



AfL Encounters

News from Action for Life 4

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Greetings from Action for Life! Another busy month has flown by: Participants are buying plane tickets, financial gifts continue to roll in, new accounting processes are being put in place in London and we continue to clarify our fieldwork locales and objectives. Fundraising has been a big feature in the last few newsletters, but it is easy to lose sight of what this is all about. This issue, we have some exciting news which really refocuses us on the bigger vision. It's wonderful to share this news with you and we appreciate your continued support!



Olka Hudz, Christina Deangelis, Nandor Lim, and Yeon Yuk Jeong join a group of school children in Japan.

The Bigger Vision

The aim of Action for Life is to develop a new generation of change makers equipped with integrity and faith who are committed to transformation in the world by starting with themselves. It is an often repeated phrase, and underpinning this is the desire to see a growing network of young leaders who support each other in this process of change. Olka recently went to Japan, and her story really shows how change starts with yourself!

Olka Hudz (AFL3, Ukraine) reports:

I haven't been involved in full-time IofC activities, so our 2 weeks (3-17 June) of teamwork in Japan meant so much to me that I kept repeating "I really like our team".

After coming back home I was involved in a huge misunderstanding with my university teacher who refused to give me a pass mark and made me feel despised and hurt. Still in tears, I took the sheet from the workshop on conflict resolution delivered in Tokyo by

Alice Cardel (the director of the IofC office of international training in Geneva) and tried to discover the real needs of both me and my teacher.

I was surprised to see that the test has so little to do in the conflict! I realised that my teacher's real need was to love herself more and to feel respect from others. I wrote a long letter expressing my feelings about the situation and of my respect for her. My friends and I prayed for the situation.

After the teacher got my letter I was astounded to see the change in her attitude. She made some remarks on the situation and gave me the pass. One of the university students who got to know the story said: "You should definitely bring your organization to our university, we ARE interested in these kinds of trainings and attitudes and do need them".

Keswick to Caux

100 years ago, Keswick was the site of profound change for Frank Buchman, the

founder of IofC. Many from the Action for Life community have joined together for “Keswick to Caux”. A three-week journey, 17 participants will travel around Europe, reflecting on the life of Buchman and using it as a stepping stone towards personal development

Pilar Griffin (AfL2, Costa Rica/USA) writes: I joined this group because I admire the ‘power and charisma’ of Frank Buchman to engage others. I want to learn, to value quiet time, get inspired, share and start what FB considered the most important work in the world today: I want to work from heart to heart.

Previous AfLers are: Jean and Mike Brown (AfL1-3), Pilar Griffin and Christina DeAngelis (AfL2), Diana Damsa, Tatiana Minbaeva and Chris Breitenberg (AfL3).



The Keswick chapel. Photo courtesy of IofC.

Face-to-Face

Thi Tra Ngan Do - Vietnam
B.A. in Accounting and Auditing/ Auditing Assistant



What convinced me for AfL is my belief that Action for Life 4 will give me the willingness to step out of my frame and be more open in life. I hope I could create a freelance ego and take full

responsibility for my decisions in future. AfL is the first action to take to be better than myself yesterday. I desire to learn from the hardships and to have a positive personal change. From that I would have the ability to inspire others to do the same like me. After AfL, I hope to have the clear ideas and the right direction for my life

Chae Nam Kim - South Korea

Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering/ IofC volunteer

I am working with IofC in Korea. For me I



want to do something for others. This thought led me to make the decision to join AfL4. In Asia Plateau I found out many things about myself. For example, I figured out the reason I

got angry and I am trying to control my anger. After coming back to Korea I found it difficult. Sometimes I feel discouraged to living a change life. I would like to get more courage to do whatever I want to do or I have to do.

News from the Field

Kim Vuth (AfL2, Cambodia) is now engaged to Cina. He writes: Our parents approved our relation last week and our wedding date is scheduled for November 8, 2008.

Nandor Lim (AfL2, Malaysia) updates us on what is happening in Malaysia: The work of the Learning Community Centre is steadily growing and everyone in the centre is intensively preparing for the coming 5th ‘Change Starts with Me’ Sharing conference on 6th July 2008. The theme for this conference is “Bringing the Love Home”. We expect 150 people to take part in this event.

Peter Heyes (AfL1-3, Canada) reports: I’m back at my friends’ farm in Canada, a busy and exciting time. We celebrated the hand over of 320 hectares to the University of Alberta. It’ll be used as a research station for crops and the environment. It is being called the largest “gift” of land to any Canadian university. It was a proud moment for all of us at the farm. In between these activities I’m sorting out my belongings to see what I can live without while I’m on the next AFL.

We now have just 14 weeks left until 1st October. Then the community will start in earnest searching for how we can live and work together and connect with other communities. Keep us in your prayer.