



Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers--Mexico!

I am leading another of our 10-day TCTTs (Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers) with my IM colleagues Mylinda Baits and Ray Schellinger. We are in Mexico City with participants from across Latin American and the Caribbean. We've been having a profound and delightful time learning "the things that make for peace."

The Mexico City TCTT

We are half-way through our 10-day Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers in Mexico City. We have participants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the United States. This is our first TCTT in Latin America. A number of our participants are from the indigenous people groups of Mexico, Guatemala and Chile. We also have a lot of religious diversity: Baptist, Catholic, Anglican, Pentecostal, Mennonite, and one follower of indigenous religious traditions.

Among the participants are many of our International Ministries colleagues: Steve and Nancy James, Ricardo Mayol-Bracero, Deliris Carrion Joseph and Moise Joseph, Mercy Gonzales-Barnes, Peter McCurdy as well as our IM Area Director for Ibero-America and the Caribbean Adalia Gutierrez Lee. IM missionary Dwight Bolick sent four Chileans for the training. Dwight had invited me to Chile a few years ago to do CT training among the Baptists, as well as at the University of Temuco and among the Mapuche people. The participation of the Chileans, including 2 Mapuche leaders, is a further step in our missionary efforts for peace and reconciliation in Chile.



Participants at the Mexico City TCTT during our tree-planting ceremony.

The conflicts have been very diverse. Colombia has just adopted a peace accord to hopefully put a long, brutal war behind them. In Honduras and Guatemala gang violence leaves as many dead as the earlier Central American wars. In Chile the Mapuche people have had their rights abused for so long, and resistance is growing that sometimes breaks out into violence. Old war histories have left many people traumatized, and though the fighting may be over the wounds haven't healed. There is overwhelming grinding poverty in many areas with international corporations exploiting the resources but giving little to the people who grow the crops, mine the minerals, or work in the factories. Immigration has been a big issue in many places, especially in Mexico with the recent changes in U.S. policies. Many people have been uprooted from one place or another and become lost and sometimes terribly exploited.



A "people sculpture" on the theme of peace.

There is a growing ecumenical network for peace and justice that Ricardo Mayol-Bracero is working alongside--the Continental Christian Network for Peace. The Guatemalan directors of CCNP are with us in the training. So there is already a lot of discussion among participants about how to continue working together, weaving what they have learned from the TCTT into their efforts across Latin America.



Myllinda Baits interviews Freddy from Nicaragua in the 3-Person Sculpture exercise.

In February we did an Arabic TCTT, and now we're doing one in Spanish. Plans are underway for a Russian TCTT drawing people from across the former Soviet Republics. To pull these trainings off I need co-facilitators who can carry on the work in these various languages. It's so satisfying to me to see graduates from our earlier trainings take the leadership in these new areas. We're seeing a movement grow and spread using Biblical teaching and values with experiential tools to equip God's people for the works of building justice, protecting human rights, forging peace, healing the traumas of war, and reconciling shattered communities--all in the name and power of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Lance Muteyo coming on U.S. visit

Through the TCTTs we have developed quite an "army of peace warriors," activists to training people in conflict transformation and work to halt violence, heal those shattered by war, and establish more just communities. One of the 2013 Kenya TCTT grads is Lance Muteyo from Zimbabwe. Lance has become one of the leading activists in the new generation of Christian peacemakers. He co-facilitated the 2014 Nigeria and 2015 Ukraine TCTTs with me. He worked with me in Zambia and Italy. He and his wife Christina have been doing many CT workshops.

Lance will be coming to the U.S. for June and into July. He will attend a Training for Change workshop in Philadelphia to refine his skills. Then he will be visiting in Detroit and Kansas City before attending the American Baptist Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon. If you plan to be in Portland, be sure to connect with Lance and me!

The work of our TCTT grads in their peacemaking initiatives around the world is a major project for International Ministries. You can give on-line directly to support these efforts, which we call the Global Peacemakers Mentoring Project, if you [click here](#).



Lance Muteyo leads a conflict transformation workshop.

Churches and individuals can also contribute by sending a check to International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482, noting "Global Peacemakers Mentoring" on the memo line.

Heading home the long way

We have five more days of training to go. But I will skip out the morning of Day 10 to go to Minneapolis to conduct the memorial service for my brother, Steve Buttry. I mentioned in my last trip notes from Egypt about Steve's death. Thank you for all the kind comments and prayers for our family. It will be one of those times of sadness and sweetness as our extended family gathers to rejoice in the special person my brother was and the way he lived out his values and faith as a journalist and teacher.

Peace,
Dan