back year after year. Bududa Learning Center intends to keep hosting volunteers for their skills and fresh ideas.

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## Sponsors and Donors

Sponsors and donors are the heart and soul of the Bududa Learning Center organization. These are truly the people who put the staff's good intentions into action and encourage Children of Peace orphans and Bududa Vocational Institute students to dream big. Sponsors "adopt" a child by making an annual donation while donors give funds for operations and capital improvements. Thanks to sponsors

and donors in the United States, Canada and the UK, Bududa Learning Center has been able to build a new school in the center of the Bududa District where the organization can connect to the electrical grid and have a true school campus. Bududa Learning Center looks forward with hope to receiving donations to acquire the adjacent plot of land for a boys' hostel, football field, library and perhaps a

small plot of land for growing food to help feed the students. To all who have supported Bududa Learning Center in the past and to those who will lend support in the future, we thank you for giving Bududa Learning Center hope for the future.

*For the latest news about the Bududa Learning Center visit: [www.bududalearningcenter.org](http://www.bududalearningcenter.org).*

## Reading Peace: Rwanda Peace Library

By *Annie Loewen*, Mennonite Central Committee volunteer

*The tree is dressed when it is still young.* Kinyarwanda proverb

It only takes one look at the messy bookshelves to know that there have been many children that came through the Children's Peace Library today. Every day the library receives visits from close to sixty children who live nearby or attend neighboring schools. These children spend anywhere from ten minutes to two hours looking through the shelves of books trying to decide which one to read next and which ones to choose to take home and share with their families.

The Children's Peace Library is located in the Kagarama sector of Kigali, Rwanda. It was opened in 2009 as an extension of the Transformational Leadership Centre with support from African Great Lakes Initiative. The library began with five hundred books and a few shelves, but, with a large donation of books from Mennonite Central Committee, it has now grown to over 3,500 books. The Peace Library is a place for children between the ages of seven and thirteen to come practice their reading skills, learn about the world they live in, and develop their imagination and curiosity. All these

things contribute to the goal of the Library, which is to teach children that everyone must work together to create peace.

Peace education for children is something that means a lot to librarian Jean-Baptiste Hakizimana, who left his job as an English teacher to work with the Children's Library. He comments: *Peace education for children is very important because children are the future leaders of Rwanda. Children need to learn about peace when they are young in order for it to take root and grow within them.*

Most Rwandan children have grown up without being exposed to reading as a form of learning and entertainment outside of the formal classroom. But places like The Children's Peace Library are introducing a new culture of reading and peace into Rwandan society.

The Library offers children the chance to learn about peace through books and interactions with each other. Reading about different cultures, religions, and the world around them provides a new opportunity to learn and grow. The

Peace Library also offers peer mediation workshops each year, which so far have trained ninety students from elementary school fifth and sixth grade classes in the area. The workshops teach children how to resolve conflict peacefully through the use of conflict resolution and transformation principles. Children who know the importance of peace and a good education have the ability to shape the world they live in and make sure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

As The Children's Peace Library continues to grow and add new books, the Transformational Leadership Centre is looking at the possibility of opening a new branch of the library in Gisenyi, located in western Rwanda on the northern shore of Lake Kivu. Due to limited space and availability of books, the new library will start small with just a few hundred books. But news of the new library opening has already sparked interest in local parents and church leaders who are looking forward to the opening of the first children's library in that area.

## Children of Peace

The Children of Peace (CoP) program for local orphans is based on the idea that orphans could receive vocational training at Bududa Vocational Institute free of charge. Some one hundred and sixty orphans attend the school from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday, where they receive supplementary schooling and two meals. They are also monitored for medical and home problems and given school supplies, school uniforms, soap and Vaseline. Most importantly, the program pays for the children's lunches at public school during the week plus school fees and exam costs when necessary. Most of these children have Western sponsors, who contribute toward meeting the orphans' expenses. The children thus know there is a far-off person who cares. Contact is maintained through the exchange of letters, photographs and drawings. The hope is that the extra schooling and care will improve the children's academic results, which in turn will provide higher possibilities for them in the future.

A new counseling initiative for all CoP students takes place one

afternoon a week. The Girls' Club is a new method of peer sharing started in 2011 by Sabia Rigby, an American Peace Corps volunteer assigned to this program. Every Wednesday afternoon girls go to the guesthouse for an informal chat with teachers, interns or volunteers aimed to impart elementary concepts of hygiene and increase their self-confidence. Children are generally subservient in Ugandan culture. To greet an adult they bow, and they speak to adults in soft shy voices. By boosting their self-esteem, the Club hopes to increase their chances of completing their education without falling into the familiar trap of teenage pregnancy. The key message of the Club is that girls have every reason to feel good about themselves and to be capable of saying "No".

Examples of accomplishments are Children of Peace orphans whose sponsors support them through higher education. I could mention Tsapse Mark, now at university, and Nakuti Madina, a proud trainee nurse.

*Shelia Havard*

## Rwanda Scholarship Program

With the help of Laura Shipler Chico, the former AGLI volunteer to Rwanda, the Rwanda Sponsorship Program was created in 2006. The objective of the program was to help different vulnerable children such as the orphans of war, HIV/AIDS, and children from families which are very poor in the community to finish secondary school. Since the program started, more than fifteen children have graduated from high school. Some got jobs and can now support themselves and their families. Others were able to continue for further studies. Since 2007, the program has been organizing an annual retreat for the students. The retreat takes place before the students start a new academic year. Currently, the program has 14 students; one at university, 12 at high school, and one at primary school.

Our goals for the future are to increase the number of students to 25, and find a volunteer to help us with different activities like visiting children at school, organizing the children's annual retreat, etc.

*Theoneste Bizimana*

### Scholarship student's letter to his sponsor:

Dear my sponsor,

I greet you and your family in the name of Jesus. I write this letter to thank you for everything you have done for me by assisting me with school fees. This time I have finished my high school studies in General Mechanics and I hope that soon I may continue the university studies.

In Rwanda, we focus mainly on theories than practice due to limited materials. So this is hard to the students like us where theoretically we are full of knowledge but practically we are empty.

I don't know how to thank you for your assistance. Thank you for helping me getting this opportunity to study. I had no hope to study again because my family is very poor and my dad who was the only one to support me and the whole family had passed away.

I would like to study university though it's difficult here. I've got 70.68% which is a high grade in our country but unfortunately, the government scholarship in General Mechanics is very limited and if granted, it may be granted to less than five students in the country. But I will try my best to see if I can be among these ones who can get it.

I really thank you very much and as I can't get anything to pay back, I wish you all divine blessings. I hope one day I will meet you and we will share more stories.

May blessings be with you and your family.

Faithfully yours,

*Jean Pierre*

## Outline of AGLI programs

### 1. Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities

Burundi  
Rwanda  
North Kivu, Congo  
Kenya  
United States  
International Trainings

### 2. Alternatives to Violence

Kenya  
Central Africa

### 3. Transformative Mediation

Central Africa  
Kenya

### 4. Extended Service Volunteers/Work camps

### 5. Friends Women's Association/Kamenge Clinic

### 6. Bududa Vocational Institute, Uganda

### 7. Scholarship/Sponsorship Programs

Children of Peace, Bududa, Uganda  
Rwanda Scholarship Program

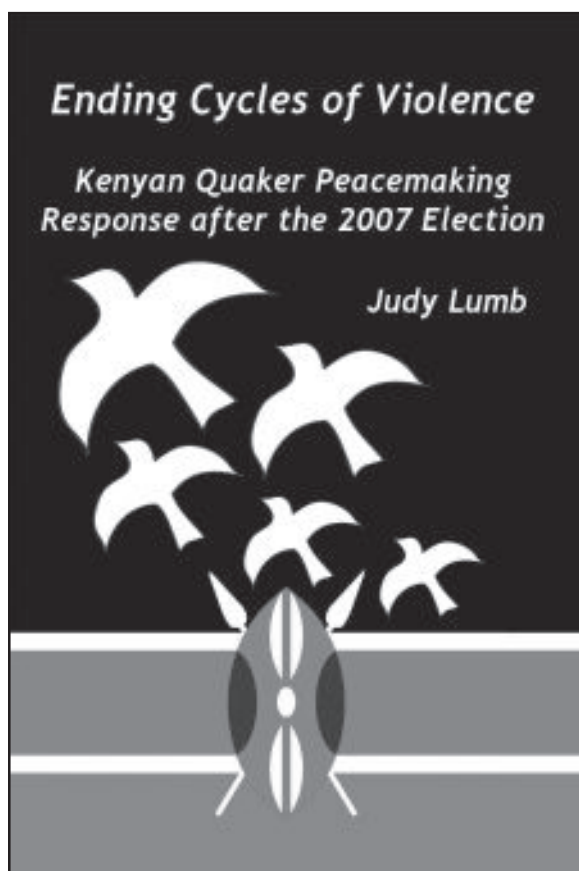
### 8. Awareness:

Speaking tours by African partners  
PeaceWays-AGLI  
AGLI listserve

#### Books:

*Ending Cycles of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response after the 2007 Election* by Judy Lumb

*A Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region* by David Zarembka



### **Ending Cycles of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response after the 2007 Election**

By *Judy Lumb*

In a story-telling mode, Judy Lumb chronicles the heart-warming response by Kenyan Quakers to the violence that erupted around them after the disputed December 27, 2007 election. This is a case study of how Quakers and other peacemakers need to respond immediately during violence and lead reconciliation efforts.

Judy Lumb is still a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting (Georgia), although she has lived in Belize for the past 25 years. She is Editor of the non-profit publisher, *Producciones de la Hamaca* <producciones-hamaca.com>. In addition to publishing books, she is on the editorial teams of the Quaker publications, *What Canst Thou Say?*, *Quaker Eco-Bulletin*, and the *Quaker Institute for the Future Pamphlets*.

**To purchase a copy, go to the AGLI webpage: [www.aglifpt.org](http://www.aglifpt.org).**