



Initiatives of Change

# AfL Encounters

Volume 4 Issue 1  
July 2007

## In this Issue:

The launching of the next exciting adventure: Action for Life 4. The journey continues from European Saeima with the Action for Europe gang. Further outreaches in New Zealand and Fiji. The final news item: congratulations to one of the AfL3 participants for tying the knot.



## Action for Life 4 launching!

Action for Life 4 will begin on **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2008** and will be a seven month program ending on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. For more details and to download the official brochure, check the website [www.afl.iofc.org](http://www.afl.iofc.org)

AfL 4 aims to develop a new generation of change makers equipped with integrity and faith who are committed to transformation in the world starting with themselves. This 4th program is another step in the incredible journey that has involved many people as graduates, supporters, trainers, drivers, organisers, prayer givers, and many well wishing friends. It will be a combination of training new participants and the giving and receiving of support from our ever expanding network, particularly in South and South-East Asia.



**Those wanting to apply will need to do so by 15 October 2007** and there will be opportunities for graduates to go on and do more work with Initiatives of Change teams once the course ends.

We are now taking on the challenge of gathering together the resources required: training and support staff; an accountant; participants; fieldwork contacts; and funding for a budget of US \$215 000. We are aware that much hard work, prayer and a few miracles will be needed to achieve all these - but are in no doubt that it will

happen! It has been encouraging to see the amazing generosity with which people have wanted to support the last three AfL programs and believe that this fourth time will also bring many remarkable transformations in people and situations. We welcome any suggestions for fund-raising; your prayers for this and all our needs; and - of course - contributions large and small!

AfL 4 sees a new team of organisers coming on board with recent graduates of AfL 3 deciding that this was a program that they would like to see carried forward. This core team comes together with the support and consultation of those who have helped pull this vision together in the past. The core group is now six people with Alex Birnberg (Australia – AfL3), Chris Breitenberg (USA – AfL3), Nigel Heywood (Australia – Organiser AfL3), Leena Khatri (India – Organiser AfL 1-3), Suresh Khatri (Fiji – Organiser AfL 1-3), and Hanting Pan (Taiwan-AfL3). We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have carried Action for Life this far particularly those who have given up time to help organise, travel with and train AfL.

We have a redesigned website at [www.afl.iofc.org](http://www.afl.iofc.org) where you can read more in-depth reports of people's adventures and find information about Action for Life. Please also email us at [info@afl.iofc.org](mailto:info@afl.iofc.org).

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*“Be the change you want to see in the world.”* (Mahatma Gandhi)

## Action for Europe

Action for Europe is an exciting new initiative that has been born out of the experience of bringing people from across the continent together – from East and West, on a journey of discovery and connection. The team is made up of young people and is supported by the many IofC teams in whose countries they have stayed. The idea for AfE “was born somewhere in Asia during the Action for Life 3 program, when people from different parts of Europe decided to do something in their part of the World.”

Some of the highlights for the group have been visiting a centre in Sweden for helping integrate asylum seekers, learning about open space technology, hearing stories of faith from the families who host them, workshops in schools, meeting politicians and being challenged about how they will use their own lives.

Check out the latest at AfE’s blog:

<http://www.action-for-europe.blogspot.com/>

## Outreach

### New Zealand/ Fiji/ Australia

**Diana Damsa** (AfL3, Romania) and **Roshan Gul** (AfL3, New Zealand) have been travelling together through New Zealand, Fiji and have now arrived in Australia to help with the Life Matters course currently taking place there. Diana’s trip started with the conviction of Fay Lewis from Dunedin, New Zealand, to invite a young Eastern European to New Zealand as she felt their experiences would have something valuable to offer students in her country. Diana travelled with Roshan and **Alison Hayes** (New Zealand, AfL 3) as they visited public, private, Christian and Islamic schools, as well as one university interacting with more than 950 students.



Roshan Gul and Fiji team cleaning botanical gardens

Roshan and Diana then travelled on to Fiji to help support an emerging team of young people which has come together out of the *Hope for Fiji* conference held in November 2006. They spent three weeks in Suva where they worked alongside local members to support a variety of activities which included: school and prison visits, team building workshops, screenings of the interfaith film *The Imam and the Pastor*, youth retreats, and fellowship nights. By the third week, a youth camp was organised called 'the values in my life' with 24 participants representing the major faith and ethnic groups in Fiji.

Roshan Gul writes:

“One wonderful outcome of my time in Fiji was seeing young people grow in confidence. In our first week it was difficult to get a single word out of some of them but by the end they were able to express their thoughts confidently and clearly and began to take leadership. To empower young people is to see the potential and value in each one of them no matter what their failings, this is something I have received during my time with IofC, and something I am grateful to give back.”

A full report is available on request.

## Action for Wife

Congratulations to **Sith Hong Eang** (Cambodia, AfL 3) for her recent wedding to Mr. Sen Sangkhim on the 10th of June 2007. From the Action for Life community, wishing you happiness and fulfillment in your life together. May your union be the foundation of strength that Cambodia needs.

It is therefore a great pleasure to write about all that is happening, and this is surely just the tip of the iceberg, for there are many other worthy events and initiatives not covered. We look forward to hearing from the Action for Life community – if you have news, please send it in.

With best wishes,  
From the AfL4 Core Team