

SUMMARY OF THE P.E.A.C.E. BRIEFING FOR MISSION AGENCIES

Held by the Saddleback P.E.A.C.E. Team

November 6-7, 2006 / Atlanta, GA

The Saddleback Church P.E.A.C.E. Plan team held a special briefing for missions agency personnel in early November hosted by the Destiny Metropolitan Worship Church in Atlanta, GA. The 1½ days of sessions were attended by approximately 75 people representing a wide variety of North American mission agencies.

Rick Warren's Personal Introduction of P.E.A.C.E.

To begin the Briefing, Rick Warren took several hours to share the background of P.E.A.C.E.—how God touched his heart for the world on a trip to Africa and created a conviction that he should use the “influence and affluence” produced by the huge success of *The Purpose Driven Life* book to speak up for those who have no influence.

“I repented for not thinking of widows and orphans, the people God cares about most,” Warren explained. He asked God, “What else haven’t I seen?” That question led to the list of five giants—spiritual emptiness, egocentric leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic diseases, and illiteracy, for which the P.E.A.C.E. acrostic identifies the five solutions. “God gets the most glory when we attack the biggest problems,” he added.

Warren is committed to the local church and to pastors. “I trust pastors!” he exclaimed adamantly. “They are the most underappreciated, underutilized resource. And bi-vocational pastors are my heroes.”

In Warren’s view, churches uniquely provide: (1) a universal distribution system (the largest network in the world comprising 2.3 billion people who claim to be Christians), (2) the world’s largest pool of volunteers, and (3) local credibility.

Warren himself has a huge church network. He reported that his Pastors Toolbox circulates electronically to 250,000 leaders, and 400,000 pastors have received some type of Saddleback training.

Warren believes that the church is facing a new reformation. The first reformation dealt with what the church believes. This second reformation is addressing what the church does. “In the 21st century, the church must reattach its arms and legs,” Warren explained.

“Thanks to technology, this is the first generation with the capacity to be global Christians,” Warren went on. “Now we must mobilize them.” One aspect of his goal: “To move the American church from selfish consumerism to unselfish contribution—serving God by serving others.”

Warren’s challenge to the agency personnel seated before him was: “Will you help me figure out how to do this? We want to see agencies’ expertise channeled through the local church. We need your brains and your expertise. To be effective in the 21st century, we must take everything we have learned [about missions] in the past centuries and infuse it in and through the local church.”

“In the 21st century, the church must reattach its arms and legs.”

Following Warren’s extended introduction, the rest of the sessions were presented by:

- **Mike Constantz**, Saddleback’s pastor of missions and leader of the P.E.A.C.E. team. Mike has served in medical missions and most recently with the JESUS Film ministry.
- **Curtis Sergeant**, director of church planting at Saddleback and former vice president for global strategy for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Curtis has 25 years of experience in church planting and leadership training in East Asia.
- **Skip Lanfried**, pastor of North American mobilization on the P.E.A.C.E. team and former missions pastor at Mariner’s Church in Irvine, CA.

The P.E.A.C.E. Plan Revisited

Each participant at this Agency Briefing received a P.E.A.C.E. notebook that paralleled the fill-in-the-blank notes which were to be used at the two Church Briefings immediately following the agency sessions. Time allowed for covering only five of the 38 pages. (Briefing participants are to receive from

Saddleback a copy of the completed notes. Currently these materials are available only to those who attend a Briefing.)

While the majority of the notes for these introductory sessions have been totally revised since the last briefing in May of 2006, the core philosophy and approach to the paradigm remain unchanged. (An overview of P.E.A.C.E. by the designers is available at www.thepeaceplan.org and a Catalyst summary specifically for agency personnel written after the May 2006 Church Briefing is published online at www.catalystservices.org/bm~doc/peace-overview.pdf.) New in the November version of the notes is a helpful description of the specific P.E.A.C.E. activities implemented by one of Saddleback's small groups.

Some changes and clarifications were announced:

1. The amount of training required of first-time teams going on a discovery/foundation-building trip has been reduced. The designers discovered that short-term team members were not motivated to learn until they had been on site the first time, so pre-trip requirements for the initial visit were reduced and increased for subsequent journeys.
2. Beyond the core competencies modules and the basic building blocks of the program, all of the P.E.A.C.E. database eventually will be open source, i.e. open to contribution from churches and agencies. "Peacepedia" (based on the Wiki server software and the example of the open-collaboration Wikipedia) will accept input from contributors with limited, after-the-fact correction/censoring only as needed. While admitting they have some discomfort with losing control of the content, the design team is committed to turning it loose. They believe that exponential growth is possible only in an atmosphere where control is surrendered and a certain amount of risk is tolerated. See below for estimates of release dates.
3. A reduction in the amount of P.E.A.C.E.-specific language. A conscious effort has been made to use more generic terminology.

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40 Days Series

Warren identifies five aspects of renewal: personal, relational, missional, structural, and cultural. Saddleback's "40 Days of Purpose" small-group program involved approximately 30,000 churches (roughly 10% of the congregations in America) and focused on personal renewal. It was followed by "40 Days of Community" centered on relational renewal. This second 40 days series has now been revised and helps small groups get involved in local P.E.A.C.E. initiatives.

Warren plans to add two additional 40-days programs: The third will be "40 Days of Vision" focusing on missional and structural renewal. It will incorporate a lay version of *The Purpose Driven Church* currently under development.

The final series will be "40 Days of P.E.A.C.E." which will focus on the cultural aspect of renewal, and will move people into ministry and mission. The Saddleback congregation field tested a preliminary version of "40 Days of P.E.A.C.E." in the fall of 2005. This material currently is being revised, but a release date is not yet available.

The Saddleback team emphasizes that while churches, especially those in North America, may choose to launch their church-wide P.E.A.C.E. efforts with the 40 Days series, the P.E.A.C.E. Plan is not designed to be in any way dependent on a 40-day, small-group study program. And even for those congregations which do utilize the 40-days approach, it would be a tool used to launch phase 2 of the program.

Background Philosophy

Curtis Sergeant provided some helpful background on the P.E.A.C.E. philosophy and strategy. First, he emphasized that P.E.A.C.E. is not a program but a paradigm. It is reproducing disciples. "God doesn't want to multiply mediocrity," he emphasized. "We want to see people becoming the type of believers God would want to multiply." Sergeant outlined three steps to help disciples fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission:

1. **Become Self Feeding.** Believers become able to interpret and apply the Scriptures, to become people of prayer, to understand how the body works, and to grasp how God uses persecution and suffering to purify character.
2. **Become Obedient.** The P.E.A.C.E. Plan is designed to help believers apply truth to their own lives and then pass it on to others. "God blesses those who bless others," is the principle.
3. **Become Aware of Where the Church Isn't.** The goal is to move the focus from what has been done to what still needs to be done. This will involve a greater understanding of location, culture, socio-economic factors, language, etc.

The goal is to reduce the time between spiritual generations from decades to months to perhaps hours. Therefore, it is not how much someone learns, but how he/she is helped to implement the new understanding. Curtis suggests a four-step process:

- Model it.
- Assist those being trained to understand and be stabilized.
- Observe them; help them learn from their mistakes. "I would rather risk them doing it wrong than not doing it at all," Sergeant said.
- Leave.

The P.E.A.C.E. Plan will begin by targeting bilingual people (those who can speak a common language with the

P.E.A.C.E. carriers) with the goal of helping them to pass along what they've learned in their heart language.

P.E.A.C.E. Electronic Resources

Advanced Internet technology offers the only option for putting extensive training in the hands of people in every part of the globe. But clear principles guided the task of developing the P.E.A.C.E. on-line support system:

- Everything had to align with the core vision.
- It had to be simple.
- Security was absolutely essential.
- The system had to be scalable (to handle capacity) and dynamic (to continually incorporate new information).
- The system had to be globally available in multiple languages.

Twenty-some IT specialists have worked non-stop for over a year, progressing through the development of various prototypes and versions of the online system. In January 2007, they hope to launch version 4.0. While earlier versions demanded that each church user have a technologically savvy site coordinator, the 4.0 version will be user-friendly, fast, multi-lingual (Korean and Spanish translations are currently under development), and designed for use by small churches as well as large congregations.

A password to the current version of the Peacepedia portion of the online support system is available for anyone who attended the Atlanta Agency Briefing. Others will be able to gain access after the 4.0 version is released.

The online support system will include:

1. The best available global mapping information in an interactive format.
2. Over 1,000-and-growing modules of training and a huge number of online resources and referrals to other materials that can be purchased from a host of sources. The system is designed so that eventually additional modules and resources can be added at any time by anyone with access to the system.
3. Detailed steps and aids for handling trip logistics.
4. Activity models and templates. The database is designed with great flexibility so that churches can use it to coordinate all church activities, if they so choose, not just P.E.A.C.E. efforts.
5. Interactive forums for dialog with specialists and other P.E.A.C.E. participants with shared interests/experience.
6. Opportunities for feedback following on-site ministry.
7. A system for building custom activity templates.

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The online support system schedule and goals:

- 1st quarter 2007** / Pilot groups test the 4.0 version
- Summer 2007** / System bugs eliminated and Saddleback becomes very aggressive about giving away access to the system; agencies will also have authority to give access to churches they approve
- Summer 2008** / The system has 10 million users in 25-40 languages
- Summer 2009** / Advanced templates are introduced

Next Steps for Mission Agencies to Connect to P.E.A.C.E.

The P.E.A.C.E. design team recommended the following action steps:

- 1. Acquaint yourself with the Peacepedia site**
Participants in the Atlanta Agency Briefing can gain access to the Peacepedia site by emailing jg@peace.gs for a password. Provide your first and last name. Others will have access as soon as they attend the May Summit or a future Briefing.
- 2. Attend the P.E.A.C.E. Summit May 15-18, 2007, at Saddleback Church**
The specific components of this Summit are still being finalized, but the goal is to bring together many of the key P.E.A.C.E. players from churches, businesses, agencies, and government for information and interaction. Most likely the program will include:
 - A. Warren's personal presentation of the P.E.A.C.E. vision.
 - B. An overview of the components of local and global P.E.A.C.E. and suggestions for implementation in the local church context.
 - C. Workshops specifically designed for the various types of participating entities.
 - D. Sessions specifically for those organizations who desire to be Network Leaders (see below).Watch the P.E.A.C.E. Plan site, www.thepeaceplan.org for details and registration information.
- 3. Become a Network Leader**
Network Leader organizations will have the right to share access to the database with other churches and organizations which want to be involved with P.E.A.C.E. To become a Network Leader, you must send a representative from your agency to the Network Leader training, the first of which will be offered as part of the P.E.A.C.E. Summit (see above). At some point in the future, the online resources will be fully viral, i.e. anyone will have access who wants it, but in the intermediary step, only Network Leaders will have the authority to give others access.
- 4. Attend a future Agency Briefing**
While no dates have been finalized, Saddleback is planning to hold an Agency Briefing similar to the Atlanta event in Colorado Springs sometime in the second half of

2007, and another may be sponsored in Atlanta before the end of 2007. The number of future Agency Briefings will depend on interest.

5. Share resources and contacts

Saddleback is looking for all of the following from mission agencies:

- **Agency resources of various types that you want to share with churches doing P.E.A.C.E.** This could be (a) free downloads, (b) materials available via a link to your website, or (c) resources you would mail to those who request them (free of charge or for a stipulated price). Note: Saddleback is not going to become a resource distributor other than for those in electronic form posted online. If an agency wants to offer print and hard-copy multimedia materials, they will need to handle distribution.
- **Resource people you want Saddleback to make known to churches.** As churches select UEGs, they will need knowledgeable “connectors” who can match

Regarding resources: All of the information on the basic P.E.A.C.E. site will be translated into multiple other languages. Therefore, it will be to the agency’s advantage to make their materials available as part of the database itself and to keep them short. Translation of all other materials will be the responsibility of the agency offering them.

them with potential sister churches on location. If you have such people, notify the P.E.A.C.E. team. They are also interested in building up a list of other agency resource people who will provide specialized expertise about a region, people group, type of ministry, etc.

- **Resource people who could help expand resources or serve in an advisory role but who for security reasons may not want to be publicly introduced to churches.**

All information about resources should be sent to Mike Constantz at: mikec@saddleback.net.

Don’t miss part 2 of this issue of *Postings*, where Ellen Livingood presents some additional information and suggestions for agencies as we continue to consider the implications of the P.E.A.C.E. Plan.

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