

To elevate and embody Golden Rule Day 2014, early Saturday morning, April 5th, **33 selected leaders** of the conflicted, tense Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area (LGA) gathered in the palace of the district head of Lere. They were leading and outspoken Christian reverend fathers and Pastors, Islamic chief Imams and their deputies, traditional leaders, youth leaders, a women leader from the seven area tribes, and the Executive Chairman of Tafawa Balewa LGA. The facilitator was Usman Mohammed Inuwa, representing *Forward in Action for Conservation of Indigenous Species & Leadership (FACIS)* and *United Religions Initiative (URI)*.

GOLDEN RULE DAY

Saturday, 05 April 2014 ~ Bauchi, Bauchi State, northern Nigeria



See the larger story at
<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigerianorth.htm>



Why Tafawa Balewa?

Two decades of intermittent crises, including massacres and destruction of property, have created a huge vacuum of fear, mistrust, and religious disharmony, and a divided community between Muslims and Christians. Muslims fear entering Christian-dominated areas, and vice versa. The Local Government Area (LGA) of 278,674 citizens is one of 20 LGAs in Bauchi State, where the Muslims and Christians speak seven different languages.

Why *The Golden Rule*?

"Treat others the way you want to be treated" is universal to the world's great faith traditions. It prescribes compassion, rejecting violence, and respect for each other and Earth herself. We are to dignify all living beings, and create lives that are equally just for all, excluding no one. The Golden Rule is both the preventive and cure for war, crime, discrimination, egocentricity, and mistreatment of people and planet.

How?

Invitations sent to the participants clarified the "why" of the meeting and the importance of Tafawa Balewa LGA being the selected venue of the 2014 Golden Rule Day commemoration.

Christian and Muslim opening prayers were followed by self-introductions and ice-breakers to help attendees become relaxed and motivated to engage in a safe place.

The welcoming address by the Lere town district head expressed happiness and thanked FACIS and URI Africa for choosing his district to celebrate Golden Rule Day. He urged the Christian and Muslim representatives to proactively participate then share their new experiences with their followers for building better relationships and peaceful co-existence in the district. **(The hour-by-hour program is at the end of this document.)**



Welcome by the district head of Lere Town.

Hearing the detailed purpose of The Golden Rule Day was the very first time the participants learned about the 13 major religions in the world apart from Islam and Christianity. They were surprised to learn that all these faith traditions have The Golden Rule in common.





Overview of The Golden Rule presented by Usman Mohammed Inuwa, Executive Director of FACIS.

Perspective Squares

Perspective Squares allowed participants to experience and respect that diverse people perceive the world, events, history, and each other from very different angles. Even in the same home or group, individuals may see and experience life quite differently.



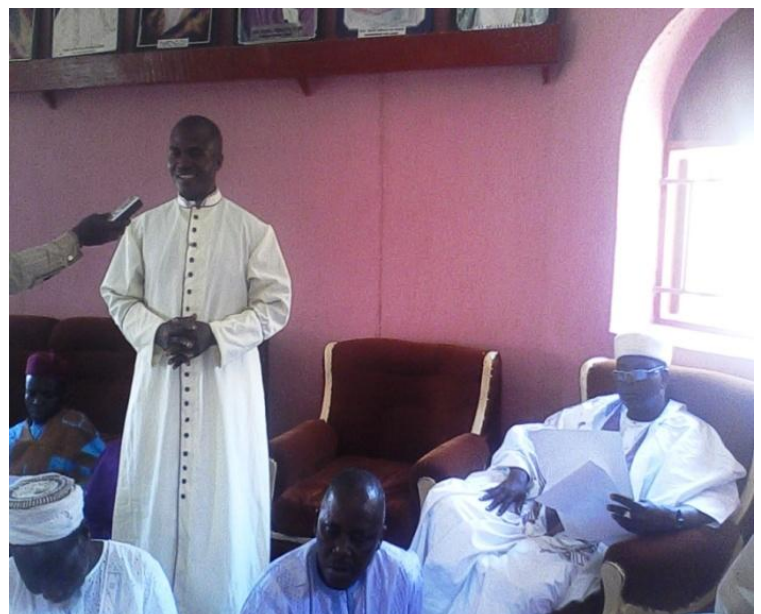
"An enemy is one whose story we have not heard." ~ Gene Knudsen Hoffman

Life Stories

Participants shared personal stories. They listened to each other's experiences of human relationships, happy and sad events and difficult ordeals they successfully overcame. They narrated heart-touching stories and humanized themselves. Some recalled "good olden days" when their grandparents lived in harmony with neighbors and treated each other as equals.



Participants sharing their personal stories including crisis experiences.



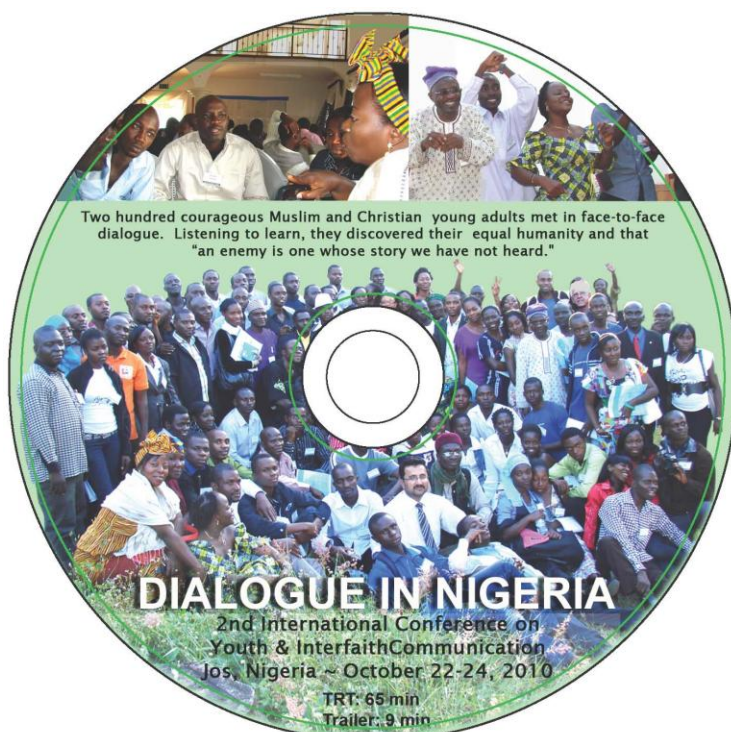


Chief Imam of Lere offering his heart-touching life narrative.



Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Chairman, Lere, sharing his emotional life story.

"A story is the shortest distance between people." ~ Pat Speight



Participants were given DVDs of the 2012 documentary film, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future.](#)



Earth Pin Ceremony

The Christian and Muslim leaders embraced The Golden Rule by committing to be their brothers' and sisters' keepers. They symbolically place Earth Pins over one another's heart.



Face-to-face, Muslims and Christians prepare to present Earth Pins to one another.



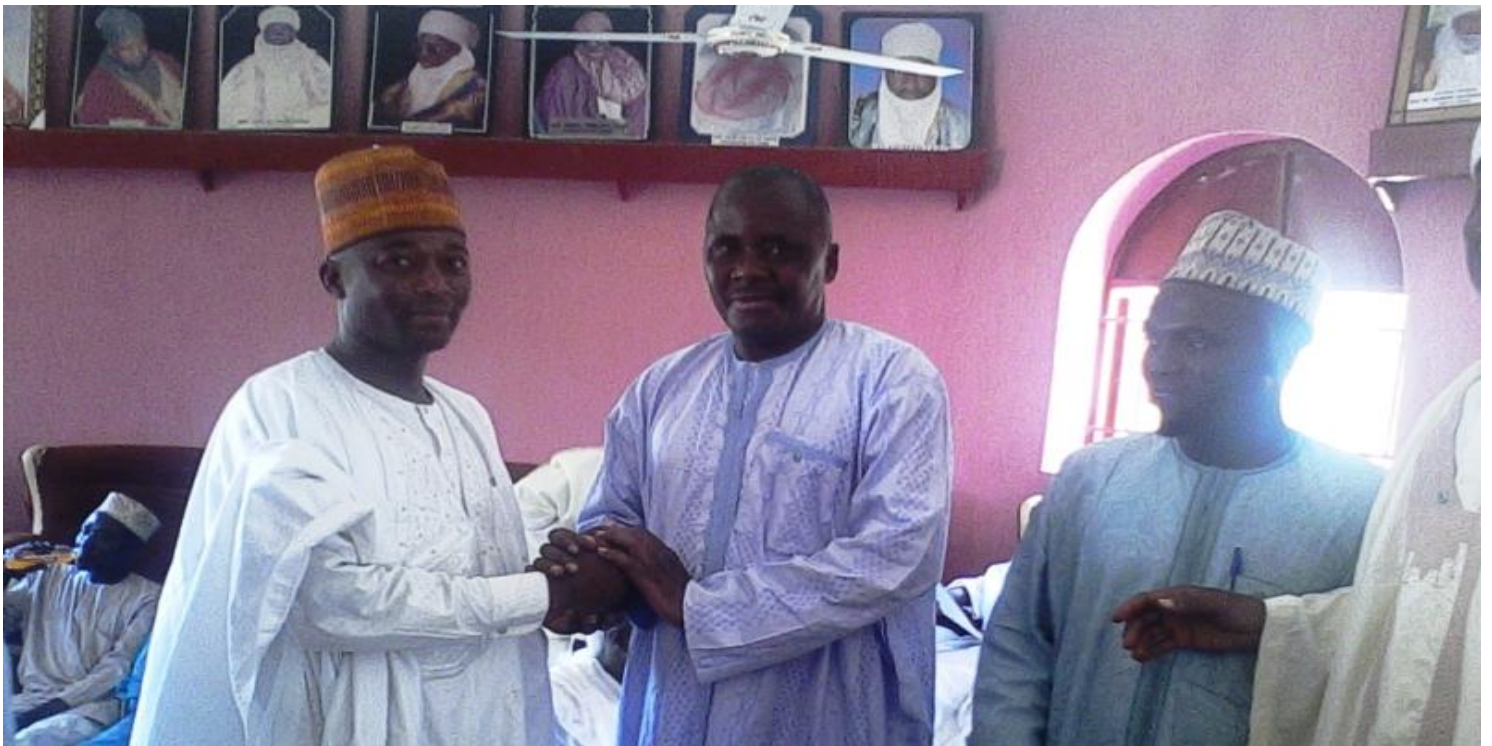
Reverend Father (CAN Chairman Lere) and Chief Imam placing an Earth Pins over the other's heart.



Christians and Muslims embracing The Golden Rule and each other by placing Earth Pins over each other's heart.



(From left) CAN Chairman, Chief Imam of Lere Central Mosque, and Deputy Chairman of Tafawa Balewa



Youth leaders from both religions vow to work together to spread The Golden Rule in Tafwa Balewa LGA.



Dr. Iliya Aliyu Gital, Chairman of Tafawa Belewa Local Government Area, is adorned with a pin of United Religions Initiative (URI) to become a “Golden Rule Ambassador” in Bauchi State. The presenter is Usman Mohammed Inuwa, Executive Director of FACIS and its national program officer of the Golden Nigeria Chapter.



Chairman of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area & the Exe. Director of FACIS placing the URI pin on the district head of Lere Town, as he becomes a Golden Rule Ambassador



Dr. Iliyasu Aliyu Gital, Executive Chairman of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area, reviewed the 13 major world religions embracing The Golden Rule. He called on the Muslim and Christian representatives of to disseminate what they learned to their followers.

The Chairman confirmed his interest to work with FACIS and URI to promote relationship building and interfaith dialogue for sustainable peace in Tafawa Balewa LGA. He demanded that such Christian-Muslim dialogue be central to community life, promising that his administration is ready to support FACIS and URI West Africa to reach every corner of the LGA.

Recommendation

From PARTICIPANTS:

- ✓ The religious leaders requested more training to better equip them with knowledge and skills to spread practices of The Golden Rule which says “Do unto others what you want others do to you” as captured on the URI Golden Rule hand bills.
- ✓ The Golden Rule hand bills need translation into Hausa for easy reading and assimilation.
- ✓ They are ready take The Golden Rule to other parts of the LGA to facilitate learning and experience sharing.

From the LGA ADMINISTRATION:

- ✓ The Chairman requested that similar interfaith dialogue be organized centrally to reach more people and villages.
- ✓ The administration gave its political will to support the program's success in the LGA.

Next Steps

- Explore how Muslims and Christian followers -- women, men, youth -- show interest in working to ensure peaceful coexistence in Tafawa Local Government Area (LGA). Respecting the powerful request by Chairman Dr. Iliya Aliyu Gital for an innovative intervention for peace building, FACIS will develop a 2-year strategic plan to implement interfaith dialogue for healing relationships and building a true Nigerian community. Initiating dialogue will start by identifying community peace champions (CPCs) as an entry point to forming viable core circles in all the political wards of the LGA. After face-to-face dialogue to humanize one another, a unique community participatory approach called Community Action Cycle (CAC) will help identify and prioritize specific problems and their root causes on the road to proffering solutions from the people's local perspective.
- The same one day golden rule day will be organized in the neighboring Bogoro local government area which is also one of the religiously tensed LGA in Bauchi state. The idea is to get the attention and support of the two religions and political will of the administration.
- Considering that 98% of the people in Tafawa Balewa LGA are peasant farmers, we will develop a plan for training balanced Muslim-Christian farming groups in sustainable Bio-intensive agriculture. This requires minimum water and no expensive commercial fertilizers, and helps to rebuild Earth's precious topsoil. This cooperative food growing will help people to heal their relationships and households to grow organic food together. Our vision is to unite people of different faiths together for peaceful coexistence through BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture: “Growing food, nurturing relationships”.



Facilitator:
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This document is on the Web at
<http://traubman.igc.org/nigeriadialoguegoldenrule.pdf>

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The Golden Rule

"DO UNTO OTHERS WHAT YOU WANT OTHERS DO UNTO YOU"*AGENDA*

DATE: Saturday, 05 April 2014

VENUE: District Head of Lere's Palace

10:00 am - 10:05 am	OPENING PRAYER	Volunteers
10:05 am - 10:10 am	WELCOME ADDRESS	District Head of Lere, Tafawa Balewa LGA
10:10 am - 10:45 am	Self-Introductions	All
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Overview/purpose of the Golden Rule Day	Usman Inuwa
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	- Perspective Squares - What does the word "PEACE" means to you?	Usman Inuwa
12:30 pm - 01:40 pm	Telling/sharing our stories "An enemy is one who's story we have not heard."	Usman Inuwa
01:40 pm - 02:30 pm	BREAK AND PRAYERS	All
02:30pm - 03:00 pm	Embracing the Golden Rule (Pasting of Earth Pins)	All
03:00 - 03:40pm	Goodwill messages	Partners
03:40 pm - 3:50 pm	WRAP UP	Usman Inuwa
03 :50 pm - 04:00pm	VOTE OF THANKS	Pastor, Imam, District Head of Lere
04 : 15 - 04 : 45	Live Radio Discussion program	Usman Inuwa