

Capacitar : expanding trauma healing

Many hundreds of us in South Sudan are grateful to Sister/Dr. Geneviève Vanwaesberghe for coming to introduce and lead us in *Capacitar* Healing From Trauma Workshops, sponsored by *Solidarity with South Solidarity*, thanks to *Mensen met een Missie* in the Netherlands. Geneviève's latest project with us is particularly significant. Thirty of us who have participated in the workshops gathered for five days' training to give the workshops ourselves. Now in teams, we are giving them in UN Camps for displaced persons and in the surrounding area.

In November, when Geneviève returns, we will report on our experiences and deepen our understanding and skills to heal.

Sister Cathy Arata and I, and many others, have gone on to lead at least 20 or 25 more workshops for women, men, nursing and midwifery students and teachers, mainly in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States and Abyei Region, all devastated by war, but in all, in eight of the ten states of South Sudan.

I want to share an adventuresome *Training of Trainers* project with you. *Solidarity with South Sudan*, along with Windle Trust and Yei Teachers' College, have completed the first phases of an *Education in Emergencies Project* funded by UNICEF. We gathered 40 qualified teachers from Emergency/war areas and taught them basic skills and subjects for six hours daily. I taught them *Psychosocial Support and Healing from Trauma*, two hours a day. Next, these forty went forth in groups of three, gathering 75 unqualified in each location and teaching them six hours daily for two months how to teach the same materials. The team of specialists supervised and assisted them in the 'deep field.' This meant travelling by helicopter, living in tents, sleeping on the ground and eating whatever was available. So 1000 more teachers were prepared to lead *Capacitar* in areas that have become destitute and shaken by war. For me, it was a great privilege to share peoples' lives in such a healing, inspiring way.

We will soon embark on another set of these. Thank-you, Geneviève, Pat Mathes Cane and Joan Rebmann Condon for your visionary, compassionate leadership in developing the materials and approaches you share so generously. Clearly, your work is bearing fruit in abundance deep in the heart of Africa. We hope to meet you some day!