



# COMBONI PRESS NETWORK

## The News Service Of The Comboni Missionaries

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*Comboni Press Network (CPN) newsletter provides access to information on global issues from church and mission-related sources. Our focus is on justice and peace issues, and the effect U.S. policies have on Third World countries. Please share your suggestions and ideas with us—we're only a fax or e-mail away!*

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### GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:

**From CPN** ***THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE—A TIME FOR PRAYER, PATIENCE AND RESILIENCE:*** After the 7.0 earthquake on January 12 levelled much of the Port-au-Prince landscape, the projections are that as many as 200,000 have died and that up to 1.5 million have lost their homes. World officials met recently in Montreal where the Republic of Haiti's Prime Minister, Jean-Max Bellerive, declared that his country can lead the quake recovery but that massive international support is needed. First off is getting the government back on its feet. As a chief ally, the U.S. has offered to host an international donors conference that will create a road map for reconstruction. ***Save the Children*** is leading the process to ensure there's enough food, water and shelter and to reunite orphans with their extended family members. The Archdiocese of Miami is preparing to take in large numbers of orphans, if called upon, much as it took in Cubans back in the 1960s. **Check in** for up-to-date information at [www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/haiti/story/1429877.html](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/haiti/story/1429877.html). A list of relief organizations can be found at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) and [www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org).

**From Enough** ***AS APRIL ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR, THE STAKES IN SUDAN ARE HIGHER THAN EVER:*** A recent "social media" **CitizenTube** campaign, involving several grassroots organizations, succeeded in getting Sudan policy front and center before President Obama. He was asked to explain what he is doing to "avert a resumption of widespread bloodshed in Sudan." Responding via *You Tube* and the White House web site, the president urged Sudan to cooperate in efforts to stabilize its country and to reach a lasting peace agreement so that the refugees can return, while describing it as a "heartbreaking and difficult" situation. John Prendergast, co-founder of the *Enough Project*, countered that to ensure peace "a full-time field-based diplomatic presence is needed to work directly on Darfur and the North-South issues." Secondly, this diplomatic engagement should be backed by real and immediate pressures on the Sudanese government by building a coalition of countries willing to escalate such pressure in support of peace.

√ Some of the daunting concerns include: ♦ the upcoming election process itself which is a critical feature of *Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)* implementation; ♦ the threat of an influx of weapons to the South, and ♦ the planning for a *post-Referendum Sudan (2011)* that is mammoth in scope and yet to begin.

√ **View** the major policy paper, ***Clear Benchmarks for Sudan*** at [www.enoughproject.org](http://www.enoughproject.org).  
**Ask your member of Congress** to contact the Deputies to ask them to implement clear benchmarks for Sudan policy, at 1-800-436-6243.

**BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM:** The social justice lobby group, **NETWORK**, is watching this key issue which should see action soon. A current debate concerns whether advocates should push for reform in pieces or as a comprehensive package. A concern is that if the "easy" issues are passed such as DREAM and AgJOBS, then it will be harder to pass the more difficult parts such as the road to citizenship for the undocumented or the creation of new permanent and temporary immigration system policies. **Monitor the happenings and take action** at [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org). **Sign a petition** at [www.breakingbreadwithfamilies.org](http://www.breakingbreadwithfamilies.org).

**SPOTLIGHT ON: BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** It's officially in February, but it's every month at the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**, situated symbolically on the Ohio River in Cincinnati. The Center not only honors early African-American history, but also brings injustices to light that are part of the world-wide struggle for freedom in the 21st century. Its multi-media exhibits include a film narrated by Oprah Winfrey, and currently a special exhibit on lynching called *Without Sanctuary*. African American men, women and children were often lynched on nothing more than a whim, but 25% of the documented lynchings were of immigrants. Such hatred is still visible in the country even today. Hours are 11 am-5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. **For more information, contact** (513) 333-7500/Web site: [www.nurfc.org](http://www.nurfc.org).

## NOT-TO-BE-MISSED RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

√ ***Breath, Eyes, Memory*** by Edwidge Danticat evokes the wonder, terror and heartache of her native Haiti, and the enduring strength of Haiti's women, in this witness to the traditions, suffering and wisdom of an entire people. Set in Haiti's impoverished villages and New York's Haitian community, Danticat tells the story of the "fictional" Sophie Caco who rediscovers Haiti and a legacy of shame that can only be healed when she returns there. In bookstores.

√ ***A Catholic Response Study Guide to Climate Change***, developed by the *National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC)*, introduces people to a structured web-based approach and helps them understand and apply Catholic teachings as they relate to climate change. **Visit** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) and [www.ncrlc.com/GCC\\_Catholic\\_Response.html](http://www.ncrlc.com/GCC_Catholic_Response.html).

√ ***The 800 Mile Wall*** is an instructive film that powerfully illustrates the harsh life-and-death struggle of border-crossing migrants. It readily compliments several of the educational resources and programs provided by the *U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops* on comprehensive immigration reform. **For more information** on reform, visit [www.JusticeforImmigrants.org](http://www.JusticeforImmigrants.org); order the film at [www.800milewall.org](http://www.800milewall.org).

√ ***Playground: The Child Sex Trade in America*** is a documentary that traces the United States' role in global sex trafficking while also documenting how prevalent the problem is in the U.S. Statistically, everyone thinks this is an overseas problem, but the majority of it happens in the U.S. in terms of where the money is being funneled from ultimately. The film stresses the importance of parents educating kids about sex and its emotional aspects. **Visit** [www.playgroundproject.org](http://www.playgroundproject.org).

√ ***The 2010 Hunger Report: A Just and Sustainable Recovery***, from *Bread for the World*, focuses, as a starting point, on the worst recession in 75 years, but also looks forward to the unfolding recovery. Learn more about why the greatest threat to a sustainable recovery may come from the global climate change crisis and reckless overconsumption. The book emphasizes the importance of strengthening the Earned Income Tax Credit to help low income families keep more of their earnings. **To obtain a copy**, contact: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## NOTABLE BOOKMARKS:

♦ [www.diocese-cotonou.org/-Institut-des-Artisans-Justice-et.119-.html](http://www.diocese-cotonou.org/-Institut-des-Artisans-Justice-et.119-.html), the **Institute of Craftsmen Justice and Peace (IAJP)**, based in Cotonou, Benin, offers training and reflection on West Africa's justice and peace issues. Led by Fr. Raymond Bernard Goudjo, the center's main role is to empower Christians and the members of parish committees to become "creators of duty" and not just "defenders of law."

## FUTURE DATES FOR FUTURE THINKERS AND PLANNERS:

• **February 7-10, 2010: 2010 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering: *Charity in Truth: Seeking the Common Good*** will feature Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, S.J., Ph.D., John Carr, Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love, Ray Boshara, David Brooks and Mark Shields. Bishop William Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Centre will preside at the Opening Liturgy, and a trip to Capitol Hill is also planned. The site is the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. **Contact:** [www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org](http://www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org).

• **March 19-22, 2010: Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice: *A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees and Displaced Peoples*** will gather 1000s for a high impact weekend at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia. The goal is to strengthen the Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. Workshops will focus on Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Middle East, the U.S., Eco-Justice, Global Economic Justice and Peace & Global Security. A Lobby Day is set for March 22nd. **To register, contact:** Church World Service/Jesse Marsden at (202) 481-6942/E-mail: [coordinator@advocacydays.org](mailto:coordinator@advocacydays.org)/Web site: [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org).

• **April 17-19, 2010: 2010 Africa Faith and Justice Network Conference & Lobby Day: *Justice in Africa: On Whose Terms?***, near Washington, D.C., will include a panel on *Restorative Justice* and a slate of dynamic workshops. The keynote speaker will be Fr. Peter Henriot, SJ, Director of the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection. Fr. Clement Aapengnuo will lead the liturgy on the 18th, and a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill will wrap the conference on the 19th. Cost is \$175 by 2/28; there is a student rate of \$55. The venue is the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, VA. **For more details, and to register, visit** [www.afjn.org](http://www.afjn.org).

**COMBONILINE:** ♦ **Best wishes and thanks to Fr. Paul Donohue** as he joins the Montclair, NJ community where he will work with parishioners and mission promotion. He served as Director of Communications and Director of Benefactor Relations during his 12-year tenure in Cincinnati. Fr. Paul can be reached at [donohue@combonimissionaries.org](mailto:donohue@combonimissionaries.org).