



Initiatives of Change

AfL Encounters

News from Action for Life 4

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Visit: www.afl.iofc.org Email: afl@iofc.org

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Greetings from Action for Life! Another month passes, another month closer to the start of AfL4 on 1st October. The momentum is building; inspired schemes for fundraising are happening, preparations continue and new volunteers are coming on board.

Raising Funds and Rising Hope

The steady and faithful journey of raising funds for AfL4 continues to move forward. Our May efforts focused on engaging IofC teams around the world to partner with us financially, encouraging mutual support for the emerging leaders in the IofC network. In Australia, a 16.5km Fund Run is organised by Rob Wood. Some of our core team members will be hitting the pavement for sponsorship dollars – it's also a good excuse for them to keep in shape.

Participants continue to impress with their creative efforts to make this program a reality. Anne (Kenya) is selling t-shirts while Kshusha and Julia (Ukraine) joined up with the Foundations for Freedom network in a fundraiser earlier this month.

Each person needs to raise US \$3,000 for their participation fee as well as their travel expenses. Joanne (Uganda) said, "I have had to share my dream with my family and friends especially my workmates and I have received a positive response. I must confess this has been my first time to fundraise and I am amazed at how much people are willing to help."

Just as AfL asks for volunteers to help facilitate the program on the ground, we feel that many are called to help find or become sponsors. We welcome your prayers and financial support. If you would like to donate to AfL4 or sponsor a participant please contact us: afl@iofc.org

Face to Face

This month's spotlight is on the participant from China: **Yue Zhang**. She writes:

"During the past 2 weeks at Armagh (the IofC centre in Melbourne, Australia), I understand more that it is what you give but not what you get that makes the difference. I found happiness in washing up, in setting breakfast, in listening and sharing, in encouraging and embracing. To love, care, and serve others as much as to ourselves is the simplest and the most difficult task. But that is what we can bring to the world. As one friend said, 'God tells you how you affect other people, but not what he thinks about you'."



The Foundations of a Team

The core team feels very fortunate that a dedicated group of talented individuals have put themselves forward to help make AfL4 possible. This team will help with the difficult task of mentoring the participants, as well as the practical running of AfL.

Please meet two of them here:

Tatiana Minbaeva (AfL3) a Tenant Supervisor in Russia, has agreed to be the AfL4 accountant, she writes: "Almost two years after AfL3 I am working in a commercial organisation, which is a much different world! Nevertheless I practice every single day all the essential things I have learned in Asia, and can see how much difference it makes. I feel this should not be my personal treasure, but a resource for anyone who is brave enough to take on this adventure in prayer and faith. I am extremely excited about AfL4 and it is a big honour for me to be of

service.”

Pamela Jenner (UK) is a dedicated journalist and youth counsellor by day and a keen thespian by night (drama is her passion, both acting and directing). She is no stranger to India, as her daughter-in-law is from that country. “I believe in standing up for what I believe in and I think I go on more protest marches now that I am older than I ever did when I was young! I have long been an admirer of the work of Initiatives of Change and am really looking forward to being associated with Afl4.”

We are grateful to the support team, who are: Mike and Jean Brown (Australia); Geoffrey and Veronica Craig (UK); Pamela Jenner (UK); Peter Heyes (Canada); Hsu Show Feng and Ou Yang Hui Fang (Taiwan); Hsiao Yun Liu (Taiwan); Jisun Jung (Korea); Yeon Yuk Jeong (Korea); Rob Lancaster (Australia); Nandor and Weny Lim (Malaysia); John and Helen Mills (Australia); Tatiana Minbaeva (Russia); Rob and Cheryl Wood (Australia); and Ren Jou and Grace Liu (Taiwan).

News from the Field

Wambui Nguyo (Afl2, Kenya) was married this past month in Kenya. A rainy day turned to sunshine for the ceremony. After a week-long honeymoon, she continues her work on the upcoming Harambee leadership program beginning in September.



John Freebury (Afl2, Canada) has been working with the IofC Webteam over the last 3 years and is now traveling globally to help IofC teams with their communications. He writes about his growing concern with the environment: I have awoken to the crisis of global climate change. There isn't a day which passes where I am not feeling my own denial, anger, despair, and sense of hope about the end of the world as we know it. As the old Chinese saying goes, "Those who sweat in peace, bleed less in war." I feel like we are running out of time for peace and I have become a facilitator of environmental awareness workshops and symposiums. That's my role in the Pachamama Alliance in the US, and Be The Change in the United Kingdom, and a new found role in IofC.



Natasha Davis (Afl2, Australia) writes about her experience with her 5-week old boy, **Miles**: It is the greatest adventure of my life (even more than Afl!), as I really learn the meaning of 'unconditional love'. It is a great beacon of hope having a baby in a world that seems full of turmoil and challenges - I must have faith in the future for his sake. It has been amazing to see the joy his birth has brought to so many - from close family and friends to strangers who just love to see the innocent beauty of a newborn. We are quite overwhelmed with the love that has been showered on us over the last few weeks. Looking forward to many more of you meeting him. He has already been to his first 'Quiet Time and Sharing' - sucking noisily while the rest of us had time in quiet!