



Southern Africa

JANUARY 2016

Newsletter 1

Welcome to 2016 – a word from our Regional Coordinator, Karen Barendschè

Greetings and blessings dear URI CC Leaders and members,

OUR URI FAMILY IS GROWING! A warm welcome to the new Cooperation Circles who have just joined URI Southern African Region and a pre-welcome to those who have recently applied and are awaiting confirmation of acceptance from Maria de Crespo and the URI Approvals Committee.

URI is on the move! When you read this letter this week, we will be in the midst of moving into our new office in 8 Erin Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town. We will send you photos and invite you to visit once we have settled in.



URI is now in 85 countries around the world. Almost 900 Cooperation Circles go about daily, weekly and monthly making an incredible difference in over 650,000 people's lives and to the environment, on a grassroots level. Social development, education, environmentally sustainable programmes and healthcare all form part of our work with interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange at the very core, where we build right relationships with each other, with our neighbours and with our environment.

In the Southern African region we now have 25 Cooperation Circles including 5 which are pending. It is not primarily about numbers though, it is about the quality of the work of the CC. The impact is what is measured. What are your planned outputs for your CC this year? How can we help you achieve these goals? Let Berry know. Ask her for help if you need to articulate your points with clarity.

I hear lots of exciting events are happening in your area during World Interfaith Harmony Week from 1st - 7th Feb. Send Berry your event details right away. Berry has included a calendar year of the United Nations days and dates with this newsletter. You will receive in depth information on them from Monica Willard, our representative at the UN in New York. The UN website has information if you need it for prior planning.

From 19th January 2016, we have the wonderful privilege of hosting, Dr Abraham Karickam, Secretary General of URI Asia Region, who will be visiting South Africa as part of the Regional Exchange programme. Last year I went to stay with Abraham and his family to experience and learn about his work, meet the CC members, community leaders and learn about Indian culture, its food and practices. It was fantastic! Abraham is looking forward to meeting those of you he can and has lots of questions about our part of the world, its history, its past and its diverse culture. He is chairman of a school he founded and got funded and has lots of questions about our school children and our programmes. Join me in giving him a warm African welcome! (You will find more information about Dr Karickam later in this newsletter).

Our hard working, dedicated team of Berry, Toni and I, commit to continuing to be as supportive and as engaged as we can to leverage your work to supporters and funders where possible, and to

network you with one another to strengthen the work. Keep you reports coming of events, stories with photos and videos for the regular newsletters Berry sends out. We are available to meet your mayor, your local councillor and heads of various churches and related institutes. We are working on further developing the Youth Leadership Programme and will keep you informed of updates. I look forward to seeing you during the year and meeting those of you I have not yet met at the Zonal Assemblies in March and August.

On that note, as a CC leader you are reminded to open your meetings with interfaith prayers and reading the URI Preamble and Purpose statements and asking your members to read the Principles, or some of them each time at least. This in turn encourages us to keep focused on the goals we have set to work on this year. Appreciate your leaders, your CC members and your supporters. The attitude of gratitude cannot be underestimated. Appreciative Inquiry is the model and culture upon which URI operates. If you need more information on this, feel free to ask. Share this news with all your members. Communication is a key component to success in any endeavour. You and me, the people, of diverse religions and cultures make this world of ours a better, more peaceful place for you, me and our children for which I am deeply grateful.

With blessings of peace
Karen

From Toni:



My message for this year is: Doing the good work consistently and together, URI Southern Africa will achieve the goals it is meant to achieve. I am looking forward to a Grand Opening to make a statement and put URI on the map in Southern Africa.

From Berry:

My hope for 2016 is that we can take more steps together towards getting your stories out there and creating the kind of world we all want to live in.



UN & URI Calendar 2016





Focus Point

We present your stories to the world through profiles, which we produce after speaking to you and working hard to get to know you. These profiles are sent out to our global support office, and are then put onto the website for the world to see. But many of you have asked about what other CC's are doing, so we have decided to feature at least one CC in our newsletter every month. We also want you to understand the process, the purpose and the outcome of producing profiles.

Gilvah.com is a Cape Town CC that joined us in August 2015. We are delighted to introduce you! Gisa Ellis, Jen Humphreys and Sharon Atkins are part of a team whose mission is to bring professional services to men and women around the globe who may struggle to access the help they need because they are geographically isolated, time pressured or have other challenges that stop them reaching out. Gisa has created a virtual connection with a very sophisticated website. Now, a professional person can work from home, offering their services in their own time via the secure website to people everywhere. The kind of services on offer include psychologists, nutritionists, life coaches, wellness coaches, financial advisors, lawyers - all keen to help anyone who needs it. If you cannot get to the help you need because you are working or live remotely or have any other challenges, then you can visit www.gilvah.com and someone, somewhere in the world, will be available at a time that is convenient to you. Gisa and her team started off offering a service to women, by women – but they soon found that men also need help and there are professional men who have expertise to offer. So they expanded their service and now they are building bridges between men and women across the borders of nationality, race, religion and background.



Introduction to our special guest Dr Abraham Karickam




Dr. Abraham Karickam was born in Kerala India on 10 November 1952. He had his education in India and holds Master Degrees in English and History. His Ph.D in English was awarded by Mahatma Gandhi University and a Ph.D in Inter Religious Studies was obtained from Zoroastrian College, Mumbai. He continued his education in Bussey Ecumenical Institute, Geneva and Eastern Mennonite University, USA.

He was professor of English and Comparative Literature at Marthoma College for about three decades and retired as Principal in 2008. Currently he is the Secretary General of URI Asia region and Chairman of Karickam International Public School.

Dr. Abraham Karickam has authored 16 books including “The Concept of Salvation in the Upanishads, The Bible and The Qur’An”. He is the organizer of the International Holy Books Conference series. He is also the Director of URI International Peace Research Institute, which organizes Peace Building

Institutes at regular intervals. He is married to Susan and blessed by two children – Aby and Ann.

Religious Celebrations coming up

				
Baha'i	Christian	Hindu	Islam	Judaism
20 March - New Year	10 Feb - Ash Wednesday	15 January - Makar Sankranti	3 January - Muhammad's Birthday	25 January - Tu B'Shvat
21 April - Festival of Ridvan (1st Day)	20 March - Palm Sunday (start of Holy Week)	8 March - Shivratri	* Islamic fasts and festivals are determined by an actual sighting of the appropriate New Moon	23 March - Ta'Anit Ester
23 April - Declaration of the Ba'b	25 March - Good Friday	23 March - Holi		24 March - Purim
	27 March - Easter Sunday	15 April - Ramnavmi		23 April - Passover



Tip of the month: USE Social Media to your advantage! Some of our CC's already have active Facebook Pages – look at Umodzi Youth Organisation, Lilongwe Central and YASED to name a few. Shy Ali of Umodzi Youth Organisation facilitated a workshop on Good Governance in Phalombe District in November. What a great event to share on the Umodzi Facebook page – take a look at Umodzi-Youth-Organization. It also makes it much easier and quicker for us to share your events via the Southern Africa Facebook page, and tell the world what you are doing!



The URI network is extremely valuable for finding and sharing information that can change your life. Akani Nkhwashu of YouChange Parliament (formerly known as Ennerdale Mini Parliament) sent the following information about opportunities for scholarships which he asked us to share with our youth. Well done Akani and thank you for caring enough to send this to us! Please share with all the young members in your CCs – and remember to give us feedback.

1. Australia Award Scholarship (<http://australiaawardsindo.or.id>)
2. LPDP Scholarship (<http://www.beasiswalpdp.org/index.html>)
3. DIKTI Scholarship a. Dalam Negeri (<http://www.beasiswa.dikti.go.id/dn/>) b. Luar Negeri (<http://beasiswa.dikti.go.id/ln/>)
4. Turkey Government Scholarship (<http://www.turkiyeburslari.gov.tr/index.php/en>)
5. General Cultural Scholarship India (<http://www.iccrindia.net/generalscheme.html>)
6. USA Government Scholarship a. (<http://www.aminef.or.id/index.php>) b. (<http://www.iief.or.id>)
7. Netherland Government Scholarship (<http://www.nesoindonesia.or.id/beasiswa>)
8. Korean Government Scholarship (<http://www.niied.go.kr/eng/contents.do...>)
9. Belgium Government Scholarship (<http://www.vliruos.be/4273.aspx>)
10. Israel xxx
11. Sciences Po France (<http://formation.sciences-po.fr/.../the-emile-boutmy-scholars...>)
12. Utrecht University Netherland (<http://www.uu.nl/.../grantsandscholarships/Pages/utrechtexcel...>)
13. Prasetya Mulya Business School Indonesia (<http://www.pmbms.ac.id/s2/scholarship.php?lang=ENG>)
14. Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship (<http://www.mofat.gov.bn/index.php/announcement>)
15. Monbugakusho Scholarship Japan (<http://www.id.emb-japan.go.jp/sch.html>)
16. Paramadina University Master Fellowship Indonesia (<https://gradschool.paramadina.ac.id/.../paramadina-medco-fell...>)
17. PPM School of Management Indonesia (<http://ppm-manajemen.ac.id/beasiswa-penuh-s2-mm-reguler/>)
18. University of Twente Netherland (<http://www.utwente.nl/international.../scholarshipsandgrants/.../>)
19. Sweden Government Scholarship (<http://www.studyinsweden.se/Scholarships/>)
20. Chinese Government Scholarship (<http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua/scholarshipdetailen.aspx...>)
21. Taiwan Government Scholarship (http://www.studyintaiwan.org/taiwan_scholarships.html)
22. United Kingdom Government Scholarship (<http://www.chevening.org/indonesia/>)
23. Panasonic Scholarship Japan (<http://panasonic.net/citizensh.../scholarships/.../requirements/>)
24. Ancora Foundation Scholarship (<http://ancorafoundation.com>)
25. Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowship Japan (<http://www.api-fellowships.org/body/>)
26. AUN/SEED-Net Scholarship (<http://www.seed-net.org/index.php>)
27. Art Asia Major Scholarship Korea National University of Arts (<http://eng.karts.ac.kr:81/karts/board/list.jsp...>)
28. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Japan (http://www.apu.ac.jp/home/life/index.php?content_id=30)
29. Seoul National University Korea (<http://en.snu.ac.kr/.../gradu.../scholarships/before-application>)
30. DIKTIS Overseas Scholarship (<http://www.pendis.kemenag.go.id/beasiswaln/>)
31. Honjo International Scholarship Foundation Japan (<http://hisf.or.jp/english/sch-f/>)
32. IDB Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology (<http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous...>)
33. International HIV & Drug Use Fellowship USA (<http://www.iasociety.org/fellowship.aspx>)
34. Nitori International Scholarship Foundation Japan (<http://www.nitori-shougakuzaidan.com/en/>)
35. School of Government and Public Policy Indonesia (<http://sgpp.ac.id/pages/financial-conditions>)
36. Inpex Scholarship Foundation Japan
37. Asia University Taiwan (<http://ciae.asia.edu.tw/AdmissionsScholarship.html>)
38. Macquarie University Australia (http://www.mq.edu.au/.../macquarie_university_international_.../)

Usman Inuwa, the Founder/Coordinator of FACIS (Forward in Action for conservation of indigenous species and leadership) based in Nigeria, collected these Climate Change Statements from the World's Religions during COP 21 in Paris in October. Many of our CCs are deeply concerned with environmental care, and we thought this information could be of interest to you. Happy Reading... until next time!

World bishops' appeal to COP 21 negotiating parties

October 26, 2015

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/287076328/World-bishops-appeal-to-COP-21-negotiating-parties>

Black Church Climate Change Statement

October 29, 2015

<http://www.blackchurchclimate.org/black-church-climate-statement.html>

To the Jewish People, to all Communities of Spirit, and to the World: A Rabbinic Letter on the Climate Crisis

October 29, 2015

<https://theshalomcenter.org/RabbinicLetterClimate>

Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

International Islamic Climate Change Symposium

August 2015

<http://islamicclimatedeclaration.org/islamic-declaration-on-global-climate-change/>

Buddhist Climate Statement to World Leaders

Global Buddhist Climate Change Collective

October 29, 2015

<http://gbccc.org/>

Hindu Declaration on Climate Change

November 23, 2015

<http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/>

Indigenous Elders and Medicine Peoples Council Statement

United Nations Convention on Climate Change

COP21 Paris, France

November 30 - December 11, 2015

http://spiret.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Formal-Statement_IndigenousEldersandMedicinePeoples_COP21.pdf

Shared Vision, Shared Volition: Choosing Our Global Future Together

A statement of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France

November 23, 2015

<https://www.bic.org/statements/shared-vision-shared-volition-choosing-our-global-future-together#R6qsM7ezQYimqIBe.97>

Statement of Faith and Spiritual Leaders on the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 in Paris in December 2015

October 20, 2015

http://actalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/COP21_Statement_english2.pdf

Karen, Berry, Toni and Tracey

[United-Religions-Initiative-Southern-Africa](#)

May Peace Prevail on Earth