

Passing on Your Faith and Peace Witness

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4

Mentoring children and youth is a daunting task. As parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends, we care for their material needs, and work hard to give them love, respect, and guidance as they grow. We nurture a solid grounding in faith. We stay up late worrying about them, we pray for them, and sometimes we cross our fingers and hope for the best as they step into newly found independence.

When our children were little, my husband Greg and I worked hard to raise them in the ways of peace. We learned nonviolent communication skills. We attended worship and volunteered in the Sunday School program. We volunteered with disaster response and at a Catholic Worker house as a family. Inspired by James 2, we tried to model faith and works together, hand in hand.

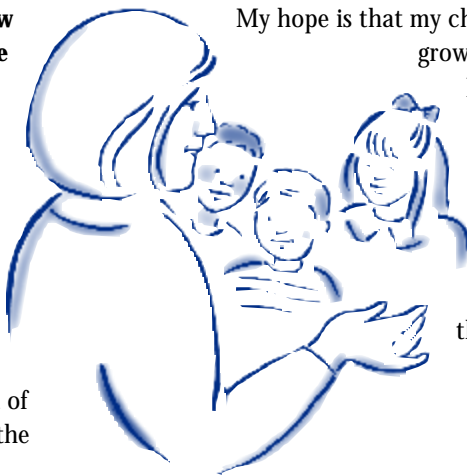
Those children are teenagers now, loving and giving, and at the same time, questioning and skeptical. **How to pass on the faith and peace witness in the face of their changing needs?** I think back to a year ago, when On Earth Peace was putting together our Annual Report poster, "Passing on Your Faith and Peace Witness." Inspired by Anne Meyer Byler's book, "How to Teach Peace to Children," our staff spent a lot of time ordering and prioritizing the

points on the poster, making sure we included the most important aspects. As I look over the poster now, I am grateful for its message even as I realize I fall short of it as an ideal.

I think the answer to the puzzle of passing on the faith in challenging times goes back to point #1, "Cultivate your own relationship with God." If we do this, we receive far more than we give. First, the blessing of time spent with the One who is the source of all. Second, we become examples of lives lived in faith. Our actions are our most pointed messages to children. How we live our lives influences them more than what we have to say. When we model devotion to God, we are giving our children a most precious gift. For they will find that they, too, can turn to the Holy One, with gratitude, for sustenance and building up their inner resources as they face the challenges of their lives.

My hope is that my children will grow in faith and love. My prayer is that by our works, peace will radiate throughout this world.

Annie Clark



Passing on Your Faith and Peace Witness to Children

1. Cultivate your own relationship with God.
2. Share your faith.
3. Set aside time every week for activities together.
4. Encourage cooperative and creative play.
5. Discipline non-violently — choose your words, actions, and consequences carefully.
6. Manage your own anger appropriately and assist them in managing their anger.
7. Teach and encourage children to follow Matthew 18 when dealing with conflict.
8. Critically examine and limit media exposure.
9. Invite a child to participate in activities which emphasize peace and multiculturalism.
10. Encourage children to share their time and resources with others.

Inspired by Anne Meyer Byler's "How to Teach Peace to Children." Reprinted from the 2006 On Earth Peace Annual Report. To request a full color reproduction, contact Darlene Johnson at djohnson_oepe@brethren.org.

Teaching Peace

Remember how you used to wish you could study something by just putting the book under your pillow overnight? Some parents may wish they could teach their children about peace the same way — a book under the pillow. But there are better and more effective ways that you can — and probably already do — teach your children about making peace.

The first step is for you as a parent to clearly identify what you believe. What do you believe a peacemaker looks like? How do you believe people should deal with conflict?

How can people achieve peace and justice at the same time? Read and talk with others to clarify your views, then share your values with your children. Here are ways you can do that:

1. Talk and listen

Share your thoughts and ideas with your children. Do not give lectures, though. Ask your children what they think as things happen during the day. Listen to their ideas and reactions. Watch for misunderstandings, and correct those. Explore possibilities and dreams with your children. Make sure they know you are willing to talk about any topics related to war and peace. Keep the door open.

2. Be a peacemaker

Have you ever said, “Do as I say, not as I do”? Even if you say that, your children are much more likely to do what you do than what you say. One of the most powerful things you can do to pass on your love of peacemaking is to demonstrate peacemaking skills. Sometimes we are not aware of what we are doing, but our children can help

with that. They are mirrors for us at times. When you see your child doing something that you don't like, ask yourself if she has seen you do that. When they do something that makes you smile, they may have learned that from you, too. It takes self-awareness to examine your own actions, but that awareness will make you a better parent.

3. Surround yourself with peace-making tools

When your children have a problem or a question, what resources will be at their fingertips?

How can you surround them with implements of peace? You could make your home a no-war-ttoy zone. Examine the TV, movies, and video games they watch. Look for classes and activities that

teach cooperation, communication, and celebration of life. Collect books that teach kindness and creativity. Watch media with your child and talk about what you see, and look at your own books, activities, and media use. Find tools that make your family well-equipped peacemakers.

4. Reward children for making peace

Parents need to set and enforce a lot of rules. They need to respond when children do the right thing or the wrong thing. Think about the rules in your family. Do they support peacemaking and building positive relationships? Also think about how you respond when children follow the rules or



Judy Myers-Walls

break them. Are you teaching your children to respond to power, or helping them learn to control their own behavior? Try to include your children in setting the rules. Talk about how the children's behavior makes other people feel. Reward children when they are helpful to others and when they make peace. Focus on the positive and celebrate each step they make toward being peacemakers.

Parenting is a big job, and it may be a long time before you know if you reached your goals. But remember that teaching peace does not go only from parent to child. Your children have a lot to teach you about peacemaking, too. Make it a partnership, and enjoy the journey!

Judith A. Myers-Walls is a Purdue University professor and Extension Specialist in family studies and child development. She is a member of the Lafayette (IN) Church of the Brethren.



Our Sunday School class is made up of several folks who have children, and we often find ourselves talking about parenting. One parent was expressing how difficult it was to hear his daughter excitedly describe a violent video game she learned to play while staying with a friend. He feels good about his daughter's friendship, but he'd prefer to be present with her to experience these games rather than her playing the games elsewhere. He and his spouse were wondering if they had been sheltering their kids too much; finally they decided to give in and buy the game system for Christmas. Then they could play the game together, reflect on feelings, and talk about the game.

I felt heads nodding around me in agreement at the thoughtfulness with which this man spoke. I was also aware that at least one other person in the room had this game system in their home and was struggling with the violent themes, yet remained quiet. I didn't know how to approach the topic with class time being short, but I could not remain silent. *"We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak"* (Martin Luther King, Jr.).

I spoke and relieved my heart from beating so intensely. I asked if he felt good about going ahead with the decision, or if they felt they were in fact "giving in." I expressed my belief that there are many ways to create opportunities for meaningful conversations. Discussion followed. I



LuAnne Harley

appreciated the time we spent talking, and later learned others were grateful, too — they hadn't said anything earlier for fear of offending anyone in the room.

How do we create the space to discuss important decisions in our family life that do indeed affect others? We are all concerned about offending each other or being considered too uptight, critical, judgmental, or sheltering. Because we are fearful, we miss rich opportunities for challenge, support, and growth! We're on this journey together, a journey that presents us with many obstacles in our paths which cause us to seek alternatives and support along the way.

Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman, a psychologist who travels the world training law enforcement and U.S. military personnel about the realities of warfare states, ***"Today the data linking violence in the media to violence in society are superior to those linking cancer and tobacco."*** Cigarette packs have sported health warnings since the 50's. Yet the research linking violence in the media to violence in society is not yet clearly acknowledged. Media exposure is so pervasive that it prevents opportunities for creative endeavors such as experiencing nature, volunteer work, writing, family time, reading, communication, relationships, nurturing natural interests, opportunities for the arts and music, and more.

I strongly encourage families to discuss games and related activities. While some parents make conscientious decisions allowing media violence within the home, I am not comfortable with my family watching programs and playing games that make violence exciting or funny. There are better ways to find excitement and humor. As I look over the ten ideas presented by the On Earth Peace poster "Passing on Your Faith and Peace Witness to Children," I consider those suggestions more easily attainable without the burden of violent media.

Part of sharing my faith and peace

NOBODY EVER GETS KILLED AT OUR HOUSE

by Charlie King

Nobody ever gets killed at our house,
Nobody ever gets maimed.
No glorious fight on the court or the ice
Where the grown-up boys play
At their big money games.
No one gets shot at, run over or stabbed,
Nobody goes up in flames,
And the Army recruiters,
They never pass through here,
You must wonder how we stay sane.

Joanne and Jamie curled up with their books,
I'm strumming an old song or new.
It may come as shock, but some nights we just talk.
It's amazing the depths that you can sink to.
We might watch the fire,
We might watch the baby,
We might watch the stars passing through,
Ah, but nobody ever gets killed at our house.
Take care, it could happen to you.

*1986 Charlie King/Pied Asp Music, BMI. Used by permission.
www.charlieking.org

witness with children (and adults) involves being honest. We can learn from each other, help hold each other accountable, and do so with grace, in a spirit of love, openness and respect.

LuAnne Harley is the mother of Owen and Harley, and a facilitator of the Peace Learning Center program in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She attends the Manchester Church of the Brethren.

Discussing War, Peace, and Terrorism with Children

As parents, we want to protect our children from the dangers and “evils” of the world. We want them to remain innocent and free from worry. No matter how hard we try, they receive messages and information about issues from many sources: family members, friends, television, movies, books, magazines, and school, to name a few.

In today’s world, all parents must deal with the question, “How do I talk to my child about war, peace, and terrorism?” Following are several suggestions to help parents in this important process.

Make yourself and information available to your child. Children and adolescents identify parents as their first choice for providing information about difficult topics. Because the child often initiates parent-child communication about war, peace and terrorism, let him/her know you are willing to be approached about the issue. One way to do this is to be available in general. Open communication patterns encourage children to seek sensitive information from their parents. You do not have to wait for your child to ask questions. It is important, as well, for you to initiate conversations about important topics.

Not only is basic knowledge of facts important, **sharing your own feelings** about them also is vital. We all possess deep feelings about the horrors and atrocities of war and terrorism. While we do not want to pass along any unnecessary fears to our children, it helps to normalize their feelings when they know the adults in their lives experience emotions similar to theirs. When children witness adults appropriately expressing and handling vulnerable feelings, it assists them as they develop emotionally. However, if your feelings are so strong that you are not comfortable showing them to your child, discharge these emotions with another adult before holding discussions with your youngster.

Share your values with your child.

Children need to have good role models and understand what their parents believe to be right and wrong. This helps them form their own values as they grow to adulthood. As pacifists, we want our children to learn why we think war and violence are not viable problem-solving options and why we choose nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

Therefore, talk to your child about what your values are and explain why you hold them. Draw connections between the choices your family makes and these values. This also is a good time to discuss that individuals and families may hold values that are different from others. Help your child learn to be tolerant and accepting of those whose ideas are different from his/her own.

Finally, give your child the space to form his or her own values. It often is difficult for adults to watch their children make mistakes (at least what we think are mistakes). It also is hard to allow them to determine their own beliefs and attitudes about important topics, especially those we hold very deeply or those which have life-long

consequences. Children and adolescents who are encouraged to discern their own values and beliefs, and who struggle with the options available to them, become adults with the strongest convictions and commitments to those ideals. It may be reassuring to note that when it comes to long-term, deeply held beliefs (like those related to war and peace), individual values tend to resemble those of their parents more closely than any other source (including peers or media).

While we cannot shield our children from the topics of war, peace, and terrorism, we can support them as they learn to deal with these issues by opening the lines of communication and struggling through the process with them. It takes our own willingness to be available, to be prepared, to be vulnerable in sharing our own feelings and values, and to trust our children to develop into competent adults.

Karen Myers-Bowman is Associate Professor of School of Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University. She is a member of the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Illinois.

Peaceful Family Playshop

A day of communication, conflict transformation, and peace-making skills for the whole family!

- *Parents and youth learn effective communication skills and ways to weave the values of peacemaking into the fabric of the family.
- *Children learn conflict transformation and peacemaking skills.
- *Everyone shares lunch and plays cooperative games!

To bring this 7-hour workshop to your congregation or community, contact Annie Clark at annieclark@mchsi.com.

Grandparents for Peace

promise still holds

Remember Grandparents for Peace?

That was the name of a plan in which On Earth Peace supporters could contribute a specified amount and be assured their grandchildren could attend a peace retreat at no cost.

Some who contributed to On Earth Peace through that program have asked if the arrangement still holds. It certainly does. We will provide free registration to any peace retreat for any grandchild of those persons who contributed through the *Grandparents for Peace* program. Let us know when the youth registers for a retreat, and we will make sure there is no registration cost for the youth.

Parenting and Peace Resources

Parenting and Peacemaking

Everyone Wins! Cooperative Games and Activities

Sambhava and Josette Luvmour

Families Creating a Circle of Peace

Jim McGinnis, Ken and Gretchen Lovingood, and Jim Vogt
(Institute for Peace and Justice) www.ipj-ppj.org/

How to Teach Peace to Children

Anne Myer Byler www.mph.org

Just Family Nights Sixty Activities to Keep Your Family

Together in a World Falling Apart

Susan Vogt www.brethrenpress.com/store/bpress

Last Child in the Woods; Saving our Kids from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv

Parenting for Peace and Justice 10 Years Later

James and Kathy McGinnis

Peace Quest and Go with Peace

Kelly Guinan www.celebratingpeace.com

Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference

Susan V. Vogt

Real Kids, Real Faith, Practices for Nurturing Your Children's Spiritual Lives

Karen Marie Yust

Young Peacemakers Project Book and Peaceworks

Kathleen Fry-Miller, Judith Myers-Walls and Jan Domer-Shank
www.brethrenpress.com/store/bpress

Family Pastimes Catalog

Excellent cooperative board games for all ages
www.familypastimes.com/

Parenting, Expectations, Communication, and Discipline

How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk Siblings without Rivalry

How to Talk so Kids can Learn

Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish

Parenting with Love and Logic

Parenting Teens with Love and Logic, Preparing Adolescents for Responsible Adulthood

Foster Cline and Jim Fay

The Five Love Languages for Children

Gary Chapman

Web Resources: Parenting and Peace

Children's Hospitals and Clinics Peaceful Parenting

www.childrenshc.org/Communities/PeacefulParenting.asp

Families Against Violence Advocacy Network

(Parenting for Peace and Justice Network) www.ipj-ppj.org

Mennonite Church USA Parenting Resources

peace.mennolink.org/parents.html

Web Resources: Peace Education

Learning Peace

www.learningpeace.com/

The Lion and the Lamb Project

www.lionlamb.org/

Anti-War Songs

www.lacarte.org/songs/anti-war/index.html#summary

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

www.iccr.org/issues/violence/featured.php

All titles are easily found online.

WANTED! Bilingual volunteer (Spanish/ English) to help develop a peace basket in Spanish. Volunteer must have regular access to the internet and email, and an interest in Christian peacemaking. Appreciation for children's literature a bonus! Contact Susanna (sfarahat_oepa@brethren.org) for details.

Countering Recruitment in the High Schools



George Eisele

Be-coming a conscientious objector started for me soon after World War II. The summer before my senior year in high school, I attended church camp. There were six to eight exchange students among us, including German and Japanese youth. During World War II, the Germans and Japanese were our enemies, and now we were swimming, playing, worshiping, and living together. They became my best friends, and I could not imagine fighting someone like them in a war. If these were the kind of people we were killing, then how could I go to war and kill their family or friends?

An older gentleman helped with camp that summer and talked to us about the conscientious objector stand and the choices we had when registering. When it came time to register, I drove fifty miles to talk to him. He helped me fill out the forms and suggested I write my faith statement on why I could not kill. Others in my church wrote supporting letters for my file. I registered as a 1-A-O, which meant I did not refuse to serve my country, but would not carry a gun. I was drafted and served as a medic in a field hospital during the Korean War for sixteen months.

Later, I taught in Lincoln, Nebraska, and decided with four others to inform students of their choices concerning the military. We called ourselves "Alternatives To The Military" (ATM), and printed a flyer with questions

students should think about before signing with a recruiter. A few mornings each year we handed flyers to students as they came to school. Since we did not have permission, we did this off of school property. Soon the principal allowed us on school property.

The next step came when the School Board permitted us to be inside the high schools. Now, we set a table of materials near the lunchroom to share and visit with students. We call the school to set the date, time, and place, making sure not to interfere with their program. Staff members are very cooperative and pick up materials, occasionally inviting us to their classrooms for a discussion about conscientious objection. We leave literature in the library and counseling office. Our success with the school system is based on trust and cooperation, informing them of what we are doing and the materials we share.

During lunch, 20 to 40 students pick up literature or ask questions. We talk about the conscientious objector position and share material from the Center on Conscience & War (CCW). If they are thinking about enlisting, we share pamphlets such as "Do You Know Enough To Enlist?," put out by the American Friends Service Committee, or "Battered By The Pentagon," which explains the difficulties for women in the military, put out by the War Resisters

League. If they have signed with a recruiter and now do not want to go, then we share "You Don't Have To Go," from the War Resisters League, or "The Real Story," put out by CCW. If they want to do something for peace and social justice, we share information about Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or information from the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities. Our goal is to invite the students to think and read before making a commitment. We do not know all the answers; we provide information, share our peace conviction, and are

concerned and interested in youth.

We never know what a difference we might make in a young person's life. I know that my life was changed by an older gentleman who shared his faith

and conviction. Now I pray that God will use me to change a life and carry on the peace witness.

George Eisele lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, for 42 years and recently moved to Overland Park, Kansas, where he and his wife are visiting several Churches of the Brethren. He welcomes questions about his counter-recruitment work and can be reached at geisele@kc.rr.com.



It is time for churches to get involved in the lives of young people in our communities.

Military recruiters already are — and they aren't sharing the whole picture. That's our job.

"GETTING STARTED" Interview:

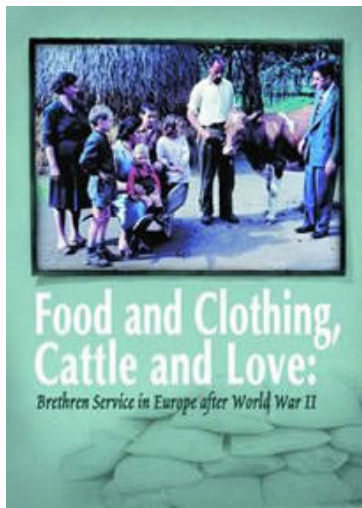
We will talk with you one-on-one about how to get started developing a truth-in-recruiting effort in your community.

OUTREACH AND ORGANIZING PACKET for truth-in-recruiting campaigns

*a sampling of basic materials for outreach

*key resources to use at church and in schools, including a DVD

Contact peacewitness_oepa@brethren.org or 765-962-6234



Food and Clothing, Cattle and Love: *Brethren Service in Europe after World War II*

“They opened up their hearts, and tried to build bridges, and the bridge was Christ’s love.”

The work of Brethren Service in Europe, following the devastation of World War II, is an example of the church at its best. In an outpouring of service backed financially by

sacrificial giving, the Church of the Brethren came to the aid of neighbors in need. Following Jesus’ example, Brethren Service crossed political boundaries to extend a helping hand.

For the first time, this story is available in DVD format, with photos and film footage from the years just after the second world war.

The video offers photos and film footage from the time period, as well as interviews with those who served. The story is told in three different styles and formats including a 27-minute version giving a comprehensive look at the work in Europe in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s; a brief documentary of 12 minutes designed for shorter formats and sparking discussion; a three-minute music video especially for younger audiences; and 29 minutes of historical photos, information, and personal reflections prepared by Wilbur Mullen.

Order a copy for \$10 plus \$3 shipping/handling.

Who are you recruiting for?

Passing on the peace witness: Faith and Militarism

This 14-minute DVD combines footage from youth and on-the-street interviews with stirring reflections from people who have served in the military and have been recruited. It is a useful discussion starter for Sunday school classes or youth group meetings. The DVD is now available for \$3.00.

To order, contact
Matt Guynn, 765-962-6234,
mattguynn@earthlink.net

or

Darlene Johnson, 410-635-8704,
djohnson_oepa@brethren.org

Shalom Christ’s Way of Peace

On Earth Peace is excited to announce the first title in the Shalom Series of practical peacemaking booklets.

Shalom: Christ’s Way of Peace, written by Lani Wright and Susanna Farahat, is a practical guide to biblical roots of peacemaking and reconciliation. The 32-page resource offers theological grounding, inspiring examples, and concrete suggestions for reducing violence in our world. With questions for reflection and discussion, it serves well as a study guide for church school and other groups.

Single copies: \$2 plus \$2 shipping
Multiple copies: \$2 plus \$1 shipping

“Glimpses of Freedom” JOYA

Ten years after bringing Brethren history and Christian peacemaking alive for children, youth, and adults in Church of the Brethren congregations, schools, and camps across the country, JOYA regathered in 2004-2005 to help On Earth Peace celebrate 30 years of peacemaking through concerts in five areas of the country. LuAnne Harley, Shawn Kirchner, Brian Kruschwitz, and Barb Saylor first dreamed up JOYA in 1993. The four, already in Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), turned it into a BVS project the following year. On Earth Peace caught the excitement the team shared, and along with the Denominational Peace Witness and the Youth/Young Adult office, and the Brethren Historical Committee, sponsored the JOYA tour. Throughout the fall of 1994, the four traveled over 18,000 miles giving concerts and workshops.

The “Glimpses of Freedom” CD, of which all proceeds go to help further the ministries of On Earth Peace, brings old and new gems together to exhibit JOYA’s remarkable blend and tight harmonies.

Order “Glimpses of Freedom” for \$15 per CD plus \$2 shipping.



Calendar

January 10-22

Peacemaking Delegation to the Middle East; co-sponsored by On Earth Peace and Christian Peacemaker Teams
www.brethren.org/oepa/PIConflict.html

January 14-15

Northern California Youth Peace Retreat
Modesto, California

January 19-21

Intergenerational Retreat
"Paths that Lead to Life: Alternatives to Militarization"
Manchester Church of the Brethren
North Manchester, Indiana

January 20-21

Southern California Youth Peace Retreat
Location to be determined

February 3

Deacon Retreat
Little Swatara Church of the Brethren
Bethel, Pennsylvania

February 4

Summer 2007 Youth Peace Travel Team applications due! Send to Brethren Witness/Washington Office.

February 11-14

Pacific Southwest District Pastor/Spouse Retreat
Palos Verdes, California

March 9-10

Youth Peace Retreat
Potsdam Church of the Brethren
Potsdam, Ohio

March 9-10

Midwest Regional Matthew 18 Training for Trainers
Camp Mack, Milford, Indiana

March 30-31

Youth Peace Retreat
Lampeter Church of the Brethren
Lampeter, Pennsylvania

April 18

Eastern Regional Shalom Team Training
New Windsor, Maryland

April 19

Appreciative Inquiry Workshop
New Windsor, Maryland

April 19-21

On Earth Peace Board meeting, concurrent with Cross-cultural Ministry Consultation
New Windsor, Maryland

April 21

Ministry with Difficult Behaviors, Myerstown Church of the Brethren
Myerstown, Pennsylvania

Information available on these programs and much more at www.onearthpeace.org

Staff

Annie Clark, program coordinator –
Ministry of Reconciliation
260-982-8595
annieclark@mchsi.com

Bob Gross, co-executive director
260-982-7751
bgross@igc.org

Susanna Farahat, program coordinator – Peace Education
410-635-8706
sfarahat_oepa@brethren.org

Darlene Johnson, office manager
410-635-8704
djohnson_oepa@brethren.org

Matt Guynn, program coordinator – Peace Witness
765-962-6234
mattguynn@earthlink.net

Barbara Saylor, co-executive director
502-222-5886
bsaylor_oepa@brethren.org

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Mission Statement

On Earth Peace Assembly is a movement grounded in the Church of the Brethren dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus Christ in renewing and living out our biblical and denominational heritage of peace. Our purpose, through religious and educational activities, is to empower people to discern the things that make for peace – in ourselves, within families, in our global environment, among nations – and to advocate peace and justice, seeking the realization of God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

Witnessing for Peace on the College Campus



Ben Leiter

On January 18, 2003, I was in Washington, D.C., marching against the approaching war in Iraq. It was one of the most powerful experiences of my life. I was at the demonstration alone, but was soon swallowed by a crowd of 200,000 people. Block after block we filled the streets with the wisdom that many of our politicians in Washington lacked. The air was freezing but never have I felt warmer in the midst of winter. Energy flowed from protesters' pleas for peace, from the deep beats of determined drummers, from the power of our collective presence. A few weeks later I joined the peace march in New York City. This time, I wasn't just marching with my fellow Americans. Anti-war demonstrations were spread across the globe that weekend, prompting *New York Times* writer Patrick Tyler to say "there may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion." This freshman Peace Studies major felt empowered!

During my time at Manchester College many professors, fellow students, and Peace Studies Interns have nurtured and stretched my peace witness. They encouraged me in my activism, and introduced me to new books and ideas.

Perhaps most importantly, they formed an inspiring community that helped to sustain my passion for peace.

Now that I'm the Peace Studies Graduate Intern at Manchester College, it's my job to do for students what was once done for me. Our Peace Studies program seeks to wed theory with action. While the professors provide most of the theory, I help students carry out their peace witness. I help translate academic study into action for social change. So far we've had a busy fall semester. A September 11th anniversary vigil provided a space to remember a horrific tragedy, while critically challenging our nation's violent response. We joined in a Ft. Wayne, Indiana, demonstration to call for efforts to end the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. A candlelight vigil against the War and Occupation in Iraq was organized for the International Day of Peace. We visited our U.S. Representative Dan Burton's office and encouraged him to vote against the war and the legalization of torture. A Peace Studies retreat gave us important insights into the "troubles" of Northern Ireland, helped us document our conscientious objector status, and built community.

To nurture our intellectual health, we attended an inspiring lecture given by nonviolent theory scholar Gene Sharp and participated in a virtual teach-in on Guantanamo Bay. Every week we hold a discussion group and a "Movie Night" to create community and reflect on pressing issues.

Witnessing for peace these days is a daunting task. We seek to end wars in

Witnessing for peace these days is a daunting task

Witnessing for peace these days is a daunting task

Iraq and Afghanistan while preventing wars with Iran and North Korea, to challenge a military mentality rooted in thousands of year of tradition, to inspire the apathetic to act, and to propose unpopular ideas such as pacifism. Our work, however exhausting it may be, is equally invigorating and fulfilling.

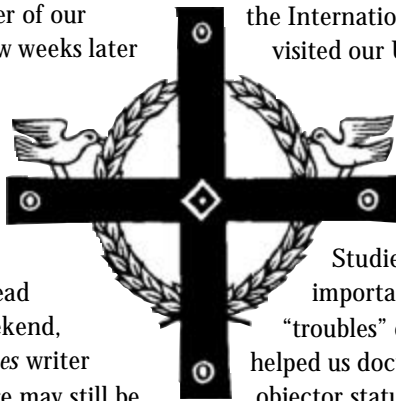
This November we will travel to Ft. Benning, Georgia, to participate in the annual vigil to close the School of the Americas. Like most large demonstrations, it will be filled with energy. It's my hope that, outside the gates of Ft. Benning, a freshman Peace Studies major will be forever changed by the pleas for peace, the deep beats of determined drummers, and the power that we claim by gathering together in one place.

Ben Leiter is the Peace Studies intern at Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana. He is a member of the Union Bridge (MD) Church of the Brethren.

WANTED!

Applicants for 2007!

The Youth Peace Travel Team (YPTT) is a group of four young adults (age 18-23) who spend the summer traveling to Church of the Brethren camps. The team uses drama, music, small group activities, and other interactive tools to engage campers with issues of peace and justice, as well as providing leadership for other camp activities (Bible study, campfire, etc). The team will participate in Ministry Summer Service (MSS) orientation and be subject to the MSS covenant and benefits. (The YPTT is a joint project of the General Board, Outdoor Ministries Association, and On Earth Peace.) Visit our website or contact Susanna (sfarahat_oepea@brethren.org) for details. Applications are due February 4, 2007.





"To you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

In this Advent season we
light candles in
expectant hope; we keep
the flame burning as we await the
coming of Christ, the One who illumines
the path of peace in our troubled world.
May we follow his example.

The staff and board of On Earth Peace
greatly appreciate your prayers, support,
and commitment that enable us to
accompany you on the journey of
peacemaking throughout the year. Many
blessings to you and your families in this
Christmas season.

Artwork on pages 2, 9, and 10 by Ade Bethune from the Ade Bethune Collection, College of St. Catherine Library, St. Paul, MN 55105



On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc.
P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188
410-635-8704

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