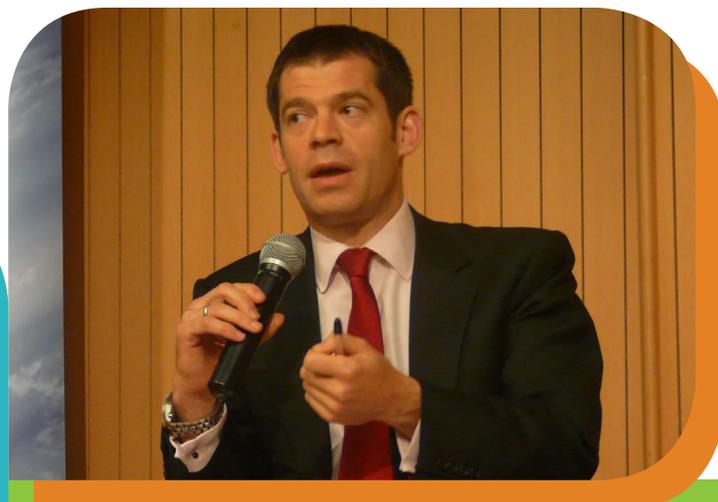


Nurturing fresh inspiration

UK Annual Review
2012-13



Initiatives of Change



UK Initiatives of Change vision, mission and values

Initiatives of Change is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.

Our vision is of a transformed society that has:

- the courage to do what is right and face what is wrong
- the will to establish moral and spiritual values
- care for individuals and the environment
- trustworthy leadership that brings purpose, unity and hope

Our mission is:

- to live by our values and inspire others to do the same
- to equip people to play their part in building a better society
- to take focused action alongside others who share our vision – locally, nationally and around the world

We will advance this through:

- training that enables people to find a vocation and develop the skills they need
- support for committed individuals and teams
- engaging the Initiatives of Change network from time to time around a single action or campaign in which all have a part

We will be open to new insights, seeking divine guidance and prepared to shift our resources and goals accordingly.

We commit to:

- moral standards of absolute honesty, unselfishness, love and purity of heart and motive as guidelines for daily life
- listening in silence to the inner voice as a source of truth, renewal and inspiration available to all
- honest conversation, undertaken in an open spirit, to build trust and enable healing, partnership and common action

Nurturing fresh inspiration

The challenge we set ourselves, 'to live by our values and inspire others to do the same', is not an unusual idea, but that commitment is what gives our work effectiveness and authenticity.

Initiatives of Change works for a change in society, starting with ourselves - that is subtly implied by the word 'of' in our name. This is a key point that perhaps some equally motivated and passionate individuals have yet to grasp. How often do we see well-meaning public figures, with often laudable goals, undermined by shortcomings in their own behaviour?

The decision to start the needed change with ourselves each day is perhaps our most potent weapon. Everyone falls short of their ideals, of course, but that is not a sign that their ideals are wrong. It is, rather, a reminder that we all need to be honest about our short-comings and seek the leading and power of the Almighty, or the highest truth we know, to become as we are meant to be.

It used to be said that sailors navigated by the Pole Star; the fact that they never reached it didn't mean that it was less valid. So it is with the absolute moral standards which IofC advocates – honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. They are a guide to right living, constantly before us, but never grasped.

This report gives just a few examples of the impact that people with this commitment can make. The good news is that living this way is not only effective, it is exciting and enjoyable, too.



Philip Boobbyer
Chair of Trustees
June 2013

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Change starts with me

School for Changemakers (SfCM) brought together more than 60 young British people at Liverpool Hope University in June 2012 to address issues with a moral and spiritual dimension. The four-day residential course is designed for people aged 18-30 and aims to help participants find a vocation and a sense of moral and spiritual responsibility. It was supported, for a second year, by i-genius, an international movement for social and environment change.

The course focused on vocation, spirituality and the values by which we live our lives. Each day started with a shared time of quiet, followed by interactive sessions; participants heard about experiences, hopes and stories of change from a range of speakers and experts of all ages.

Afternoon sessions gave participants the chance to explore their chosen topics, including 'Vocation and the heart of lofC', 'Education – the only way to change' and 'Social Justice – what's my part?' There was also time for reflection; to experience Liverpool in all its diversity; and to enjoy evening programmes including talent shows, debates and films.



All the participants were invited to join the SfCM Alumni Association, which aims to offer a peer-support system as alumni begin to make the changes in their lives which the residential course sparks off. Six reunions were held during 2012, three at Greencoat Place, the lofC centre in London, and three in Sheffield.

Follow-up programmes and further training, as well as one-to-one mentoring, were also provided during 2012. A spring 2013 event was held to offer intensive training for alumni to prepare and facilitate sessions on issues that have special significance

for them. The 2013 School for Changemakers took place in July.

'The School for Changemakers is an immensely powerful opportunity for young changemakers to connect and share with one another and meet tested leaders,' said Krish Raval, its co-director. 'During the programme the concept of change is examined through personal, professional, social and spiritual perspectives. As one of the organisers of the programme, it is a privilege to be among such a fantastic group of people, with all of their very diverse backgrounds, experiences and opinions and to see them learn and share together in complete honesty and openness.'

'I grew positively; I was intoxicated by the welcoming spirit in everyone. Throughout the conference, I did not need to think about what I was going to say or even bother with people criticising me because everyone there came with a determination to make change. Within the community I felt safe, safe enough to share my deepest story which I haven't shared with friends I have had for many years.'

'I was sent to prison for a crime I did commit.'

Charlie Ryder

From hatred to healing

'I was sent to prison for a crime I did commit.' This was the opening line of a one-man performance which used puppetry, masks and drama to bring vividly to life the prison experiences of Charlie Ryder, whose story moved a public audience at IofC's Greencoat Place centre in November 2012, during Prisons Week.

Charlie was sent to prison after throwing a brick at a police officer during protests in 1993 against the British National Party in support of Stephen Lawrence, the British teenager murdered in a racist attack. He found the prison system dehumanising and his powerful play 'Prison?' expressed both his feelings about the system and his subsequent experience of change.

Charlie, who now works as an outreach worker at HMP Wormwood Scrubs in London, as part of the community chaplaincy there, provides mentoring and support for prisoners on their release. He uses art both as therapy and to raise awareness of the issues he faced in prison. Working with art has allowed Charlie

to experience a transition from a position of victimisation to one of empowerment. During the play, Charlie raises the issue of his father's alcoholism, which angered him and made him resentful. Introducing the play, Anita Amendra, project manager of IofC-UK's Sustainable Communities Programme, said that he came to realise that meeting violence with more violence was not the way to deal with complex traumatic situations.

Restorative justice was a central theme of the talkback panel discussion, which followed the event. This enables offenders and victims to communicate – which can lead to offenders taking responsibility for their actions and to a sense of closure for both parties. Other issues, such as healing and reparation for victims were also touched upon.



See a clip:
www.uk.iofc.org/prison

Conscience in the global economy

lofC's work in tackling moral and ethical challenges in business, banking and the economy was boosted in 2012 by several of senior figures in the business community, all addressing the need for conscience to play a part in the global economy.



Joe Garner, then head of UK Bank at HSBC, spoke about the need to lead with 'courageous integrity' in banking. His talk was later turned into a 20-minute DVD. He also hosted, in partnership with lofC, a dinner with Lord Janvrin, deputy chairman of HSBC Private Bank, for 20 senior business people to discuss how banks could rebuild trust.

Five UK speakers at the Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy (TIGE) conference at Caux in Switzerland emphasised the need to rebuild trust and confidence.

Lady Susan Rice, managing director of Lloyds Banking Group in Scotland, said, in her address: 'We believe that trust is best restored through individuals ... perhaps that will move the discourse about banks beyond the current four Cs – Capital, Competition, Compensation and Controls – to a new, and what I think is a far more human, set of words altogether – Customer, Colleague,



'Banking needs
courageous integrity'

Joe Garner

Community, Conscience and Care.'

The conference also heard from Richard Sermon, chairman of the City Values Forum in London, British-based Texan businesswoman Margaret Heffernan, and Prof Bob Doherty, then head of the Department of Business at Liverpool Hope University.

Peter Lewis, founder of Principled Consulting in London, posed the question: 'What are the top reasons for lack of trust and integrity?' He highlighted 'lack of care, lack of competence and lack of fairness,' and commented that, although people know right from wrong, 'they often forget on the way to work.'





Creating new hope

The main themes for lofC's Agenda for Reconciliation initiative in 2012 were:

- contributing to reconciliation in Somalia,
- facilitating communication between Eritrean diaspora communities, and
- creating opportunities for young European Muslims to discover the resources for peacemaking within their faith.

Somali Initiative for Dialogue and Democracy (SIDD), a network of Somali British community leaders, has been partnering with Agenda for Reconciliation (AfR) since 2005 to promote reconciliation within their community which is scarred by years of war in their home country. In recent months, there have been hopeful signs in Somalia, as a fledgling government has been established with the broad support of Somalis and the international community.

Among the Somalis now returning to Somalia are members of the SIDD network who are playing notable roles in the new administration and humanitarian aid organisations. The challenge now is to respond to the request of the new President to move the focus of their reconciling work to Somalia.

As Eritrea's people continue to suffer extraordinary hardships, the Eritreans who attend the weekly AfR meetings have been bringing together leaders of their community to consider the future of their country. During 2012, two such events were organised, one for UK-based Eritrean humanitarian organisations, and the other for leaders of political organisations.

For imam and broadcaster Ajmal Masroor, peacemaking lies at the heart of Islam. In partnership with lofC, he has delivered his 'Learning to be a Peacemaker' course at lofC's centre in Switzerland to over 100 young European Muslims. This year, 14 participants took part in an advanced course, enabling them to to move the focus of SIDD's reconciliation work to Somalia.



Reconciliation in action

The impact of the IofC films 'The Imam and the Pastor' and 'An African Answer' has now been felt in Chad, Ghana and Tanzania, as well as more widely within Kenya, the country where the films' Nigerian subjects Pastor James Wuye and Imam Muhammad Ashafa have done much work for reconciliation in the wake of communal violence.

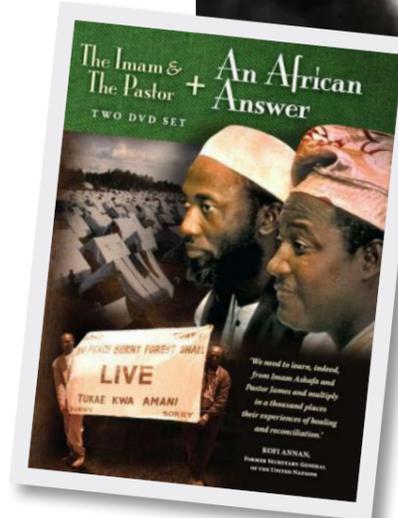
After 'An African Answer' was presented at UN headquarters in 2011, the UN screened it in three regions of Chad, alongside 'The Imam and the Pastor', in French and Arabic. The showings were followed by discussions with Wuye and Ashafa and film-maker Dr Alan Channer. The United Nations Development Programme subsequently commissioned IofC's production team at FLTfilms to make a short documentary, *In Search of Peace in Chad*.

Broadcasts of these films were arranged, in collaboration with World Vision, shortly before Ghana's national elections. They attracted such a positive response that they ran in six local languages during peak viewing, drawing an estimated 10 million



'I can see, and I can feel, from your expressions and the way you are with one another, that you practise peace.'

Bishop Alfred Rotich



viewers.

The work of reconciliation continued in Kenya, supported by the United States Institute of Peace. It was brought into sharp focus when, as the first training workshop for peace practitioners was underway, a bomb exploded in the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh. Pastor James and

Imam Ashafa immediately went to meet the local MP and toured the area, urging calm and appealing to the crowds for a peaceful response. They encouraged one Muslim and one Christian leader from the workshop to read a Peace Declaration at the scene of the bomb blast, appealing to Kenyans to 'shun all politics of identity and religion at this critical

moment of political transition in our nation's history'.

The second workshop drew 35 participants from hotspots across Kenya. Bishop Alfred Rotich, the Chaplain to the Kenya Defence Force, who addressed its final meeting, said: 'I can see, and I can feel, from your expressions and the way you are with one another, that you practise peace.'

FLTfilms also supported 'Initiatives for Land, Lives and Peace', an international programme of IofC International, through making a short film on trust-building amongst pastoralist communities prone to conflict over access to dry-season grazing. This film, entitled 'Restoring Land, Restoring Lives in Baringo, Kenya' was shown at the Land, Lives, Peace conference in Caux, Switzerland in July 2013.



See a clip:

www.uk.iofc.org/chad

www.uk.iofc.org/baringo

Getting involved

Initiatives of Change is a bottom-up movement. That is to say, anyone can and does have a part by taking their own 'initiative of change' following their conviction. The charity exists to support these initiatives and, as described in our mission, 'equip people to play their part in building a better society'.

Reflecting this voluntary ethos, the majority of our income is from individual voluntary contributions and is spent on campaigns and programmes. We are fortunate to have some investment income, thanks to generous gifts and legacies in past years. This covers all of our administrative overheads, so every penny received in gifts is available to fund activities that make a difference.

New funding makes possible new initiatives that can impact on people's needs and enable them to play their part in building a better world. Please consider making a gift online or by post, using the contact details on the back cover. Alternatively,

please contact the Secretary, Ken Noble, with any requests or questions about donating to Initiatives of Change, by e-mail to secretary@london.iofc.org.

Information on Gift Aid (which boosts the value of your gift) and on leaving money to Initiatives of Change in your Will is available from www.uk.iofc.org/donate or from the Secretary as above.

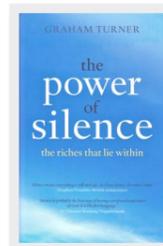
Greencoat Place, the charity's London base, is only ten minutes' walk from Victoria Station and offers a peaceful venue for events and conferences. There is a variety of attractive and comfortable rooms available, including the Barn theatre which seats up to 100 and has an optional raised stage and theatre lighting as well as modern AV equipment. Catering is also available, from morning coffee to a full lunch or dinner in the dining room. Please visit www.greencoatplace.org to find out more or contact the Centre Manager, James van Werven, james@london.iofc.org.

"Initiatives of Change is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own."

From the preamble to the constitution of the IofC International Association

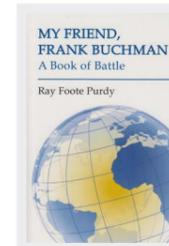


New books this year



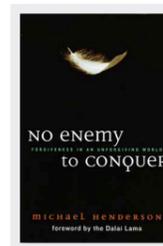
The Power of Silence by Graham Turner

Graham Turner explores the power that can be found in silence through interviewing monastics, religious leaders, composers, actors, psychotherapists, prisoners and peace workers about their experiences of practising silence. Ranging from Christian contemplation in the Egyptian desert to Vipassana meditation in India, from the shared silence of Quaker meetings in Oxford to the profound stillness of the Alps, this is a powerful book about a great gap in modern human awareness.



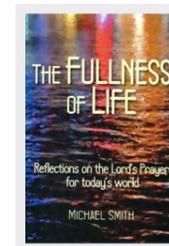
My Friend, Frank Buchman by Ray Purdy

Ray Purdy's book is the story of his American father. As a young man in the early 1920s, Ray Purdy Senior decided to devote his life to the concept, initiated by Dr Frank Buchman, that the only way to resolve conflict between races, classes and nations, and build a new society, is by changing the human nature of individuals, one by one, starting with yourself. He found that this hate-disarming concept found response in people of all kinds in every country, and as the force of committed people grew, so did the global impact.



No Enemy To Conquer by Michael Henderson

Forgiveness often seems impossible in today's conflicted world. This welcome book presents stories of real men and women of different faiths and cultures reaching out to reconcile with others, previously deemed their 'enemies'. A wide range of commentators includes Archbishop Tutu, former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Rajmohan Gandhi, Benazir Bhutto, and the Dalai Lama. In addition, scholars amplify the stories from the perspectives of their disciplines. The result is a multi-layered, multi-voiced call to understand forgiveness and know that peace is always possible.



The Fullness of Life - Reflections on the Lord's Prayer by Michael Smith

'A gem of a book' is how Ann Widdecombe, former UK Prisons Minister, describes Michael Smith's new title. 'I wish we could all regain our understanding of temptations, evil and forgiveness. This short meditation is invaluable. I wish this book was in every school library,' she writes in the Foreword. The 96-page paperback is published by Initiatives of Change.

Order by telephone or online
Contact details on back cover

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