

COMING SOON

A book which can be used for private study and reflection, but can also be used by groups using questions and activities. The word **Unreconciled...** calls us to account and recalls us to our duty as Christians to see our common humanity in our neighbours around us, to hear their stories and enable them to enter with us into whatever kinds of reconciling action may be appropriate.

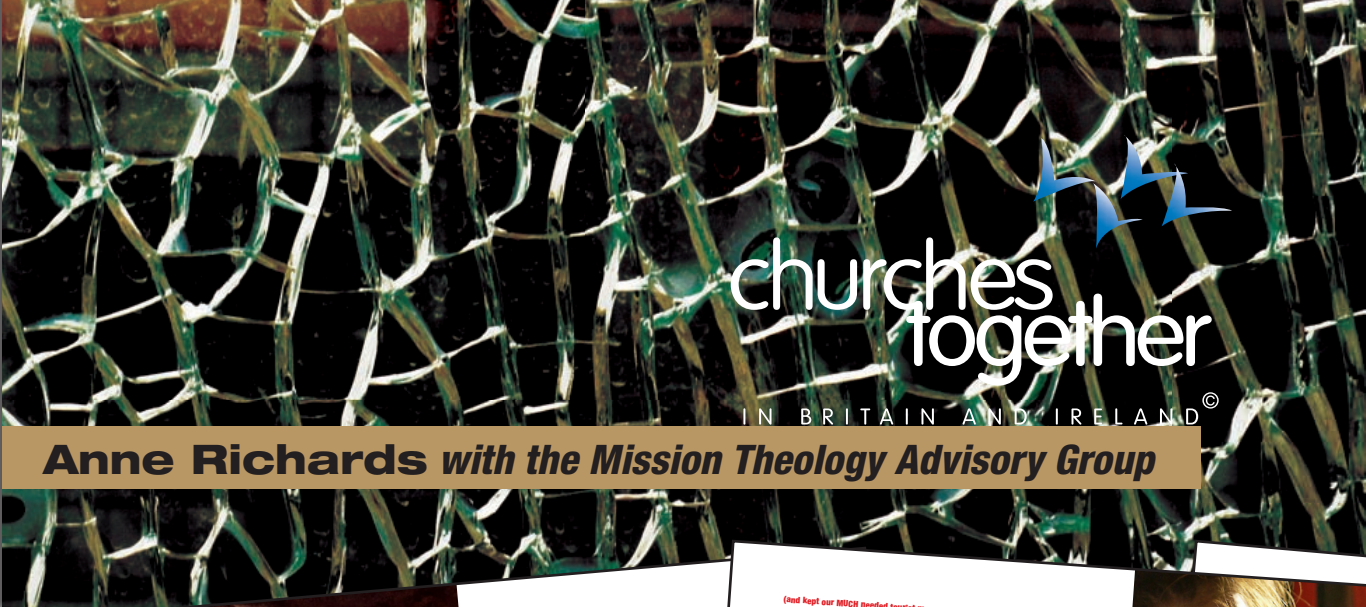
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Unreconciled?

Exploring mission in an imperfect world



churches
together
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Anne Richards with the Mission Theology Advisory Group



that mission is only about sorting out problems rather than new. The five marks of mission¹ imply that creating new. We are called to transform unjust structures at work: we are called to Christian reconciliation. We therefore want to argue that Christian reconciliation (although it might involve repair) but is bringing to it out of the Unreconciled condition. When reconciliation the Unreconciled, something unexpected can occur in a transformation, irrespective of whether the result is a good outcome or not.

What have we got that will enable us to deal with Christians refer to as personal and structural sin? say that it is simply the will to Good – that most want to turn aside from anarchy and chaos and to and just lives. Christians can be even clearer. We and our energy to address the seeds of the Unreconciled, cannot for whatever reason find the energy for theologically that the energy that is released in the worship of almighty God, comes from Jesus by means of the Holy Spirit. Thus Christians by means of the Holy Spirit, God's grace, a particular difference through God's grace, we can be as bad as Job's comforters, who sin he has committed to suffer in this way, except make him feel worse.

Reconciliation as pregnancy and birth

The Taiwanese theologian C.S. Song describes the mission in this world using the imagery of Asian people through conflict and reconciliation in biblical images of God's plan. The barren womb is, in human terms, impossible. For Song, then, the mission is a child in the old age (Genesis 17:15-16) seed of renewed hope and possibility.

If we take this concept further and apply it to the mission of the Church, we desire to bring order into our disorder. The barren woman, who longs for

(and kept our MICH needed tourist money coming to for them) as they were so good to us. This has taught me that beauty is not that had (something that can be VERY hard to remember living in London).

Coming back I have had many different emotions, however if I remember the best of safety that has been shown I can raise a smile. Very important Love and courage to everybody who has survived and all the support to those that need it.

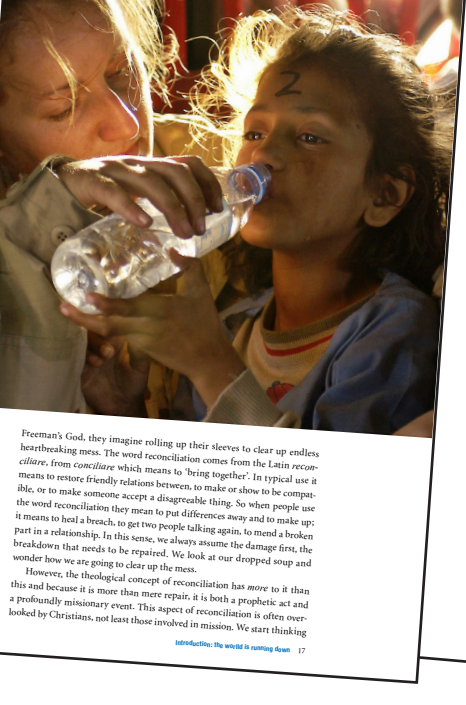
Justin @http://www.baptistmissionaries.org

The tremendous response that people are capable of in time of suffering, war or disaster, not to mention in the smaller tragedies that affect people in their own homes, show that it's really not the human way to say 'what's the endlessly tested in this way. Ruin and disorder wreck Job's life, but he refuses to give up and die. 'I will hold fast my righteousness, and will not let it go; human beings are capable of looking further than immediate experience, no matter how desperate, and carry the hope of a better future. Despite his afflictions and miseries, Job refuses to cast himself into despair. Towards the end of the book, God reveals to him a picture of the magnitude and which human beings have a particular and beloved place. Only by entering into this mystery can Job emerge on the other side of his suffering and rebuild his life.

Like Job, we are also aware that damage and disorder occur in the way we live our lives despite the best laid plans of mice and men. The clear vision we would like to live by gets muddled. Dreams never materialise, get told, relationships break down, a child dies, the clarity of faith in ministry, their things are part of the ministerial tasks: pastoral care, counselling, comforting, helping and praying in the face of the dream of a general Christian task, to build, create, redeem, make new. Once we know ourselves as Unreconciled, we can also be certain that we are endowed with the capability to make a difference, change the world and seek redemption. How does this happen, and what effect does it have on the world around us? Further, what about those people who are trapped in a state where none of those gifts can be used?

More than cleaners

In the film *Brave*, Almighty, God (played by Morgan Freeman) is a humble and overlooked cleaner, quietly and eternally sweeping up human messes, while Bruce goes out squandering his power on his own petty and selfish wants. When most people think about the word 'reconciliation', they often tend to think of it as what is required to address damage: like Morgan



Introductory Session 1: order and disorder in the world

By the end of this session the group will have had opportunity to:

- Investigate order and disorder and become aware of the energy and work required to maintain order in our world (activity);
- Think about creation and destruction in relation to God's covenant with human beings (Bible study);
- Carry out a simple reconciling task (restoring order) in the community;
- Reflect theologically on key questions about order and disorder;
- Feed thoughts and ideas into prayer and reflection.

1. STARTING OUT - ACTIVITIES

Investigating order and disorder

Choose from the selection below

- Collect ten broken or dirty objects – damaged toys, a letter or photo torn in two, a broken flowerpot, a muddy and torn T-shirt etc. Divide people into three groups. Group one has cleaning materials, sellotape, glue (not superglue), string, needle and thread etc. Group two has pens, paints, glitter, ribbons and any other craft materials available. Group 3's task is to repair 5 broken objects as best as they can in a time limit.
- Group 2's task is to do something with their 5 broken objects using their creative materials in the time limit.
- Group 3 has to judge the objects after treatment and say what they think about the results.

As a whole group discuss together: When is mending the better option? When is doing something completely different with a damaged object a better option? How did you feel about the task?

- If you have a parent and toddler group or a school group, organize a children's party with lots of messy food. When the children have finished having fun take photographs of the dirty plates, tables and paper cups. Get a cleaning team to keep some of what materials are required to clean up and to restore order and take some more photographs of the cleaning process. Get the cleaning team to reflect on the effort it takes to put everything away and restore order. How long did it take? How many

Resources: Introductory Session 1: order and disorder in the world 137