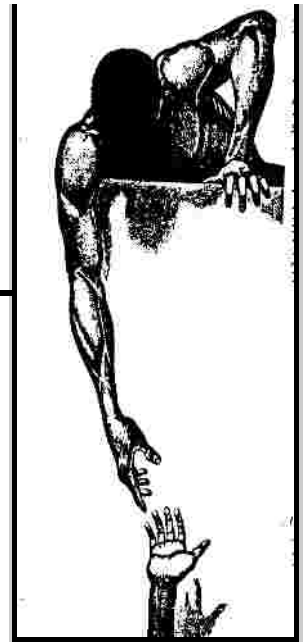


# International CURE

*Newsletter Summer 2009*

To Reduce Crime and Uplift World-wide Justice

Published by International CURE, *Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants*, [www.internationalcure.org](http://www.internationalcure.org)  
Po Box 2310, Washington, DC, 20013-2310, [cure@internationalcure.org](mailto:cure@internationalcure.org)



“He Ain’t Heavy”  
by Gilbert Young

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of CURE

A very rewarding International CURE conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland on June 22-24, 2009. Seventy-five persons attended, representing 20 countries on five continents, including Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Zambia. Representatives from other countries were unable to obtain visas in time. To see the

### PROCEEDINGS

of the conference, go to

[www.internationalcure.org/pdfs/CURE2009Conference.PDF](http://www.internationalcure.org/pdfs/CURE2009Conference.PDF)

Note that a consequence of the conference is a letter to Secretary General Moon of the United Nations, which is included in the Proceedings.

Photos of Geneva and attendees at the conference, taken by Alan Pogue, can be found at

<http://gallery.me.com/alanpogue#100109&bgcolor=black&view=grid>

The second component associated with this conference is the PAJART process (Prison and Justice: Assessment, Recommendations and Transformative Programs), which is also online. To see the

### PAJART e-book

go to [www.internationalcure.org/pajart.htm](http://www.internationalcure.org/pajart.htm)

Thus far, comprehensive assessments of prisons and justice systems in thirteen African countries have been completed and are on the web in that e-book.

The third component associated with this conference is the journey being planned for Alan Pogue in which he will attempt to visit prisons in Africa, take photos, and videotape interviews. This trip is currently planned for this coming fall.

## LifeLine

## Lifers helping Lifers

LifeLine is a partnership between the Correctional Service of Canada, the National Parole Board and voluntary, community-based agencies.

LifeLine is a correctional concept involving convicted, but paroled, men and women serving life sentences who have been successfully reintegrated into the community for at least five years. They return to an institution where they help develop programs for lifers; help motivate offenders; help offenders reintegrate; and contribute to public safety.

The Mission of LifeLine is to provide, through the In-Reach component and community endeavours, an opportunity to motivate inmates and to marshal resources to achieve successful, supervised, gradual reintegration into the community.

**The In-Reach Program.** Successful lifers, supported by a sponsoring, voluntary community-based agency, return to institutions to work with other inmate lifers - to serve as motivators, mentors and mediators.

**Community Resources.** Once released on parole, a lifer must reintegrate into a community and rebuild relationships that have changed dramatically. To succeed, parolees need community resources, such as peer support, which help them find and keep a job, and learn how to live independently in a "new" world. St.-Leonard's House, Windsor operates the only dedicated residential facility for newly paroled lifers. In other communities, special facilities geared to inmates with determinate sentences provide needed support and residential services.

(continued on page 6)

## A Report from Niger

By *Ouffoue Konan Koffi Nestor*, [ouffkn@live.fr](mailto:ouffkn@live.fr)  
*NIGER CURE Executive Director*

Imagine yourself in a **cell of 8 square meters**, where dwell 33 people under a **40 degree** temperature, and **where blows a dry and hot weather and also dust in March, April and May; and 30 degrees the other months of the year**. Only a few cells accommodate from 5 to 10 people.

Many deteriorated cells have very bad odors (like urine, shit, sweat and many other things that you can never think of etc....), - where both healthy and sick persons live together with slime, fat, and smells.

Sickness is created by **the infernal conditions** there; and also by the very bad treatment and the daily **torture** inflicted on prisoners, - psychological frustration by the rule of the strongest men over the weakest, by raping, beatings and many other mistreatments.

These tortures bring, in turn, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-AIDS.

A single meal, few hours out of the cell, few visits by friends, (and also by our NGOs, for instance), is what two-thirds of the prisoners earn as a benefit. Meanwhile the most dangerous prisoners, who represent one-third of the prison population, **are doomed and damned to live in pitch-black areas**, - not forgetting the bloody conditions of their daily lives that has become a hell, their daily hell.

The conditions are most of the time ended by the death of several prisoners.

That's the infernal living conditions of prisoners in this Sahalaen country; conditions that are explained in the following.

It is necessary to emphasize the root causes that are worth being dealt with, before trying to define such conditions.

Root causes in Niger are the facts of extreme poverty, illegal richness, drug abuse, slavery - (oh,\_yes, slavery), psychological illness and many other root causes that could slowly and surely be reduced, **by the grace and help of Jesus, by implementing the Seminary Strategies**.

One must fight to ameliorate such conditions of living and let them be known. Such action will surely point out the real meaning of **CURE**, that word that is strangely the name of our Organization (**Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants**).

## \$1 Spent on Prevention Saves \$10

AMES, Iowa -- Two Iowa State University researchers have given communities worldwide good reason to implement substance abuse prevention programs. They're economically beneficial, with a nearly \$10 return for every dollar invested in prevention.

Richard Spoth, director of the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute (PPSI) at Iowa State, and Max Guyll, ISU assistant professor of psychology, presented that message to substance abuse experts representing approximately 100 countries at a conference in Vienna, Austria, co-sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization.

The ISU researchers applied their own and national data to calculate both the cost effectiveness and cost benefit for two of PPSI's intervention programs -- Iowa Strengthening Families Program (ISFP), which works on the family level to prevent substance abuse; and the Life Skills Training Program (LST), which was designed for school-based implementation.

The longitudinal "Project Family" study recruited 667 families through 33 Iowa school districts. The researchers calculated that the ISFP intervention cost \$12,459 per disorder prevented, but resulted in a \$119,633 benefit to communities per alcohol disorder prevented -- a \$9.60 return on each dollar invested.

The "Capable Families and Youth" trial recruited 679 families through 36 Iowa school districts. Researchers found that life skills training intervention cost \$4,921 per methamphetamine use case prevented, but produced a \$130,013 employer benefit per methamphetamine user prevented -- a \$9.98 return on each dollar invested.

"Effective and efficient prevention promises to save possibly billions of dollars per year, provided we can learn how to effectively implement it on a larger scale," Spoth told the conference. Spoth reports that his conference appearance generated requests from Chile, India, Indonesia, Senegal and a number of other countries for consulting assistance as they implement intervention programs -- possibly modeled after the ones he's successfully implemented through PPSI.

The complete ISU reports are available at: <http://www.ppsi.iastate.edu/press/vienna.htm>. This and other news about the war on drugs and alternatives can be found at [www.realcostofprisons.org/blog/](http://www.realcostofprisons.org/blog/)

## Toward Peace and Justice in Brazil

by Joshua Wachtel

<http://www.realjustice.org/library/brazil.html>

In 2004 the Brazilian Ministry of Justice received a small UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) grant to launch the country's first official restorative justice (RJ) pilot projects. Recognizing the unique social context of urban violence in Brazil, the projects brought together school administrators, judges, court workers, prison authorities, social service agencies and local community leaders to create a broad restorative response to the most challenging breakdowns in community safety. While justly known for their creative celebration of life, Brazilians also live with glaring wealth imbalances and the normalization of violence: Murder is the principle cause of death for people under 25.

In Rio de Janeiro, 20 percent of the population lives in crowded favela shantytowns — improvised communities of cramped, shoddy, multi-story houses. Drug gangs are the city's largest youth employer. Education, family life and social cohesion are all hugely impacted by fear, improvised martial law and the struggle to make ends meet.

In the mid-1990s, Dominic Barter began working with favela residents, including drug gang members, to help them strengthen nonviolent options for working with young people. "I saw violence as a monologue," said Barter. "All the state and gang responses to violence were more of the same. I wanted to create a dialogue." In early 2005 he helped organize the country's first public presentation on restorative practices, at the Brazil-based annual World Social Forum. The Ministry of Justice heard Barter's presentation and hired him to develop a conferencing model and train facilitators for two of three new pilot projects, in São Paulo and Porto Alegre.

A self-educated RJ practitioner, Barter was raised in England, first visited Brazil in 1992 to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and settled in Rio in 1999. Barter's background in theater, education and social change, he says, involved creative engagement with conflict.

He became a colleague of Marshall Rosenberg, founder of the Center for Nonviolent Communication (CNVC), which studies how people use their power to create partnership and cooperation, "emphasizing compassion as the motivation for action rather than fear, guilt, blame, coercion, threat or the justification of punishment" ([www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)).

In June 2000 a bus hijacking ending with the tragic shooting of the hijacker and a passenger by a Rio police officer shocked the nation. Barter saw the events unfold on television and later learned how negotiations between police and assailant had been bungled. (He was doubly stunned to

realize he had once met the hijacker.) Reeling from the militancy of the police reaction, Barter took action. "I rang everyone I knew, and we began learning how to deal with such situations differently, first by teaching ourselves, then by giving trainings, getting to the police and suggesting the use of nonviolent methods of conflict resolution."

The municipal government soon requested Barter's help mediating meetings between the chief of police and shantytown residents' associations. Projects brought favela youth and school-age children of the elite together to share cooperative ways to play sports, learn computer skills, acquire fresh food and support local health workers. The NVC-guided principle was: Listen to what local people want and respond to it, rather than arrive with prepackaged answers.

"In each project, the question of violence — domestic, community, police/gang or school violence — was never far away," said Barter. "Most youth have absent fathers. Their mothers work long hours as domestic maids. After school, children hang out with the 'uncles,' teenagers employed by the gangs. From nine years old, they're already running errands for the gangs, looking cool and making money. Yet they were always asking for help with conflict, saying they wanted a different life."

From these initial conversations, Barter began to organize restorative responses to the situations youth and adults were raising. "It was very effective," he said. "People would come to us with their issues. I started organizing impromptu restorative conferences in the shantytown. Although I had read about RJ in the early 90s, I had no models, just the principles of NVC."

Over time a unique conference model emerged, known as restorative circles, which involves three key participants: the author of a given act, the recipient of that act and the local community. Barter coined these terms — and prefers them to the victim and offender labels — in recognition of the complex web of mutuality much violence involves.

"Often, all those in the circle see themselves as victims and each other as offenders. Restorative practices are valuable in part because they can contain and recognize such experienced truths." Barter added, "The process speaks to people because it balances responsibility with empowered decision making and belongs to the community that uses it.

All who come to the conference do so in a personal capacity, no matter what their relationships are outside it. This creates safety and helps reveal our shared humanity."

(continued on page 4)

In Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil, (metro region population: four million plus), the new RJ program is an alliance between the courts and associated criminal justice and social service agencies. A restorative process: a pre-circle meeting, the circle itself and a post-circle evaluation, is offered to adolescent offenders in the community by victim and offender support services and agencies that facilitate community service sentences, and in youth shelters and secure youth detention facilities. The program serves large numbers of youth and has trained thousands in RJ principles and practice. Introductory RJ workshops are offered free to the public. Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul's research department is studying the program's effectiveness, and there's a website where people can input information about their experiences with RJ for comparison and research.

The São Paulo program, in Brazil's most populous state, is also for adolescent offenders and is a joint project of the justice and educational systems, with local communities and police involvement. It is active in four cities, with plans to expand to a further 15. In the capital (also called São Paulo), Brazil's largest city, any young person who attends one of the high schools surrounding the city's biggest shantytown, Heliópolis, and commits a crime is funneled to a restorative track, administered in the courthouse, school or local community. In some areas police have discretion to take an offender either to the police station or back to school, where a restorative circle is immediately convened. Referrals to the juvenile court have decreased by 50 percent since the policy's inception.

Both Brazilian projects are expanding within their states and seeding new initiatives throughout the country. They have attracted national media attention, been featured on a youth soap opera, and won awards for innovation in the areas of justice and education. Lessons learned from this experience have been shared in India, Iran and the Philippines. In 2008 Barter was a keynote speaker at the IIRP World Conference in Toronto, which brought this work to many more practitioners. "Since judges, teachers, students, law officers, parents or any affected community member can initiate the process, people get behind it," said Barter. "In terms of power it's a very wide ranging, inclusive and therefore effective proposal."

Sylvana Casarotti is a coordinator in the São Paulo RJ program. She was initially trained as a facilitator to go into schools and work with school directors and others responsible for making pedagogical decisions, to demonstrate how to facilitate circles, and teach schools to set up and maintain restorative systems. She now works closely with Barter as part of a core team establishing new RJ programs in a growing number of schools.

One moving situation Casarotti experienced involved a

family with 14 children between the ages of 3 and 16 years old. Two of the brothers were caught stealing food from other students during lunch. The head teacher wanted to expel the boys — the usual punishment for stealing. But the head asked Casarotti to facilitate a restorative circle first.

"There were several results that were very meaningful," said Casarotti. The students were not expelled. Through the conference the true circumstance of the family was made known to the school for the first time: They were so poor they used a schedule to decide which child would eat each day. The eldest child was in prison for stealing food, and when the story came out, the judge who sentenced that child called for a review of the case.

Not only was the problem solved with the boys and the family, but the boys also have a new, positive relationship with the other students in the school. Now when the brothers get into trouble, even outside school, they approach school authorities and seek restorative solutions. "They know this is not simply something the adults and teachers send kids to do," said Casarotti. "RJ is available to students to initiate themselves."

Said Casarotti: "I give the information to my family and my children, and I have found the value of having learned how to listen. Brazil is growing and looking toward the future but suffering from a lot of individualist thinking, so it is essential to learn to see the other person as a human being. In order to establish a culture of peace, so Brazil may have a future, it is essential for people to learn how to dialogue and resolve their problems with restorative justice."

You may contact Dominic Barter at the following:  
[contact@restorativecircles.org](mailto:contact@restorativecircles.org)



*Rev. Samuel Kawilila, Exec. Director; CURE ZAMBIA*

## Restorative Community Policing in the UK: Constables Point the Way

Excerpts from: Joshua Wachtel

<http://www.realjustice.org/library/ukpolice.html#top>

Police in roughly 50 percent of counties in England and Wales employ some form of restorative justice (RJ). Constables in districts including Dorset (southwest), Cheshire and Lancashire (northwest), Hull (northeast) and Norfolk (east) are actively making restorative practices (RP) their first line of defense - at officers' discretion - for dealing with neighborhood disputes, first-time and low-level youth offenders, youth crime in schools, and some adult cases.

Restorative reprimands for first-time youth offenders are offered for low-level crimes like minor criminal damage or theft, where there is no injury and less than £200 of damage. The officer asks the offender and then the victim if they want to participate in a restorative conference, which may also be attended by family and friends of the victim and offender and other affected parties. In the first six months of the pilot, which began in April 2008, victim satisfaction rates approached 98 percent, and the number of youth entering the justice system was reduced by 44 percent. (Go to: [www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=2516](http://www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=2516) for a short article and video of an actual restorative reprimand with a boy who threw a rock, breaking a train windshield.)

For some very minor offenses, a new national program called the Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD) gives officers the discretion to deal with a case right then and there, on the street. Trained officers may also use RP to handle neighborhood disputes. In one case, where for years the police had tried everything but had continually failed to quell an endless stream of complaints between two neighboring households, a restorative conference was finally held with the families. The police couldn't believe it when the previously contentious neighbors went home to have a barbecue together. Dorset Police are also training schools to use RP for discipline and in day-to-day teacher-student interactions.

Officers receive a three-day training on how to facilitate restorative conferences or a one-day awareness training on how to use restorative questions like, "What happened?" "Who was affected?" and "What can be done to repair the harm?" to help resolve disputes immediately on the street. Said Smith, "Many of the cases are problems we couldn't deal with using a conventional policing perspective. Here it's dealt with in two hours."

In Cheshire, approximately 1,000 staff, or 85 percent of frontline police, have received "Level One" training by Restorative Solutions, ([www.restorativesolutions.org.uk](http://www.restorativesolutions.org.uk)) directed by Sir Charles Pollard, former chief constable of Thames Valley Police. Like the IIRP training, this one-day training gives officers an ability "to run a conversation or

meeting between people in conflict over 'low-level' or minor issues". "Level Two" training offers two more days and prepares facilitators to run face-to-face meetings.

According to assistant chief constable Garry Shewan, Cheshire Police are currently handling 100 to 150 crimes per month with restorative methods. The majority are youth crimes, but some are adult. The process is restricted neither to an age group nor to first-time offenders. Each officer makes a decision based on offender risk factors and victim concerns. So far, the police department has found that 97 percent of its RJ disposals have been "appropriate and correctly delivered." Said Shewan, "Give the officers trust, and they are delivering high quality RJ interventions."

Early indications show very high rates of victim satisfaction with the process, along with a reduction in reoffending rates. An August 2008 report states: "The predicted rate of recidivism for those juveniles within Cheshire who participated in a restorative approach was 13%, against the national rate of reoffending of 23.2% and a local rate within Cheshire of 31% for those who were issued a reprimand instead of the restorative approach. The rate of recidivism for adult offenders committing their first offence and being dealt with through RJ is 0% as opposed to the more traditional approach, where the rate is 13%" (Taylor, 2008).

"We're at the brink of an opportunity to take this further into policing," said Davey. "RJ is value for money, the evidence for it is beyond proven, and there are practical examples throughout the country. RP can meet the new objectives and outcomes police have for the communities they serve."

### References

Howard League Restorative Justice Working Group. (2008, March). *Discussion Paper for the "Commission on English Prisons Today"* (p.3). Oxford, UK: Carolyn Hoyle.

Bailey, H. & Igoe, C. (2008, Summer). Restorative justice does affect reconviction: The Ministry of Justice report into RJ. *Resolution: News from the Restorative Justice Consortium*, 30, 6.

Shewan, G. (2009, January). Restoring the faith. *Police Professional*, p. 15.

Taylor, J. (2008, August). An evaluation of the impact of restorative justice in Cheshire. Cheshire, UK: Cheshire Constabulary.

## LifeLine

(continued from page 1)

**Public Awareness.** In-Reach Workers play a significant role in raising public awareness of effective, humane corrections and the situation facing lifers. They meet with community groups, organizations and other interested parties, including the media and legislative committees, to talk about their experiences and "lessons learned". They also put significant emphasis on "preventive work", particularly with youth.

Success of the In-Reach Worker depends on collaboration with community-based voluntary agencies who engage them, through a contract with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), and provide guidance and support to the In-Reach Workers.

**Lifers as Resources.** Lifers traditionally bring a degree of stability to institutions due to their interest in maintaining a peaceful environment. Also, because of their experience and knowledge of the correctional scene, they can contribute towards the initiation and implementation of programs.

**Lifers as Successes.** Lifers have committed the ultimate offence against society, but the vast majority are not calculating, experienced criminals. While serial killers and assassins exist, they are not the typical lifer. Most murder victims are usually a relative or close acquaintance. Most frequently, lifers' crimes are triggered by circumstance, substance abuse, emotional trauma, or a combination of these. They are among the most likely to succeed on parole.

In-Reach Workers and their sponsoring community-based voluntary agencies can be found across Canada. In-Reach Workers are provided and funded by the CSC.

LifeLine, like any successful initiative in corrections, requires an effective working relationship between motivated offenders, involved staff and supportive citizens. Together these components forge a powerful, progressive partnership.

Anyone wishing further information, especially regarding implementing LifeLine should contact:  
Jim Murphy, Correctional Service of Canada,  
Tel.: (613) 992-8374 Fax: (613) 947-7320



Overcrowding in Zambia

