



PEACENOTES

A Publication of Duke Center for Reconciliation

IN THIS EDITION

Lament and Hope: A Common Journey
 Archbishop Odama: The Bishop of the Village
 Country Actions
 Greetings from GLI Ambassador
 New Creation in Burundi
 Resources



“God is doing a new thing even in the midst of all that we lament. God is using GLI to shape our imagination to see his new creation.”

—Fr. Emmanuel Katongole

The Great Lakes Initiative is a community of restless Christian leaders seeking to embody God's vision of reconciliation and to inspire, form and support other leaders in the Great Lakes Region of East Africa through community, formation and learning shaped by biblically inspired content and methodologies. Duke Divinity School's Center for Reconciliation, African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, Mennonite Central Committee, and World Vision International were each co-hosts of the 2011 GLI Institute.

LAMENT AND HOPE: A COMMON JOURNEY

Reconciliation is a movement, always nudging us toward God's new creation. The first Great Lakes Initiative Institute (January 16-21, 2011) explored this Christian vision for East Africa's future. Coming from 11 countries, 135 participants gathered at Ggaba National Seminary near Kampala, Uganda to live, study, worship, cry, and laugh together. Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, and many other followers of Jesus bore witness to the unity of Christ as they explored the implications for Christian reconciliation leadership, grounded in practices of lament and visions of hope. Key leaders and presenters at the Institute included:

- Archbishop John Baptist Odama – *Chairman of the Catholic Episcopal Bishops Conference of Uganda*
- Fr. Emmanuel Katongole – *Duke Divinity School and Archdiocese of Kampala*
- Dr. Celestin Musekura – *President of ALARM (African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries)*
- Professor Wilfred Mlay – *Retired Vice President of World Vision International*
- Mr. Chris Rice – *Co-Director, Duke Center for Reconciliation*
- Dr. David Kasali - *President of Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo*
- Mrs. Jane Wathome – *Beacon of Hope in Kenya*
- Dr. Peter Okaalet – *Director of MAP International*

Many others from across East Africa provided leadership for panels, feedback sessions and twice-daily worship services. Seven afternoon seminars dealt with topics such as Advocacy & Peace-building for/with

Youth and Children; Social Entrepreneurship; Pastoral Leadership for Forgiveness and Reconciliation; Civil Society, Political Engagement, and Advocacy; Counseling and the Healing of Memory; Building Hopeful Institutions; and Community Mobilization and Grassroots Peace-building.

During the Institute, all participants journeyed on pilgrimage to St. Jude's Organic Farm and Training Centre in Masaka District, a project that is watered by laments and grows out of the hope of a different future than civil war in Uganda. Mrs. Josephine Kizza and her husband John began with nothing but empty land and a vision. Today the farm blesses thousands who come to learn organic methods that produce great gifts from God's good creation—a true sign of hope.



DOWNLOAD THE 2011
INSTITUTE WORKBOOK AT
THE CFR WEBSITE:

DUKERECONCILIATION.COM

ARCHBISHOP ODAMA: THE BISHOP OF THE VILLAGE

“We are the LRA. We want to talk to you.” It was this SMS message received on the 10th of July 2002 that became a point of no return for Archbishop Odama of Uganda. Like the servants of God one finds in Scripture, Odama never thought his life would be swept up into God's movement in such a way.



In the midst of destruction that has marked the legacy of the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) since 1987, Odama placed his own body between violence and suffering to proclaim the nonsense of war and **the truth of God's peace**. Odama's message was an interruption. During his talks with LRA leaders, he was clear: “I am not interested in any item with the government or with you. I am interested [in] human life.”

Odama's way of **following Jesus was peculiar** to those who looked to him for guidance. He visited villages, and slept on plastic sheets with the night commuters who walked many kilometers to find safety from the LRA at night. He became **‘the bishop of the village,’** where local people gave him *eyes to see* and *ears to hear* the way human dignity had been reduced to zero in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps and in raided homes. His sojourn in daily village life gave him a way of understanding what was at stake if war did not stop. The particular stories that gave life to each village took him beyond the walls of nations and continents, where he shared **experiences of pain and visions of hope** with the global community. It has been a journey of conversion for Archbishop Odama, and peace in Uganda is an ongoing discussion. There is beauty, and there is ugliness.

In the midst of it all, Archbishop Odama has been changed. He no longer sees himself as a local person only, a member of his local tribe. He is a participant with God who is writing a bigger story, one that locates each of us in the tribe of humanity. Archbishop Odama often uses his own hands to illustrate the universal connectedness of humankind. Each hand with many different parts, representing the diversity of peoples, all connected to one body, the body of Christ. With all he has seen and done, Archbishop Odama is still astonished by the Christ he follows, echoing the words of Scripture, saying, “O Lord, Who is like You?” Thank you, O Lord, for your servant Odama, who is living into your new creation.

Visions of new creation from
GLI Institute seminars

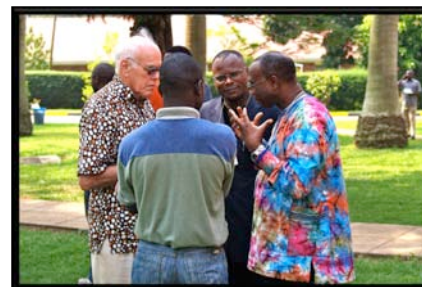
We lament the brokenness of our communities because, through us, God cries out for justice and healing for His children.

We discover the true meaning of *shalom* when we see deeply the humanity of children

We must not neglect small beginnings, but rather in our weekly work we envision new creation; we lament but we hold onto hope

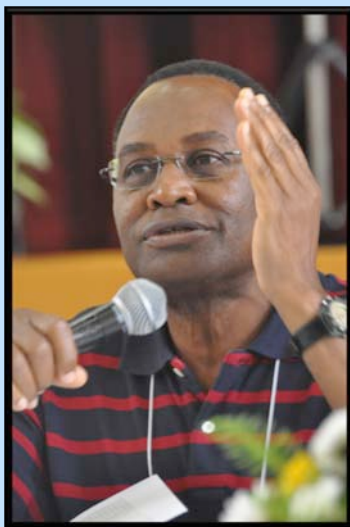
We must always work as a team within our institutions—Jesus always had a team and did not send his disciples out alone.

GLI events offer rare opportunities for ecumenical engagement within African Great Lakes countries, and many GLI Institute 2011 participants asked for even more time in the 2012 Institute to meet in country groups.



We look forward to updates on meetings planned by GLI members in Burundi (February), Rwanda (March) and Uganda (April). Kenya members committed renewed energy to Hope for Kenya Forum and Sudan's members are going on pilgrimage to Bishop Taban Paride's Holy Trinity Peace Village!.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW GLI AMBASSADOR: WILFRED MLAY



I am so glad that GLI decided to launch **PeaceNotes** to connect all of us on the reconciliation journey towards new creation! I joined the movement three years ago, at Bujumbura I, January 2009. From day one of that Gathering, I was hooked! The uniqueness of GLI Gatherings struck me: Christians from different traditions worshipping together; the warm fellowship and laughter at meals; and animated discussions during seminars. I soaked in great teaching and inspiring testimonies from leaders like Bishop Taban and Maggie Barankitse, who embody Christ's call to live the reconciled life of new creation in community, in the midst of conflict and hatred. These gifts were a glimpse of heaven.

In GLI, the restlessness I was carrying in my work as World Vision's Vice President for Africa suddenly found a context and a platform for creative engagement. You see, I was born at the end of WW II, and my father gave me a name which means 'resolute peace'. But I lived in a world of strife, conflict and pain. At 19 years I came to faith in Jesus Christ and began a new journey of life; learning to walk with Jesus in pilgrimage with communities of believers. In this journey God took me through college in Dar es Salaam, graduate school at London University, teaching at the University of Dar es Salaam, work with International Bible Society and World Vision. I retired from World Vision December 2010. In January 2011 I participated in the first GLI Institute. God had a surprise for me. The GLI partners asked me to prayerfully consider giving time to GLI as Ambassador. I sensed a call to say yes. I am passionate about God's vision and mission to use GLI to build leadership for reconciliation toward new creation. My role is to be a catalyst for deepening our partnerships and strengthening the sharing of gifts in response to God's call (1 Corinthians 5:17 -20).

Contact Wilfred Mlay: wilfredmlay@gmail.com

NEW CREATION IN BURUNDI



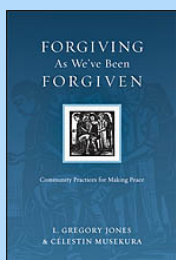
Angeline Sindayigaya and Rose Niyonzima are both widows because of the crisis that shook Burundi in 1993. Angeline is a resident, with 8 children in her care, and Rose is an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) with three children of her own, and two orphans she also looks after. Brought together in the same women's Self Help group, initiated by UCPD, the two overcame the social divisions between (primarily Tutsi) IDP's and (primarily Hutu) "residents" (those who stayed on the hills of origin), in order to collaborate for a better life.

Rose testifies to the transformative impact of the group of their lives: *"After the death of my husband, I moved to a site for displaced people in Bukirasazi. There, I encountered all of the hardships of life. I didn't have food for my remaining children. My children were chased from school because they didn't have school supplies or [uniforms]. They were marginalized and scorned by other children and those living near us. As I lived in a displacement site, I have always been afraid of staying long in the fields on my hill of origin. One day I was in my fields to cultivate and I heard a call for a meeting for vulnerable women. I participated [in the meeting] and I decided to participate in these groups for women from the hill as well. Once each week I brought myself to the weekly meeting. **This strengthened our social relationships and also reduced the fear I had before...** After, my old neighbour Angeline and I joined forces to carry out a business project together. We requested a credit of 40 000 Fbu from our group to buy and sell bananas. We have worked for 2 months and have bought two goats that are at Angeline's place. Now we are seeing our lives improve in a remarkable way and our children living well"* Rose is now planning to leave the IDP site and return to her hill of origin and her former neighbours.

*UCPD supports more than 70 Self Help women's groups and five collectives.

RESOURCES for RECONCILIATION

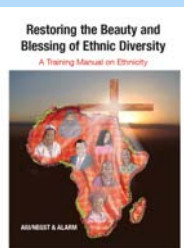
FORGIVING AS WE'VE BEEN FORGIVEN



Greg Jones and Célestin Musekura describe how churches and communities can cultivate the habits that make forgiveness possible on a daily basis, following Musekura's story with the Rwandan genocide.

Please visit the following website for information on purchasing this book: (www.ivpress.com)

RESTORING THE BEAUTY AND BLESSING OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY



African Leadership And Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM) has developed an effective tool in addressing the issue of ethnicity, especially in Africa where ethnicity and tribalism has been at the base of genocides and crimes against humanity.

Please email info@alarm-inc.org for information on purchasing this manual.

COMING EVENTS

GLI Institute 15-21
January 2012 Ggaba,
Kampala, Uganda

Duke Summer Institute 6-11
June 2011 Durham, North
Carolina
www.dukesummerinstitute.com

GLI Partners Meeting 5-6 July
2011 in Arusha, Tanzania

**Duke University President
Brodhead** will visit the GLI
leadership in Uganda, July 2011