Growth of IFI Curriculum Programs

In Wisconsin

Since initiating our Forgiveness Education Program in Milwaukee's central city schools during the 2004-2005 school year, the program has grown from 6 classrooms to more than 90 and from initially serving 150 students to currently serving 2,025 students. [Milwaukee Program Growth Chart]

In Madison, the IFI Forgiveness Education Program has expanded from 2 first grade classrooms to 62 classrooms and from initially serving 34 students to currently serving 1,675 students.

Other Wisconsin communities where schools are implementing the program include Delavan (Wisconsin School for the Deaf), Grantsburg, Janesville, Middleton, Monona, and Waunakee.

In the U.S.

In addition to the 8 Wisconsin communities where forgiveness education is being taught, two cities in Illinois, two in Pennsylvania, and three in Texas are implementing the program.
In Northern Ireland

Ten years ago, Dr. Enright and his colleagues began working on a forgiveness curriculum for children in troubled regions of the world. They searched for the perfect laboratory: an entrenched conflict, a culture steeped in grudges and revenge. They looked, too, for the presence of churches, where people might learn the foundations of forgiving. Belfast, Northern Ireland, topped the list.

In 2003, Dr. Enright initiated his first school forgiveness education program with first grade teachers and students in five Belfast schools. Over the years, he meticulously documented the results with research papers like Waging Peace through Forgiveness in Belfast. Read more about the Belfast Initiative.

Today that program serves more than 1,300 students in 65 classrooms and is expanding across Northern Ireland thanks to a partnership arrangement with The Corrymeela Community, one of Northern Ireland’s oldest and most respected reconciliation organizations. The Belfast work is featured in the award-winning documentary, The Power of Forgiveness produced by Journey Films. During the 2010-2011 school year, the IFI conducted a new Electronic Pen-Pal Project that for the first time brought together students from opposite sides of the divided Belfast community—an Irish Catholic student paired with a British Protestant student.

You can support the Belfast project here.

Around the World

When something w onderful is happening, w ord about it travels fast. The success of forgiveness education programs in the U.S. and Northern Ireland has generated requests from around the world.

Dr. Enright has helped initiate forgiveness programs in schools in Brazil, Colombia, Korea, and Taiwan. He is working with officials from Liberia where the government has recently decreed that forgiveness education is to be implemented in every school in the country. Schools in Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Serbia, Singapore and Turkey are using the forgiveness program.

To learn more, read the current summary of IFI World-Wide Forgiveness Education Initiatives and the United Nations letter endorsing the IFI forgiveness education program.