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7 April 2008

Dear Bob,

Thank you for our recent email exchanges which have given me the opportunity to learn more about forgiveness education and its relevance to areas of the world recovering from conflict and violence. It was very impressive to know that your forgiveness programs with children and adults have been scientifically evaluated and found to be effective in improving emotional health. From my personal experience observing the effects of war and conflict on people and their societies, I believe that your approach would complement and add to the work of the UN in reconciliation and peacebuilding. I hope that in the long-term forgiveness, when embedded deeply in communities, can help forge a more long-lasting peace than has been the case in too many regions of the world. As I mentioned, the UN is grappling with the statistics that almost 50% of countries coming out of violent conflict will revert back into conflict within ten years. Perhaps by imparting forgiveness education as part of a comprehensive peace strategy, we could help more societies sustain peace.

As we discussed, I would be interested in working with the International Forgiveness Institute to provide training in forgiveness education for both for UN staff and national counterparts who could then deliver the curriculum to the stakeholders we serve. I want to share with you that we are planning a conference in Accra, Ghana in July on experience-sharing in managing conflicts. It will bring together government officials, NGO leaders and other experts working on peacebuilding in this volatile region. If it would be possible for you to attend, this might be a good place for you to share your work and get feedback on how forgiveness education may be applicable and adaptable to West Africa. We organize similar regional meetings in other locations which could be similarly be utilized.

I would hope that this kind of introduction could lead to more targeted opportunities for forgiveness education to be introduced in a variety of situations where it is needed around the world. The concept appears to be sound and the opportunity to work together for vulnerable communities is exciting. Let us keep talking so that we can turn our plans into reality.

Yours sincerely,



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