

***DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA:***  
***Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future***

2012 Documentary Film (65 min)

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeria.htm>

**TRANSCRIPT**

**Voice-over:** Nigeria, on the west coast of central Africa, is the most populous nation on the continent. The country is about half Muslim, half Christian, with a minority practicing even earlier traditions. Across the land, Nigerians also identify with historic roots in over 300 tribal ethnicities, each with pride in its individuality of language and culture. Nigeria's wealth is in her abundant natural resources, extraordinary human resilience and hospitality, and rich diversity of traditions. Paradoxically her greatest challenges are rooted largely in human disconnection. The resultant ignorance and thus fear of each other perpetuates citizens' inability to embrace one another, cooperate, and share resources and wealth. The resultant poverty, competition, and disunity fuels violent – sometimes brutal – acts against one another that cry out for a new quality of successful human engagement across the land.

(00:01:18)

**Reuters Newscaster:** The bloody aftermath of deadly clashes in Jos state in Nigeria. As many as 300 people, many of them young children, were killed in the attacks early on Sunday. Aid workers say some bodies were charred, and some had been shot. It was not immediately clear what triggered the latest attacks, which left many in serious condition in a hospital. Attacks between the two groups in January left at least 326 people dead in Jos province. Shannon Knapton, Reuters

(00:01:46)

**BBC Newscaster #1:** The authorities in Nigeria say they have restored calm to an area around the city of Jos, where hundreds of people have been killed in ethnic violence.

**BBC Newscaster #2:** This week's flare-ups in Jos are by no means the first. In the year 2000, it is thought deadly riots killed over a thousand people. In 2008, disputed elections led to new clashes. And now again in 2010 hundreds more have been killed. Jos sits on Nigeria's middle belt, a tense dividing line between the mostly-Muslim north and the largely-Christian south. But sporadic outbursts of killing aren't just about religion. They're also caused by power politics that fuel suspicion and resentment between communities. In the hope the pattern of violence won't again repeat itself, Bridget Kendall, BBC News.

(00:02:38)

**Screen:** JOS, NIGERIA – OCTOBER, 2010

**Screen:** 200 MUSLIM & CHRISTIAN YOUNG ADULTS RESPND

**Screen:** REFUSING TO BE ENEMIES

(00:02:52)

**Voice-over:** It is in response to these repeated acts of violence, mistrust, and alienation that 200 brave Muslims and Christians chose to engage, in Jos, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Communication.

(00:03:14)

**Screen:** THURSDAY

**Voice-over:** Refusing to be enemies, the young women and men began arriving from all parts of Nigeria and beyond, some bedding at a common guest house in Jos.

(00:03:29)

**Voice-over:** Thursday evening's ice-breaker in the guest house restaurant included music and light dinner. Some were reconnecting with old friends. But most of the Christians and Muslims were sitting with the "other" for the first time in their lives. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, conference creator and host,

welcomed the courageous travelers and encouraged them to sit with new people, even those considered adversaries.

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** Many of you have traveled long distances to be here today. Please, I want to make an appeal. Make sure you are sitting with someone at least you do not know before, or at least you know very little about.

(00:04:25)

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** All of us have come here so that we can sit down together and begin to dialogue and look for ways on how we can live together as brothers and sisters without wars. And so we should live our lives that we honor ourselves and honor fellow human beings.

(00:04:51)

**Voice-over:** To discover who was in the room, conference participants briefly introduced themselves while settling in for a powerful weekend together.

(00:05:02)

**Voice-over:** Safety and trust was already developing for Friday morning's hard work.

(00:05:13)

**Screen:** FRIDAY MORNING

(00:05:18)

**Voice-over:** The earliest arrivals converged at the Leadership Institute in Jos to begin their days together. In a relatively quiet neighborhood the conference opening was dignified by special guest opinion-leaders from community and religious institutions, government, and UNESCO, from within and outside of Jos. The conference director welcomed the peace seekers with a powerful

imperative for face-to-face human engagement and a new quality of communication on Earth.

(00:05:52)

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** For this conference we leave our titles and our degrees and whatever we carry outside the door, so that we can get into the conference hall as equals. We have been told by those who know that HIV/AIDS is among the leading causes of death in the world, the most dangerous common cause of death especially in West Africa. I disagree with that. I think the science has not been completed. All over the world today human beings are suffering from another deadly virus which is killing more than HIV/AIDS.

**Screens – Graphics about HRV/HIV include these words:** Disengagement, Human Relationship Deficiency Virus, Acute Intentional Devastation of Society, Death, Sustained Dialogue, Communicate, Cooperate, Create, Community, Life

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** And I call that Human Relationship Deficiency Virus. (applause) It is killing more than anything, because that virus leads to what I call Acute Intentional Devastation of Society. That is AIDS. It is also the common cause of bombs, kidnappings, hatred. Whatever we are seeing in the world today is a result of this virus, what some experts call "Poverty of Relationship." So our problem is not science and technology. But if we begin to look at another kind of science now, let us look towards a time when our universities will begin to produce graduates and professors of human relations. The only way we can cure this virus is through sustainable dialogue, heart to heart communication, and citizen collaboration. And I believe that is the reason why we are gathered here today. Each one of us sitting here today has something to offer as well as something to receive.

(00:07:46)

**Voice-over:** Ivorgba introduced conference facilitators Len and Libby Traubman, invited to bring skills and human experiences from the United

States where they co-founded in California the successful 18-year-old Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue of Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

(00:08:08)

**Voice-over:** Several guest speakers – Christian and Muslim – grounded the conference in its great purpose and need among Nigerians and all humankind. First was Raphael Ogar Oko, Africa Regional Coordinator of Teachers Without Borders.

**Raphael:** My dear brothers and sisters, I believe that in the age we live in, it is not enough to be a Christian. It is not enough to be a Muslim. It is not enough to believe in African traditional religion as Igbo, as Hausa, as Yoruba, as Edo. Today, the conference is international. Beside this it is also inter-religious. We are moving beyond the age of religious denomination. We are now in the age of inter-religious cooperation, inter-religious harmony.

(00:09:07)

**Voice-over:** A call to become skilled, dedicated artisans of communication came from Augustine Duru, founder and director of Pathways, a mentoring program for youth in Chicago, Illinois, USA, where the Nigerian is residing.

**Augustine:** You know that peace work takes a lot of effort. It takes a lot of planning. Don't be discouraged if you don't see results right away. It takes some time. Generations today have lived with that notion that they are the future. But I am here to tell you that you are the present as well as the future. In the process of dialogue we come with an open mind with no agendas. We come in reverence. And also come vulnerable, because sometimes we get hurt. If you do not have a relationship, peace cannot work. We are in this together. Today the world is a global village. We are speaking in Jos, and people in other parts of the world are listening and watching and hearing. We need credible peace workers, what we call artisans. We are artisans of peace.

(00:10:17)

**Screen:** SMALL GROUP ASSIMILATION

**Voice-over:** In the spirit of maximized learning, the program frequently stopped to allow participants to gather in groups of four to assimilate what they heard.

**Female in brown:** Even as a Christian, as a Muslim, whichever faith we believe in, to me the key note address was talking about the inner being more important than the outer.

**Male in light-blue shirt:** Changes can only begin with ourselves. So unless we affect that, there will be no meaningful changes that will be effected in the nationhood.

**Female in white blouse:** We're supposed to come together and join our heads together to be one. So we should leave all religious differences, like the Muslims, the Christians.

**Male with white patterned shirt, brown jacket:** If we don't have peace in our hearts, we cannot have a safe community. If we as citizens are not calm at heart, we will have a sick community.

(00:11:14)

**Voice-over:** Aishatu Ibrahim arrived from the Department of Mathematics and Science Education in the Federal College of Education in Gombe, Nigeria. She began at the heart by singing The Bridge Song she created for this conference. Ibrahim affirmed the supreme importance of supporting Nigeria's youth, and their primary place in nation building.

(00:11:39)

**Female, Aishatu Ibrahim singing The Bridge Song:**

When you build the bridge next to you,  
And I build the bridge next to me  
In no time at all, we'll all have it up.  
So link it, build it, one by one.

**Female, Aishatu Ibrahim:** Religious communities ought to cooperate with schools, the media, and government institutions to motivate more organized young people to engage in community-based intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. Youth are indispensable assets to any nation worth its name. The

time of youth is a period of passion, emotion, and activities charged with vigor. They should be trained to combine enthusiasm with patience and a universal outlook.

(00:12:37)

**Voice-over:** Back in their small circles, shared learning continued. What in the talks had personal meaning for them? What new did the morning cause them to think about? Then, before the tea break, everyone heard what was awakened in the room.

**Male in dark jacket, rainbow-striped shirt:** From her song is: we all have contributions to make. My contribution does not have to be a very big one, just a little contribution. I make my contribution and you make your contribution. And everyone makes their contribution in bridge building.

**Female in glasses, pink top:** We look at the youth and we say they are the building blocks. And we have not been able to keep those values within the youth. And if these long-lost values are brought back and salvaged, then the young will definitely grow up to become the assets and the pride of this country.

**Male in tan sweater:** When they are willing to make a change, it can affect the whole world.

**Male in white shirt, tie, jacket:** For all this change, change, change -- attitudinal change, societal change -- there's got to be a change of mental models.

**Female holding baby:** I think part of the causes of consequences that affects the youth is part of what they learn from churches and mosques. Our spiritual leaders should also be informed to really do the will of God according to His will, not just on their own.

**Male in brown jacket, white shirt, tie:** Oh my God. Why would a Christian brother kill a Muslim brother? And why would a Muslim brother kill a Christian brother? It baffles me. Christianity preaches peace. Islam preaches peace. But yet they are killing each other. There is a missing link somewhere.

(00:14:20)

**Male, Frank, in red shirt, tie, brown suit, glasses:** We have to learn to tolerate each other, and also not to react but to respond which I see is a very, very big key for sustainability and effective communication. We have to give very good listening ears, and that calls for also mindful practice.

**Female in tan shawl, multi-colored dress:** If you are patriotic you will not burn the next person's house. So I feel the one that is eating up the Nigerian society is lack of loving Nigeria.

**Male in dark brown shirt:** Now a bridge that is broken is a problem. So we don't have to abandon the problem and run away for another place that is better. We need to solve that problem.

**Male with wide brown stripes on white shirt:** Nigeria has diverse cultures, diverse languages, people from diverse ethnicities. I don't think it is our problem. I think it is our strength. No matter how different we are, I believe that we have something in common.

**Female in turquoise top and headpiece:** We all need peace. And being a Christian or a Muslim doesn't matter. The Bible talks about peace, preaches peace. And the Koran as well.

(00:15:31)

**Female, Monica Emmanuel, in gold necklace and earrings:** The adults should be able to trust us, the youth, and the youth also to be able to trust the elders. Give them another chance. And I think we will see a new beginning. If you want to see peace in the world, you have to start with yourself. And I call it the Golden Rule – doing unto others what you like others to do to you. What don't you like? Don't do it to the other person.

**Male in light blue shirt:** I am blood group B Positive. And a Muslim fellow with the same blood group, maybe he needs blood. I will supply the blood for him, because they merge. I consider him as my brother. He considers me as his brother.

(00:16:15)

**Screen:** TEA BREAK



**Voice-over:** The long morning session concluded with a generous tea break and time to relax together. During these less-structured moments, participants expressed themselves artistically by collectively creating a wall collage of the words and symbols that gained personal and shared meaning for these Muslims and Christians from hour to hour, day to day.

(00:16:49)

**Screen:** PERSPECTIVE SQUARES

**Voice-over:** Fed and energized, a long look was taken at Perspective Squares, a light-hearted introduction to a profound truth – how differently diverse human beings see the same reality. Participants came forward to describe the number of squares they contrastingly perceived on the same, simple chart.

(00:17:09)

**Male in dark jacket, tan pants:** 1,2,3. . . 14, 15, 16. Since the paper is transparent, I see the other side. It's 32.

**Male in white shirt, stripes:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. This one, 20. This one, 21. The whole, 22.

(00:17:33)

**Voice-over:** The diverse Nigerians reflected on the meaning derived from this simple exercise.

**Female, Beatrice, in colorful dress:** We all have different ways of explaining things.

**Male in white shirt:** The whole is more than the sum of its parts.

**Male in brown and white large checked shirt:** Different interpretations of one statement. And all of us could be correct. But we should give time and listen to each other and get to what that person is saying.

**Male with white tunic, hat with black and blue stripes:** Nigeria is one nation but full of diversity. Therefore we have to understand each other and act on it.

**Male in white shirt, faded vertical stripes:** We should not conclude too quickly on issues. We should not act too quickly. It is good to observe very well before taking any action on any issue.

**Male in maroon-pink top:** Based on what other speakers have said, this is a source of conflict because of our diversification, everybody with his own perception. And if it is not well managed, it could cause a fight.

(00:18:33)

**Voice-over:** *Experiences* continued to highlight how much better we are together, and that one person is rather limited in what she or he can see.

**Screen:** HAND TRACING

**Voice-over:** To become closer to one another in a safe atmosphere, hand tracings were created in pairs.

(00:18:58)

**Voice-over:** On a single, shared piece of paper, a Muslim and a Christian traced the hand outline of one, partially overlapping the partner's hand.

(00:19:16)

**Voice-over:** Then each person shared words describing one's self and life: mother, father; sister, brother; teacher, student; Muslim, Christian; fears and hopes.

(00:19:28)

**Voice-over:** After this visual way of self-introductions, the qualities and life experiences they shared in common were written on the paper where their two hands overlapped

(00:19:57)

**Voice-over:** The newly acquainted pairs then joined with four other twosomes. In the new groups of 10, one person talked at a time while introducing his or her partner to the circle. Listening skills and familiarity were on the rise.

00:20:17

**Voice-over:** In this safe place, participants grew closer. Hour by hour, their new quality of listening was dignifying and humanizing one another. They were realizing how change begins in small circles.

(00:20:39)

**Screen:** TEA BREAK

**Voice-over:** A generous tea break included the national staple, pounded yam, as the more powerful experiences were yet to come.

(00:21:07)

**Screen:** PERSONAL STORIES

**Voice-over:** Participants were prepared for the profound human activity of hearing one another's personal life narrative, based on the experience around Earth that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard."

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

(00:21:21)

**Male co-facilitator, Len Traubman:** This part of the day is about you. And it is about your life. If we are going to cross lines to the other, we need to become artisans of telling our story. Because the better you can tell your story, the better relationships you will have.

**Screen graphic, with words:** Usual Communication, 100% Attentive, Preparing to React, 100% React – Dialogue, 100% Attentive, Listening to Learn, 100% Inquire

**Male co-facilitator, Len Traubman:** There is an old way of communicating, and there is a new way of communicating. In dialogue, we begin 100% listening, listening to learn. Listening is all about the other person. And for that moment of listening, we surrender everything we think we know, and everything we were taught, and everything we believe. For that moment we treat the other person as if they have the secret to survival. You treat the other person like an expert.

(00:22:401)

**Voice-over:** After the facilitator shared his own story as example, participants in pairs scattered around the room to begin exchanging their own personal histories, listening to learn, without interruption.

(00:23:16)

**Voice-over:** The women and men were eager to talk about their story-sharing, what happened, what they learned, and the rare experience of being listened to.

**Female with white shawl, earrings:** It actually felt good telling somebody about your background, knowing pretty well that you've never met him anywhere else. And I have learned one or two things that I didn't know previously, even as a Nigerian.

**Male in white shirt, brown jacket:** I thought their people are not friendly. And I thought there is a difference between Igbo and Enugu and Anambra and Abia. But during our conversation I happened to find her so friendly. And I realized that Igbo tribe is one tribe. So I believe that when you sit with a partner, in your conversation you can come to learn a lot.

**Male in brown jacket, pink shirt, tie:** I was really touched by his background. It made me understand that the mother died while he was very young. And I had a similar experience. He is actually working with the youth in the community to ensure that they are not being used by the politicians or whoever wants to use them for negative purposes.

(00:24:44)

**Male in yellow tunic:** The small difference from his background is that I had a very good step-mother, while he had a step-mother that was very, very antagonistic. We must learn to tell each other the truth. It is very, very difficult and very painful. But we must continue to do it.

**Male with glasses, dark jacket, orange shirt, dark tie:** I am a peace worker. I have learned something now with him. Why am I telling him my real story? Why? A small chap like that? Because I have confidence in him, because of the way he listened to me. And I just felt it in me to open up and tell him everything I had.

(00:25:32)

**Female, Monica, about her partner, Usman:** He started by telling me that he is Hausa Fulani. I came from the north and I was thinking, "coming from the North and being a Muslim, he would not really bother about school." But from his story, he really knew what he wanted even as a child. And he was conscious of the fact that he wanted to go to university. He also wanted to build his future and career. No matter the obstacles, he was ready to break through.

**Male, Philtok David, in dark jacket, pink shirt, white buttons:** This new way of communication is serious. It is a communication that breaks the heart of hatred. So I believe this new way is real good to be applied between two enemies.

**Male with white tunic, green cap:** All his friends are Muslim. But unfortunately, the crisis has created a big wall between this person and his childhood friends. That touched me the most.

(00:26:30)

**Male, bald, in maroon-white top:** What really moved me in our discussion is that we have a lot of similarities. But in my own case I lost a lot of friends. Even up till now, I have their numbers. But when I call them on the phone, it will only ring. And they don't respond, because of the intensity of hate. This is a way forward, because the intensity of the crises has gone so bad.

**Male with dark suit, red-white striped tie:** It is something about discipline, character, and principle. That is the only thing that can save us in this country.

(00:27:15)

**Voice-over:** With new windows to one another's lives and equal humanity, everyone headed back to the guest house for their evening program then dinner.

(00:27:31)

**Screen:** FRIDAY EVENING

**Voice-over:** The evening began with encouragement from Muhammad Asad Tahir Jappa, a traveler from the Anwar Jannat Memorial Foundation in Lahore, Pakistan.

**Mohammed Asad Tahir Jappa:** I speak to you my friends, representing no race, religion, or nationality. Are you all ready to shun your petty differences that divide you into clans, tribes, and at times into warring factions, and instead glue into one nation? Are you ready to become the architects of your destiny and thus lay a solid foundations of a shared future? Are you up for one country? Time has come to imbibe the real essence of interfaith harmony and foster a global fraternity amongst the entire mankind since us all, you and I, are going to be the children of God and thereby make one family on this planet.

(00:29:04)

**Voice-over:** The symbolic candle lighting ceremony ended with a spirited song of solidarity, a rousing cheer, and dinner together.

**Group singing:** Solidarity forever! We shall always live in peace!

**Female in white suite, glasses:** This evening, what we have done is to ensure that we light a light of hope. How far have we gone? And how far have we yet to go?

(00:29:52)

**Screen:** SATURDAY MORNING CIRCLE

**Voice-over:** Saturday early morning began with reflective writing, before participants moved outdoors for an ice-breaker -- a spirited morning circle to open the day. A communication experience further challenged listening skills by discovering if just three words could accurately be passed around the circle.

**Female co-facilitator, Libby Traubman:** This is a peace circle. To start the day, we have a few people who are going to get us going. But first, we're going to practice listening. Okay, so I'm going to start the message. And it's going this way. And you have to pass it to the person to your right.

(00:31:21)

**Male in white shirt:** She said, "Good morning."

**Female co-facilitator, Libby Traubman:** What I said was, “Good morning, friend.” (laughter)

**Voice-over:** Only two of the three words succeeded in traveling the circle. Then began the human dynamic of blaming and finger-pointing.

**Female co-facilitator, Libby Traubman:** And nobody wants to take responsibility. We blame everybody else.

(00:32:10)

**Voice-over:** A young man from Benue State stepped into the circle to get the diverse group unified by singing and moving together.

**Male, Inalegwu Frank Uji, in black shirt:** I'll call the names of the body parts, then you dance on the ground. So we say, "One hand, two hands moving."

(00:32:47)

**Voice-over:** Another participant from Plateau State involved everyone in a song he'd written, inspired by the previous day's face-to-face engagement and candle ceremony.

**Male, Philtok David, in yellow shirt, brown jacket:** I need your eyes to watch me grow. I need your hand, to help me stand. I need your eyes, to watch me grow. You're the peace. (applause)

(00:33:36)

**Screen:** MASKS & CULTURE

**Voice-over:** The Muslims and Christians began considering the masks that they wear -- one's public face that they present to family, to community, to business partners and their culture. Many pressures in life cause us to put on a mask. But who am I, really, if you really knew me? What do I protect within? Everyone was given colored markers and a mask to decorate. Words and symbols described one's public face. In groups of five, they drew and learned together.

(00:34:55)

**Voice-over:** The buzz in the room reflected increasing familiarity and trust, while the diverse Nigerians appreciated a new window to each one's deeper identity.

(00:35:18)

**Male in bright green shirt:** This represented the mistakes of my past. And my mistakes are getting lighter.

**Male with purple shirt white collar, tie:** This is my face. Number one, I am a thinker. I proffer solutions. They view my culture as a people who think and can proffer solutions. Also, my culture, Igbo, we rely on community work. I am peaceful. I love people, and I believe in youth development.

**Voice-over:** The women and men became more animated and personal, as they realized their equal humanity and safety of the room.

(00:36:18)

**Male in black t-shirt, shoulder epaulets:** I don't change from the person I am. When nobody is watching, I am still that same person.

**Voice-over:** Feeling secure, conversation revealed inner anger and how it leads to indiscriminate revenge across the land.

**Female in glasses, bracelet, necklace, turquoise patterned top:** That is the real me. But the other side of me is that which for long I have tried to overcome. When I was small I never wanted to hurt anybody. So when you hurt me, I didn't know how to handle my anger. I would be wondering: How? Why, why? At a point, I tried to pay back. But I discovered early that it was taking too much of my energy.

(00:37:09)

**Female in multi-colored patterned dress:** If anger degenerates into hate, that's when you start breaking off relationships with people. For example, someone who was the victim of a crisis builds that anger in him for a very long time. "These people did this to me. Those people did this to me." At the end he tends to revenge on someone who hasn't even done anything to him, possibly a child of that person.



**Male in white shirt, single black stripe:** My mask is hiding so many things -- the joy, the happiness, and the physical love I have.

(00:37:42)

**Voice-over:** Powerful questions were posed. How does your community, how does your culture, encourage or discourage this kind of peace making? How do your people support you or not in this work of co-existence and interfaith relationship building?

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** Does our culture encourage or support or discourage us from this kind of relationship?

**Female with yellow patterned top, earrings:** When people are afraid of each other, they are not themselves. And when you are not yourself, the person people are interacting with is not you. So when situations arise and your real person shows up, they are wondering, "Who is this stranger?"

**Male, Philip Ross Beaudoin:** This kind of dialogue is open where I am from. Men and women, people of all ages, can dialogue. But there are some who feel that they have all the answers. That is more difficult, because their minds are closed already.

**Female, Monica Emmanuel:** I think the best thing, just like he said, is to sit down, do our homework, and develop a road map. Let me tell you, this dependent syndrome has always been the problem, yes, and too much dependence on the white people.

(00:39:05)

**Voice-over:** The people were asked: "What steps do you need to take to make your outer mask congruent with who you really are within?"

**Male in bright green shirt:** I have caged myself far too long. But I am unwinding that and tearing it apart. I am developing means and approaches to get out of all those barricades and all those barriers and limitations.

**Voice-over:** Participants were eager to share about their mask and what they learned about themselves and about life.

**Female with tan patterned dress, silver bracelet:** On the forehead of the mask is sunlight. I'm outgoing. I also have an introspective part to myself --

my fears, insecurities, needs. And this is a Bible. And this is the cross. My faith is the strong part of my personality. It speaks of my values, who I am, the things that are important to me.

(00:40:16)

**Male, Dan Jumaa Ojei, with green scarf, red cap:** The Africa here is very, very black. Yet we have radiance. We have rays. Although we have black, we still shine light. I am part of the team making the difference in Africa. I am here to mentor other young people that are looking up to me. I need to lead with an exemplary life.

**Male in black shirt with patterned wrists and front, watch:** This last word is Transformer. I used to see myself as someone who could not change anything, and actually waiting for a change from outside. Later I got to look at it as a change that can flow out of me. I am looking for a situation to transform. I am looking for problems to solve.

**Voice-over:** The mask experience caused great enthusiasm and busy cameras helping to capture the moment.

(00:42:08)

**Screen:** PANDORA'S BOX

Hot Topics & Difficult Questions

**Voice-over:** In Pandora's Box, hot topics and emotion-loaded questions challenged four people sitting across from each other forming a square -- knees to knees, eyes to eyes, listening. For every topic, a participant had one minute to reply. Others listened -- no cross-talk, no judgment.

(00:42:08)

**Voice-over:** First, was asked: "What would you most like for others to know about you?"

**Male in white shirt, beige-brown sweater:** I just am myself always. I don't like to be who I am not.

**Female with black shirt, earrings, black-white head band:** I easily tolerate people. I make peace with them. And I don't quarrel. I love making friends.

**Male with black shirt, red tubing:** I like people to see me as a servant. I care so much about the community. Sometimes I go against my own pleasure, in order to serve.

(00:43:07)

**Voice-over:** What does the word "Muslim" mean to you?

**Female with black headband, white shirt, jeans top:** They believe in Allah, while we personally believe in Jesus Christ.

**Male in grey shirt:** A Muslim is somebody who follows the decrees or obeys the teachings of Prophet Mohammed. And his book is the Koran. I know they are the descendants of Ishmael.

**Male in brown-white small checked shirt:** They follow it with the whole of their hearts. They give it all. They are even ready to sacrifice their life for their religion.

**Male in light green shirt:** This word Muslim, even in their own religion, it means "to bring peace." That is why you have the interfaith. The Christian and the Muslim, we're supposed to come together. They are preaching peace.

(00:43:58)

**Voice-over:** What does the word "Nigeria" mean to you?

**Male in blue-white striped shirt:** It gives me hope. Despite the fact that people are saying that the county is corrupt, I have the hope.

**Male in pink top:** When I hear the word Nigeria, I think of the potentials. This country is blessed with mineral resources and other economic possibilities.

**Voice-over:** What does the word "indigenous" mean to you?

**Female in black scarf, brown-white patterned top:** Your parents, your great grandparents are Nigerian, you're born in Nigeria. You grew up in Nigeria. Everything about you is Nigerian.

**Male in purple tunic, tan-brown pattern hat:** That is for a particular place where you grew up.

**Male in blue t-shirt, blue-black striped over-shirt:** Free with each other, because we are all one. We are Nigerians.

(00:44:44)

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** What does the word "settler" mean to you?

**Male in light blue shirt:** A settler is a person that moves from one place to another and then settles in that place, maybe a traveler like the nomadic people.

**Male in light green tunic:** You left your immediate community to go and settle in another place, in another person's community.

**Female with light brown-yellow patterned dress, brown purse:** For me the settler has found another place where he or she would like to dwell and has a sense of connection with that area, with that new spot.

**Voice-over:** What does the word "security" mean to you?

**Woman in turquoise-yellow-white patterned dress, black necklace:** You feel secure. You feel you can do a lot of things. But when you are not secure, you can't move forward. You can't reach your own potentials.

**Male in brown sweater, blue shirt:** Free from danger. Beyond danger. Free to move around do anything you like, knowing that nothing will happen to you. In terms of relationship, I have a level of trust, a level of confidence, that he will not hurt me. Beyond poverty. Life. Good finances and relationships. All of that.

(00:46:03)

**Voice-over:** What traditions, symbols, or colors upset or inspire you?

**Male in white shirt:** The tradition that does not encourage inter-religion relationship. The tradition that doesn't encourage inter-faith relationships is always dangerous.

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** What is the biggest missing quality in our culture today?

**Male in black shirt, white tubing:** As an African, sometimes the Western world and culture have started taking over our own culture here. We prefer speaking English more than we speak our own mother tongue language. We prefer wearing Western wears than we do our own here. We imitate Westerners. So we don't value what we have.

**Male in black t-shirt:** We have to see our own culture as very important for us to follow, for us to help our unborn children not to make that mistake our forefathers have made and we the youth have made. And the way we dress, the way we eat, matters.

**Female with gold earrings, multi-colored top:** If we Nigerians wake up and look at each other as one, we refuse zoning, we refuse tribalism, we love our culture, every other thing will blend. If we start seeing each other as one, things will flow. We will value our culture more.

(00:47:31)

**Voice-over:** The new quality of listening to learn remains rare in public discourse around Earth. In their enthusiasm, the Nigerians were not immune to their own humanity, forgetting and returning to assertive crosstalk and debate.

**Voice-over:** Everyone was asked: "What do you hope will come from a weekend like this?"

**Male with blue sweater, striped sleeves:** My two basic expectations are -- One, we should not only be the hearers, but the doers. My second is to form a network or chain, so that we can distribute our plans from here.

**Male in blue top, gold-striped neck:** Preach peace to the people of the world, no matter your religion, no matter your belief. It's high time we shun violence and live as brothers and sisters.

**Voice-over:** The facilitator was moved to remind participants about listening and about sharing time.

**Female co-facilitator, Libby Traubman:** Not everybody sees life the same way. Listen to views that are not like your own, to have a more clear picture of what is out in the world, in Jos, in Nigeria. Share time. When you keep talking past your minute, you are stealing from your neighbor. Be disciplined when you need to listen, so everybody gets their fair share.

(00:49:03)

**Voice-over:** Following the deep listening in small groups, the women and men revealed their many new insights

**Male in blue t-shirt, black jacket, striped sleeves:** If you know the history of Nigeria, the north, the south, and the east all came together to form what we call Nigeria today. Some of our colonial masters planted a seed of discord between us. The truth is Nigeria is a country of unity.

**Female in olive wrap, red top:** We don't live in communities anymore. Most people, everybody wants to fence his own house. There are no more story telling after dinner. People don't share dinner anymore. Everybody wants to be on his own.

**Female, Monica Emmanuel:** We have two factors that aggravate our feeling of insecurity even after a crisis like the Jos crises, which is mutual distrust and suspicion.

**Male in dark suit, blue shirt, red tie:** Division of the society into Christian and Muslim society is not good for us. We have to live together as we used to. We have to communicate. Communication is actually missing within our society.

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** Who will change and lead? That is very important. Are we expecting someone else to change? As a result of this weekend, please keep asking yourself this question every day. And let the change begin with you.

(00:50:31)

**Voice-over:** With a growing sense of community, there was an eagerness to gather outdoors for a group snap.

(00:50:56)

**Screen: SATURDAY NIGHT**

**TALENT SHOW**

**Voice-over:** The arts have universal power to bring diverse people together. We are inspired by music, dance, drama, poetry, comedy, and other art forms. We feel a connection to those sharing the same moment in our common humanity. In spite of intermittent electrical stoppages, the spirit was predictably high and inclusive at the Saturday night Talent Show. The night brought everyone even

closer together as one band of Muslims and Christians on a shared journey toward cooperation.

(00:53:24)

**Screen: SUNDAY**

**Screen: High Points & Low Points:**

### **STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION**

**Voice-over:** Sunday morning participants entered the conference center in silence to ponder who or what had moved them onto this path of interfaith society building. Were they provoked by a difficult or painful life experience, or drawn by a positive event or teacher? In small circles they exchanged stories of personal transformation.

**Female with necklace, ear rings maroon patterned top:** I used to find it difficult to open up. I'd be dying inside, but I wouldn't tell anybody for years. I would just keep it within me. But I've learned how to open up, share my views, talk to people. It helps a lot. The day before yesterday we were able to talk one-on-one. And I discovered as I was talking, the burden in my heart was lifted.

**Male in black shirt, shiny black shoulder material:** People want peace, but they don't want to build relationships. How can we have peace if we don't build relationships? I started thinking about it. This same thing is causing crises in Nigeria. If your friend does it to you, you won't fight him. So the reason is not just because the person spoke against your belief or your ideology. It is because we don't have relationships.

**Male, Frank Uji, in white shirt, glasses:** We all have a role to play in making sure that somebody's life is being touched. And that other person's life also affects you directly and indirectly, making a very good relationship.

(00:54:47)

**Male in white shirt:** I was employed by the Bauchi State government We provide protection for orphans and vulnerable children. The crises in Bauchi State and in Plateau States forced us to involve an emergency response,

because after the crises, most men are killed, leaving women with children. Women become widows and caregivers to orphans and vulnerable children.

**Male, Dan Jumaa Ojei with green scarf, red cap:** We went to a community to give relief, to find out what the community needed. We went back home. When we came a couple of days later, just about a week, to give them relief materials, my very friend among those children that said he wanted to be a teacher like his dad and mom, they had killed him! The community that attacked them before came back and attacked them in the camp, and killed him, his brother, his parents, and everybody. I was like, "What wickedness!" That little boy wanted to be a teacher! And it's still ringing in my mind.

**Female in pink shawl, red head wrap:** The most vulnerable are the children. I work with children during the crises. We all have trauma in us when crises happen. But the children's is different. When you give these children something to sketch for you, they will keep on sketching a knife, a man with a gun, a man coming down from an aircraft holding something. I ask these children, "What is the meaning of this?" The first child told me, "This man coming down is a soldier. And that's me. I'm holding a bomb. That's what I will use in destroying." But these children witnessed people killing their parents, their parents being butchered and burned to death. You may ask them, "Where is your father?" "He has been killed, burned to death like a cockroach. He looked like a cockroach when he died." It's either we work with these children, or they will come back and deal with us all. That is a fact. They have it in them.

(00:56:47)

**Female, Monica Emmanuel:** We had a story from one of our colleagues. He is a business man. The striking thing he said is that if he had this kind of opportunity to hear what he is hearing today and dialogue with people, he would have had a different life he lived before now. He knows that inside of him lies greatness. But the path to get there, he could not find. That is the work of peace.



**Male in purple shirt, white stripes:** We shared a lot of stories. A particular person said, by the time he was 17 years old, he had lost his father. Along the way he met someone who repositioned him. From there he went to the university. And since then he is always thinking: "If it were not for this person, where would I be today?" He has now become a social worker. He is going beyond here to impact lives and impact someone.

**Male standing in pink shirt, brown slacks:** How to make sure that our youth are empowered? And how to make our governments to listen to what we are saying?

**Female in black jacket, red shirt, brown-white patterned dress and headpiece:** We all had fears of mixing with people at the beginning. Why? Because we felt at a point in time somebody will get used to you and now use what he knows about you to fight you. So because of that, most of us in our group were withdrawn at a particular point in time. Later on we came up to mix with other people, based on maybe friendship. Other people introduced us to other ideas that made us come out and become what we are today. We also discussed a lot about the Jos crisis. I am also from a community that has tribal clashes. I am utterly inspired by this conference. And when I go back I'm going to work on youth and peace in my community.

(00:58:44)

**Screen:** CLOSING CEREMONY

**Voice-over:** Sunday brought the conference to a close with a special ceremony to acknowledge one another and their collective progress together.

(00:59:08)

**Male co-facilitator, Len Traubman:** You have a symbol of the earth. It is a new tribe of the earth. So we will be faithful to Earth. And we will be real human beings. And we will pass on the light. So please take out the pins and place a pin on the person who is your partner.

**Voice-over:** After each person placed a small Earth pin on their partner they exchanged blessings, affirming each other as they prepared to return home to

continue working to build new and better relationships. Lots of appreciation was expressed for each other and this new beginning.

(01:00:26)

**Male, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba:** We will continue to work together for the good of our country and for the betterment of our world. Learn from one another. Go back home as better human beings. Become the change we wish to see in the world. And take leadership.

**Voice-over:** The facilitators thanked videographer Phoebe Kaburuk and her team, and conference director, Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba.

**Female co-facilitator, Libby Traubman:** It has been fabulous working with him. (applause)

**Screen:** CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS

(01:01:17)

**Voice-over:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Youth and Interfaith Communication: Building Bridges through Interfaith Dialogue and Youth Participation brought together 200 Christians and Muslims from all over Nigeria with the intention of building new relationships and engaging with the “other.” Using Dialogue, listening to learn was the focus of the conference. Participants shared personal narratives, discovered what they have in common, addressed hot topics, and designed masks reflecting inner and outer self images. They had fun warming up in the Saturday morning Peace Circle and sharing their talents to an appreciative audience. On the last day, participants closed their time together with a ceremony, exchanging Earth pins and blessings. Everyone parted feeling more determined to return to their own community intending to make a difference, no matter how large or small.

(01:02:34)

**Screen:** "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead ~

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**Screen:** "The soul's oldest memory  
is of union.  
And the soul's deepest longing  
is for reunion."  
~Anonymous~

**Screen:** Jim Burch  
1926-2011  
Champion of global community

(01:04:36 - end)

### ***DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA:***

### ***Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future***

2012 Documentary Film (65 min)

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeria.htm>