



Alison and Craig Conrad

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROJECT PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Most of our work since Craig's 1984 graduation from the Talbot School of Theology (formerly Talbot Theological Seminary) at Biola University has been comprised of helping folks learn to communicate and resolve conflicts. Whether he has been working as a pastor, non-profit executive, philanthropic director, military officer, professional consultant or church and community volunteer, we have found ourselves most often serving couples. In the four years since 2006 that we have together been managing relationship education for Building Healthy Marriages, we have served more than 900!

It was at the 1994 World Conference of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF) that we really felt the tug to do this work in a very intentional way. In that time of apartheid being dismantled in South Africa, we witnessed a powerful demonstration of reconciliation between former enemies, one a black African who was an ex-ANC rebel, the other a white Afrikaner who was a serving military officer. Their commitment to and love for one another by virtue of their common relationship with Jesus Christ was a life-changing epiphany for us. It was the genesis of our following life mission statement:

"We will do whatever we can to help people be reconciled to God and each other while equipping Christians to be peacemakers where they live, work and worship."

One or both of us have since then received arbitration, conflict resolution, conciliation, mediation, peacemaking and reconciliation training from Association for Conflict Resolution, Colorado Council of Mediators, Community Alternatives, Community College of Aurora, Denver Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, Denver District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Program, Eastern Mennonite University, Institute for Christian Conciliation, Peacemaker Ministries, Rocky Mountain Academy of Restorative Justice and others. Craig is a Certified Christian Conciliator and Professional Mediator.

In 1999, we incorporated CMP as a 501(c)(3) Colorado Nonprofit Corporation, which remains in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State (see <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/business/> to verify our up-to-the-minute standing). We have since then mediated conflicts and disputes as varied as: couple squabbles; parent child disagreements; neighbor disputes; inter-personal, inter-departmental and inter-organizational conflicts; victim-offender reconciliations for crimes as simple as shoplifting to as complex as genocide. We have provided these services as well as training for business, civic, church, education, government, military, non-profit, and philanthropic audiences and individuals worldwide.

We have often been asked how and why we got involved in this type of ministry. It is of course a function of the way God has gifted each of us and formed us for His purposes. Where Craig's development is concerned, we trace it back to 1971 when he began the 23-year process of reconciling with members of his thoroughly estranged family. His "Forgiveness on the Road to Reconciliation" testimony posted on our website will give you an idea of how he has been led (it's too long to read unless you have a few minutes). Regarding Alison, it has entailed decades of working closely with Craig, learning in reliance upon God's grace and mercy to resolve our own conflicts as spouses, parents, and colleagues in ways that enhance rather than erode our relationship as a couple. Please let us know if we can help you in that process.

