



809 Dogmeadow Street
P.O. Box 243
Simsbury, CT 06070-0243

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PLOWSHARES
INSTITUTE

Dear Friends,

A favorite hymn begins, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

Plowshares Institute is built on the deep conviction that each one of us can possess the vision, the capacity and the confidence to be peace builders. We believe that the remarkable experiences and people encountered in travel seminars open us to new visions of hope in situations we would have considered hopeless. Plowshares' intensive workshops and seminars, which teach skills and approaches to transforming conflict, expand participants' capacities to respond more concretely and creatively to division and injustice. The power of spiritual and cultural resources - combined with new skills, networks and relationships found in these programs - builds the faith and confidence for each of us to become agents of peace and reconciliation.

Plowshares seeks to make a difference in our increasingly polarized, war-torn world through international seminars, capacity building workshops, and focused long-term national and international programs. These programs are based on the belief that lasting peace can be built through strong, mutually beneficial partnerships, deep cross-cultural understanding, and interactive education. With the guidance and support of trusted partners who share our vision, Plowshares identifies emerging social problems, develops pilot projects and curricula, equips trainers to implement and sustain the programs, and evaluates and disseminates our research and curriculum materials for use by others. These convictions and methodologies have been applied to projects throughout the world.

The following pages identify and highlight several of Plowshares most significant programs, past and present. The Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice program in South Africa helped that country move from under the yoke of apartheid to a new, multi-cultural, democratic nation. The Peace Skills approach and curriculum developed for this program are being used today in many other nations including the US. Through current partnerships with the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights and local religious leaders, Plowshares is currently working to equip a cadre of peacemakers in Aceh Province following 30 years of civil war. Meanwhile, our emerging programs in China promise to bring new forms of dialogue to a nation rife with public uprisings. We hope that both of these programs will become models for reconciling nations and communities.

We affirm with gratitude the partnerships and contributions of all those who have supported Plowshares' role as a catalyst for social change. Together, by God's grace, we have been able to plant and cultivate seeds of peace. As a dear friend, Bill Coffin, reminded us, "First you leap, and then you grow wings." As we celebrate Plowshares 25 years of commitment to peace with justice, we invite you to leap with us into new challenges wherever you are called and to support Plowshares continuing mission of Cultivating Peace for a Just Global Community.

Sincerely,

Alice + Bob



PLOWSHARES
INSTITUTE
CULTIVATING
PEACE FOR
25 YEARS



"Plowshares has done a fantastic job in promoting peace with justice in South Africa and other parts of the world."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



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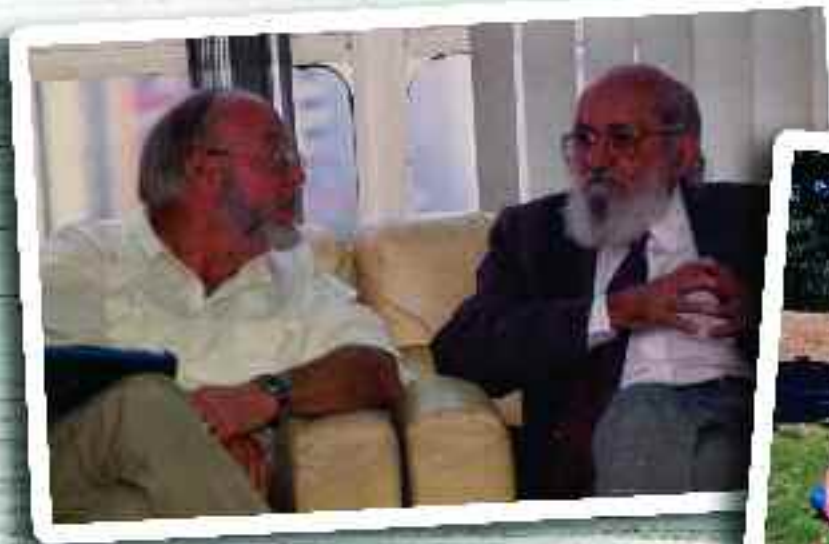


EDUCATION THROUGH EXPERIENCE

An encompassing educational goal of Plowshares programs is to empower participants to move from information – to knowledge – to understanding – and ultimately to constructive action for global justice and peace.

Today's religious and community leaders are challenged to deal wisely and comprehensively with increasingly complex issues. Direct experience

illuminates reality and often transforms our relationship to the persons or situations we encounter. Leaders need the ability to listen to different perspectives and to engage each other in meaningful dialogue. In response to these needs for experience, listening skills, and transformational action, Plowshares has adopted two primary approaches to build skills and insights for global peace builders: problem-posing case studies and international travel seminars.



PROBLEM-POSING CASE STUDIES – “EXPERIENCE AT A FRACTION OF THE COST.”

This use of carefully guided case study discussions builds on the earlier work of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire who introduced what was considered a radical theory of “experiential education” in the 1960s with his book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Freire noted that the “banking” approach to education, in which a teacher “deposits” information or knowledge into the student or “empty vessel,” encourages students to be passive and often convinces them they have little to contribute. He contrasts this with “problem posing” education which opens students to new knowledge and frees both teacher and students to become co-learners and effective interveners by combining their wisdom and experience to resolve problems.

Effective case teaching enables participants to reflect on actual conflicts and dilemmas openly and honestly, share analysis and alternatives with others, and learn from the insights of colleagues and co-learners. By “living through” the

experiences of a North American pastor in a divided congregation, a Ugandan refugee, or an Indonesian tsunami victim through a case study, readers become more sensitive to diverse voices, more responsive to mutual needs for dignity and self worth, and more insightful to the dynamics of global interdependence.

Over the past three decades Bob and Alice Evans have developed more than 150 case studies based on true situations in Africa, Asia, Latin American and North America and published 10 case books which provide resources with teaching suggestions and in-depth analysis in separate commentaries. The Evans helped found the Association for Case Teaching to equip theological educators to use more experiential pedagogies in their classrooms. This Association, co-directed by the Evans and housed at Plowshares for 20 years, prepared a generation of educators in the Case Method Institute Summer Institutes with dialogical teaching skills and sensitivity to the fact that *how* they teach is often as important as *what* they teach. Educators who attended the association's Case Method Institute Summer Workshops have published more than 800 case studies and 29 case books.

PLOWSHARES INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SEMINARS

Plowshares carefully designs two- to three-week “immersion” experiences to educate and equip participants to respond to global realities with increased sensitivity and effectiveness. Plowshares staff members are convinced that no pedagogy is as effective in building a global worldview and challenging assumptions as lived experience. With this conviction, Plowshares has conducted more than 60 travel seminars during the past 25 years introducing diverse delegations of North American leaders to the visions and challenges of nations in transition.

“In my lifetime – outside of my family – there has been no relationship that has brought me more satisfaction and more opportunities for spiritual growth and service than my relationship with friends in Africa. I will always be grateful for the immersion experience to East Africa which started me on this wonderful journey.”
— Dr. Bruce Stewart

Through experiences such as living in a Masai tribal village in Kenya, in-depth discussions with members of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, meeting with multinational CEO's in Brazil, picking cotton in Nicaragua, or meeting with Chinese religious leaders in Nanjing, participants are exposed to the challenges and issues of the developing world. Drawn from their “cultural cocoons,” participants are inspired to return as more engaged members of the global society. These contacts are made possible by Plowshares extensive relationships within the host countries.

Staff, participants and outside evaluators agree that this form of education through experience is remarkably effective in expanding global perspectives and moving participants from *information and knowledge to concrete action* for individual and group initiatives for justice and peace at home and abroad.

Travel Seminar Programs

Plowshares develops focused seminars for strategically selected constituencies in order to affect change in an established community.

Citizens of the World brought together Connecticut-based religious leaders, corporation CEOs, government representatives, and community leaders to meet twice a year to engage in dialogue with noted US speakers and encounter

global realities through seminars to China, Africa, and Latin America. Many members have continued to network and use their combined expertise to address local and international concerns.

“The trip was not just about where another nation has been or where it is going. It is about a witness that transforms the smallest details of my life here at home. I pray it will always be so.” — Rev. Katie Keene

GLOBALIZATION OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

“The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds of God's people in every culture to perceive its truth freshly through their own eyes and thus discloses...the many-colored wisdom of God... We need to break out of our ecclesiastical ghetto.” [from the Lausanne Covenant developed in the 1994 International Congress on World Evangelism]

This five-year program, which included 12 North American theological seminaries, was developed to equip pastors and lay leaders to address the global realities of ministry in the 21st century. This program sought to lead seminaries to integrate perspectives and curricula from the so-called “Third World” into the comparatively isolated realm of North American theological education. This goal of an “ethos change” in the seminaries addressed how the selected theological institutions worshiped, taught, selected faculty and students, pursued research, resourced the library, made investments, and used their endowment in ways that were sensitive to the challenges, perspectives and wisdom of the global South.

Substantial research on this program, published in *Changing the Ways Seminaries Teach: The Globalization of Theological Education* (Hartford Seminary, 1995), highlights the transformative power of the participants' intensive international experiences in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and local experiences in North America. This program was also instrumental in the decision by the Association of Theological Schools to include global experience as a curriculum component for full accreditation for North American seminaries.

“Wesley Theological Seminary was one of the twelve seminaries in the [Globalization of Theological Education] five-year project. This experience enticed, encouraged and forced seminary faculty, board members, and administrators to take a new look at how they were doing theological education. The combination of spiritual depth and focus with the practical reality of teaching, cross-cultural sensitivity, and social and global realities made Wesley Seminary search and question deeply how to better prepare persons for ministry in the world of the 21st century. As a result, we redesigned the core of our curriculum and now have a distinctive process through which all students must engage in spiritual formation, a cross-cultural immersion experience, and ministerial leadership skills. That transformation would not have happened had Wesley not been part of this cutting edge and innovative project.”

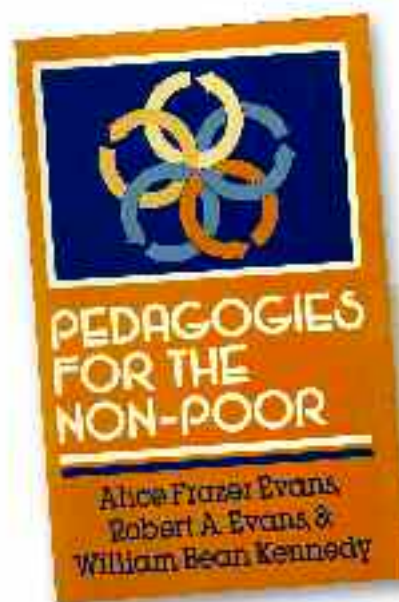
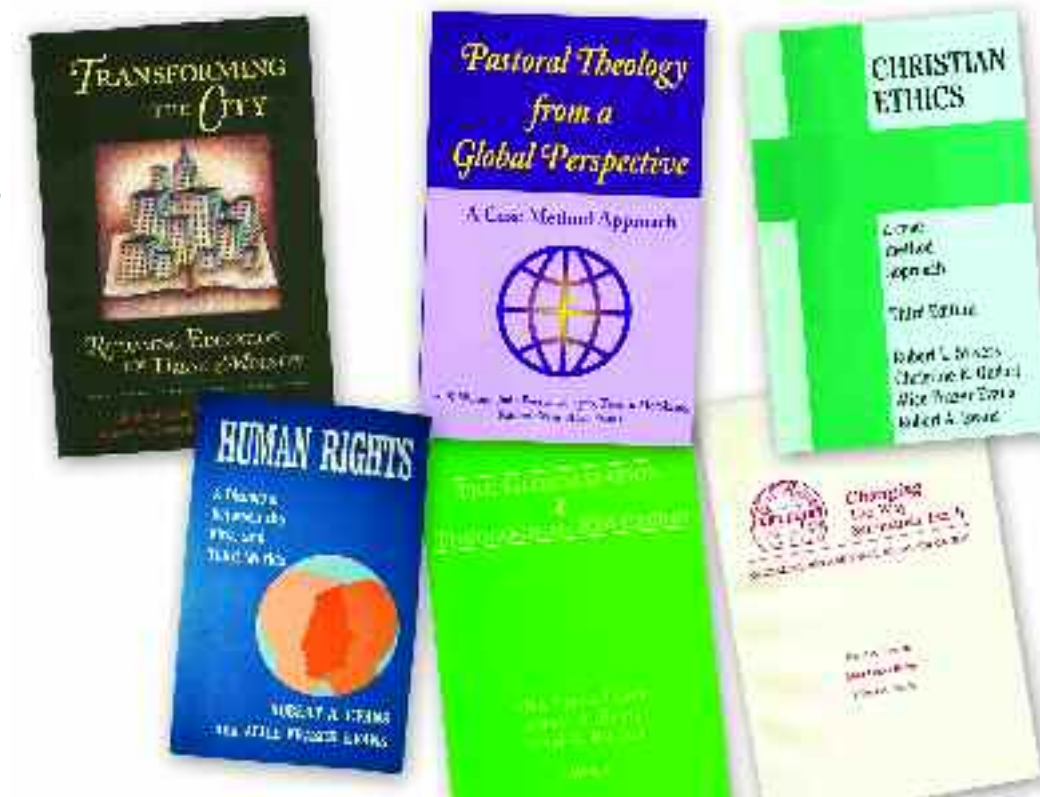
— G. Douglass Lewis
President, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

“The former director of the religion division of the Lilly Endowment identified three original innovations in theological education in the latter half of the twentieth century; clinical pastoral education, the case method approach, and the globalization of theological education. Dr. and Mrs. Evans are acknowledged as primary innovators of the latter two of these three formative initiatives.”

— CME Bishop Thomas Hoyt
Chair, National Council of Churches

PLOWSHARES WRITING & RESEARCH

In order to be a more effective catalyst for sustainable social change, Plowshares is committed to researching and publishing insights and models from our programs and pilot projects. We have learned that these resources have not only *informed* but sometimes *transformed* the perspectives and actions of involved institutions, organizations, individual readers and program participants. Several of the 13 books, the dozens of articles and the more than 100 case studies were co-authored with colleagues and program partners, representing Plowshares collaborative style in writing and research.



The Evans collaborated with mentor and friend Paulo Freire on *Pedagogies for the Non-Poor* which adapted insights from his work *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*.

EQUIPPING GLOBAL PEACE BUILDERS

As citizens of the world, we all have a stake in working towards peaceful and just transformation in local, national and global conflicts. Plowshares' focuses on equipping trusted local leaders to work with disputing parties to identify the systemic causes of conflict and help them develop alternatives that address these causes and restore relationships. This involves recognizing the parties' deepest needs and empowering them with skills to reach a just resolution. Because it has the potential to use the tremendous energy produced by conflict to address systemic causes and renew broken relationships, this approach is called "conflict transformation."



PLOWSHARES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Between 1990, when Nelson Mandela was released from prison, and 1994, the first "all race" election, South Africa faced significant instability. As violence between and within communities escalated, trusted religious and community leaders were called in to settle conflicts, but few had the basic skills or confidence to respond to these urgent pleas. At the invitation of Desmond Tutu, current Chair of the Plowshares International Advisory Council, Plowshares joined a small group of academic, religious and grass roots partners to develop *Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice (ERJ)* as a concrete response to the inevitable conflicts spawned by massive social and political changes.

Over three years, workshops throughout South Africa trained more than 1300 political, religious, community and youth leaders in basic mediation, negotiation and cross-cultural communication skills. Participants improved their listening skills and broke down stereotypes as they discussed problem-posing case studies in racially, culturally, and economically diverse groups. Through case-based role plays, participants "tried on" new approaches to bridging barriers and helping conflicting parties reach just and sustainable resolutions. ERJ participants who received special training to lead additional workshops taught hundreds more to become local agents of reconciliation, forming multi-cultural networks, using their skills to save lives and property, and negotiating peacefully on critical issues of land, housing, and education.

"The Peace Skills curriculum is a must for people who want to be change agents in society."
 — Craig Arendse, Director
 Mediation and Transformation
 Practice, South Africa

Dr. Stanley Mogoba, co-chair of the National Peace Accord, cited ERJ as a significant contributor to South Africa's move from violence and confrontation towards a more democratic, non-racial, and unified South Africa. Plowshares was later nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by members of the South African Parliament and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for its catalytic role in this transition.

The Ford and Kellogg Foundations, which had contributed to the ERJ program, approached Plowshares asking whether the insights learned in South Africa might apply to other regions of conflict including the United States. Plowshares responded to the challenge by designing new programs and workshops which were adapted to the needs and context of each setting but



Peace Skills for Community Mediators and Peace Skills Leaders' Guide (Jossey-Bass, 2001) are available in English, Spanish and Indonesian, with several sections translated into Chinese.

To more effectively adapt the curriculum to specific contexts, Plowshares staff members have written and helped local writers develop more than 200 case studies based on conflict situations throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America. Most of these cases are accompanied by role plays and discussion questions.

followed central components of the ERJ program. These included bringing together diverse racial, ethnic and religious groups, using highly interactive methodologies, and providing additional courses and resources to equip local trainers. These components also became the guiding principles for the two-volume Peace Skills curriculum, *Peace Skills for Community Mediators* and *Peace Skills Leaders' Guide*.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED STATES

Diverse urban communities experience conflict around issues such as economic disparity, race, culture, ethnicity, and religious orientation. Trusted community leaders are expected to address community problems constructively. However, the credibility of these leaders often needs to be supplemented by the kind of skills and support networks that allow mediation and negotiation to be most effective. Plowshares developed the US "Cities Program" to help multi-ethnic, multi-cultural teams of community and city leaders work proactively to build constructive relationships among neighborhoods and government agencies.

This initiative began with an invitation from a respected Jacksonville, Florida community organization to work together to equip teams of business, city and community leaders to address local conflicts. Volunteer teams subsequently mediated numerous disputes including those between the school board and community organizations, the housing department and residents, and between neighborhoods and a closing military base. Programs designed to meet the unique needs of other cities such as Austin, Hartford, Tulsa and Wichita have had equally dynamic results including the establishment of community mediation centers.

Christians Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice (CERJ) drew on insights gained from work in South Africa to equip 40 nominated Christian leaders in Los Angeles and Philadelphia to address conflict among families, congregations, organizations and communities. This two-year intensive program provided training in reconciliation, mediation, active peacemaking, and cross-cultural communication, including an immersion seminar in South Africa, for African-American, Latino, Asian, and Anglo pastors and lay leaders already in ministry in urban areas. During the subsequent service phase, individuals and multi-ethnic teams of participants engaged their communities in dealing with high levels of violence and conflict in schools and conducted peace skills training for non-profit service agencies, block captains and youth organizations.

"Our training has allowed Jacksonville to address issues in education, housing and the environment. The program has equipped more than five hundred Jacksonville leaders to be agents of community transformation and has improved the quality and ownership of important public policy decisions."

— Bill Scheu,
 lawyer and community leader,
 Jacksonville, Florida.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE WORLD

Plowshares has continued to work in Africa with multi-year programs to equip teachers and community leaders from Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe to cultivate local approaches to building peace. Plowshares has also developed conflict transformation programs in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

One of Plowshares most extensive international programs has been in partnership with Indonesian colleagues, leading to the establishment of an independent Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace (CERP). Directed by Dr. Judo Poerwowidagdo, this program has sponsored ten national and thirty provincial peace-building and human rights training events

targeting academic personnel, religious leaders, the military, police, NGOs and youth. These workshops focus on proactive peacemaking through respect for individual rights and building support networks across religious and ethnic divisions. Inter-faith mediation, trauma, and healing teams equipped in this program are working quietly and effectively to bring together conflicting parties in some of Indonesia's most violence-prone regions.

Plowshares continues to respond to requests to support on-going Peace Skills programs in many nations including Australia, China, Cuba, Brazil, New Zealand, and Uganda. Many of these workshops are now facilitated or co-facilitated by experienced local partners.

CULTIVATING PEACE AROUND THE GLOBE: 44 COUNTRIES IN 25 YEARS

United States
Dwight Lardner, Philadelphia, PA
Christians Empowering for Reconciliation with Justice
 "I started the Plowshares CBRU program in Philadelphia as the pastor of a central, multi-cultural congregation. My goal was to attract and develop carpenters and insights to strengthen my ministry and, equally important, to develop relations with others in other cultural and economic spheres who shared similar concerns. Until I did I had no idea how the experience and commitment would change my work and my life. Within six months after finishing the training phase of the program and moving into the cabinet as a three-year commitment to community development, I found myself in a new position, Director of Reconciliation Ministries for the American Baptist Churches USA."

United States
Tilin K. Fowler, Member of the U.S. Congress
Jacksonville, FL
 "Plowshares Institute has facilitated greatly in the introduction and implementation of conflict resolution skills in our Jacksonville Florida Community. Many (the leaders) believe that if the (same) skills advocated by Plowshares could be implemented on a widespread basis, it would lead to a more peaceful world. The purpose of the Plowshares South Africa model is its ability to inspire people from all backgrounds, religious and spiritual commitments, while not tied to a particular religion or denomination, to extend clarity to a particular religious or denominational perspective of the individual's spiritual compass that results in participants of the important steps in life and their common humanity. This resulted from its encouraging others to consider similar concepts when trying to resolve very difficult and emotional disputes."

Asia
Hong Kong, Christine Lo
 "People from all walks of life in Hong Kong have attended the conflict transformation workshops that David Bebbington had organized with Plowshares. Every year since 1988, we have had at least one if not two sessions in Hong Kong. Years ago, we had invited senior officers from the Hong Kong government, business leaders, professional associations, as well as non-governmental organizations' representatives. We have also introduced the work in Shenzhen, China's special economic zone. (These programs are) important to our part of the world, where the 'real pace of economic development has drowned out the need for dealing with how people feel and the many questions and concerns they have about change."
 "I believe from my observations that people who have the opportunity to work with the Eves are able to understand that there are needs to live that there are needs to live more fully, and that conflict resolution skills help us to do the best we can do more clearly so that we can be more respectful of diversity among people and learn how to honor our differences in living together on the planet."

Indonesia
Hafid Abbas-Tejagaran
 "Because Plowshares' research, experience, and commitment are rooted in the pursuit of a deeper sense of moral research in Indonesia, this is especially true. The goal is to reach the people as a Muslim of working on the social change program for some members of the government, police, military, academics, NGO and religious leaders of Indonesia and South Africa. We hope to disseminate and multiply this spiritually transforming process for the sake of human rights and democracy in my beloved country."
Kwan Hwie Liang
 "As a Buddhist, I am grateful for Plowshares' program that have in high regard our religious and civic leaders of different faiths of the continent of Indonesia to be pro-actively and inclusively dealing with all human beings by recognizing their potential and resolving conflicts into peaceful better life."



Peru
Maria Josefa Hunan
Director of Altiplano, Lima Peru
 "Plowshares' creative approach to facing poverty and justice expressed in the pioneer work *Revolving in the Non-Place* has been the basis for strengthening North-South relations and has led to many encounters with leaders from Peru and the United States. Plowshares' social and political community leaders, political persons, municipal authorities and members of our own efforts to a unique approach to conflict resolution that goes to the roots of a problem and focuses on what is in the heart and aspirations of every stakeholder. To consult a process and synergistic strategies for peaceful justice is in itself a deeply spiritual experience."



Liberia
Barbara Hoodley, Hartford, Connecticut
 "After a long day of meetings, brief meals, and debates we arrived late at the hotel. Liberia was a war zone and we were spending the night. The rain and we were joined with our luggage while a fierce rain fell on the streets, leading us into the village where we were offered shelter and the warmth of their simple thatched huts. Although I know that my house for the night had given me the only shelter in the rain, I also know now that they would be deeply offended if I refused the offer. This seminar is a constant reminder of the meaning of 'welcoming the stranger,' 'a hospitable spirit,' and 'the love of hospitality to be very mindful of the needs of the less fortunate and those in the global family.'"

Africa
Doreen Tudu, South Africa
 "Plowshares' programs have done a fantastic job in promoting peace with justice in South Africa and other parts of the world. It is a good model to explore that human security does not rest in the power of 'charms and magic,' of weapons, but in equipping people to access the necessities of life, such as food, employment, education, and healthcare. When people have enough to get by on they have hope for the future and for a better future for their children. Justice and peace are one possible."
 "The work we do in South Africa in the 1970s to assist the religious communities to find a way forward to resolve the deep-seated violence and potentially violent situation. Many people were so desperate that they were resorting to violence and we were ordering ourselves for a broad battle. It was crucial to the future of our country that community leaders be trained in mediation, cross-cultural communication, and non-violent peace-making. The Plowshares techniques were a tremendous help in teaching people conflict resolution skills and prevention widespread violence in our communities and helped us bring about peaceful resolution and change in South Africa."



Visiting Mother Teresa during India Seminar

Brazil
Auxiliary Bishop Peter Rosazza
 "It is a truly uplifting to see how the faith and spirit of churches and other religious leaders are being used to help their countries adjust to new social-political realities and to discover how local spiritual resources can influence an entire nation."

Uganda
PUMP
 Dr. Hilda Ssemu, a health specialist who was part of a Plowshares travel seminar to East Africa, founded the Plowshares Uganda Medical Program to help rebuild dental and medical facilities in Uganda following a series of devastating conflicts. For more than two decades, PUMP has supplied dental equipment for the university medical school and helped build several medical centers. It was also able to be instrumental in providing information about HIV/AIDS and malaria, purchase and distribute anti-malarial medicines, provide bed-netting and inoculations for children in West Africa. The program, one of the poorest regions of Uganda, is also one of the most effective and efficient medical programs in Africa."



PLOWSHARES INSTITUTE
CULTIVATING PEACE FOR 25 YEARS



Civil Conflict Training



Ecuador Medical Missions



Czech Republic



Rebuilding Hope in Aceh, Indonesia

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING PEACE IN INDONESIA



In the aftermath of 9/11 and the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, international Western/Muslim relations have become severely strained. With the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia is a critical area for the West to form positive relationships. Plowshares seeks to build bridges of understanding and cooperation between these worlds through our presence and our programs. We invite you to join us as we continue to work intensively in this region.

Plowshares responded to a request for programs in Aceh Province following the devastating tsunami of December 2004 and the cessation of 20 years of civil war. Working with local partners, Plowshares programs are equipping Acehese leaders with knowledge and practical skills in trauma healing, conflict transformation, and protection of human rights. Following Plowshares' belief in the healing power of diverse groups working together, the course participants include religious, community and provincial leaders, police, teachers, representatives of the media and women's groups, and members of GAM – the former combatants.

Through the first two rounds of workshops, 80 influential Acehese have been given new hope and equipped to be agents of healing within their villages. One participant spoke for his colleagues when he said, "People in Aceh have had very little peace in our lives. This program helps us build peace by giving us skills and changing the way we see conflict."

Plowshares has been asked to conduct an additional four rounds of workshops over the next two years. Securing funding for this important initiative has been especially challenging given foundation reluctance to fund programs in the Muslim world due to increased government scrutiny. Therefore we are deeply grateful for Plowshares friends whose partnership allows us to respond positively to requests from our Acehese colleagues.

Plowshares' initiative in Aceh builds on two previous partnerships. The first was with the **Center for Empowering Reconciliation with Peace** (see page 5). A second important partnership is with the Indonesian **Directorate General for the Protection of Human Rights**. Our joint multi-year program, "Human Rights, Democracy, and Conflict Transformation," linked the emerging democratic governments of Indonesia and South Africa and led to the development of action plans which have equipped more than 3,000 government, civic, and religious leaders throughout Indonesia with skills and greater understanding of human rights and pro-active conflict intervention.

The opportunity for successful continued partnerships draws on Plowshares experience and credibility working in the areas of reintegration, human rights and mediation, spanning the globe from South Africa to Aceh. South Africa's transition from apartheid presented the world with a much-needed model of reconciliation. Similarly, we believe that Aceh's ability to build a new society based on principles of respect and reconciliation could be an example to other regions that are struggling to overcome war, loss of life and civil unrest as they seek to create just and stable communities.

CERP The Center has equipped volunteer teams of mediators and trauma healers to enter some of the most violent and conflicted areas of Indonesia to bring understanding and often reconciliation to conflicting parties. In Ambon, after mosques and churches had been burned and hundreds killed or displaced in sectarian violence, leaders of the conflicting parties were seeking peace but afraid to be seen together. To provide security, successful negotiations were held secretly on a battleship provided by an admiral trained in peace skills at the Center for Empowering Reconciliation and Peace. One community leader declared, "This may be the best use of a warship that Indonesia has experienced!"



THE TRUTH AND FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

Bob Evans, Plowshares Executive Director, is serving as an expert adviser to the Truth and Friendship Commission between Indonesia and Timor Leste. As the first truth commission established between two independent countries, the TFC has the potential to provide important insights for future truth commissions in a post-conflict context between nations.

The TFC was established by the two nation's presidents to address a history of occupation which led to gross violations of human rights. The two countries are now resolved to acknowledge violations committed by parties from both countries and begin to heal the wounds of the past.

Evans' primary role with commissioners is to assist them in creating a process that helps both countries admit past wrongs and ensure that previous atrocities will not be repeated. This role, which will take him to Indonesia and East Timor several times a year, will be one of Plowshares major programmatic investments over the next two years.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION

Democracy, Human Rights and Conflict Transformation: An Indonesian Approach to Terrorism.

Co-authored by Dr. Hafid Abbas, Director General for the Protection of Human Rights, and Plowshares' staff members will be published in Indonesia in 2006.

"I want a peaceful Aceh without oppression and with dignity, freedom and the opportunity for every person to develop....This process for making peace must be given to everybody."

— Comment by Acehese participant in the February 2006 human rights and conflict transformation workshop



DEVELOPING HARMONIOUS SOCIETIES

The People's Republic of China is the most populous country and has the fastest growing economy in the world. In our interdependent globe it is crucial for the US to engage constructively with China during what many scholars describe as the China Century. Two challenges facing China are the increasing number of public social conflicts and tension over democratic reforms. Building on Plowshares history of engagement with Chinese entities including the Church in China, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, non-profit agencies, and government representatives, Plowshares has been invited to equip Chinese leaders with alternative responses to these challenges.

The increasing number of public confrontations in Mainland China over land use, housing, income disparity and the environment—more than 80,000 in 2005—endanger the Chinese government and the Communist Party mandates to maintain a stable and "harmonious" society. Members of the Jiangsu Academy of Social Sciences (JASS)—a principal political, economic and social advisor for the government and the Party and an influential institution in China—are concerned that the authoritarian responses to public pressure, which include police and/or military intervention and media control, frequently intensify rather than reduce tension and conflict. In response, JASS has invited Plowshares to equip selected Chinese leaders with more effective and sustainable approaches.

Plowshares will work over the next two years to initiate a program in Mainland China to enhance democratic practices and promote public dialogue. This initiative will work to influence specific Chinese institutions to increase the quantity, quality, and effectiveness of public hearings; equip government-sponsored mediation centers to address citizens' complaints more equitably; and increase the transparency of, and participation in, policymaking—all of which are foundational elements of the democratic process. This program will include an introduction to the principles of conflict transformation with the expectation that participants will replicate, expand, and disseminate the material within their constituencies.

The desire for public dialogue and greater democratic participation in China is most visible in Hong Kong. Under the "one country- two systems" principle, Hong Kong has a high degree of autonomy from the Mainland, but its citizens cannot directly elect their Chief Executive or the majority of their representatives. Plowshares remains committed to working with Civic Exchange—our primary partner and one of the most respected think tanks in China—to foster constructive engagement between Hong Kong and Mainland China on this and other important issues. Our partnership builds on more than two decades of work in Hong Kong which has included facilitation of a Constitutional Convention on Universal Suffrage and training workshops for more than 300 Hong Kong leaders focused on sustainable development and conflict transformation.

Supporters of Plowshares are invited to join in our renewed priority to cultivate peace with and within China by working toward a more open and collaborative foreign-policy between the US and China, supporting training events on conflict transformation and democratic participation in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and participating in future traveling seminars to China to understand better the global role of this pivotal nation.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION The Evans and Dr. Christine Loh, founding director of Civic Exchange, are currently co-authoring a book, *Walking a New Path: Equipping Asian Leaders for Societies in Transition*. This resource, scheduled for publication in 2007, focuses on the "core competencies" necessary for effective leadership in a rapidly changing world.



HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CHINA



"In all human society, conflicts caused by differences in ways of thinking and clashes of interests are universal. Especially in such a country as China with a big population and vast differences in religions, languages and mores, misunderstandings are easy to arise and grow into deep prejudices. We in China saw much of this in the ten years of what was called the "Cultural Revolution," bringing with it thousands of deaths and destruction of properties. The Peace Skills curriculum co-authored by Alice and Bob Evans helps us wake up to reason, to dialogue, and to come to see the justice that lies also in other persons' positions. This can lead to reconciliation, peace and unity."

— Bishop K.H. Ting, Vice-Chair of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference, Nanjing, China

EMERGING PROGRAM

For the last three years Plowshares has partnered with Duke University to equip upper and middle Chinese government officials with skills of leadership and public policy. The participants' enthusiastic response to Plowshares courses has led to an invitation to conduct similar workshops in Beijing for Chinese officials from a variety of ministries including Foreign Affairs, Finance and Planning. This program will be conducted in partnership with the Chinese Ministry of State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA).



"We feel very fortunate that we have been on three traveling seminars. They have stretched our vision of the world as no amount of reading could ever do."
— Amy and Lyman Potter



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PEACEBUILDING

Friends from throughout the United States gathered in Connecticut on October 26, 27 and 28 for a wonderful weekend. Participants celebrated Plowshares accomplishments of the past 25 years and recommitted to living as peacebuilders through partnership with Plowshares and by serving as agents of reconciliation in their own communities.

The weekend included many opportunities for friends to reconnect and learn more about Plowshares work through traveling seminar reunions and a public lecture at the University of Connecticut by Dr. Hafid Abbas, the first Director General for Human Rights Protection in the Ministry of Law and Human Rights for Indonesia. The October 27 banquet celebration drew 120 Plowshares supporters from 15 states ranging from California to Florida to New Hampshire, including members of 7 Plowshares Council Member Churches. A slide show of the highlights of Plowshares past and future missions was combined with fine food, motivating table sharing and inspiring music. Friends and Board members toasted Plowshares contributions to shaping public policy, influencing new standards for theological education, and educational experiences that changed lives for participants from their 20s to their 70s. Theological insights on the crucial role of women and the extraordinary wisdom and hospitality of marginalized people and communities were also shared in personal toasts.

Following the celebration dinner, Dr. Abbas, Bob Evans, and Alice Frazer Evans focused on Plowshare's present and future work in Indonesia and China during a moderated panel discussion. The discussion was stimulated by a video presentation by Christine Loh, former Hong Kong parliamentarian and founder of Civic Exchange, an influential Hong Kong think tank. The evening concluded with an energetic challenge to continue to live as advocates of justice and agents of reconciliation, with many participants expressing interest in attending future traveling seminars and conflict transformation training opportunities.

With Plowshares characteristic educational focus, October 28 included a dialogue with Dr. Abbas which focused on his action plans for human rights promotion and holistic development programs that are setting new standards for the advocacy of democracy, reform and reconciliation. A mini-immersion experience in inner-city Hartford reminded participants of the challenges of poverty, discrimination and inadequate educational opportunities in our urban centers and the hope and vision sustained by programs, individuals and organizations serving the city.

This celebration and commitment to renewal were enriched by messages and phone calls from partners throughout the United States and around the world. Pictures from the weekend and the spirit of these messages of love and encouragement are contained on this page.



"Plowshares has made me aware of the needs of people in developing countries and how our care and concern for others is the linchpin that brings peace and understanding. People have to know that you care before they care what you know"
— Jim and Linda Pellot



"Guided by the bedrock principles of Reformed theology and informed by Walter Wink's insight that organizations, like individuals, are part of God's creation and, like individuals, may fall and be twisted to serve a destructive purpose, rather than their God-given life-affirming purpose, Plowshares has taken up the work of reconciliation. This is simply - though nothing worth doing is simple - simply the work of restoring trust through acts of reconciliation and the re-discovery that former protagonists have common values and a shared vision for the future."
— Excerpt from Toast, Hugh and Kate McLean

Dear Bob and Alice,
Heartiest congratulations for Plowshares 25th anniversary celebration. Sadly, Leah and I cannot be with you... Thank you for all that God is accomplishing through your competent and compassionate hands. Have super celebrations. Much love and blessings.
— Arch (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

GETTING INVOLVED— CULTIVATING SEEDS OF PEACE

JOIN A TRAVELING SEMINAR

South Africa – October 2007
Reconciling Faith and Action

South Africa's ongoing transition from apartheid to reconciliation has inspired the world. South Africa continues to be a nation in transition, whose leaders now struggle to respond to ongoing challenges such as HIV/AIDS, continuing poverty and other legacies of racism. This seminar is an opportunity to learn from South Africa's example through meetings with leaders such as Desmond Tutu and other members of the TRC. Members of the delegation will also be in dialogue with community leaders, parliamentarians, university presidents, and members of the Constitutional Court as they respond to ongoing questions of justice, land, employment, and environmental degradation. The delegation will enjoy South Africa's beauty and rich cultures in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Brazil – January 2008
Ecology, Economics and Ethics

The people of Latin America make an increasing impact on life in the United States as Hispanic peoples rapidly becoming the largest minority in North America. While Latin American nations rank among the foremost trading patterns of the US, concerns about immigration, debt, energy, and drug trafficking heighten international tension. Responsible, moral, and effective responses by North Americans require sensitivity to the new and changing perspectives of the peoples of Latin America. Join us in Brazil, enjoy Brazilian culture, and learn about the important steps being made towards improving the plight of the poor, reducing dependence on fossil fuel, and improving environmental protection through dialogue with Brazilian leaders in San Paulo, the rainforest, and Rio de Janeiro.

Hong Kong/China – May/June, 2008
Transition, Democracy and the Role of the Church

The seminar will examine Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" model of governance and leadership changes in China, with the world's largest remaining Communist government and the world's most robust economy. Special attention will be given to the role of religion. The post-denominational Christian church in has undergone significant growth with strong lay leadership. Dialogue with national religious leaders in Nanjing, converse with leaders in Beijing about religion in China, participate in a Chinese worship service, visit rural social projects implemented by the church-sponsored Amity Foundation, and enjoy Chinese culture through visits to the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square.

Please contact Plowshares for additional information and application forms by calling (860) 651-4304 or emailing plowshares@plowsharesinstitute.org.

ENROLL IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION TRAINING – FEBRUARY, 2007

Community Conflict Transformation (CCT) training helps communities and parties build skills, achieve new levels of respect and empowerment, and develop mutually beneficial agreements. Based on years of experience in South Africa equipping leaders for a post-apartheid reality, Plowshares developed the Peace Skills curriculum to train community, government, and religious leaders to transform the energy of conflict into constructive systemic change. Founded on the belief that local leaders have the capacity to resolve community conflicts, the curriculum uses interactive case studies and role-plays to prepare participants to bridge barriers and help conflicting parties reach just and sustainable resolutions.

We invite you to join us for a day-long session in Connecticut in February to become more effective agents of reconciliation within your own family and community. Contact Plowshares for more information on this workshop or to explore with Plowshares staff holding a workshop in your congregation, organization or community.

SUPPORT PLOWSHARES INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUILDING

Peace projects in South Africa, American cities, Indonesia, and China would be impossible without the financial support of individuals, churches, and family foundations. Join us by making a donation and supporting our post-tsunami peace initiative in Aceh, democracy and human rights programs in China, life-saving medical care through Plowshares Uganda Medical Project (PUMP), and requests from developing nations for peace skills resources and workshops. Nurture the seeds of peace with your gift.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Plowshares welcomes volunteers in our Simsbury office. Call us for specifics on how you can get involved, (860) 651-4304.

BE A LOCAL PEACEBUILDER

We, like our friend and colleague, Desmond Tutu, passionately believe that, "God is in Charge." However, we also agree with Desmond's occasional desire to whisper in God's ear, "Could you please make it a little more evident just how you are in charge?" By God's grace we are convinced that we are able to make a difference by being pro-active advocates for peace with justice in our families, our communities and the world. Act now, the need is urgent!

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Alice Frazer Evans
Director of Writing and Research
Elizabeth Vélez
Coordinator of Programs and Training
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China Christian Council
Dr. Tom Tuma
Founder, Uganda AIDS Project
Dr. Rev. Walter Wink
Biblical Studies, Auburn Seminary

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