



## Peace & Reconciliation Report

April 2, 2008

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Member,

Welcome to our bi-monthly membership newsletter. We encourage you to share your reflections, news items, and experiences with others in the MBB community via this newsletter.

To submit information or corrections for the next issue, please e-mail [batokova.mbb@gmail.com](mailto:batokova.mbb@gmail.com) by the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Members' names that are underlined link to their profiles on the Mediators Beyond Borders Members Profile Database at [www.mbbmembers.org](http://www.mbbmembers.org).

Sincerely,

**Barbora Batokova**  
*Peace & Reconciliation Report Editor*

### MBB Welcomes Three New Board Directors

On March 19, *Virginia Morrison, Kentfield, California, USA, Douglas Noll, Clovis, California, USA and John Sturrock, Edinburgh, Scotland*, joined the MBB Board of Directors. The Board now has 15 members.

To see their profiles, please visit the following links:

Virginia Morrison:

[www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/qmorrison.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/qmorrison.shtml)

Douglas Noll:

[www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/dnoll.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/dnoll.shtml)

John Sturrock:

[www.mbbmembers.org/member\\_profiles/jsturrock.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/member_profiles/jsturrock.shtml)

### Bob Creo, Alan Gross & Anna Ornert Travel to Ghana and Liberia

For a photo slideshow visit:

[http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/liberian\\_initiative.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/liberian_initiative.shtml)



April 3

[The Future of  
Interactive  
Technology for  
Peace](#)

April 14

[The Use of Cell  
Phones and Other  
Mobile Technology  
in Peacebuilding in  
Africa](#)

April 25

Penelope Bissett  
Presentation -  
Pittsburgh World  
Affairs Council

June 26

MBB Presentation  
at ACR by Robert A.  
Creo and Alan Gross

#### QUICK LINKS

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*Buduburam Mediation Project training group.*

Secretary-Treasurer [Robert A. Creo](#), *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*, and Founding Member [Alan Gross](#), *Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, USA*, traveled to Ghana between March 7 - 14. Bob Creo traveled to Liberia for 5 days from March 8 -11. Founding Member [Anna Ornnert](#) *Birmingham, The United Kingdom*, met Bob Creo in Monrovia, Liberia.

Bob, Alan and Founding Member Bartuah Ninwillay met with SMA leaders to discuss the child soldier reintegration program, which is part of The Liberian Initiative. This program is conducted in collaboration the Child Soldier Reintegration Fund (CSRF) directed by MBB Student Member Penelope Bissett. CSRF has sponsored 85 former child soldiers in a vocational/education program at the SMA School at Buduburam. MBB is facilitating the implementaton of a holistic reintegration effort. They also had a meeting regarding the Trauma Healing program.

Alan in total provided 5 days worth of mediation training to various groups during this trip. He trained 30 people from the Buduburam Mediation Project (BUMP), 32 people from the PCO Welfare Council, as well as some former child soldiers. Alan also did a day of training with the Buduburam Arbitration Board. Bob made a presentation on The Mediator's Life for Me to the Ghana Arbitrators and Mediators Association (GHAMA) co-sponsored by CENCOR attended by over 60 lawyers and other professionals. (See photo slideshow)

Phylcia Mortey, principal of [Optimum Development International](#) (OPDI), and her team provided training in accounting, management, leadership, and donor relation skills to representatives of SMA and Members of MBB residing in Buduburam. The one-day training took place in OPDI facilities in Tema, Ghana. OPDI is an NGO providing consulting services to other NGOs at the nominal fee of \$100 per year. If you are interested in using OPDI services for another organization, visit [www.opdi-us.org](http://www.opdi-us.org).

While in Liberia, Bob and Anna met with various organizations and government officials. This included Gillian Dare, the top British diplomat in Liberia; Minister of Education Joe. D. Korto and his deputy Yonton Kessell; Executive Director of Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission Nathaniel Kwabo; Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials Benjamin Spatz and Passport Director Mary Bloh; and [United Nations Mission in Liberia](#) representatives; and the Liberian Refugee Repatriation Recovery Commission Deputy Director John Saan

Nyumah.

Anna and Bob also had meetings with at the University of Liberia, Arthur Louis Grimes Law School, the [ABA Rule of Law Program](#) and Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation. There is overwhelming need for basic infrastructure at these educational institutions such as computers, media equipment, books and current periodicals. MBB is exploring how it may facilitate addressing these basic needs.

Anna Ornert met with various representatives of organizations as well including The Fletcher School, International Alert, Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL); Ministry of Labour, International Rescue Committee and Lutheran Church in Liberia.

Anna and Bob, based on their experiences and meetings in Monrovia, have advised The Liberian Initiative to explore and consider the following:

- adopting the community-driven approach
- managing expectations
- engaging all stake-holders at an early stage
- identifying strategic partners and encouraging two-way partnerships and collaborations
- ensuring clear understanding of the different project components such as repatriation of those who used to fight
- sustainable community-based job creation
- psycho-social assistance to perpetrators and victims
- medical assistance
- vocational and educational skill-building
- preparing communities for return of refugees, especially perpetrators, victims and children of refugees born in exile

Agriculture has been identified as basic to the rural economy, although construction and trade skills are desperately needed in Liberia.

*For more information, please e-mail [liberia.mbb@gmail.com](mailto:liberia.mbb@gmail.com).*

## The Liberian Initiative Updates & Upcoming Trip in May

The Project Team for the Liberia Initiative will travel to Ghana and Liberia in May. They will provide training, continue collaboration efforts with the Ashesi University and University of Ghana in Legon. The team will provide additional training to groups who have requested it and build on collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations at Buduburam Settlement.

At the MBB Congress in Colorado, the following MBB Members participated in planning for the implementation of The Liberian Initiative: [Robert Creo](#), [Alan Gross](#), [Patty Lampman](#), [Virginia Morrison](#), [Douglas Noll](#), [Elenie Opffer](#), [Anna Ornert](#), [Tom Oswald](#), [Carolyn Parr](#), [Prabha Sankaranarayan](#)

Holly Adams from Universal Hope International will help the MBB Project Implementation Team.

The Board of Directors on March 19 approved the following regarding The Liberian Initiative:

1. A trainer for 2 weeks in May to teach graduate level at Kofi Annan Peace and Conflict Transformation Institute at University of Liberia for 10 days, 8-5 p.m.
2. Child Soldier Reintegration Fund partnership on Phase One (in Ghana) of Vocational-Technical, Trauma, Healing, Feeding Program. Phase 2 will take place in Liberia.
3. Basic 40-hour Mediation Trainings in Monrovia:
  - Ministry of Education Program
  - Government of Liberia Ministries Representatives
  - NGOs and other organizations

The Project Assessment Panel (Bob Creo, Sandi DiMola, Prabha Sankaranaryan, Ingrid Lundberg, Alan Gross and Anna Orrnert) is taking into consideration the recent developments at the Buduburam Settlement following the peaceful demonstration by the residents between January and March 2008. As a result, hundreds of Liberians were arrested and the governments of Ghana and Liberia, and UNHCR are in negotiations to create a repatriation plan to close the settlement as soon as possible. MBB is exploring its role in facilitating these efforts.

*If you are interested in participating in The Liberian Initiative, please e-mail [bobcreombb@gmail.com](mailto:bobcreombb@gmail.com).*

## Hurricane Katrina Project Assessment Trip, Biloxi & New Orleans

Submitted by [Laura Perreault](#) with contribution by [Pattie Porter](#)

For a photo slideshow visit:

[http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/hurricane\\_katrina.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/hurricane_katrina.shtml)





*Robin Doyle, Lois Tilley, Nan Waller Burnett, Sue Prince, Louise Phipps Senft met with Biloxi City Councilman Bill Stallworth.*

On Thursday morning before departing for New Orleans, [Robin Doyle](#), [Lois Tilley](#), [Nan Waller Burnett](#), Sue Prince, [Louise Phipps Senft](#) met with Biloxi City Councilman Bill Stallworth, who represents the community of East Biloxi.

He took us through a destroyed block inhabited mainly by the working families of the fishing industry. The neighborhood is being rebuilt, one house at a time all with private funding. These homes are built on piers and designed to withstand hurricane force winds. The homes on these blocks were completely destroyed down to the foundations.

What began as the East Biloxi Relief, Recovery and Revitalization Center, in the front office of a church, has now grown into the Hope Foundation, providing not only jobs, but in collaboration with Architects for Humanity and architectural students from Mississippi State University and University of Virginia, state of the art housing in the community. Through this work alone East Biloxi has seen the building and renovation of over 40 homes.

On Thursday, over a dozen MBB members congregated in New Orleans. We piled into vans to tour the lower Ninth Ward, formerly a working-class neighborhood located at the lower end of the city, just east of the Industrial Canal. Lou Furman, of Turning Point Partners, led the tour.

On our way, MMB members noticed Mardi Gras beads hanging from resilient oak trees lining St. Charles Avenue, reflecting a small hint of revival and optimism in certain parts of the Crescent City. As the tour continued into the Lower Ninth Ward, such signs of revitalization nearly vanished.

For the whole report, go to:

[http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/hurricane\\_katrina.shtml](http://www.mbbmembers.org/initiatives/hurricane_katrina.shtml)

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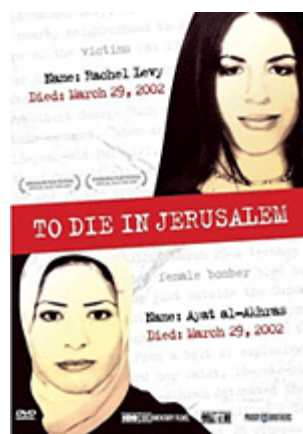
## Hurricane Katrina Project Assessment Trip Reflection by Robin Doyle

The Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast was pounded by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Sadly, much of the damage still remains. The local language has adopted two new acronyms. Every event is put into context by whether it occurred: BTS or ATS.

Before the storm, or after the storm. Memories of the storm have not faded, and the MBB Katrina Team now knows why. We drove into Biloxi along the beach highway that once was home to a large collection of magnificent ante-bellum houses and more modest homes overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. We saw home sites now overgrown with weeds, showing little sign of the houses that once stood there except for a few foundations and chimneys. A few blocks inland, homes in various states of repair share their lots with FEMA trailers and Mississippi Cottages. The wounds and scars of the storm are everywhere and the people of the Gulf Coast are increasingly frustrated that the healing is happening so slowly, if at all.

The MBB Team partnered with Laurel Kaufer's Mississippi Mediation Project to present *A Day of Dialogue: A New Road To Resiliency*, attended by approximately 75 people from Mississippi communities affected by the storm. The day combined a short MMP Essential Problem Solving Skills presentation, facilitated discussions and speeches by Ken Cloke and Rodger Wilder, President of the Mississippi Bar Association, and President of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The discussions revealed many continuing problems. Insufficient housing makes life difficult for residents and hampers economic development. Poor communication causes great frustration and difficulty in coordinating relief and recovery efforts among governments (local, state and federal), insurance companies and private agencies. The character of communities is changing as locations that have been affordable beachfront housing are being eyed for possible high-rise residential or business uses. Possible solutions explored by the participants left them with ideas to pursue and gave the MBB Katrina Team possibilities to consider for future work that can be done to help alleviate suffering resulting from a major natural disaster.

## Southern California Chapter Presents "A Mirror Reflection of You"



On March 19, the Los Angeles MBB Chapter showed a 30-minute portion of the documentary *To Die Jerusalem* about two teens, one Palestinian and the other Jewish, and facilitated a discussion among 12 groups of 8-10 people. Over a hundred people, including a number of Israelis and Palestinians, attended the fundraising event in the Beverly Hills Public Library. The event was presented in partnership with the Levantine Cultural Center.

"I just wanted to let you know that the event in LA was a smashing success... The film was very provocative, ... everyone engaged in constructive dialogue, and we had an excellent debrief at the end... About 80 people said they had their perceptions shifted by the event. Congratulations are in order for MBB [Founding] Member **Dorit Cypis** and **Joumana Silyan-Saba**," **Ken Cloke**, MBB President said.

MBB plans to continue to show parts of this film to raise awareness and facilitate discussions. "I think it was a model for other MBB chapters to conduct dialogues on difficult topics," Ken Cloke said.

## Penelope Bissett presents MBB in Pittsburgh

On February 20, **Penelope Bissett**, MBB Student Member and Director of CSRF, spoke on behalf of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh as

part of the Global Pittsburgh in the Schools program at Fox Chapel Area High School. The topic of Ms. Bissett's talk was the rehabilitation and reintegration of Liberian child soldiers.

Ms. Bissett introduced the work currently being done by the [Child Soldier Reintegration Fund \(CSRF\)](#) and MBB for former child soldiers at the Buduburam refugee settlement in Ghana. Ms. Bissett conveyed to the participating students the need for greater global awareness and participation, insisting that even one person can make a difference in others' lives.

Ms. Bissett also spoke March 19 to the MBB Pitt University Chapter. She will speak again on behalf of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh on April 25.

## New MBB Members

*MBB Welcomes New Mediator Members, Citizen Supporters and Student Supporters*

### Founding Members

Mary Ann Erickson, Everett, Washington, USA  
David Savage, Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Joan McWilliams, Denver, Colorado, USA  
Jamie Conglose, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
Grace Wood, Floyd, Virginia, USA  
Allison Fink, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA  
Therese Gray, Costa Mesa, California, USA  
Marilyn J. Endriss, Edmonds, Washington, USA

### Mediator Members

Duncan Autrey, Seattle, Washington, USA  
Loretta Story, Bellevue, Washington, USA  
Joelle Bailard, Houston, Texas, USA  
John Scott Carter, Temecula, California, USA  
Amos Wright, Buduburam Settlement, Ghana

### Citizen Supporters

Therese White, Culver City, California, USA  
Bill White, Culver City, California, USA  
W. Jarijke van Roojen, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA  
C. Danae Steele, Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA  
Adam Overton, Glendale, California, USA

### Student Supporters

Katrina Everhart, Clark, Missouri, USA  
Erik Steinecker, Seattle, Washington, USA  
Kate Richardson, San Francisco, California, USA

## Truth & Reconciliation Commission Committee

Board Director [Doug Noll](#) is coordinating a committee to explore Truth &

Reconciliation Commissions. Board Director Virginia Morrison, who also sits on that committee, attended a presentation on Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission (LTRC) in Washington, D.C. on March 25. The following day, she met with Commissioner Coleman to explore MBB potential cooperation with LTRC in Liberia and USA as it enters its reconciliation phase following conclusion of public hearings this summer.

*Anyone interested to work on TRC issues should e-mail:*

[Doug Noll \(doug@nollassociates.com\)](mailto:doug@nollassociates.com)

and copy [Melissa LeFevre \(melissambb@gmail.com\)](mailto:melissambb@gmail.com) and [Barbora Batokova \(batokovambb@gmail.com\)](mailto:BarboraBatokova@batokovambb@gmail.com).

## MBB Environmental Committee Established

At the MBB Founding Congress in St. Malo, Colorado, a core group of people came forward as interested in shaping the environmental aspects of MBB. Four main contributions emerged as a result of their discussions:

- 1) Capacity-building projects vs. crisis intervention projects will require different environmental considerations and approaches.
- 2) Not all project team members will necessarily be aware of the local or global environmental issues and ramifications of a dispute.
- 3) Identification of environmental issues needs to be self-identified by the local peoples involved in the dispute or region, and stakeholders and issues need to be coordinated and assisted by mediators.
- 4) Environmental concerns need to be incorporated into the assessment for all MBB projects, as well as addressed through projects specifically focused on environmental disputes.

It was agreed that environmental concerns can be addressed through MBB's protocols, training, NGO partnerships, and conference planning. An Environmental Committee, which also includes key members of various MBB Procedural Committees in order to ensure the environmental voice is heard throughout MBB, was established as part of MBB's roster of Content Committees.

**Environmental Committee Members:** [Larry Cerrillo](#), [Craig Distelhorst](#), [Tom Fiutak](#), [Deborah Laufer](#), [Harriet Nettles](#), [Tony Nowak](#), [Charlie Pillsbury](#), [Lee Scharf](#), [Wendy Willson](#), [Wendy Wood](#)

*Anyone interested in volunteering on this committee should e-mail [mediatorsbeyondborders@gmail.com](mailto:mediatorsbeyondborders@gmail.com).*

**John Paul Lederach's Article *Mediation in North America: An Examination of the Profession's Cultural***

## *Premises*

John Paul Lederach, who spoke to MBB at the MBB Founding Congress in St. Malo, Colorado, was kind enough to share his examination paper with the MBB membership. The article is not yet published and is intended to be read by MBB members only. Please do not distribute this article any further.

The article can be viewed at:

<http://www.mbbmembers.org/pdf/lederach-mediationinnorthamerica.pdf>

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