

## The CHIPS work of making peace

I have been connected with a project called CHIPS since 1966! It is a Christian peace-making initiative. I have visited CHIPS teams in Cyprus, Uganda and Ghana.

The method of working is based on a study of Jesus as a peace-maker. In his life and ministry Jesus demonstrated a new way of living and relating. He challenged conventional thinking and sought to bring reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles, as well as between individuals and God. I believe that, were he alive today, he would also challenge us to be reconciled with nature and the environment!



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CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL PEACE SERVICE

CHIPS method of working is that a team of people drawn from the two groups in conflict live, work and pray together in the midst of an area of tension. They slowly integrate into the local culture developing good relationships and trust with all, irrespective of differences of race, tribe, religion,

gender.

The team also develops practical projects which help people to meet each other again and begin to cooperate. Such projects include the creation of a supply of clean water, animal veterinary care, savings' schemes, help with seeds, tree planting – and natural medicine.

The team in Uganda regularly used *Euphorbia hirta* tea to treat diarrhoea, chilli ointment to treat rheumatism and jiggers (sand fleas that burrow into the skin of the feet), and artemisia to treat malaria.

In Ghana, in cooperation with another NGO, the team has established a herbal clinic and treats a range of health complaints, including wounds, burns, body pains, menstrual problems, stomach pains, cough and diarrhoea.

The team has visited 21 schools in the district to provide teaching about hygiene, the use of toilets and hand-washing. Outside each school they have set up tippy-taps, which has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of children and teachers suffering diarrhoea and other infections.

In both Uganda and Ghana, the teams have run training events with participants drawn from both communities. In the course of the training, mutual suspicion fades away and friendships are formed across the tribal divide.



*Artemisia annua* growing by the CHIPS base in north-east Uganda – quite an achievement in the hot, dry conditions

I encourage you to follow the example of CHIPS and Christopher Nyakuni in West Nile, Uganda (see the newsletter of March 2016). Where there is conflict and tension in your community or district, call together a few from each group whom you feel are willing to work together.

Arrange training for them in nutrition, hygiene and natural healing. Organise it all in a way that ensures maximum contact between the participants, and so that they have fun together



For more information about CHIPS, see <http://www.chipspeace.org/>.

May God bless your work,

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