



SHARE CARE RAYJON

Dr. James Orbinski Speaks in Sarnia



Dr. James Orbinski - Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

As part of the YMCA Peace Week program in late November, the "Y" International Development Committee and RAYJON worked together to bring Dr. James Orbinski to speak in Sarnia at Central United Church on November 16th, 2003. The afternoon included the awarding of the "Y" Peace Medallion to Dr. Glen Maddison, followed by Dr. Orbinski's talk. The program seemed especially appropriate, not just coincidental, since both men are physicians. The theme of this year's Peace Week is so simple - simple to read but difficult to live. It is, "Peace - Think it. Say it. Live it."

Dr. Orbinski is the founding member of Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) in Canada, has worked with MSF in many war-torn countries and accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on their behalf in 1999. His reputation as a speaker preceded him; we were ready for a stimulating afternoon, but what an afternoon it turned out to be.

He spoke of passion and memory, of beauty and devastation, of fertile land under-developed in a land of starvation. He spoke of the epidemic proportions of Aids in Africa and the millions of children orphaned by it, the greed of corporations and drug companies and the blind eye the rest of the world has turned to this living disaster. He spoke of the interaction - or lack of - of this, our "First World" and the "Third World" of the African nation, and the possible extinction of a continent of people in the all-too-soon future. He spoke of rape as a tool of war, of children born into lives sentenced to death or desperation and of the women everywhere who live with heartbreak as their constant companion. He spoke of the annihilation of one people, contrasting that with the apathy of another. He asked, "who is the outcast, who is the stranger" and now he wasn't talking about Africa or Chechnya, but of us, of Canada. He spoke of the necessity for the increasing number of soup kitchens and food banks in our land of abundance and sounded a trumpet call to increase our awareness and sense of social responsibility.

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RAYJON SHARE CARE

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Our Vision

*Caring communities building
partnerships through education,
development and aid.*

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CIDA Support

RAYJON is pleased to acknowledge the role that the *Canadian International Development Agency* (CIDA) has played in support of the St. Marc Community Development Project, HAITI. CIDA has matched funds for the project since 1989.



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

Coming Events

Meetings

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 25th at 7:00pm

Membership meeting

Friday, February 27th at 7:30pm
at Sacred Heart Church meeting room, Lecaron Ave., Sarnia
Reports from Awareness trip to Haiti &
Urban Development trip to Cap Haitien.
Guest speaker: *Steve Roberts* speaking on
"Creating a World that Works for Everyone." (See page 5)
Everyone welcome!

RAYJON Annual Retreat

Evening of Friday, May 14th - Saturday, May 15th
United Church Camp, Lakeshore Road, near Forest.

Trips

Nurses trips to the D.R.

From Lambton College, Sarnia, February 29th - March 8th
Leader: Marilyn Couture (519) 344-9094

From Georgian College, Barrie, Ontario, April 22nd.
Leader: Sylvia VanderWeg

Awareness trip to Haiti, March 13th - 20th

Leaders: John & Maggy Barnfield (519) 337-0338

Awareness trip to the D.R., March 14th - 21st

Leaders: Amy Miles (810) 987-5819 &
Theresa VanKoeverden (519) 339-9094

Eyeglass Clinic in Haiti, April 17th - 24th

Leader: Joanne Atkinson (519) 845-3634

Work Group to Br. Gilles, Haiti, April 17th - 24th

Leader: Jim Leliveld (519) 344-1806

Events

Empty Bowls Meal & Silent Auction

Wednesday, April 21st, 5pm - 7pm
at St. Giles Church, Lakeshore Road, Sarnia.
Tickets: \$25, available from Brenda Hogan (519) 344-3755
For more information see page 5.

RAYJON Booth at the Arts & Craft Fair

Sunday, May 30th at the Corunna Athletic Park
Call Dianne McKillican for information (519) 862-1963

*Watch this space for information on a stimulating
RAYJON & YMCA "Justice & Peace" workshop in November!*

He told stories - but not too many - of living and working in places where the barely living are tumbled in with the dead, where no value is placed on human lives, except for the corrupt and powerful elite. He spoke of lineups of 1500 people waiting to see a doctor every morning and twelve hours later, the number waiting was still the same - every day. He spoke of the honor and heroism of his fellow physicians in the field and of the toll it takes on all who work in the hells of our world. In one hour, one rainy afternoon, he brought the heartache of a world most of us don't know into the semicircle of a house of God at the corner of Brock and George Streets.

What made hearing this all the more amazing was the man himself; he's not a big, noisy extrovert, a motivational speaker on a circuit. He is a self-proclaimed introvert; an academic dedicated to research assured of tenure at a university here in Canada, when his "yes" to do a stint of research in Africa altered his life completely. He even confessed that he can't bear the heat, and would rise every day at 4 am to try and outrun it - to no avail. We had booked a speaker, someone with whom we shared the experience of the dual nature of the developing world. What Dr. Orbinski gave us was his version of this shared experience but so much more; he gave us his presence, his integrity and his total authenticity. Peace - Think it. Say it. Live it. Those of us lucky enough to hear Dr. Orbinski now read that catch phrase with the eyes of memory, understanding it with all new meaning. It's our world, no matter where we call home and it's up to us to realize that in our lives, "we must be the change we want to see". Amen.

by Dianne McKillican

Dianne is RAYJON's Public Relations Director and belongs to the Member & Public Engagement Committee.

Dr. James Orbinski is mentioned several times in LGen. Roméo Dallaire's book, "Shake Hands With the Devil - the failure of humanity in Rwanda" and is described as the "Canadian surgeon who served as a doctor at the King Faisal Hospital in Kigali throughout the genocide and saved the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people."

Taken from a report by Drs. Glen Maddison & Monique Dostaler (Maddison) after a week in Haiti working at the RAYJON Clinics in Haut de St. Mar, Jan. 17th - 24th.

"We spent 1 day in Bertrand, 3 days in Gilbert and did a mobile clinic in Grand Fond. Generally speaking the clinics are working well and each trip I see progress from the the year before. Monique and I were impressed with Herice, the newly hired medical director - she's very knowledgeable and very approachable. On the last day we were in Gilbert where they held an immunization clinic and it was so nice to see all (about 60) healthy newborns waiting with their young moms to get their shots. They told me that almost all of the newborns in this area are now getting immunized, which is a far cry of almost none 10 years ago. One sign of progress that I was directly involved in was taking care of a very sick 4 year old who was infected and dehydrated. The clinic staff were quite comfortable with keeping him in Gilbert and re-hydrating him with an I.V. and starting antibiotics. Frankly, I'm sure I've ever seen a more attentive and compassionate nurse before (Myrtha). The mobile clinic in Grand Fond was rather difficult, mostly because of the cramped space and the fact that as we were trying to examine and talk to the patients in one end of the room while there were perhaps 20 screaming kids who had just been immunized, at the other end of the room just a few feet away. I think there is room for improvement there. The situation with the medications is not perfect, but I see improvement every year. I will keep an eye on this and have a few ideas on how to improve things myself."

John Barnfield, Dr. James Orbinski,
Dr. Monique Dostaler (Maddison) & Dr. Glen Maddison
at the November 16th event.



Dr. Glen Maddison - Recipient of the YMCA Peace Medallion, 2003

by Monique Maddison & John Barnfield

Glen knew at an early age he wanted to be a doctor - and, years before he went to medical school, he spoke of an interest in working in the Developing world. He graduated from the University of Ottawa in 1976 and worked as a physician with the Canadian Armed Forces in Germany. He moved to Sarnia in 1984 and has worked as an emergency doctor since. Glen is married to Monique and has 3 sons, Michel, François and André.

He has been RAYJON's Medical Advisor for 16 years.

In 1987 Glen had an opportunity to act on his dream of working in a Developing country when he traveled to Haiti to work in makeshift clinics in a remote region of the country. It was during this first trip, he encountered a young boy called Anius. This encounter would change the lives of many people both here in Sarnia and in Haiti. Anius was 5 years old at the time. At the age of 2, he had fallen into a pot of boiling soup and was severely scalded over much of his upper body. With no medical treatment available to the remote community, his mother had cared for Anius the best she could. His chin became fused to his chest and his right wrist to his shoulder. 3 years later, Anius had miraculously survived the ordeal, but had become an outcast in the community. Glen saw Anius by the side of the road, asked the driver to stop the truck and went to assess Anius' situation. A few months later, arrangements were made to bring Anius to Sarnia for major surgery, which was a huge success. Now 16 years later, Anius has grown into an educated young man able to contribute much to his society in Haiti.



*Dr. Glen Maddison receives award from
YMCA President, Margaret Dragan*

Since this momentous first trip in 1987, Glen has returned many times to work in RAYJON's rural clinics, which serve a population of 30,000. On several occasions he has journeyed alone, on others he has gone with nursing staff and on others he has taken family members. Conditions in these rural clinics are very basic. The buildings and equipment are very rudimentary. There is no electricity or running water and working conditions are hot, humid and dusty. Hundreds of patients line up each morning and patiently wait their turn to see "Doctor Glen" - who will work tirelessly all day long. Over the years, Glen has seen thousands of people and has gained great respect within the region for his sensitivity towards the Haitian people. He has formed a good relationship with the local Haitian doctor who services the clinics on a regular basis - both from a professional point-of-view and socially. They have exchanged valuable experiences.

Haiti has become an integral part of Glen's life - and Haiti has also had a big impact on all members of his family. His wife, Monique, a family doctor in Sarnia, joined Glen in Haiti last year where they both worked in the RAYJON clinics. Over the years, Glen has developed a sincere respect and love for the people of Haiti. He has told his story to many people here in Canada. His tireless and enthusiastic personality is an inspiration to those around him. Not only has he been a source of encouragement to his fellow RAYJON members but has had a profound effect on the quality of life of 30,000 Haitians.

Those who know Glen well, know that his dream of serving the people of Haiti is not completely fulfilled. He is seriously considering a more extensive commitment to that special part of his life.

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

An introduction to our guest speaker for the RAYJON Membership meeting on February 27th.

Steve Roberts, originally from Texas, now lives in Detroit working in the engineering automotive world. Yet his passion and commitment lies in global transformation, specifically in transforming world discourses on issues such as scarcity and abundance, spirituality and community. He is truly a positive-thinker, embracing the idea of 'thinking globally and acting locally'.

Steve is dedicated not only to making a positive difference in the world, but in supporting other people who have the same desire. With that in mind, Steve is now completing his first book entitled 'The Great Big Idea', to be printed early in the new year! The theme of the book revolves around the notion that if our belief system is simply based on our context, there really is no such thing as 'truth' in the absolute sense. As such, the attachment people have with their beliefs can be more easily transformed. This one insight has the incredible power of uniting people in greater authentic communication and a non-defensive exchange of perspectives. As Steve demonstrates, small shifts in our consciousness can indeed have a major impact on our ability to develop stronger relationships with other people. And in the end, relationships are really all that matter.

Imagine a world where the principal economic ideas are generosity and gratitude. Imagine a world, no longer divided by religion, unified in spirituality. Imagine a world led from a love for community, trust and declaration, "We are all in this together!"

Coming soon: www.greatbigidea.com

Empty Bowls 2004

The Empty Bowls Poverty Meal and Silent Auction will take place on Wednesday, April 21st at St. Giles Church on Lakeshore Road, Sarnia. Soup will be served from 5pm until 7pm. Come and select your handmade bowl made by local potters and enjoy some hearty, homemade soup. Then, at your leisure, you can place bids on items in the Silent Auction.

Tickets are available from Brenda Hogan - 344-3755 - for \$25

If you would like to donate an item or a service for the Silent Auction, please call Marilyn Palmer at 344-4129. Items in the past have included paintings by local artists, pottery bowls, handmade wooden items, afgans, boxed dolls, spa items in a basket, bottles of wine, cut glass vases, framed photographs by local photographers etc. etc. etc.

Services offered have included a dinner for 6, desserts for each month of the year, 3 hours of ironing, a 3 hour pottery lesson, 3 hours of gardening, tax returns and wills. Any item or service you can donate would be gratefully received.

All proceeds of the joint events will go to a RAYJON Children's Feeding Program in Cap Haitien, Haiti, and to the Inn of the Good Shepherd in Sarnia.

“There’s enough for each person’s need,
but not enough for each person’s greed.” *Gandhi*

Social

Condolences to Rene, Brian and Marcel Beaubien on the death of Nancy, Rene's wife and Brian's mother, and the death of Rene and Marcel's father, both in 2003.

Congratulations to Beth (Haiti Jan. 2003) and Yan Marhone on the birth of their daughter, Aaliyah Malaika, on December 27th 2003.

Condolences to Angela and Brian Stevenson on the death in December, of Angela's father in England.

Congratulations to Dr.Glen Maddison who received the "Y" Peace Medallion and was included in Mayor Bradley's New Year Honour List.

Congratulations to Linda Pickford who was included in Mayor Bradley's New Year Honour List for her work with Habitat for Humanity in Sarnia.

Congratulations to Marianne and Tim Bailey on the birth of their son, Scott William John, on January 21st

Congratulations to Louise Griep & Yohannes Afework on the birth of their son, Theodore, on January 25th. Louise and Elaine Laengert, were RAYJON's first Field Directors for the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) in Haut de St. Marc, Haiti.

“For all that has been - Thanks! For all that shall be - Yes!” *Dag Hammarskjold*

Life in Haiti - the Same but Different.

by Peter Westfall

When I return from a trip to Haiti, people ask me what it is like. My usual answer is that the experience is different! The Haitians have the same wants, needs and dreams as we do, but the struggle to fulfill them makes their lives much different than ours.

Philippe is a case in point. Philippe was asked to pick bread-fruit by the owner of the tree. These trees can grow to be quite high and the fruit is at the top. Philippe must have extended himself too far and crashed to the ground. It didn't help that he had been drinking. There are no ambulances in the rural areas so his friends brought him to Dr. Bibiana's medical clinic in a wheelbarrow.

Dr. Bibiana is an Argentinian physician whose church has paid for her to work in this rural area for the past eight years. When she examined Philippe, she diagnosed that he had broken the femur in his right leg, besides having numerous bumps and bruises. The clinic is not equipped to handle such serious matters, so it was determined that he would go to the hospital in Cap Haitien for better medical care. The problem was that Cap Haitien was two hours away, over very bumpy roads. There was no other alternative but to load Phillippe onto the back of a truck with only a foam cushion to lie on. He was placed next to the portable generator, which was being taken in for repairs so the clinic could have electricity again.

Four women accompanied him because, in Haiti, a hospital patient needs someone there to feed, bathe and purchase medicine for the person. Often the "assistant" sleeps on the floor, or in the bed with the patient. The four women climbed onto the back of the truck and one of them held the IV bag, which was suspended on a crooked stick. And off we went.

Phillipe was first taken for an x-ray at a hospital in Limbé which had the equipment but not the doctors qualified to care for him. We lifted him off the truck onto a board to carry him into the hospital for the x-ray. With the x-ray picture in hand, we loaded him back onto the truck and headed for Cap Haitien.

When we finally arrived in Cap Haitien it was dark. We drove to the emergency entrance and Dr. Bibiana went in to ensure there was a bed for him. She came out pushing a gurney, onto which we lifted Philippe and in he went, with Dr. Bibiana and one of his "assistants". The others would have to find lodging elsewhere, perhaps with family or friends. By this time, the effect of the alcohol had worn off and Philippe was acutely aware of the bumpy roads and rough handling we were giving him.

The women had brought 300 Haitian dollars (\$40 US) to pay for his medical treatment, food and lodging. This is a huge sum when one considers that a worker like Philippe earns less than \$200 US for an entire year. We left Philippe in the hospital and checked on him two days later. The orthopaedic surgeon assured us that he was doing fine.

This story illustrates that life in Haiti is similar to ours - but far, far different.

Peter is the RAYJON Vice Chairperson and Legal Advisor and visited Sr. Rosemary's Urban Development Project in November 2003.

*"The quality of your life will be largely determined by the quality of your relationships.
And it is with your heart that you will communicate in ways that matter."*

Book Review

“**The Soul of Money**” by *Lynne Twist with Teresa Barker* Transforming Your Relationships with Money and Life

A wise and inspiring exploration of the connection between money and leading a fulfilling life. This compelling and fundamentally liberating book shows us that examining our attitudes toward money - earning it, spending it, and giving it away - can offer surprising insight into our lives, our values and the essence of prosperity.

Lynne Twist is a global activist and fundraiser who has been responsible for raising more than \$150 million in individual contributions for charitable causes. In fact, she spent over 25 years as a fundraiser for The Hunger Project, a responsibility she describes as "sacred". Through moving stories and practical principles, she demonstrates how we can replace feelings of scarcity, guilt and burden with experiences of sufficiency, freedom and purpose. Lynne Twist shares from her own life and work, a journey illuminated by remarkable encounters with the richest and poorest people on earth, from the famous (Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama) to the anonymous but unforgettable heroes of everyday life.

Her strongest points are underscored by the three toxic myths that have pervaded our culture.

- That scarcity is the natural condition of the world
- That more is better
- Thinking "that's just the way it is"

Lynn suggests that these "pernicious lies" cause an escalation of fear and greed. If we think, for example, that there is only so much to go around, then of course we are only going to look after ourselves and our family. Why think of those who are not so fortunate to make it. A survival of the fittest mindset takes over and justice and fairness are but trite concepts. It also contributes to our out-of-control consumptive habits. For instance, North Americans number less than twenty-percent of the global population, but we consume more than eighty percent of resources. Also, when we choose to believe "that's just the way it is", we cause ourselves to remain in apathy and cynicism. On the contrary, the state of affairs in the world is continually evolving and never static. So this begs the question; are our conversations contributing to the status quo or creating positive change?

Those who have attended Lynne Twist's talks and workshops can attest to her uplifting and life-changing message. Now readers of this book can discover how transforming their relationship with money leads to a richer, more meaningful and happier life.

To learn more about Lynn Twist's inspiring work and commitments, check out her website at: www.soulofmoney.org.

by *Elizabeth Soltis*

Teaching of World Religion and Major Cultures on Money and Consumption.

American Indian: "Miserable as we seem in thy eyes, we consider ourselves ... much happier than thou, in this that we are very content with the little that we have."

Micmac Chief

Buddhist: "Whoever in this world overcomes his selfish cravings, his sorrows fall away from him, like drops of water from a lotus flower." *Dhammapada*, 336

Christian: It is "easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

Matthew 19:23-24

Confucian: "Excess and deficiency are equally at fault."

Confucius XI. 15

Ancient Greek: "Nothing in Excess."

Inscribed at Oracle of Delphi

Hindu: "That person who lives completely free from desires, without longing ... attains peace."

Bhagavad-Gita, 11,71

Islamic: "Poverty is my pride."

Muhammad

Jewish: "Give me neither poverty nor riches."

Proverbs 30:8

Taoist: "He who knows he has enough is rich."

Tao Te Ching

Excerpts of letters from afar:

Just to let you know we're still here and the project is thriving - 1300 students - very happy and so a pleasure to work with. We are the best school in the area and the parents want to keep it that way. I love to read about all the good things RAYJON is doing. May God grant you peace, faith and joy not only at Christmas but also in the coming year. Love, *Sr. Maurine, Fe y Alegria Espiritu Santo Cruce de Arroyo Hondo, Dominican Republic.*

Advent is moving along as I write and today I hear Isaiah tell us, "The Lord will come to save all the nations and your hearts will exult to hear His majestic voice." As war still ravages parts of our weary world, let us pray that God may touch the hearts of world leaders so that they may seek justice and not power. Your promise of prayer is always a joy and consolation and we in turn assure you of our prayerful wishes for this Christmas season and throughout 2004.

Lovingly always, *Sr. Margaret Connolly, RSCJ, Prince George, B.C.*

May the Christmas season be one of peace and joy to you, your family and RAYJON.
Best wishes, *Conrad Wyrzykowski, Manitoba*



*Participants of the
January Awareness trip to Haiti,
on packing day.*

*Leaders of the group:
Dianne McKillican
Gary Beauchesne*

Solidarity

Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good: that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all responsible for all.

Pope John Paul II, Concern for the Social Order.

For those who were at the RAYJON Christmas Party and requested the recipe for Dianne's delicious Artichoke Dip ... here it is!

1 cup Helleman's Mayonnaise - must be Helleman's!
! /2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 can artichoke hearts/quarters, drained & roughly chopped

Mix together. Put in a shallow dish and bake at 375 ° F for 20 minutes, until bubbling.
Serve with pita chips and enjoy!