



"...seek peace and pursue it." – Ps.34:14



From Michael McGill - Winter 08

Dear friends,

Some of you have received updates from me for nearly a decade through The Asha Forum and Just Children; for others, this is the first. In this newsletter, I've outlined the unique opportunities and challenges before us in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable.



McGill with WEAPRI Consultation participant, author, and speaker Ron Sider

I'll start with **the unique opportunities!** The 1st WEA Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Initiative (WEAPRI) Consultation was an amazing success! It occurred October 25-30 in Thailand in partnership with the WEA General Assembly, which drew nearly 700 leaders. The WEAPRI Consultation brought together about 20 key Christian peacebuilding leaders from around the world. With input from the wider assembly, the group developed a strong WEA Commitment Statement and an action plan for helping the WEA fulfill those commitments. The WEA members officially committed to the statement, and consultation participants asked me to help lead the WEAPRI forward. This means we now have a great opportunity to engage WEA's network, representing nearly 420 million Christians, in effective peacebuilding and reconciliation around the world!

We have momentum, a strong 18 member Working Group, an Executive Team, a commitment from hundreds of WEA Members worldwide, a clear mandate, and an excellent action plan.

Our challenge is this: We now need the resources to put the plan into action. We need at least \$60,000 more over the next 9 months to continue our plan to equip believers around the world to wage peace within broken churches and in places like Uganda, Burma, and Sri Lanka, where children are forced to give their lives in battle and experience horrific abuse. We have an historic opportunity to call millions of believers to join with The Prince of Peace as he ministers in places of division and violence. Please help us take hold of this unique opportunity. If we are unable to raise \$20,000 in the coming weeks, the work of the WEAPRI and its Just Children youth peacebuilding project will largely have to be postponed until an unknown time, and we will likely lose this valuable momentum. Details about how to give financially are available on the following page.

On a personal note, readers who have received my updates for nearly a decade can verify that I have never put this much emphasis on finances in a newsletter. My policy is to provide financial giving as just one avenue among many for involvement. It is also my policy to let you know what's going on. In the past, I have primarily volunteered my time, but I am no longer able to do so. I know the current recession brings financial strain for all of us. Unfortunately, without sufficient financial support for this initiative, I will need to seek a new fulltime job. I kindly ask first time readers to forgive the untimely nature of this announcement.

Waging Peace,



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Together we can overcome this challenge and grasp this historic peacebuilding opportunity.

WEA PEACEBUILDING & RECONCILIATION COMMITMENT STATEMENT

OUR VISION is for all evangelical churches and Christians to actively engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation, in obedience to Jesus Christ



Some WEA Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Consultation participants pose for a photo between meetings.

We invite the WEA network through its regional and national alliances and all who share this vision to commit to:

LISTEN TOGETHER

Listen together to better understand the experience of those caught up in destructive conflict and to discern the heart and mind of God in peacebuilding and reconciliation today.

1. Engage in ongoing conversation about the complex theological and missiological issues raised by peacebuilding and reconciliation
2. Explore Christian peacebuilding and reconciliation in relation to other faith communities, global economics, governance and other strategic issues
3. Seek to understand and learn from the range of initiatives taking place among evangelicals, in the wider Christian church and in global political and civil society

DEVELOP RESPONSES

Develop appropriate responses to fulfill the vision of being active in peacebuilding and reconciliation as a witness to God's reconciliation in Christ.

1. Identify strategic areas for engagement in peacebuilding and reconciliation
2. Explore and/or promote creative approaches to peacebuilding and reconciliation

EQUIP THE CHURCH

Equip the church to be better skilled and resourced to build peace.

1. Identify and make available existing peacebuilding and reconciliation materials and develop new ones
2. Support training in the theology, techniques and skills of peacebuilding and reconciliation
3. Encourage regional and national alliances to appoint a peacebuilding and reconciliation coordinator

SERVE THE WORLD

Serve our broken world through peacebuilding and reconciliation activities at the personal, family, communal, national, regional and global levels.

1. Encourage all alliances, affiliates and partners to have active peacebuilding and reconciliation programs
2. Engage in peacebuilding advocacy
3. Pursue peacebuilding and reconciliation programs which listen to and partner with victims of destructive conflict while seeking to engage, understand and challenge all perpetrators of such conflict
4. Recognize the role of children and youth and nurture them as peacebuilders and reconcilers

HOW YOU CAN GIVE FINANCIALLY

WEB: Visit www.JustChildren.org for WEAPRI online giving instructions. Just Children is a WEAPRI project.

CHECK: Please make gifts payable to WEA. Add "WEAPB" to the memo line.

Mail to 644 Strander blvd #154 Seattle WA 98188 USA, or MIP Box 3740 Markham Ontario L3R 5J1 Canada.

CALL: +1.866.826.3073 toll free to make a credit card donation.

www.JustChildren.org, www.WorldEvangelicals.org, info@JustChildren.org, +1 773.592.0951