

by Elaina Loveland

## Envisaging Peace in Regions of Conflict

**F**OR CENTURIES, great philosophers have noted that history repeats itself. Sadly, in certain areas of the world, this can make a history of conflict difficult to overcome.

Many international educators today believe that encouraging peace and cooperation in areas of conflict is a priority to create a new history for our world—the kind that should be repeated rather than the kind we'd like to forget.

This issue's cover story "Peace Pathways," by Dana Wilkie, which is the fourth in an occasional feature series about peace and social justice issues in international education, focuses on how international educators are taking students to areas of conflict like Northern Ireland, Nepal, Kosovo, and Middle East to help create a new tradition of peacebuilding.

Although some of these regions are officially "at peace," there are still wounds from conflict that have to be healed. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, professor in psychology and director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island calls this "a state of 'negative peace'—no fighting, but no real harmony and no peaceful sense of community and coexistence among the parties."

International educators like de Mesquita and others are showing both students and people in these regions how to bring about peacebuilding from the ashes of conflict. For example, in Nepal, de Mesquita says that the Nepalis are eager to learn and apply new ways for finding and building peace in their country and so far they have trained about 60 people—they, in turn, have trained hundreds.

The ripple effect that peacebuilding efforts like these is the powerful force that can create a new history for these regions of conflict that is worth repeating. Rather than being known as areas of conflict, in the future, perhaps enough good work will be done now that history will remember them instead as regions of peace.

### Errata

On page 54 of the March/April 2013 issue, *IE* reported incorrectly that Kirkwood Community College sent 133 students on the service learning trip to Tanzania. In fact, 133 students studied abroad in 2011–12, including the seven who went on the Tanzania trip. *IE* regrets the error.

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