

Mediators' Network Newsletter

12 December 2005

We are pleased to be able to send you the latest newsletter for Bridge Builders' Mediators Network. It includes resources and news which we hope you will find inspiring in your pursuit of conflict transformation.

Bridge Builders' busy autumn has included a mediation skills training course in Durham, and our first Training of Trainers course, here in London. We have welcomed Colin Patterson to our staff as Assistant Director; and Alastair McKay our Director has moved to a four-day week with Bridge Builders, having begun studies for a doctorate of ministry.

We wish you all a joy-filled Christmas as you reflect on the One who is Emmanuel, God with us. God's love and presence is promised to us in the incarnation, in the times we face into conflict and in the Great Commission, as we accept the call to make faithful disciples.

Blessings in Christ

Charletta Erb
for the Bridge Builders team

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* **NOTE FOR NEW MEMBERS** – As members, you receive our quarterly Mediators' Network email newsletter. This seeks to highlight mediation issues, programme updates, book reviews, and opportunities to develop your skills. We hope that this newsletter will be a helpful supplement to Mediators' Network days, and a way of exploring issues around conflict in the church. Please give us feedback on what can be most helpful to you. If you are interested in receiving previous issues of this email newsletter, reply to this email with a note to request them.

* **LMC MAILINGS** - Please let us know if you are interested in the possibility of receiving other London Mennonite Centre publicity by email rather than by post.

Programme Updates

Bridge Builders' Northern Office with Colin Patterson

We are very thankful for the £800 raised from individuals' donations towards the £3,000 cost of setting up Bridge Builders' northern office, which is now staffed by Colin Patterson. Colin can be contacted on 0191-383 1031 or lo-call 0845-241 0393. These are dedicated Bridge Builders numbers. His email is colinpatterson@menno.org.uk and his postal address is: Bridge Builders' Northern Office, 24 Monks' Crescent, Durham DH1 1HD. Further information will be sent to people in the North in due course.

You can still donate to the development of the new office, either by sending a cheque payable to "Bridge Builders" to Alastair McKay, Director of Bridge Builders, 14 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AQ, indicating that this is for the northern office of BB; or by calling Kim Broodie on 0845 4500 214, if you would like to make a gift by credit card. Anyone who is a taxpayer can effectively increase their gift by completing a Gift Aid form. Higher rate taxpayers can reclaim tax on their gifts.

The London Mennonite Centre launching a new website

The London Mennonite Centre will shortly be launching a new website with significant improvements. A new feature will be a page for the Mediators' Network, and more useful information about forthcoming events. We also hope to feature articles of interest, useful links, and other resources for facing conflict in the church. So go to www.menno.org.uk over the coming couple of weeks, or early in the New Year.

Bridge Builders' Tenth Anniversary

In 2006, Bridge Builders celebrates 10 years of ministry. We will host a celebration on **Thursday, 6 July 2006** at the London Mennonite Centre. We hope that you will be able to join us, so please mark your diary. Invitations will be sent out in January.

6-9 June 2006: Church Leadership and Family Systems with Richard Blackburn at the **LMC**

This course is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as mature leaders within their churches. It will provide a safe forum for reflecting on how patterns of relating from your family of origin impact your ministry, and also for processing challenging situations that you may be facing in your church.

Following the success of this course in May 2005 (with a different course title), Bridge Builders is pleased to offer it again in 2006. As one of this year's participants put it: "*This course is an invaluable resource for all church leaders and for the health and well being of churches. It offers a challenging opportunity to examine self – to self differentiate and see the implications for healing within the system.*"

Please email Charletta bb@menno.org.uk for a brochure and application form.

Diary Dates for Bridge Builders Events

Mediators' Network Days 2006

*Please note that the **Durham** date in **September** has been changed to Thursday 21st*

19 January 2006 at the **London** Mennonite Centre, 9:45-4:15

26 January 2006 at St Nicholas' Church in **Durham**, 9:30-4:15
2 February 2006 probably at Queens Road Baptist Church in **Coventry**, 9:30-4:15

11 May 2006 at the **London** Mennonite Centre, 9:45-4:15
18 May 2006 probably at St Michael's, Stoke Gifford in **Bristol**, 9:30-4:15
15 June 2006 at South Parade Baptist Church in **Leeds**, 9:30-4:15

7 September 2006 at the **London** Mennonite Centre, 9:45-4:15
14 September 2006 probably at Queens Road Baptist Church in **Coventry**, 9:30-4:15
21 September 2006 at St Nicholas' Church in **Durham**, 9:30-4:15 [**NB** change of date]

Forthcoming training courses

13-17 March 2006: Mediation and Facilitation Skills Training for Senior Church Leaders at High Leigh conference centre, **Hertfordshire**

Further information: <http://www.menno.org.uk/pdf/MSTC2006MarchSenChLdrsDetailsPlusAppl.pdf>

6-9 June 2006: Church Leadership and Family Systems with Richard Blackburn at **LMC**

Further information: <http://www.menno.org.uk/pdf/CLFS2006JuneInfoForm.pdf>

26-30 June 2006: Mediation and Facilitation Skills Training at the Guy Chester Centre, **London**

Further information: <http://www.menno.org.uk/pdf/MSTC2006JuneGCCDetailsPlusAppIFrm.pdf>

9-13 October 2006: Mediation and Facilitation Skills Training at Foxhill Conference Centre, **Cheshire**

Further information: <http://www.menno.org.uk/pdf/MSTC2006OctCheshire.pdf>

21-23 November 2006: Training of Trainers at **LMC**

Further information: Available in the New Year

Please contact Charletta bb@menno.org.uk for brochures and application forms.

Resources

New Book Titles from Metanoia

A Culture of Peace: God's Vision for the Church by *Alan & Eleanor Kreider and Paulus Widjaja*. A revised and significantly expanded version of the booklet *Becoming a Peace Church*. Well worth investing in.

The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace by *John Paul Lederach*. A new title from this leading Mennonite mediator and trainer, exploring some of the challenges of peacebuilding.

Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace by *Miroslav Volf*. A new title on forgiveness, selected by the Archbishop of Canterbury as his Lent book.

Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach: The Power of Dialogue in Educating Adults by *Jane Vella*. A revised edition of Vella's classic book on adult education that has been an inspiration for Bridge Builders' approach to training.

Order these titles from Metanoia Book Service by contacting Will Newcomb
metanoia@menno.org.uk

Opportunities

The Transformative Approach to Mediation Practice 13 January 2006, London, with Joseph Folger. A workshop based on the transformative approach to practice described in the book *The Promise of Mediation* (R.B. Bush and J. Folger). For more information: http://ccgi.iftnet.plus.com/cgi-bin/php/showconference_by_id.php?aid=102

Conversations on Difference and Diversity Annual conference: 28 February -1 March 2006, Liverpool. Mediation UK's annual conference will be of interest to people working in conflict resolution in disputes around different cultures, ethnicities and communities. For more information, visit the Mediation UK's website: http://www.mediationuk.org.uk/events/event_info.asp?lv=1&MenuItemID=3&MenuID=1&evid=97

Peace Direct www.peacedirect.org offers an opportunity that could be of interest to members of the Mediators' Network. It provides an opportunity for mentoring, job shadowing, skills training and networking, including 10 days of training to develop campaigning skills. <http://www.sheilamckechne.org.uk/awards/index.htm>

Meditation A Litany of Resistance from Christian Peacemaker Teams, Jim Loney

One: With the help of God's grace

All: We will struggle for justice

One: With the compassion of Christ

All: We will stand for what is true

One: With God's abiding kindness

All: We will love even our enemies

One: With the love of Christ

All: We will resist all evil

One: With God's unending faithfulness

All: We will work to build the beloved community

One: With Christ's passionate love

All: We will carry the cross

One: With God's overwhelming goodness

All: We will walk as pilgrims of peace

One: With Christ's fervent conviction

All: We will labour for truth

One: With God's infinite mercy

All: We will live in solidarity with all people

One: In the end there are three things that last

All: Faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love

One: Let us abide in God's love

All: Thanks be to God.

- From the Litany of Resistance by Jim Loney (CPT Reservist), Toronto, Ontario, taken captive with three other Christian peacemakers in Iraq

“Unless we are ready to die developing new nonviolent attempts to reduce conflict, we should confess that we never really meant that the cross was an alternative to the sword . . .” Ron Sider, 1984, Mennonite World Conference

“What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devote to war?” Christian Peacemaker Teams website

At the London Mennonite Centre we have been deeply moved by the news of the Christian Peacemaker Teams members who have been kidnapped in Iraq. We have been counting the cost of active nonviolent peacemaking, in the midst of media calls to Tim Nafziger, our resident Christian Peacemaker Team representative.

We believe it is important not to give strength to fear by dwelling on the bad news, but to give strength to hope. So we put our thoughts on all that is being done by Palestinians and Iraqis pleading for the release of these captives. We picture God’s wisdom and love flowing through the CPTers to their captors, overwhelming them with love. No matter what the outcome, we know God is faithful and present in the ongoing mission of CPT.

BBC Radio 4 covered the story of the hostages including comments from Tim Nafziger and Vic Thiessen, Director of the London Mennonite Centre. If you would like to hear the segments, please email your request to Charletta bb@menno.org.uk .

For more information on the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams, visit their website: <http://www.cpt.org/> And you can visit the CPT UK website at: www.cptuk.org.uk