



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.***



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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ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

HOME BUILDING PROJECT

As you know, peace is not possible for people who do not have a place to live. There is NO way to promote peace, reconciliation, education, technology, development, safety, health in and among the families who do not have shelter. A home is one of the most important things which contribute to the good living of a human being; that's why at JRMD, building homes for the survivors of the war and the needy people, is one of the strategies and priority to promote and achieve peace, and give youth a voice and the right place in the society.



Present situation of people JRMD is assisting today.

Promoting peace and reconciliation through rebuilding homes, has been our biggest and most important project since JRMD was founded in 1994. In this project we help build homes for the victims of the war and

needy people in Burundi. Within 2008, with donations from our Partners and Friends in USA and Holland, made by churches, NGOs and individuals, we were able to build 127 homes, for 127 families in Carama; **and 40 of 127 houses built this year in Carama, were built in 40 days, for 40 families, with funds raised in 40 days, by David Scammell, "Director of The Hope Project"**.

Today in Carama, **643** of the **800** homes to be built there have been completed and around 4,000 people are living in these homes and continue to have their smile of joy and hope back, after over 10 years, suffering in refugee and displacement camps.



One of the houses that JRMD builds for returning refugees

This last summer, we were blessed to receive in Burundi and work together with the teams from Global Citizen Journey (GCJ), in Washington State and Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, in Orlando, Florida. In brief, the visit to Burundi of these two different groups was a great encouragement to us

and to the people that we are assisting and serving in Burundi.

In addition, with the help of the team from GCJ, we provided 92 mattresses to 92 families who were sleeping on the floor for many years.

I can not finish without telling you the **GREAT JOY** we experience in serving those in need.

THE ORPHANAGE AND SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

"Imuhira Iwacu Centre"

In Burundi, because of the war and aids, many children have been left orphans and street children. Today, because of the poverty in many different homes, children have moved to the streets to feed for themselves.

As we all know a street is not a home or school for any child; that's why with the sponsorship of Foundation "Plan Afrika Holland, Every child Every Village, USA", and Friends, JRMD has started the construction of the above mentioned orphanage and school, at Ruhagarika, in Cibitoke Province.



Construction site of the orphanage & school

As you can see from this picture, one block of the two of the school building is at the level of roofing and this block is made by 2 classes, library, offices for Secretary and Headmaster. Another block made by four classes is still at the level of the foundation. The Home for Orphans and Street Children is made by three blocks and one block that will serve as the dormitory for boys, two rooms for mother caretakers and toilets is at the level of roofing.

The two other blocks that will serve as a dormitory for girls, dining room, kitchen, community room, rooms for mother caretakers toilets for the girls are still at the level of foundation. For more information towards the above projects and our work in general, that we are doing in Burundi, please visit our website: www.jrmd.org.

The construction is in progress with some buildings without roofs and some still just at the foundation. There is a school, dorms for both boys and girls and eventually there will be a clinic and Medical School as well.

Funds for the orphanage and school have been trickling in and work progresses as the funds arrive. My hope is that some day in the near future, with the help of friends and partners, we will have the opportunity to raise enough support for this project.



PEACE BUILDING CONFERENCE

On July 28-29, 2008, JRMD organized a 2 day Peacemaker Workshop in partnership with **John Mann, from Cornerstone Church, in Orlando, Florida**; a workshop that was attended by over 70 pastors and church leaders from different denominations present in Burundi.

As we all know the church plays a very important role in our community and society, in promoting peace and reconciliation among the community and nation. This workshop gave to the participants a clear understanding, orientation and guidance in conflict management.



The response from the attendees was very positive; after the peace conference, several pastors requested that John Mann returns to teach another seminar in their churches, and over 30 came to our office to request additional materials.

A week after the peace conference, 7 pastors came to JRMD office in Bujumbura and shared with me how much the peace conference will enable them to manage different conflicts that they do face in their churches.

A SHORT HISTORY LESSON

In 1993, six months following President Ndadaye's assassination, about a half a million of Hutus and Tutsis were slaughtered, including women and children. About 60% of the homes-as well as schools and hospitals-were completely destroyed. The country became a veritable wasteland as people took up arms against each other, similar to what happened in Rwanda, as seen in the movie *Hotel Rwanda*. We saw no effective intervention from the international community to intercede in all this bloodshed.

The many crises facing the people of Burundi and the Great Lakes Region today are complex. Chronic poverty, AIDS violence and ethnic conflicts resulted in the large scale displacement of people, mass famine and destruction. In the past 10 years, almost 8 million people have died in wars of the Great Lakes Region (Burundi, Rwanda and Congo). Burundi, as well as the whole continent of Africa, seems to be left behind and forgotten by the international community.

ON GOING AND PLANNED PROJECTS IN 2008 - 2010

- Carama Home Building Project continues
- Building 500 houses at Ruhagarika, Buganda Commune, in Cibitoke Province
- The Orphanage and School construction continues
- Building a Medical School at Ruhagarika/Cibitoke
- Supplying Water Projects at Carama and Ruhagarika/Cibitoke
- Building two Clinics at Carama and Ruhagarika/Cibitoke
- Helping Free Methodist Church to rebuild the church at Carama which was destroyed during the ethnic war
- Shipment of Computers in Burundi
- Conducting Peace building and church leadership Workshops and Conferences
- Pig and farming Project
- Receiving 10 teams from USA and Europe.
- Promoting peace and reconciliation through a music team
- Mission to USA with Umuhuza Music Team
- Micro finance project continues

PROMOTING PEACE IN A DIVIDED NATION THROUGH MUSIC

In Burundi and in the whole Continent of Africa, Music is one of the other many important ways which bring together thousands of people to come to meet, listen, learn and dance together. With the help of musical and sounding system instruments, we are able to call and invite thousands of people to come for a gathering and receive a message on how to build peace among ourselves, in our community and society.

With **“Umuhuza Singing Team”**, we will reach thousands of Burundians and people living in Great Lakes Region, with a message of hope, reconciliation and peace that millions of Burundians and people living in Great lakes Region need today. Through this project, we will be able to reach all sectors of the community and people, despite their ages and background.

From the experience of millions of people, around the planet, it is very well known that: “ People who make music together can not be enemies, at least not while the music lasts”.

**Join JRMD/
YRWD in
Sharing
Compassion in
Action**

THE IMPACT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

\$998 will build a home- Donations of any amount will very quickly help a Burundian family build and move into their home;

A JRMD field team of 25 needs just \$1,825 per month for food, housing and a modest personal stipend.

We can now accept donations towards our different projects in two ways. You may write checks to YNW/JRMD, and send them to: **14316 75th Ave. NE, Bothell, WA. 98011, USA**, or visit our secure website at https://www.youthnewworld.org/donate_new.cfm

NOTE: Your donations are tax deductible. YNW Tax ID# 91-2119749