

Healing the Wounds of Trauma (HWT)

7th-11th April 2008

Feedback

Elizabeth Corrie:

- This was the film I mentioned which I thought would be useful as a discussion starter in ethnic conflict situations. It is called 'The Night of Truth' (La Nuit de la Verite) by Fanta Regina Nacro, a film director from Burkina Faso. It is featured on the Amazon website at <http://www.amazon.ca/Night-Truth-Fanta-Regina-Nacro/dp/B000LPS4JL>. The story unfolds in a 'fictitious' African country but has strong overtones of Rwanda and DRC. It is based on the personal experiences of the director and what happened to a family member. It is in French with English subtitles.
- There is another resource that I did not mention during the workshop week but which I found very helpful when I experienced it in a mediation and reconciliation workshop some years ago. It was presented by a group from Northern Ireland, called Ekoni (I think) and they had used it in the peace process in that country. They took Psalm 85, verse 10; 'Love and faithfulness meet together; justice (substituted for righteousness) and peace kiss each other'. The scenario was a situation like the one Margaret presented of the two men, one from Palestine, the other an Israeli. The group was divided into four sub-groups and each considered the scenario from a different standpoint.
 1. If you were seeking to resolve the situation purely from the perspective of 'love', what would be the issues and how would you resolve them?
 2. Group 2 did the same from a faithfulness / loyalty perspective.
 3. The third group looked at the situation from a purely justice perspective.
 4. The fourth group as peacemakers.

The next stage was to approach one of the other groups with an attempt to come to some resolution through mediation looking at two of the perspectives. The other two groups did the same thing. The exercise was finished when each of the groups had met together and some sort of resolution had been reached incorporating love, faithfulness, justice and peace.

I am a bit hazy about all the details but I remember it was a powerful experience, had been used in a situation of conflict and was another way of using scripture as a means of bringing about a measure of peace and reconciliation.

Nicola Edkins:

In terms of resources I have one which I have found very helpful. It is a document published by Evangelical Alliance which you probably have already heard of. It is an adobe document called '**alltogether for Asylum Justice**' and can be found on their website www.eauk.org

It is a document which some members of our church have found very helpful.

(also on ECSR publications page under Christian reflections:

<http://www.ecsr.org.uk/cm/general/christian-reflections>)

Kongosi, Ben & Mussanzi family from Bradford.

www.mussanzifamily.orationinsite.com

Catherine Smith

Hi all,

We met with our MP Simon Hughes on Thursday night and enjoyed a great meal together at our house.

We thank God for such favour. Although it was one subject among many things we discussed that evening I shared some of what we had looked at on our course and he was very encouraging of us sharing the book with as broad a spectrum of people that we could. He was encouraged that I am going to inform our local refugee group of the course.

With love to you all. Thank you for the enriching impact you had on my life.

Catherine

Faye Holiday

Link for Open Door (North East) <http://www.opendoor-ne.org/>

Link for Jubilee Church Teesside <http://www.jubileechurchteesside.com/>

Grace Mpehakong:

- Am putting up a concise report on the seminar to the following organs I represented. The RCCG Victory House my home assembly, Africa Interior Mission which is the heart beat for my work in Africa, From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation and last but not least the Christ Salvation Church. The report is at the skeletal stage and I will make sure I sent a copy to you before the end of the week. Secondly I discussed the seminar with all the heads of these organisations and they were very happy that we had exposure to this type course. After the report victory House is arranging a workshop on this. I will get my partners so that we deliver the workshop. My group in Nigeria are waiting for the programme in Dec.2008.
- There is a UKGOSPEL Choir Competition coming up in the UK for the first time. We need everybody to get engaged; form Faith Group, Community Choirs, Schools to Individuals. There are very handsome prizes to be won. If you want to get more, Log on www.ukgospelcc.org.uk

Richard Bagge

Film: 'God grew Tired of us' <http://www.godgrewtiredofus.com/>

(I think the film is only available in NTSC (USA) and not PAL on amazon! – Enoch)

Pray for

Florisa De Leo – leaves to Malawi for 2 years in July 08. Pray also for her training in June before she leaves.

Her feedback from HWT

Last week I attended an excellent workshop on trauma healing that had a huge emphasis on post-war, refugee situations. I learnt a lot, met some inspiring and encouraging people (also met a Congolese couple whose best friends I spent time with

in Malawi at the end of 2006, whom they had last seen them when leaving Congo in 2002), and got some fresh ideas of activities and methods we could apply in Malawi.

ECSR: We are about to receive 21 Congolese refugees on the Gateway Protection Programme. The UK Borders Agency has contracted us to run a pilot programme where local churches will be involved in the resettlement process. We have called it the New Neighbour Programme.

Reflection

I have nailed this pain to the Cross
Anything that I now hold will be my loss
By your bruises and sacrifice I'm free
Those hurts and pains I nail to the tree
My weakness and sorrow are yours to keep
So that I may rest and no longer weep
That I may have life and live for thee
And forever forgiven, forever I'm free
The truth is what I hold in my hand
So that on your promises I can stand

Poem by Josephine Hart during the HWT session

HWT Follow-up meeting: 29th March – 3rd April 2009

Other useful training events:

Churches Refugee Network Conference with ECSR

Walking with Strangers...Towards the Healing of Nations

Saturday, 17th May 2008

More details: <http://www.ecsr.org.uk/cm/tempwebpages/186>

The Tavistock Clinic is holding its 4th Annual Trauma seminar on Friday 4 July 2008 (1.00 - 5.15pm) entitled 'Working with Traumatized Refugees and Asylum Seekers.'

In the current political debate around refugees and asylum seekers, questions of therapeutic need - who needs it, what kind, how to provide it and so on - can be overlooked.

More details: <http://www.tavi-port.org/conferences/forthcoming-conferences/working-with-traumatized-refugees.html>