Make plans now to attend the next AAIF Biennial Conference to be held in 2012. Please see www.aifusa.org for on-going updates.

In loving one another through our works we bring an increase of grace and a growth in divine love." — Mother Teresa
(In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers)

Grace in theological terminology is defined as
a. the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God.
b. the influence or spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them.
c. virtue or excellence of divine origin: the Christian graces.
d. Also called state of grace, the condition of being in God's favor or one of the elect." This being the case, it is a wonder that there is any hatred or hateful acts in the world at all. Why are we in an endless state of being at war? What is behind hatred that pushes us into conflict and the lack of the ability to find resolutions for on-going conflicts through verbal negotiations.

"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, and deserted by everybody." — Mother Teresa

Make plans now to attend the next AAIF Biennial Conference to be held in 2012. Please see www.aifusa.org for on-going updates.
Background Biblical Texts for our discussion on the importance of “love” and what the lack of that may be like:

Psalm 29
Isaiah 42: 1-9
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
Revelation 12

Isaiah 42: 42-43
42 He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
43 To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Matthew 3:13-17
Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.
Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway."

- Mother Teresa

When religion fails to spread a message of love:

All of humanity is capable of hatred if they do not feel loved and respected:

Have you ever stopped to think about how many wars historically have been fought and even in our times where humanity has self-righteously pointed the finger at the "Others" in order to rationalize perpetrating acts of terrorism on those "Others"?
The Crusades are perhaps the best example that we have of such religious wars. During the Reformation, change was violent. All of our presidential candidates and other political candidates must be Christian, but even this can open up a heated debate among their constituents who may doubt as to whether the candidate is really Christian or Christian in the right way. I get so tired of those political campaign ads that we are subjected to in the media; it is mud slinging at its worst.

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

(“And, yes, we are also pleased with our daughters and other sons in the context in which we live.” The quote above is about Jesus, as an offspring of the Creator, that Holy Light...)

Miniature tomatoes on the vine in July
Long before the Reformation though, Christians may have sought various expressions for their understanding of Christianity. Aryanism was completely squelched before it could even gain much of a foothold. I believe their leader was put to death for his beliefs. The Church split into East and West. The “Troubles” in Ireland and especially in Northern Ireland between Christians who at the very foundation of their faith are taught to love the stranger is most painful. Belgium is divided into two linguistic groups. Do they also tend to be two different Christian denominations as well?

There are people in Northern Ireland who are actively seeking the underpinnings based on reconciliation and peace to help turn the “troubles” around. Integrated Schools are being set up so that Protestant and Roman Catholic Children can sit in the same classroom side by side learning together and becoming a single group of classmates. This is a positive step in the right direction. Their next project in Northern Ireland, which by the way, in each case gets its impetus from NIMMA, Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association, is to create an integrated neighborhood. The thinking behind this is to reduce the potential for violence between two groups of Christians.

The world of Christianity needs more examples like this to bring us together.

All people have the capacity for hatred. Christ’s birth as described in Revelations 12 explains how this happened. On the other hand, as humans we are weak. We may not admit this to ourselves that we have this potential for hatred. People are most prone to manifest physical or verbal signs of hatred when they feel the most unloved. All human beings share a basic need to feel respected for who they are. We also need to feel respected for who we are.

Sometimes the need to feel loved and respected can be so great that a human being may feel that it is and will be impossible to feel loved or to find respect anywhere. If you listen carefully and “read between the lines” to the daily news reports this is the underlying message.

Father Tim Mitchell, The Episcopal Church of the
Many thanks to:

The lived example of Mother Teresa;  
For his ongoing inspiration: 
Father Tim Mitchell of The Episcopal Church of the Advent;  
Father Ernest Falardeau;  
Father George Kilcourse;  
Franz and Laura Green, AAIF National Co-Chairs and the AAIF Board for their on-going support of the ARK; the IFIN; and to my husband, Peter Glauber and our children along with their spouses and children who have helped and contributed to making this edition of the ARK possible in countless ways.  
~ M.J. Glauber

Advent, Louisville, KY, noted, that even in the lyrics of contemporary music, the underlying theme is the basic human desire to be loved. There is a human ache to be told that we are “Beloved.” All humans, everywhere, and at all times in history want to be loved. We want to hear, “This is my Beloved daughter/son etc.” God sent Jesus, his son to us simply because we exist. God is telling us too that “You are a member of the Body of Christ. You are my son/daughter/child. You are my beloved.”

We may find it more difficult to believe that those who live on the fringes of our society, for example, the strangers among us who don’t speak our language, those who are HIV positive, or the homeless are God’s Beloved too. After all, we are only human and our ability to understand can be limited, but we must strive to understand the “Others” through a filter of love since we are loved by God.

People are the most filled with hate when they don’t feel loved. Love is needed to help erase hate. What we are doing is not enough.

We do impressive things because we know that we are loved and we wish to return that love. Through a renewal of our baptismal promises that were made for us as infants in many cases or by us...
as young children, we return to that state of innocence and to a state of knowing that we will always be beloved by God.

On the Usefulness of Love:
Quotes from Mother Teresa on Love and related topics:
Mother Teresa has some quotes that address this subject about the role of love and being loved in regard to how we should treat one another and what the benefits of doing things in a loving way will bring. I am including them since they also apply to interchurch families living in America at this time. May you find good use for them:
"I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love." - Mother Teresa

"Peace begins with a smile..."  
- Mother Teresa

"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?''
- Mother Teresa

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."
- Mother Teresa

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."
- Mother Teresa

"The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread."
— Mother Teresa

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."
- Mother Teresa

"Live simply so others may simply live."
- Mother Teresa

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."
- Mother Teresa

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."
- Mother Teresa

Take the time to notice the simplest forms of beauty around you in nature.

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A variety of grass growing by the beach in Virginia in July
"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."
- Mother Teresa

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."
- Mother Teresa

"God doesn’t require us to succeed, he only requires that you try"
- Mother Teresa

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family."
- Mother Teresa

"I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."
- Mother Teresa

"The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved."
- Mother Teresa

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."
- Mother Teresa

"If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are."
- Mother Teresa

"A life not lived for others is not a life."
- Mother Teresa

"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something."
- Mother Teresa

"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream big, and you will give an account of your motives."
- Mother Teresa
deep, for every dream precedes the goal."
- Mother Teresa

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."
- Mother Teresa

"Let nothing perturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything."
- Mother Teresa

"The person who gives with a smile is the best giver because God loves a cheerful giver."
- Mother Teresa

"If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one."
- Mother Teresa

"If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve."
- Mother Teresa

"Spread the love of God through your life but only use words when necessary."
- Mother Teresa

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."
- Mother Teresa

"Love to be real, it must cost—it must hurt—it must empty us of self."
- Mother Teresa

"Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person."
- Mother Teresa

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of..."
The love that binds us and helps us to discover God in our ordinary lives

“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”
- Mother Teresa

“Prayer in action is love, love in action is service.”
- Mother Teresa

“Each one of them is Jesus in disguise.”
- Mother Teresa

“God made the world for the delight of human beings-- if we could see His goodness everywhere, His concern for us, His awareness of our needs: the phone call we’ve waited for, the ride we are offered, the letter in the mail, just the little things He does for us throughout the day. As we remember and notice His love for us, we just begin to fall in love with Him because He is so busy with us -- you just can't resist Him. I believe there’s no such thing as luck in life, it's God's love, it's His.”
- Mother Teresa

“when you don't have anything, then you have everything.”-Mother Teresa

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Birds finding food to eat when the tide comes in Virginia, Sandbridge area in July

“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!”

©mig

bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”
- Mother Teresa
(A Simple Path: Mother Teresa)

“If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway… You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.”
- Mother Teresa

“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat.”
- Mother Teresa
"Without patience, we will learn less in life. We will see less. We will feel less. We will hear less. Ironically, ‘rush’ and ‘more’ usually mean less."
- Mother Teresa

"Life is a game, play it."
- Mother Teresa

"I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus, “Love one another as I have loved you.” Ask yourself “How has he loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?” Unless this love is among us, we can kill ourselves with work and it will only be work, not love. Work without love is slavery."
- Mother Teresa

"People are unrealistic; illogical, and self-centered. Love them anyway."
- Mother Teresa

"Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other in your family."
- Mother Teresa

"Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand."
- Mother Teresa

"In the West we have a tendency to be profit-oriented, where everything is measured according to the results and we get caught up in being more and more active to generate results. In the East -- especially in India -- I find that people are more content to just be, to just sit around under a banyan tree for half a day chatting to each other. We Westerners would probably call that wasting time. But there is value to it. Being with someone, listening without a clock and without anticipation of results, teaches us about love. The success of love is in the loving -- it is not in the result of loving."
- Mother Teresa

(A Simple Path: Mother Teresa)

"Joy is a net of love in which you can catch souls."
- Mother Teresa

"Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness."
- Mother Teresa

"I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness."
-Mother Teresa

(A Gift for God: Prayers and Meditations)
"Love begins by taking care of the closest ones - the ones at home."
- Mother Teresa

ded to grow up in greater love for each other."
-Mother Teresa

"Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go."
- Mother Teresa

"The Simple Path
Silence is Prayer
Prayer is Faith
Faith is Love
Love is Service
The Fruit of Service is Peace"
- Mother Teresa

"May God break my heart so completely that the whole world falls in."
- Mother Teresa

"Smile at each other. Smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other - it doesn't matter who it is - and that will help

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all."

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."
- Mother Teresa

"It is a kingly act to assist the fallen."
- Mother Teresa

"Intense love does not measure it just gives."
- Mother Teresa

"I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor. Do you know your next door neighbor?"
- Mother Teresa

"There are many people who can do big things, but there are very few people who will do the small things."
- Mother Teresa

"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same -- with charity you give love, so don't just give

Enjoy the simple gifts of nature. We may have been given an opportunity if we look carefully.

- a garden in the Bronx in July

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money but reach out your hand instead."
-Mother Teresa
(A Simple Path: Mother Teresa)

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."
-Mother Teresa

"What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight; build it anyway." -Mother Teresa

"If we want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it."
-Mother Teresa

"A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love. She gives most who gives with joy."
-Mother Teresa
(In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers)

"We are all pencils in the hand of God."
-Mother Teresa

"We too are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper silence and aloneness with God, together as a community as well as personally; to be alone with Him — not with our books, thoughts, and memories but completely stripped of everything — to dwell lovingly in His presence, silent, empty, expectant, and motionless. We cannot find God in noise or agitation."
-Mother Teresa
(In the Heart of the World: thoughts, Stories and Prayers)

"We must know that we have been created for greater things, not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for diplomas and degrees, this work and that work. We have been created in order to love and to be loved."
-Mother Teresa

"Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people."
-Mother Teresa
"Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile, what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God."

-Mother Teresa

(In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers)

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." - Mother Teresa

(In the Heart of the World: Thoughts, Stories and Prayers)

***

Interchurch families can easily deduce from Mother Teresa’s quotes what it is that they need to do in their homes, and in the world around us. Everything that we do, think and say must be done with love. Most of us already know this and do this, however, it still merits being highlighted as something of importance that we learn and know to do.

We may not see the response immediately in our greater community, but we must persevere in doing our loving inspired actions. It is not about us. It is about God and putting God's work into action. You may wonder at times just how was it that you ended up in an interchurch marriage. It wasn’t by accident; you were chosen for a special mission. We have been placed here by God who loves us very much. We are not alone.

Our lived examples of Christian Unity will help to promote Christian Unity in the greater community. We must be patient, but persistent.

Reflections by Mary Jane Glauber

The ARK    July 2011

Summer Picnic in Queens, NY - Czech Style ~ Time with friends and family
Purpose and Perspective: Most Richly Blessed

I asked You, God, for strength that I might achieve,
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey;

I asked for health that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity that I might do better things;

I asked for riches that I might be happy, I was given poverty that I might be wise;

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men, I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God;

I got nothing that I asked for, But everything that I hoped for; I am among all men most richly blessed.

This prayer was selected by James P. Moore, Jr to be included in his book: “Treasury of American Prayer” published by Doubleday in 2008. Moore explains that “In the hours following the Battle of Gettysburg, which registered the largest number of casualties during the Civil War, both the North and South collected their dead. The body of a Confederate soldier was found in Devil’s Den, the bloodiest site of the battle, with this prayer in his pocket.” ... “Although his name remains un-known to this day, his prayer stands as one of the most compelling introspections ever written,” according to Moore.

Both GAR and CSA dead are buried in adjoining cemeteries within Cave Hill. The cemeteries are not separated in anyway so they are buried side by side. This is only one cemetery from the Civil War Era, and yet thousands are buried there. More cemeteries just like it exist elsewhere.

Is there not another way to resolve differences?

The love that binds us and helps us to discover God in our ordinary lives

Look around you on July 4th for nature’s colorful display that is silently present everywhere.

Phlox in bloom in July in Pelham, NY
Peace of Mind - a prayer

*Oh Great Spirit of our Ancestors, I raise my pipe to you. To your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children.*

*Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect, and to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace of mind.*

*Let us learn to share all good things that you provide for us on this Earth.*


“This prayer by Chief Yellow Hawk, the great Sioux Leader, was written in the late nineteenth century during difficult days when he and his people were being displaced from their lands. He wrote many prayers that spoke about the path toward peace through wisdom and understanding,” according to Moore. This prayer comes from Moore’s Chapter, “Peace and Justice.”

Happy Fourth of July !!!
May you have some relaxed time with your family.

Saw Leaf Sunflower in bloom in July in Kentucky - a native prairie flower

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of Love; Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy Surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" was included in James P. Moore, Jr.'s book, “The Treasury of American Prayer” in his Chapter “Love and Devotion.” Moore explains that the words were written by Henry Van Dyke, a Princeton educator, minister and ambassador under Woodrow Wilson, and that the lyrics were set to the music of Ludwig van Bethoven’s “Ode to Joy.” Moore indicates that this prayer/hymn has “been sung at every imaginable civic and spiritual setting since they were first published in 1908.” Moore notes that one of Van Dyke’s contemporary’s referred to this prayer/hymn “as a standing ovation to God.” I believe that both of these prayers will be beneficial for interchurch families and Americans at this time in our history too.

~ M.J. Glauber

The love that binds us and helps us to discover God in our ordinary lives

**Field and Forest, Vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Well spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine; Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.**

Mortals, join the happy chorus, Which the morning stars began; Father love is reigning o’er us, Brother love binds man to man. Ever singing, march we onward. Victors in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us Sunward In the triumph song of life.

**International News for Interchurch Families and Ecumenists**

"Significant Common Ground" Found With Pentecostals
6th Round of Conversations Considers Gifts of Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 17, 2011 (Zenit.org).-

The Vatican's ecumenism council initiated a sixth phase in conversation with Pentecostal groups, saying a final report should be ready by 2015.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity reported on a seven-day round of conversations that concluded Thursday.

The Catholic-Pentecostal teams are considering Charisms in the Church: Their Spiritual Significance, Discernment, and Pastoral Implications.

Dialogue between the Vatican and these Pentecostal groups began in 1972.

The goal is not "structural unity," the Vatican statement clarified, but "to promote mutual respect..."
and understanding in matters of faith and practice."

Bishop Michael Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, and Reverend Cecil Robeck, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, Assemblies of God in Pasadena, California, are co-chairs of the dialogue. "Our work and conversations this week have led Catholics and Pentecostals to a deeper understanding and appreciation for some common ground we share regarding charisms of the Holy Spirit," Bishop Burbidge said. "As we continue the dialogue in future years, we are renewed in our commitment to discuss respectfully the challenges that face us as we seek and pray for unity as brothers and sisters in Christ."

The topic of this first session was "Charisms in the Church: Our Common Ground." Other topics on the agenda for the sixth phase are: discernment (2012), healing (2013) and prophecy (2014).

It is expected that the final report will be ready by 2015. The Vatican said participants "rejoiced in the significant amount of common ground that was identified despite the differences between the two traditions. Both Catholics and Pentecostals recognize the abundance of gifts given freely by the Holy Spirit, and that the Church has a discerning role to play concerning their exercise."

The group considered topics such as the biblical foundations of charism, the historical and theological overview of the subject, the spontaneity or permanence of gifts, and the roles of clergy and laity.

"Mind the Gap" takes on a whole new significance

The love that binds us and helps us to discover God in our ordinary lives

STANDING IN THE GAP
The Hayes Conference Centre, U.K. 27-29 August 2011

Interchurch Families stand in ‘the gap’ between their two churches. This year our Conference at Swanwick will focus on helping to find ways in which prayer can help heal the gap in our interchurch families and bring our churches closer together.

Alongside opportunities for pastoral support, fellowship and worship you will be able to:
• Explore different traditions of prayer
• Reflect on our own experience (or lack) of prayer
• Reflect how our interchurch experience impacts on our prayer life
• Participate in workshops using art, music, collage, prayer ropes
• Learn how to write “creative intercessions”
• Hear Ruth Reardon’s talk on Interchurch Family Spirituality
• Use the Prayer Room as a private space for personal prayers

This will be a challenging but supportive weekend and you can join in as little or as much as you wish. "The Hayes" is set in beautiful grounds with plenty of opportunities for relaxation and peace. Children and young people will have their own programmes, leaving adults to take a full part in the programme on offer. Please see U.K. - AIF’s website for further details. These conferences are held annually on the same weekend of a Bank Holiday each year.

PHLOX IN BLOOM IN JULY IN KENTUCKY

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PHLOX IN BLOOM IN JULY IN KENTUCKY

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"Mind the Gap" takes on a whole new significance

The love that binds us and helps us to discover God in our ordinary lives

STANDING IN THE GAP
The Hayes Conference Centre, U.K. 27-29 August 2011

Interchurch Families stand in ‘the gap’ between their two churches. This year our Conference at Swanwick will focus on helping to find ways in which prayer can help heal the gap in our interchurch families and bring our churches closer together.

Alongside opportunities for pastoral support, fellowship and worship you will be able to:
• Explore different traditions of prayer
• Reflect on our own experience (or lack) of prayer
• Reflect how our interchurch experience impacts on our prayer life
• Participate in workshops using art, music, collage, prayer ropes
• Learn how to write “creative intercessions”
• Hear Ruth Reardon’s talk on Interchurch Family Spirituality
• Use the Prayer Room as a private space for personal prayers

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Looking forward to the 2012 AAIF Biennial Conference
- details to follow at www.aifusa.org

Examples of Churches working together to serve God and humanity

There are more than 15 million refugees worldwide whose plight is spotlighted on June 20, World Refugee Day, which has been commemorated annually since 2001.

“Colombian refugees struggle to rebuild lives in Ecuador”

An ENS World Refugee Day report
By Lynette Wilson was published on June 20, 2011 by ENS
The Colombian Refugee Project is a shared ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Ecuador and the Quito Mennonite Church that addresses refugees' long-term needs.
Further details may be found at the following links:
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_128774_ENG_HTM.htm
http://colombianrefugeeproject.wordpress.com/
http://gamlc.pcusa.org/ministries/acswp/social-creed/

Information regarding baptism for interchurch families and sharing our lives: links:
Bishops approve historic agreement with Reformed churches on baptism - November 16, 2010
These Living Waters: Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism http://oga.pcusa.org/ecumenicalrelations/resources/these-living-waters.pdf
“Please ask and study the ways that baptism works internally and spiritually” so that the ritual has meaning.

Happy Fourth of July!

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