

# Plowshares Institute Fall 2003 Newsletter

## Peace and Stability in a World of Terror

by Robert A. Evans

*The threats of terrorism will not be contained by merely providing more military, police, or immigration restrictions. Hope for addressing the roots of terrorism lies in convincing our citizens that democratic participation will improve the quality of their life, that their human rights will be protected even in times of threat, and that conflicts on both local and international levels can be constructively transformed.*

This statement by Dr. Prof. Hafid Abbas, the Director General of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MOJAHR) in the Republic of Indonesia, captures his approach to a more peaceful and stable society in Indonesia. Dr. Abbas has invited Plowshares Institute to unite with his Ministry in a four-year project, "Democracy, Human Rights and Conflict Transformation: Addressing the Roots of Terrorism." The program plans to equip more than 3,000 leaders of the government, military, police, university and non-profit sector to constructively address emerging local conflicts while pursuing policies that further democracy and human rights.

**Plowshares is uniquely positioned to extend its ten years of peace-building work in Indonesia** through this joint project with MOJAHR. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation and has both the largest Muslim and reformed Christian populations in the world. The nation shares with South Africa a common Dutch colonial history, decades of authoritarian rule, denial of democratic participation for a majority of its people, and pervasive violation of citizens' human



Indonesia Human Rights and Democracy project participants practicing skills in a role-play.

rights. During the past three decades, Indonesia's development has been based on paradigms of growth, centralism, and uniformity. Indonesia, like South Africa, neglected the importance of its significant social/cultural diversity. In both nations these collective policies, whether called New Order or Apartheid, were counterproductive to the development of local communities.

South Africa has launched the struggle for a new, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic nation with a constitution that guarantees democratic participation and protection of human rights. Indonesia is now also seeking reforms to speed up national recovery from violent conflicts by actively formulating policies that promote: democratic participation for all of its provinces; the protection of human rights, particularly the practice of religion; the rule of law; and non-violent approaches to conflict intervention. Most South African and Indonesian leaders believe that these changes are essential for building national unity, domestic peace, and regional stability.

Education,  
Research, and  
Dialogue toward a  
More Just, Sustain-  
able, and Peaceful  
World Community

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## Addressing Congregational Conflict

US religious congregations reflect significant changes in American society – changing neighborhoods, changing views on traditional values, economic pressures and global anxiety. A recent landmark study of US congregations indicated that healthy congregations that are dealing with change are inevitably involved in conflict.

Plowshares staff, with support from the Peacemaking Program of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, has led several intensive programs to equip clergy and lay leaders with skills of conflict transformation. This approach to addressing conflict seeks to use the significant energy of conflict to fuel constructive change in individuals, relationships and structures.

In October Plowshares worked with some 175 members of the Synod of California and Hawaii (a regional subdivision of Presbyterian churches) who devoted a major portion of their annual meeting to

hone their skills of communication, analyzing congregational conflict, and approaches to problem solving. Four members of CERJ (Christians Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice), who were part of a national Plowshares program, served as coaches and co-facilitators: Nancy and Stan Moore, Mark Jones, and Dennis Westbrook, director of the Los Angeles-based CERJ program.



Mark Jones, Bob and Alice Evans and Dennis Westbrook - Co-facilitators an October Presbyterian synod training in California.

Photo by Barbara Fredericks

In August, Plowshares led a week-long course at Ghost Ranch, the Presbyterian Study Center in New Mexico. The course was co-facilitated by Bob and Alice Evans for Plowshares, with leadership support from Dwight Lundgren, Director of the Office of Reconciliation of the American Baptist Church, and Sara Lisherness, Director of the Peacemaking Office of the Presbyterian Church. Partici-

pants came from Hong Kong, New Zealand and US states from Maryland and Georgia to Washington and California. **The course included Bible study, mediation training, networking,** sharing personal and professional resources, and reflection on national and global conflicts. An article in the Newsletter on “Sprouting Seeds...” (page-6) notes some of the fruits of this workshop.

### Conflict Resolution in Civil Society: A Case Method Approach

*Soon after a South African city mayor publicly announced a program to upgrade homes in an informal squatter camp, hundreds of new homeless families crowd into the area. Tension grows between desperate new arrivals and residents who fear losing their chance for decent housing. Friction also intensifies between the squatters and long-term middle class white residents living in the area and with the National Parks Board as the squatter area expands into sensitive national park land. Anxious city leaders call on a mediation team to address the situation before violence erupts.*

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Access to housing, the complexity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the desperate plight of black Zimbabwe farm workers are three of numerous issues raised by more than a dozen new case studies developed in September during a workshop sponsored by the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town. Plowshares staff members were part of the teaching team working with skilled conflict resolution practitioners and trainers from Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Participants brought extensive field experience to develop true “problem-posing” case studies which will be used in active mediation situations, skills training, and documentation of contemporary African conflicts.

Working with the authors, Plowshares staff members are in the final stages of editing the cases before they are placed on the Centre’s Website [<http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za>] The next phase is a publication with selected cases and commentaries by noted African mediation and negotiation practitioners.

## Peace and Stability in a World of Terror

Continued from page 1

Reaching these goals in pivotal nations of Africa and South East Asia provides a model for **addressing the roots of terrorism**, offers potential for greater international cooperation, and could move us beyond violent and vindictive acts of terrorism and war that have made the world more insecure in the last two years.

Comparable to South Africa in the early 1990's, this critical transitional period in Indonesia offers an opportunity for precedent-setting initiatives. Attaining peace and preventing violence in one of the most diverse and influential nations in Southeast Asia calls for a comprehensive resolution of economic, social, cultural and political issues.

In addition to supporting new initiatives on a national level, Plowshares focus will be in assisting provincial and local leaders to develop their own approaches and skills to **constructively address issues of human rights, democratization, and local conflicts**. This joint program with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in Indonesia is similar to the initiative Plowshares developed with political and religious leaders in South Africa in the early 1990's when launching the "Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice" project. This cooperative effort with our brothers and sisters in South Africa contributed to the remarkably peaceful first all-race election in South Africa and its resulting monumental, non-violent transfer of power.

Plowshares now has a unique opportunity to **contribute to greater security and stability in Southeast Asia** through this new initiative which links Indonesia and South Africa in a series of replicable training events that seek to influence the ethos of a nation. Plowshares has already facilitated two years of Indonesian and South African exchange visits at the highest levels of the government, military, religious and civic society. One result of the exchanges is the human rights and democracy project which was launched in Jakarta this past April in an intensive training event for another group of national and provincial leaders selected by the Ministry.

The next stage of the project takes this same diverse group to South Africa in November for two weeks of **dialogue, strategic planning, and curriculum development**. Participants initial application of the South African Seminar learnings begins by their implementing their own training events for their constituents in at least 10 provinces of Indonesia. Three subsequent teams of policy makers and trainers will be selected in the next three years to complete this same cycle of training, international exposure, and teaching others in local workshops.

**We ask for your prayers** and partnership with Plowshares and the Indonesian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for a program that holds potential for more sustainable security, international cooperation, and greater stability in a world of terror.

## Plowshares Volunteers

Much of the office work at Plowshares Institute is done by a team of talented volunteers. Some use their technological talents to assist in updating and improving the database. Others transcribe the tapes Bob Evans uses to dictate articles and formal correspondence, no small feat considering the number of foreign names and places in this correspondence! Still others assist with preparing Plowshares bi-annual newsletter for mailing. Plowshares Institute is blessed by their continued dedication.

This newsletter's volunteer is Kitty Vangunten. Kitty learned about Plowshares through newspaper articles and a visit to the website. Kitty skillfully tackles the challenge of transcribing Bob's tapes, many of which are dictated in planes, trains, and automobiles. Kitty works as a Simsbury Fire Department dispatcher. Her willingness and dedication, as well as ideas on how to promote the organization, are a blessing to Plowshares.

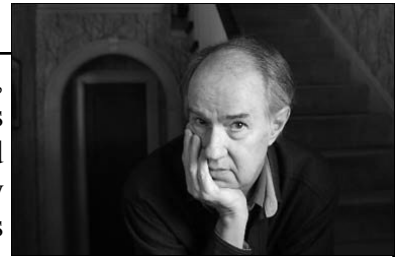
**Plowshares is always looking for additional volunteers** to assist the staff in our work. If you would like to volunteer as part of this ministry, please contact the office.



Kitty Vangunten stops by the Plowshares office to collect dictation.



# Ecumenical Accompaniment



The **Rev. Ken Taylor**, a Connecticut-based United Church of Christ pastor, returned this past summer from three months in Israel and Palestine. Ken was part of Ecumenical Accompaniment, a program sponsored by the World Council of Churches to support non-violent approaches to peace in this deeply troubled part of the world. Program participants seek to stand beside Israelis and Palestinians struggling to find a just and equitable peace.

Although Ken was assigned to live in a Palestinian village, his photographs and commentary reflect the tragedy for all of those involved in this bitter dispute.

Ken and his wife JoAnne were part of a Plowshares traveling seminar to Latin America in 1981, and they co-facilitated a Plowshares seminar to China in 1988. The Taylor's and Plowshares staff ask for your continued prayers for a just peace in the Middle East.



Both Christians and Muslims seek freedom from Israeli occupation and pray together against what they call the "Bush war." They see the conflict in the Middle East as much more political than religious.

The barrier called the Separation Fence, Apartheid Wall, or Tybay Wall, being built to provide protection for Israel from suicide bombs, cuts through the fabric of Palestinian lives. The wall blocks Omma Fahm from his job in the town and from his wife and child who live in Jordan.



Cycle of Violence: A young man is executed in bed by Israeli soldiers with no trial. His Palestinian community honors him as a hero (left). A 19-year-old "human bomb" explodes in the town of Afula in retaliation for his death. In retaliation for the bomb, the parents of the suicide bomber are deported and her home in Tubas is destroyed .



## African Update

### Fragile Hope for Zimbabwe in Danger

Based on continued workshops and consultations in Zimbabwe this past July, the Plowshares Team was initially hopeful about this country's emergence from a multi-year presidential and governmental crisis. Selected religious leaders, many of whom have been equipped with negotiation and mediation skills by staff from the Center for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town and Plowshares, were seeking to broker an agreement with the ruling Zanu-PF party and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Mediators had hoped to facilitate a power sharing agreement to enable President Mugabe to resign early in the new year to make way for a provisional constitution and a new general election. The next step could have been a new constitution drafted by the new Parliament and approved by the Supreme Court.

Continued dramatic deterioration of economic and security conditions have dimmed these hopes. Nevertheless, Plowshares and CCR staff are continuing to equip leaders of not-for profit organizations, religious leaders and journalists to be advocates of a peace process and effective mediators in addressing the growing problems facing Zimbabwe and other countries in the region. Plowshares has worked with the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, NOVASC and the Mediation Network toward these goals for more than ten years.

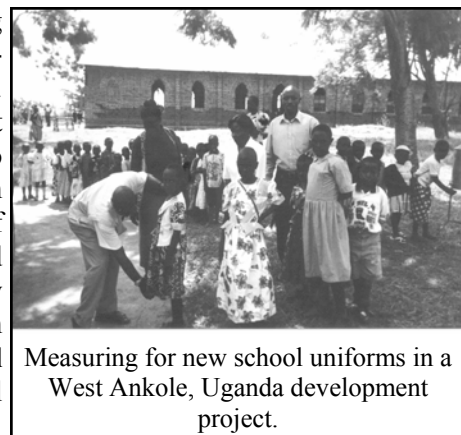
### Peace Skills in Uganda



PUMP: Dancing to celebrate a new roof for a rural medical clinic.

Other promising progress comes from continued work in **Uganda** with the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) and the Program on Development and Rehabilitation (PDR) of the Church of Uganda. These two organizations have hosted previous Plowshares peace skills training events. The intensive one-week July workshop focused on equipping community and religious leaders to develop case studies of local conflict intervention situations. Plowshares staff also consulted with religious, academic and non-profit leaders about other conflicts in Uganda and the challenges of delivering medical and development services in conflict areas.

The most critical challenge facing Uganda is the war between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army on the northern border with the Sudan. This conflict continues to destabilize the Horn of Africa and block development programs in this vulnerable region of East Africa. This tragic conflict has led to great suffering and cost the lives of thousands of children who have been kidnapped and forced to serve as child soldiers and sex workers. A coalition of religious leaders, many equipped in Plowshares' programs, have gained sufficient credibility to negotiate a truce and, we hope, restrain and ultimately end this war against children. Working with our primary Plowshares partners in Uganda –UJCC and PDR - and staff of the **Plowshares Uganda Medical Project (PUMP)** which is delivering remarkable medical, dental, and social services to one of the poorest parts of Uganda.



Measuring for new school uniforms in a West Ankole, Uganda development project.



## Sprouting Seeds and Growing Trees

By Alice Frazer Evans



### Mercer Center for Community Development, Georgia

One of Plowshares' primary goals is **to empower individuals and communities** to network and use their own significant skills and experience for long-term peacebuilding. In September the staff received a letter from Peter Brown, professor at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and Director of the Mercer Center for Community Development, which exemplifies this process.

*Your seeds are sprouting. We offered our first half-day workshop in conflict transformation and community reconciliation this last weekend for 21 community members. These included our eight Neighborhood Advocates, two school board members, a city councilwoman, the head of the Ministerial Alliance, a local editorial columnist, the vice-president of Goodwill Industries, a director of the Centers for Disease Control, and an activist Latina university faculty member. . . .It went very well. . . rave reviews from the participants.*

The course was co-facilitated by Peter Brown, Sherry Moore-Williamson (on the Center staff) and Mary Huie-Jolly (a professor of biblical studies from New Zealand on academic leave in Atlanta). All three attended the week-long conflict transformation course at Ghost Ranch in August (See article "Addressing Congregational Conflict," page - 2). Tina Fontenot Jackson, who was trained by a Plowshares team in Los Angeles, and Harold Tessendorf, an experienced South African crisis mediator trained at the Center for Conflict Resolution in South Africa, were also part of the co-facilitation team.

The Mercer Center's next workshop is scheduled in late October for Mercer University faculty and staff.

### Hartford Center for Conflict Transformation (HCCT), Connecticut

HCCT, seeded by Plowshares community workshops in 1999 – 2001, continues to thrive under the direction of **Margaret Steinegger-Keyser**, a South African who worked for three years with Plowshares staff before becoming the executive director of HCCT.

The Center equips a diverse group of Hartford area community leaders with networking and peace building skills through regularly scheduled workshops. The Center's courses are co-facilitated by Margaret and a **growing group of volunteer community mediators** and trainers who initially entered the program as course participants. An increasing number of mediation facilitation requests come to the center from public, private and not-for profit groups and agencies throughout the metropolitan area.

The Center has a long-term contract to equip area police officers with cross cultural communication and mediation skills. The Center is in the process of developing a new Website. Those interested in information on future courses or the Center's mediation and facilitation services can contact Margaret via her e-mail: [margysk@aol.com](mailto:margysk@aol.com).

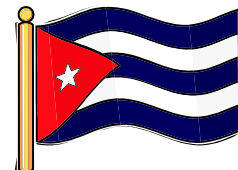
## **Plowshares Institute Traveling Seminars 2004**

**Co-Sponsored by Hartford Seminary; Leadership Greater Hartford; Presbyterian Church USA, Peace Making Program; United Methodist Board of Church and Society**  
**CUBA**



**A Dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba:  
 Religion, Economics, Ecology and Human Rights**

**March 9 –18, 2004**



The Cuba seminar will consider US/Cuba relations with special attention to issues of Religion, Economics, Ecology and Human Rights. It is made possible by invitations from Cuban religious, civic, academic, business, and political leaders.

Participants will learn about Cuba's history and achievements through discussions with local academic, political, and religious leaders. The group will experience Cuba through exposure to places out of reach for tourists and voices not traditionally represented by the media or government. Participants will grapple with the effects of socialism in Cuba; weighing restrictions on individual, civil, and political rights against Cuba's significant gains in literacy, health care, environmental protection, and education. Cubans have much to share about reducing poverty and inequality, building an economy outside of the control of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and about the experience of Christians living in a revolutionary society.

Participants will visit Havana, the capital; Matanzas, home of Cuba's principal ecumenical seminary; Veradero, which has one of the most beautiful beach areas in the Caribbean; and other sites of cultural and environmental significance.

**The total cost of the seminar, \$2,500, includes visas, room, board, and airfare from Miami.**

## **HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CHINA**

**Transition and Crisis: Human Rights, Economics, and the Role of the Church in China**

**May 24 – June 7, 2004**

This seminar will explore economic transition, issues of human rights and the role of religion in China. Unique to this seminar will be personal dialogue with government, civic, and religious leaders in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

The seminar begins with an orientation in Hong Kong, now a Special Administrative Region of China. The cultural diversity of life in the former British colony, the center of capitalist-oriented trade with Asia and the U.S., serves as a stimulating complement to life in Mainland China. Our hosts in Hong Kong will address recent political and economic changes including moves toward greater democratic participation.

In Mainland China, the group will meet with religious, government, and education leaders in Shanghai, Beijing, and Nanjing (Jiangsu Province). As guests of the Jiangsu International Cultural Exchange Center and Nanjing Union Seminary, the group will meet with leaders of the Church in China. Academic and government leaders will share their views on China's transition. The delegation will visit a rural area as well as renowned cultural sites such as the Great Wall, Tian'anmen Square, and the Forbidden City. Columbia Theological Seminary will co-sponsor this seminar to China.

**The total cost of \$3,800 includes visas, room and board, and travel from New York.**

**Academic credit is available for both seminars.**

**For additional information and applications contact:**

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## Hope from South Africa

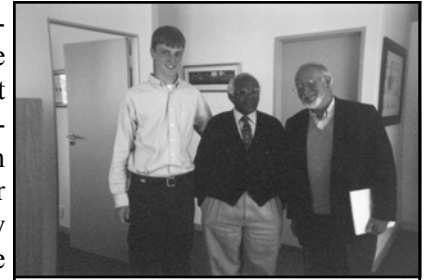
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Work in Africa during July by Executive Director Robert Evans and Duke University Intern Matthew Bennett concluded in **South Africa** with long-range planning sessions with Plowshares partners at the Center for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town and Craig Arendse, the Director of Mediation and Transformation Practice. Both organizations are working with Plowshares to develop the South African program for a delegation from Indonesia's Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. This delegation is part of a larger joint initiative between the Ministry and Plowshares, "Human Rights, Democracy and Conflict Transformation: Addressing the Roots of Terrorism." (See "Peace and Stability in a World of Terror," page 1)



Matt Bennett and Bob Evans review peace strategy in South Africa with Archbishop Tutu.

Advance preparation for the delegation's visit to South Africa in November 2003 called for numerous meetings with religious and civic leaders. Bob and Matt met with Archbishop Desmond Tutu to discuss this advance preparation as well as review peace building strategies for conflict areas in Zimbabwe, Ireland, Iraq, Liberia, and the Middle East with a focus on Palestine and Israel. As Desmond declared, **"The Church's role in conflict is to give people hope; if we can't do that we should shut our doors."**

Plowshares mission of providing training and consultation for local leaders to build peace and stability offers the grounds for this hope. Alice and Bob Evans return to South Africa the first three weeks of November to lead the Indonesian delegation. Matt Bennett is in Uganda for four months studying development economics and working with Plowshares Ugandan partners.

## Plowshares New Program and Office Coordinator

**Plowshares is pleased to announce a new staff member.**

**Elizabeth Vélez** brings extensive international experience to Plowshares. She has conducted research on ethnic conflict in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the former USSR. She studied in Geneva in a special program to examine the organization and work of humanitarian agencies, including divisions of the United Nations, European Union and the Red Cross. She has also conducted independent research in Prague with a focus on the effects of the division of Czechoslovakia.

In Plowshares' tradition, Elizabeth applied her global experience to a local context by tutoring at-risk children in Hartford Public Schools in Hartford Americorps.

Elizabeth is a graduate of Williams College with a BA in Political Science. Her roles with Plowshares will include **coordinating a growing group of committed office volunteers** and working on development and recruitment for Plowshares international seminars.



Elizabeth working to promote Plowshares traveling seminars.