



National **Benevolent** Association

Restorative Justice 101

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What is Restorative Justice?



“Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders.” (Prison Fellowship International)

Why Learn About Restorative Justice?



Some assumptions to be made:

- Our current corrections system is not working effectively
- There is a school-to-prison pipeline that needs to be disrupted
- We are a litigious society
- We have lost a sense of civil discourse and resolving problems within the community

The Present System of Retributive Justice

Retributive Justice

(how we currently operate):

- Focuses upon punishment
- Depends upon an adversarial system
- Seeks the truth through controversy
- Purports to seek a punishment that meets the crime
- Has no place for victim restoration
- Is more concerned with community protection than community healing
- Is one method of non-violent conflict resolution
- Looks at deterrence as a means of prevention



There are different kinds of justice. Retributive justice is largely Western. The African understanding is far more restorative - not so much to punish as to redress or restore a balance that has been knocked askew.

(Desmond Tutu)

izquotes.com

What Restorative Justice Offers

Restorative Justice

(an evolving movement):

- Focuses upon restoration, reconciliation, healing
- Depends upon a cooperative process
- Seeks the truth through dialogue
- Purports to seek a restoration of order and peace
- Gives voice and empowerment to victims
- Is more concerned with community healing and peace leaving, preserving a just public order to the state
- Is one method of non-violent conflict resolution
- Looks at encounter as a means of prevention



Does my doing
of justice
heal others?

Why Understanding and Promoting Restorative Justice is Important for Followers of Jesus

One of the greatest overriding themes of the Bible is the restoration and reconciliation of the people of God to one another, to God, and to all of God's creation.

From brokenness, violence, and alienation recounted in the beginning the Genesis, God's plan soon unfolds, offering a vision of healing and wholeness in and through a community grounded in peace and justice.



How These Biblical Principles Are Exhibited in Restorative Justice Practices



God's
Reconciling
Love

This theme of restoration and reconciliation is demonstrated in the teachings of Jesus:

- Resolving conflict in a non-violent, peaceful way
- Caring for the victims of injustice
- Holding people accountable
- Offering forgiveness
- Moving people toward the reconciling love of God

How Does Restorative Justice Work?

Restorative programs are characterized by four key values:

1. **Encounter:** Create opportunities for victims, offenders, and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath.
2. **Amends:** Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused.
3. **Reintegration:** Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society.
4. **Inclusion:** Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution.

Restorative Justice in Practice: @ The UrbanMission

- **Rev. Nora Jacob**
Restorative Justice Minister, UrbanMission (UCC/DOC); and
Restorative Justice Director, UrbanMission Community Partners
- **Different organizations offer training**
Example: Insight Prison Project (IPP)
- **Possibilities of teamwork**
Example: Healing Hearts, Restoring Hope (HHRH)

UrbanMission

Community Partners

Restorative Justice in Practice: In a California State Prison

FOCUS #1:

- **Victim Offender Education Group (with IPP)**
 - 12-15 participants, typically incarcerated for major harm (i.e., felony crimes, sometimes with sentencing enhancements)
 - 2-3 facilitators - ideally from inside as well as outside
 - Importance of diversities in age, racial background, crime

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ENCOUNTER AND RESTORATION --

Importance of sitting in circle:

- All are equal - we have different roles there.
- Each person has his/her own truth.
- All are valued and respected as human beings.

* LB's story

Restorative Justice in Practice: In a California State Prison

ENCOUNTER AND INCLUSION --

Some of what participants seek is ...

- **Accountability**
- **Self-understanding**
 - * Role of parents/family, cultural context, trauma
 - * Where their negative "triggers" come from

Restorative Justice in Practice: In a California State Prison

REINTEGRATION --

What participants also develop is ...

- Empathy-building
- Better management of emotions/behaviors
- Resilience

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REINTEGRATION AND INCLUSION --

Participants also experience ...

- Forgiveness of self and others (the start of it)
- Connection with (surrogate) survivor

And they work on ...

AMENDS -- usually indirect amends.

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TYPICAL PROCESSES of an RJ CIRCLE:

- Everyone participates in discussion...
- ...OR individual shares prepared assignment with group.
- Facilitators and group members ask questions to promote self-understanding and insights.
- One person's insight often affects whole group.
- Importance of trust, confidentiality, respect.

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TYPICAL PROCESSES (cont.)

Facilitation involves:

- Deep listening
- Language of “noticing” and “wondering”
- Reverent curiosity
- Non-judgment
- Presence -- not teaching or preaching

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TYPICAL PROCESSES (cont.)

"Sit with it" --

- Giving space for feelings
- Modeling acceptance of feelings
- "Let silence do the heavy lifting"

* VM's story

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FOCUS #2:

“The Ripple Effect” workshop (with HHRH)

- **Promotes basic understanding:**
 - Ripple effect of harm AND of healing
 - “Hurt people hurt people...”
 - “... and healing people heal people”

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“The Ripple Effect” --

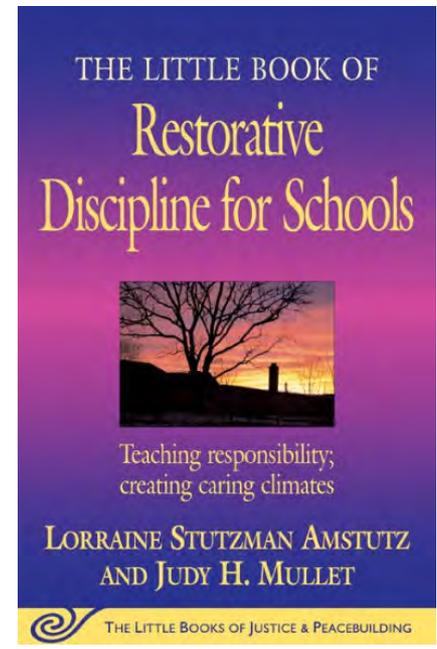
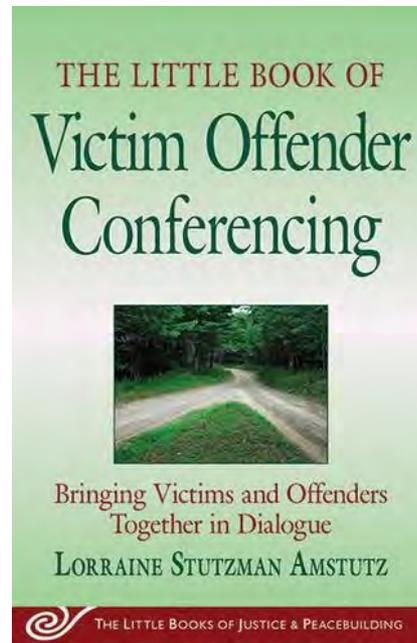
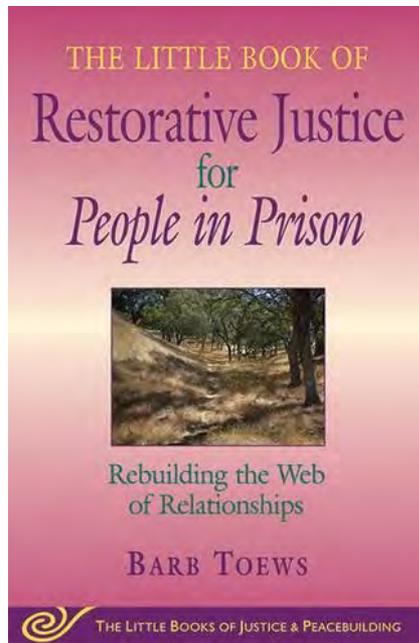
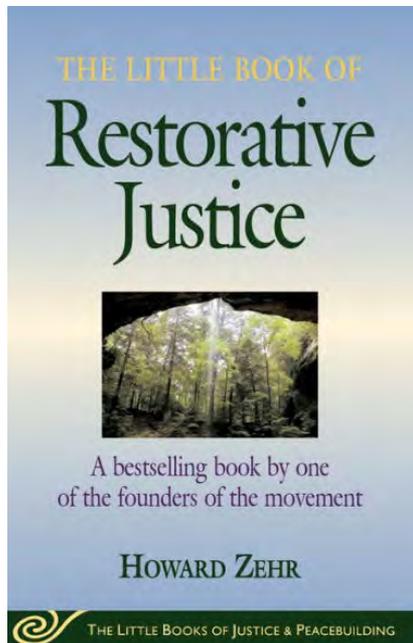
- 20-25 participants and 2-3 facilitators
- Based on an actual crime scenario
- Role-playing the impact of a crime
- Introduces restorative justice concepts

Restorative Justice in Practice: In a California State Prison

IN CONCLUSION: What we are working on at UrbanMission Community Partners (2019)

- New programs responding to California's current emphasis on more rehabilitation, education, and restorative justice program opportunities for those whose lives have been detoured by incarceration.
- Possible topics:
 - Grief and loss; forgiveness; compassionate communication

Learn More About Restorative Justice





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More at: nbacares.org/prison-and-jail