

July-August 2008 News

Contents

Supporting Efforts in China

New Orleans:

NOLA Network Update

Role of African-American Churches in Community Crisis Response

GFSC Workshop at NCDD, Austin, Oct. 2008

Join GFSC Network

Learning Opportunities with Partner Orgs.

Events of Interest

Gratitude/Gracias

Supporting Efforts in China

From a letter to several Chinese organizations...

Thank you for your interest in the **GFSC Disaster and Crisis Intervention** model. Several focus issues are important and we want to illuminate a few key points in deploying the DCI tools.

The DCI tools fit in after the emergency & survival elements are in place. It is often difficult to optimize the timing:

- If started too soon, people affected by the disaster cannot focus because of their pressing emergency & survival needs.
- If delayed too long, people may experience secondary crises, requiring more intense assistance, further weakening the already stressed social fabric of the devastated communities.

Now is a good time to focus on training local professionals **who can then train other locals to be DCI facilitators** because:

- Local facilitators provide on-going community support. As this is a long-term process, flying in experts to do the on-going local work creates an inappropriate dependence.
- Trained local community members are more (cost) effective and their skills continue to benefit the community long after the tragedy is resolved.

- Additional facilitators can be trained locally and contribute to the on-going work as needed.
- Local facilitators experience cathartic healing in the process of helping their neighbors and communities in the disaster zone.

DCI training can be adapted for local application and typically includes:

- **Grief Recovery Process:** as it relates to community disaster; effective & ineffective processes of handling grief in one's self and others; using specific tools for proactive grief management.
- **Resilience:** identify and apply strategies to support the four stages of personal and group recovery.
- **Caring for Caregivers:** assist others who are working with disaster survivors to maintain a healthy balance between their work and their own personal well-being.
- **Training and Mentoring** other professionals, organizations and agencies working in direct recuperation efforts
- **Action Planning:** begin to develop specific action plans to cascade learning within participants' local communities, including selecting appropriate facilitation and mentoring techniques.

It is critical to recognize, own, and commit to the long-term nature of this process.

Short-term work that focuses on rebuilding infrastructure to go back to "business as usual," often misses the important healing process that people need before they can resume "day-to-day" activities in a healthy way. With the best intentions, groups may put a lot of energy and resources into activities that go around or away from these healing steps necessary to maximize the potential for recovery.

DCI helps people deal with the strong emotions generated by disaster and helps individuals/communities reconstruct their lives in a holistic way, addressing the physical, emotional/mental, social and spiritual dimensions.

The DCI tools can be customized to work effectively in many community settings. For training & preparing many potential team members, pastors and teachers, the "caring for the care givers" elements will hold tremendous power developing the emotional and spiritual stamina to succeed over the long and demanding process.

DCI can be integrated into your strategies for facilitating recovery. Please let us know how we can support you in this process as you consider the options ahead.

Blessings and warm regards,
Larry and Bego Meeker



Bego and Larry are founding Board members of GFSC. They have delivered many DCI workshops all over the world.



More China Updates

Karen Lim, of Leadership Inc (*Facilitating Organizational Change in Greater China*) is conducting a one-day introduction to the GFSC DCI workshop in August as part of a week-long conference in Sichuan to kick off and support the long-term community recovery efforts there.

And, at the [IAF Asia conference, 27-28 Aug. 2008, Sarawak, Malaysia](#), Mark Pixley (also of Leadership Inc) and Karen will present an hour-long introduction to the GFSC Grief and Recovery Process explaining how the tools and techniques can help a community rebound after a tragedy.



Thanks to Shufang in Taiwan for coordinating all the efforts to have the GFSC materials translated, distributed and made available in simplified Chinese (as used in Sichuan area). A reporter from China asked Shufang, "What prompted you to share all these materials with us?" She answered, "When Taiwan needed help people all over the world helped us. We want to follow this spirit to share what we have with others."

Raising Funds for Local DCI Work

The ideal time for Disaster & Crisis intervention (DCI) work is typically 2-6 months after the immediate emergency response. This makes it quite difficult to find funding. Everyone wants to donate in the immediate days and weeks following a disaster, but as the news becomes less frequent on the television and internet, the eagerness to contribute also diminishes. Rescue efforts seem more newsworthy than the slower, steady work of helping people recover from their grief, feel secure, begin to rebuild their lives and the life of their communities.

The most effective strategy is to build local DCI capacity in the impacted regions of China; through local agencies, NGOs, groups of teachers, businesses, and/or other professionals. Training local providers; coordinating and focusing the effort, is key.

The Chinese people in the affected region are remarkable. Their ability to endure hardship ("eat bitter"), is a source of pride and heritage, but does not mask the grief that exists in their hearts. The GFSC DCI is a personal recovery process, using techniques that can help people deal with their grief and find effective ways to move through and forward, back to productive, meaningful lives.

Because local capacity is so vital to DCI success, the desire and/or demand for this capacity really must emerge from within China. This type of support cannot be forced in from the outside. It has to be drawn in because professionals in the impacted region see it as an integral and vital part of a successful recovery.

What groups within the earthquake region want to use DCI tools as a part of the long recovery process; as a means to begin re-knitting the social fabric of the communities and families that have suffered so much loss.

Training local professionals so that they can share these tools and techniques throughout the region is so important. The support and participation of agencies, local businesses and international businesses with a local presence will maximize the opportunities to bring communities and individuals back to productive, successful lives.

**Disaster & Crisis Intervention
Manuals and Workbooks**

**Available in
English, Spanish and
Chinese***
*(*traditional and simplified)*

for Children, Adults and Facilitators

**No charge for non-profit distribution—
manuals not for resale.**

* * *

NOLA Update

By Michael Kane

On the weekend of July 11-12, local GFSC Network members Lou Furman, Cathy Harris, Wayne Wallace, Carol Fleischman, Reverend Camellia Joseph, Michael Kane, and Julianna Padgett, and other local facilitators, came together to facilitate a successful citywide summit on community participation in post-Katrina New Orleans. Approximately 200 people participated. Elements of Dynamic Facilitation and Open Spaces allowed for maximum participation. Dr. Julianna Padgett, one of the leaders of the GFSC New Orleans DCI workshops in 2006, brought us all together. The summit is the beginning of a citizen participation process that will eventually be incorporated into the city charter of New Orleans.

What really unites all of these local facilitators? Most are part of the GFSC NOLA NETWORK. During the past 2 years, all have participated as facilitators and/or in coordinating local GFSC Disaster and Crisis Intervention workshops. Involvement with the GFSC Network was the first time many of them had worked together as a group. The GFSC NOLA Network created a binding experience for local facilitators and invigorated their consciousness as a powerful force for community change. They also realized that they *liked* working together as a group. This is their second post-Katrina group effort, extending their effectiveness beyond delivering DCI workshops.

**The Role of African American
Churches in Community
Crisis Response**

By Karen Trader-Leigh

Excerpt (complete article in GFSC Library).

This field level perspective provided an informed cultural context from which view and understand the role of the minister and church community in crisis response. It underscored the effectiveness of churches in fostering resiliency, providing hope, and serving as a partner in helping congregations and community members recover after a major crisis.

Based on (26) interviews with ministers who were first responders and storm survivors; with second line responders working in "receiving" centers, including Baton Rouge, Houston, and Atlanta; and with others concerned with restoration, recovery, advocacy, social justice and the future ability of African American faith-based organizations to respond to disasters and crises.

With limited resources and only on-the-job training, Black clergy demonstrated remarkable leadership in Katrina. They played multiple roles as first responders; mobilization of resources; providing direct services to survivors; brokering relationships with the larger disaster-response community; and acting as moral agents and social justice advocates on behalf of Katrina and Rita evacuees.

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference in Baton Rouge positioned congregational members to provide appropriate and timely material resources, work teams, and social support for survivors to help restore a sense of community, helping survivors and caregivers find a sense of meaning and purpose out of the disaster experience, and helping communities and families capture a sense of control over their own individual circumstances.

(Continued, page 4)

Katrina was a harsh lesson for America as it demonstrated that "failure to be prepared to accommodate cultural needs can heighten the negative consequences of a crisis and can result in a death sentence for African Americans and the poor." Cultural competence must be embedded in crisis planning, crisis response services and ongoing evaluations of local crisis management planning and preparedness organizations (including government and non-government agencies, public health or mental health service providers. Cultural needs must recognize that spiritual care is an important component of assisting people who have been traumatized by natural or manmade disasters.

There is much to learn about the role that religion and cultural resilience plays in disaster recovery, especially for those with limited resources. The social and spiritual resources of the African American church must be understood as a valuable asset. In Katrina's aftermath, Black clergy and churches provided a model for culturally competent responses, an essential safety net and a vision of hopefulness in otherwise dire and dismal circumstances.

Dr. Trade -Leigh has worked and studied in a wide range of multicultural and multinational settings, including the United Nations in Vienna, and the University of Tianjin in the Peoples Republic of China. She has also lived and worked in Africa. Dr. Trader Leigh has participated in the GFSC DCI Train-the-Trainer Workshop. Many of the elements identified in this paper are addressed in this workshop, including the stresses on spiritual and emotional wellbeing, techniques to identify and address the unique needs of caregivers and first responders.

Complete article in GFSC Library,
<http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/DCI.htm>

GFSC Workshop at NCDD

Facilitative Disaster & Crisis Intervention

Austin, October 2008

Join us at the 2008 National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation!

For conference and/or workshop information and registration, visit <http://thataway.org>

Join the GFSC Network

We encourage and support volunteers in their communities offering materials, mentoring, training and a forum to share ideas and techniques that build community capacity to address problems.

By joining the GFSC Network you agree to have your contact information shared with others in your region and/or in your designated areas of interest.

We are using a new (simplified) form. If you signed up a few years ago, or if you are new, please [join the network](#).

Let us know how you are building capacity within your community. Share your story with us at [Inspire: Share Your Story](#).

* * *

Support GFSC

You can help GFSC continue to build local community capacity in China, in New Orleans and elsewhere. Click on our [donation page](#) or mail a check to

GFSC
c/o BJ Diamond
11 Sequin Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

* * *

Learning Opportunities from Our Partner Organizations

Be sure to let our partner organizations know that you are a part of the GFSC network, for possible discounts and other benefits.

Amauta International,
<http://amauta-international.com/>

Center for Strategic Facilitation,
<http://www.strategicfacilitation.com/>

Community at Work,
<http://www.communityatwork.com/>

Facilitator U., <http://www.facilitatoru.com/>

International Association of Facilitators
<http://iaf-world.org>

**National Coalition for Dialogue &
Deliberation (NCDD),** <http://www.thataway.org/>

* * *

Events of Interest

Australia/Asia

- **[IAF Asia](#)**
[27 - 28 Aug. 2008, Sarawak, Malaysia](#)
- **Chinese Facilitators Conference,**
18-19 Oct. 2008, Taipei, Taiwan

Africa

- **IAF Africa "Imbizo"**
23-24 July 2008, Pilanesburg,
South Africa

North America

- **National Coalition for Dialogue &
Deliberation (NCDD)** 3-5 Oct. 2008,
Austin Texas

Gratitude/Gracias

Our continuing thanks to

Ximena Combariza for translating our newsletter from English to Spanish

Peggy Bushee Services for administrative support

Kiosk/Hot Conference for web hosting and conferencing services,
<http://www.hotconference.com/GFSC/partners1.php>

Slingshot Media, <http://www.listcast.com> for our newsletter distribution and email list service

GFSC Advisory Council for their patience, expertise, advice and caring.

* * *

2008 GFSC Board

President: Lenny Diamond
Vice President: Tim Karpoff
Secretary: Marieann Shovlin
Treasurer: Parcia Sansary Gomez
Executive Director: BJ Diamond

Visit us: <http://globalfacilitators.org>

