

**DEVELOPMENT OF A COURSE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION  
FOR MESSENGER COLLEGE WITH IMPLICATIONS  
FOR THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD**

*Ron Cannon*

Humanity was created by God to live in harmonious relationship with Him and with one another. The introduction and ongoing existence of sin makes such relationships impossible. Through Christ, God provided a way that humanity's conflicted relationships, both with God and with each other, could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18 reminds the reader that "all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." Having been reconciled to God, believers now are given the task of bringing reconciliation to others.

A vital part of true reconciliation involves resolving the conflicts that often separate us from one another. Effective conflict resolution exists as an essential competency for Christian leaders. This project brings together research and practical information that will aid leaders in the task of understanding and managing conflict in their various ministry settings.

As a part of this project, a one-week module format course on conflict management was developed for Messenger College in Joplin, Missouri and taught during the week of January 7-11, 2008. This course contains a theology of conflict resolution based on biblical principles and also includes insightful information from contemporary literature. Post-course analysis showed an increase in students' understanding and competency. The course will be further adapted to meet the need for training and equipping leaders in the area of conflict management within the various ministries of the Pentecostal Church of God, the sponsoring organization for Messenger College as well as other future leaders desiring to develop the important leadership skill of conflict management.