

# RECONCILE™

## Mending Broken Relationships

Volume 15 / Number 1

—More than a Decade of Help and Hope—

Winter 2013

## Fuller Honors African Mission



*Tom Brokaw*

### Prime-Time Reconciling

During his 2012 Olympic report Tom Brokaw highlighted the story of Mike Logan, who had survived the catastrophic Nazi air raid on Coventry in September 1940. Mike was orphaned as a result and only in 2011 did he get to visit another site of air-borne tragedy, Dresden, in south-eastern Germany. While there he met German survivors "just like myself and they treated me very well." Brokaw asked: "Were you able to reconcile?" "Yes," came the heartfelt reply. Such stories take us to the highest levels of reconciliation.



The Office of Reconciliation & Mediation (ORM) is a 501 (C) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

PASADENA, CA: "A model for global Christian consciousness" was the accolade paid to Dr. Michael Cassidy of African Enterprise at the Fuller Theological Seminary's celebration of the new school year on September 23 at First United Methodist Church on Colorado Boulevard.

Dr. Cassidy, a 1963 graduate, was awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Fuller service in recognition of his leadership of African Enterprise (AE), an evangelistic and mission agency which he launched during his student days here in 1961. It started with \$1 donated by a classmate. Now AE is at work in ten nations across Africa practicing "multilevel evangelism" in Africa's cities and making inroads into Africa's challenging social problems while preaching the gospel.

### African Harvest

Widows, orphans, street children and those who have been sexually exploited in countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe are given job training and counseling to help make them effective in leading their nations in the future.

On October 2 Fuller's Dean of Intercultural Studies reported that in 1965 there were twice as many Muslims as Christians across Africa. Today, he said, the numbers stand at 380,000,000 Christians and 320,000,000 Muslims. It is the efforts of groups such as African Enterprise that have made a difference. AE has been a pioneer in training African missionaries in their home areas through the help of local church bodies. That's why their staff stays small while their efforts reach from top to bottom across the continent.

International Team Leader Stephen Mbogo from Kenya reported to an AE fiftieth anniversary meeting in Monrovia, California, on September 26 that an AE sponsored prayer breakfast helped make a Christian of the Minister of Telecommunications in the new nation of Southern Sudan. Things are happening across Africa and Michael Cassidy has said of the continent, "We have every problem except boredom." ORM proudly salutes AE's efforts.



*Neil Earle with Dr. Michael Cassidy.*

— Neil Earle

## Our Readers Respond



Dear Mr. Curtis May,  
Thanks a million times at least for your September 2012 letter to the reconciler family. I received it in the mail today. I especially appreciated seeing the pictures of the lovely McCollough family.

*Mariah Thompson  
Inglewood, CA*

Dear Curtis,  
What a wonderful work you are doing! Thank you for the newsletter.

*Vivian Malcomson  
Rochester, MN*

Dear ORM Family,  
Thank you for the recent update letters and for the *Reconcile* newsletter! We are continually grateful to be part of this reconciling ministry.

*Marilyn & Barry Fall  
Chandler, AZ*

Hi Curtis,  
Thank you for your wonderful book, *Mending Broken Relationships*.

*Leon Rabouine Sr.  
Bronx, NY*

**Be sure to visit our website:  
[ATimeToReconcile.org](http://ATimeToReconcile.org)**



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## FROM Curtis May...



*Curtis May, publisher*

**A**nthony Kevin "Tony" Dungy is a former professional American football player and coach in the National Football League. He was head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1996 to 2001 and head coach of the Indianapolis Colts from 2002

to 2008. He became the first African American coach to win the Super Bowl as he led the Indianapolis Colts to a victory over the Chicago Bears on February 4, 2007, in Super Bowl XLI. He and his opposing coach of the Bears were making history as two African Americans leading teams in the Super Bowl.

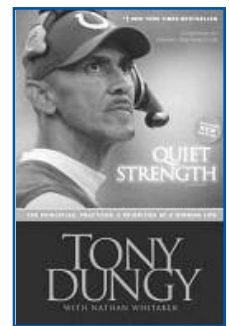
Tony is a devout Christian who openly confesses his faith in God and prays publicly. Another hallmark of his life is his love for and emphasis on family. He was taught from early childhood (along with his siblings) the value of a good education and good decision making.

His dad Wilbur was a college professor with a Ph.D. and his mom Cleomae had a Master's degree. They taught their children well.

Here's what world-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson Sr. said about Tony: "In today's world where sports figures and movie stars are idolized, Tony Dungy is a true hero because his life is a testimony to the fact if you 'do your best and let God do the rest,' not only will success follow, but your life will have a positive impact on others. This is the reason I consider Tony a great friend and role model."

And here's what the opposing coach, Lovie Smith, who lost in the 2007 Super Bowl, said: "Tony Dungy's life is a living testimony of a man's faith in God. He has given us a new picture and definition of a 'coach.' Good guys do come in first."

Yes, indeed. We as parents and grandparents owe it to our children, grandchildren and everyone we meet to be "a light to the world and salt of the earth." That is the vision that motivates us at the Office of Reconciliation and Mediation, and we thank you, all of our supporters, for standing with us in finances and prayers these past sixteen years.



*Tony Dungy*

# Global Peacemaking: Where It's Working

**P**eter McGuire was once a "career terrorist" for a Protestant paramilitary organization in Northern Ireland. Joe Doherty is a former IRA member who had spent 20 years in prison for murder.

Today, in their forties, they work with at-risk youth convincing the next generation to shun the paramilitary recruiters lurking among the unemployed. They are helping the Irish peace accords take hold at the grassroots.

On the partitioned Mediterranean island of Cyprus, two teachers, Ulus, a Turk, and Nicos, a Greek Cypriot, utilize youth's love for soccer as a focal point for cultural exchanges and viewing the other side as human.

In the 1980s Yoshioka Tatsuya of Japan was pressed in spirit about the atrocities inflicted by



Photo courtesy www.japantoday.com

his nation on the Korean peninsula during the World War Two era. Japanese school texts ignored the realities. Through a project known as Peace Boat he brought Japanese and South Korean youth together to share humanitarian missions and to study conflict resolution.

## Sturdy Optimism

These and other efforts around the world are reported on regularly by The Institute for Peace Education in Tübingen, Germany. The Institute's efforts are rooted in hard-edged reality. They know that war is a much more attractive scoop for journalists.

Yet they stress optimism. "If we did not already possess substantial experience in peacemaking we wouldn't exist," says Michael Gleich in *"How to Be a Peacemaker."* "Mankind would have rendered itself extinct in an endless cycle of skirmishes and all-out wars. No culture on earth is without forms of diplomacy and appeasement... rituals of appeasement and reconciliation."

The report continues: "But conflicts are also a challenge. To benefit from them we must give our best. We need awareness, self-knowledge, empathy and rhetorical talent to approach con-



Photo courtesy www.speace.org

School for Peace

flict without fear, to see them as opportunities, to react constructively."

Gleich and his colleagues know that the standard cliché solutions of sympathy and understanding

don't always work. Dr. Nava Sonnenschein of the School for Peace, located west of Jerusalem, knows that honest dialogue and encounter is sometimes necessary to dig through the "archaeology of revenge" in this region. Only when the structural problems stemming from economics and politics have been addressed can meaningful one-on-one dialogue take place.

To date, more than 35,000 students have been trained in peace activism at the School for Peace. Yes, the ruffled dove of peace still flies.

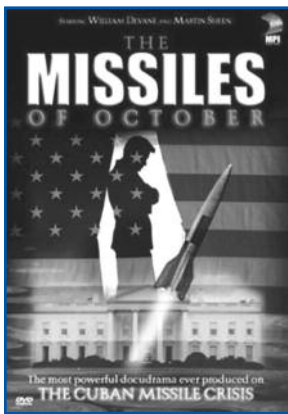
## Thinking Local

Gleich notes that the peacemaking vision must go beyond the needs of the present. Unpredictable events are to be expected and grass-roots, individual initiatives usually outlast official government policies. P.N. Narasingham was a Tamil who left his home in northern Sri Lanka when a long and bloody civil war broke out in 1982. Returning to a region ravaged by civil war, Narasingham began to build houses for war widows and orphans, first ten, then 65, then entire villages for hundreds of families. Then came a school for the deaf, a center for street children and an organic farm, plus relief to victims of the 2004 tsunami. This is "micro-peacemaking" and it tends to last because it builds from the ground up.

The report includes the Community Policing Initiative launched in New Haven, Connecticut, a program that ORM and *Reconcile* have been applauding and promoting in recent years. New Haven crimes dropped from 21,000 to 9,300 incidents in one decade. This is encouraging: peace is possible and deeply rooted patterns of negativism and conflict can be turned around worldwide.

# Profiles in Diplomacy: Crisis and Resolution

The year that has just ended, 2012, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the closest brush yet the world has come to all-out nuclear war.



*To the Brink, 1962*

towards reconciliation on the world stage as well as at the individual level.

## The Highest Stakes

In 1962 the leader of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, placed medium and intermediate range missiles in Cuba, hoping to cut down the enormous American superiority in ICBMs – Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (*We All Lost the Cold War*; by Richard Lebow and Janice Stein).

The Soviets' reckless act 90 miles off American shores forced President John F. Kennedy's (1961-1963) hand. During intense deliberations the President ruled out both air strikes and invasion, fearing what the escalation could imply.

The President's October 22, 1962, televised address calling for a blockade of all Soviet ships bound for Cuba initiated the week the world held its breath. But it gave time for Russian leaders to think about their actions, and gave them time to save face.

## "A Soft Answer"

That Wednesday twelve of twenty Russian ships turned back from Cuba. Resolution seemed near when the President received a note from Chairman Khrushchev on Friday night, October 26, which offered a deal – Soviet missiles dismantled for an American pledge not to invade Cuba. But...Saturday morning a much sterner note arrived from Moscow. This second letter provoked renewed consternation.

What to do? Sagely, the President was advised to answer the "good note." "Yes, let's make a deal – no invasion and you remove the missiles."

On Saturday night, October 28, Radio Moscow announced the dismantling of the missiles. The crisis had ended. A wise biblical principle of peacemaking had worked. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger (KJV)."

## "Re-examining Attitudes"

After the Crisis, a hotline was installed between Moscow and Washington, a key safety system in the ongoing Cold War (Michael Beschloss, *The Crisis*

*Years*, page 602). Then, after much negotiation, followed the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, an agreement with inspections whereby the United States and the Soviet Union promised to end radioactivity-producing nuclear testing in the atmosphere, a boon to the health of the whole planet.

On June 10, 1963, President Kennedy spurred on the treaty: "Some say that it is useless to speak of world peace...until the leaders of the Soviet Union adopt a more enlightened attitude. But I also believe that we must re-examine our own attitudes."

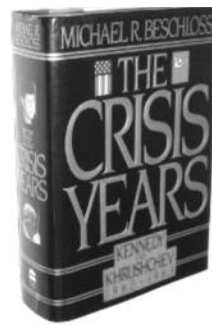
President Kennedy's intention to allow his Soviet opponent a way to "save face" was paralleled by President George H. W. Bush's savvy diplomacy in 1989.

That year the Berlin Wall came down, and the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe was showing signs of coming apart. The end of the Cold war suddenly loomed.

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*The Crisis Years: Superpower Stresses*

## Wise Restraint

"Bush Senior" or "Bush 41" as we know him today, was watching these dramatic events unfold in Eastern Europe, not unlike the recent "Arab spring." President Bush was urged by vociferous members of both political parties to stand up and "declare victory in the Cold War," or at least send overt aid to the other protesters in East Europe.

But the President remembered how earlier reform movements had been crushed in Eastern Europe. On October 23, 1989, he wrote the West German government, then in tense negotiations with their opposite numbers in the East.

"We are trying to react very cautiously and carefully to change in East Germany," he wrote the German President. "We have great respect for the way West Germany has been handling this situation...We are getting criticism in the Congress that we ought to be doing more to foster change, but I am not going to go so far as to be reckless" (*Newsweek*, November 8, 1989, page 26).

The President's restraint paid off. In 1991 he and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev negotiated the biggest nuclear arms reduction in history. This Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) trimmed the superpower nuclear arsenals from 20-23,000 warheads to 6,000 each.

"Agreeing with your adversary quickly" (Matthew 5:25) – another principle of peacemaking that works in the cabinet room as well as the living room. It can work for us.



*President Bush and Gorbachev.*