
International Conference on Racism & Globalization



ORGANIZED BY

**Agricultural Missions, Inc. and
Federation of Southern Cooperatives**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Center
Chicago, IL – June 27-29, 2008**

Edward J. Pennick, Chairperson of Planning Committee 10/30/08



THE WORK OF JUSTICE AND PEACE CANNOT BE
EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVED UNLESS WE COMMIT
OURSELVES TO WORK INTENTIONALLY AGAINST
THE AGE-OLD SIN OF RACISM



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RACISM and GLOBALIZATION

**Organized by:
Agricultural Missions, Inc. and Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land
Assistance Fund**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Center
Chicago, IL – June 27-29, 2008**

A REPORT

Background

Globalization is an economic force that threatens the survival of entire cultures and traditions of people of color. So in many ways, people of color need to understand and confront globalization as if their very survival depended on it.

That is exactly what Agricultural Missions has been doing for decades, even before the concept of globalization was co-opted, redefined and popularized by politicians and multi-national corporations. Agricultural Missions has a long and successful history of accompanying peoples and communities as they work to develop alternative social, economic and political systems in an effort to create alternative models of globalization. Likewise the Federation of Southern Cooperatives / Land Assistance Fund has worked to change U. S. agricultural and trade policies so that they are more equitable and better able to meet the unique needs of farmers of color in this country, while not negatively impacting farmers of color in other parts of the world. The Federation does this in part by developing appropriate cooperative models and influencing policies that help counter the negative impact of a global agricultural system. This system is slowly but surely forcing people of color out of production agriculture and hindering the sustainable development of entire rural communities in America.

Over the past two decades, Agricultural Missions and its partners have focused and fine-tuned its programmatic agenda to more effectively challenge globalization in its current

forms. Agricultural Missions conducts annual on site study sessions to learn first hand how globalization impacts its partners and their communities both in the United States and in the developing world. Agricultural Missions has accompanied and learned from communities as diverse as the landless movement in Brazil as it struggles against a national and global agriculture system that supports corporate concentration of land and farms; in Africa where international trade policies and structural adjustment programs allow dumping of agricultural products to the detriment of local farmers and food economies; in South and Central America where unfair trade agreements are driving people from the land and fueling immigration and it's too-often racist response; and finally in the U. S. where African – Americans are losing land and farms at an alarming rate and other farmers of color are marginalized by discriminatory practices at all levels of government, especially the USDA which influences not just U.S. but international trade and agricultural policies.

All of these situations, as well as others, were brought home, even magnified by the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast of the United States - a tragedy that was compounded by a re- building plan that continues to play black against brown against Native Americans in order to ensure non-union cheap labor and maximum profits for multi-national corporations, some of which are the same corporations that are in charge of rebuilding Iraq.

The work of Agricultural Missions, its partners and a growing number of organizations indisputably prove that those communities and countries most negatively impacted by globalization are countries and communities of color.



ALABAMA BLACK BELT DELEGATION

Rationale

The technological advances of the modern era have failed to fulfill expectations of peace and prosperity for the vast majority of the world's inhabitants. The twenty first century ushers in the "post modern" era that is characterized by conflict and crisis and deep divisions within and between nations. This era of globalization is witness to a growing apartheid system that is being relentlessly imposed across the globe. This system uproots people from the land and ravages ecosystems for the benefit of a very small rich and powerful elite. Globalization negatively impacts the economic, political, religious, social, and cultural lives of people throughout the world. In this context, racism and other forms of discrimination such as sexism and ageism are subordinated to the profit motive without regard to human costs.

The **International Conference on Racism and Globalization** was organized to provide time and space for people of color from around the world to share experiences and strategies and to network, as a first step toward creating a new paradigm that better reflects their experiences and histories as they confront globalization in its current context.

Goals

- Raise the level of awareness of the interconnectedness of racism and globalization in the current context and affirm a commitment to seek to end racism within organizations, our communities and ourselves.
- To develop an international network that will assist organizations, individuals and the general society to use their power to confront and defeat racism in the current context.

Outcomes

- The conference was held at the Evangelical Lutheran Center in Chicago, IL June 27-29, 2008.

- One hundred thirteen people participated in the conference, with thirty people coming from, or with origins in at least 21 different countries, including: Belize, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Palestine, Panama, Puerto Rico, Senegal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Uganda, U.S.A.
- Approximately 20% of the participants were youth and young adults under the age of 35.
- Nine presentations on the effects of globalization on different sectors of society and communities of color were delivered. Presenters included community organizers, academics, and theologians with a history and experience of working with communities of color to confront the negative impact of globalization.

Areas covered by presenters included:

- ❖ Historical Perspective – Luís Rivera Pagán (Puerto Rico)
 - ❖ Trade policy – Andrés Peñalosa Mendez (México)
 - ❖ Financial Institutions – Mariama Williams (Jamaica, U.S.A.)
 - ❖ Human Migration – Rubén Solís (Texas/Mexico border)
 - ❖ Water and Environment – Rajyashri S. Waghay (India, U.S.A.)
 - ❖ Agriculture and food sovereignty – Winston Carroo (Jamaica, U.S.A.)
 - ❖ Employment/Labor – Paul Nehru Tennessee (Guyana, U.S.A.)
 - ❖ Culture and Spirituality – Junius Williams (U.S.A.)
 - ❖ Education – Walter Hill (U.S.A.)
- The keynote speaker was Dr. Katie Cannon, Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA. She spoke on the theme, “An Ethical Mapping of the Transatlantic Slave Trade”.



See Appendix III: Presentations will be posted online at <http://www.agriculturalmissions.org/icrg-presentations.htm>



- Small group sessions followed each plenary. The primary objective of each session was to provide opportunity for conference participants to digest information provided by the presenters and begin to develop long and short-term strategies to deal with the issues and concerns identified, not just by the presenters but the group as well.
- The results from the groups as well as informal meetings throughout the conference were presented on the final day where the following commitments were agreed upon
 1. To participate in and organize resistance to the institutions, structures and policies that result in the negative impacts of globalization.

2. To form a cadre made up of young people of color from the U. S. to join their peers from around the world as well as in regional and local movements to confront international financial institutions and other entities that negatively impact people of color.
3. To coordinate future conferences, cultural and ethnic exchanges, intergenerational interaction, activities and relationships.
4. To fully utilize technology and media in all aspects of implementation.
5. To take personal responsibility by making personal choices and decisions in our lives which do not perpetuate the negative impacts of globalization.
6. To increase the awareness of the interconnectedness of racism and globalization and their negative impacts on the lives of people of color.

The commitments were integrated into a declaration adopted unanimously by the conference (see Appendix I).

Proposed Follow-up

This was the first major conference of its kind. It drew people of color from all walks of life who share a mutual concern for how their communities, lives and livelihoods are being impacted by globalization. Conference participants, many of whom are just beginning to understand the complexities of globalization, agreed that the conference was but a first step and that the process should continue.

Specifically they agreed that there should be a follow-up conference that would;

- 1) continue the education and networking,
- 2.) Provide space to evaluate the work and progress that was agreed upon, and
- 3.) Engage more youth in the process.



DECLARATION

Whereas, Agricultural Missions and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives sponsored a conference held June 27 - June 29, 2008 which brought together 113 people from various communities, organizations and institutions from 20 countries around the world to discuss racism and globalization; and whereas "globalization" means different things to different people and has disparate impact on all people, depending upon their class status, gender, culture and geographic location; and whereas after careful deliberation and discussions, having engaged in active dialogue with all participants, and having considered many aspects of the processes of globalization and its negative impacts upon people of color in countries throughout the world; and whereas we recognize the issue of globalization as a process of growth, economic expansion and concentration of wealth and power by a small group of heavily financed transnational corporations which impact many aspects of the lives of people of color in our different locations throughout the globe; and whereas we have established that people of color are disproportionately vulnerable and negatively affected by the policies and practices of globalization; and whereas through the sharing of stories and experiences, we understand the connections between our struggles everywhere and the ultimate cost people pay on a daily basis to fight for self-determination and human dignity.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we commit to develop a common agenda for defining globalization in a way that preserves the environment, respects and protects cultures and otherwise benefit peoples of color. In addition, we commit to educate and deliberately disseminate information utilizing both formal and informal methods to project and explain solutions in order to build a movement to correct the inequities of globalization. We further commit to develop an action network to do the following to address the problems associated with racism and globalization:

1. To participate and organize resistance to the institutions, structures and policies that result in the negative impacts of globalization.
2. To form a cadre of young people of color from the U.S. to join their peers from around the world as well as in regional and local movements to confront international financial institutions and other entities that negatively impact people of color.
3. To coordinate future conferences, cultural and ethnic exchanges, intergenerational interaction, activities and relationships.
4. To fully utilize technology and media in all aspects of implementation.
5. To take personal responsibility by making personal choices and decisions in our lives that do not perpetuate the negative impacts of globalization.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved, that we will continue to network and organize locally, nationally and across borders to increase the awareness of the interconnectedness of racism and globalization and their negative impacts on the lives of people of color.

Unanimously Adopted
June 29, 2008

* "People of Color" is defined as people of non-Caucasian descent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Ford Foundation - Institute of International Education
- Oxfam America
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, Mission Context and Relationships
- Restorative Justice Fund
- United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race

Planning Committee:

Benavides, Marta - International Institute for the Cooperation Amongst People
Carroo, Winston - Agricultural Missions
Diop, Amadou - National Wildlife Federation
Horton, Loretta - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Kim, June - United Methodist Committee on Relief
Keesecker, Joseph - Agricultural Missions
Pennick, Edward "Jerry" - Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
Sherrod, Mikhiela - Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education
Thomas-Sano, Kathleen - United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race
Ward, Eric - Center for New Community

Hosts from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Sandra LaBlanc
Ms. Loretta Horton

Coordinators:

Ford, Karen, ELCA
Johnson, Mozzie, AMI
Rivera, Doris, AMI
Tippens, Katie, ELCA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Language Interpreters:

Stephen Bartlett, Agricultural Missions Staff - Louisville, KY

<http://www.agriculturalmissions.org>

Marta Benavides, Coordinator International Institute for Cooperation Amongst Peoples
El Salvador. <http://www.reclaiming.org/resources/elsal/1997apr.html>

Victoria Davis, Language Interpreter-Migrant Outreach Project, Southeast Center for
Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education - Lexington, KY

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/publichealth>

Amadou Diop, National Wildlife Federation, Southeast Region - Atlanta, GA.

From Senegal. <http://www.nwf.org>

Tania Durán-Eyre, Youth Program Coordinator, El Pueblo, Inc. (Highlander Center) - Raleigh,
NC. From El Salvador. <http://www.highlandercenter.org>

Magdalena Garcia, Pastor, Ravenswood Presbyterian Church - Chicago. From Cuba.

<http://www.ravenswoodchurch.org>

Hierald Kane-Osorto, Assoc. Director, Multicultural Programs, Messiah College - Grantham,
PA <http://www.messiah.edu>

Shandra Keesecker-Rivero (a.k.a. Sami) DELE Superior Spanish Proficiency; member
American Translators Association; Founder of Recursos language programs and translation
services in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. <http://www.recursos.mexico.com>

Ana Mercado, Girls Organizing Coordinator, Access Living (Highlander Center) - Chicago, IL.
From Dominican Republic. <http://www.highlandercenter.org>

Clara Nuñez, Staff, Self Development of People, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - Louisville,
KY. From Ecuador. <http://www.pcusa.org/sdop>

And everyone who speaks more than one language and is willing to assist someone in
conversations or in the group discussions, thank you.

Interpretation Equipment:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

United Methodist Church

PRESENTERS

KATIE GENEVA CANNON, U.S.A.
KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

LUIS N. RIVERA-PAGAN, Puerto Rico - Historical Perspective

ANDRES PEÑALOZA MENDEZ, Mexico - Trade Policy

MARIAMA WILLIAMS, Jamaica, U.S.A. - Financial Institutions

RUBEN SOLIS, U.S.A. - Human Migration

RAJYASHRI S. WAGHRAY, India, U.S.A. - Water and Environment

WINSTON G. CARROO, India, U.S.A. - Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

JUNIUS WILLIAMS, U.S.A. - Culture and Spirituality

PAUL NEHRU TENNASSEE, Guyana, U.S.A. - Employment/Labor

WALTER HILL, U.S.A. – Education

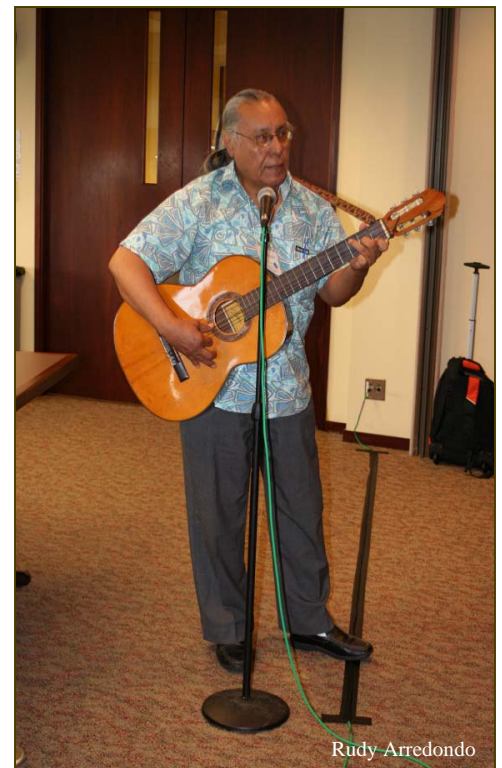
PARTICIPANT LIST

David Albala – IL
 LaTanya Albala – IL
 Rudy Arredondo – DC
 Teumbay Barnes – AL
 Stephen Bartlett – NY/KY
 Marta Benavides – El Salvador
 Josselyn Bennett – IL
 Michael Blair – Canada
 Esmeralda Brown – NY/Panama
 Malik Brown – AL
 Katrina Byrnes – KY
 Mary B. Campbell – IL
 Carlos Cañas-Dinarte – El Salvador
 Katie G. Cannon – VA
 Winston Carroo – NY/DC
 Catherine Coleman Flowers – AL
 Merle Collins – NY/Grenada
 Jon Davis – KY
 Victoria G. Davis – KY
 Amadou Diop – GA
 Andrea L. Dobynes – AL
 Tania Duran-Eyre – NC
 Jessica Flores – IL
 Steven Flowers – IL
 Jackie Floyd – KY
 Karen Ford – IL
 Christopher Omari Fox – SC
 Carrie F. Fulgham – AL
 Magdalena Garcia – IL
 Samantha Teresa Gomez – AL
 Georgia Good – SC
 Gena Gunn – MO
 John Hawkins – IL
 Egbert R. Higinio – CA
 Walter Hill – AL
 Audrey Hollis – MO
 Steve Hollis – MO
 Cylesha Hopkins – MS
 Derek Hopkins – MS
 Loretta Horton – IL
 Margaret Jackson – IL
 Cynthia Joe – CA
 Darnell Johnson – KY
 Mozzie Johnson – NY
 Sonya Johnson – AL
 Felicia Jones – AL
 Jeneane Jones – DC
 Hierald Kane-Osorto – PA

Joseph Keesecker – NY/NJ
 Selena Keesecker – NJ
 Shandra Keesecker-Rivero – Mexico
 Gertrude Kenyangi Kabusimbi – Uganda
 Christi Ketchum – GA
 Jona Khaosanga – NC
 Kholoud Khoury – IL
 Mary Kibahigire – Uganda
 June Kim – NY
 Wijethunge Herman Kumara – Sri Lanka
 Ainsley Lesure – IL
 Rhyne Marquez – TX
 Christine May – IL
 Mikka McCracken – IL
 Salvador Menendez Leal – El Salvador
 Ana Mercado – IL
 Daniel Mercado – PA
 Evan Milligan – AL
 Shirley Moorman – KY
 Tufara Waller Muhammad – TN
 Gladys Nabiswa – Kenya
 Tammi Nichols – VA
 Clara Nuñez – KY
 Imahkus Nzingah Okofu – Ghana
 Persis Okyere – Ghana
 Chioma Oruh – DC
 Juan Pacheco – TN
 Anaida Pascual-Morán – PR
 Luís Rivera Pagan – PR
 Shameka Parrish-Wright – KY
 Jacqueline (Jacqui) Patterson – MD
 Andres Peñalosa Mendez – Mexico
 Edward Pennick – GA
 Ibrahim Abdil-Mu’id Ramey – VA/DC
 David Rivera – NJ
 Doris Rivera – NY/NJ
 Fatima Robinson – AL
 Theodore Rose – IL
 David Sanders – IL
 Attica Scott – KY
 Mikhiela Sherrod – GA
 Barbara Shipman – AL
 Rita L. Smith – IL
 Ruben Solis – TX
 Marilyn Sorenson – IL
 Sherette Spicer – AL
 Wilbert Tengey – Ghana
 Paul Nehru Tennessee – DC/MD



Anasa Troutman – TN
 Paul Raja Rao Valaperla – India
 Eliezer Valentine-Castanon – DC
 Rajyashri Waghray – NY
 Vassie Welbeck-Brown – AL
 Lavel D. White – KY
 Glenda Williams – AL
 Jasmine Williams – AL
 Junius Williams – NJ
 Mariama Williams – FL
 Emery Wright – GA
 Deanese Machell Wright – AL
 Billie Jean Young – AL



The complete participant information list is available upon request.



“...when it comes to questions of parallel dynamics between the transatlantic slave trade and a globalized, capitalist free-trade market, why do God-fearing women and men far too often look on silently while people are still being oppressed, compressed, depressed and suppressed by economic exploitation and systemic underdevelopment?”

Keynote speaker: Dr. Katie G. Cannon