



Women & Children's Advocacy Centre

# Annual Report 2010



Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.  
- Isaiah 1:17

The Women & Children's Advocacy Centre brings people, resources, training and information together for the benefit of women and children at risk. We are committed to bring change through working with others in hope and interdependence.

[wcac@wccentre.org](mailto:wcac@wccentre.org)

# Letter from the Director

**My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, O Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." Psalm 35:10**

In 2010 we accomplished more than we ever imagined we could. As I look back over the year, I am amazed at our journey and God's faithfulness through it all, and am left to ask, "Who is like you, O Lord?". Throughout 2010, He brought around us talented, experienced, passionate and committed people, with a vision of working together to construct the bridge between grassroots organizations in developing nations and the worldwide Church.

As we moved from Switzerland there were four of us committed to establishing the Women & Children's Advocacy Centre office in Portland, Oregon and within three months, we had almost doubled in size! We arrived with not much more than some boxes of books, resources and a vision, but soon found our assets were really to be found in people and relationships. We enlisted help from our first Board of Directors who contributed much needed input and without whose support we could not have moved forward.

Much of the time this year was spent focusing on our role, as I previously mentioned, as a 'bridge' - a connection point between ministries to women and children at risk and the global church. We saw the importance of building and refining the structure of the bridge so that we have long lasting, yet flexible systems to deliver the resources, training, people and information that we are charged with delivering. At the same time we had key growth in testing our field based partnership program and moved ahead in the development of Celebrating Children Workshop which will we share with you in greater length.

We were blessed to have three new staff join us in July with a focus on anti-trafficking and developing a strategy around this issue for the WCAC. We were excited to see this widening of our breadth and scope. With these new staff and a growing number of relationships with people, near and far, interested in joining us, we felt it was critical to gather and spend time providing orientation into the purposes and strategies that make WCAC, as well as seeking God for its future. Therefore, in November, fourteen of us met together and I wish we had space here to tell you what each of those people have contributed and will contribute in the future. It's the people that God brings that will continue to build the WCAC.

By December, we had outgrown our first office and moved into a newer, bigger location. It has been a challenge to face the reality of greater financial costs as we grow, but we are convinced that the God who has called us will provide and we have already experienced this in unique and unexpected ways. Now in early 2011, we are ten staff in the home office and have several others preparing to join us in the coming months.

Thank you for your interest in the Women & Children's Advocacy Centre. Together with the Psalmist we say "Who is like you, O Lord?" It is because we know God cares about the poor and needy that we can confidently commit ourselves to His purposes.

  
Janna Moats



# The WCAC moves to Portland, Oregon

In 2010, the Women & Children's Advocacy Centre moved its headquarters to Portland, Oregon, USA. Being based in Burtigny, Switzerland for its first three years, enabled the WCAC to develop its foundational values and operating systems, relationships with field partners and also the unique opportunity of attending several key Human Rights sessions at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. It was a valuable time of learning and growing and we are thankful to YWAM Burtigny for embracing our ministry and giving us the space and freedom to develop there.

Due to its international scope, it soon became clear that in order to grow further and connect with a broader network of partners, the WCAC would need to be based in an English speaking country. Our ability to engage the local church would be far greater, as would our networking potential in general, with a common language.

Through relationship with various YWAM locations in the United States, we began pursuing the potential of moving and in April 2009, Director Janna Moats went to Salem, Oregon to meet with leaders in the region. The proposal of the move was greeted with warmth and enthusiasm and North West Regional Director, Steve Kilpatrick, officially welcomed the WCAC to the neighbourhood!

In April, 2010, the first staff members of the WCAC moved to Portland and over the next few months, the rest followed, as did three new members. By July, we were ready to hold our first event as WCAC Portland - the Justice Has A Face Workshop - and YWAM Salem kindly hosted us while we continued to search for an office building. In August, after considering a number of options, we finally found a place to land and by September, we had moved in to our new address.

2010 was indeed a year of transition, several moves and much change, but we saw God's faithfulness every step of the way as we made this journey and we are excited to see what the new year, new city and new country hold for us!

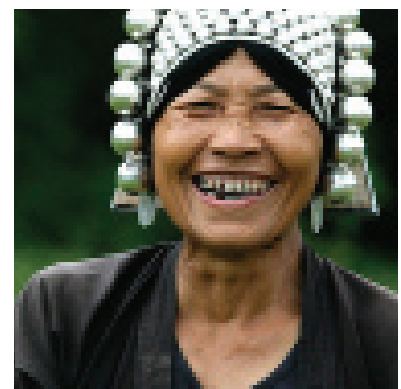


# Key Activities

The Women & Children's Advocacy Centre brings people, resources, training and information together for the benefit of women and children at risk. We are committed to bring change through working with others in hope and interdependence.

**1 Bringing people together** - Throughout scripture, we see the intrinsic value God places within every individual, creating them in His image. It is this value that we seek to uphold in how we work. We are constantly reminded of how it is the people we connect with and the relationships they bring that are important, as well as crucial to seeing change happen anywhere. 2010 brought many new people into our path. Not only did we continue to forge relationships globally, we also established new ones locally, leading to several additional staff members joining us. Colleen Milstein, Lance Rawlins, Karisse Schilling, Matthew Wood and Rochelle Potter all joined the WCAC throughout the year as fulltime staff and have each brought their own individual and unique strengths to the team. And, in June we called the very first meeting of our newly assembled Board of Directors: Dahne Watson, Jill Shaddy, Kelly Cohoe, and Marty Melvin. We have already benefited from the wisdom and encouragement of each member and are excited to see how, with their partnership we can move forward.

**2 Bringing Resources Together** - A key ingredient for us to work interdependently with others is the sharing of resources which range from finances to relationships, knowledge, skills and more. Significant time was spent researching and exploring what resources were needed as well as evaluating systems that would enable us to effectively link ministries with what they need to be successful. In August, a team went to Vijayawada, India for three weeks to carry out a pilot Ministry Support Team visit to a grass-roots ministry called Love Your Neighbour As Yourself (LYNY) - a home and school for neglected girls. The goal was to spend time listening to and connecting with the staff, hearing their vision, being part of their day-to-day lives and asking them to share their successes and struggles. A member of the team, Matt Wood, shared from the time: "I continue to be struck by the simple opportunity we had to begin relationship with a group of people doing something amazing...an intentional relationship, strengthening the purpose, developing the organization...believing in who people are and what God is doing through them. We focus on the staff, thereby influencing who they love and care for." We hope this is the first of many ministry visits; being able to meet face to face with the staff of a ministry enables us to better understand their needs, and how best to serve them by bringing together resources that they may not otherwise have access to.

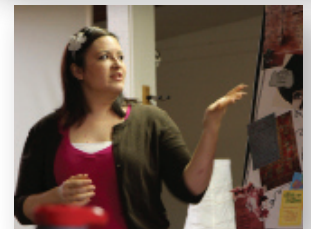
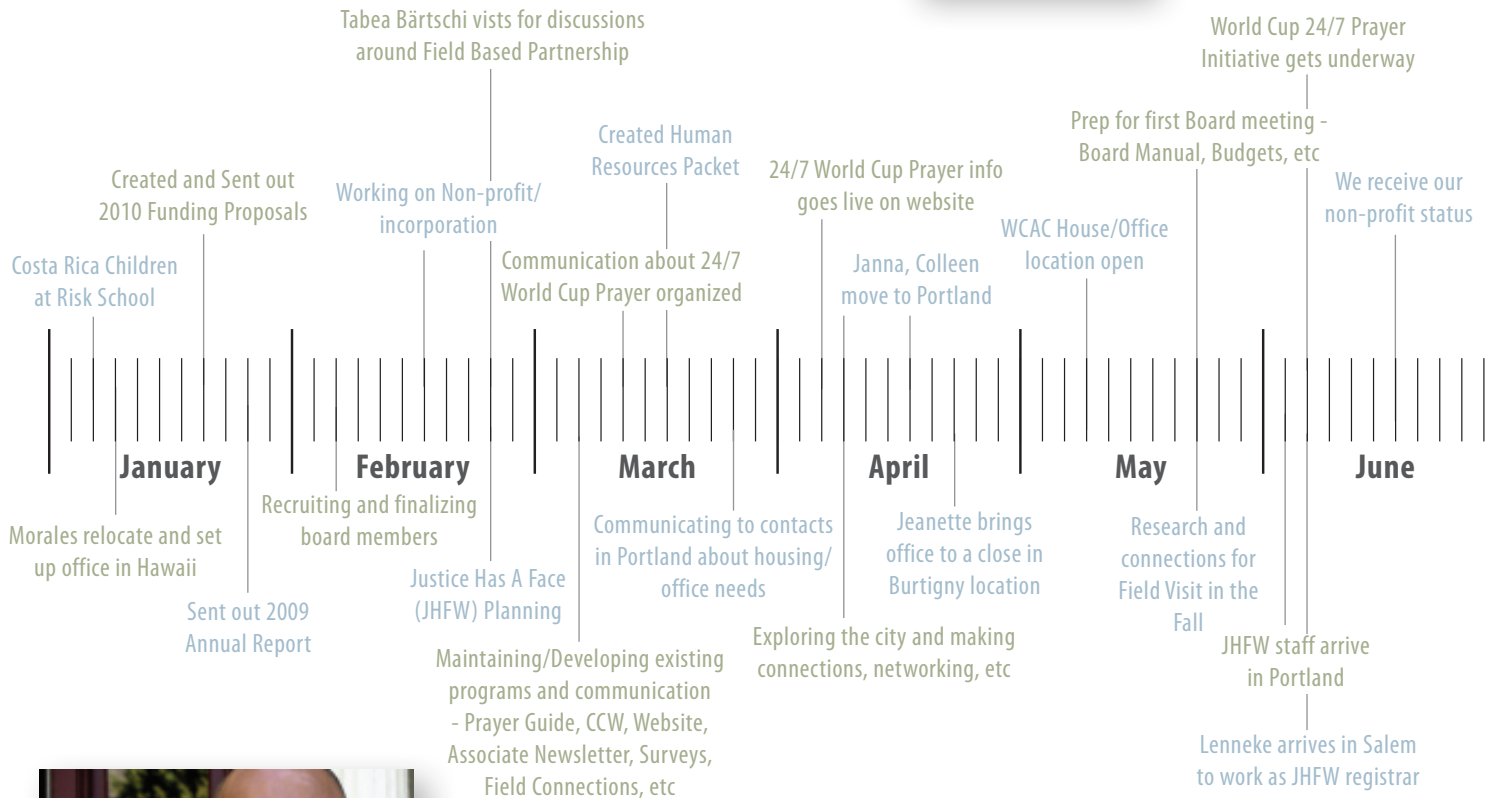




**3 Bringing training together** - The WCAC has been involved in creating a three week workshop adapted from the Viva Network book, 'Celebrating Children'. This workshop is for people working with children in many different capacities such as teaching, day care, social work, home-care and many other types of ministries. Together participants learn about different tools and principles for working with children at risk, at the same time exploring God's heart for them and His intention to restore a future and a hope for all children. We carried out our first workshop in Rwanda at the end of 2009 and in July of 2010, the Celebrating Children team re-convened in Salem for further consultation around the completion and the further contextualization of the curriculum. Taking learning from the workshop, the team saw it was necessary to make changes in the training and Terry McCurley took on the ownership of seeing this through. With a background in teaching, Terry carries a special passion for this curriculum and after being part of the first training in Rwanda is convinced of the potential this material has in transforming mindsets around the value of and God's intentions for children. By the end of the year six of the eight modules were completed. We also ran our second Justice Has A Face Workshop in the month of July with participants from North America, Europe and Australia. The members of the South East Asia regional office came to staff the workshop in the hopes of being part of multiplying it further in this region.

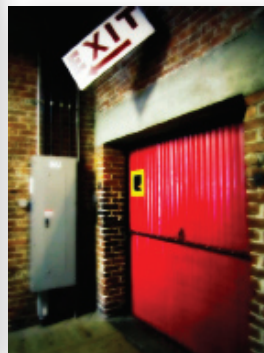
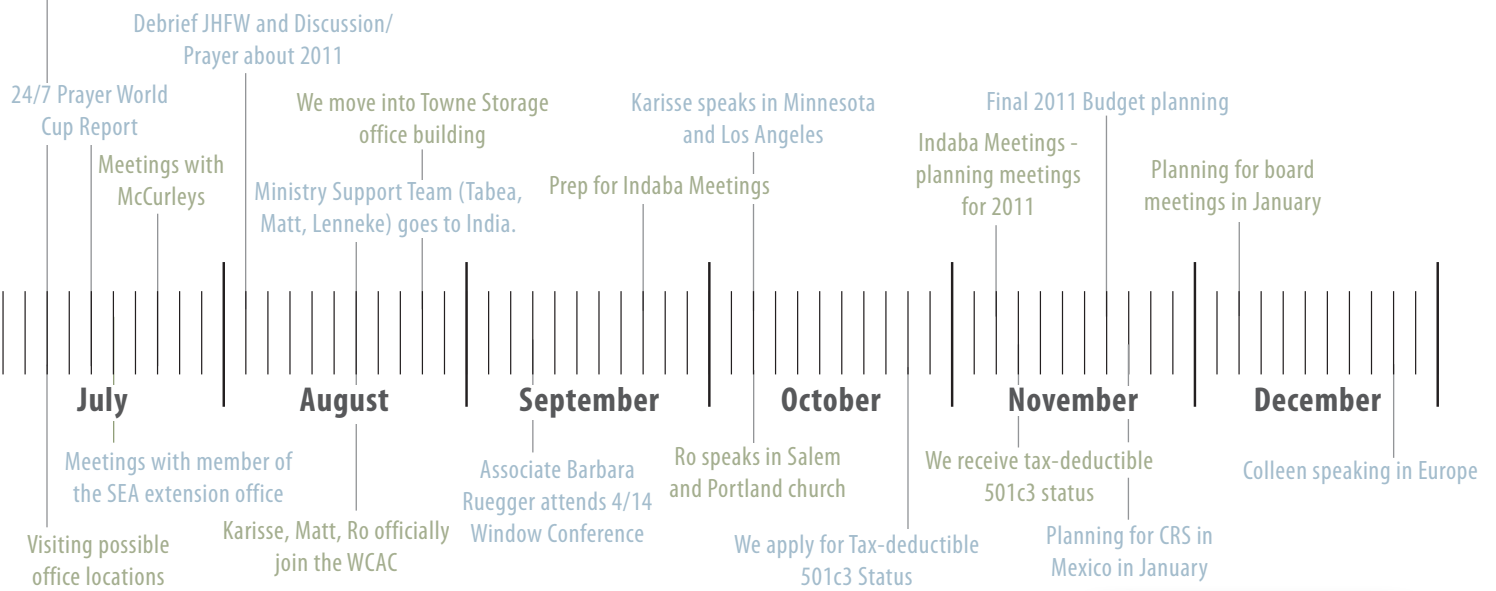
**4 Bringing information together** - Another key aspect of connecting people is information. Information is a tool without which people often feel helpless. We see the critical need for people to understand the issues and what their piece is in "learning to do right, seeking justice, encouraging the oppressed" (Is 1:17 paraphrase). Throughout 2010, members of the WCAC travelled to various locations to speak on issues of injustice and God's heart for His world. Janna Moats went to Costa Rica to speak to students at a Children At Risk school; Colleen Milstein spoke in several locations in North America and Europe on the state of the world and the responsibility of the church in responding to injustice. Karisse Schilling and Rochelle Potter, members of the Anti-Human Trafficking team spoke to a variety of audiences, creating awareness around the issue and ways to respond. They, along with Matt Wood, also attended a Not For Sale forum to gain greater understanding of the broader, global anti-human trafficking initiatives. We created a brochure for the purpose of fund-raising which included stories of ministries and individuals on the field and the need for partnerships in supporting their work. As a result of sharing this information in different ways in 2010, people were challenged to give of their time and their resources in engaging with the issues. It reminded us again that often, people do not know how they can participate, and thus we will continue to provide up to date information and opportunities for involvement.

# WCAC 2010 Timeline





JHFW begins in Salem



# Fred Ochieng



*“He stood before the class and declared that the violence that had been in his family for generations, was going to stop now, with him.”*

Fred Ochieng is a children’s pastor in Kisumu, Kenya. He came to Rwanda for three weeks to be a part of the Celebrating Children Workshop run by the Women and Children’s Advocacy Centre. When first meeting him, one is immediately struck by his kind and gentle manner. Upon introducing himself and his ministry, he said he worked specifically with boys because he firmly believes the way to change the lives of girls is to raise boys in a way that would teach them to value, respect and treat girls, and later women, the right way.

During the teaching on discipline, Fred shared a revelation he’d received. He began by talking about the cycle of violence in his family - his grandfather was beaten as a child and went on to beat his own son, Fred’s father, who, in turn beat Fred with live electrical wires. He showed us the scars on his neck and said he had them all over his body. He stood before the class and declared that the violence that had been in his family for generations, was going to stop now, with him. He would not continue this way with his boys. Understanding God’s value for children, he could not allow them to be raised as he had been.



Some months after the workshop we received this email from Fred:

"I am happy to inform you that I was nominated a couple of weeks ago by the City Council to be part of a commission to develop a Child Welfare policy for the city that will guide organizations working with children here in. Thanks to the knowledge I got from the Celebrating Children Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, I have provided some helpful insights in our initial meetings. We hope to have a final document in the last quarter of this year. I however must confess that I am humbled that I am already making such a huge contribution in Children's work barely three months after the workshop."

Fred is now in the process of setting up a foster care ministry in Kisumu, Kenya and will also be leading his own Celebrating Children Workshop in March 2011.



The goal of the Celebrating Children Workshop team is to multiply facilitators world-wide, so that the training can be taken on by local leaders and thereby taught with cultural and contextual relevance. Fred's desire to take on this responsibility in Kenya was met with great enthusiasm, and the hope is that there will be further multiplication of the curriculum into other regions in 2011. There are already plans under way for a workshop to be run in Costa Rica in April.

If you would like more information about this workshop and the potential to get involved, please contact us at [ccw@wcacentre.org](mailto:ccw@wcacentre.org).

# Staff and Partners



People working in our home-office in 2010: (L-R) Lance Rawlins, Jeanette Rawlins, Colleen Milstein, Rochelle Potter, Janna Moats, Matt Wood, Karisse Schilling

## **Partners in 2010:**

Board of Directors: Dahne Watson, Jill Shaddy, Kelly Cohoe, and Marty Melvin. Thank you for all your input and support.

YWAM Burtigny, YWAM Darwin, YWAM Salem, YWAM Rwanda, Viva Network.

Special thanks to the staff at YWAM Burtigny for hosting us for three years and for every way in which you provided us with the means to grow. And to the staff of YWAM Salem who made it possible for us to host the Justice Has A Face Workshop and who have been a source of constant support in several ways, we are immensely grateful.

Thank you to the following people for their invaluable contributions and partnership in 2010:

Ed and Kay Morales, Lenneke van Veen, Tabea Bärtschi, Heather Marjoriebanks, Jen Sparks, Lauren McElroy, Philippa Laird, Sanna Mustonen, Terry and Philip McCurley, Eva Spengler, Celia Rawlins, Heather Pressley, Leah Broomfield, Becky Frith, Steve and Karen Kilpatrick, Jason Alfonse Fileta, Andy and Yvonne Geleyense, Theresa Schinzel. And to all our Associates around the world, thank you for your partnership.

