

FROM THE SPICE ISLANDS AND THE TEARDROP OF INDIA...



The Rev. Jacky Manuputty, Georgette F. Bennett & Dishani Jayaweera

Imagine your family being threatened and your house burned to cinders because you are diligently working to bring peace to your tortured community. This is Jacky Manuputty's world: a world of risk and a world of possibilities.

As a Christian pastor in a region of Indonesia wracked by intense violence

between local Muslims and Christians, Rev. Jacky quietly developed underground mediation efforts with Muslims from the other part of town. Meeting in hidden places, including in boats in the ocean, he built relationships of trust. But many in his own community suspected him of working with the "enemy" and labeled him a traitor.

That is why his childhood home was targeted and burned during the 1999-2002 conflict, a profoundly painful experience for Tanenbaum's newest *Peacemaker in Action*. Jacky remembers how his spirit was shaken. Thankfully, he stood fast despite the dangers. And he persists today, still building respectful communities in eastern Indonesia.

Jacky notes that people in the heat of war often reject talk of peace. "It's not easy to speak out about peace within a wounded community," Jacky explains. "When people around you are killing one another and you try to come out and speak about peace... people don't want to hear that."

Tanenbaum recently brought Jacky and fellow *Peacemaker in Action*, Dishani Jayaweera of Sri Lanka, to spend a week in New York so that we could study how they do their work and share it through in-depth case studies.

There is much to learn from Jacky and Dishani so we also arranged presentations at the United Nations, hosted by Religions for Peace International, and at New York University. The *Peacemakers* shared their stories and matter-of-factly described living lives of danger for a greater vision. At every turn, their stories resonated with their audiences.

Even before the 30-year Sri Lankan civil war ended in 2009, Dishani was focusing on conflict transformation. Today, she does so by using personal reflection, the arts, and a range of innovative techniques to reach and establish unbreakable bonds with local youth and religious leaders. Originally trained as a lawyer, she soon realized that it was not her heart's path. Her searching led to her peace work, which she created with her husband and soul-mate, Dr. Jayantha Seneviratne. Together, they look to their country's future, always mindful that the land that was once called the Pearl of Asia is now called the Teardrop of India.

Tanenbaum's *Peacemakers in Action* are the unknown, religiously motivated women and men working for peace in the world's most dangerous conflicts zones. They are selected based on the following five criteria:

1. **Religious Motivation.** The *Peacemaker's* work toward peace is fueled by his or her religious beliefs.
2. **Armed Conflict.** They are working or have (recently) worked in an area of armed conflict.
3. **At Risk.** They have jeopardized their life and/or liberty in the pursuit of peace.
4. **Locally Based.** They are closely connected to the conflict situation "on the ground," at the local level.
5. **Relatively Unknown.** Despite their impact, they have not received significant international recognition and support.

"What we are trying to do with the people is start a process to build trust and confidence, with our main goal of going to a deeper level to learn what we can do to establish social justice," offered Dishani.

We are grateful to our newest *Peacemakers* for sharing their stories and expertise and look forward to publishing their case studies and sharing them with all of you.

GRENADES, VIOLENCE, MURDER AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HEAL



A grenade shatters the windows of a grocery store catering to a religious community and gunshots ring out in front of its house of worship. Just months earlier, children from the same religion were slaughtered outside of school, again, because of their religious identity.

To the average U.S. citizen, these events sound like things that only happen in far off places that we read about, like Afghanistan, Nigeria, or Indonesia – not the U.S. or the “West.” But these particular events occurred in France. And Jews were the target. In fact, an anti-Semitic phrase was the third most popular keyword on French Twitter in mid-October.

2012 is already too bloody. Jews and Baha’is and Muslims and Sikhs and Christians and... too many members of too many religious traditions have been taken from us. Too many mothers and fathers and too many children have lost their lives or been subjected to violence perpetrated in the name of – or under the cover of – religion. Among those murdered and targeted for assassination were Ambassador Stevens and his colleagues in Libya, Coptic Christian activists in Egypt, Malala Yousufzai in Pakistan, Shias in Indonesia, Muslims in Myanmar, priests in Nigeria, a humanitarian official in Syria, and Sikh worshippers in the state of Wisconsin.

This is daunting. From my vantage point at Tanenbaum, I can easily document 20 years of disheartening world events. But I’ve also seen many instances that give reason to hope. For one thing, there is a growing field in interreligious understanding that includes efforts like our Prepare NY coalition last year. In this coalition, we contributed to peaceful commemorations of 9/11 and not the hate mongering that characterized the 9th anniversary of that tragedy. Another encouraging trend is that religious peacebuilding is becoming a recognized vocation, as

PEACEMAKER IN ACTION AWARDS

On Thursday, October 11, Tanenbaum’s President and Founder, Georgette Bennett, joined CEO Joyce Dubensky to present *Peacemaker in Action* awards to the **Reverend Jacky Manuputty** of Indonesia and **Dishani Jayaweera** of Sri Lanka at a special award ceremony hosted by Tanenbaum supporter Cathy Cramer and her husband, Kenneth Gibbs.

“Today we use the word ‘hero’ to mean many things. We apply it to victims of tragedies and to those who, at a critical moment, are moved to act notwithstanding risks,” noted Joyce Dubensky. “Our *Peacemakers* are different types of heroes. They are the often invisible actors, who look at a community or country wracked with violence and conflict and make a long-term decision to try to stop the death and destruction.

men and women like Tanenbaum’s *Peacemakers in Action* are recognized as viable resources in stopping violence. And world leaders are speaking out against religious prejudice, as when President Obama recognized that the attack against Sikh worshippers in Wisconsin was “an attack on the freedom of all Americans.”

At Tanenbaum, our work is to imagine a more peaceful world that respects difference – and to find ways to make it a reality. This is our commitment.

“The attack against Sikh worshippers in Wisconsin was, “an attack on the freedom of all Americans.” —President Barack Obama

This is not a task for one person or one organization. There are everyday things that you can do. Take a moment to educate a colleague or a friend about difference in small ways. Be curious about people who believe and practice differently than you and (respectfully) ask to learn more (at Tanenbaum, we call this “respectful curiosity”). Encourage your Human Resources Department to be proactive about including religion in its diversity efforts. And ask your child’s teacher to make sure that children learn about how we share a common humanity and how we also have different identities including the ways we believe.

These small steps will not create a global change overnight. There is no light switch to flip. But by taking these steps together, we can create the foundation for a paradigm shift.

IMAGINE... practicing respect and global citizenry together. It will save lives in generations to come and build the bonds of friendship and respect that are stronger than hate.

In friendship,


Joyce S. Dubensky
CEO

And they do it, knowing that this puts their lives and their families at great risk. These men and women, including Jacky and Dishani, are my heroes.”

A special thanks to Cathy Cramer & Kenneth Gibbs, Justin & Tiffany Foa, Foa & Son Corporation, Marni & Jeremy Selman, The NoMad Hotel, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York for making this *Peacemaker* visit possible.

Tanenbaum and the *Peacemakers* are supported in their conflict resolution work by key donors including the Leir Charitable Foundations, the Henry Luce Foundation, the El Hibri Charitable Foundation and many others.



Dishani Jayaweera & The Rev. Jacky Manuputty



The Rev. Jacky Manuputty & TJ Huntley



Cathy Cramer & guests at the Peacemaker in Action Awards celebration.



Justin Foa, Cathy Cramer, Pam Perkins & Joyce S. Dubensky



Susan Hayward, Dishani Jayaweera & Brian Neff

CHANGING THE STATUS QUO

■ CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Key Meetings ... Tanenbaum connected **Syrian peace activist** Pere Paolo Dall'Oglio, recently expelled from his country, with leading NYC religious leaders who are now offering resources to help continue his work ... **Tanenbaum Peacemaker Bishop Ntambo Nkulu** came from the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo with more than 30 religious leaders to ask Congress and the UN to stop the deadly violence in his country and denounce Rwanda's involvement in the conflict.

Book Review ... Visit <http://Tanenbaum.org/BookReview> to read Clayton Maring's review of *History as a Prelude: Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean* by Joseph Montville.

■ WORKPLACE

Worldwide Trainings ... Joyce Dubensky led sessions at The Conference Board and the U.S. Department of State's first conference for the top 100 leaders in "Diversity, Inclusion and U.S. Foreign Policy" on **better practices for religious diversity** strategies across all sectors. ... Partnering with the non-profit Community Business, Tanenbaum trained diversity leaders—via webcast—about addressing **religious differences in Asia**. ... Mark Fowler led sessions on proactive practices and managing competing interests at **SHRM's Diversity & Inclusion Conference** and **Out & Equal's Workplace Summit**.

Leading the Field ... New **Tanenbaum Corporate Members** Bloomberg, Empire BlueCross BlueShield, Emigrant Bank, Ernst & Young, Merck and New York Private Bank & Trust are leading their industries by proactively addressing the religious dimension of work.

Opportunity for Human Resource Pros ... Do you know an H.R. professional? Let her know about a **free trial to Religion at Work**, Tanenbaum's online learning tool for navigating religious diversity in your workplace. Contact Annie Levers at alevers@tanenbaum.org.

■ HEALTH CARE

Leading the Field ... Mark Fowler joined a panel of experts for the **American Association of Medical Colleges' Annual Meeting**, where he offered practical recommendations for including religio-cultural competence in medical education. ... Tanenbaum crossed New York State to give the opening addresses at Intersection of Faith & Health forums organized by the **N.Y.S. Department of Health**. Participants learned that they could advance public health initiatives by promoting collaboration between faith communities and public health institutions.

Training the Providers ... Tanenbaum's *Health Care* team trained **Maria Fareri Children's Hospital** faculty to teach religio-cultural competence to new pediatric residents. ... Rachel Maryles delivered a Grand Rounds presentation at the **Albert Einstein College of Medicine** Division of Substance Abuse and Lynn Soller led a workshop at the **American Academy on Communications in Healthcare** conference.

■ EDUCATION

Professional Development ... Tanenbaum's *Cultivating Global Citizenship* course taught New York City teachers how to adapt their curricula so students learn to engage successfully in diverse communities.

Coming Soon: New Curriculum ... Tanenbaum's new curriculum, *Religions in my Neighborhood*, created to inspire educators to help their students respect religious and cultural differences will be released on Martin Luther King Day 2013.

Spreading the Word ... The National Association of Multicultural Education's conference panel on **Curriculum on Social-Justice Movements and School Reform** included Tanenbaum staff.

■ INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Guest Scholar ... Judith Banki, Tanenbaum's Special Advisor for Interreligious Affairs, presented an insider's view at *Behind the Scenes at Vatican II* at Sienna College.

“Our Peacemakers... look at a community or country wracked with violence and conflict and make a long-term decision to try to stop the death and destruction.”
—Joyce S. Dubensky, CEO



Imagine...a more peaceful world that respects difference.
We are committed to making that vision a reality.

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SHARED VISION: CHARITY Our Religious Traditions Call on Us to Care for Those in Need

BAHA'I

For in ... teachings [of all religions] we seek the spirit of charity and love to bind the hearts of men together. *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 328

BUDDHISM

There are three kinds of persons existing in the world: one is like a drought, one who rains locally, and one who pours down everywhere.

How is a person like a drought? He gives nothing to all alike, not giving food and drink, clothing and vehicle, flowers, scents and unguents, bed, lodging and light, neither to recluses and Brahmins nor to wretched and needy beggars.

How is a person like a local rainfall? He is a giver to some, but to others he gives not.

How does a person rain down everywhere? He gives to all, be they recluses and Brahmins

or wretched, needy beggars; he is a giver of food and drink, clothing...lodging and lights. In this way a person rains down everywhere. *Itivuttaka 65*

CONFUCIANISM

The accumulation of wealth is the way to scatter the people, and the letting it be scattered among them is the way to collect the people. *Great Learning 10:9*

HINDUISM

Let the rich man satisfy one who seeks help and let him look upon the long view: For wealth revolves like the wheels of a chariot, Coming now to one, now to another. *Rig Veda 10:117:5*

ISLAM

Every person's every joint must perform a charity every day the sun comes up: to act justly between two people is a charity; to help

a man with his mount, lifting him onto it or hoisting up his belongings onto it is a charity; a good word is a charity; every step you take in prayers is a charity; and removing a harmful thing from the road is a charity.

Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi

JAINISM

Charity – to be moved at the sight of the thirsty, the hungry, and the miserable and to offer relief to them out of pity – is the spring of virtue. *Kundakunda, Pancastikaya 137*

JUDAISM & CHRISTIANITY

Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord delivers him in the day of trouble. *Psalms 41:1*

SHINTOISM

Those who do not abandon mercy will not be abandoned by me. *Oracle of the Kami of Itsukushima*



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