

*Sharing the
Vision and Mission
of*



RECONRE
Sdn Bhd

2005

“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men... We implore you on Christ’s behalf: be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:11,20

Introducing the Vision and Mission of ReconRe

2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled with God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Vision and Objectives

ReconRe is an interdenominational voluntary non-profit organisation, born out of the concern of God laid upon the hearts of a small group of Christians who share:

the vision of encouraging the earthly expression of man's reconciliation with God through His Son, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians chapter 5), starting from within the Malaysian church.

As a catalyst, ReconRe hopes to encourage believers to turn this vision into their mission in their personal, family, social and church life.

We believe that the fruit of reconciliation between man and God, through Jesus Christ, must be seen in the increasing unity within the body, soul and spirit of an individual person, increasing oneness among God's family members, and as compassion and overflowing grace shown to those in our communal, social and physical environment.

First, the ministry of reconciliation is to be effected through the care of full-time or vocational Christian workers.

Second, it will be extended to include all God's family through creative ministries. Projects undertaken are to be as originally Malaysian as possible in order to identify with the aspirations of local believers.

Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation

All God's children, who have received His forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have participated in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. We are those who have benefited from God's grace upon us as He calls us His friends (John 15). However, we often find great difficulties to become friends with one another. We have a problem with understanding the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation.

Many believers do not forgive because they are afraid that forgiving someone means immediately shaking hands and becoming close friends with one who has hurt them. So, in order not to appear hypocritical, they do not want to forgive till they feel good about the wrongdoer. This sort of misunderstanding of the two words has, therefore, hindered many sincere Christians from forgiving their offenders and hence retarded their growth as God's children.

The Difference Between Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiveness is a ‘one-way street of grace’ extended by the person wronged to the wrongdoer. The wrong doer may not deserve our forgiveness, nor can he earn it. Yet, just as God has extended His grace of forgiveness to us unconditionally, so we need to extend His grace of forgiveness unconditionally to those who have hurt us. Christ’s atonement for the sin of the world such forgiveness possible and real.

Reconciliation, on the other hand, is a ‘two-way street of friendship’ between two persons or parties that were once at enmity. This event requires both parties to want to be friends.

For example, Jesus Christ forgave those who murdered Him *before* they even knew that they had sinned against Him.

Reconciliation, however, is effected only when the sinner acknowledges his sins, receives Jesus' forgiveness and then becomes His friend.

In the same manner, God expects us to take the initiative to forgive our wrongdoer even if the other person does not know that he has wronged us.

We see, therefore, that forgiveness does not always lead to reconciliation e.g. an abused person may not be able to meet her abuser who has not repented.

Nevertheless, as God's children, we need to always seek for reconciliation if the person is alive. But we need to wait for God’s timing for reconciliation to be effected. We dare not put false guilt on the forgiver by asking him to guarantee reconciliation. As we look at what the Son of God did for us

on the cross and consider the time lapse before we (sinners, one-by-one down the generations) received Him as our Saviour and Friend, we will be more patient with others as God is so patient with us..

However, as God redeemed children, since God has reconciled us with Himself,

Why Consider Reconciliation Once More?

We believe that we need to consider the deeper earthly implications of God's reconciliation with men and women for 3 reasons:

First, we need to talk about reconciliation because we are still so broken within us.

We want to consider what God's reconciliation with us actually means horizontally – between our spirit, soul and body, between one another in the family of God, and between the environment and us. Yes, there is still work to be done in and by us before we are ready to meet our Bridegroom Jesus. Paul, in Philippians 2:12, urges us to *work out the salvation that God has worked in us with fear and trembling*. As long as we are in the truth and grace of God, such trembling and fear is good for us, for they tend to shake the rubbish out of our beings and enable us to realise that, actually, God is Lord and we are not.

The working out of that reconciliation in our present lives takes place as a process. Paul often uses the terms...*putting off* (of our sins, wounds, wrong theology and the enemy's attacks) and *putting on* (of the Lord Jesus, His character) to describe the process

Second, we need to talk about reconciliation because there is a purpose to fulfill.

Peter pointed out in *1 Peter 2:2* that we need to grow up in our salvation. We need to put off our old self and put on the new self of the holy and mature person of Christ increasingly each day. We need to be prepared for Jesus our Beloved in ways that pleases Him; and He has stated simply that way in His farewell speech to His twelve disciples in *John 13:34,35*. He told them and now us,

"Love one another as I have loved you...by this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."

This expression of unconditional love among believers will surely point others to the living Christ of truth and grace. We need to be reconciled with one another as God's children at home and in our churches.

As we are more reconciled within ourselves, hopefully, sandpaper relationships with one another will become more and more velvety so that we will really be His witnesses before a watching world!

Third, we need to be reconciled with the wider society and the whole of creation, as salt and light in His world, as a preamble to that grand finale before the presence of God when the new heaven and the new earth will arrive in His glory!

Seen from this angle, it is a great blessing to be able to live in a multicultural environment so that we may eventually get more used to being different yet equally human. Though reconciliation in this sense may not mean salvation oneness

for all because we are still in a fallen world, God can use our differences to teach His people and prepare them to live in heaven with Him together.

Further, at this stage of history, the surfacing of environmental issues appears to be a preamble to the redemption of the whole earth according to His plan for His creation [Romans 8:18-25]. As we follow the daily local and world news, do we not feel that the whole creation is groaning in anticipation of that full release as Jesus Christ ushers in the new heaven and new earth as recorded in Revelations 21:1-4?

One of God's strategies for the preparation of the bride for His Son is:

To care for pastors so that, in turn, they can care for their congregations fruitfully, according to His ways, not theirs or ours.

In early January 1995, five friends gathered together to pray and to form a protem committee to work on the fulfillment of this vision.

By 1st June 1995, an about 1000 sq.ft. large apartment was provided in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The first ripple for the vision and mission of ReconRe, the name of our present ministry, was set in action as the ***Gethsemane Retreat Centre-Kuala Lumpur*** opened its doors for full-time Christian workers (FCWs) to spend time with the Lord in restful solitude and silence. At last, they can feel that they have been "*given permission*" to rest in Him and receive His love like Jesus did with His Father.

By God's grace, the full-time Christian workers and some lay leaders, who spent prolonged quiet times with the Lord at that place, have each time left with either a sense of God's direction in their specific situation, renewed friendship with God or simply being refreshed in spirit, soul and body to minister to others again.

Side by side with the provision of a place to meet with God alone, we also began to offer one-to-one pastoral counselling and guidance for quiet retreats (on request only). Again, we have seen lives transformed by the amazing love of God. For some pastors or any FCW who are suffering neglect, rejection or confusion in ministry, the mere reminder that God still remembers them as precious, that God still cares for them, accepts them and still has a role for them to play in His body, brings much tears of gratefulness and joy...

In fact, it was God's desire to call that little place *Gethsemane* so that His workers will go through a *Gethsemane experience with Him* in their desires and struggles to do His will, and not theirs.

What is the Message of Gethsemane for God's People?

Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane....and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them,

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me."

Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed,

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.".....

He went away a second time and prayed,

"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.".....

So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Matthew 26:36-44

The essence of the Gethsemane message is:

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That Christ's victory on the cross and the resurrection commenced at Gethsemane. It was there that He, as the Son of Man, almost gave up fulfilling the agreement He made with His Father before He became a man. The very thought of Him being separated from the Father who had never left Him alone was too disgusting, horrifying, paralysing and depressing. How could He stand being torn apart from One who loved Him so much and whom He loved dearly! Wasn't the taste of grief for His human father, Joseph, enough? Yet,

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It was at Gethsemane that we understand how secure He was in His Father's wisdom, love and faithfulness that, finally,

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He obeyed His Father in being made sin for the world...and thus lived without God for us. He trusted His Father to raise Him from the dead....to be with Him again.....!

Stories from Gethsemane

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One of those who used the GRC to listen to God was a young teacher who was so surprised by the voice of God for the first time, that she spent one of the 3 nights there sitting by the balcony door conversing with Him. This meeting with the Master she loves made her dance all over the apartment with joy. Since then, she has resigned from the teaching job and has served as a missionary in another nation.

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Another pastor, after the experience of God's forgiveness and love, was reconciled with his church which made every effort to have him back even though he had found a new job elsewhere.

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Yet another interdenominational lady worker thought she had had enough of such work and wanted to become a missionary in China. However, God told her to stay put for the time being and she obeyed with joy. Later, she was actually sent out at a more appropriate time.

Indeed, as we look back and reflect on what God has been doing through the vision of ReconRe, the pain of praying and waiting for open doors to run with the vision does not feel so painful after all. We have learnt that God is faithful because what He said He will do for and through His workers in general, and His pastors in particular, are coming to pass.

The Reconre Team believes that, though quiet and seemingly non-dynamic the mission seems to be, He will ripple His reconciliation through the churches in Malaysia as His pastors and other FCWs listen to Him, become more reconciled with Him, within their families, with each other and their congregations - for His glory and joy!

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*******Wi-de-ni-ng-the-Vi-si-on*******

In October 1995, God widened the vision of the Gethsemane Retreat Centre.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 became the vision's theme.

God was telling us that there is a need for all His people to remind one another to retreat to listen to Him regularly and to work out the reconciliation that He has worked in us in our daily lives.

The Gethsemane Retreat Centre thus became a project of the overall ministry called ReconRe which is registered as a company for financial accountability.

What Does R-e-c-o-n-R-e symbolise?

Recon

= *Reconciliation: Christ's ministry of reconciliation, vertically and horizontally, entrusted to you and me (2 Corinthians 5:16-21).*

Re

= *Retreat: Retreat to be with God alone so as to receive the security of His love (2 Corinthians 3:18).*

= *Rest: Rest in the Lord in quietness and peace (Luke 8:22).*

= *Repent: Repent of our sins against Him and others (Isaiah 30:15-18).*

= *Remain: Remain in Jesus and let His word remain in us (John 15:1-12).*

= *Renewed: Renewed in our minds by His word for the transformation into Christlikeness (Romans 12:1-2).*

= *Refreshed: Refreshed in our bodies, souls and spirits (Acts 3:19)*

= *Recommissioned: Recommissioned to minister His truth and grace to a needy world (John 21:15-17).*

i.e.

As a result of God's having taken the initiative to send His only begotten Son to reconcile man with Himself, we are able to know Him through repentance of our sins against Him, retreat to rest in Christ, remain in Him, be transformed by the renewal of our minds and be refreshed and recommissioned for further service on His behalf. Let us ponder once more the meaning of resting in God...

I

The Invitation to Retreat and Rest

Jesus said:

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

At the first hearing of Jesus' invitation, the disciples probably shrunk from it. Why? Most men, women and children in those days in Judea had seen animals being harnessed under heavy yokes to plough the earth or pull heavily loaded carts. Many of us in Malaysia who visited padi (rice) fields before the seventies would have memories of such scenes too. Who in his right mind would want to be yoked, any way...*"No freedom- lah!"* Yet, how easy it is for us to transfer our damaged way of thinking and images to the true God and His thoughts and ways. Meanwhile, we willingly submit to the

tangible yokes of this world whether they be in the form of people, places, things, ideas, pleasure or comfort, ambition or popularity... yokes that absorb the energy God gives to be released to love Him, self and others for Him.

But, "No, No," Jesus seemed to be saying to them. *"When I say 'yoke', I do not mean the yoke of work. Rather, I mean the freedom to attach yourself to Me, Your source of life, love, acceptance, understanding, forgiveness, healing, restoration and energy, instead of attaching yourself to others. So, My friends, do not be afraid to come to Me; to come...rest in Me. Simply be faithful in the little or much I give to you and leave the results to Me. You are not responsible for the results; I am. So, come, rest in Me."*

His words were so simple and yet so quickly misunderstood by His disciples then and now. As a result, many of us do not experience His rest, His joy and His peace regularly.

ReconRe seeks to be a reminder...and only as a reminder of Jesus' invitation to rest in Him and with Him (Mark 6:31). Where repentance from sin is necessary, we will then feel and know that He will forgive and receive us anew.

II

The Meaning of Resting in God

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel says:

*"In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and in trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.*

*You said, 'We will flee on horses.' Therefore, you will
flee!*

*You said, 'We will ride off on swift horses.'
Therefore, your pursuers will be swift!*

*A thousand will flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you will all flee away,
till you are left like a flagstaff on a mountain top,
like a banner on a hill."*

*Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;
He rises to show you compassion.
For the Lord is a God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for Him!*

Isaiah 30:15-18

Many of God's children do not rest because they do not see how they could afford to do so, *not* because they do not need to rest or do not want to rest.

After the creation of a good world, God stated that He rested. Subsequently, through Moses, He gave clear orders to rest one day a week. Is this just for our physical, emotional and mental needs so that we could worship Him together? What does worshipping together mean anyway? Is it not to acknowledge to the whole universe that Jesus Christ is King of Kings?

Too often, in our hectic competitive world, we take the means of grace such as the baptism, the Lord's supper, fasting, service, giving and keeping of the Sabbath as duties to be fulfilled so that we could please the Almighty God. But we often forget that we are so absentminded and preoccupied with activities other than with friendship with Him, that the basic reason, I believe, that God gave us the grace of rest, is so that we will recall that He is God and we are not. We need to remind each other that, as mere created beings, we depend on Him totally for everything, for life itself and for that wonderful reconciliation with Him. The world will still keep turning if we stop and rest BECAUSE it is He who holds it up...not us.

Often, we are like the little boy who keeps carrying his heavy bag of potatoes, still on his feet, while he rides in a lorry to market. Christ's invitation to rest in Him, therefore, is a reminder that we can and need to rest in Him who is in charge and has fulfilled all God's demands on us. We cannot fulfil them anyway. So, let's let go of the potatoes and sit restfully with Him in His lorry.

III

Remaining in Jesus

Jesus said:

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener.....
Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear
fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you
bear fruit unless you remain in Me....."*

*As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Now remain
in My love. If you obey My commandments, you will remain in
My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and
remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be
in you and that your joy may be complete. My commandment is
this: love each other as I have loved you."*

John 15:1-12

When a word is repeated in Scriptures, God wants us to pay special attention to it, like as in Deuteronomy where we are urged to keep repeating His words to our children. In the above 12 verses, the word "*remain*" appears seven times. Another name for "*remain*" is "*abide*", which means, "*to live permanently*".

Thus, to remind one another to stay close to Jesus in our daily lives (just as Mary did as she sat at His feet listening to Him or, as John did while he leaned on His chest hearing His heartbeat) is our Christian privilege and duty. As God's catalysts, ReconRe invites all God's people to plan and spend prolonged quiet times alone with Him regularly. We hope and pray that those who minister God's truth and grace to others (through teaching, preaching, pastoring, counselling, writing,

singing, composing, choreographing or serving people) will find shelters where they may have some degree of solitude and silence to wait upon the Lord and rest in Him...far from the maddening crowd!

IV

Renewal of the Mind

Paul urged,

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:1-2

When times are good for us, few care to look for God's will for their lives though God has not forgotten that He has His will for us. But when we suffer for any reason, we begin to ask desperately, "HOW do I know His will? It is so hard! Why doesn't He come down from heaven and speak to me?" We begin to doubt His ability to help us and even blame Him for all our troubles.

Yet, Scriptures repeatedly tell us to renew our minds with His word, to get to Know Him through the reading of His thoughts conveyed in words to us. Then, His word becomes the radar for us as we undergo the roller coasters of life's imperfections.

In order to help in the process of renewing our minds, ReconRe seeks to encourage the use of creative means to share His truth and grace as revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

V

Fruit of Reconciliation.....More Reconciliation

Paul wrote:

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all.....so from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.....We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God....."

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Also,

".....Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.....Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality....Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but associate with those of lowly position....Be careful to do right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, live at peace with everyone..."

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has establishedlet no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.....Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters....let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.....We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.....Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God....."

Extracts from Romans 12:9-15:7

The whole gospel of Jesus Christ is about the necessity and the reality of reconciliation between this unholy world and the holy God. But does that mean that once we have been made friends with God, we can remain as enemies with those with whom we have conflict or whom we do not like, or that we may ignore those for whom we have no inclination, even when they need us? Yet, as Paul lamented in Romans 7:7-25, as long as we are in this body of clay, we will still have to struggle to be reconciled with ourselves and with others.

Conclusion

As fellow strugglers, therefore, ReconRe staff and volunteers seek to encourage God's people by adopting the theme of **Reconciliation** at all levels for its mission:

- * Between man and God primarily
- * Within man himself...between his spirit, soul and body
- * Between man and man
- * Between man and his environment.

Therefore, we urge you to intercede on behalf of His larger family as we seek to fulfill God's mission of reconciliation so that others will also catch His vision which is reflected in the titles of our books such as...

Listen to God's Whispers, Listen to Their Heart Cries, Friends of the Bridegroom, Forgiveness and Reconciliation...

Let us run with the vision and mission of God's reconciliation with a sin-sick world with all that we are and all that we have, out of love for Christ, who first loved us and has given Himself for us. As Habakkuk watched, listened and wrote, so let us watch, let us listen and let us write...

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Thought is lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”

Information on ReconRe's Projects

General Information

ReconRe's website: www.reconre.org

Contact

Dr. Lee Bee Teik: Tel: 06-6332072 (O)
Email: reconcilor@reconre.org

Reservation of Gethsemane Retreat Centres

Contact

GRC-Staff: Email: reconcilor@reconre.org

Guests will be welcomed as individuals, married couples or small groups. Rules and guidelines will be provided for the use of the place. Retreat guidance and pastoral counselling will be available on request though you may also organise your quiet retreat with your own leaders.

For year 2005 A.D. and till further notice, our centres are at Seremban (headquarters), Tanah Rata and Port Dickson.

Purchase of books

Contact

Publication Staff: Email: reconcilor@reconre.org

Funds

Love gifts for the running with ReconRe's vision and mission are welcome as we function on a "just-enough-basis" according to the guidance in Proverbs 30:7-9.

Please send all crossed cheques to: ReconRe Sdn Bhd

And direct them to:

The Ministry Director
ReconRe Ministries
P.O.Box 91
70710 Seremban
Negri Sembilan
Malaysia

If official receipts do not reach you within 30 days of sending your cheque, please inform our Ministry Director or Administrator immediately. Thank You.

ReconRe's Portfolio

Board of Reference: Ling Khoon Chin
 Chew Tow Yow
 Daniel Ho

Caretaker Shareholders: Ling Khoon Chin
 Ooi Eng Kor
 Lim Kah Cheng
 Yip Chee Seng
 Lee Bee Teik

Board of Directors: Lee Bee Teik
 Lim Kah Cheng
 Ooi Eng Kor

Staff and Volunteers

SHALOM!