InterVarsity Press to Publish New Title in Resources for Reconciliation Series

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April 4, 2011—InterVarsity Press and the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School continue their partnership with the publication of Living Without Enemies, the latest book in the Resources for Reconciliation series.

In this title, Marcia Owen and Samuel Wells collaborate to tell their unique story of a community’s journey to overcome violence through four levels of social engagement. Owen’s vast experience as the executive director of the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham provides a wealth of insight into what it means to bring about change within a community. From her relationships with both victims and offenders of violent crimes, Owen realized that reconciliation can be brought about only by first ridding ourselves of enemies and subsequently showing them genuine love.

“Samuel Wells and Marcia Owen offer a clear, carefully conceived road map into the sometimes confusing environment of crosscultural interpersonal relationships,” states Bob Lupton of FCS Urban Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia. “Living Without Enemies is an excellent practical guide for forging redemptive relationships.”

The Resources for Reconciliation series explores what it means to pursue hope in areas of brokenness, including the family, the environment, the city, the poor, the disabled, Christianity and Islam, racial and ethnic divisions, and violent conflicts. Each title presents two voices—one in the field of practice or grass-roots experience, the other from the academy.

This series was born out of the Center for Reconciliation’s three strategic objectives: cultivating new leaders; communicating wisdom, insights, hope and practices; and connecting in partnership to strengthen leaders. Center codirector and series author Emmanuel Katongole explains, “A divided world needs new leaders with the vision, spiritual maturity and skills integral to the journey of reconciliation.”

Founded in 1947 as an extension of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, InterVarsity Press serves those in the university, the
church and the world by publishing thoughtful Christian books that equip and encourage people to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord in all of life. Visit IVP online at ivpress.com.

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Samuel Wells is dean of Duke University Chapel and research professor of Christian ethics at Duke Divinity School. He served four parishes as a Church of England priest from 1991 to 2005. Most of that time was spent in the post-industrial northeast and in a socially disadvantaged neighborhood in East Anglia. From 1998 to 2003 he was closely involved in establishing a community-led development trust, the first such organization in the east of England. During this time he also launched a non-profit organization offering disadvantaged children opportunities to discover wonder and joy through creative play. He is the author of several books, including Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics and Speaking the Truth: Preaching in a Pluralistic Culture.

Marcia A. Owen is executive director of the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham (RCND), a non-profit organization actively seeking an end to violence in its community. She has also served as a sales and marketing manager and as a layleader in the local United Methodist church. In addition to her contracted duties she continues to be an active volunteer with RCND since joining the Coalition in 1993.

“This is a book about violence, especially gun violence in one city. But it has applications well beyond that issue and well beyond that city. It is a book about overcoming powerlessness and fear. It is written for any who feel drawn to care about issues that plague our lives and societies, and to care about the people at the center of them, but who are unsure how to engage with such issues and paralyzed with fear at the prospect of meeting those most closely involved in them. It’s about learning to love the stranger and making first steps in forming relationships across social boundaries. It’s for those who are discovering that poverty is a mask we put on a person to cover up his or her real wealth and that wealth is a disguise we put on a person to hide his or her profound poverty. In the end, this book aspires to a renewal of the Christian vision not just of ministry, but also of God.”

—From the introduction