

MAKING PEACE

The news from Syria makes grim reading. The crisis escalates as the conflict continues, and now aid agencies tell us that over 9 million people are in need of humanitarian relief.

UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has just admitted he has been unable to set a date for peace talks in Syria. The problem centres around who is going to be present. The opposition want President Bashar al-Assad to resign first, while Russia and America disagree over whether Syria's neighbour Iran should be in attendance.

If they can't agree even on who's going to present for the talks, it looks like there is a long road ahead..

It's hard work trying to broker peace. Yet it's such an important task and remains the best hope for the country.

A negotiated settlement is far more likely to have a longer lasting effect, promote a sense of safety, and enable the work of rebuilding.

This weekend marks the season of Remembrance when we reflect on war and honour those who have given their lives. We wear poppies and perhaps observe a silence.

And I believe these are good things to do.

But if that is **all** we do, we are only doing something that is pretty easy and costs us little. The real challenge to honour those who have died is to play our part in working for peace by acting as peacemakers wherever we are.

Each of us has the ability to make a difference in this world for good or ill.

Jesus famously ***never*** said "*Blessed are the peace lovers*".

He said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*"

Loving peace, wishing for peace, is easy.

Working for peace is hard.

We won't get a seat at the Syrian peace conference.

But in our dealings with our family, our neighbours, our colleagues, and particularly with those we find difficult to get on with, we can strive for peace in the places where we are.

It's not an easy task, but it's one which helps make a much better world.

David McLachlan

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