

From Michael McGill

Dear friends,

You should have recently received a letter from the director of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) announcing my acceptance of the position of WEA Peacebuilding Advisor. I am very honored to have this opportunity to help mobilize improved peacebuilding efforts among WEA's vast network representing 420 million Christians in 128 national evangelical alliances and 104 associate member organizations.

I now need your help more than ever in taking advantage of this opportunity to 'wage peace' in a world in which so many people suffer from war and violence. At the end of October I will no longer work for Action International Ministries (However, ACTION is a member of the WEA). Just Children is now a project of the WEA and I will continue as the director.

As part of my WEA Peacebuilding Advisor role I am responsible to work with them to raise the resources necessary for this critical WEA Peacebuilding Initiative. I implore you to partner with us in launching this important effort to follow Christ's heart and the Biblical mandate to "seek peace and pursue it" (Ps.34:14). Please consider taking the action steps at the end of this letter.

Waging Peace,



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008

October 25-30, 2008 • Pattaya, Thailand

An Action Plan for Peace: 1st International WEA Peacebuilding Consultation

The last few months I have worked diligently with the WEA to bring together key Christian peacebuilding leaders from around the world to participate in strategic planning meetings aimed at coordinating and expanding the global Christian peacebuilding movement. These working meetings will be part of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) General Assembly, which is held only once every 6 years (<http://ga08.org>). Over 500 leaders from around the world will participate in the WEA General Assembly and about 200 more in pre- and post- meetings. The Peacemaking Consultation will include about 20 key Christian peacemakers who will work with the other General Assembly participants to create a widely accepted peacebuilding action plan.

The Peacemaking Consultation is planned to result in:

1. A 5-year strategic plan for developing an effective WEA peacemaking initiative
2. Specific commitments from 35 or more participating organizations on how they will help achieve the plan
3. 300 or more signatures of commitment to the plan from participants
4. Feedback and recommendations for continued youth peacemaking research

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” – Mat.5:9

WEA Vision

WEA envisions the church joined together in every community around the world effectively living out and proclaiming the good news of Jesus. These allied churches seek transformation, holiness and justice for individuals, families, communities, peoples and nations.

WEA Peacebuilding Goal

By April 2010 the WEA Peacebuilding Initiative seeks to see evidence of at least 40% of its 128 national evangelical alliances, member organizations, partners and commissions having helped cultivate and sustain peace in places impacted by violence—with a focus on children of impoverished nations impacted by armed intrastate conflict. Just Children is now a project of WEA helping achieve this goal.

Just Children Update: Waging Peace in Colombia



Two children's responses to peacebuilding questions

Peacebuilding is action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict. ~ UN definition

Colombia has experienced armed conflict for decades and is now the country with the most internally displaced people. 36% of Colombians are under 18 (UNICEF08). These children are the people most likely to change their ideas and actions to help build peace rather than perpetuate violence. Several Colombian organizations help mobilize youth peacebuilders. For example, one organization uses sports to train youth to teach other youth how to resolve conflict without using violence.

This July 12th-20th I worked in Colombia to discover how to better engage young people in peacebuilding in developing nations impacted by armed intrastate conflict. Much of the time was spent training missionary peacebuilder and youth-worker Jon Captain. We conducted interviews and focus groups with youth and adults in several cities in Colombia. I am extremely grateful for Jon who worked diligently for weeks to conduct 39 interviews and focus-groups with a total of 122 participants. All of these were transcribed and translated. This project was an enormous undertaking that required months of preparation. I am now studying the information to write up how to better equip youth and organizations in youth peacebuilding.



A boy interviewed in Colombia about how children can help build peace

You Can Help!

PRAY

- ...for WEA Peacebuilding consultation outcomes beyond our expectations
- ...for peace in Colombia and God's provision for Colombia's 3 million displaced people

TELL OTHERS

- Pass this letter on and encourage others to contact us to get more information.
- Share with your church or small group about people impacted by war and ways to help.

GIVE FINANCIALLY

- **Web:** Visit www.JustChildren.org for online giving instructions.
- **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.



Jon is bilingual and conducted interviews and focus-groups throughout Colombia for Just Children.