



Western Uganda

# RMNI

## RECONCILIATION REPORT

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*Researching, Teaching,  
Mobilizing, for the Name—  
Serving African-  
Americans*



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Please contact [Jim@RMNI.org](mailto:Jim@RMNI.org) if you'd like to receive the email version



India Trip to Equip  
"Untouchable" leaders  
October, 2004  
\$3500 [RMNI.org/India](http://RMNI.org/India)

Our redesigned and updated website is now online. Bob Wieggers is doing great work, as webmaster Walt Robertson before him. We're grateful to 3HD.com for providing free server space! Their web editing software is so simple, even I can now edit our site without knowing code. This means instant postings and revisions. Major site topics are now: African American Missions; Global Missions; Short-term Missions; Urban Ministries; Financial Ministries. This week were added the papers "Premarital financial questions" and "Dealing with sin." We've also added sections on India and Kenya at Short Term Missions. Come visit!

**Reconciliation ministries network**  
*Mobilizing the African-American church for global missions*

The number of page-visits so far in July is about 4,000. Last week folks visited from: Europe-43, Asia-28, Africa-18, Oceania-10, and South America-4.

Webwatch Extras:  
[Missiology.org](http://Missiology.org) articles by evangelical Dr. Gailyn Van Rheenen.

tronic books, sermons, free images of Rembrandt, Durer etc.

Status of Global Mission 2004  
[www.globalchristianity.org/resources.htm](http://www.globalchristianity.org/resources.htm) Check this!

MisLinks "A Web-based Missions Directory" [www.mislinks.org](http://www.mislinks.org)  
Practical missions, research, missions topics, general resources, etc.

[Powerpointers.com](http://Powerpointers.com) How to put together better PP presentations

Samaritan Ministries--inexpensive Christian health co-op  
[www.samaritanministries.org](http://www.samaritanministries.org)

[Www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/afroam.htm](http://Www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/afroam.htm) "African American Resources" at the Smithsonian Institution—fascinating array of links

Matthias Media "biblical resources for a post-Christian world" Bible studies, Islamic issues <http://store.yahoo.com/mattiasmedia>

J. Conrad Dunagan Library- Scholarly Black websites [www.utpb.edu/library/afriam.html](http://www.utpb.edu/library/afriam.html)

[Streamingsoundtracks.com](http://Streamingsoundtracks.com) Movie soundtracks, with few ads

Third Millenium Ministries  
[www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org) Check their elec-

Paul Harvey, anytime,  
[www.paulharvey.com](http://www.paulharvey.com) Good Day!

Few are the opportunities to feel “the mannishness of man” (Francis Schaeffer’s term). It possesses me rarely enough—after some sweaty hours with a chain saw or splitting maul, or after lifting weights. Then I jokingly warn my wife of my coming—“I’m feeling the mannishness of man!” It’s hard to feel manly at a keyboard. Car manufacturers are increasingly pitching big horsepower to the male ego, starved to demonstrate maleness. My focus isn’t upon ego, but upon “mannishness.”

Perhaps my greatest fear in becoming a Christian was embracing a feminized, almost effeminate church culture. Perhaps being raised by my mother contributed to this fear. What I experienced was friendly religion without power and male virility. What I was asked to sing was too often Romantic 19<sup>th</sup> century hymns. Personally I have trouble singing “I come to the garden alone, while the dew...”. I gravitated to real Christian men—Scout leaders, and Rev. Bill Hillegonds, our chaplain at Hope College—a man of godly passion and decisiveness. He didn’t see a Christ with perfect long hair and beatific countenance. Jesus was a muscular carpenter—without power tools he had to have been muscular. Over the years the denomination of which I was then a part became increasingly feminized. It began with female elders, then pastors, and finally denominational leaders, which is contrary to 1 Timothy 2:12. Churches are increasingly pastored or co-pastored by women. I don’t question their spirituality, but their role (1 Tim. 3:2, “husband of one wife”).

Many Christian bookstores seem to be, in part, feminized repositories of gift-shop irrelevance that few men would consider. I love my wife and delight in her femininity. But I don’t want a church characterized by femininity. While I find no biblical evidence that women are natively the more godly gender (cf. Eccles. 7:28), could they grow to be more sensitive and obedient to God’s voice? Women may outnumber men at prayer meetings because they are married! Some women don’t work outside the home and have more leisure to pursue the means of grace. Sixty-eight percent of short-term missions trips taken through this ministry have been taken by women. Women may simply do more church work.

How can a man be a manly Christian? Among the metaphors for the Christian life is that of soldier. (Of course, now we have women firing bullets for us.) Paul wrote to Timothy:

You, then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 2:1-3, NIV)

A Christian man’s strength comes by God’s grace. He must steer the family, if he has one, make the final decisions affecting many aspects of family life, while supporting wife, children and even parents. He is to be concerned also with God’s Kingdom, discipling other men. He is to endure hardship—not embrace comfort. How many soldiers do you see who are physically out-of-shape? They are trim and hardened. The Kingdom of God requires Spirit-control and self-control. The Kingdom of Darkness is arrayed against the Kingdom of Light. The Ring Trilogy has tapped into our subliminal understanding of the world as battleground—a spiritual battle requiring brave and protecting men. Why brave and protecting men? Because of wicked and exploiting men (and women). Have you read of the rapine of Darfur<sup>1</sup>? The capture of 12,000 children of northern Uganda for soldiers and sex slaves<sup>2</sup>? There are 27 million slaves today—more than were stolen from Africa in 400 years<sup>3</sup>. In Kenya there are 45 women with HIV aged 15-24 to every 10 men<sup>4</sup>. The rule of law and superior force is all that keeps any country from the same exploitation of the weak by stronger men. We need also men who are willing to stand against cultural forces bent upon corrupting their children and accept the flack. It’s tough to censor music and movies, if you’ve tried it.

How does a Christian man of courage act? Defend the family as between a man and woman; refuse to spend what you don’t have; teach your sons what a man does and how to work, and your daughters how a man treats a lady; teach your family to love God; keep your word; admit your failures; adequately support your family; make the tough and unappreciated calls; keep yourself pure; take on the strongholds of the devil that God places upon your heart. Where are the strongholds of Satan?—the inner city, the gay community, materialism, sexual exploitation, abortion, thievery, cults and many others. Take one on. Consider enduring the hardship of the mission fields of the world—short-term and long-term—wherein are 1.75 billion who are unevangelized. There are 1.27 billion Muslims and 841 million Hindus<sup>5</sup>. Men should not expect the single women to go to the hardest places, although they go willingly<sup>6</sup>.

Paul put it to Christian men: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.” (1 Cor. 16:13-14). Be a man, be courageous, but show love, just as did the God-man Christ, who never flinched before sinners or Satan, and who never stopped loving. God made two genders, and wants it kept that way (cf. Dt.

22:5; Rom. 1:26-27). I want a planet where, as Donald Cole put it, "Men are men, and women are glad of it!"<sup>7</sup> Christ is a man's Man. In Him, you will not be bound and your house spoiled (Mt. 12:29), and you will assault the beaches of darkness.

1 "Amnesty Condemns Sudan Rapes," <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/africa/07/19/sudan.rapes.reut/index.html> accessed 7/20/04

2 "Unicef Highlights 'Forgotten' Tragedy of Child Soldiers in Uganda" <http://allafrica.com/stories/200407190895.html> accessed 7/20/04

3 "21st-Century Slaves," by Andrew Cockburn <http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0309/feature1/index.html> accessed 7/23/04

4 UNAIDS 2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Pt. II, Exec. Summary

5 David Barrett and Todd Johnson, "Annual Statistical Table on Global Mission: 2004," *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Jan. 2004, p. 25

6 I'm grateful for what single ladies are doing on the mission fields—such as Earlene Voss of Christar, who has given her life to reach Muslim women.

7 Heard on an "Open Line" radio program on Moody Radio.

We need African American men on the mission fields of the world. I suspect that many black men ignore the call of God wherever that may lead them, largely for fear that the black community will not consistently support them. Many of those called instead plant local churches, I believe, wastefully proliferating them. I propose that black churches begin by putting at least 10% of their gross income into supporting exclusively global missionaries, not combined with "mercy" funds, and plant churches among the hard-to-reach, instead of among the over-churched.

-Jim Sutherland



African American surgeon, Dr. Michael Johnson, Serving in Kenya

Financial Seminar SS Class at New City Fellowship, June 13-July 25



## Prayer and Praise



↑ Please ask God to raise up African American workers for the Oct. 2-16 India trip (Luke 10:2). We do need your intercessory prayers for all God wants to come!

↑ Thanks for the new website.

↑ Pray for wisdom in gathering together and networking among local black church missions leaders.

↑ Much revision of teaching materials needs to be done

before October, together with a presentation to a Chalmers Center class on teaching financial literacy, Aug. 10.

↑ Please pray for the best replacements for Board members who will be completing their 3-year term of service.

↑ Daughter Susanna Sutherland continues to need a job of God's appointment, as does son Ethan. He appreciates prayers to complete a calculus course and find his appointed

job, hopefully by September.

↑ Our ministry equipment is almost entirely replaced!

↑ Jobs, life reorientation, and church for Rel, Everett, Alex and Mike.

↑ Research and article-writing progress.

↑ Ongoing progress for Judi's biography.

↑ Protection for Naomi's Navy fiancé, patrolling off Iraq.

↑ Thank you!