How can Christians help to Build Peace in a Warring World?

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Why should Christians be peacebuilders?

- The Relational perspective
- Implications for public life as well as personal life
- Why peacemakers called sons/daughters of God (Matt 5:9)



How to build trust in any personal/national relationship

- Mutual Respect
- Identify Shared Values and Goals
- Directness of Communication
- Continuity over Time
- Breadth of Knowledge of One Another



How to build trust between political parties/nations

- Research to identify key points of dispute/underlying issues
- Identify key influencers of leaders of the main parties
- Meetings of the influencers to identify shared values and acceptable options



Case studies from my own experience:

- South Africa before end of Apartheid
- Rwanda after the genocide
- Sudan/South Sudan



Ways to be Involved in National or International Conflict Resolution

- Pray intelligently into the conflict
 - i.e. understand perspectives/interests of the major parties identify key influencers of leaders of parties to conflict
- Seek opportunities to bring influencers to face-to-face meetings
- Seek sources of funding for meetings if at national level



Relevant websites:

- www.jubilee-centre.org
- www.relationalpeacebuilding.org
- www.relationalresearch.org

