



## Initiatives of Change

### ***The Tippy Tap-a simple innovation from India to Zimbabwe***

**Victor Nyanhete**, Initiatives of Change/Moral Re-Armament (IofC/MRA) Zimbabwe youth programme coordinator completed an internship at Asia Plateau, IofC India's centre in 2015. Just down the hill from the conference buildings in Panchgani is Grampari, the IofC rural and ecological centre. As part of his training at Grampari, Victor was introduced to the Tippy Tap. Grampari promotes this simple device, along with a cheerful hand-washing song, in schools around the area, as part of their health and hygiene programme. Victor knew this was an idea that was needed in his home country, Zimbabwe.

The ***Tippy Tap*** ( <http://www.tippytap.org>) is a hands-free way to wash hands that is especially appropriate for areas where water is scarce. It is made from a plastic water container, three bars of metal, a bar of soap and some string, and operated by a foot lever made from wood and



so reduces the chance for bacteria transmission as the user touches only the soap.

Safe drinking water and sanitation are essential to well-being. Regrettably, Zimbabwe has faced a deterioration in water, sanitation and hygiene services and the washing of hands has been cited as one of the risk factors to epidemics. Cholera besieged the country in 2008 and Zimbabwe's Health Ministry said 2,300 suspected cases of typhoid were recorded nationally last year.

Another part of IofC/MRA Zimbabwe's youth programme is giving support to Jairos Jiri Naran, a school for deaf and mentally challenged children, located in Ascot, outside Gweru, (Midlands). The school has around 240 children and operates with scarce resources.

Victor excitedly told his colleagues about the Tippy

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Tap initiative that he came across in India, suggesting that they could build one at the school. They approached the Headmaster who granted them the space and the materials to establish the Tippy Taps for the children.

So on 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 15 of IofC/MRA's youth group built four Tippy Tap stations with different heights for the different aged children, at the Jairos Jiri Naran school. Made from scrap metal and other materials taken from the school, the initiative was cheap to set-up.



***Victor Nyanhete and  
Blessing Shuro at work***

"I enjoyed building the Tippy Taps and putting a smile on the children's faces. I was also pleased we could help the school. Mr Mashingaidze (the Boarding Master) told us that getting the children to wash their hands at every meal was a challenge so this is a fun way to meet an important need," commented IofC/MRA youth member, Blessing Shuro.

The group went to conduct a feasibility study of the Taps eight days later to check the effects of the initiative and how it was being maintained, etc. The Boarding Master commented how much the children enjoy washing their hands now and the system looked as it did when it was built, showing signs of care. The Headmaster said to some of the youth, "We are very grateful for the great work you have done for our school. It is making a significant difference. Thank you and please, let's continue working together."

It is an ingenious device that is used around the world to promote hand-washing, good health and hygiene and most importantly to save lives. You can find out how to make a Tippy Tap here (<http://www.tippytap.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/English-Manual-final.pdf>)

The youth team are making plans to build another row of Tippy Taps and to colourfully paint the wall behind the taps with the World Health Organisation's steps to safely washing hands.

IofC/MRA's youth programme is gaining momentum, energy and people in Zimbabwe. There is a large committed group who meet regularly and has conducted a number of outreach support in their local communities. They have their first youth conference coming up in Gweru with over 30 participants expected. The theme will be 'From Group to Team' as they look to move from informal meetings into a formal programme. At the core of all IofC's initiatives is the concept 'be the change you want to see in the world' which the Zimbabwean youth are certainly exemplifying.

You can stay in touch with what the youth group are up to on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/iofcmrazim/>

*article written by Talia Smith*

*Zimbabweans Victor Nyanhete and Blessing Shuro both took part in the Change in Progress camp and training in South Africa in 2015.*

## ***IofC/MRA Zimbabwe gets into schools***

Approximately 60% of Zimbabwe's 13 million population are under the age of 30, and this is estimated to increase over the coming years.

With Zimbabwe's economy at a worrying level, the youth take the brunt and face several socio-economic challenges. These challenges include: high unemployment (83% of youth are unemployed), poor educational opportunities, limited civic engagement opportunities, low access to skills development, teenage pregnancy, and early marriage.

There are scarce opportunities for young people after secondary and even tertiary education. Angry with lack of opportunities at home, 40% of the Zimbabwean diaspora around the world are youth. There is a great need to nurture and help develop the potential that is in these millions of young people which IofC/MRA Zimbabwe has taken on.

IofC/MRA Zimbabwe has been delivering leadership training in schools since 1985. Three training programmes took place last year. On 27 January, 2017, five IofC/MRA Zimbabwe members delivered a day-long training for 25 prefects and five teachers from Tongogara, a government-run high school in the rural areas of Shurugwi.

**Angie Katito**, who has been part of IofC/MRA since the 1980's, started by introducing the movement as a way of life and telling stories of how it has guided her, including how the four moral standards (love, purity,

honesty and unselfishness) have changed her life. "After being introduced to the standards, I realized there were things in my life I had to change, for example taking items from my work that I should not have. I took these back and apologised for my behaviour," she shared. Angie talked about how important 'quiet time' has been to her and encouraged the youth to make space to sit in quiet each day to listen to the voice of God and see where it leads.

IofC/MRA Youth Programme Manager **Victor T. Nyanhete** presented 'Are Prefects Masters or Servants'. Victor gave a motivating talk on the role prefects have in leading others. He also led a further session on 'Managing Self, Managing Time.' "Part of managing yourself is prioritizing activities for the day," he expressed. "Ask yourself - are you ready to grow and to leave your comfort zone? Do you believe ordinary people can do extraordinary things?" Victor rhetorically questioned.

Visitor, **Talia Smith** from IofC UK, who supported the IofC/MRA team for one month recently, presented 'Communication Skills for a Leader.' She introduced the theme, the different types of communications and gave examples of each. "Communication is one of the most important skills you can develop - not just as a leader but as an individual," she said.



Two days later, IofC members delivered the same leadership training for 34 students and nine teachers from Nkululeko High School.

**Abel Katito**, Chairman of IofC/MRA Zimbabwe, presented the theme, 'Opposition, Criticism and Competition'. "You might need to apologize if you have done something wrong. It will make a significant difference to your relationship and the atmosphere around you," he said. Other sessions in the day included 'Trust and Integrity in Leadership,' presented by Talia Smith.

Different members of the IofC youth team joined so they could gain experience in facilitation. The group differs each time, giving each team member the opportunity to deliver the training.

At the end of the day, the Head teacher set the students a challenge to sign-up to represent all the students in different departments in the school such as sports, the tuck-shop, etc. "We have all learned a lot today. I would like you to continue your training in leadership and this is one way you can do that. Give your names to the head boy and girl and we will implement the

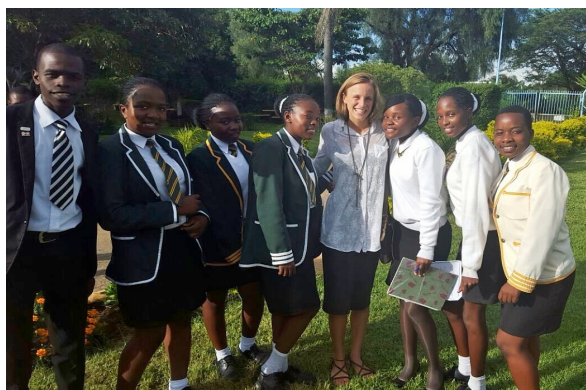


plan next week,” he said.

Participants stood up and said how they were inspired by the day – “I will be more courageous, I will work on being trustworthy, I will tell my friends what I have learned,” shared one.



Testimonials from the evaluation showed the effort from the team was well worth it; “I want to thank IofC/MRA because I believe I am a changed person;” “Thank you for imparting a life changing experience. I promise I will apply your teachings to myself first and the world at large;” “It was a moment always to be remembered because I learned things in a unique way.”



***Victor Nyanhete (left) and Talia Smith with some of the school learners***

The team hope to expand the programme to further provinces and to train more youth team members to be facilitators, giving each a turn to experience delivering a prefect workshop.

***by Talia Smith***

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## ***From Australia to the world's conflict zones***

On 13 February nine years ago, Kevin Rudd made a historic apology on his first day as Prime Minister in the new Parliament.

The Apology came after a decade of campaigning for

it by the National Sorry Day movement. It was a campaign which aimed to shift hearts and minds, not blaming or vilifying people but focusing on moral issues and appealing to humanity. It was founded, most of all, on the stories of the ‘Stolen Generation’ of Aboriginal children.

Some from IofC Australia were actively involved. Among them, John Bond was secretary of the National Sorry Day Committee. John, who is presently visiting Australia with his wife, Mary Lean, is now based in Oxford, UK. For the last eight years he has been a coordinator of the ‘Just Governance for Human Security’ forums in Caux, Switzerland. With his former Sorry Day colleagues in several Australian cities, he has told of his work for reconciliation and justice among many people from conflict situations who have come to Caux – from situations like Lebanon, Armenia-Turkey, Ukraine and the Sahel (in sub-Saharan Africa).

The 2016 Just Governance conference focused on six ‘windows on human security’: Healing memory, sustainable living, care for refugees, food security, inclusive economics and just governance. A full colour report is available on request from the address at the end of the newsletter.

## ***Caux 2017***

Under the theme ‘Developing human potential for global change’, the 2017 summer programmes in Caux, Switzerland, have been announced, including the dialogues and conferences listed below. Training programmes are also scheduled.



Registration is open at [www.caux.ch/](http://www.caux.ch/)

30 June:	Official Opening
29 June – 2 July:	Ethical Leadership in Business
4 – 9 July:	Just Governance for Human Security
11 – 15 July:	Caux Dialogue on Land and Security
17 – 21 July:	Addressing Europe’s Unfinished Business
23 – 26 July:	Towards an Inclusive Peace
29 July – 4 Aug:	Children as Actors for Transforming Society

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## ***Bringing 'a different tone to the public discourse'***

While other news dominates the headlines, communities across the America came together on 17 January to celebrate a National Day of Healing. Events and proclamations took place in 19 cities, from Washington to Los Angeles, Selma to Detroit.

In Richmond, Virginia, IofC's Hope in the Cities programme joined with three other organisations to hold an interfaith gathering 'to bring a different tone to the public discourse'.

They committed to these 10 steps:

1. Talk with your neighbour; or someone of a different racial, religious, or political background.
2. Refrain from re-posting partisan social media posts.
3. Recognise your own biases – we all have them!
4. Focus on what is right rather than who is right.
5. Resist stereotyping and look for the good in each person.
6. Learn about our racial history... visit the museums that tell the story.
7. Read a book about the legacy of racism in this country.
8. Start a small dialogue group in your neighbourhood, organisation or workplace, and honour the life story that each person brings.
9. Analyse the racial diversity within your neighbourhood, workplace, school, house of worship... and initiate conversations about where and why there might be lack of inclusion.
10. Imagine what a healed metropolitan community would look like and commit personally to work for racial healing and equity...

For more, see <http://us.iofc.org/national-day-healing-0>

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***Erhling Wang, from Taiwan, is 33, married with one son. When she was one month old she was sold by her birth parents – this is her story.***

'I was sold by my birth parents when I was one month old.

Although I knew I was an adopted child when I was 8, I still got along with my adoptive parents quite well since I strongly believed that they loved me and they treated me as their own. When I was 12 years old they



separated, and as they were negotiating over which one would keep me, my adoptive father, whom I adored, said, 'She's not my real child and I don't love her anyway.' I was very confused and angry when I heard what he said. I couldn't believe it. I buried a seed of hatred in my heart. I stayed with my adoptive mother who was a polio victim. I grew up with a deep fear of abandonment. I could not safely love anyone and was full of hate. I took it out on society by cheating, stealing and hurting people.

In 2005, I joined a programme called Action for Life which was held by IofC. In this programme, I started to listen to the inner voice. And I began to address all the anger that was inside me. I wrote many letters to my adoptive father, though not knowing where he was I never posted any of them. Finally I was able to write, 'Father, no matter what you have done, I respect you as a father. I forgive and love you'. I started to get on with people, apologized to my teacher for cheating and paid back money to the shop from which I had stolen. The shop owner said I had restored his hope. I tried to be part of the answer rather than part of the problem in society and tried to be a creator of peace.

In 2010, my adoptive father's new wife called me to tell me that he was very sick. I went to visit him, but he couldn't speak. I started crying. I looked at him, held his hand and kept saying 'Thank you' to him. I saw there were tears in his eyes, too. At that moment, both of us got released. The only thing left in our relationship is love.

Before I came to Caux (an IofC international conference centre in Switzerland) for the 'Living Peace' conference, I had just completed my Masters' thesis. My thesis is about self-narrative. So I had the chance to look back over my life. I discovered that the original source of my life is from my birth parents. And actually there was a deep wound inside my heart which I had never faced. Through quiet time, reflection and writing, I got to face the pain. When I stayed with my pain of being abandoned by my birth parents, I gradually could feel their pain too. After I became a mother, I have common feeling and empathy with them, especially my birth mother. How difficult it must have been to give away their child. I cried for them and for myself. I learned to accept my destiny and to say yes to whatever is God's plan for me. When I had the connection with the source of my life, I also found love and faith in it.

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