Leading Causes of Life Initiative no. 12

LCLI UPDATE 2018-FEB

Water is a crisis ...
An opportunity for 'generative leadership'?

"The World Economic Forum has ranked water crises as the greatest global risk to economies, environments and societies in the next decade, posing even greater threats than climate change."

Cape Town, as you may have heard (it's become international news), is facing a major water crisis, with some warning that we could become the first large city in the world to run out of water (so-called "Day Zero"), which would be catastrophic for this 4 million person city. It is severe enough that all sorts of groups are taking up the crisis. One of our Fellows, Doug Reeler, in discussion with his brother-in-law John Frame, a bulk water engineer with a significant role to play in the crisis, had the inspiring thought that a crisis also represents an opportunity — for generative leadership!

So a handful of us, spurred by Nomvula Dlamini and Doug Reeler, our Fellows in the Community Development Resource Association (www.cdra.org.za) in Cape Town, began a conversation aimed at working over time with many of the hundreds of faith communities in Cape Town who can use their reach and resources to play a role not just around water but in using the crisis to begin to face some of the social divides (economic, political, racial, religious, gendered, etc.) that challenge us and play into the politics of water.

Theewaterskloof Dam, by far Cape Town's largest @ 12%

The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town agreed to front this initiative, a first group of faith leaders met on Monday Feb 5th at St. George's Cathedral for an exploratory conversation. This was followed by a wider group gathering on Feb 19th, expanded to include representatives of social movements and NGOs. Close contact is also being kept with the provincial economic development partnership. The *Faith Leaders Water Justice Forum* as it is now known will join with other movements who are taking the issues further with a view to strengthening cooperative, innovative and productive initiatives in working for water justice. The key principles that emerged from this meeting to guide the way forward are:

- engage in facts not fake news
- engage beyond racial lines and political affiliations
- work beyond other responses

Cape Town is no isolated case -- letter from Kabul

Aziz Royesh from Afghanistan, our new LCLI Fellow (see page 2), responded to a report on Cape Town sent to him as part of the Generative Leadership Barefoot Guide project (with permission, slightly redacted):

Dear Jim,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and the news about water crisis in South Africa. Actually, we are rapidly moving to face the same challenge here in many provinces of Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, where around 7 million people are living now. The population is booming and the water goes rapidly down and down. 14 years ago, we dug a well to 43 meters to get water for the school. The well reached water at 32 meters deep. Just three years

later the water vanished and we had to dig another well next to the older one, down to 48 meters. The latter supplied water for just one year.

Next year, we dug a new one to 65 meters depth, which worked just for two years. In 2010 we used the most advanced technology available in the city and dug a well now to 130 meters. We found water at 70 meters and continued digging until we reached 130 meters. Last year in the summer we were warned about the descent of the water level now reaching to around 100 meters down!

Our school is located at the outskirt of the city in the foothills of the tall mountains surrounding Kabul. The pollution and contamination of water is also a major threat. According to the ministry of public health, over 78% of the water used in the city is polluted/contaminated.

The city is now faced with a huge crisis of water shortage. The most challenging part is the lack of any serious attention from our government and concerned national/international sources.

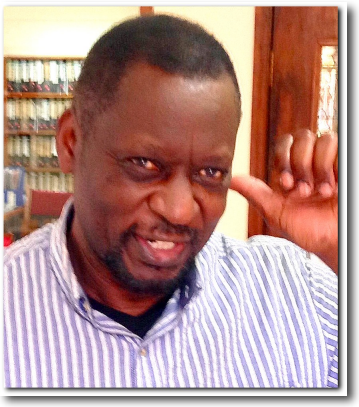
It would be great if the issue of generative leadership raised about South Africa could open a way at our ground too.

New LCLI Fellows

New Fellows have joined us after our Writeshop on "generative leadership," to which they will continue to contribute.

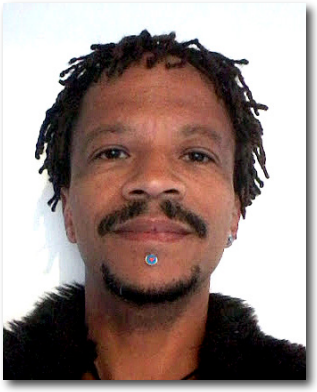
Aziz Royesh (Afghanistan) is a leading advocate for equal access to primary and secondary education in Afghanistan, co-founded a school for Afghan refugees in Pakistan in 1994, with a focus on critical thinking and human rights. Today, after moving to Afghanistan in 2002, Marefat High School teaches more than 3500 Afghan students, about half girls. It was recognized as the “Best Private School of 2014 and 2016” by the Ministry of Education, and is well-known for a new approach to community building. Aziz and his colleagues also established the Marefat Civil Capacity Building Organization (MCCBO) to strengthen and expand democracy and civil norms of life. Aziz was a 2011-2012 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), published his best-selling memoirs in Let Me Breathe (1979), made the Top 10 in the Global Teacher Prize (2014), was named as "Afghanistan Hero of Education" in the EU calendar of 2016, was admitted to the International Association for College Admission Counseling in 2017, and is a member of Empowerment Institute as an Imagine Leader. He has written textbooks on humanism, human rights, democracy, social studies, and Quranic interpretation and is a frequent speaker on the concept of a tolerant community.

Anita Marshall (South Africa) is a development practitioner, having trained as an Adult Educator and worked in many development settings from community level to managing both national and regional programmes. Children’s rights and development is a particular focus of her work and developing appropriate curriculum for diverse contexts a particular strength. Previous positions include: Regional Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Coordinator across six countries in Africa including Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Botswana, Kenya, Zambia and South Africa. National Coordinator, National Integrated plan for Children and Youth in S.A. -- a Cabinet-mandated response to the HIV epidemic across 9 provinces. National Education and Training Manager at both the Black Sash and Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), an extension research programme of the University of Cape Town. Trainer at a University of Cape Town, School of Public Health, an initiative for health committees as vehicles of change in addressing social determinants of health. She is currently Director of Training for Transition (www.trainingfortransition.com), a capacity development consultancy for vulnerable groups.



Mosi Kisare (Tanzania), with a BA in psychology and MA in Rural Social Development, is Executive Director, Tanzania, of the EASUN Centre for Organizational Learning (East Africa), which facilitates organisation development for Community Support Organizations to become aware of their values and vision as the basis for their ethical growth and effectiveness, offering offers leadership training, change management support and other activities for institutional development of civil society organisations in East Africa. The CSOs are involved in care for street children, people living with HIV/AIDS, small-scale farmers, women's groups and the marginalised poor. EASUN helps them transform their practices, embrace ethical leadership, empower participation of men and women, and promote equity in governance systems, service delivery and advocacy. From 1976 to 1994 Mosi worked for the Christian Council of Tanzania and All Africa Conference of Churches in development projects, focusing on their "de-projectification" and creating a learning platform that would generate awareness and commitment to champion needed transformations toward creating a more humane and equitable society. During this time he also helped found and facilitate the communication work of a major networking initiative for NGOs in Eastern and Southern Africa (MWENGO), based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Mosi believes that developing authenticity in leaders is critical in the African situation where positional leadership, a university degree, or becoming a consultant has the potential to immediately catapult one to the small, privileged class of the elite.

Gertrude Pswarayi (Zimbabwe) is a seasoned development professional proficient in communication, new business development and programmes coordination. She has worked in Southern Africa on diverse social issues including agriculture, climate change, sexual and reproductive health, information and communication technologies for social change and women empowerment. She is the winner of the 2011 Kurt Schork International Journalism and founder of a non-profit making organisation working to advance women and communication rights in Zimbabwe. Gertrude holds a MSc. degree in Development Studies and a BSc degree in Journalism and Media Studies. Currently, Gertrude is studying Earth Jurisprudence, an emerging field of law that encompasses both environmental and legal practice. She lives in Bulawayo, southern Zimbabwe.



Marcellino Jonas (South Africa) is from The Strand, Western Cape, between mountains and sea. A singleton, self-identified Gay man raised in a Coloured, female-headed, single-parent family. Brought up in a Dutch Reformed Christian household he now identifies as merely spiritual with intellectual influences from Qabalah and Scientology. A Pisces with a childhood curiosity in metaphysics and social sciences, he's also an avid reader, whose youth was misspent locked up in the local library. An alumnus of the Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development, he believes in the power of art as transcending lifetimes and its ability to change worldviews and eventually material circumstances. He was a community researcher in the SCRATCHMAPS (Spiritual Capacity and Religious Assets for Transforming Community Health: Mobilizing Males for Peace and Safety) Project and is currently secretary to the Building Bridges Mentoring Programme. He is a believer in self-education as being more significant than formal training.

A message of recognition and appreciation

Our Fellows group is a widely scattered, very busy body of people in high demand . Each of you has innumerable diverse responsibilities and memberships. It is an extraordinary privilege to be able to relate to each of you and, from time to time and as we can, to try to help you relate to others. We, the Core Group, deeply value your willingness to share in this small but unique set of relationships no matter in how small a way.

So we would love to hear from you and about what you are doing!