

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTHS
CONFERENCE ON PEACE BUILDING HELD FROM 28th-30th APRIL 2005 AT THE ZAINAB
HOTEL JOS, PLATEAU STATE-NIGERIA.**

Preamble:

The African Christian Youths Development Forum (ACYDF) www.acydforum.faithweb.com, in collaboration with Project Hope-Nigeria, convened and hosted a 3-day International Christian Youths Conference on Peace Building with effect from 28th to 30th April 2005. The theme of the Conference was: “*The Role of Christian Youths in Promoting a Culture of Peace in Africa*”.

The Conference, which attracted about 35 participants comprising NGO leaders, religious leaders, educators and other stakeholders in global peace, unity and social harmony, was declared open by Dr. Mike Ekpo of the University of Jos-Nigeria, who represented the Special Guest of Honour, Rev. Isaac Oyebamiji of the Chapel of Mercy, Jos. Pastor Philip Kings Abimuku of the Word Feast Chapel delivered the welcome address during the opening ceremony, while Mr. Enoch Raymond Nyayiti made a special presentation on the African Christian Youths Development Forum. Other dignitaries that graced the opening ceremony included Dr. Garth T. Katner, Director of Education and Training at the Interfaith Youth Core, Chicago-USA, Engr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, Secretary General of the African Christian Youths Development Forum who facilitated the proceedings, Mrs. Alaribe Betty Ebere, Proprietress of Victory International School, Jos, Pastor Mike Attah of the Christ Embassy and Dr. Solomon Dattu from Lagos.

Resource Persons and other dignitaries:

A team of resource persons from Chicago-USA and Nigeria led by Dr. Garth T. Katner of the Interfaith Youth Core, Chicago, Mr. Dajaghas Mohammed Ishaq of the Centre for Communication Disorders and Behavioral Analysis, Jos and Mr. Raymond Enoch Nyayiti of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, Jalingo-Nigeria, conducted the 3-day intensive and very interactive Conference. Paper presentations at the conference were as follows:

Dr. Garth T. Katner, Director of Education and Training at the Interfaith Youth Core, Chicago, presented three papers as follows:

- a. The Shared Values Methodology
- b. Establishing and Sustaining a Community Wide Interfaith Youth Council
- c. National Days of Interfaith Religious Youth Service

Mr. Raymond Enoch Nyayiti who presented a paper on “The Role of the New Technologies in Addressing Conflict Situations in Africa”

Mr. Dajaghas Mohammed Ishaq who made a presentation on “Corruption as a threat to peace and social harmony”.

Engr. EmmanuelAnde Ivorgba facilitated the proceedings

Presentation of Awards:

1. Special Recognition Awards were presented to deserving youths and individuals whose lives exemplify the ideals of peace, of living for the sake of others and who dedicate themselves to the promotion of universal moral values, strong family life, inter-religious cooperation, international harmony and the establishment of a culture of peace. The award recipients include the following:

Dr. Garth T. Katner- Interfaith Ambassador.

Otu Uwem Roberts- Ambassador for Youth Development

Enoch Raymond Nyayiti- Ambassador for Youth Development

Mallam Dajaghas Mohammed- Ambassador for Love and peace

Uduak Emmanuel Nta Ambassador for Youth Empowerment

Mrs. Alaribe Betty Ebere- Ambassador for love and Peace (who was not present to receive her award).

2. Scholarship Awards:

Two students who excelled in the 2004/2005 students Essay Writing Competition on the topic: “The Role of Christian Youths in National Development” also received their awards. The two students include:

- a. Mr. Ifeanyi Anthony who came in from Maiduguri in Borno State-Nigeria
- b. Mr. Paul Nwadike from Bauchi in Bauchi State-Nigeria

Conference Resolutions/communiqué:

At the end of the 3-day conference, the following communiqué was issued:

1. The conference commends the African Christian Youths Development Forum for taking the lead in the convening of the peace conference and her unflagging battle across borders in promoting peace, social harmony and religious tolerance through education, dialogue and interfaith initiatives.
2. The conference expressed appreciation at the aggregate of discussions, evaluation and review of content and a cross-culture fertilization of ideas on peace and religious harmony in Africa vis-à-vis efforts in the USA and other parts of the world.
3. That the team of resource persons, especially Dr. Garth T. Katner who came all the way from the USA be commended for their

selfless sacrifice and for doing a very wonderful work in Jos-Nigeria for the three days.

4. The conference calls for the devotion of resources to the training of peace educators, the promotion of interfaith activities as well as relevant education to be able to cope with the increasing cases of crisis and religious violence in Africa and the need for prevention.
5. That our political, religious, traditional and community leaders show the necessary will and deploy adequate and sufficient resources towards combating and preventing religious crisis and the establishment of the “*Beloved Community*” of faith communities advocated by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
6. The conference recommends a sustained mass mobilization/education/information program using all available mass media to penetrate the grassroots and communities. The conference calls for a sustained partnership among all the numerous faith groups in Africa in order to promote unity, reduce tension and differences and generate understanding of one another.
7. This conference endorses dialogue, interfaith activities and encourages tolerance and sacrifice as means of bringing about peaceful coexistence.
8. Participants representing various NGOs and other stakeholders endorsed the peace initiatives of the African Christian Youths Development Forum and strongly recommend that all youth NGOs embrace it as part of their activities.
9. Participants also recommend that a second and third peace conference be convened by the African Christian Youths Development Forum in the last quarter of 2005 and 1st quarter of 2006 respectively, and to be devoted to more practical issues dealing with peaceful co-existence in Africa.
10. Participants also call on the African Christian Youths Development Forum to immediately set up Interfaith Youth Council, which will champion the propagation and promotion of love, peace, unity, harmony and understanding among the numerous religions in Africa and beyond.
11. The Conference also expresses profound gratitude to all the numerous Organizations and individuals around the world, who in one form or another provided support to the African Christian Youths Development Forum, towards making the Conference a reality. The conference wishes to extend a hand of fellowship and calls on all these Organizations to join forces with the Forum in making peace a practical reality in our world.

This communiqué was approved and issued on April 30, 2005 at the Zainab Hotel, Jos-Nigeria and endorsed by the 35 participants that attended and fully participated in the International Christian Youths Conference on peace Building, together with the resource persons and other dignitaries that witnessed the closing ceremony of the conference.

Signed this 30th day of April 2005 in Jos, Plateau State-Nigeria.

Engr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

Executive Director

African Christian Youths Development Foundation.