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**ROTARY DISTRICT 5440 PEACEBUILDER  
NEWSLETTER FALL 2017 NUMBER 1**

**William M. Timpson  
Fort Collins Rotary Club**

In this first newsletter of the Rotary District Peacebuilders, we want to invite contributors and ideas, suggestions and possibilities for our efforts to promote the foundational skills for promoting peace, i.e., nonviolent conflict resolution, improved communication and cooperation, successful negotiation and mediation as well as the critical and creative thinking that can help communities move through obstacles and difficulties.

These are the same skills and ideas we are nurturing with our Global Grant in Burundi, East Africa at the University of Ngozi. By sharing more of this project in what follows, we hope to spark new thinking about what can be done locally, on college campuses, elementary and secondary schools, in churches and other organizations—wherever people are looking for new and constructive ways through conflicts.

**PEACEBUILDING IN THE WEST: Lessons learned from infusing sustainable peace studies at the University of Ngozi in Burundi**

William M. Timpson, Rotarian and Professor, Colorado State University

“Amahoro” is the Kirundi word for peace. Founded in 1999 with a commitment to peace and reconciliation, its University of Ngozi (UNG) is uniquely situated to be a laboratory for peace-building and sustainable development and the Amahoro Project hopes to help lead the way. We recognize that economic development will suffer if violence continues and that peace will be a casualty if communities remain mired in poverty.

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, emerging from colonization and forty years of violence. Recent conflicts currently threaten the last sixteen years of stability but conditions in the region of Ngozi have remained peaceful for many years and that is one of the principle reasons why we are working there.

Those committed to this project believe that sustainable development must wed with restorative educational innovations to prepare new leaders to heal and foster civil society as basic infrastructure needs are addressed. Over the course of this project, the UNG will be established as a viable center for research and development in sustainable peace and development.

With this grant, those at the UNG can help Burundi forge (1) a recovery and rebirth of spirit, (2) reconcile wounds, differences, rivalries, prejudices, and hatreds, (3) resolve to understand the truth of the past, fix the present, and prepare for a better future; and (4) reinforce the resilience needed to rebuild an impoverished, post-colonial nation.

It is important to recognize how communities, campuses, schools and organizations can benefit from these same emphases. We ask: What do you see from our Rotary work in Burundi that could be valuable in your community?

### **Who will benefit?**

There are currently some 1,700 students at the University of Ngozi. Our peace-building efforts will impact each of these students in every class they take throughout their college careers. Each new class of 400+ will enjoy a similar dual training in disciplinary case-based, problem-based, and project-based learning infused with peace building skills of improved communication, cooperation, conflict resolution, mediation and more.

When they graduate, these students will move into various communities across this nation of approximately eleven million as well as into neighboring nations of Rwanda and Uganda. Once available on various websites and translated from English into French, these materials will also be accessible to other colleges and universities in Burundi as well as school systems nationally. Eventually, these materials should prove useful to faculty and school leaders around the world, especially those in areas emerging from conflict.

### **Progress report on our Global Grant in Burundi**

Four instructors at the University of Ngozi completed the Colorado State University graduate course, *EDUC 628 Models of Teaching*, and worked with colleagues to support case study development for educating about sustainable peace and development. A two-day conference that focused on the critical and creative thinking essential to promoting peace studies was organized for January 5-6, 2017 and drew faculty, staff, students and university leaders from the region. Also attending was the nation's Ombudsperson who sees that his mandate to help individuals resolve conflicts with government aligns with the goals of our Global Grant to promote sustainable peace and development.

A second companion graduate course is currently underway with these same four instructors. *EDUC 629 Communication and Classrooms* emphasizes the communication skills that support peace building through active and interactive student learning, cooperative projects and case study analyses so essential to promoting critical and creative thinking.

Plans are also underway to do the following: (1) Offer assistance for instructors to explore and adopt curriculum ideas that integrate sustainable peace and development into their subject areas; (2) Begin outreach to other universities in the region; (3) Begin a murals project that will showcase local and international peace makers important to the people of Burundi; (4) Conduct ongoing evaluation of sustainability of project activities (5) Translate materials into French and develop the University's website

In a proposed Phase Two of this project, we plan to extend these two graduate courses to other instructors in other disciplines and include a third course, *EDUC 635 Educators*,

*Systems and Change*. Extend these ideas on sustainable peace and development to elementary and secondary schools in the region and beyond.

### **Local applications where you live**

Again, we pose the challenge: What and where can you imagine these ideas working effectively in your community? How can we work together to infuse peacebuilding ideas and skills in your schools, on your campuses, and in your organizations?

### **TO HELL WITH WAR! War is a Racket**

Compiled by Dr. Robert N. Meroney, Rotarian and Emeritus Professor, Colorado State University.

General Smedley Darlington Butler (1881-1940) was a United States Marine Corps major general, the highest rank authorized at the time, and at the time of his death the most highly decorated Marine in U.S. history. (Over 16 medals, two congressional medals of honor, and five for heroism). He was known as "The Fighting Quaker" and "Old Gimlet Eye." He participated in military actions in the Philippines, China, Central America, the Caribbean, and France. After WW-I and 34-year career as a Marine, he had an epiphany about the evils of war, and he spent much of the rest of his life campaigning against any further U.S. involvement in wars.



In 1935, he wrote an antiwar classic titled *War is a Racket\** in which he argued that war was promoted by many American capitalists as a profit-making enterprise. His views are shown in the quote below:

*I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.....So, I say TO HELL WITH WAR!*

The following YouTube video gives a dramatic introduction to General Butler's life and concerns about America and War. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58pTA2fUxA8>

\*You can download the book *War is a Racket* free in Epub, Full Text, Kindle, pdf,

Torrent, Daisy or ABBYY GZ formats at <https://archive.org/details/WarIsARacket> or view it on line at <http://vho.org/aaargh/fran/livres9/BUTLERWaracket.pdf>

The book was also condensed in *Reader's Digest* and introduced by Lowell Thomas who praised Butler's "moral as well as physical courage". Ralph Nader praised Butler in articles and speeches published in 2003 and 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NiQ38DW7gA> President Eisenhower warned of the "military-industrial complex" in his farewell address as President in 1961.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y06NSBBRtY>

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**(Note picture is from web.archive.org and is in the public domain**

[http://web.archive.org/web/20061127104505/http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/IMAGES/Whos\\_Who/Hi\\_Res/ButlerSD.jpg](http://web.archive.org/web/20061127104505/http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/IMAGES/Whos_Who/Hi_Res/ButlerSD.jpg) )

### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: A Promising Alternative**

Lindsey Pointer, 2017 Rotary Global Grant Recipient

You have likely heard the statistics before. The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world. With less than 5% of the world's population, US prisons house about 22% of the world's incarcerated adult population ([Roy 2013](#)). 95% of prisoners are eventually released and two out of three ex-inmates re-offend ([Prison Fellowship](#)). With the Prison Industrial Complex fuelling a push for ever greater rates of incarceration, it is clear that the US is facing a crisis in the criminal justice system.

Restorative Justice offers a promising solution to mass incarceration and high rates of recidivism. Restorative Justice is a process that brings the victim, offender, and community together after a crime has occurred to talk about what happened, who was affected, and what can be done to make things right. Rather than being punished for an offense, the offender has the opportunity to repair the harms caused to the victim, family and friends, and the community. The process is highly successful. Re-offense rates following a Restorative Justice process are decreased to 10% and the participant satisfaction rate (for victims, offenders, and community members) is consistently above 95% ([RJ Colorado](#)). Through the process, damaged relationships are healed and the community is strengthened.

If you are interested in learning more about Restorative Justice, check out a local organization and consider volunteering.

[Fort Collins Restorative Justice Program](#)

[Longmont Community Justice Program](#)

Stay tuned for more information about Restorative Justice in upcoming newsletters including case studies that demonstrate the transformational impact of the process for both victims and offenders.

**PROPOSED GLOBAL GRANT FOR PEACEBUILDING WITH ISRAEL AND PALESTINE: Organize a group of Rotarians in Fort Collins and District 5440 to develop a Global Grant proposal that would connect to willing Rotary Clubs in Israel and Palestine to implement one or more of the ideas in the report summarized below. For more information contact William Timpson: [william.timpson@colostate.edu](mailto:william.timpson@colostate.edu)**

As a professor in the School of Education at Colorado State University, Bill Timpson has focused my research and teaching on the challenges of addressing difficult and sensitive issues, i.e., diversity, sustainability, peace and reconciliation studies. In particular, he has immersed himself in case study development of domestic U.S. and international examples of peace building efforts emerging out of conflict, arguing that much can be learned from interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research of promising projects:

- Northern Ireland, Burundi (East Africa) and South Korea on Fulbright Scholar/Specialist awards for sustainable peace and reconciliation studies;
- Study tours of Cuba, Nicaragua and Brazil for literacy, development and peace;
- Eastern Europe, China, India and South Africa for peace studies

In 2016 he was awarded a Rotary International Global Grant to promote sustainable peace studies at the University of Ngozi. In January 2017 he helped lead a conference on critical thinking through peace studies for university leaders, staff and students in the Ngozi region. Along with numerous articles, chapters and grants, he has written or co-authored nineteen books including several that address issues of diversity, sustainability, peace and reconciliation. Building on these lines of work, I have two new books under development: (1) *Teaching in Troubled Times*, and (2) *Battleground to Common Ground: Stories of Renewal and Reconciliation*.

This project begins in 2017 with a conference, Improving University Teaching, that was held in Tel Aviv, Israel from July 18-20, 2017. There he was able to offer a workshop titled *Assessment of Interdisciplinary Case Studies on Peace Education* as well as make important contacts with educators in Israel as well as visit two Israeli universities after the conference ended.

Following this time in Tel Aviv he then joined a **TOUR: *In the Footsteps of Jesus*** from July 28-August 7, 2017. In Israel, we visited historical and holy sites in Jaffa, West Jerusalem, Nazareth, Tiberius, Sea of Galilee, and Haifa. In Palestine Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Hebron, Jericho, and Ramallah.