

RECONCILE™

Mending Broken Relationships

Volume 8 / Number 2

— Commemorating Our First 10 Years of Service —

Fall 2006

Hart for Mission



Erin Hart

Erin Hart is a senior, majoring in Social Work at the University of Cincinnati. She is already working in the core of Cincinnati, Ohio, a traditional flash point for racial tension. Erin says, "I have always had an interest in working with inner city kids. I feel they are the most neglected part of our society. They need so much love, but no one ever gives them a chance and that is the worst kind of poverty...."

rec-on-cile:

1 a: to restore to
friendship or harmony

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary



The Office of Reconciliation Ministries (ORM) is an Outreach Ministry of the Worldwide Church of God.

Marching in Colorado; Meeting in Missouri

Living Grace Christian Fellowship in Arvada, CO, invited Office of Reconciliation Ministries (ORM) Director Curtis May and his wife, Jannice, for a special Martin Luther King Day commemoration. Eight members of the local Peace and Justice Commission participated in the church services on January 15.

The next day Curtis May was guest for a live interview on Channel 7 TV about that evening's Candlelight Walk from the Arvada United Methodist Church. About 105 people walked in the 25 degree weather to the Performing Arts Center to hear Mr. May expound upon the life and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. The assembly later heard from local city leaders, including the Mayor Pro-Tem, and Denver Bronco's cornerback Dominique Foxworth.

"Arvada has a fascinating record in the ethnic wars," Curtis May reports. "In the 1920s the KKK was strong in Colorado. They were targeting Arvada Catholics, Jews, immigrants and blacks as a national threat. After the Women's Order of the KKK burned a cross in front of St. Anne's Catholic Church, the church retaliated with a 10,000 men and boys' march in support of the 'undesirables.' The Klan soon faded from view in this part of Colorado."

Interdenominationalism was also on display in St. Louis, Missouri, according to ORM chapter leader, Pam Harris. Noting that the congregation shared a hall with a Chinese Baptist group, she invited Pastor Wong to join a 2006 Multicultural Bazaar. "We learned that many of the Chinese believers didn't respond to our hellos because they felt their English was inadequate. The combined event gave us a chance to talk and interact. The local Anglican Church provided food from different cultures for the occasion," added Harris. "We've definitely softened some denominational barriers in St. Louis," she concluded.

In a year of national tensions over immigration, these reconcilers live out the truth of the Chinese proverb: "The longest journey begins with a single step."

(Reporting by Bill Wells, Colorado and Pamela Harris, Missouri.)



Curtis May with Denver Bronco's Dominique Foxworth.

Our Readers Respond...



Dear ORM,
Thank you for providing the book, *Mending Broken Relationships*. Some other books I've read regarding reconciling relationships are so steeped in technical psychological jargon that I can't understand what they're saying. Other books seem to get caught up in the "victim" mentality and never fully address how to personally solve the problems and move ahead in freedom. But your book gave me useful, concise, balanced and amazingly wide-ranging insights in language I can understand and with the hope of personal reformation. It is a resource to which I will refer again and again.

Lee Berger
Senior Pastor, Family Christian Fellowship

Dear Mr. Earle,
On behalf of Azusa Pacific University, I want to express appreciation for your donation to the university libraries [book, *Mending Broken Relationships*, and video, *Reconciliation—A Move of God*].

We are always grateful to those who, because of their generous donations, help us better serve our students, and we are especially grateful to you for choosing Azusa Pacific University library.

Thank you.

Elizabeth A. Leahy
Associate Dean of Library Services

Dear Mr. May,
Your article, "Walking the Slave Trail," [Winter 2004 *Reconcile*] was very good. I do story-telling and drama all year long. You can tell so much and it will long be remembered. I wished I could have been there. The words of forgiveness must have been so strong. I could feel the tears in the article. We need more people like you to work in the fields of this world.

Rev. Bettie R. Kennedy
Lufkin, TX

Dear ORM,
ORM is a tremendous asset to the body of Christ that heals wounds, mends relationships, and develops lasting partnerships.

Marcia Dunn
Administration Specialist, New Jersey Superior Court

Hello ORM Staff,
God bless you! You are small, but very large indeed. Godly reconciliation is definitely at the core of everything. I am so thankful that you and other departments are there, working hard for Christ.

Linda Carter
San Diego, CA

OFFICE OF RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Carn Catherwood
- Dr. John Paul Eddy
- Tina (Kuo) Graham
- Dr. Jack Hayford
- Curtis May
- Teresa Mendoza
- Dr. Keith Phillips
- Leigh Sniffen
- Cherry Steinwender
- Dr. Doug Stringer

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

"Around the Horn"

"Around the Horn" is a baseball expression, as most of you know. After an out is made, the infield players will throw the ball to third, short, second and first base. So I will "toss the ball" in telling you about the latest round of ORM activities.

Recently I was asked, "Could you tell me what ORM is and what you are all about?" Here's my reply: The Office of Reconciliation Ministries was founded in early 1996 and has now enjoyed a decade of ministry. During that time we have established over 20 chapters in 5 countries—Canada, England, Ireland, South Africa and the USA. We have a flagship video titled *Reconciliation—A Move of God*; a book, *Mending Broken Relationships*; a newsletter called *Reconcile*; and a website, *ATimeToReconcile.org*. Our ministry activities include workshops, conferences, dialogue/mediation, mentoring and training. We have held these activities primarily in churches, schools, city halls and police departments. It's all done voluntarily with only one part-time paid staff member. It's funded through voluntary donations. Our work includes removing walls between people and building bridges of healing. We work to mend broken relationships.

We received this feedback from a Day of Dialogue held at a middle school in Pasadena: "Most of the students indicated that they learned something that day that would result in a change in behavior when next they interact with an officer of the Pasadena Police Department. Many just appreciated having had the opportunity to speak with an officer and have questions answered."

ORM was honored on June 7. Here is an excerpt from the letter of invitation: "Each year the Pasadena Human Relations Commission has the privilege of administering the Harry Sheldon Award. Through a broad community outreach for nominations, the Commission selects individuals, programs or organizations that have, via their effort, worked diligently to build bridges and improve human relations within the City of Pasadena. Therefore, it is an honor to be able to inform you that you have been selected to receive the Harry Sheldon Award for 2006. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations."

Our work continues to move forward as there's no end to the need. Thanks for your help!



ORM Director,
Curtis May



Curtis May receives award from Nat Nehdar
of the Human Relations Commission

Who Are We?

ORM Team Lives Out the Meaning of Diversity

Many times we are asked, “Who are you people? What makes you tick? What are you all about?”

These are good questions. The truth is that the best way to answer these questions is to get to know our Chapter Leaders scattered around the world. As you might expect, the people you will meet on pages 4 and 5 are a diverse group—pastors, counselors, youth leaders and university professors.

Lloyd Briggie is a pastor in strategic Washington, D.C. Lloyd leads his churches in the mission of “peace through respect,” a motto they strive to practice in all their programs and activities.

Keith Brittain is a native Englishman who teaches reconciliation principles to more than 30 churches out of Raleigh, N.C. Gender reconciliation is one of his specialties, a cause he advocates with the help of a Diane Sawyer video titled, “*The Fairer Sex?*” Steve Brown down in Sarasota, Florida, is an ORM veteran who believes in tackling the subject of “white privilege.” He helped move his congregation to a Black-Latino neighborhood, where they are better placed to help the homeless and the unemployed.

“Miracle Street”

Jeff Broadnax is a pastor with a heart for youth. In the Greater New York area, Jeff is active in “Stop the Violence” workshops involving local police, educators and city officials. Grandville, Michigan, pastor Sam Butler moved his congregation into a predominantly Hispanic area where they share a building with a Spanish-speaking church. Their outreach efforts involve helping needy families across denominational and racial lines. Says Sam, “I have been appointed President of the Board of a very active community-minded ministry and was recently appointed to the board of our local business association. We host a weekly prayer time for our community and an annual community barbeque.”

Across the pond, in Watford, England, Chapter Leader Olivier Carion invited the local mayor, Dorothy Thornhill, to speak to his congregation. Their goal is “A bolder witness in Watford,” accomplished by such programs as “Miracle Street,” featuring a giant mobile stage with family fun presentations as well as entertainment that dramatizes biblical themes. In what is thought of as “post-Christian Britain,” their efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Next, meet Christina Kuo Graham, based in the Great Northwest of the United States but involved in a thriving ministry to China—East Gates Ministries International. “EGMI has been responsible for three million Bibles going into China—legally,” adds Tina. “By the grace of God we have established more than 200 Christian mini-libraries in every Chinese province.”

Pastor Mike Greider leads a group of about 50 pas-

tors from a variety of denominations in Huntington, West Virginia. They have launched a Clergy and Police Alliance Program and a Mentoring and Tutoring Program for at-risk teens. Mike and his colleagues meet regularly with community leaders to pray with them for their city.

Evelyne O’Callaghan Burkhard needs no introduction to *Reconcile* readers. From her base in County Cork, Ireland, she patiently teaches “mending broken relationships” to people struggling with grief and the effects of violence. “Conflict is part of life and the way we deal with it promotes either harmony or division,” Evelyne says, having spent time on the front lines in Cambodia and Rwanda.

Richard Parker of the Long Beach, California, chapter was introduced to racial issues as a result of living in a multi-ethnic society while ministering in Hawaii. His Long

Beach congregation is a financial supporter of ORM and Richard’s multi-ethnic church feels the onus to practice what they preach.

Pastor Tom Pickett has been an ORM Chapter Leader since its earliest days. He is also a member of the Azle Ministerial Alliance, which organizes and hosts community reconciliation events in Azle, Texas, including a Fourth of July “Follow the Flag” day held in the heart of town.

Bill Wells is one of the newest but most zealous Chapter Leaders. As a liaison to the Arvada Peace and Justice Commission in Arvada, Colorado, he was instrumental in arranging the ORM event described on page one. Bill helps brainstorm ideas and strategies in his town and provides helpful resources from ORM and other agencies for the local community.

Russia with Love

Scottish-born James Henderson is a true international. He is serving as a Ministry Co-Ordinator for much of Africa while overseeing multi-ethnic congregations in the British Isles.

George Hart in Cincinnati is another ORM veteran. This spring he was able to visit Russia to help in training pastors and in offering drug rehabilitation assistance to a population hungry for Western contact and still facing religious persecution. His daughter, Erin, featured on page one, gives evidence of following in his footsteps.

Meanwhile, in Canada, Chapter Leader Owen Willis is involved with refugees and immigrants and lectures at Dalhousie University on problems relating to international development. His background as a British national raised in Kenya serves him well in addressing issues that sometimes emerge with devastating force in the world’s second-largest country.

There you have it. Just a quick overview of the people who stand behind this effort to bridge gaps across the cultures. Turn the page to meet the rest of the team.

“Conflict is part of life and the way we deal with it promotes either harmony or division,”

Mending Broken Relationships...

ORM Chapter Leaders

- Charles Adams: Richmond, VA
- Lloyd Briggie: Washington, DC
- Keith Brittain: Charlotte, NC
- Jeff Broadnax: New York, NY
- Steve Brown: Clearwater, FL
- Sam Butler: Grandville & Muskegon, MI
- Arnold Clauson: Dallas, TX
- Marilyn Fall: Phoenix, AZ
- Tina Graham: Renton, WA
- Mike Greider: Charleston & Huntington, WV; Paintsville, KY
- Pam Harris: St. Louis, MO
- George Hart: Cincinnati, OH
- Willard High: Chicago, IL
- Richard Parker: Long Beach & Orange County, CA
- Tom Pickett: Fort Worth, TX
- Raul Ramos: Lancaster, CA
- Leigh Sniffer: Arcadia, CA
- Ron Washington: Livonia, MI
- William wells: Denver, CO

International:

- Evelyne O'Callaghan Burkhard: County Cork, Ireland
- Olivier Carion: North London, England
- James Henderson: United Kingdom & Africa
- Owen Willis: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



Tina Graham
Renton, WA



Ron Washington
Livonia, MI



Sam Butler
Grandville, MI



Jeff Broadnax
New York, NY



George Hart
Cincinnati, OH



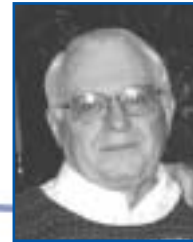
Charles Adams
Richmond, VA



Leigh Sniffer
Arcadia, CA



Raul Ramos
Lancaster, CA



William Wells
Denver, CO



Pam Harris
St. Louis, MO



Willard High
Chicago, IL



Mike Greider
Huntington, WV



Lloyd Briggie
Washington, DC



Keith Brittain
Charlotte, NC



Richard Parker
Long Beach, CA



Marilyn Fall
Phoenix, AZ



Arnold Clauson
Dallas, TX



Tom Pickett
Fort Worth, TX



Steve Brown
Clearwater, FL

International ORM Chapter Leaders



Olivier Carion
North London,
England



James Henderson
United Kingdom
& Africa



Evelyne O'Callaghan
Burkhard
County Cork, Ireland



Owen Willis
Halifax,
Nova Scotia

A Sorry State of Affairs

The power of an apology

“Why should I apologize to the descendants of slaves, or the holocaust, or the Northern Irish? I didn’t do it. It happened before I was born. How can apologizing for things you didn’t do help anything? Is it biblical? Can you back it up? Aren’t you just stirring up trouble?”

At Worldwide Church of God’s Office of Reconciliation Ministries (ORM) we get such questions often. They deserve an answer.

Consider this. The police chief of a major American city, a leader in community reconciliation, recently confessed to a lapse in judgment. He had sat down at a restaurant where the waiter serving him was Turkish. Suddenly, deeply buried resentments inside the chief’s psyche rose to the surface. He proceeded to make life miserable for the young waiter. Why?

The chief was of Armenian descent. Inside him were deep feelings he had heard around the family table concerning the Armenian genocide, one of the 20th century’s most heinous crimes. “The Turks have never apologized for that episode,” the chief told one of us. “Still, that was no excuse for my behavior toward that young man.”

Events 100 years old came hurtling out of the past as if they were wounds from yesterday.

“Land of the Living Past”

In the 1990s, millions of people in the Balkans found themselves caught up in hatreds and resentments that went back to squabbles and atrocities of the 1300s. One journalist called this area “the land of the living past.”

In writer William Faulkner’s words, “The past isn’t dead. It isn’t even past.”

Ancient hatreds and animosities still exist. The trouble is already out there walking around. The dead hand of the past is not so dead. People still living carry around bitter folk memories of wrongs inflicted on their ancestors, wounds that have been passed on down. A phrase from Exodus 20:5 comes to mind: “the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Hatreds take on a life of their own—the Capulets and the Montagues in *Romeo and Juliet*; the Hatfields and the McCoys in early America. In Bosnia the hurt went marching down the generations.

In the face of deeply rooted hatreds, can a simple apology be of much help?

“Attitudes have a kind of inertia,” wrote M. Scott Peck. “Once set in motion they will keep going, even in the face of the evidence. To change an attitude requires a considerable amount of work and suffering.”

That’s the hard part. So where to begin? Who is responsible for trying to break such cycles of hatred? The dead? Obviously not. Who, then, will step into the breach, and how?

Sins of the Fathers?

Many counselors believe that an indispensable first step in shutting down any cycle of hatred is to work toward an apology. “What—a simple apology?” Wait. No apology is simple. That’s why it has to be “worked towards.” It’s a process. It requires emotional and spiritual commitment on the part of the one offering it—and for the injured party to accept it. Which is to say that neither mercy nor forgiveness are easy.

But what about things that happened generations ago? Can a living generation be held accountable for what their ancestors did?

2 Samuel 21 records a severe famine in Israel in the time of King David. David sought God’s advice. He was told: “It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.”

Centuries before, the Gibeonites had been promised protection as resident aliens (Joshua 9:15). Saul had broken that pledge. Now David’s generation was paying the price. David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends...”

Offenses are personal. To deal with them often takes a personal response. Even on the parental level we can see the power of an apology. When a father or mother sincerely apologizes to a young person for overreacting harshly, immense goodwill can be created. It thaws out the frozen relationship where everyone stumbles around in a half-evasive daze, not sure of what to do next.

Breaking the Cycle

A reconciliation specialist from Ireland tells us: “The first step towards peace is to talk truthfully about what went wrong.” A sincere apology often clears the air. “I’m sorry we’re having this problem.” Where wrongdoing is deeply layered it takes stamina to break down barriers. “There are many examples in history of nations who have tried to bury rather than face the past. If we try to ignore or bury the past it will haunt us and may even destroy us.”

Forgiveness is an act of release. It can be graciously extended after a generous apology is offered. But when there is a refusal to admit that someone somewhere did something very wrong, relationships remain frozen. Human nature being what it is, the next step is often to blame the victims for inflating the situation. “You’re making it up. It’s not that bad.”

And so, the cycle continues. The sickness remains. But the good news is that there is a better way.

It often begins with an apology.

(Reprinted with thanks to *Christian Odyssey* magazine.)



FIGHTING TERROR- ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME “Hearts and Minds” in Pakistan

By Neil Earle

The Fall-Winter 2003 *Reconcile* commented on a young Montana mountain climber named Greg Mortenson who spends six months of every year establishing secular schools in the remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Since then Greg’s work has continued unabated. He tells his story in his book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations...One School at a Time*. He took his title from the fact that in 1993 he was nursed back to health by the people of Korphe after a serious injury while climbing K2, one of the world’s highest mountains. He went on that mission in honor of his sister who died of epilepsy. During recovery, he was stunned to see village children sitting outdoors in a makeshift school.

Greg resolved to help these children. Returning to America, he worked as an ER nurse in California while soliciting celebrities and businessmen. To no avail. This son of Lutheran missionaries was no stranger to hardship. He sold his goods, lived out of his car and sent out appeals for help. It was kids who turned the tide. One group of children in River Falls, Wisconsin, donated \$623 in pennies to help build schools. This “Pennies for Peace” program continues.

Jihad against Illiteracy

Greg returned at danger to himself. He was determined to educate girls in Taliban territory—a no-no. His life was threatened. The young American pressed on—too eagerly, as it turned out. A tribal leader around Korphe, Haji Ali, appreciated Greg’s desire to pay back the villagers in the regions by building schools but knew the zealous young American needed to adjust to Pakistani tribal ways.

“Haji Ali taught me to slow down and make building relationships as important as building projects,” says Greg. The saying among these mountain people is that the first time you share tea with them you are a stranger; the second time, an honored guest; the third time part of the family. “Haji Ali taught me to slow down and that

Books not Bombs

An article on Greg Mortenson’s Central Asia Institute first ran in the April 6, 2003 issue of *Parade* magazine. *Reconcile* got hold of the story in the fall of that year. Since then generous Americans have donated in excess of \$1 million to Mortenson’s cause. Books, not bombs. It’s an ingenious and resourceful way to stop terrorism at its source. But even more so, it helps fulfill James 3:18, “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

I had much more to learn from the people I work with than I could ever hope to teach them.”

This lesson paid off.

With a mixture of zeal and patience, Greg was able to found the Central Asia Institute, based in Bozeman, Montana, which led to the establishment of more than 53 schools in remote Pakistan and Afghanistan. After the tragic earthquake of 2005, in which 2.8 million were left homeless, Greg noticed that terrorist groups were quick to move in. “In many places I visited, extremist groups and seasoned Taliban fighters were the only people providing aid. I saw thousands of vulnerable children being fed not only meals but also indoctrination.”

This, says Greg, was happening in spite of the fact that U.S. forces diverted 12 Chinook helicopters from fighting the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan as well as offering \$340 million in relief.

Of the children he is helping, Greg says: “We have to prove to them that the world can be a better place.” Well done, Greg, we salute your efforts.

“We have to prove to them that the world can be a better place.”



Image courtesy Greg Mortenson, Central Asia Institute.

Mental Illness: A Brief Note

by Victor Hornbacher

Few things have been as destructive as mental illness. It has been a robber of happiness and the alienator of the ill. Most people react to the condition by ostracizing the sufferer. It produces dysfunction at its worst. Those who suffer from it carry an enormous load of poor self-esteem. Poverty is endemic. Mental illness is so pervasive that more hospital beds are devoted to its treatment than to any other illness.

Could things be any worse?

For thousands of years, mental illness was untreatable and incurable, but medications are now available by prescription that help patients to function in society. Victims of mental illness can rarely handle the stresses of full-time work, but they can find fulfillment in volunteer work.

The first medication to come on the scene was nicotinic acid. Its success was very limited. In the 1950s a psychoactive drug called chlorpromazine was developed. It was very effective and helped patients sleep, as a side effect was extreme drowsiness. It also had a comforting effect. Patients could come to terms with their illness gradually, with medical help.

Many new medications have been produced that more specifically target patients as individuals. Just as no two snowflakes are alike, no two people are alike biochemically.

Often a patient must stay under treatment for a relatively long time before a doctor can find the best combination of medications. My main point here is an appeal. Please do not look down on people who take medications for relief. The path to cure is complex, but the medical route gains acceptance and effectiveness with every passing year.

(Victor works with homeless and alienated people in the downtown section of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.)



Reconciliation Resources

Our inter-denominationally acclaimed video *Reconciliation - A Move of God* and the booklet *Standing in the Gap* are now both available for the low, low price of \$5.00. That's right. Just \$5.00 for two of the best resources out there for counteracting conflicts, racism and other social maladies. Ideal for discussion groups and personal devotionals. This special price includes tax and shipping.

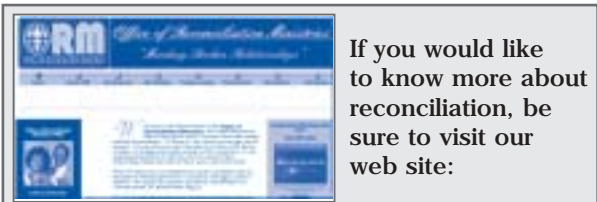
YES! Send me the special, one-time offer of the video *Reconciliation - A Move of God* and the booklet *Standing in the Gap* for only \$5.00.

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