

# RECONCILE™

Mending Broken Relationships

Volume 15 / Number 2

—More than a Decade of Help and Hope —

Winter 2014



Dr. Diane Medved

## Moderation, Please

"Moderate' is a compliment," argues Dr. Diane Medved. "Moderation is prudent. It needn't neglect 'principles.' Principles undergird proposals, but moderation puts them into practice."

Clinical psychologist Medved shows how this works. "Ask any parent: Do you want your child to be reasonable, considerate and tolerant of his siblings? Or do you respect more the tantrum-prone child who demands things his own way?"

Often criticized as too conservative, Dr. Medved was incisive in her *USA Today* editorial exposing both extremes of our uncivil society. Bravo!



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

## Diversity Highlights Orlando Meetings

by Roger Lippross

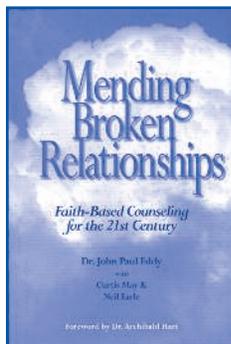
Orlando, Florida. The ongoing quest for reconciliation was a keynote of the Office of Reconciliation and Mediation's (ORM) participation at the July 31st to August 4th International Conference of Grace Communion International (GCI). GCI is an ally of ORM.

Observers were struck by the spirit of unity, warmth, and joy which renewed old bonds and created new ones among 1,000 attendees from Barbados to Bangladesh. "This bonding is always one of the most valuable and lasting benefits of our conferences," commented one delegate.

The presence of so many young adults from both the US and overseas – many of whom paid their own way to attend – was both encouraging and inspiring.

*Reconcile* publisher Curtis May used workshops and resource materials to introduce ORM's work to GCI delegates. Many were surprised with how active ORM is in the important field of social and denominational unity. "I received requests for visits and presentations from various church leaders," commented Curtis May.

The multi-national reach of GCI was reinforced at every handshake. GCI's graphic presentations highlighted Christ's work in every continent. Many were exposed to ORM's flagship publications, *Reconcile*, and *Mending Broken Relationships*. Orlando reinforced how prayer and financial support for our reconciling mission brings about growth and joy.



Friendly fellowship in Florida.

Photo by R. Connelly

## 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 Mr. May,  
Many thanks for the February letter with the Lanier Phillips story - awesome, touching! What a tribute to Mr. Phillips and those who care and all who stand strong and overcome adversity and conditioning designed to humiliate and oppress. God bless you and ORM.

*Our continuing love and prayers,  
John and Jean Campbell  
Los Angeles, CA*

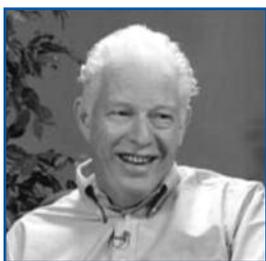
Dear Curtis and Neil,  
I met you both in Orlando at the recent International Conference. Mr. Earle, you gave me a book, *Mending Broken Relationships*. (I, along with others in our church plan to start a support group and we want to use your book as our text. Is it possible for us to get a discount price if we order a number of the books?

Please pray for us as we strive to bring Jesus to the addicts and other outcasts of this world.

*In Christ's Service, Rannie Childress  
Clinical Director, Rapha Treatment Center  
Attalla, AL*

## Are We Conciled?

by John Halford



*John Halford*

In 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Paul uses the word "reconciliation" three times. But wait - If something can be re-conciled, presumably it was once "conciled." But what does that mean? "Concile" isn't a word you will find in most dictionaries.

Reconciled is what linguists call an "unpaired opposite."

For example, we recognize what it means to be "disgruntled." But how often are you "gruntled"? You can be "overwhelmed" - but what about being "whelmed"? So what about "conciled"?

It is an archaic word that has to do with people meeting in agreement. And thus, "re-conciliation"

## FROM Curtis May...

### A Year of Remembering



*Curtis May, publisher*

This year, 2013, was the 50-year commemoration of several events that occurred in 1963. The March on Washington

in 1963 was front and center, but in September the U.S. Congress honored four young girls posthumously with the Gold Congressional Medals of Honor. Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, and Carole Roberts were all just 14 years old, and Denise McNair was only 11 when they were killed by a KKK bomb while in Sunday school in Birmingham, AL. "On Sunday morning, September 15, 1963, a KKK bomb went off in the 16th Street Baptist Church and tore the essence of our hearts," stated Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a native of southern Alabama. "And even though violence continued, it shook the conscience of our nation," said one news reporter.

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley spoke at the commemoration ceremony: "As goes Birmingham, so goes the nation." He quoted John 13:35, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another just as I have loved you; so are you to love one another." Governor Bentley informed the audience that the girls' Sunday school topic was A LOVE THAT FORGIVES. "What will Birmingham look like, what will Alabama look like and what will our nation look like 50 years from now?" He stated, "That's up to the people." It is. It's up to all of us.

We thank you for being advocates and supporters of a better Birmingham, a better nation and world. You are making a difference. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts as we focus on oneness, not only in America but around the world.

implies not the forging of a new relationship, but the restoration of a relationship that once existed. And this adds an exciting dimension to 2 Corinthians.

Genesis tells us how humankind was created to work in harmony and partnership with God, as stewards of his creation, and potential heirs of eternal life. But then sin, portrayed by the disobedience of Adam and Eve, broke the partnership, and we became alienated from our Creator.

Paul tells us how, through Jesus Christ, God restored or "reconciled" the broken relationship. Now God and humankind can once again work in fellowship and partnership, as a "conciled creation."

# Real Reconcilers Get It Done

**R**eal reconcilers make a difference in this world. They say things aren't necessarily so, that things can be better, that peace and stability are possible. Here are some who stood out in 2013.

Forgiveness was a big theme in this the year of the 50th anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech. For example, Lisa Gibson lost her brother in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and then pursued a degree in law. Her goal? To learn the mechanics of conflict resolution and reconciliation in Libya, whose government perpetrated the Lockerbie attack. Lisa established the Peace and Prosperity Alliance and met a host of Libyan leaders over the years including the late Muammar al-Qaddafi, whom she forgave for her brother's death.

According to Dan Wooding of ASSIST ministries, Prosperity Alliance was among the pioneering groups that provided humanitarian support that helped Libya transition from tyranny. Her book, *Releasing the Chains: Timeless Wisdom on How to Forgive Anyone for Anything*, reflects Lisa's personal belief that "Love and forgiveness can have a transformative effect."



## KKK Victim No More



Sarah Collins Rudolph

Lisa's activity was echoed in Birmingham, Alabama. Sarah Collins Rudolph, sister of one of the four young girls killed in a KKK bombing in September, 1963, shared her own victorious story.

Sarah's sister Addie May Collins was killed in the blast and Sarah was showered with debris. It was just that close. Sarah lay in a hospital, eyes bandaged, for nearly three months. She now wears a prosthesis and still has pieces of glass in her left eye, but her spiritual vision remains clear: "I had to forgive because it was what God wanted me to do."

Meanwhile, in Memphis, Tennessee, fourth grade teacher John Hunter continued to monitor his World Peace Game, a 4' x 5' board game laid on Lucite sheets



Teaching World Peace

where students playing world leaders, arms dealers, UN officials and defense ministers learn the necessity to work together to solve big problems. Kathleen Cousins of St. Mary's Episcopal School was "totally impressed" with how the game "creates classroom peace." Mr. Hunter's goal since 1978, to teach global interconnectedness to fourth graders, earned him the 2012 GlobalArt Award.

## Jobs Not Jail

At last count there were about 33,500 gangs in the U.S. with 40,000 members in the city of Los Angeles alone.

But hold on. Father Gregory Boyle and his Homeboy Industries marked their 25th anniversary this September. Father Boyle is a Jesuit priest in downtown LA who decided to light a candle rather than curse the darkness.

"Homeboy Industries" was started in his Boyle Heights Parish in 1988 to create positive alternatives for gang-threatened youth. What began as an elementary school/day-care/job-finding mission in the poorest parish in Los Angeles took off after the civil unrest of 1992. It is now a multi-scaled enterprise that provides training, work opportunities and counseling (and yes, tattoo removal) for rival gang members working side by side.

## "We Belong to Each Other"



Homeboy Industries

Fr. Boyle likes to quote Mother Theresa: "We've forgotten that we belong to each other," echoing Jesus in John 17, "That they all may be one."

This healthy outlook dismantles the messages of shame and disgrace, "the negative tapes" Father Boyle's young people have heard all their lives.

Stephanie Lane had joined a gang, spent 2 years in juvenile lockup and was going nowhere fast. Her grandmother said, "Go see Father Boyle." In 2011 Stephanie was picked to head up the new Homegirl Café at City Hall. "Father Boyle made all this happen," she told an L.A. Times reporter. "He never judged us the way everybody does."

"How do you work with the poor?" Boyle asked. "You don't. You share your life with the poor."

A priest, a lawyer, a KKK casualty, a teacher. They all reminded us in 2013 that this world can change for the better, that healing and reconciliation are possible.

—Neil Earle

# Healthy Communication in a Digital Age



Dr. Hart

**D**r. Archibald Hart, co-author with his daughter Dr. Sylvia Hart Fredj of *The Digital Invasion*, is no technology-hater.

Back in 1969 the former Dean of Fuller Seminary's School of Psychology had persuaded his university to purchase an early computer. But he now turns his attention to the dark side of the enhanced technology sweeping over us like a cultural tsunami.

"As a culture it is assumed that we are more 'connected'

today than we have ever been in history, but there is evidence to suggest that we are more 'disconnected' than ever before," write the authors. "Ask a dating couple whether they could effectively 'date' if the only way they could connect was using Skype on a computer screen and they would tell you, 'No way'" (Page 41).

Eminent common sense shines through the chapter subheads. There are "Do's and Don'ts for Parents of Multi-tasking Teenagers," "Addiction Risk for Video Games," "Ten Steps to Digital Well-being," and "Seven Ways to Cultivate Silence and Solitude." They claim the digital world has the potential to rewire our brains, making us ever more anxious and lonely when disconnected from our gadgetry.



Dr. Fredj

## "Recovery Work"

In that vein they offer "Twelve Ways to Healthy Communications." We have condensed them with commentary added. The goal is authentic connection, as "the core of psychological well-being... the essential quality of growth-fostering and healing relationships." This subject strikes home to *Reconcile* since we advertise a book titled *Mending Broken Relationships*. Here are the their recommendations:

- 1. Relax.** Sounds simple but we can't learn anything new when our minds are multitasking like overflowing teacups.
- 2. Stay Present.** That is, conversing in the moment, not anxiously looking for a text message. Years ago H. Ross Campbell stated that parents love their children, but kids don't feel loved. Why? Lack of "focused attention." That was the 90s. Is it better now?
- 3. Cultivate inner silence.** The Psalmist said, "I have quietened myself as a weaned child." This takes

practice and "unplugging" ourselves.

**4. Increase positivity.** Find something about another person to genuinely praise. Praise is a terrific relationship lubricant that can rarely be done well on Twitter. Texting THT (Think Happy Thoughts) doesn't quite keep pace.

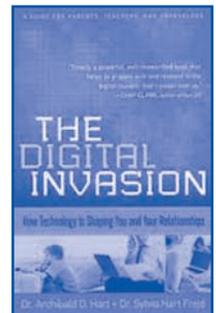
**5. Reflect on your deepest values.** When by oneself create what the authors call "Godspace." "I meditate on you in my bed," reported the Psalmist.

**6. Observe nonverbal cues.** A clenched fist is a dead giveaway, but so is the glassy stare from a head attached to a pair of earphones. You have to hang in with text-addicted people before they will listen to what you have to say.

**7. Speak warmly.** Jesus had great empathy for the rich young ruler and for the young girl who lay dying (Matthew 5:41). The voice is a clue to character, exactly what's missing on much social media.

**8. Speak slowly / listen deeply.** Effective listening often goes missing in so much digital communication. "Moderation in all things," says the Good Book.

Five real friends are better than 500 on Facebook. We all know this. So why not help people move out of Fantasy Time and into what the writers call Real Time. We are still in control of our lives ...right?



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



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