

# VORP

## News

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### Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of the Central Valley, Inc.

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### *Mediators in the Church*



*From the October United  
Christian Church Newsletter,  
by Earlene Hodgson and Dale Reed.*

### *From the Administrator*

VORP is one example of restorative justice in action. VORP's process is one of many variations of victim offender dialogue in use around the world. Victim Offender Mediation Association (VOMA) is having its annual conference in Nashville as you receive this newsletter. VOMA has members from all over North America and around the world. What all VOMA members have in common is a commitment to victim offender dialogue.

The primary difference among the variations of victim offender dialogue is who leads the meeting. The model developed in New Zealand for juvenile dependency and youth offenses uses a full-time professional youth counselor as facilitator of the process. The Australian model, known for the city of its birth as the Wagga Wagga model, has a police officer as facilitator. The third model is the one used by our VORP in Fresno, in which a community volunteer leads the process.

The facilitator makes a difference in these victim offender dialogues, and the values of the facilitator can have a significant impact on the experience. Fresno VORP mediators are committed to creating a climate in which reconciliation can occur, rather than being focused on restitution or diversion from court. As we study the practices of victim offender dialogue practitioners around the world, we continue to be committed to our focus on reconciliation, even as we continue to improve our model based on the experiences of others. As we share our model in national and international settings, we receive affirmation for our focus. It's great work to be in, and you are part of it as you support us with your time and money. Thanks!

*Duane Ruth-Heffelbower*

#### **VORP Board Members**

- Michael Blue, Chair
- Jose Chaparro
- Dave Purvis, Secretary/Treasurer
- Eleanor Richards
- Arthur Wint

#### **VORP Staff**

- Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, Administrator
- Johnny Phouthachack, Agreement Manager
- Helmine Bigler, Mediation Manager
- Megan Thompson, Mediation Manager
- Barry Guenther, Finance Manager
- Kartika Suwandi, Finance Assistant Manager

Have you heard of our involvement in VORP? Do you know what it is? Have you wondered how the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, for which some of our members have trained, is working? Carroll Cotton and Dale Reed, who have been working with VORP, have just concluded a case involving three 17 year old boys who broke into a school and stole sports equipment, a computer and printer and some other items.

Dale and Carroll met with each of the offenders and their parents or guardians. They met one offender at our church and the other two boys in their homes. At these meetings they obtained permission to set up a meeting with the victim (school) to try to reconcile the differences between them and the victim. Dale and Carroll then met at the school with the principal, and he agreed to meet with the offenders and their guardians.

On Friday, September 19, Carroll and Dale, the offenders and their guardians, and the principal gathered at the school for a reconciliation meeting. The principal talked to the boys and indicated some things that he required to make him feel right. The boys then explained to the principal the nature of their crime and how they wanted to do whatever was required to "fix" things. A very good agreement was reached with all parties feeling satisfied that they had been heard and the issue settled.

After the meeting, Dale and Carroll said they felt that God was really smiling on them that day and that they had done God's work.

***Please spread the word about VORP through your church newsletter. Ask members of your congregation to pray for VORP, you could tell a mediation story, advertise our training dates and encourage donations.***

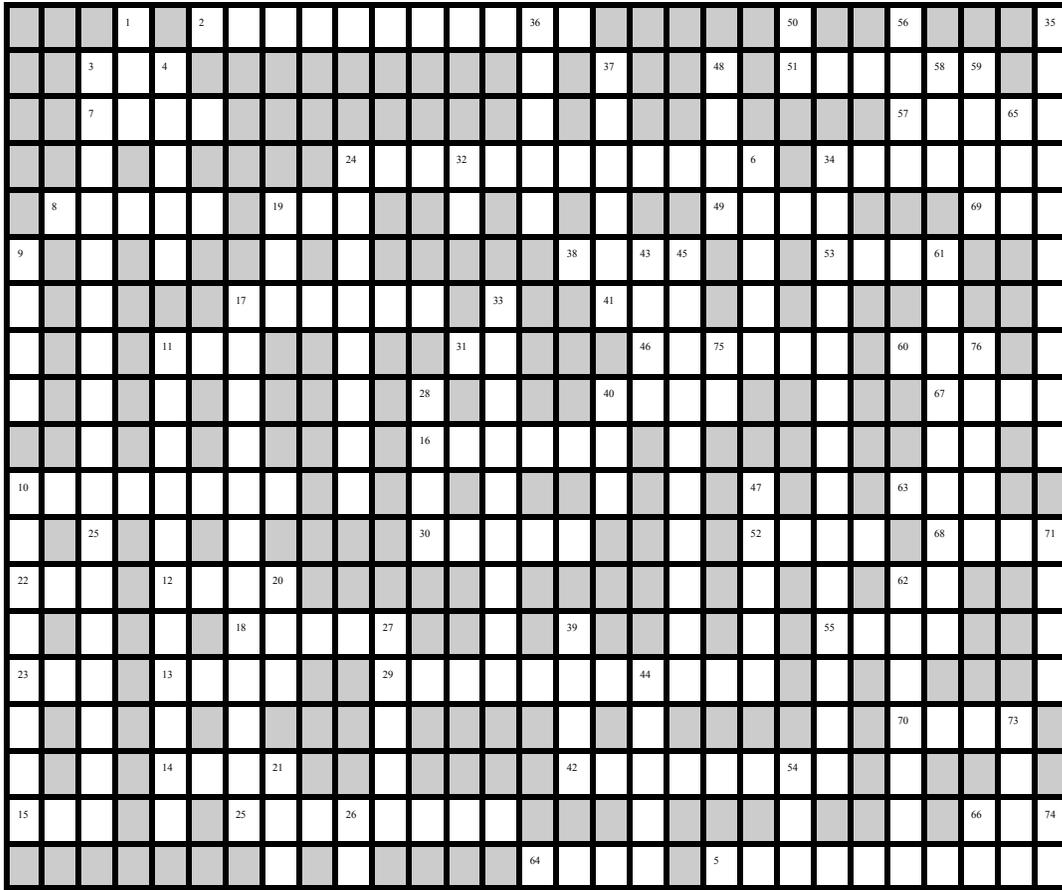
#### **2004 Volunteer Mediator Trainings**

**February 6-7, March 5-6, April 16-17,  
June 4-5, September 10-11, October 8-9,  
and November 12-13**

**Friday 6:30pm - 9:30pm Saturday 8:30am - 3:30pm**

**Call our office to reserve dates: 455-9803.**

# VORP CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## DOWN

1. Space Station
3. # of beds in new Fresno County Juvenile Hall
- 4,5,6 "A modest proposal for \_\_\_\_: Let the (5 across) of the world agree that they will not (only 4 letters) each other." (from a poster in Helmine & Megan's office)
9. Helmine's favorite singer
10. \_\_\_\_ of young men who are black are somehow caught up in the criminal justice system.
11. The VORP founding fathers are working on \_\_\_\_ to make Fresno a pilot program for Restorative Justice.
17. There's no wrong way to eat a \_\_\_\_ and there's no wrong way to support VORP.
19. It's a bad idea to \_\_\_\_.
20. Baby lice
21. Big scary things in Lord of the Rings
24. "Make things as right as \_\_\_\_."
26. Johnny's home state
27. Silent \_\_\_\_
28. Canned ham
32. Megan's favorite band
- 33,34,35 "\_\_\_\_ the injustice, (34 across) equity, and declare future \_\_\_\_."

34. Victim Offender \_\_\_\_\_ Program

36. # of hours it takes to complete a VORP case
37. In court, the state is the \_\_\_\_.
39. Mud (Psalm 40)
40. Candy that comes with it's own dispenser
43. Legend
44. Has 4 legs but can't walk
45. The great low price of a VORP training
47. \_\_\_\_ page in your mediator folder has a purpose.
48. Choose
50. The home of Megan's birth
54. Paddle
56. Brother & sister
58. Dog doctor
59. Can't be too big or too small, should be medium sized
61. Number of juvenile hall beds in all of New Zealand, where every case goes through Restorative Justice.
62. CA has the \_\_\_\_ incarceration rate in the world.
65. "When agreements \_\_\_\_ made and kept, trust grows."
66. 12 steps
71. Good \_\_\_\_
73. In VORP, money & respect are things you \_\_\_\_.
74. Where Duane was reared
- 75&76. "Each person must live their life \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ for others." Rosa Parks

## ACROSS

2. VORP has some young staff: The year VORP was founded, Johnny turned 5, Helmine also turned 5, Megan turned 2, Kartika was born and Duane turned \_\_\_\_.
3. The answer is FIP, it's a freebie.
7. cookies
8. Five letter word for VORP
10. Approx. # of kids assigned to a probation officer on any given day
11. Robert E.
12. Crazy duck
13. What we hate to take
14. What's round on the sides and high in the middle?
15. It's a beautiful \_\_\_\_.
- 16&17. VORP says: Crime violates \_\_\_\_ and their (17 down).
18. One US president who would have benefited from VORP
19. Johnny's ethnic group
22. Adam and
23. Pig
24. Johnny \_\_\_\_\_
25. What you need to be a good mediator
29. When you get your case from us, when should you start working on it?
30. What VORP could save us: a ton of \_\_\_\_.
31. You and me
38. What lettuce does if you leave it out
40. We wouldn't be happy if these were our homes.
41. When you \_\_\_\_ you wonder what possessed you to run the sprinkler in the first place.
42. VORP's longest volunteer mediator
46. US President when VORP was founded
49. Mary Poppins flies a \_\_\_\_.
51. Summarizing is \_\_\_\_ listening.
52. Cancel
53. Don't bring your \_\_\_\_ 45 to a mediation.
55. The prize for being the first one to complete this entire puzzle & bring it to the office
57. Having a baby in the old testament.
60. When you dream
62. \_\_\_\_ & Goodbye
- 63&64. "You have heard it said \_\_\_\_ for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you who hear me... \_\_\_\_ your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Matthew 5:38
66. Noah's boat
67. High \_\_\_\_
68. \_\_\_\_ poke
69. One of the houses in Washington, DC
70. "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will be known fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, \_\_\_\_ and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

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