



Our call to be the change we want to see in the world still continues. The month closed with the AGM meeting, where important issues were discussed, followed by a fellowship meeting. The Kenya I Care program, Peace Building and Reconciliation programmes as well as the Peace Circles took place during the month. The Action for Life team was also on their last leg of their stay in Kenya and Eastern Africa region. And Zak Muturi takes us on a tour to Rwanda by sharing his experience of his two weeks visit in Kigali.

Newsletter Editors,

John Njoroge & Ann Njeri Ndiangui

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held in Nairobi on 28 March, 2011. Several issues were put in place for the better meant of IofC work in Kenya. Among them;

- a) The election of the office bearers to take us through the year was done as follows;
 - 1) Chairman- Julius Khakula
 - 2) Vice Chairman- Joseph Wainaina,
 - 3) Secretary/Treasurer- Stephen Kimaru,
 - 4) Three Executive Committee Members
 - I. Emma Khakula
 - II. Duncan Nduhio
 - III. John Njoroge

NB: All this positions are on voluntary basis. No one is paid to do it.

- b) On finance it is noteworthy that most of our funding is foreign and an appeal was made for us members to source out for local funding or makes personal contributions.
- c) The constitution running the organization was found to be in need of some amendments which will be dealt with by the office bearers to conform to the current requirements.
- d) The name of the organization will be legally changed from Moral Re- Armament Kenya to Initiatives of Change Kenya

FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting was followed by a fellowship meeting where people had time for some personal sharing;

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Dr. James Mageria, one of the founders of Daystar University, shared and challenged the group on enhancing the value of human people. 'The value of human beings is life' he said. 'What are we in Kenya thinking about the value of people? Here in Kenya, you will be killed because of a mobile phone- what is the value of human being?' he continued. Dr. Mageria emphasized on the need to enhance human value. One of the ways to do this is starting job creations for people. He shared his vision of having started a job creators association called the East Africa Social Enterprise Network. It is based on the fact that most workers are still job seekers they have not yet learnt how to create jobs be they CEO's in big companies or junior clerks. He also expressed his gratitude to Initiatives of Change because as he said, it is touching people's lives. He said that if we can utilize the values we have, we can transform our country. He also encouraged sharing as a way of gaining security '...the more you take, the more insecure you are, the more you share, the more secure you are.' he said.



Mr. Kosgei, a high school teacher from Eldoret, told of how *IofC* values challenged and helped him overcome the temptation of giving a bribe to get his way to the USA. Duncan Nduhiu, also known as Maziwa Mingi, told of his involvement in Nyala Dairy Society which is giving hope to its 7000 members. It is one of the best and largest farmer's societies in the country. He said that *IofC* has inspired him to take this society this far.

Steve Kimaru shared on his experience with the Action for Life team in Sudan and Uganda. They were able to visit several leaders in both countries and also visit institutions. He also made us aware of the invitation from the vice president of Southern Sudan to have *IofC* support the country at this time when they need a lot of healing. There was a suggestion to bring together a team of international people, mainly from the Action for life alumni, to go round East Africa in general strengthening teams.

PEACE BUILDING AND RECONCILIATION



Joseph Wainaina has been carrying out the peace and reconciliation work. He was in Eldoret where they were assisting the IDP's to elect their houses. They helped elect 20 houses and the process is still to continue. He appealed to well-wishers to come in whether with building materials or cash.

He has also been working in Muranga County where he was helping to resolve disputes between the Boda Boda people and the taxi operators. This arises from competition in their work operation.

MY EXPERIENCE IN RWANDA. BY ZACHARIAH MUTURI.

On the 29 March 2011, I took off from my country to visit Rwanda. I felt so happy for it was my first time to be out of Kenya. I had gone to visit friends that I met during the 1st Eastern Africa Youth Conference early this year.

The first thing that captured my interest in Rwanda is the environmental cautiousness. At the entry to Rwanda, they check your bags to make sure that you do not bring in polythene papers. This is something that really amazed me. For sure the exercise at the boarder has impact; the town of Kigali is very clean.

For the 2 weeks that I was there, I learnt and experienced different things. But the climax of my learning was on 7 April, 2011, the annual day of Rwanda Genocide Commemoration. It is a special day to many families for they lost their families, neighbors and friends. I was impressed by how this people express their love to the people who lost their lives and those who had major losses. To show love to the deceased, they gather in various places like the stadium, to have a moment of silence and to give thanks to God for their lives.

One of Rwanda's musicians lost all his family members; I mean all his extended family. He is the only one remaining in his whole family lineage. This really touched my heart and I could not hold back tears as I listened to his music. Though I could not clearly understand the language, I could read the message from his face. It was very touching to even see him trying to comfort them. This is pure strength and love. But I could tell that he is still pained; but he still has love for his country.



Zak (Middle) with Jimmy & Johnie of IofC

They do not point fingers to those who did it (genocide), they embrace them and thank God it happened. This really challenged me and provoked me to write an article on the commemoration day. Here in an extract of my article;

" Today the whole country here in Rwanda is flashbacking on the incidence. I am personally very moved by the love of this people. They are holding hands in Unison to prove that everyone counts. They are showing love to those who succumbed to the chaos. I feel very much touched by the Commemoration songs. I cannot imagine that my country Kenya wanted this to be the case. Being in Rwanda in this day, I get one message to take home, love is the big thing that we can show to one another. It is lack of love and understanding that chaos does arise.

To all Rwandese, feel very much strong and remember that God is with all of you. To all those who lost their loved ones, I mourn with you. It touches my heart to see that you can still hold on to the love you had to your loved ones even after so many years of being deceased.

As I write this, am actually weeping inside my heart. I do not understand how this happened. The message I want to share with my fellow countrymen, let's avoid chaos. Even as we approach an election year, let us keep in our hearts that peace is the way. I would not want to see Kenyans weep. I have seen how painful it is. Rwanda experienced far much than we did in 2007/2008. What they experienced was just beyond animosity. Let us learn a lesson from them.

Let the whole world know that LOVE is the best thing you can show to your brother."

KENYA I CARE

At Subukia message of change still goes on. Meetings at the office still continue mostly on Wednesdays. On 16 March, 2011 we were visited by the officers in charge of the Constituency Aids Control Council –CACC. They want to work with the team in spreading the message of moral change within the constituency to bring Aids cases down. The team also met the District youth leader from Kabazi who advised them on how to stir change locally.



The month opened with having a theatre workshop at Kabazi Secondary School where the team shared the message of change. We also wrote a play, narrative and poems for them which were also casted in the just concluded drama festivals. They contained message of the need to have moral values for the betterment of the society.

On 25 March, 2011 we visited Tetu Primary School where we staged the play –**Regrets**- and later had a dialogue on the need for being morally upright, choice of good company and being obedient to the inner voice of reason.

The team also visited Kieni Primary where they made plans for a school visit next term.

ACTION FOR LIFE

The Action for Life team that spent some three months in the Eastern Africa region, visiting different teams and people with the message of personal change for global change, left on the 3rd of April to their respective countries. Wherever the team went, they engaged people and hearts were reached and touched. We thank them for having honoured us with the visit.

Mike Muikia and Mediatrix Masava, who were representing Kenya in the programme will be back in the country on the 21st of April. We welcome them back whole heartedly and eager to learn from them and the experiences they have had. Karibu nyumbani Mike and Medi!

PEACE CIRCLES FACILITATION PROGRAMME

There was a Peace Circles facilitation workshop in Nairobi at the end of March, 2011. It was hosted by Amani Communities Africa, courtesy of Nelly Njoki and facilitated by Jean Brown (Australia) who was part of Action for Life mentors. If you missed reading the full report sent some time back, please find it at <http://www.iofcafrica.org/node/54980> or download the attached document.

IofC AFRICA WEBSITE

The website for Initiatives of Change teams in Africa is now in operation. You can visit www.iofcafrica.org. We encourage you to be visiting the website for African updates. We also request you to be sending us your news to put up on the website for the world to see. Ann Njeri Ndiangui is the webmaster and you can contact her directly at ceannje@gmail.com

Food for thought

To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children ... to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better ... to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived ... this is to have succeeded!

~Ralph Waldo Emerson