

January 2008

Dear friends of the Alliance

As we mark the beginning of another year, let us all declare our intention to work harder to become more loving towards each other, to have a greater awareness of the unity of all life, to make a difference in our communities through our love in action, and to share our passion for a new story for humanity.

We all must be part of this process, it is the most important task we have to perform in these transition times. There so many actions you can take on 2008: (a) help us spread the word to others, through your actions and inspirational examples, within your communities, institutions, corporations and families. (b) join us in Costa Rica at the Human Forum from 11th to 13th March 2008. (c) Subscribe to our website, it is free, and you will be connected to an amazing array of extraordinary human beings, unsung heroes who are changing the world day by day. (d) Support us with a once off or a monthly contribution to support our expanding outreach services.

My deepest gratitude to you all, may your incoming year be one full of the blessings of wisdom, love and forgiveness.

Love, Deepak

President Alliance for a New Humanity

Join us at the Human Forum in March

Join us in Costa Rica on 11 – 13 March to share in a family atmosphere with great thinkers, doers, visionaries, and extraordinary people who day by day are changing our world in action and thought. Come and help us co-create synergies and lines of action to bring together the disaggregated forces of transformation into acknowledging its one nature through its many diverse modes of expression. Remember that capacity is limited and on 20 January we close our early bird offer.

For more information and to register online :

http://www.anhglobal.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=151&Itemid=97

A report from Machala* Ecuador

Arsenio Rodriguez received an email a few days ago from Esperanza Calderòn who is part of the Ecuatorian chapter of the Alliance for a New Humanity. The chapter has been working with its partners in a number of programs in Ecuador, including a chiropractic project in local schools. The following is an excerpt from her email:

We undertook a new program in November, supporting family vegetable gardens, benefiting 20,000 people in extreme

poverty. We are handing them seeds from Canada donated to the Alliance by ADRA-Ecuador, so they can grow tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, corn, watermelons and ornamental plants. The program is called 'Sow, harvest and feed the family' organized by the Alliance for a New Humanity Ecuador in collaboration with ADRA-Ecuador and Reina de Machala/2007.

We are so happy to see the work of love that Jaime Jaramillo is carrying out in Colombia, based on the discovery each day of the inner child within each of us so we can continue nourishing ourselves with the nectar of life which is peace.

We are presently translating the message of the Alliance for a New Humanity to reach 120 more people to enlarge our network of affiliates because many people do not know about the Alliance yet. We are reproducing the email from the President of the Alliance Deepak Chopra so it reaches every corner of this land.

We will be reporting in January on the Christmas program for 7,000 children in the marginal neighborhoods of Machala carried out by Alliance and our local partners,

Together we will change the World!

Esperanza Suárez Calderón

* Machala is a city in south-west Ecuador, capital of the El Oro Province.

Alliance Action

Introducing the MEND Trust

Diane Emerson was one of the first people to write in, requesting advice from readers before she set off across the world on her bicycle. She is now in New Zealand, and writes:

During my stay in Kerikeri, I was introduced to Rob Buchanan and the MEND Trust, <http://www.mend.org.nz/>. About 15 years ago, Rob set up the MEND Trust. MEND stands for Mobility Equipment for the Needs of the Disabled. I was very impressed with Rob's creativity, determination, and networking skills, and his ability to stretch a donated dollar further than I thought possible.

Rob showed me a video about a young man who had come to one of his clinics overseas. The young man had only stumps on his arms. In just 15 minutes Rob created two prosthetic devices for this young man. He made the prosthetics

out of two plastic cola bottles, with a fork attached to one, and a knife to the other. They fit perfectly over the young man's stumps, and the video shows him practicing cutting up a plate of food with his new prosthetic devices, and feeding himself for the first time since he lost his arms - with a big grin on his face!

This is an example of Rob's ability to do so much for so little, and is why I offered to help him. The BBC WORLD judging panel gave the MEND project in Nepal a commendation as one of the top 1% of projects around the world. . . one of 12 finalists out of 1000 projects from 120 countries. You can see their Limbs from Leftovers entry here: <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/limbs.php>

Love Light Romania

"Every day we look into the eyes of a child infected with HIV, what else can we do but our best and give them hope." So writes Ron and Jo Jowett of Love Light Romania, a charity dedicated to providing a sanctuary for children and young adults with HIV.

Ron and Jo have been working to support orphaned children near Medias in Romania for the last nine years, and six years ago they founded Love Light Romania to bring relief and care to children and teenagers affected by HIV/Aids and to support low income families. They do this by providing a home, called the Sanctuary, for abandoned children and teenagers living with HIV. They also provide respite care, daycare facilities and home care support for children with HIV who are living at home. The charity's latest venture is to develop the Independent Living Project which will give the older teenagers in the sanctuary the opportunity to live independently.

Find out more: <http://www.lovelightromania.com/>

uBuntu Peace Project

Bobby Morris writes from South Africa:

On 26 October last year, my sister-in-law, Gill Weedon, was murdered in the garage of her own home. She was the epitome of peace and spent her life in service to others. The following day another well-known and much loved citizen was murdered in the same city centre, Pietermaritzburg. He was Thulas Mngomezulu, Director of Heritage in the KZN Provincial Government. He too had spent his life empowering others. The grief, and the ANGER, at these two senseless murders was immense.

Realizing that people's anger was debilitating and destructive and that their need to "fight against" crime and violence was leading to more crime and violence, I started the UBUNTU PEACE PROJECT. The aim is to guide people into striving towards what they want - peace, harmony, kindness, as opposed to fighting against what they don't want; and to show the importance of kindness, co-operation, understanding and respect for all of life.

The emphasis is in creating that wonderful spirit of "uBuntu", which in essence means that "I am because you are." In

other words, we are all one.

Please visit our website: www.ubuntupeaceproject.com

Kind regards,

(Ms) Bobby Morris

Speaking from the Heart

Bridget Belgrave takes a personal look at Nonviolent Communication in action and presents some remarkable success stories.

“It can be surprising how quickly and naturally everyone shifts their focus and needs, once one person does. And to experience how hostility dissolves and understanding grows.”

Her revelation “It doesn’t take two to make this shift – it takes just one. One who has access to the voice of non-violence” could transform society profoundly.

More...

Art Before Art

Before there were art galleries, art was a song of the soul. Paul Devereux takes us on a journey through dreamtime perception, minimalism, land art and installation art.

“Art is too important a process for it to become the superficial ‘film or surface’ that the gallery-focused cultural activity called ‘art’ today has tended to become.”

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ENVIRONMENT-KENYA: Turning Trash Into Cash

By Justus Bahati Wanzala

Waste made useful: bags created from recycled plastic.

From carrier bags, to takeaway cutlery, to containers lining the aisles of grocery stores, plastic is found virtually everywhere in Kenya's capital, Nairobi: for better and for worse. However, the Kayole Environmental Management Association (KEMA), a non-governmental group, is demonstrating that there are ways of conquering the plastic menace, and making money while doing so.

"We formed this organisation in 1999 to compliment Nairobi City Council efforts in solid waste management, and empower our youth by turning garbage into wealth through production of high quality and marketable products," says Director Simon Munywe, noting that as authorities had failed to collect garbage, residents were resorting to dumping their rubbish indiscriminately. This led to an increase in waterborne diseases, and also opened the door to other health risks.

According to Munywe, plastic has been re-used to create various goods, including "mattresses, pillows, cushions, lampshades, waste paper baskets, hats and handbags (and) termite-proof fencing posts..."

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GUATEMALA: Waking Up to a Better Coffee

By Inés Benítez

GUATEMALA CITY: "Before, we didn't know how to market the coffee, or who would buy it in other countries, all we knew about was planting and harvesting," says Guatemalan coffee grower Pablo PÉrez. He represents an association of small farmers in the northwestern department of Huehuetenango, a member of the CafÉ/CaffÉ programme, which seeks to improve product quality in order to boost the producers' incomes. "The project helps us with the prices. Before, the intermediaries kept most of the profit," said PÉrez.

The programme is financed by the Italian Foreign Ministry and the International Coffee Organisation, which contributed, respectively, nearly 1.5 million and 600,000 dollars. "Our philosophy is to utilise coffee as an axis of development," says Massimo Battaglia, in charge of the Italian Overseas Agronomy Institute in Florence, executor of the project.

In two years, CafÉ/CaffÉ hopes to help 2,000 small coffee growers in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic, by reducing their socio-economic and cultural vulnerability, increasing the sustainability of their crops and promoting rural tourism in coffee-growing areas.

More...

In brief

New logo for the Alliance

On 17th December 2007, the Board of Directors, upon reviewing the short list presented by an international jury of advisors, unanimously decided to adopt the new logo for the Alliance which appears throughout this newsletter. The logo was submitted by Lauren Weiss from California, US - congratulations Lauren!

Deepak at the UN

Deepak Chopra, gave a lecture at the UN. Introduced by the Undersecretary General for the General Assembly Department to an audience of UN Staff, members of delegations and members of UN accredited NGOs. His speech 'Consciousness and the Pursuit of Peace: Bringing Peace, Harmony, Trust, Justice, and Ecological Balance to the World' was well received, and those present asked him many questions. The event was webcast and can be viewed at <http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/ondemand/specialevents/2007/lecture071218am.rm>

ANH board expands

Paulete Cole from the US, Horst Rechelbacher from Austria and Fred Matser from the Netherlands, have joined the Board of Directors of the Alliance, the team will add their voices, energies and imagination to continue steering our movement to make our dream of a New Humanity a reality.