



## **WEA Peace and Reconciliation Initiative E-NEWS August 2009**

### **WEAPRI Secretariat**



Frank Ritchie, Steve Tollestrup, Kellie Curtis.

Based in Auckland New Zealand WEAPRI secretariat team is here to serve the WEA membership in the task of Christian Peace and Reconciliation. Frank Ritchie is a Wesleyan Methodist Pastor and a Peace and Justice educator, with a background in radio and web based communication and social media. Steve Tollestrup is the Director of WEAPRI as well as Executive Director of TEAR Fund New Zealand. Kellie Curtis is Executive PA. As a New Zealand Maori, Kellie joins the WEAPRI team with a commitment to racial and cultural reconciliation and collaboration.

*How to get in touch with us.*

[Kellie@tearfund.org.nz](mailto:Kellie@tearfund.org.nz)  
[director@tearfund.org.nz](mailto:director@tearfund.org.nz)  
Phone ++64 9 629 1048  
Fax ++64 9 629 1050

WEAPRI Secretariat  
C/- TEAR Fund NZ  
PO Box 8315, Symonds St  
Auckland 1150, New Zealand

## **Duke Summer School**

More than 100 participants representing 23 states and six countries gathered at Duke Divinity School from May 31 to June 5 for the school's first Summer Institute.

The event, hosted by the Center for Reconciliation, was titled "Shaping the Beloved Community in a Divided World." It was a week of deep learning, Christian community, rich worship, and spiritual transformation.

Below are links for a question and answer series with keynote speakers and practitioners John Perkins, Sam Barkat and Mary Nelson.

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/ga/john-perkins-empowering-communities>

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/ga/sam-barkat-we-have-all-been-made-the-image-god>

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/multimedia/mary-nelson-embracing-god's-vision-for-community>

Audio recordings of sessions available at.

<http://www.divinity.duke.edu/learningforlife/programs/summerinstitute/materials/audio>

## **Cape Town 2010.**

Presently a request from WEAPRI and the Lausanne Special Interest Committee on Reconciliation (LSICR) for a tangible presence of a Peace and Reconciliation presence to be included in the programme of Lausanne III congress is being presented by Geoff Tunicliffe.

I will be meeting with Chris Rice the Chair of the LSICR at Duke August 21<sup>st</sup>, to discuss plans for how we can have a collaborative approach and contribution to the Congress..

## **WEAPRI Partner News**

### **NCEASL- National Council Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka Young Ambassadors Programme**

The first training of the NCEASL 'Young Ambassadors Programme' was completed mid July. 60 young people from across the island participated in this

programme designed to bridge the gap between the Tamil and Sinhalese communities after three decades of bitter conflict. Follow up mentoring and support with the participants will continue regularly before they meet as a group again on a peace work camp which is scheduled to be held in October. In addition to this YPA programme are currently working on a human rights book in both languages. This book will be printed soon and they expect to distribute as part of their awareness and training gatherings in the districts.

Please remember to pray for this important and difficult work. Please be ware of the continued need for funding of this programme. If you haven't yet gotten around to visiting NCEASL's site, especially YPA, please take this opportunity and check out

<http://www.nceasl.org/NCEASL/peace/home.php>

### **Micah triennial Global Consultation on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change.**

Climate change and its impact on natural resources, the poor, food scarcity, water and migration contributes to local and national conflict and violence as communities, particularly in the Global South compete for scarce resources and face its impact. Our understanding of this issue as Christian Peace-Makers is important and needs to be taken seriously.

The Micah triennial Global Consultation on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change just held in Nairobi, Kenya considered Climate Change from a development perspective and the impact it is placing on poor and vulnerable 'at risk' communities. If you hadn't considered the link between Climate Change and Conflict, have read through the material from the conference and be better equipped.

<http://www.micahnetwork.org/en/events/past-events/global/triennial-global-consultation>

### **WEBSITE**

Frank Ritchie who is part of the WEAPRI base in New Zealand and overseeing the website build, has just returned from the Micah Network meetings in Nairobi. A basic site should be up as scheduled for the end of August early September. From this, the site will develop and expand. The site is gifted and being professionally designed so it is a case as time allows from the developers.

### **Book Review: 'The Peacemaking Pastor' Alfred Poirer; Baker Books 2006**

Every pastor faces conflict in the church, and Alfred Poirier has this loving reminder: we can run, but we can't hide. Jesus set the example as the Incarnate Peacemaker, and Scripture clearly calls his servant-pastors to be ministers of reconciliation. So the issue is not whether to be a mediator but what kind of mediator to be.

Thoroughly exploring the theology of reconciliation, Poirier adds lessons from personal experience and lists practical steps for effective mediation. With this comprehensive guide, you can embrace peacemaking confidently as a way to glorify God through the overcoming power of the gospel. And, as Jesus promised all peacemakers, you will be blessed.

See the in depth review at

<http://www.9marks.org/CC/article/0,,PTID314526%7CCHID598014%7CCIID2438296,00.html>

**Have some news? Want to make a contribution? Let us know - WEAPRI e-news as well as the WEA e-news is looking for stories of Christians committed to the Peace and reconciliation of Jesus. Please tell us about your programmes, experience and the resources you would be willing to share with us the wider WEAPRI and WEA family. Contact Kellie at [kellie@tearfund.org.nz](mailto:kellie@tearfund.org.nz) or myself, [director@tearfund.org.nz](mailto:director@tearfund.org.nz)**

Grace and Peace

Steve Tollestrup  
Director WEAPRI