

peacemakers

PEACEMAKER TRUST

Peacemakers as a charity seek to be catalysts for peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed.

FOUNDED LOCALLY, SERVING GLOBALLY

Peacemakers was founded in 2017 by the former vicar of Virginia Water, the Revd Dr Stephen Sizer. Stephen took early retirement to focus on teaching, training and mediation in some of the world's trouble spots, most notably in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE

The Trustees of Peacemakers are thankful for the financial support given by Christ Church and residents of Virginia Water. Last year, Stephen made four visits to Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, to train clergy, lay leaders and youth pastors in Christian ministry, pastoral care and conflict resolution. The communities visited have among the lowest levels of education and highest levels of poverty. He also spoke at conferences and theological colleges in Singapore, Australia and USA on ways to resolve the Middle East conflict. He also participated in a

reconciliation initiative in Rostrevor, bringing together Unionists and Republicans, Catholics and Protestants to strengthen the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

PROJECTS THIS YEAR

OLIVE TREES IN PALESTINE

One of the Five Marks of Mission widely adopted as an expression of contemporary Christian mission is "to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth". Peacemaker Trust is therefore enthusiastic to support the Olive Tree Planting Campaign organised by the YMCA\YWCA in East Jerusalem. Over £800 has already been donated or pledged by Peacemaker donors to purchase olive tree saplings. The aim of the visit will be to plant four fields with approximately 400 olive trees in each. These will help provide local families suffering as a consequence of the military occupation and land confiscation with a sustainable income and viable future.

THEOLOGICAL TRAINING IN RWANDA

Last year, Stephen taught a module on Judaism and Christianity at the Cyangugu

Diocese Theological School, Rwanda. The week-long course involved 24 hours of lectures with the aim of enhancing interfaith understanding and social cohesion. Cyangugu is on the Rwandan-DRC border. Stephen has been invited to return to teach the module again to the new intake of students.

PEACEMAKING IN ATLANTA

Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine-Israel is an Atlanta-based initiative promoting peace with justice in the Middle East. Their hope is to build relationships on the basis of equality and human rights so that all may live in peace with dignity. Stephen has been invited to give a series of lectures on peacemaking at theological colleges and in churches in the Atlanta area. The aim is to encourage participants to realise that the Bible repudiates racism, segregation and does not preference one people over others. Instead it calls us to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence and religious extremism, and pursue peace and reconciliation, especially in Israel and Palestine.

Other projects at an early stage of preparation include visits to China, Iran, South Sudan, Syria and Tanzania.

JOIN THE PEACEMAKER TEAM

We invite you to join the Peacemaker Team and contribute to these initiatives. We are thankful that more than 70% of our 2019 budget is already pledged or funded. We simply need to raise a further £14,000 to



respond to the requests for help already received this year. To find out more visit www.peacemakers.ngo or email stephen@peacemakers.ngo

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:7).

Revd Dr Stephen Sizer
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