

# **PEACE AND RECONCILIATION BASIC COURSE**

**Pursuing Peace**

**Understanding Strategic Peacebuilding**

**The Nature of Conflict**

**The Process of Conflict Transformation**

**The Process of Reconciliation**

## **PURSuing PEACE**

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION ON *PEACE*: 5 MINUTES**

"My personal understanding of *peace* is..."

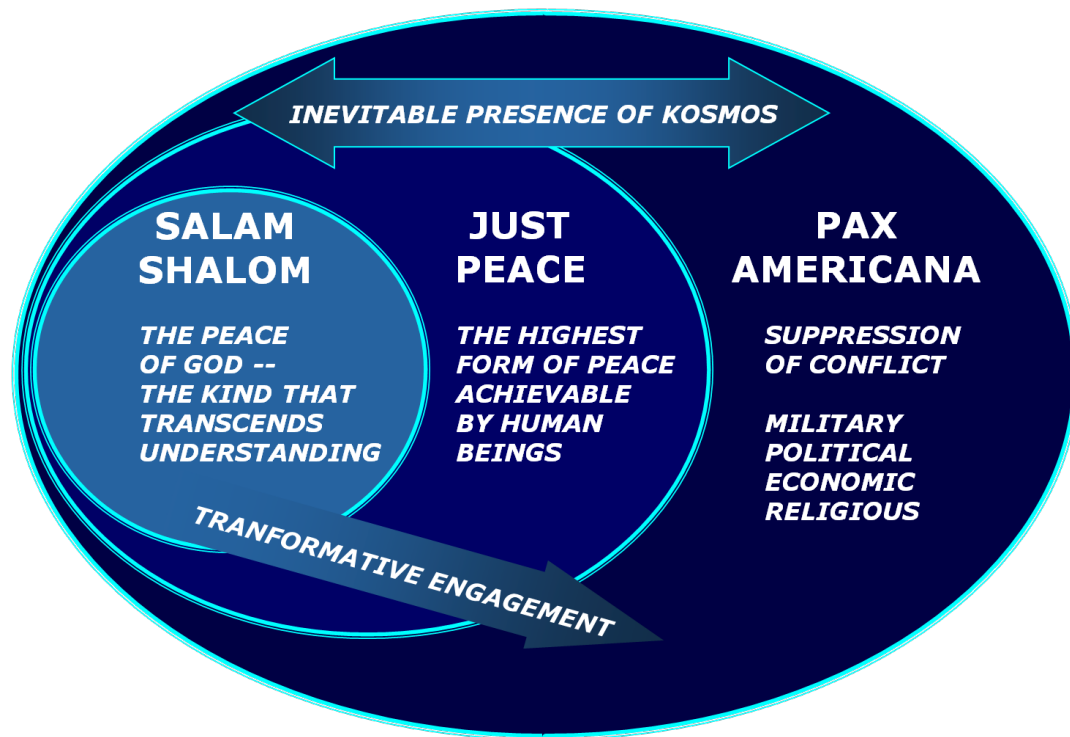
### **GROUP UNDERSTANDING OF *PEACE*: 10 MINUTES**

1. Make groups of 3 and share your personal understanding of *peace*.
2. Write your group's understanding of peace on a Davao Paper.
3. Share your group's understanding of peace to the whole class.

### **OUR CLASS' UNDERSTANDING OF *PEACE*: 10 MINUTES**

*Peace* means...

## LOOKING AT *PEACE* IN SEVERAL LAYERS<sup>1</sup>



## PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE PHILIPPINES

1. GLOBAL REALITY:
2. NATIONAL REALITY:
3. LOCAL REALITY:

<sup>1</sup> Jon Rudy, Lecture on *Fundamentals of Peacebuilding*, during a training session of the Board of Trustees, Peacebuilders Community, November 18, 2006, Koinonia Theological Seminary, Davao City, Philippines

## **A THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF UNPEACE: Empire Building—The Most Devastating Disaster in the History of Humanity**

### DISHARMONY IN OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIPS

1. Alienation with **The Creator**:
2. Alienation with our **Being**:
3. Alienation with **Others**:
4. Alienation with the **Creation**:



### **GROUP DISCUSSION: MANIFESTATION OF EMPIRES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

## VALUES OF THE GLOBAL EMPIRE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



### **Extreme Individualism**

This is the most emphasized modern cultural value being communicated in the big media, causing the family and community to be disintegrated.

### **Practical Materialism**

Many families may be religious during Sunday mornings, but practicing materialists during most of the week, influenced more by commercial advertisements and greed-oriented consumerism than by biblical principles, biblical ethics, and biblical morality.

### **A Culture of Violence and War**

A belief system that human conflicts and differences are ultimately resolved by the use of force; thus, justifying personal, domestic social, and political violence.

### **A Mechanistic View of People**

In opposition to the biblical view of people, a mechanistic view treats humans and the creation as machine-projects rather than living organisms who are also story-subjects. Thus, the family, the church and the community is seen as an organization to be fixed rather than an organism to be healed.

## A THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE: Peace Making—The Peace of God is Good News

### HARMONY IN OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIPS

1. Harmony with **The Creator**:
2. Harmony with our **Being**:
3. Harmony with **Others**:
4. Harmony with the **Creation**:



## PEACEKEEPING, PEACEBUILDING, AND PEACEMAKING

:: Peacekeeping

:: Peacebuilding

:: Peacemaking



## UNDERSTANDING STRATEGIC PEACEBUILDING

A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY "that encompasses, generates, and sustains the full array of processes, approaches, and stages needed to transform conflict toward more sustainable, peaceful relationships."<sup>2</sup>

WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. *Shalom*Living involves a wide range of activities and functions that both precede and follow formal peace accords. Such activities include conflict transformation, military intervention and conversion, governance and policymaking, restorative and transitional justice, environmental protection, human rights, civilian and military peacekeeping, peace education, activism and advocacy, trauma healing, and social-economic development.

RECONCILIATION is the central component of peacebuilding. The conflicting parties must be willing to go on a journey from resolution of issues to rebuilding of relationships.

### PEACEBUILDING



:: Our *values* must be consistent with our ends

:: Our *process* must be consistent with our ends

:: Our *structures* must be consistent with our ends

<sup>2</sup> John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (USIP, Wash., DC, 1997, p. 20)

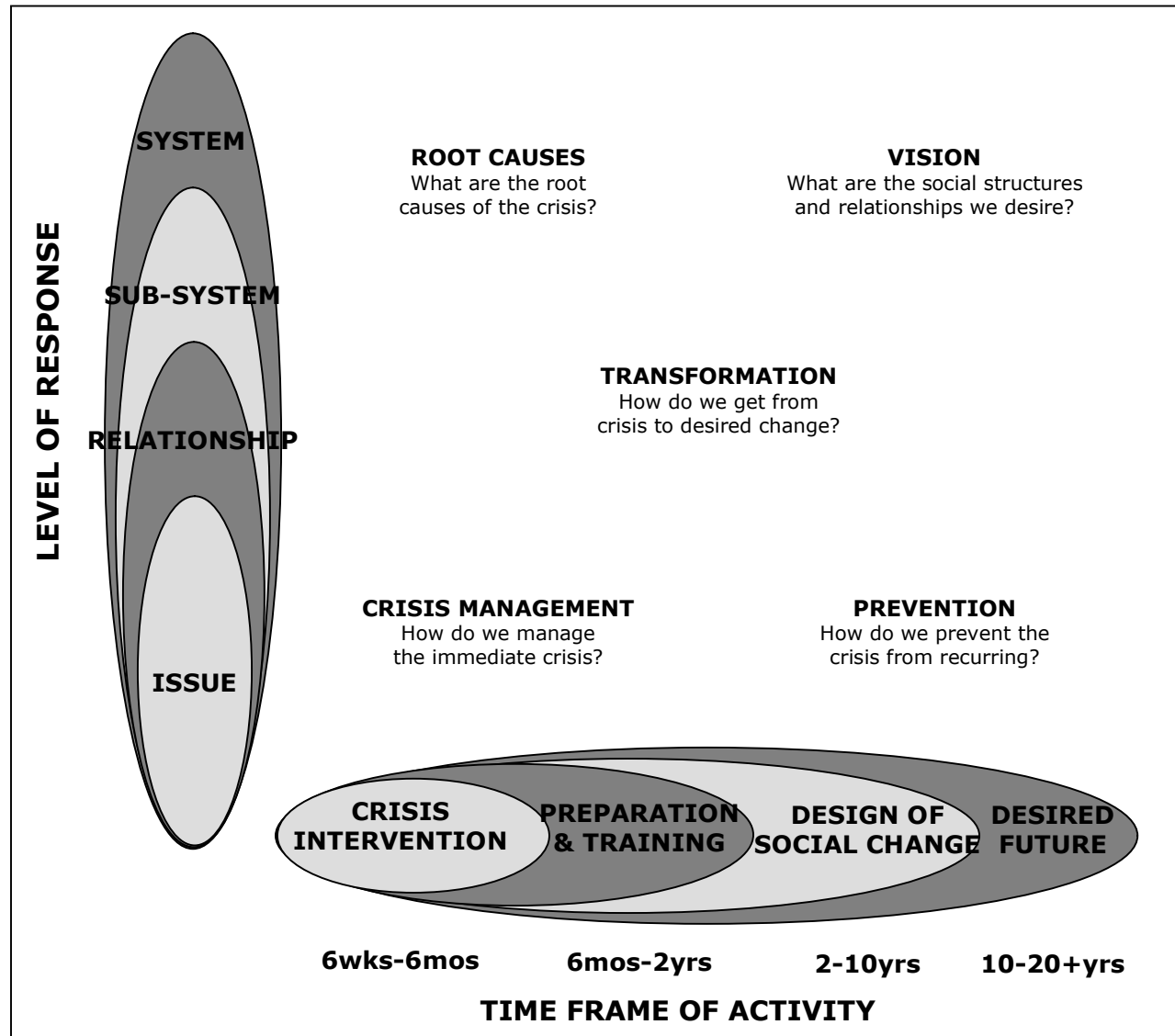
## ACTORS TO PEACEBUILDING



At what level will you start? Why?



## AN INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING<sup>3</sup>



## PEACEBUILDING APPROACHES

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| :: conflict transformation              | :: civilian and military peacekeeping |
| :: military intervention and conversion | :: peace education                    |
| :: governance and policymaking          | :: activism and advocacy              |
| :: restorative and transitional justice | :: trauma healing                     |
| :: environmental protection             | :: social-economic development        |
| :: human rights                         |                                       |

<sup>3</sup> John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies* (USIP, Wash., DC, 1997, p. 80)

# THE NATURE OF CONFLICT

*Conflict* is an expressed struggle between at least two interdependent parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources, and interference from the other party in achieving their goals.

## DIMENSIONS OF CONFLICT

### 1. *Personal.*

Describe: What are the changes happening in an individual—emotionally, spiritually, mentally—when he or she is involved in conflict?

Prescribe: What would be your role as a peacebuilder?

### 2. *Relational.*

Describe: What are the changes happening in people's relationships when they are involved in conflict?

Prescribe: As a peacebuilder, how can you help to bridge back these relationships?

### 3. *Structural.*

Describe: What are the political and economic realities that cause the conflict? Are the basic needs of the people involved in conflict being met? Who has access to resources and institutions of decision-making? Who are the ones with no access to resources and institutions of decision-making?

Prescribe: What would be your role and how would you intervene as a peacebuilder?

### 4. *Cultural.*

Describe: How do conflicts change the cultural patterns of the communities? How do their culture affect the development and handling of conflict?

Prescribe: What would be your role and how would you intervene as a peacebuilder?

## CONFLICTS ARE LIKE TREES



### LEAVES: EFFECTS OF CONFLICT

- :: armed clashes
- :: killing
- :: looting
- :: raids
- :: displacement
- :: poverty
- ::
- ::

### TRUNK: CORE ISSUES

- :: land, ancestral domain
- :: right to self-determination
- :: historical injustice
- ::

### ROOTS: CAUSES OF CONFLICT

- :: colonialization
- :: unjust laws
- :: corrupt politicians/system
- ::
- ::
- ::
- ::

## DIFFERING APPROACHES TO CONFLICT

- :: CONFLICT PREVENTION aims to prevent the outbreak of violent conflict.
- :: CONFLICT SETTLEMENT aims to end violent behavior by reaching a peace agreement.
- :: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT aims to limit and avoid future violence by promoting positive behavioral changes in the parties involved.
- :: CONFLICT RESOLUTION addresses the cause of conflict and seeks to build new and lasting relationships between hostile groups.
- :: CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION addresses the wider social political sources of a conflict and seeks to transform the negative energy of war into positive social and political change.

## THE PROCESS OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

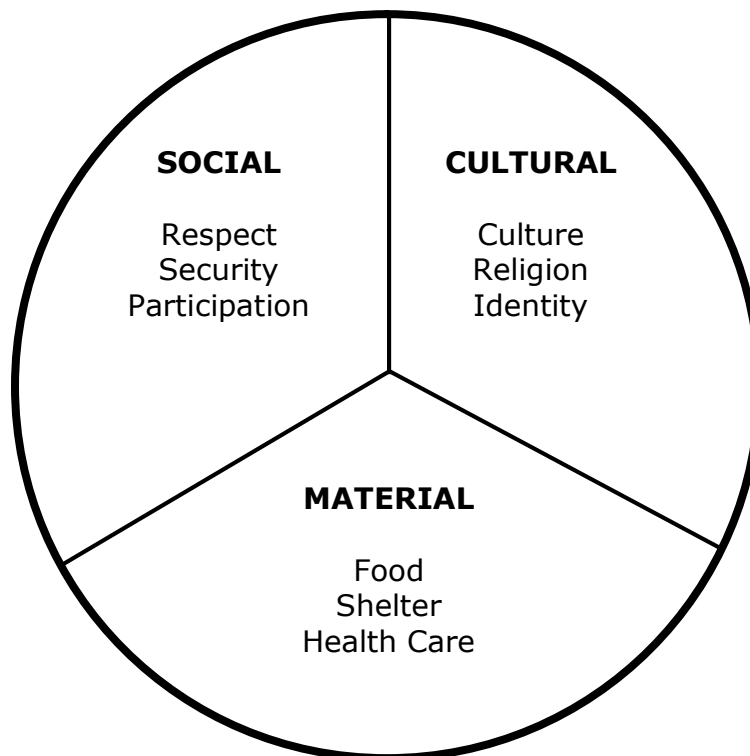
*Conflict* is an expressed struggle between at least two interdependent parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources, and interference from the other party in achieving their goals.

*Transformation* is a process of change.

*Conflict Transformation* is to envision and respond to the ebb and flow of social conflict as life-giving opportunities for creating constructive change processes that reduce violence, increase justice in direct interaction and social structures, and respond to real-life problems in human relationships.<sup>4</sup>

### BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND RIGHTS

Conflict is usually a result of unmet basic needs and violated human rights.



<sup>4</sup> John Paul Lederach, *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation* (Good Books, PA, 2003).

## **GROUP DISCUSSION: CONFLICT-IN-CONTEXT**

A cultural understanding of *conflict* and *conflict transformation*

:: The term/s we use to describe *conflict* is/are...

It literally means...

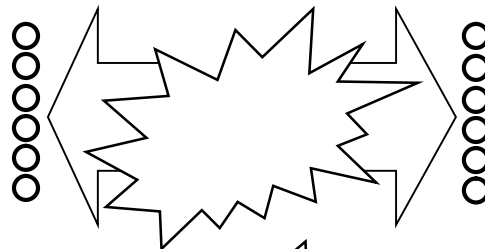
:: The term/s we use to describe conflict transformation is/are...

It literally means...

## HOW VIOLENT CONFLICT DIVIDES A COMMUNITY

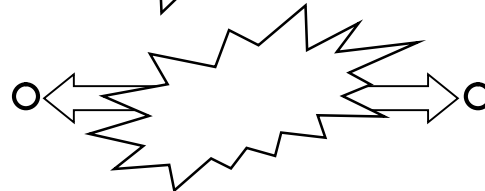
### 7. Polarization

Change in  
Social Organization



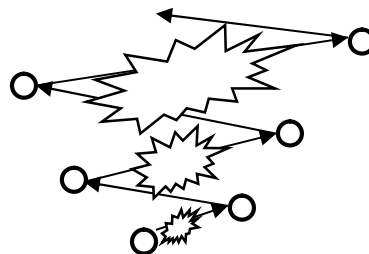
### 6. Antagonism

Hostility



### 5. Eye for an eye

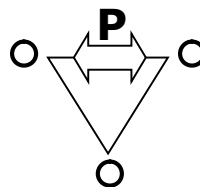
Reaction and escalation



NEEDS INTERVENTION

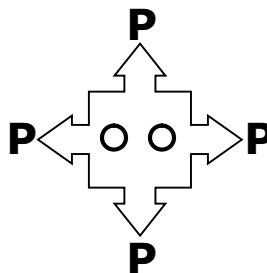
### 4. Negative Triangle

Talk negatively *about*, not *with*



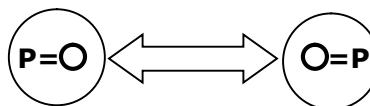
### 3. Issue proliferation

From specific to general



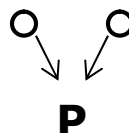
### 2. Shift from disagreement to personal antagonism

Person seen as problem



### 1. Problem-solving

Disagree but share problem



**DESTRUCTIVE**

MORE VIOLENCE

LESS TRUST

LESS ACCURATE COMMUNICATION

LESS DIRECT CONTACT

**CONSTRUCTIVE**

## THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION

*Reconciliation* is focused on building relationship between antagonists. The relational dimension involves the emotional and psychological aspects of the conflict and the need to recognize past grievances and explore future interdependence.

*Reconciliation* is a place, a locus, a space created for encounter by the parties; a place where the diverse but connected energies and concerns driving the conflict can meet, including the paradoxes of truth, mercy, justice and peace.

*Reconciliation* is a concept—a great idea! It is also a praxis—a practical course of action. It endeavors to reframe the conflict so that the parties are no longer preoccupied with focusing on the issues in a direct, cognitive manner. Its primary goal and key contribution is to seek innovative ways to create a time and a place, within various levels of the affected population, to address, integrate, and embrace the painful past and the necessary shared future as a means of dealing with the present.

### PARADOXICAL ENERGIZERS OF RECONCILIATION: TRUTH & LOVE, JUSTICE & MERCY

Personal Reflection: If Truth, Love, Justice, and Mercy are persons, how would you describe their respective characters? Please elaborate.

*Truth*

*Love*

*Justice*

*Mercy*



## **GROUP DISCUSSION: RECONCILIATION-IN-CONTEXT**

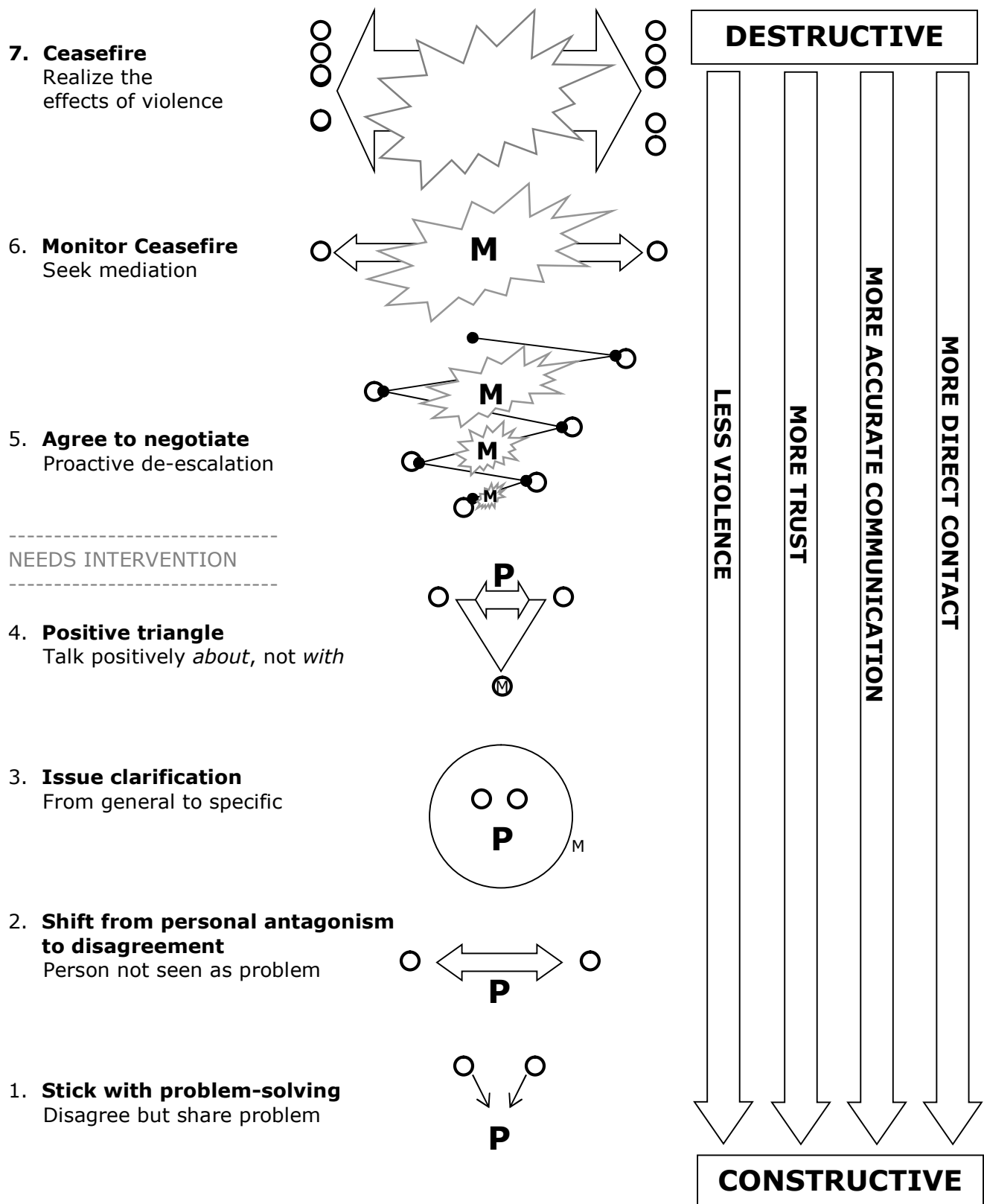
A cultural understanding of *reconciliation*

:: The term/s we use to describe *reconciliation* is/are...

It literally means...

:: The process of *reconciliation* in our culture involves the following steps or approaches:

## A JOURNEY TOWARDS RECONCILIATION



## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION TEAMS: ETHICAL VALUES

**1. Love.** We will love all people unconditionally and we will practice selfless love to the point of offering our lives to the people with whom we are called to live and to serve. This is exemplified in the humble life of Jesus of Nazareth whom we follow in response to His sacrificial love.

**2. Truth.** By God's grace, we will not lie. As witnesses to the truth we have experienced in Jesus Christ, we will initiate transparent and honest interaction with all the people concerned as we relate with them and as we formulate and implement our policies.

**3. Justice.** As justice is an attribute of God, our tasks will be implemented in accordance with what is just and equitable among all people concerned. We will listen to, and suffer with, those who have been oppressed because of historical injustice. Because of the redemptive nature of Jesus' Way, we will act justly as we peacefully seek the healing of the nations from all forms of injustice.

**4. Forgiveness.** Using the energies available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will absorb the violence committed against us so that our lives may be used as servants to stop the cycle of violence within us and around us. We will seek the forgiveness of people and communities who were treated unjustly by our fellow Christians—who misused the name of Christ to advance their greed for wealth and power.

**5. Peace.** We will seek harmony and reconciliation with the Creator, with our Being, with Others, and with the Creation. We believe in solving problems through non-violence. By God's grace and mercy, we will not use weapons to hurt or to kill people as a means to accomplish our dreams, mission, and objectives.

**6. Voluntary Service.** The backbone of our community will be the voluntary efforts of our team members as they offer their time, or their skills, or their financial resources for the cause of peace.

**7. Respect.** As fellow-beings created in the image of God, we will work with all people, respecting the differences in our worldviews, value systems, and behavior patterns. As fellow stewards of our planet, we will respect traditional ways of preserving our natural environment.

**8. Patience.** The work of peacebuilding in each context is a long-term process. Though we will seek wisdom from the lessons learned from other contexts, we will not be presumptuous to use them as "quick-fix solutions" to a specific conflict-situation we are facing. We will always consult patiently with the people with whom we are called to love and to serve.

**9. Mutual Learning.** Because all truth is God's truth, we will seek to be both learners and teachers when we work with other people. We recognize that modern knowledge can be harmonized with traditional wisdom from many cultures, and that this harmonized learning will enrich our mutual growth and development.

**10. Accountability.** We will submit ongoing reports to all the people concerned—sponsors, clients, volunteers, staff—as we manage the resources entrusted to us.