



EFCA The Brokenness of Our World August 2011 Church Mission Letter

Steve & Kathy Austvold, EFCA Mission Mobilizers Serving the NCD, NPD, and Beyond

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Dear Pastors and mission leaders,

The brokenness of our world is the fifth of six issues that the Lausanne Conference cited last fall as one of the major challenges facing the church in the next decade. The topic of brokenness affects everyone from time to time. Each of the challenges and opportunities listed in this issue deserve much prayer and discussion. Here is their description of the brokenness of our world:

The Brokenness of Our World. If our witness is to be prophetic, we must identify with the pain and suffering in the lives of individuals, families, communities and nations. Not only must we connect with the brokenness but we must also be people of hope and peace as agents of RECONCILIATION, emphasizing the core theme of Cape Town 2010, "God in Christ Reconciling the World to Himself."

The Lausanne Conference commitments can be seen: <http://www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment#p2-2>. They are summarized as follows: 1) The peace that Christ made. 2) Christ's peace in ethnic conflict. 3) Christ's peace for the poor and oppressed (Slavery & human trafficking, Poverty). 4) Christ's peace for people with disabilities. 5) Christ's peace for people living with HIV 6) Christ's peace for His suffering creation.

So what can we do?

1. Meet as church/mission leadership to talk and pray about this key area of brokenness in our world.
2. Preach and teach on this subject this fall in your church.
3. Schedule a mission strategy seminar called "Developing a Mission Strategy That Fits Your Local Church". Find out what your church's calling is and build a strategy around it.
4. Find out what other churches are doing in your community or region.
5. Set action points in the coming year-organize a plan to deal with brokenness in your city.
6. If you are in the North Central District-sign up for a future "Caring Friends Training". Go to www.caringfriendsnetwork.org/training.
7. Look for Crisis Response opportunities at <http://www.efca.org/reachglobal/reachglobal-ministries/efca-touchglobal/crisis-response>
8. Hold a mission conference focused on "radical living in a broken world".
9. Volunteer with the Salvation Army and other local ministries or schools in your area.
10. Consider how you can get all ages in your church involved in this kind of ministry.
11. Read the Overcoming Poverty theme in the July/August 2011 "Mission Frontiers" magazine at missionfrontiers.org. Learn about the "Seven Forms of Poverty" in their magazine.

Blessings,

Steve Austvold