

# Communication for change (Dhammakranti)

## 5 to 12 Jan 2006

### 1. We aimed and achieved

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#### The seen

#### Who participated?

#### Who organized?

#### Who supported?

#### My experience



The main Entrance



Dr. Rosenberg guiding.



Group discussion.

A. We wanted to set up a model for a casteless society. Which would work as an inspiration for others in India who are working to annihilate the caste system.

B. We wanted to give an experience of a compassionate community of a wide variety of people coming from all many different parts of India and around the world.

C. We also wanted to create an opportunity for people to interact with people from different cast backgrounds and meet everybody deeply enough to experience the unity and harmony between people so that seeing people as higher or lower than us vanishes.

D. We decided to use Buddhist teachings and Nonviolent Communication as the major teaching components of the retreat.

#### The Seen

A. How the training place been developed- we had been given 22 acres of land for use at 12 kilometers from Nagpur city. It was just a farmland. We raised 6 rows (200 to 300 feet long) of shades (30X60 feet). Temporary toilets and bathrooms were created. We borrowed three water tankers, which provided hot water for bath. We raised a huge hall with the capacity of 4000 people; it was 110ft wide and 210ft long. 3 feet high and 20 feet long stage was made for teachers. At the center of the dais a four feet high Buddha statue was sitting with beautiful flower arrangements and beautiful arrangement of colored cloths. Candles incense burnt all the time.



Morning Meditation in open shrine



NVC trainers meeting with Subhuti



Shrine at the center of the campus and a Rangoli painting of Buddha on sand.



Play and Dance

## Who participated-

A. Dr. Marshall Rosenberg (founder of the Nonviolent Communication) and Dhammachari Subhuti (renowned Buddhist teacher and the senior member of the WBO/TBM) were the main teachers we invited to teach.

B. More than 100 members of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (known as Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha Sahayak Gana in India) and more than 20 people who shared Nonviolent Communication were present to support the retreat.

C. We could bring people together from 17 different Indian states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Delhi, Andhrapradesh, Orisa, Madhyapradesh, Kerala, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Uttarpradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Bengal) and 11 Countries (India, Britain, Germany, Sweden, United States, Hawaii, Eustonia, Canada, Shrilanka, Nepal, Hungary)

D. We are also delighted to inform that we have more than 40 different cast groups from India ((Mahars ( almost all of them became Buddhists now), ex- Mangs ( Buddhists) and Mangs, Bhangi's ( scavenger cast), Marata, Teli, Kunbi, Mali, Vadar, Chamar, Beldar, Korku, Adivasi, Gond, Dhival, Banjara, Dhangar, Pariya( one kind of scavenger from Tamilnadu) Satnami, Rohidasi, Vankars, Brahmin, Sindhi, Marvari,



Dr. Marshall Rosenberg- teaching



Dr. Rosenberg and Ven. Subhuti with retreatants.



Dr. Rosenberg with the team of Organizers.



Team of Organizers.

## Who Organized

There are many individuals and organizations that supported this retreat.

- A. Main partners- Dhammakranti Social Institute is the main charitable trust that took initiative to organize this event. Triratna Institute Pune has been another important partner.
- B. The core team that was mainly responsible to set up and organize this whole event.
  1. Dhammachari Kumarjeev, Dhammachari Nagaketu, Dhammachari Sadhanaratna, Dhammachari Ritayush, Vishwavajra mitra Chapter. Alok Pillewar, Prasannaratna.....

## Who Supported

(Financially and by other means)

Karuna Trust England- donated Rs. 5,00,000/- £ 6250

Dhammamitra ..... (UK)  
Rs. 3,99,000/- £ 5000

Dr. Marshall Roseberg and CNVC- his air fair is paid by CNVC and not charged for his time, which could have been \$20,000 .

Margarita Mac (US) \$ 2000

Rena Patty (US) \$ 2000

Medical and Educational Relief International, Association, Inc. (MERIA), (US) \$3000

Bay NVC staff (US) \$ 1000

Chief Minister of Maharastra State Rs. 50,000.

Municipal Corporation of Nagpur City Provided free water supply worth Rupees 2,00,000/-



Subhuti giving a talk on Buddhism



Participants and houses behind



Puja and chanting in evenings



Eating lunch

10. More than 5000 people donated small and big amounts in cash or kind.

11. More than 500 people raised money and worked to set up this event.

## My Experience

This experience of **Gayatri** presents the living spirit of the whole event.

“To begin with, the event at Nagpur left me totally amazed, touched, compassionate, centered, energized and divine. 3500+ people living together and working towards humanness and compassion. I was amazed at the way people were trying to connect to each other, support each other and yearning for spiritual growth, humanness and compassion. I could not help but catch up with the mood and am still continuing to feel that energy and divinity. The initial two days of the event left me feeling concerned, disturbed and agitated. Marshall's style of language is difficult for translation into Hindi and watching his style of teaching NVC, strongly generated a need for simplicity in me. I was gravely concerned because I was greedy that every person present there should benefit from Marshall's presence. I was also touched by the commitment of the TBMSG group who had worked so hard to successfully organize this event and I really wanted their efforts to be successful. By any Indian standard, the facilities provided at the event, including food, accommodation, water, toilet, doctors, medicine, security, support, guidance, natural school for children, decorations, space, sessions etc was excellent and this is not possible except for



Children had a beautiful place and lot of fun.

**I CELEBRATE THE GIFT THAT SUBHUTI, MARSHALL AND ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EVENT.**

**IT WAS A SEVEN DAYS MEMORABLE LIVING COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE HEARTS THAT GAVE A LOT OF NOURISHMENT AND WILL KEEP GIVING TO MANY.**

**IT WAS A MODEL OF A TRULY CASTELESS SOCIETY THAT INDIA NEEDS BADLY.**

sincere commitment on the part of the organizers. It was a Buddhist retreat. I have known Buddhism to a greater extent and also influenced by it but their vision and Presentation of integrating Buddhism and NVC has left me feeling absolutely divine. In six days, I grew spiritually like six years of my life and was left with greater clarity, understanding, mindfulness, compassion, motivated, hopeful, centered, fulfilled, Nurtured and satisfied. I was moved to see the NVC trainers and supporters from all over the world work very hard to lead small sessions and I could see that these small sessions really helped the people in learning and also healing. People were openly sharing their deepest of pains and getting lots of empathy. I helped and supported in whatever manner I could and also felt satisfied on that account. I was enjoying connecting to the womenfolk over there and it appeared that they also were enjoying it and on the last two days there were so many women coming to me and saying that they needed to share and needed empathy that it left me wishing for the event to be still longer. It was an enriching experience for me.

Coming back to Marshall's sessions, things started to unfold by the third and fourth days, and then there was no turning back. I could see people's involvement, enthusiasm and enjoyment by then and it was exhilarating to see Marshall teach NVC to such a large crowd.