



The Corrymeela Community Ballycastle, Northern Ireland

Project Goals

- ◆ To become a member of a community dedicated to peace and reconciliation
- ◆ To develop a better understanding of the Northern Irish peace process
- ◆ To develop a better understanding of the nature of peace building

Personal Goals

- ◆ To learn about the power of a center for peace and reconciliation
- ◆ To help give children, particularly those who have suffered trauma, the space to be themselves
- ◆ To form friendships with people who can teach me about the world, how they have coped with the pain in their life, and how I can apply that to my own life

Activities

- ◆ Facilitated workshops which were centered around spirituality, theater, environmental appreciation, leadership and interpersonal skills, art, and fostering healthy self-images
- ◆ Attended the International Summer School, which involved over 150 peace workers from 31 different countries
- ◆ Filmed approximately nine hours of my work and interviews with the Shankill Stress and Trauma Group which will later be turned into a documentary



Key Dilemmas

- ◆ Can a spiritual community allow people the chance to authentically transform their post-traumatic pain into an impetus for the healing of themselves and those around them?
- ◆ If "Corrymeela starts when you leave," how can I embody its message and spirit in my personal life? Is it possible to help start something similar to a Corrymeela Community within the United States?



Lessons Learned

- ◆ By creating a safe space for us to talk, pray, and listen, we can bring forth the power to transform anything (especially when there are children around).
- ◆ The culture and history of Northern Ireland is more powerful, complex, and beautiful than can be described.
- ◆ Peaceworkers and healers are just like any of us; that's what makes them healers. The difference is, despite their faults and fears, they do not act on them--they act on their imagination and courage.



Page 18, top: A mural on the Shankill Road in Belfast. A terrifying painting, the three crosses in the mural have the names of three Republicans who are still alive. Bottom: Andrew with Father Michael Lapsley, now a close friend. Due to his vocal opposition to the Apartheid system in South Africa, he was the target of a letter bomb in April 1990 which made him lose both hands and an eye. Since then he has gone from activist to healer as he founded and directs the Institute for the Healing of Memories. Page 19, top: Andrew and some of the incredible children he worked with in Corrymeela.

This song is one of the many from Shankill Stress and Trauma Group's musical "Lost Innocence" which was performed before the U.N. the summer of 2000.

THE PATH OF PEACE

The Path of Peace was written for us by someone who cares about our future because he loved children who didn't manage to have one.

We dedicate this song and our musical to such children to remind all adults of the right of children to live, love, and be loved in a better environment, in a society free from conflict, free from fear, free from myths.

You as adults can deliver us from the horrors of conflict, create the circumstances for us to respect each other's views, and to be tolerant.

Listen to us, as you never have done before.

We the children "your future, your seed" remind all grown ups you have not inherited one inch of this island from your forefathers
You have borrowed it from your children.

We have buried our treasured friends, mothers, fathers, brother and sisters. A lasting memorial to them is for you desist from using bombs, guns and tongues, that may finally be given the basic human right of life itself.

Being better role models than yourselves,
Breaking this chain of hurt, pain and anger forever.
So be it.