



The TELOS Report



... around the World!

The official TELOS International information source for our partners:
Helping make the world whole... one person and one relationship at a time!

Tel•os (tél-os, Gk
τελο) – “to achieve
one’s ultimate aim,
purpose or goal in life...
to be complete, mature
and whole.”

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Listening... an answer to prayer

By Rand Michael, D.Min., President TELOS International, Inc.

Early Fall 2000, the trucker’s kid and the pastor’s son sat by the second story lunch room window in Portland Center of George Fox University. Surrounded by suburbia, they told their stories. The pastor’s son from Burundi quietly recounted his having seen the slaughter of family members and eight of his students during the horrendous massacres in the late 1990’s in Central Africa. The truck driver’s kid from Southern California explained his journey to a global concern for under-served, hurting peoples.

As Rand Michael, the tucker’s kid, now midlife, described to the pastor’s son, David Niyonzima, the CORE Caring curriculum that he and his wife had developed while serving in Albania with Northwest Medical Teams, an intense look of surprise, joy, and discovery erupted in David’s eyes; a magnificent smile spread across his face and then he bowed his head, speaking almost inaudibly: “This is an answer to prayer.” He looked up and

again said, stronger this time, “This is an answer to prayer!”

David’s vision was to set up a network of listening centers throughout Central Africa for the purpose of reconciliation and healing among the peoples and also to help with daily concerns for life and living. David explained that God had called him to forgiveness and

“The pastor’s son... recounted his having seen the slaughter of family members and eight of his students...”



With a strong mixture of emotion, **David Niyonzima**, stands in front of a memorial to honor his students who were slaughtered during an attack on the school where he taught in Burundi.

reconciliation both as a lifestyle and as an active ministry involvement. In this process, he said he had found a missing element: Listening. He came to the US to study counseling so he could learn how to better listen and to teach others as well. A key element to CORE Caring is listening.

During that meeting, we began planning for a team from TELOS Inter-

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national to go to Burundi and train people in listening and care giving skills to use in their personal lives and community relationships. The strategy would be what we evolved in Albania, which we were convinced would work in all settings: at Level 1, train people to use the skills in their own lives; at Level 2, train people to teach the skills to others; and at Level 3, equip some key people to train teachers of the skills. This way, the effort becomes an on-going, multiplying, indigenous ministry.



TELOS team members **Rand Michael, Mindy Gelder, Luis Carriere** and **Katy Trautman** meet with the **Niyonzima family**.

Divine Providence brought together three persons in addition to myself: Luis Carriere, Mindy Gelder, and Katy Trautman. This team of four, along with David and others, prepared over

the months so that in July of 2001, the team would be ready to do Level 1 and Level 2 training. At one point in the process, as we were raising support for the cost of the trip, I asked David, "Wouldn't it be more efficient if we just raised and sent the money instead?" David's response was immediate and emphatic: "No! We need you to come in person! It is being with the people that is so crucial!" David said this, knowing that the \$2,200 airfare for each team member would be several years income in poverty stricken Central Africa.

July came. We arrived in Bujumbura, exhausted but eager. On Monday morning, 30 eager faces greeted

us as we met them at Great Lakes School of Theology, in the only classroom that would accommodate that size class—the one adjacent to the noisy restaurant next door! We

explained that we had come to share with them some things that we think are needed universally, regardless of color or culture of a people—to listen to, to care for, to speak constructively with each other. That first week, we took our 30 brothers and sisters through Level 1 of CORE Caring.

On Monday morning of week two, as we started class, students were eager to share their experiences from having begun to use the skills.

Augustin reported having difficulties in his marriage and that his wife said to him she had a problem—anger with him. (This took courage in their culture for a wife to speak up). Augustin
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"Wouldn't it be more efficient if we just raised and sent the money instead?... 'No! We need you to come in person!'"

TELOS responsive and proactive

By **Rand Michael, D.Min., Co-Founder and President, TELOS International, Inc.**

TELOS provides a variety of clinical, training, and speaking services both in the US and internationally, with a special concern for underserved peoples.

TELOS is *responsive*—responsive to the needs of persons and to the communities and organizations of which they are part. When invited, TELOS does all it can to respond to a need or request. As a caring responder, TELOS, its associates, and its teams have provided a variety of services for two decades in diverse locations around the world. Persons trained by TELOS are continuing ministries, touching hundreds of lives that TELOS associates and team members themselves cannot touch. TELOS provides direct clinical and teaching services but it does more—it provides *training-the-teacher* and *training-the-trainer* services. For instance, in Central Africa, there is an expanding movement of listening-care-givers (healing comes through being heard) in Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo (see article on p. 1). These folk are providing care-giving-listening through their personal networks as well as setting up "listening centers" where people can come to be heard, to be healed from their trauma, and to find solutions for their personal and relational difficulties.

TELOS is *proactive* as well as responsive. TELOS is now at the point organizationally where it can begin to become proactive as well as responsive regarding needs. Thanks to the able administrative leadership of our new Executive Director, Mike Ward, and our new Treasurer, Sherry Brinkley, we now have in place the infrastructure that is going to allow us to actively plan ahead for ministry, as well responding to invitations that are expressed to us. At this point, becoming proactive means at least two major things for TELOS: Following up on our prior responses to needs, and extending and expanding our services.



(1) Proactive following-up: There is a need to follow-up on the work begun in various locations around the world. There is a need to encourage and further guide the work undertaken in prior visits. For instance, associates and teams need to return to Israel/Palestine, to Albania, to Burundi, Kenya, Taiwan, Nigeria, and China. The return would involve encouraging and also further equipping of the service providers we trained in earlier visits.

(2) Proactive extending and expanding: We have standing invitations but have not been able to respond to them...yet. Because of this, we put these in the proactive category—to really respond to the need as it has been presented to us requires being proactive in envisioning, planning, and implementation. It involves time, personnel, phone calls, emails, coordinat-

ing, prayer, training and preparation. For instance, we have invitations to train listeners and counselors in Ghana (Africa), China, and Albania. To do so adequately, involves a long term commitment. To do so would be to bring hope and healing to thousands of hurting people.

Will you be proactive in investing with us for a sure return on your investment? We here at TELOS are investing our time, lives, and expertise to bring hope and healing to needy and underserved peoples. We invite you to invest as well for a sure return—remembering that investing in healing people from their hurts and then equipping them for effective living is always a sure investment with profound returns...in this life...and the next. We need people who will partner with us in prayer and in financial support. Thank you for your investing

with us. As you watch and read the news—as you see images and hear stories of

hurting and needy people—will you join us in prayer for these people and will you take time to make a financial investment with TELOS

so TELOS can more proactively respond to the needs you are seeing, which are only the “tip of the iceberg.”

“...as you see images and hear stories of hurting and needy people—will you join us in prayer... make a financial investment... so TELOS can more proactively respond to the needs you are seeing...”

Judy Zollner: Why I serve on the TELOS board of directors... because...

Judy Tuttle Zollner is a counselor at Salem Pastoral Counseling Center and at Lake Labish Elementary School in Salem, Oregon. As the secretary on the TELOS board of directors, she was asked about her interest in this organization.

Since the time I was 12 years old, I have felt a desire to serve God in some capacity overseas. At first I thought that would be as a missionary, but that wasn't to be. When I was in high school, I had the wonderful opportunity to spend a year in Germany as an exchange student and become fluent in a second language. I have always been drawn to other cultures and some of the greatest experiences of my life have been the short-term mission trips I have taken to Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, and Russia. These trips, as well as other overseas adventures, have allowed me to see with open eyes the pain and suffering, but to also recognize God's great work around the world. It has been such a delight to share a common faith with people, even when I can't speak their language. There is a bond that is present that circumvents the spoken language.

When I finished my Master's degree in counseling in 1996, I was continually impressed to involve myself in some

capacity with helping pastors, missionaries, and churches using my counseling skills. TELOS is a terrific organization that recognizes the great wholistic need that Christian workers have and the often neglected emotional and psychological needs that are present and often unspoken in their lives. II Cor. 1:3-4 says, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”* Who will bring those in trouble that cup of cold water? Who will listen to their pain and hurt? Who will help train them to better serve the needs of their communities? TELOS associates minister in this capacity and I am incredibly proud to be a part of this great organization.

Although my private practice and school counseling jobs have not afforded me a great deal of time to minister overseas, I am hoping to involve myself more directly with the ever-expanding cultural opportunities around the world that TELOS is directly involved in. In the meantime, I find it extremely satisfying to be a part of an organization that has a heart for Christian workers and desires to touch them at their deepest point of psychological and emotional need.



Judy Tuttle Zollner, serves as Secretary on the TELOS International board of directors.



encouraging · empowering · equipping

Telos International, Inc.

"Helping make the world whole...one person and one relationship at a time"

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Listening...

shared how he said to himself: "OK, this is my time to exercise my skills!" I told her, "I am ready to hear your problem." Augustin did a brave and difficult thing—something that is brave and difficult for any spouse in any culture—he listened to his partner's anger with him. Augustin recounted how as he listened to his wife, in a caring way, her anger subsided; she felt heard and valued. Augustin testified: "I was very happy to see how I healed her heart in using CORE Caring without my giving her advice...so I saw how these skills are very helpful in human life."

Mary asked if she could share. She is a pastor's wife. People come to her for advice. She feels a great burden to give them the right answer. "When we started last week and you said that these are resources for all people regardless of color or culture, I did not believe it. I thought it was just American...white American...but I thought I would try it this weekend when people came to me for advice. Instead of telling them what to do—which has been such a stress and burden—I decided I would listen and, as you taught us, facilitate their finding their own answer. I just want to say: it works!!! I did not feel that terrible stress to come up with an answer for them. Rather, they found their own answer, one that fits them! They felt empowered! And they thanked me for helping them! Thank you for coming and teaching us these skills!"

"This expression of concern allowed the friend to feel heard and valued; not only was a suicide averted, the friend began to move from despair to hope."



Three CORE Caring trainees from Burundi stand in front of one of many listening centers that are still multiplying in Central Africa as a result of our 2001 TELOS training mission to the region.

Samuel, whose wife had died two years prior, told of a friend who was in such despair that he was considering suicide. Samuel had spent much of the weekend with this friend, using the skills of CORE Caring, especially the listening skills. This expression of concern allowed the friend to feel heard and valued; not only was a suicide averted, the friend began to move from despair to hope.

Throughout these and other spontaneous testimonies, I kept thinking of David's emphatic: "No! We need you to come in person! It is being with the people that is so crucial!"

Listening... an answer to prayer! *Ndi ngaha ngo ndakwumvirize!* (Kirundi for "I am here to listen to you.") We are often called to be the answer to prayer!

And the answer to prayer goes on in Central Africa, with Hutus and Tutsis, from Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi beginning to listen to one another, beginning to understand, beginning to heal. Some listeners are serving through the listening centers that are being established. And then, beyond these wonderful centers for healing, there is a growing number of listeners, providing a caring presence as they go about their daily lives in Central Africa: *Ndi ngaha ngo ndakwumvirize!*

THANK YOU!

Your support is making a life-changing difference for so many!

Please...

Pray for TELOS, particularly our founders Rand and Phyllis Michael as they are serving in China through the first week of June;

Consider sending a financial gift of any amount *this month!* Your support is so crucial in helping TELOS become even more responsive and proactive worldwide!