

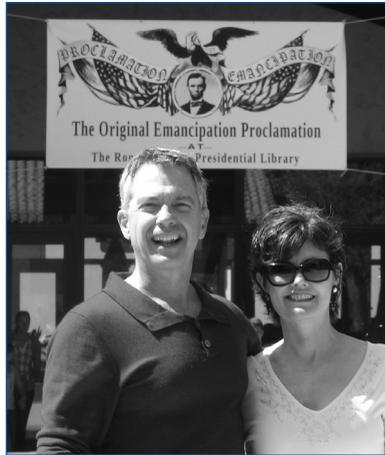
RECONCILE™

Mending Broken Relationships

Volume 11 / Number 1

—More than a Decade of Help and Hope—

Winter 2009



Rand and Beth Holm

People of Good Hope

ORM supporters include people such as Pastor Rand and Beth Holm of West Valley, CA, who recently hosted *Reconcile* at the display of the original 1863 Emancipation Proclamation in the Reagan Presidential Library.

Thank you to all our supporters and best wishes to all our readers in 2009!



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

Chapter Leaders Plan Strategy; ORM Wins Davey Award



John Connors & Curtis May

On September 12-14, 2008, the Office of Reconciliation Ministries (ORM) held its biennial Chapter Leaders Conference in Detroit, Michigan. Executive trainer and company president, John Connors, helped ORM Director Curtis May cast a vision for the next five years and discuss critical success factors for any organization.

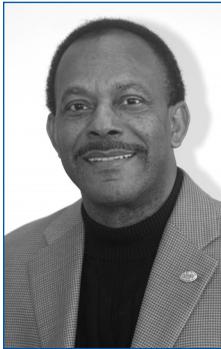
Building their talks around the biblical injunctions to plant, water and reap, Sam Butler and Willard High introduced a round of topics. Dr. McArthur Mickens presented a historical overview of race in America, and Sandra Hamilton covered how to conduct a successful Black History Month service. "Attendance at Christ Community Church in Cincinnati swells during February," she mentioned.

Hard on the heels of this conference where five new chapter leaders were installed, came news from Parker Media Productions (PMP) Pam Mosher that ORM's new DVD, "A Time to Reconcile," had won another award from the interactive media industry. The Davey Award honors outstanding creative work from small companies involved in visual arts production. The silver award went to PMP on ORM's behalf. View it on ORM's website, www.ATimeToReconcile.org, or receive your own copy of this 15-minute video by contacting ORM.

This makes the third award given to ORM in 2008.



Davey Award



ORM Director,
Curtis May

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

From 1619 to 2009

With the election of Senator Barack Obama, I thought I'd take a glimpse at race relations in America from 1619 to 2009, particularly between blacks and whites.

In 1619 a Dutch ship brought the first 20 permanent African settlers to Williamsburg, Virginia, probably from the Spanish West Indies. A long journey of slavery and abuse began. Yet even into the 1650s black freedmen could own land and work their own property in Virginia.

In 1671 George Fox of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) argued against slaveholding by society members. He also spoke against slavery on his visit to North America. Samuel Sewell, a Boston judge, wrote against slavery in 1700. But the horrors of the "Middle Passage" from Africa made the 1700s the pinnacle of slave trading. Perhaps millions of captives died.

In 1775 the Society for the Prohibition of Slavery began – the world's first anti-slavery society. The American Convention for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery was also founded. The new Constitution ruled that the slave trade – not slavery – must end in 1808, but this was not generally enforced.

In 1794 the first independent black churches in America were established by Absalom Jones and Richard Allen. These were the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church and Bethel Church in Philadelphia.

In 1807 the British Parliament outlawed participation in the slave trade. Slavery began to be abolished in the U.S. as Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and finally, with the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865. Then came Reconstruction, the "separate but equal" Plessy vs. Ferguson decision and Jim Crow laws that endured into the mid-1960s.

The NAACP was founded in 1909 at Niagara Falls, NY. Brown vs. the Board of Education came in 1954. Then came the signing of the landmark Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Things were changing, but in 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.

Many doors of opportunity opened and lots of advancements by all Americans have been made. Jesse Jackson, an African American, ran for the highest political office in 1988.

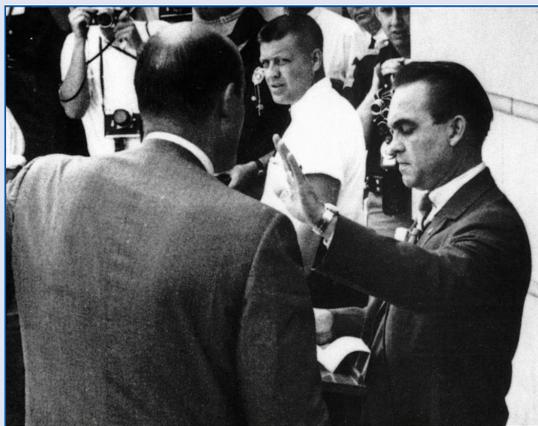
However, as we can see from the Presidential campaign of 2008, there's prejudice on all sides that needs addressing as America gets used to the idea of a black President.

Let's end with this quote from Jessica Arden Ettinger, a student at the University of Virginia: "Our prejudices arise from fear of things we do not understand. If my generation has a single goal, it must be to promote education – education that advances us not only technologically, but also intuitively and emotionally... It is our responsibility to force ourselves beyond our comfort zones and become knowledgeable about the people around us." Amen, Jessica!

That's what we at ORM are all about. Thank you for supporting us. (Sources: *American Passages*, Vol. 1; *The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society*, Vol. 1)

From Wallace to Obama: A Daughter Testifies

According to a CNN report, Peggy Wallace Kennedy, daughter of famed Georgia governor George Wallace, once a symbol of Southern segregation, stated that her father might well have voted for Barack Obama. "My father lived long enough to come to an understanding of the injustices borne by his deeds and the legacy of suffering that they left behind." In 1995 ex-Governor Wallace welcomed civil rights reenactors on their march from Selma to Montgomery. Here is proof that the world can move.



Mr. Closed-Door: George Wallace protests black students admission to University of Alabama in 1963.

“Good Grief”

by Evelyne O'Callaghan Burkhard

Southern Ireland's chapter leader, Evelyne O'Callaghan Burkhard, speaks from experiences as a nurse in both Cambodia and Rwanda. Here are excerpts from her talks on healing, most recently at the Detroit Biennial Conference —Ed.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa has said often that there is no true reconciliation without forgiveness. This is so true, and there is a man who knows what he is talking about.

Today, I want to go further. There is no forgiveness without the offended party grieving their losses, and there is no proper grieving without going through emotional pain. Physical pain is acceptable. We are rightly allowed to express feelings and complaints. However, emotional pain is often invisible and denied. Pain of whatever kind mobilizes all our attention and our senses. This is no time for counselors to say, “Snap out of it” or “Get over it.” We cannot register such advice to hurting people. This is a time to be good listeners, not Job's comforters. When Job's friends first showed up after his colossal tragedies they said nothing for seven days (Job 2:13). That is the best thing they could have done. It all went downhill after that.

Pain in a Drawer

Between ages 10 and 18, I was dealing with parents who separated. I put my emotional pain in a drawer for many years. To all outer appearances I had forgotten it, but the reality was not so. It was fuel for my resentments against my parents and the world. It allowed me to be angry and rebellious, or so I thought. But I was wrong. In 1987 God met me as Father and I had to think of my earthly father. I realized that if God could accept me as I was, he could accept everyone else as well—including my father. Who was I to decide that anyone was not worthy to be loved?

But I had to work through my own feelings at the time, just like for anyone in pain there will be feelings to work through – feelings of anger, fear, injustice, rejection, etc. Without acknowledging what is causing the trouble we often vent our frustrations on someone else, or we concoct our own distorted story of what has happened to us. Those distorted feelings often get passed on to

someone else or to the next generation. Better to acknowledge the pain before trying to be forgiving. This often takes the help of a skilled or very shrewd and loving counselor.

Letting Go

The victim has to eventually let go of the pain in order to be able to extend forgiveness. I read the proper formula in Trevor Chandler's book, *The Power and Problem of Forgiveness*. Forgiveness, he defines, is the dismissing of displeasure or resentment from the heart of the one offended. This can only be done over time, once the true source of pain is identified.

After being allowed to talk truthfully about what went wrong – to let out the pain – the victim can then be encouraged to extend forgiveness, to offer pardon—the passing over of the justly deserved penalty. Only then can a new relationship be established for future relationships, a new equilibrium.

Most of our better novels, movies and dramas deal with this process because it is the stuff of life. We must allow time to grieve properly when there have been legitimate hurts, or real reconciliation can never be achieved.



Evelyne O'Callaghan Burkhard



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“...That They May Become One...” (John 17:23)

by Christina Kuo Graham

Last October, my husband Ned and I were attending the World Special Olympics held in Shanghai, China. Just after the Games, we received the shocking news that one of our most cherished friends, a respected house church pastor whom our ministry, East Gates, had worked with for years had passed away.



Christina Kuo Graham

Over the 20 years that Ned had known “Auntie” (as everyone called her), she had worked silently behind the scenes as we provided thousands of Bibles and Christian materials for the spiritually impoverished throughout China. Her humble home was a sanctuary for itinerant pastors and believers. You always left nourished and empowered. But now the Lord had bid her home, and her mantle would fall on her daughter and husband.

After the service, Ned spoke with Auntie’s daughter. Since pastors and believers from all around the country had come to give their loving respects, it might be good to use this time to help reconcile, encourage and unify all these faithful and loyal servants in the field ministry.

Challenges

I say “reconcile” and “unify” because we all knew that despite Auntie’s totally unbiased efforts toward harmony within the Body of Christ in China, there still seemed to be mistrust and disdain among the different groups. Much of it was based on fears passed from generation to generation. Some were wrapped around prejudices based on geography, much like the time of Christ. Even Nathaniel, the Israelite whom Jesus said had no guile, uttered, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” In China, one may hear, “Hebei Province! Can anything spiritual come from there?”

So the next day, Auntie’s daughter invited all the pastors and believers to an all-day fellowship meeting of heart-felt prayer, teaching and testimony. It was a Sunday and the room was filled.

Ned was moved to speak from Ephesians 3 and 4, one of his favorite passages. Working with a Chinese translator who seemed one in spirit with Ned, he passionately expounded on how we are to be rooted and established in love (Eph.

3:17); bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:2); speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15); and built up in love (Eph. 4:16).

Ned said that one of the most powerful prayers of Jesus Christ is that we are all to be one just as the Father and Jesus are one. “I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and (definitely) recognize that You sent Me (John 17:23). He asked everyone: Are we keeping this prayer from being answered by our lack of love and faith?

Afterwards, Auntie’s daughter brought different groups her mother had worked with to our table. We listened, heard their needs and prayed with them. In one corner of the room, I saw a Chinese pastor weeping as men gathered around, laying hands on him. I believe many barriers were broken that day.

Recently, a pastor just back from China told me he remembered Ned’s sermon and the impact on him. On my visits to other training centers, I was happily surprised to see government registered “open churches” now assisting non-registered house churches. One open church pastor offers a 40-day Bible training program to 40 house church pastors. In another city, an open church official allows house church believers to use their huge church and buildings. This pattern is spreading. In China, walls are coming down!



OUTREACH: ORM Secretary Susan Earle staffs Reconcile booth in Rancho Cucamonga, CA.