

# RECONCILE™

Mending Broken Relationships

Volume 13 / Number 1

—More than a Decade of Help and Hope—

Spring 2011



Courtney Pickett

## "Courtney's Charge"

**E**ighteen-year-old Courtney Pickett from Fort Worth, Texas, has already set her sights on a career in social justice. Her grandfather, Tom Pickett, is an ORM chapter leader, and the influence has rubbed off. Home-schooled, Courtney leads worship in her local church and teaches Sunday school. She aspires to be a camp counselor in Oklahoma this summer. Read her message to readers of her age group on page 4.



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

## ORM on the Air in Texas

by Roger Lippross

**"G**ood morning and welcome! I am Tom Pickett and I am your host this morning on 'A Time to Reconcile'." This is how the new ORM radio program starts out each Sunday morning on Big Country Radio, KCLE 1460 AM, in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Yes, ORM is now on the air!

This exciting new development came about when ORM chapter leader and pastor, Tom Pickett, was contacted by Baptist Chaplain Hank Hoaldrige, who is an established Christian broadcaster in the Dallas area. Hank knew of Tom's work with reconciliation, and when the Sunday morning 9:30 to 10:00 slot became available, he immediately contacted Tom.

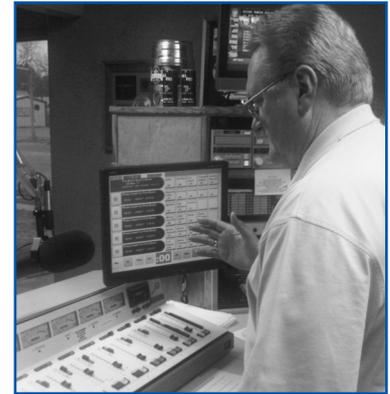
After discussion with ORM Director Curtis May and fellow ministers, it was decided to go ahead and to call the program "A Time to Reconcile," after the ORM website. Tom is sharing the load with his son, Pastor David Pickett; friend and pastor, Charles Dorset; and Curtis May. The initial contract is for six months.

The program's vision statement reads, in part: *"That God so loved the world that he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to us so that he could be the perfect sacrifice that would forgive the sins of all of mankind and give us reconciliation with the Father...most of mankind does not understand this...the good news of the gospel must actively engage in the ministry of reconciliation that Jesus gave to us..."*

David Pickett adds, "Once we know how genuine God's love is for us, we will more readily receive that reconciliation."

Fellow broadcaster Charles Dorsett believes that the Church needs to be unified in more than word, in the sharing of our faith to "express fully the kingdom of God on the earth as it is in heaven."

Curtis May sees this new broadcast as an open door that could lead to other similar opportunities. Pastor Tom agrees: "This is truly 'A Time to Reconcile'."



Tom Pickett broadcasts



David, Charles, and Tom - a winning team for Dallas/Ft. Worth



## Our Readers Respond



Dear Curtis,  
 Joyce and I appreciate the work of ORM greatly. We are pleased to (add) our little bit of help to the work of unity.

*Blessings and peace,  
 James and Joyce Scales  
 Bridge City, TX*

Dear ORM Friends,  
 Thank you for the wonderful update letters, especially the one featuring the Chilean miners being rescued!

*In Jesus' love,  
 Marilyn and Barry Fall  
 Chandler, AZ*

Dear ORM,  
 Thank you for the newsletter! ...It looks like a good work being done. I am thankful to be able to support it.

*Vivian Malcomson  
 Rochester, MN*

Curtis,  
 May God continue to use you in one of the most important works on planet earth: reconciling people back to God through Jesus Christ.

*God bless,  
 Eugene Ferguson  
 Hume, VA*



*Curtis May, publisher*

## FROM Curtis May...

In this issue of *Reconcile* we focus on youth. We strongly believe that our future as a nation relies on them.

As a former summer camp director and chaplain, I quickly learned that in order to know what young people think, one needs to ask them. And when we do, we need to listen to them without being offended, especially when we find they don't always see the world as we do. That's progress. I believe this divide is one of the greatest contributors to the so-called "generation gap." So in this issue we tap into this treasure that we call "the younger generation."

We appreciate the very insightful article by teenager Courtney Pickett, granddaughter of ORM Chapter Leader Tom Pickett. We also appreciate Courtney's dad, David Pickett, who is sharing the radio broadcasts discussed on the front page. That makes three generations of Picketts serving in the ministry of reconciliation!

And be sure to read the article by Pastor and Summer Camp Director Jeffrey Broadnax on page three. He shares great insights on intergenerational issues.

Thank you, our readers and supporters, for sharing this ministry with us. We are making a difference in the world. Next issue we hope to have some exciting news for you about ORM's future.

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### Teachers use it, Professors praise it, Pastors quote it, YOU should get it...

ORM's flagship book, *Mending Broken Relationships*, is now available for a special price of \$15, which includes postage and handling costs. For a limited time, we will also include a copy of the helpful booklet, *Standing in the Gap: Christians Against Racism*.

You may order it by using a credit card or PayPal on our website, [ATimeToReconcile.org](http://ATimeToReconcile.org), or by sending a check to:

**ORM**  
**P.O. Box 5005**  
**Glendora, CA 91740**



# With Youth, "Say It Loud, Say It Clear!"

by Jeffrey Broadnax

As western culture has been lured into a Bluetooth® love affair with technology, it has seemed to sacrifice the blue-ink love letters found in previous intergenerational relationships.

Think about it. Video chatting with Skype® has seemed to replace the extended family gatherings with parents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Now the driving force behind such gatherings is to mourn one of the family "oak trees" as he/she is placed in a mahogany casket.

## Listening or Hearing?

Precious intergenerational time is wasted trying to prove who's right instead of learning and growing with each other. Instead of giving the youth a twenty, thirty or even fifty-year head start on their lives, the elders of the village are frustrated with modern youth's perceived entitlement mentality and choose to "let them learn the hard way." The youth feel like we gave up on them, and salve their hearts by believing the elders could never understand their world anyway.

What would happen if both groups challenged their perceptions and actually spent time listening to each other?

I would like to make a heartfelt call to all generations! Will you commit to working to bring the generations together? The results will be incredible.

There have been men and women, some sixty years my senior, who poured into my life their mustard seeds of great price. One man, Harold Jackson, told me at age 21 that to live the life God had in store for me, I must be willing to "plant seeds of trees that I may never sit under."

I accepted that vision as a young man and have watered, weeded and nourished those seeds for the past twenty years. If only Mr. Jackson could know the head start he gave me and hundreds (maybe even thousands) of others. He helped change the course of my life with one sentence.

I spent the last ten years as a counselor for incarcerated 16-24-year-old men. In many cases, I was one of the few men my age that they either knew or had a real relationship with. My "job"

inside the jail was to help them develop a discharge plan, life goals and an after-care program. But my "mission" was to bridge them to the future God had in store for them.

I found out very early that if I wanted to be able to listen to them (not just hear them), I had to grow in a few areas. I had to learn the updated language of the street. I had to respect certain codes of the street and I had to learn to play dominoes. They had to choose not to use certain words in my presence and understand that I wear a tie inside the jail, not because I have to, but out of respect for their future.



*Jeff Broadnax (1st row, right)  
with teens at summer camp*

## How to Help

I believe it is our obligation to help the next generation be reconciled to their God-given history, heritage and destiny. May I offer a few simple insights?

1. Reconcile with your past and embrace the present. We can't go back to the world we grew up in. Let's be honest. Were James Dean, Pete Rose and Marvin Gaye really better role models than

Charlie Sheen, Barry Bonds or Lady Gaga?

Sure, parts of our culture have dramatically shifted, but if we pull the layers back far enough (and young people are good at that) I know we'll find more commonality than differences. We do see the present from two different worldviews, but both of them are "accurate," and so we must intentionally seek to understand the younger worldview before we demand that they accept ours.

2. Equip them for their future, not our past. Today I enjoy conveniences I fantasized about from watching Captain Kirk or George Jetson. Those fantasies are my children's realities. My nineteen-year-old college sophomore wasn't alive to see the Berlin wall as a barrier, the Showtime Lakers or the White House before Bill Clinton. She has however, seen the first African-American President and Secretary of State, a dream that was still drinking from colored water fountains when her dad was born. There is a new future to reach for, and that changes everything.

(continued on page 4)



# True Beauty: "Vive la Difference!"

By Courtney Pickett

The world has its own opinion of what beauty is. The world of celebrities has a handful of people who claim that they are "hot" and a larger group who are not. We see them on magazines and TV ads. Models and actors are the spokes- people for beauty. Beauty is what they advertise and what they try to sell. You buy this brand of foundation, acne medication, push-up bra, hair product and you will have beauty.



Even royalty can't escape the perfection game

to be perfect or to look absolutely gorgeous. What we were meant to do is just appreciate the beauty we already have.

Yet some go under the knife and some undergo starvation diets - extremely dangerous, with sometime horrid results.

The truth is that God loves you and he didn't make a mistake with his creation. God didn't give any of us what we might consider a flaw as some kind of curse. Everyone is equally beautiful in his eyes. It is the differences we have that makes us all beautiful to him. Rather than difference tempting us to feel inferior or jealous, we can learn to capitalize on it. God made you to be you. It's you he thinks is truly beautiful, no matter what people around you say.

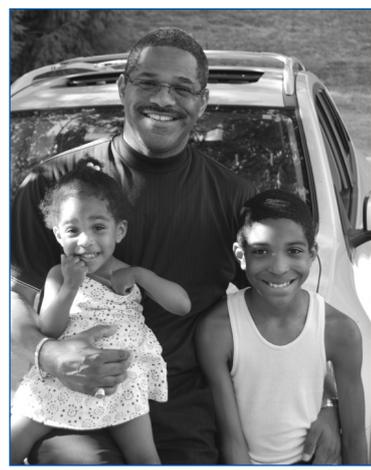
There is a tool out there called "photo-shop." It gives you the ability to do some of your own photo manipulation. You can hide your blemishes and give yourself the most amazing skin ever, or highlight/totally change the color of your hair, make your smile brighter and so much more.

If you stop to think, you realize that the beauty you are desiring is unattainable. We weren't meant

(Say It Loud, Say It Clear! continued from page 3)

3. Go sit at their table. The young people have sat at the "kids' table" for too long. They need us to invite them to the "big people's table" and teach us how to play "dominoes" their way. Unless they have nerves of steel, they won't venture to our table without a genuine invitation. So cosey up, stay awhile, listen with the third ear and learn how they play the game of life. Guess what? They will learn at the same time!

4. Plant seeds. It would be arrogant of us to assume we have the answers for the world they are walking into. History is a great teacher, but heritage is a toolbox for the future. Like Harold Jackson, commit to simply plant seeds and let God grow them as he wills. Trust that once the young appreciate the heritage they have been offered, they will use the tools as they seek solutions to world hunger, economic segregation, globalized dysfunction and other 21st century challenges. Bridging the gap requires us to hand off the leadership baton



Jeff with two of his children, Kassidy and Kyle

and cheer them on to courageously face the future the Lord has ahead of THEM. So let me say it loud and clear: It's Time to Reconcile!

*Jeff Broadnax is an ORM chapter leader and a church pastor in Columbus, Ohio. Jeff and his wife, Karen, have three children, ages 2, 12, and 19.*

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