




*Jeunesse en Reconstruction du Monde en Destruction*

# Healing A Wounded Nation Through Compassion In Action



***A smile that does not depend  
on the situation you're in.***



# COMPASSION IN ACTION

## INTRODUCTION

**Compassion** is not about words, **Compassion** is action; it is about caring for those in need and suffering.

**Compassion** is feeling with someone and not feeling for someone. When you feel with some one, you identify yourself with that person. Because, when you feel with, it means that you also feel the pain as much as if it was on you. And with **Compassion** you just don't feel, you also get a strong desire to do something, something that would make the pain go or lessen the pain, and more often the desire is so strong that you end up trying as much as you would have tried for your own self. And you may even become restless when you can't do much about it. It's more saying sorry, you can't get the satisfaction of just saying "sorry" or "I will pray for you". The way I understand **Compassion**, it's to be human. A human being feels pain and feels for others too. Compassion is selfless act, it makes you see others; you just don't think that as long as you are fine then everything is good for every one.

**Compassion** is about action; it is about caring for one another; it is about understanding; it is about identifying yourself with those in need and suffering; it is about solidarity; it is about helping find the solutions for those who are waiting for a help and assistance. **This is exactly what you and us are doing for those in need, for the homeless and hopeless people in Burundi and Great Lakes Region; "COMPASSION IN ACTION".**

## ABOUT JRMD

**Jeunesse en Reconstruction du Monde en Destruction (JRMD), Youth in Reconstruction of the World in Destruction (YRWD)** is a non-profit organization seeking to promote Reconciliation and Peace through rebuilding the homes and hope of the traumatized hearts, caused by ethnic wars, injustice, and divisions that the whole world is suffering today.

We are based in Burundi, which is bordered by Rwanda, the Congo (RDC) and Tanzania. The area is known as the Great Lakes Region. The population of Burundi is 7 million, made by Hutu, Tutsi and Twa, who speak one language-Kirundi.



**JRMD/YRWD** focuses on the material and moral reconstruction of the World in Destruction. Its objectives are:

National reconciliation and the education of peace;

Promotion of techniques for settling conflicts peacefully, namely mediation, conciliation and arbitration, according to the culture of the country in;

Creation of a culture of Compassion in Action;

Rebuilding of homes for the needy people and the victims of war;

Within the context of these objectives, JRMD/YRWD organizes workshops, conferences of an international nature, studies or other kinds of training.

Since its inception in September, 1994, JRMD/YRWD has been able to rebuild over 3,000 houses in Burundi. We believe this has contributed to rebuilding peace and reconciliation among the Burundian community and nation.

## **WHY ARE WE INVOLVED IN PEACE BUILDING?**

Healing the community and society based in sharing compassion in action, helping the victims and promoting peace, reconciliation, trauma healing and building trust among Hutu and Tutsi and people in the Great Lakes Region, is needed. Hundreds of thousands of Burundians, including children orphaned by war and AIDS are still living in displacement camps. They are in a critical situation and without benefit of any assistance. Carrying out the mission of bringing healing to the wounded community requires Compassion in Action, commitment, patience and solidarity that does not collapse during hard times.

Our mission and objective is to restore hope to a hopeless community and nation by teaching them a new way of living, behaving and acting for peace and reconciliation through sharing Love and Compassion in Action; a new way which reduces violence and conflict; a new way which promotes justice and respect of human rights; a new way which rebuilds a broken relationship between man, his neighbor and God; a new way to resolve conflict and create an environment which fights the poverty and division between the community and tribes.

We have to know that we need each other, and because we need each other, we have to show our solidarity with those in need and suffering by sharing our resources according to the wealth that God entrusted to each one of us. Know that any good thing or action done for a person, no matter who he is or where he lives, does contribute to the healing of the wounds that the world is suffering today.

## **BUILDING TOGETHER THE SOCIETY AND THE WORLD WE WANT**

Today, destructive forces are at work in different countries and places and their impacts are having wide effect to the humanity and to the economy of the whole World, and these are the results of evil and vengeance actions.

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Besides the war and terrorism actions, there are poverty and AIDS that are gripping a part of the World, mainly, the Continent of Africa, that seems to be left behind and forgotten by the rest of International Community; due to these issues, people live without hope for their future.

But, the **question** today is how do we move from the society and the World we live in, to the society and the world we want? As you may know, repaying evil by evil, violence by violence, or killing against killing will not bring solution to the present situation in which the whole World is suffering today. Two of the six principals of Martin Luther King tell us that: **“Non-violence seeks to win friendship and understanding and; Non-violence seeks to defeat injustice and not people”**.

I really believe that by practicing the **Non-violence Methods**, it will be the **POWERFUL WEAPON** to discourage and eradicate terrorism and wars which we experience around us today. I am very encouraged by hundreds of thousands of Churches, NGOs and millions of people around the World who today are discouraging **revenge innocent people by killing innocent persons and destroying public buildings and homes**. Those who do practice terrorism and other kinds of evils, should know that the evildoers are also victims of what they do.

In order to build the Society and the World we want, the international community should also invest and make more efforts in fighting the poverty and AIDS, especially in the countries more affected by the above mentioned issues. People should learn and know how to share with others the resources available.

I am very thankful for the many people who give their time, resources and efforts to make the work of peacebuilding possible. If one person were to try to do this work alone, it would just be impossible. Let then join hands together to build the society and the World we want and take action now. If people can accept to die today by doing evil, why are we afraid to suffer and die in promoting peace and reconciliation? Time has come now to take action, an action which does not return back even during a hard time.

## CONCLUSION

Let us continue to care for one another, according to the resources that God has entrusted each one of us and experience the joy and happiness which are in sharing compassion in action and caring for one another.

## OUR CONTACTS:

Burundi/Africa:  
Prosper Ndabishuriye  
B.P. 2366 Bujumbura  
Burundi, Africa  
Email: info@jrmd.org  
Phone: (257)79 920 609  
Phone/USA: (206)902-8090

USA contact:  
Mike Seymour  
Youth for a New World  
Box 379, Clinton, WA 98236  
Email: mike @hol.edu  
Phone:(360) 542-1289

Netherlands Contact:  
Renate Schepen  
Email: renhert@planet.nl  
Phone: (31) 650 877 644

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