

# 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

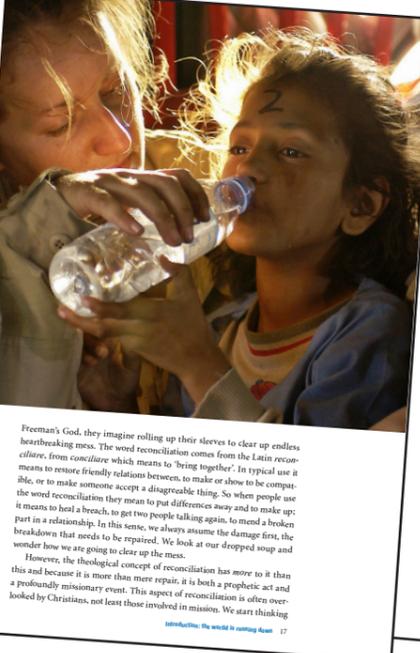
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Anne Richards with the Mission Theology Advisory Group



that mission is only about sorting out problems rather than new. The five marks of mission imply that creation at work: we are called to transform unjust structures of society. We are called to be reconciling and to be in solidarity with those who are excluded, marginalised, discriminated against and exploited by the systems of domination. We are called to be agents of reconciliation, to be reconciling and to be in solidarity with those who are excluded, marginalised, discriminated against and exploited by the systems of domination. We are called to be agents of reconciliation, to be reconciling and to be in solidarity with those who are excluded, marginalised, discriminated against and exploited by the systems of domination.

**Reconciliation as pregnancy and birth**  
The Taiwanese theologian C.S. Song describes reconciliation in this world using the image of a barren woman through conflict resolution in biblical images of God's promise to the barren woman in human terms. The barren womb is, in human terms, the state of being unable to have children. In the Bible, the barren woman is a metaphor for a people who are unable to have children. In the Bible, the barren woman is a metaphor for a people who are unable to have children.



**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 humanity (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 human beings (Bible study).
- Group 1'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 do 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 note 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 did it take?

