

**Professional Information**  
Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil

Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil is a recognized leader in the field of racial and ethnic reconciliation. She has a D. Min. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a M. Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has 15 years experience as a Staley Lecturer and is a national/international speaker. Dr. McNeil has held several leadership positions with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, including Regional Coordinator of Multiethnic Training. She founded Overflow Ministries, a non-profit faith-based organization that provides motivational speaking, consulting and training on ethnic diversity issues. Her ministry has evolved into Salter McNeil and Associates (see [www.saltermneil.com](http://www.saltermneil.com)) Brenda Salter McNeil and Rick Richardson have co-authored *The Heart of Racial Justice*, published by InterVarsity Press.

Articles:

The Black Church in America: A Global Perspective, International Urban Associates Newsletter, Chicago, IL. Spring 1994

A More Excellent Way: Race and Gender Reconciliation Through Christ, pp.20-23  
Christian Ethics Today: A Journal of Christian Ethics, Vol. 6, Number 5, October 2000

A More Excellent Way: Race and Gender Reconciliation Through Christ, pp. 7-11, 16,  
PRISM, Volume 7, Number 3, May/June 2000

Upcoming Article:

Raising Children in a Multiethnic World, Christian Parenting Today, March 2002

Books:

AMy Friend Sam: The Battle for Self-Esteem, @ pp. 15-29, Chapter 1 in Women=s Liberation Jesus Style: Messages of Spirituality and Wisdom, Stephanie Bibb, Editor, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois 1998, 2002

Currently co-authoring a book to develop a spirituality of racial reconciliation with Rick Richardson, National Coordinator of Evangelism for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, to be published by InterVarsity Press and released in 2003.

Awards:

Most Outstanding Women of America, 1979

Former Professional Associations:

Board of Directors Christians for Biblical Equality,  
Board of Directors International Urban Associates

Work History:

Speech and Language Therapist, Hamilton Township Board of Education, for public school students in grades K-12, 1978-1981

Assistant to the Chaplain, Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California, 1984-1987

Campus Minister, Urban Project Director and Regional Coordinator of Multiethnic Training for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Pasadena, California and Chicago, Illinois 1987-2000

Doctor of Ministry in The Renewal of the Church for Mission (D. Min), Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, May 2000.

### Final Project Abstract

#### Puzzle Peace:

#### A Cooperative Learning Approach to Racial and Ethnic Diversity Training for Christian College and University Students

This multiethnic study tested a social psychological theory, Contact Theory, with fourteen college and university students to better understand the components necessary to promote racial and ethnic reconciliation among Christian, college and university students in the United States. This data was used to develop a proactive approach to ethnic diversity training that incorporates racial identity development, community building strategies and narrative theology. This study determined that reconciliation efforts require contact over an extended period of time, providing the opportunity for multiple cooperative interactions. The implication for ethnically diverse groups is that repeated contact in a cooperative environment may be one way to decrease racial and ethnic hostility, which is often fueled by stereotypes that result from limited exposure. This study suggests that ethnically diverse groups should be given opportunities to have contact with each other over an extended period of time to eliminate intergroup conflict and the negative effects of racism and ethnocentrism. Positive contact in a cooperative learning environment provided the context for accurate self-assessment and greater awareness of the complex ethnic diversity process. These findings were consistent with contact theory, which argues that positive contact with members of the outgroup alters one's self-concept and conceptual awareness of others.