



Leaving a Legacy of Peacemaking in Minnesota

By Jeanine Parolini

Take Part in a Massive Community Peacemaking Outreach at the 2006 Peacemaker Conference

My vision for peacemaking was too small! Ken Sande challenged me to think bigger last January when I heard him cast the vision for The Peacemaker Church after a local *Peacemaker Seminar* in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Ken shared about creating churches where peacemaking is an *internal* value that is *outwardly* demonstrated—first as it is applied in the church, and then as it is extended to the local community. When I heard Ken passionately describe this Peacemaker Church value of *witness*, a voice inside of me screamed, “That’s it!” so loud that I thought the rest of the auditorium must have heard me. I have not been the same since. My initial vision for peacemaking was to bring the principles into my church. Now my vision has grown into our church reaching our local community with biblical conflict resolution.

Within moments of hearing Ken’s

vision, I began to consider the impact that peacemaking principles could have on the community outside the church. Because I became a Christian later in life, I understood the conflicted heart of an unbeliever. The question came to mind, “If someone had approached me with tools to work through my internal and external conflicts, would I have responded more readily to the gospel?”

When it struck me that peacemaking was to be done not only *in* our church but also *through* our church, I got excited about the bigger picture. Ken Sande explains in the Peacemaker Church materials that God wants our unity and peace to overflow and draw others to Christ as we (1) equip and encourage members to use peacemaking as a witness for Christ and (2) establish a Church-Based Reconciliation Ministry. Peacemaker Churches will not only be engaged in the ministry of reconciliation within the church, but also will be committed to entering into the local community with the ministry of reconciliation. Is there someone in your life or community that could be drawn to Christ through your peacemaking witness?

Christ has changed our condition by restoring us to relationship with the Father. Now that we have been reconciled, we are to go into

the world and seek to change the condition of those in our local and global communities by restoring them to relationship with God and one another. This exemplifies what it means to be a Peacemaker Church.

You have an exciting new opportunity to live out this vision with peacemakers from around the world at the 2006 Peacemaker Conference in the Twin Cities. On Friday afternoon of the conference, Ken Sande will offer a keynote address on how our churches can bring hope and peace through reconciliation to our communities. After Ken’s message, there will be an optional outreach opportunity where Twin Cities churches take teams of peacemakers into the local community. We will have the chance to bring peacemaking in creative and relational ways to places like rescue missions, battered women’s shelters, community centers, rehabilitation centers, public schools, and city churches in order to introduce others to the peacemaking power of the gospel.

Here in Minnesota, we have the third largest Hmong population in the United States, and we are hoping to take a team to share the message of reconciliation with Hmong families. At my church, we reach out to the Hispanic community by offering a Spanish service, free meals, clothing, and English classes. Se Habla Español? I would love to have you join us in sharing the gospel message of reconciliation with our diverse communities.

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Through the 2006 Peacemaker Conference, Peacemaker Ministries desires to provide us with an outreach experience that will in turn prompt us to reach out with the gospel of peacemaking to our local communities. Participants in the Friday night event are invited to go in teams, and can observe or take on more active roles as the Spirit moves.

Would you join us in Minnesota in September 2006 to extend our vision together and help leave a legacy of peacemaking in our local community? We look forward to helping transform your community with the gospel message of peace and reconciliation. ☩

Rev. Jeanine Parolini is the director of adult discipleship and small groups for North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills & Roseville, Minnesota, and has been teaching, coaching, and consulting on conflict resolution since 1996. Her involvement with peacemaking began at Willow Creek Community Church, and she is now seeing the fruit of peacemaking in her current church. Jeanine is presently enrolled in Peacemaker Ministries' Certification Program. In addition, Jeanine is a member and facilitator of the peacemaker network in the Twin Cities.