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an educational program

Values Education for Children and Young Adults

[home](#) | [news](#) | [aims](#) | [context](#) | [resources](#) | [reference](#) | [introductions](#) | [parents](#) | [impact](#)

[values](#) | [children](#) | [training](#) | [events](#) | [support](#) | [sitemap](#) | [about lv](#) | [contact us](#)

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Living Values e-News

Living Values: An Educational Program Newsletter

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In this Issue

[Previous Issues](#)

[Editor's Desk](#)

[Worldwide Happenings](#)

- ▶ [Living Values website](#) now in four languages!
- ▶ [Thailand](#): Living Values in a Refugee Camp
- ▶ [Brasil](#): Partnership with Rural Federal University
- ▶ [Hong Kong, China](#): Piloting Underway
- ▶ [USA](#): Educators' Training and Board Meeting
- ▶ [Egypt](#): Broad-based interest continues to grow
- ▶ [Panama](#): A first activity
- ▶ [United Arab Emirates](#): Programme at Ras Al-Khaimah School
- ▶ [Italy](#): Activities Book translated
- ▶ [Lebanon](#): TTT for Refugee Camp workers
- ▶ [Vietnam](#): Ministry of Education helps with training
- ▶ [Japan](#): First Japanese-language TTT successfully held!

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► To Our Readers

news@livingvalues.net

Welcome to the eighth issue of Living Values e-News, the electronic newsletter of the Living Values Educational Program.

It's now over a year since the first edition of Living Values e-News and since then LVEP has truly come of age. Apart from such quantitative growth as the approximate doubling of the number of sites at which Living Values activities are taking place in over 60 countries, educators and concerned individuals around the world are truly making LVEP their own. As our first story below recounts, with the recent addition of Spanish coming hot on the heels of French and Chinese, the Living Values website is now in four languages. Other stories tell of the translation of materials into Arabic, Italian, Karen, Vietnamese and Japanese, and these are by no means all.

Impressive though the names and numbers all are, behind them lies a deeper truth: the universality of human values. While part of the joy of life is to see the wonderful diversity of culture and positive ways of self-expression that human creativity has given birth to, we do sometimes need reminding of the fundamental oneness of the human family. Much of this unity can be seen in the deeper, or higher, values that we share. Values such as peace, love and respect, or tolerance, happiness and freedom, are cherished and aspired for the world over. Parents, educators and others are seeing the need for practical tools to help children grow and develop in an environment where such values are a real part of life. These values belong to and are the bedrock of cultures in all corners of the world and Living Values is delighted to be able to offer materials and skills that can help people, whoever and wherever they are, bring such values back to the heart of their society and our world.

The LVEP [website](http://livingvalues.net) - at livingvalues.net - warmly welcomes hearing from educators with one or two success stories (or even not-so-successful stories!) of values activities that they've tried in their classroom. So read on and, as ever, we hope that you'll do more than just read: please also send us your news - and go out and make some news!

With warmest wishes
The Editor



Worldwide Happenings

► Living Values Web Site Now in Four Languages

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The Living Values website is now also in Spanish! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of a translation team in Spain and the ingenuity and enthusiasm of LVEP's multi-talented webmaster, Nand, in Costa Rica, the Living Values Spanish pages are now on-line, bringing to four the number of languages on our homepage. If you haven't yet seen it, check out the Spanish site at

livingvalues.net/espanol from which you can easily surf on to the French, Chinese and English pages too. And watch this space for news of other languages that are already on the way



▶ Thailand: Living Values in a Refugee Camp

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A group of Karen Tribe teachers have been doing LVEP's Children-Affected-by-War programme for over a year now. In late April and early May 2000, LVEP trainers Diane Tillman and Rachel Flower returned to the site of last year's training and spent 10 days with this very special group of teachers, who themselves are refugees. Rachel, who has also been back to the camp several times during the year to monitor progress, takes up the story:

"They say that landmines are everywhere now. But still Karen people from Burma flock into Thailand, using ever-changing routes, and the refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border are set to burst. And yet, whilst they lament what has happened to them, they do not let it dampen their spirit and their deep desire to make a difference in the world. At least this is what we (Diane Tillman, Bharati from Singapore and I, Rachel) had the privilege to observe when we spent 10 days with a very special group of camp teachers.

Our visit was multi-purpose:

1. to guide a new group of 24 teachers through an experiential training in the use of Living Values' Children-Affected-by-War materials;
2. to interview as many as possible of the 37 teachers from last year's group who had been using the Living Values material over the school year;
3. to further train nine of these teachers who had chosen to become trainers themselves; and
4. to train a small number of teachers to run LVEP Parent Values Groups.

This was not an easy task when new, stricter conditions on NGO work in camps dictated that we could not stay overnight in the camp. Instead we had to spend the best part of four hours each day in transit to and from the nearest town, much of it through extremely rugged terrain. But of course it was worth it. Not only to meet and train a new group of dedicated teachers, but also to reconnect with old friends, share experiences of the year and enjoy the feeling that something very special is happening. It was truly heart-warming to hear of the positive changes, both in their students, and also in their own lives, and feel the sense of hope that these teachers are engendering in those around them.

"My students are so happy!!" said one, "I feel as if my heart is soft now. I used to have such a hard heart." "Now I enjoy the children," said another, "I used to get angry so quickly before. I didn't feel as if I was a good teacher. Now I love to encourage them." Another teacher talked of how her students were now so adept at using the conflict resolution skills they'd been taught that they never fight now. "They used to anger quickly and fight regularly," she said, "and now they

do not fight." Her smile stretched from ear to ear. Some Living Values students tell other non-LV students when they fight: "You don't have to fight, you can solve your problems. Would you like us to help?" They all spoke of how many of the children were so much more confident and happier. They have been able to let go of some of their anger and grief and move on into a healthier way of being. And they certainly seem to love the Living Values lessons a great deal. One teacher told us that one of his students always used to skip class, but once the Living Values lessons started up this child came every day.

We also heard stories of more peaceful households, where previously a lot of arguing would take place. One man told us about his own children and how, in sharing Living Values activities with them, they became such good examples in their camp section that other parents were constantly asking him what his secret was. This gave rise to an impromptu parents' group. Another told us of how his own children use Living Values to remind him when he is not being a good example himself, and they also model healthy behaviour for their siblings who haven't yet been in LV classes.

In short, the word is out that LV is "cool" and more and more people want some of it for themselves.

The camp leader is so pleased with the results of the Programme that he organized a meeting with all his section leaders and education coordinators so they could learn more about what LV involves. They now want to have a coordinators' training programme some time later in the year.

A group of 25 teachers are now ready to train others and so next year the hope is that they can lead it themselves with minimal (if any) help from us. In this way the training can spread to other camps. The teaching material has been updated and translated into the Karen language, so the teachers are well equipped to share their treasures with others, with the help of the crayons, paper, pens, card, markers and so on that we'd bought with some private donations.

Once again this year it was a joy to be with these people and to share the spirit of their uplifting songs and their strong resolve. It is always a humbling experience and a very special one.

Special thanks to Diane for her love and tireless dedication, and to Bharati for her compassion and generosity - she initiated a collection in Singapore and brought boxes of goodies into the camp, including soft toys, bags, hats, books and much needed medicines. Milk powder was also bought which is particularly good for the newcomers, many of whom are very weak when they arrive."



► **Brasil: Partnership with Rural Federal University**

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During the months of March, April, May and June the Brazilian LVEP Team introduced the Programme or held Teacher Trainings in 121 schools, touching a total of 3,927 teachers and principals.

In response to growing demand, a national team was created to increase the number of

teachers able to expand LVEP.

A partnership is being signed together with the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (one of the 52 Federal Universities in the country), so that LVEP may be acknowledged as a University Extension Course. For this to become reality, the LVEP Teachers' Training Course in Brasil will need to have a duration of at least 20 hours of class-time. All the LVEP Teacher Training Certificates will be signed by the coordinator of the National LVEP Committee and a representative of the Rural University.

These are details of some of the programmes that took place:

- LVEP was introduced to 300 educators (principals, coordinators and teachers) in São José dos Campos, São Paulo State;
- Introduction of LVEP to 300 teachers of several schools during the III Educationists' Meet of the Anhanguera Park Public School, São Paulo City;
- Lecture on Self-Esteem at the third Regional Commissionership of Education for Central West Region, for 130 educationists, São Paulo City;
- Lecture to parents and university students of pedagogy who work with mentally disabled teenagers, at UNICSUL (Southern Cross University) for 90 participants, São Paulo City;
- Introduction of LVEP to 50 teachers of Military Police School in Belo Horizonte and also for 100 teachers and parents in the Municipality of Sete Lagoas, Minas Gerais State;
- LVEP Teachers' Training for 117 teachers of 33 schools of São Domingos City and Introduction of LVEP to 130 principals of DIREC 1 A School of Salvador, Bahia State; and
- Teachers' Training for 80 teachers of Grande Oriente State School, in Porto Alegre and introduction of LVEP to 103 teachers of the State School of Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul State.



▶ **Hong Kong, China: Piloting Underway**

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An initial LVEP session was held with the Principal and over twenty teachers at the Hsin Tsi Wan Primary School in Tai Wai, Hong Kong in early September. With the new term underway, the School has now taken up LVEP in all years, dedicating about two hours a month to LVEP activities. A follow-up session is to be held to review progress and offer further training.



Meanwhile, activities are also set to start at the two Kindergartens of Jimmy's Education Institute, following a training conducted there for twenty teachers by LVEP trainers Esther Lung and Karen Ng. Karen herself runs Teens Tonic Child Development Centre and has also started carrying out LVEP at the Centre.

Living Values was also invited to give an address at the 2000 Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong International Institute for Educational Leadership and to contribute to their next Values Education Course for Teachers.



▶ **USA: Educators' Training and Board Meeting**

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Living Values educators from all five boroughs of New York and from as far away as Canada, Trinidad, and Mauritius met at Peace Village Learning and Retreat Center in the beautiful Catskill Mountains of upstate New York from 24th to 27th August for the second annual Educators' Training. About 40 educators participated, including teachers, guidance counsellors, doctoral students and a school principal.

The agenda included sharing circles, application in the classroom by subject matter, creating a values-based climate in the classroom, giving music and movement a values base and strategies for values development. The group left with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment to bring Living Values into their schools later this year. Plans are underway to bring this group and the August '99 group back to Peace Village in the spring of 2001 for an update on their progress and to provide further sustenance to these beautifully dedicated educators.

Peace Village was also the venue for Living Values: An Educational Program, Inc.'s Board meeting on 22nd July for the purpose of strategizing and planning its activities and priorities for the coming year. The goal that was set is to establish a partnership with a school on each of the east coast and west coast of the USA that would model the Living Values culture by 30th June 2001.

Over in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Reem Bahgat of Egypt and Devi Golembo of the USA presented LVEP to a diverse group of about 30 educators at the Millennium Connection Conference sponsored by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, International at the University of Denver from 30th July to 5th August. Participants showed great interest in implementing LVEP in their schools,

organizations and communities.



▶ **Egypt: Broad-Based Interest Continues to Grow**

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Dr. Reem Bahgat, LVEP Coordinator for Egypt, sent Living Values e-News the following report:

"Coming back from the annual TTT and Coordinators' meeting in England, we had a number of Living Values trainings in Cairo. Hosted by the Coptic Centre for Human Resource Development, they were all quite successful and each time we do the programme in Egypt, I feel we take a step forward. The first time it was done in Alexandria, with 100 teachers from public schools, they were very impressed by it and loved it. Next time, we also invited NGOs involved with education and they were also impressed by it and felt that they want to know more. This time we had a good group of teachers from 3 private schools who want to implement LVEP immediately. Groups of NGO representatives who also want to start the Programme immediately asked for a follow-up seminar, which we agreed to have. There is also new interest in the Parents' module since there are some workshops specially for parents or women. I can see how very steadily the Programme is growing in Egypt, which is very nice to see and be part of and I already have requests for a group to attend the TTT next year!

Two one-day trainings were conducted in Arabic in two primary schools in Cairo, the first trainings to be conducted in Arabic by Arabic speaking trainers.

Translation of the material into Arabic is in progress and the development of an Arabic version of the web site is also nearing completion."



▶ **Panama: A First Activity**

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In the National Institute of Panama, near the Panama Canal, teacher Conchita Quintero initiated Living Values for a two month period during a once-weekly class they call "Chorus of Advice" with 14 to 15 year-old youth. They talked about the problems youth face nowadays and the class helped them to cooperate with each other and show how the best of the class could actually help those who faced major difficulties. They talked about the things that most worried them in relation to the theme of values and drew pictures based on their discussion.



▶ **United Arab Emirates: Programme at Ras Al-Khaimah School**

Living Values e-News was pleased to receive the following report from Dubai:

"A Living Values session was organised by the Indian School, Ras Al Khaimah in September for teachers from K.G. to senior secondary levels. The sessions followed on from the Indian High School Conference held in Dubai with Miss Sue Emery and Peter Williams. Two teachers from Ras Al-Khaimah had attended the Conference and shared news of the proceedings with their colleagues who wanted to hear more.

The session was inaugurated by Mr. Narayan, the President of the Indian Club, which hosted the event, and Dr. Shaharban, the Principal of the Indian School, welcomed participants and spoke of the need for values in school. Mrs. Girija Krishnan, LV Coordinator in the UAE, delivered the keynote address and spoke of Living Values' origins and how it has grown into a global programme that places a special emphasis on values-based classroom teaching.

In one session teachers enacted a classroom situation and how they might try to resolve it. Other teachers offered various solutions and it was interesting to see how in every situation each one was searching for some value or other. There was also a discussion on "Should students be punished, and if so, how?" Teachers shared a lot in their groups and wanted more workshops and practical sessions to explore insights into values-teaching in the classroom. The workshop ended with a visualisation on the theme "A day in school as a student, as a teacher".



▶ **Italy: Activities Book Translated**

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Some good news from Italy:

"We now have the Activities Book for 3-7 year-old children translated into Italian and just in need of updating. The Book for 8-14 year-olds is completed. We have also been planning some future programmes including meetings in Olbia to be held every Friday until the end of November, and, in December, further follow-up training programmes to be held in Gubbio, Sesto Fiorentino, Florence and Como."



▶ **Lebanon: TTT for Refugee Camp Teachers**

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A programme has been arranged in Beirut to teach 20 kindergarten teachers from eight Palestinian refugee camps the LVEP Children-affected-by-war module. Watch this space for news!



▶ **Vietnam: Ministry of Education helps with Training**

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Trish sent Living Values e-News the following report from Vietnam:

"From the 3rd to 6th October a LVEP training was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Mrs. Thuan Tran of the Ministry of Education and Training helped coordinate the training and invited 30 educational researchers, curriculum writers and educational psychologists to attend. The participants included researchers from UNICEF, Save the Children Fund (UK) and Radda Barnen (SCF, Sweden). Ruth Little traveled from Korea, where she is the LVEP National Coordinator, to conduct the training. From the very first morning there was a wonderful feeling of enthusiasm and positivity amongst all the participants which continued to build throughout the training. The Workshop concluded with participants sharing many touching experiences of the training and their plans to implement LVEP. The Living Values books for children aged 3-7 and 8-14 in Vietnamese were given to all participants as well as the Vietnamese translation of the LVEP Educators' Manual. The Ministry is now looking at ways to conduct further trainings in the provinces.

Meanwhile, we have just finished making a CD with the LVEP reflections in Vietnamese; it has three visualisations from the Book for 8-14 year-old children, two from the Book for 3-7 year-olds and the lovely story about the bear."



▶ **Japan: First Japanese-Language TTT Successfully Held!**

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Evelyn Sasamoto, LVEP's coordinator in Japan, filed the following update from Tokyo:

"The translation of the Activities Book for 3-7 year-old children is completed. The Activities Book for Young Adults is also completed, thanks to the help of many individual volunteers, and is now ready for editing and proofreading. Translation of the Activities Book for 8-14 year-olds is more than half finished while work is underway on the Activities Book for Parents. We are also now in the process of taking the translated songs (lyrics) and trying to adapt them to fit the melodies and rhythms of each song, aiming at having them finished, recorded and ready for use by February 2001.

A Steering Committee of 13 educators and other concerned individuals has been formed to help initiate some workshops with the materials, and pre-workshop training.

On 7th October, in Tokyo, we held our first Japanese-language LVEP teacher-training workshop! There were some 20 educators including about 15 school teachers, a few counsellors and volunteers who work with young children. In addition, there were 3 people present who are volunteers from the group which is doing most of the translation of the LVEP material into

Japanese. The Workshop conducted by Lee James of the Brahma Kumaris was a blessing. His understanding of Conflict Resolution was well communicated through his acting talents as well as through the interpreter. It was an eye-opener for teachers to consider that they should not try to solve the children's problems for them but rather guide them toward their own solutions in a non-blaming, taking-no-sides manner. There was interest in starting a teachers' study group of the LVEP material and we feel that our first effort has been a success as an introduction of LVEP material in general. We are now concentrating on getting the finished translation of each booklet into the hands of the teachers who are forming the study group. We are hoping to have one or two follow-up workshops for this initial group and then we hope to be able to focus on student age-specific groupings to go into the material in greater depth."



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