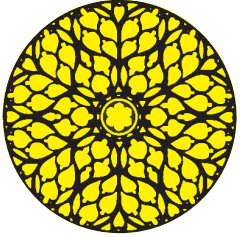


June 1-15, 2010 **Bogotá, Colombia**



This year's BTI workshop is in association with the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, based in Bogotá, Colombia. It will explore the history of Colombia, its role in the Americas, and efforts to deal with the ongoing 50 year civil conflict through forgiveness and reconciliation.

Join our 18th international

**2010 BTI
Seminar-Workshop!**

Founded in 2000 in Bogotá, Colombia, by Fr. Leonel Narvaez Gomez, "the Foundation for Reconciliation" promotes the theory and practice of forgiveness and reconciliation as the basis for positive relationships and individual and societal development. Particularly where cycles of social or political violence have become entrenched, the Foundation provides a methodology to overcome emotional trauma and strengthen social capital. Drawing on psychology, sociology, conflict mediation and negotiation theory, the methodology uses a variety of techniques to promote personal transformation and optimize constructive co-existence. The Foundation addresses the needs of victims of violence and victimizers to rebuild key pillars of human existence: meaning in life, psychological and physical security, and social integration.

**Contact the BTI for details:
617-527-4880; e-mail:
btioffice@bostontheological.org**

THE WORK OF FORGIVENESS has grown in importance and in visibility since the end of the twentieth century. The term, of increasing interest to psychologists and sociologists, has become caught up in issues of public policy and political reconciliation. Grounded in the religious and wisdom traditions, forgiveness has the power to make and to remake history. The work of the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation offers a unique glimpse into the personal and political significance of forgiveness grounded in conflicts that have torn apart nations and abused human rights.

Schedule

subject to change

1 Activities in the Centers of Reconciliation

(Bogotá, Colombia)

- *Stories of victims and ex-combatants*
- *ESPERE in practice*
(= *Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation*)



2 Networks of Youth for Reconciliation

3 Schools with Pedagogy of Care and Reconciliation



4 Visit to Medellín: Centro de Reconciliation

5 ESPERE training with BTI

6 Visit to government officials

- *Interview with National Commission for Reparation and Reconciliation*
- *Visit some ex-chiefs in jail*

7 Workshop on "Forgiveness as a Human Right" at Xavier University, Bogotá

8 Reflection and Application for churches and civic life in North America

9 BTI Group Discussion (Assessment & Conclusion) at Cartagena, on the northern coast

We will also visit other peacemaking and peace building groups in the region, learning about efforts by such groups as Christian Peacemaker Teams, by historic peace churches such as the Mennonites, and by additional peacebuilding groups. Our time together will be contextualized as best as possible with visits to appropriate centers of cultural significance.

the schools of *Forgiveness & Reconciliation*

Founded in 2001 in Bogotá, Colombia, the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (SFR) promote the theory and practice of forgiveness and reconciliation not only in scenarios where cycles of social or political violence have become entrenched but also in the daily lives of people.

SFR seeks to break these cycles of violence by transforming an individual's anger and resentment into the ability to live in dignity, harmony and peace with others. By removing the emotional and cognitive barriers to reconciliation for both victims and perpetrators, SFR helps to rebuild key pillars of human existence: meaning in life, psychological and physical security, and social integration. Forgiveness is not forgetting but rather seeing with different eyes.

The SFR methodology provides a process for healing the emotional wounds and memories of violence and for generating new narratives. It promotes reconciliation by fostering truth, and endorsing restorative justice over punitive justice.

Currently, SFR works extensively in Colombia and through partners in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Canada and the U.S. In Colombia, SFR has trained approximately 93,000 participants in 40 cities and towns. Those served include youth, ex-combatants, displaced persons, and victims of domestic violence, among others.

Using a trainer-of-trainers approach, the methodology is delivered in small groups of 9-15 people and typically consists of 80 hour workshops divided into 10 modules (48 hours of forgiveness and 32 hours for reconciliation).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES INCLUDE:

- Forgiveness is not only a religious resource, but – and above all – a political virtue.
- Forgiveness is the basis of our ability to enter into and sustain political communities.
- Forgiveness prevents retaliation and guarantees sustainable peace.
- Truth, justice and reparation are indispensable components of reconciliation.
- Forgiveness does not prevent justice being applied.
- Without forgiveness and reconciliation there is no future.
- Compassion and tenderness must be reinstated as basic elements of a culture of peace.
- We embrace the “irrationality of forgiveness” over the irrationality of violence.
- Beyond Homo sapiens, the era of Homo reparans begins.

Over two hundred years ago Emmanuel Kant commented that if human history were destined to culminate in universal peace it would have to confront a serious dilemma: achieve peace by way of moral inspiration or through a process of boundless, catastrophic, violence. The proposal to create a culture of forgiveness and reconciliation for socio-political and interpersonal conflicts is part of this moral inspiration.

Registration Application

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

School (if applicable) _____

Church or Denomination (if applicable) _____

Please note any considerations of which we should be aware, e.g., matters pertaining to attendance, diet, physical abilities, etc.:

Signature _____ Date _____

Additional Financial, Legal and Medical Considerations

Two preparatory sessions will be held prior to departure in late April and mid-May.

Our estimated dates for this workshop are June 1-15, 2010. Some persons may choose to spend additional time in Colombia or in the region. This can be done in connection with the BTI and Boston University School of Theology Religion and Conflict Transformation program. The estimated price is \$2000.00/person. Academic credit is available through the BTI schools.

A \$500.00 deposit is due by March 31, 2010. Full payment by May 1, 2010 (possible payment plans are available for full payment according to an arranged schedule.)

Price includes airfares, room and board, intercity travel materials and entrance fees for most cultural sites. Some items are left to individual decision. We expect that a minimum of 15-20 persons (faculty, students and others) will join us. All money paid prior to March 31, 2010 will be refunded in the event of cancellation with the exception of what fees may be kept by airlines.

Up to 10 days prior to departure, funds will be returned where possible and where not collected of us. (Call the BTI for further details and other financial possible arrangements.)

_____ I intend to attend the 2010 workshop on Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Bogotá, Colombia.

_____ I am including a payment of _____ or deposit of \$500 _____ together with this form. I understand that the balance is due as outlined in brochure materials.

_____ I am taking the necessary steps to make sure that the following conditions are being met:

_____ My passport is in order and whatever visas are needed are being arranged by me.

_____ I have checked with a physician on whatever health issues (including inoculations) may pertain.

Payment should be in form of a personal check payable to "The Boston Theological Institute." Payment in full or with deposit should accompany your registration.

A legal waiver is required upon participating in any international BTI Seminar Workshop!

This workshop is the eighteenth in a series under the auspices of the BTI International Mission and Ecumenism and Religion and Conflict Transformation Programs of the Boston Theological Institute, part of an effort by the BTI Schools to raise up consciously the history and significance of the ecumenical movement, in such a way as to understand Christianity and the experience of the Church from a comparative perspective, particularly in settings of conflict. Precise dates and itinerary are subject to change.

For further information, contact Dr. Rodney L. Petersen, Executive Director, BTI, 197 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459; Tel: 617.527.4880; Fax: 617.527.1073; email: btioffice@bostontheological.org