

## RECENT NEWS

### HHTN WEBINARS

**C**rafting an effective budget and programme for your organisation or church can be a daunting task. In January, our webinar led by the expert Lois Craven tackled this challenge head on. Participants from across the globe gained practical tips and strategies to build effective budgets and programmes that truly propel their organisations forward in 2024.

Our February webinar, focused on harnessing the passion and energy of young people and deploying them to be agents of change in organisations and churches. Siseho Minyoi, a pastor from Zambia, and Janielle Beh, a music educator and a missionary in Rwanda, shared their experiences and insights. You can find the recording of this webinar on HHTN Global Youtube channel.



### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF RECONCILIATION (ISOR) 2024

The 2024 ISOR, held in March, brought together 24 participants from 10 countries.

The school's opening ceremony was a reminder of the universal yearning for peace and healing, echoing Warsan Shire's poem:

*later that night/i held an atlas in my lap/ ran my fingers across the whole world/ and whispered/ where does it hurt?  
it answered/ everywhere/ everywhere/ everywhere.*

From ethnic tensions in Ethiopia, to the ongoing struggle for peace in South Sudan, to the worsening war in Ukraine, the discussions were raw and honest; representatives from each nation shared stories of conflict and injustices in their contexts. Truly, it hurts everywhere in the world - differently, but equally.

There is a brokenness that plagues every nation of the world, and there is a need for healing in every nation of the world. Yet, amidst this shared pain, there was a sense of hope - country teams from Zimbabwe, India, Liberia and beyond expressed a desire for national healing and a future free from civil war, ethnic conflict and poverty.

By the second and third day of the school, the power of forgiveness had taken centre stage. Tears flowed freely and there were plenty of hugs. Each person's heart was touched in unique ways. People released long held bitterness and unforgiveness, paving way for reconciliation. Some confessed the conflicts that had plagued their families, knowing that upon their return, things would change for the better. At the Cross workshop, one participant who felt a strong calling to lead the process of peace and reconciliation in his region, came to a realisation that he could not do so effectively without Jesus. There was no altar call, but a very strong conviction led him to accept Jesus in his heart.

After the workshop, the participants trained as facilitators and led four practicum workshops - two in the communities and two among university students. Time fails us to share all the many stories of healing, forgiveness and restoration that came out of these practicum workshops.

Like the other regional and international schools, the participants formed a very strong bond. They named themselves 'Kubatana' which means 'Unity' in Ndebele language.

May there be unending kubatana in your families, communities and nations!

## **Testimonies from ISOR 2024**

"I have felt very refreshed in the past two days. I come from a country that was in civil war for 13 years. Additionally, my father left my family when I was ten years old. I am now grown with children of my own. Previously I had cut off my father and his family, and when they call me, I do not pick, yesterday's topic on 'Knowing God as a Loving Father' spoke so deeply to me."

"After visiting the Kigali genocide memorial, I was filled with so much sadness and hopelessness in humanity. I could not believe that humans are capable of committing such atrocities. To my relief, later that afternoon, Rabagirana took us to visit Umusozi W'ubumwe (Unity Mountain) where genocide survivors live and work alongside perpetrators freed from prison. We got to dance, eat and listen to the community. All the sadness I had felt in the morning was lifted as I watched the healing and reconciliation in action. I go back to my community assured that healing and reconciliation is possible."

## **INTERNATIONAL FORUM (IFOR) 2024**



Following ISOR, the International Forum brought together representatives from seven African nations. They shared testimonies of how HHTN workshops are transforming their communities.

This year's IFOR focused on refreshing and renewal of the workers. Teams were taken through a refresher Training of Facilitators for the HHTN material - HHTN Global does this to ensure that teams are aligned to the set teaching and facilitation standards; ensure teams reproduce and multiply, know their target groups and have a strategic road map.

The teams represented were; Adullam Cave from Burundi, South Sudan team (Presbyterian Evangelical church, the Anglican church and Mission Aviation Fellowship), Africa International University in Kenya, Africa Restoring Bridges Initiative - Congo, Women of Hope - Rwanda, Rabagirana Ministries - Rwanda, Wellborn Child Initiative - Rwanda, Resonate Global Mission - North America and Eastern Europe, HEMA Ministries - Uganda, Groupe Biblique Universitaire du Rwanda and Duhumurizonye Iwacu Rwanda.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS 2024**

Mark your calendars!

1. The European School of Reconciliation (EUSOR) is taking place from May 21st to 31st at Le Rucher Ministries, Cessy, France. Please tell your family or friends in Europe to sign up at (<https://lerucher.org/reconciliation-home-page/>)
2. We'll also be announcing the topic for our upcoming April webinar soon, so stay tuned to our social media channels for details.

### **Interested in supporting this cause?**

Reach out to us via email at [info@hhtnglobal.org](mailto:info@hhtnglobal.org) to make a donation

[www.hhtnglobal.org](http://www.hhtnglobal.org)