

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – JUNE 2015 MRA/IOFC UGANDA CHAPTER

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Dear Friends,

This is Annual Report for the period between 2014 – June, 2015. The team has experienced a lot of challenges over this period and at the same time, achieved in terms of programmes. Our heartfelt appreciation to the Governance of the Republic of Uganda for providing the enabling environment in which to execute noble tasks of building the nation morally and spiritually, which are the cornerstone for development.

Board members / Board of Trustees

- 1) James Napokoli
- 2) Ruth Okwere
- 3) Goretti Bukombi
- 4) Peter Onebe
- 5) Dorothy Tingu
- 6) Richard Busaule

Executive Committee:

- 1) Irene Namwano – Chairperson
- 2) Sam Oyirwoth – Vice Chairman
- 3) Rosemary Grace Nalubale – Secretary
- 4) Vicky Kyamukyawa – Vice secretary
- 5) Prima Lubega Wasukira – Treasurer
- 6) Silvia Kilungi – Assistant Treasurer

Committee Members:

- 1) Moses Nsereko
- 2) Barbara Lubanga
- 3) Chris Okello
- 4) James Wamboga

Programmes:

MRA/Iofc work plan is designed to reach out to many people in various places of work and the following are the target areas.

- (a) Educational Institutions such as Universities, Tertiary Institutions, Secondary Schools and Primary Schools.
- (b) Government Ministries and Parastatal bodies.
- (c) Industries and factories

Springs of Hope (Youth Programme)

The team normally organises leadership trainings and visits different schools and institutions. The workshop brought together young professionals and the community to equip them with moral and spiritual values/foundations for delivering effective leadership in their areas of influence. The results of the training were the eight participants committed to volunteering on the springs of Hope programme – these with members are currently serving on the core team of Springs of Hope. Some of the main themes for Springs of Hope Workshops were:

- a) Peace Building/Character building
- b) Creating safe and serve communities
- c) Four moral and spiritual standards, the messages on these were communicated through skills, the change songs and personal stories.

As a result of these frequent meetings, the team became more committed to the work called for and hence they were able to attend or participate in the East Africa Youth Forum, e.g. Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The same team was able to participate in the East Africa Forum which was held recently in South Sudan.



There is also a group of young professionals from North-Western Region of Uganda who once every month share their individual initiatives and working experiences. They have been also running impact workshops (Time for Change Workshops) looking at how the absolute moral and spiritual values can be practical in their daily duties at work places, beginning with self. One of the participants who attended the workshops shared his experience how the workshop helped him to become firm in making decision at his work place. Before he came for the workshop, his father developed a mental problem and the situation needed quick money to seek for medical attention. He said, "He was struggling quietly whether he could pick some money from the office without informing his bosses, then he could refund it later, but after the workshop he went back to put the issue straight to his manager and they helped him with some money and he said, he was living with a clear conscience.

Character building and discipline of effective work ethic that is engineered by the rightful moral and spiritual values, is what they are on at the moment, said Sam Oyirwoth, the initiator of this programme. These young people are working with different organisations including government offices and church.



Teachers Dialogue and Membership Programme:

The Uganda Moslem and Christian Teachers Dialogue is a programme of Uganda Moral Re-armament Association. This programme enhances Teacher's Role in Development, peace building and good governance. Many workshops/seminars have been held during this period.



Creators of Peace / Peace Circle's Programme:

A - Peace Building/Peace Circles.

The following was shared by different women from different parts of the country during the Creators of Peace/Peace Circles Workshops.

(i) Mrs. Kyambadde said, in one of the workshops that women:

- are supposed to walk like women of purpose,
- to act as women of wisdom
- determine to be different
- to be women who will not disappoint others
- to make the best use of the time because the days are evil
- to work hard and fight poverty
- to always recognise their role as mothers of the land
- to continue caring, monitoring our children / youth knowing very well that they are the future leaders.

(ii) Mrs. Rhoda Musinguzi observed during the workshop that the act of abusing children denies them of their freedom and injures their dignity so we should therefore avoid this habit in our homes, schools, communities, etc. She added that women should try their best to fight violence within families. Gender relationships have deteriorated so it is our responsibility to be more observant when it comes to such situations. In conclusion, she urged the participants to continue parenting the children under all circumstances.

- (iii) Mrs. Wegoye in one of the workshops said, I quote: "I used to think that I am the only one who deserves attention and love – I used to think highly of myself and now, I have discovered that my struggle was pride, she lamented".
- (iv) Miss. Atuke, one of the youth participants, was concerned about the parents and teachers who do not instil Godly values in children and as a result, they continue facing violence and abuses from strangers and relatives. All these challenges she concluded deserve joint efforts to curb.
- (v) Gorreti Bukombi - During one of the workshops, she shared with concern that she had not been a caring mother and not giving enough love to her children as a peace maker.
- (vi) Dorothy Tingu said in one of the workshops "The idea of Creators of Peace/Peace Circles has helped me a lot. My problem was to jump to conclusions in what has been said, not really listening to what my family and other friends were communicating. One day my niece was in high school asked me if she could drop her French class. My immediate reaction was NO. There was no more discussions. She just honoured my wish. I found out later that two thirds of the class has dropped the French class because of the teacher's attitude. If I had listened to her, there would not be any arguments. In her conclusion, she said "God should help me to continue helping the youth especially the girls. My resolution is to develop the Art of helping others to take leadership and living to make great decisions.





B – Prison Ministry

The Women Creators of Peace visit the inmates in prisons once in a month, pray together and counsel them and hold Peace Circles. They hold Christmas parties for inmates' children and stay with them during holidays.





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PEACE
WOMEN
TOGETHER
WITH THE
CHILDREN
OF
WOMEN PRISONERS
DURING THE
COUNSELLING



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Transformation Centres Programme

Realizing the growing need for food in the country, farming is a noble cause that literary the population of the country depends upon for a living. Both the farmers and those who benefit from the produce trade. The great work, Farmer's Dialogue is doing, Transformation Centres bring together MRA/Iofc families to share their personal initiatives of farming at various local levels with the aim of acting as an example to the rest of the community to have a future focus on farming for commercial purposes but with moral and spiritual values at the centre of farming activities. Some families in Uganda and Kenya have come together several times to share issues and challenges that have generated lessons learnt so far undeniably causing transformation both in individuals and communities of MRA/IOFC and beyond.







Programme activities include:

- Workshop/seminars organised on specific topics, eg. Peace building, Reconciliation, good governance, families and communities, conflict resolution and management.
- Prison visits.
- Hospital visits.
- General counselling and HIV/AIDS Counselling.
- Visits to Remand Homes for Youth Counselling.
- Mama Club visits (women who are HIV/AIDS Positive)
- Use of the Media to broadcast important information to the public.

- Carry out voluntary work in conflict zones like Northern Uganda.
- Organise retreats to discuss issues affecting the team.
- Visits to black spots (places where the accidents happen for prayers).
- Outreach programmes to offices and homes.

Workshops/Seminars

- Teacher's Dialogue
- Creators of Peace/Peace Circles
- Transformation Centres
- Conflict Management

Source of Funds/contributions generated from:

1. Individuals
2. Donations from the international community.
3. Well wishers

Usually Resources raised are used to facilitate the following and are audited:

- Organise the workshops/seminars/meetings.
- Postage on communication
- Air Tickets
- Local Transport
- Communication and Networking

Achievements:

MRA/IOFC has been able to recognise the following achievements:

- (a) Successfully held General elections of the Board Members and Executive Committee.
- (b) Organised workshops & seminars for the communities, school programmes and general society.
- (c) Organised Creators of Peace/Peace Building Circles Workshops.
- (d) Organised Teachers' Dialogue Seminar.

(e) We have managed to work together with other NGO's and the results are promising, e.g. YWCA, Prison Link, Remand Homes for Youth, Road Safety Associations, Mama Clubs, Different Youth Clubs and etc.

(f) Meetings as a team once in a week.

(g) The following friends were promoted:

- i) Hon. Dan Kidega became Speaker of East African Parliament.
- ii) Mr. George Odongo – Resident District Commissioner, Gulu, Northern Uganda.
- iii) Mr. Tom Gidudu – District Administrative Officer – Soroti (North-East).
- iv) Mr. George Bwayo – District Administrative Officer – Masaka (Western Buganda.
- v) Mr. Mubarak Mabuya – Programme Manager – IGAD Secretariat, Djibouti.

Yours in service,



Dorothy Tingu

On behalf of the Team MRA/IOFC - Kampala/ Uganda Chapter.