



Peace Advocate News

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9

Peace begins when you make your peace with Jesus, accept Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord.

Volume 10:3

Spring 2017

February 19 Marked the 75th Anniversary of the Internment of Japanese Americans By the U.S. Government During World War II



On February 19, 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt signed the executive order that let the federal government force between 110,000 and 120,000 Americans of



Japanese ancestry from their homes into internment camps. They were housed in horse stalls; military barracks; and old factories. Their homes

were gone, their possessions gone, family structures shattered, livelihoods taken away, without cause. . . This was done in the name of 'national security' and based on unfounded racial fears. The government used xenophobic fervor and 'alternative facts' which were proven to be intentional lies in their propaganda to justify this action. At the time, there was little protest of these inhumane actions from other Americans because of fears whipped up by war propaganda and because Americans who were not of Japanese descent, were too afraid of being labeled 'un-American' to speak up.

The stupidity of these measures was realized long before the end of the war, but the damage had been done. Despite the fact that many Japanese American men were recruited from the internment camps to be soldiers in the U.S. military, and were among the most decorated soldiers of that war, Japanese Americans continued to suffer the racism and abuse this government action promoted.

This year, the remembrance of the shameful actions of the American government 75 years ago, is also a reminder that people of faith must be ever vigilant and speak out to prevent such shameful actions from being taken again.

Sources & Resources: Photos are by Dorothea Lange

"Christianity Was On Trial: The Smeltzers Stand With Japanese-Americans". Church of the Brethren *Newsline*. February 11, 2017.

Smith, Florence Daté. Remembering Internment: Days of Infamy. Church of the Brethren *Newsline*. Feb 22, 2017. First published *Messenger* Nov. 1988.

Ehrlich, Dorothy M. "The 75th Anniversary of E.O.9066 Is a Solemn Reminder to Fight Back Against the Trump Administration's Fearmongering". *Speak Freely ACLU*. Published Monday, February 20, 2017

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey to Topaz*. Berkeley, CA: Creative Arts Book Co., 1971.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey Home*. N.Y.: Atheneum, 1978.

Uchida's 2 novels tell the story of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. Yoshiko and her family were interned. She writes from her experience. Her books help tell this story to junior high and older readers.

Will We Learn the Lessons From the Internment of Japanese Americans?

75 years after the U.S. government interned Japanese Americans during World War II, the same kinds of tactics are being used again. This time both ethnic and religious discrimination is being used. Fears, whipped up by "war on terror" propaganda, are fuelling the effort. Muslim communities, especially people from certain countries, are being targeted. The goal is to keep Muslims out and impose restrictions on Muslims who are here. Special ID cards (like those used in South Africa during Apartheid) and other discriminatory measures have been suggested. Some are saying all Muslims should be expelled from the country.

These resurfacing attitudes are as inhumane now as they were 75 years ago. The anti Muslim and anti-emigrant 'laws' being proposed, bear little resemblance to the best of America's past. People find it too easy to forget that everyone living here is a descendant of an emigrant after all (even Native Americans, who have the oldest claim to this as their home, come from ancestors who came from elsewhere).

This time the rest of the country is not remaining silent. Many Americans are standing with the Muslim community and protesting these policies as un-American. The courts are involved in at least slowing down such efforts by challenging unconstitutional policies being proposed.

There is a companion danger this time however, and it affects all Americans especially those who would speak out against the inhumane and discriminatory policies and misguided government actions. In several states (North Dakota, Indiana, Iowa, & others) legislation has been proposed that will make it illegal for protestors to interfere with traffic (march in the streets) and motorists who hit and injure protestors would no longer be held liable. Other proposed legislation (in Arizona for example) will treat organizing to protest as an organized crime and even people in the vicinity of a protest as criminals.¹ Some of these proposed measures have already failed, others are pending, and if any of them pass, they will certainly be challenged in court on constitutional grounds. Jesus set the example for his followers when he met with and helped outcasts (tax collectors, a Samaritan woman, a woman caught in adultery) and healed the oppressed (slaves, lepers, and the poor). Jesus made it clear that his people are those who follow his example and serve people in need (Matthew 25:34-45). The time to follow that teaching is most certainly now.

¹Some of these bills have been narrowly defeated; others are pending. See: McLaughlin, Timothy. "Bills Targeting Protests in U.S. States Fuel Free Speech Fears. Reuters News Service 12-27-2017. House Bill No. 1203, 65th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota, introduced by Representatives Kempenich, Brandenburg, Landing, Oliver, Rohr; & Senators Cook, & Schailble. "New Law Would Let Arizona Treat Organized Dissent as Organized Crime. *Common Dreams*. 2-23-2017

Peacemaking Forerunners

Finding & Teaching Another Way of Living



For most of his life, my father, Earl S. Fry, worked for the City of Naperville, Illinois, in a number of capacities. One evening in the spring of 1943, while we were sitting at the dinner table, dad announced that, in a few days, several Japanese American families would be temporarily moving into the old abandoned limestone brewery that sat on the hillside behind our property to the east. He carefully explained that these families were good Americans who were being treated unfairly because we were at war with Japan. He told us "national security" was the excuse used to justify their treatment, but he said that the real issue was racism. My father was a staunch Republican primarily because, in those days, the "Old South" was controlled by Democrats who mistreated our black citizens. My father despised racial and religious injustice. He explained that we should greet these Japanese warmly and ignore the mean things that we would likely hear about them. I was ten years old and was instructed to play with their children just like I would with my other friends.

The families arrived and my first adventure with members of another race began. Most of them were adults but two of the children and I hit it off well and played together. One of the older Japanese men was a gardener and asked if he could plant a small garden next to ours. My dad agreed and showed him our little tool-shed and told him that he could get and use the tools whenever he wanted. Soon his beautiful little garden produced things I had never seen before from which he gathered herbs and seasonings and other salad makings for their meals.

One day, during playtime, I remember visiting in one of my little friend's make-shift living quarters. It was the first time I had ever been in the upper level of the old drafty limestone edifice. His mother and older sister made me welcome. On the table there were strange looking cookies and the largest dried cod fish I had ever seen. Both were abundantly shared with me. When school began in the fall, my Japanese friends were not permitted to attend and sometime during the winter, they were gone.

I still remember the bright dark eyes of my little playmates and a kind of shy sadness in the eyes of many of the adults. I wish that I had pictures of them and wonder what became of them. I am especially thankful for my parents who taught me "another way of living" when I was so young.

Today I grieve once more for those who are newly ostracized among us and the dirty politics, fear mongering, and false egotism that creates such policies and views. I wish I could call down heavenly fire to destroy it, but once again I must simply live against it and above it; for in Jesus we must find another way of living.

Clyde C. Fry, 2-18-2017



Practical Peacemaking Tips

The world is being torn apart by violence. The day when there might have been any truth to the idea that war is just between opposing armies is long gone. The news is full of shootings, bombings, and attacks in which civilians are often the intended targets no matter who is firing the guns or detonating the explosives. Too many children are growing up knowing only violence. The constant barrage of violence filled news is breeding fear. It is causing many people to call for extreme measures – any measures – to help them feel safe.

What can we do to counter the fear?

Remember, fear is an emotional response and like all emotional responses, it has important consequences. If you are in eminent danger (from a tornado or starting to slide on the ice in your car, for example), fear can help you do what you already know to do (seek shelter or handle your car carefully). However, fear can also shut down the part of your brain that helps you see options and think things through. What you already know to do is a key.

- People are more likely to be afraid of people and things they do not understand.
 - It is all too easy, and in the current climate, all too common to put large groups of people in categories and then paint them all with the same brush. Think of your own family or church family; work or school community. There are many things you have in common. You can probably make a long list. However, do you all think alike or come up with the same solutions to a problem every time? Is it likely that the same is true of any group of people? Just as you probably do not want to be put in the same category with someone with whom you *disagree* on something, it is not fair to assume all people in any group have the same attitudes on an issue.
 - We are called not to judge others. We are called to love others (friends and enemies alike!) as we love ourselves. When dealing with people, Always start with love.
 - If you do not really know anything about people and countries in the news, look them up. If you do not have a good current world map or better yet an atlas that includes basic facts about countries and cultures get one! Have a good U.S. atlas too. Learn where people live. Read up on the history of the place and the people. Find out what issues and problems they are living with. A World Almanac is a quick place to get the facts about many past events that have shaped current situations (what happened and when?) and statistics on lots of things. Try to understand any situation from the point of view of the people involved. People in circumstances different from your own may be dealing with issues you cannot even imagine just as they may not know your circumstances. Remember however, we are all human beings and we have the same emotions and the same basic needs. Therefore, we will have similar responses to things (we all love our children; get scared of things we do not understand, etc.). Focus on the things you have in common with people then try to understand where you may differ and why.
 - **Do not forget**, the Internet can be a good tool when seeking information. However, know your source and check more than one. There are lots of websites out there that are biased, and some are intentionally misleading. Also, remember, you have no way of knowing who is on the other end of many posts or tweets, and separating opinion from facts, especially in this form of communication, is not always easy. Because something is posted does not make it true.
 - If an idea or concept is new to you, look it up in an impartial source. An idea may seem crazy, even dangerous, but it may not be once you understand it. (What was it like to hear for the first time that earth was round instead of flat like everyone thought it was at the time; what did people think when they first heard there was such a thing as a telephone, for example?) Remember, an idea is not necessarily bad just because it is new to you or you do not like its author. Also, it is not necessarily good just be-

cause someone you like comes up with it. How can you condemn or agree with an idea without understanding it? Once you do understand it, you are better equipped to help make it work or help find a better workable alternative if need be.

- Remember, you are not the center of the universe, God is! Jesus expects all His people to work together for the glory of God and the good of everyone!

Peacemaking Remembrance Dates!



March 10, 1987 the United Nations recognized conscientious objection as a human right.

March 25. This is the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

April 14, 2017 Marks the 3rd anniversary of the kidnapping of the Chibok school girls in Nigeria.

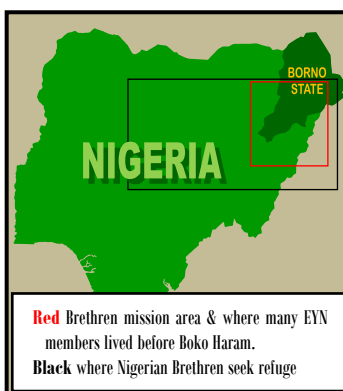
April 26, 1971 Ted Studebaker was killed while doing alternative service in Vietnam working with farmers teaching agriculture instead of being a soldier and killing 'the enemy'.



Remember Nigeria!

Famine Is A growing Crisis In Nigeria

Even as Boko Haram attacks continue, there is another growing crisis in Northern Nigeria and that is famine. Most of the people in the region are subsistence farmers. Many have been driven from their land and have not been able to plant or harvest crops for several seasons. Some have tried to return to their land to wait for planting season. Others have planted



only to have Boko Haram come back at harvest time, drive the farmers off and steal the harvest. These factors along with other political and economic issues are bringing famine to Nigeria. UNICEF reports that in Borno state alone, 244,000 children will suffer from severe malnutrition in 2017. Many EYN (Church

of the Brethren in Nigeria) members live in Borno state. The UN reports more than 20 million people in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and northeastern Nigeria are facing famine.

The Church of the Brethren Office of Public Witness, Washington D.C. sends out Action Alerts when warranted to keep us informed on the situation. They are asking that we use our voices to encourage the U.S. government to support famine relief and support efforts to bring and end to the violence that is causing it. Learn more and get updates on Nigeria at brethren.org.

Continue praying for the Chibok Girls and their families and pray for everyone affected by the continuing violence in Nigeria. **Many other people have also been and continue to be abducted by Boko Haram. Remember them and their families too.**

Resource: An insightful article about Boko Haram by Charles Kwelum. He is a Nigerian man now working in Washington, D.C., who grew up in the neighborhood of young men who joined the Nigerian insurgent group. The article, published by Sojourners, is recommended by the Church of the Brethren Office of Public Witness. Find it at <https://sojo.net/magazine/march-2017/my-neighbor-boko-haram>.

Church of the Brethren Newswire. March 3, 2017

Yes, There Is Another Way – and it Works!

It is too easy to think that 'might makes right' and carrying 'the biggest stick' can keep people safe. Society has been saying this is true and that it is the only way to end war and violence for a long time, even though, after centuries of using violence to 'stop' violence; wars and violence are still very much with us. What we rarely hear is that there are people who do not rely on might and big sticks. They are refusing to use violence and trying something different – and it is working!

In December of 2014 the United Nations approved a resolution from Bangladesh and more than 100 other countries in which the U.N. 'officially' made reference to 'unarmed civilian protection' (UCP) for the first time. UCP is "a method for direct protection of civilians and [for] violence reduction that has grown in practice and recognition. In the last few years, it has especially proven its effectiveness to protect women and girls" says a U.N. report in 2015¹. In the fall of 2016, Tiffany Easthom (executive director of Nonviolent Peaceforce) made a bold proposal to a special U.N. session on unarmed civilian protection. She called for the U.N. to make unarmed strategies central to all U.N. mandates to protect civilians. For the U.N. to support these efforts is actually a way of returning to their own roots. Many people and nations have forgotten that the first U.N. peacekeepers were not armed. (Many do not want to ask the question: has arming peacekeepers helped bring peace or only helped escalate conflicts?)

Current development of this idea came during the 1980s from Peace Brigades International in Guatemala. However, the idea also comes from the call for a Shanti-Sena or 'peace army' by Mohandas Gandhi and by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.² The idea is that civilians can use nonviolent means in an organized, disciplined, and nonpartisan way to protect other civilians in their own communities from political violence.

How? In communities experiencing violence or threatened by it, an interfaith group works to involve all sides – police; those threatening violence; those being threatened – in dialogue to develop a plan to protect civilians without using force. It works because:

- Police will often respond when they are called upon to 'do their job'. They and other people will respond when they are called to act humanely because they are reminded of

their own humanity. People will respond when they know the community is watching and will report what they see.

- The contacts and resulting shared meetings help everyone learn to know each other and everyone's needs. This leads to joint efforts to meet those needs.
- Violence often requires anonymity. It is not by accident that 'terrorists', military special forces, and police SWAT teams wear black and cover their faces! Violence often requires a 'pack' mentality (unthinking action carried out by a mob or group where people do only what they are told to do or act only because everyone else is doing it).

There are many groups around the world that use nonviolent means to stop or prevent violence. Peace Brigades International, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), SweFOR, Meta Peace Team, Operation Dove, Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel, and The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, are among them.

The Christian Peacemaker Teams, in which Brethren are very active, work in Mexico, Kurdistan, Colombia, Palestine, First Nation territories in Canada, the Dominican Republic of the Congo, and in the U.S.³ Their mission is to 'wage unarmed intervention'. CPT is made up of committed peacemakers who are "ready to risk injury and death in bold attempts to transform lethal conflict through the nonviolent power of God's truth and love."⁴ The Meta Peace Team and nonviolent Peaceforce have been working with the Standing Rock community in North Dakota.

In a world where the use of violence has all too often become the first choice rather than a last resort, we need to look for and learn from these peacemakers who are boldly risking everything to make a difference without harming anyone.

Sources & Resources:

¹Furnari, Ellen. "The Birth of a "Peace Army". *Sojourners*. Mar 2017, p10-11.

²The Pope referred to them and to this effort in his 2017 World Day of Peace message.

³CPT is accepting applications for its Peacemaker Corps. The [application deadline is March 15](mailto:personnel@cpt.org). [Go to personnel@cpt.org with questions](mailto:personnel@cpt.org).

⁴Furnari. *Sojourners*. p 10.



PEACE FACTS

Mother's Day Started as a Day to Work for Peace!

Julia Ward Howe (who wrote The Battle Hymn of the Republic)



originated the first American Mother's Day in 1870. She saw the death, disease, economic damage, and lasting effects on families caused by the Civil War. She was so upset by it and by the prospect of another war that she called on mothers to come together to protest the futility of their sons killing the sons of other mothers. She wrote:

. . . From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, Disarm!" The sword of murder is not the balance of justice! Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession. . . Let [women] now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after [their] own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

After the war Anna Reeves Jarvis encouraged women to continue the call for a Mother's Day to help people reunite and heal the wounds of war. When she died, her daughter Anna M. Jarvis continued in her memory, working with churches to organize women and have an official Mother's Day. They succeeded in 1908. Jarvis distributed white carnations to mothers as part of the remembrance. In the same year the first attempt was made to create a national Mother's Day holiday. With encouragement from church and Sunday school groups President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day a national holiday in 1914.



Anna M. Jarvis spent the rest of her life working to promote the original ideas behind mother's day and oppose the commercialization of the holiday. Some women still remember Mother's Day by gathering to call for peace in the world. . .

The original proclamation calling for a 'Mother's Day'

"Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most con-

venient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."
~ Julia Ward Howe

Peace Witness News

Dayton Peace Museum Is Newest Agape-Satyagraha Site



The International Peace Museum in Dayton, Ohio is the newest site to partner with On Earth Peace to offer Agape-Satyagraha training for youth. It will be part of the museum's Teens Invention Peaceful Solutions (TIPS) program. Agape-Satyagraha is a leadership training program that teaches skills for conflict resolution and social change based on the nonviolent teachings of Jesus and Gandhi¹. The program works to encourage, equip, and accompany youth as they put their faith into practice as leaders in their communities. The program mentors youth (ages 11-18) through five levels of skills training. Adult volunteers coach youth individually or in small groups, using individualized techniques, allowing youth to pace themselves through each level. Marie Benner-Rhoades, Director of Youth and Young Adult Peace Formation at On Earth Peace, led the training for the mentors who will work with the youth. Go to onearthpeace.org/new-generations/agape-satyagraha for more information on Agape-Satyagraha. The Dayton International Peace Museum web site is at www.daytonpeacemuseum.org

¹The Elm Street Congregation in Lima was a test site for Agape-Satyagraha. See the Summer 2010, vol. 4:4 issue of *The Peace Advocate News*.

Worship Resources

Make Prayers for Peace Part of Your Worship

Remember in prayer:

1. **South Sudan:** has worst human rights record in the world – people burned alive; women & girls raped; people brutalized & killed in front of relatives; soldiers taking children. Their government is largely responsible. Dec. 2016, foreign aid workers & reporters expelled from the country. Was this done to eliminate outside witnesses to genocide? Jan. 2017 more people fled to Uganda to escape violence in South Sudan then tried to reach Europe from Syria.
2. **Nigeria:** the 21 Chibok school girls who have been released; their families & communities. The 197 Chibok girls and others still missing, EYN, all those affected by the violence. January 2017 the government inadvertently bombed a refugee camp killing many including Doctors Without Borders staff. People now face famine.
3. **Bangladesh** – brutal attacks by Islamist militants on minority groups including non-Muslims and intellectuals are rising.
4. **Those facing execution** – & those willing to execute because they put revenge above redemption & forgiveness

5. **People affected by gun violence.**
6. **All people in this world who live with war.**
7. **People facing torture.**
8. **Those in prison** because of their beliefs.
9. All those whose lives are dominated by **fear**.
10. **People affected by gun negligence** – especially 525 child shooters in 2016. Many shooters are toddlers. . .
11. **Yemen & elsewhere**; the U.S. regularly launches drone attacks – often hitting civilians.
12. **People Displaced** because of war or political unrest including the **Syrian refugee crises**
13. People **working for peace** locally and in the world.
14. Those who **don't know God's peace** & have lost hope & joy.
15. **Veterans'** living with their part in war. 18 U.S. Iraq/ Afghanistan veterans commit suicide every day. (US Veterans Affairs statistics)
16. **Girls & Women** facing abuse and violence every day
17. **Child Soldiers**
18. **All people facing Deportation** – the government is conducting 'raids' pulling women, children, and men from their homes and work places, often with little due process.
19. **Community – Police issues**, that communities and police will work together respectfully with each other for the common good.
20. **Those now waging war by remote control** – they push buttons from far away that hurt or killed men, women, children

In These Times

Lord, we live in difficult times. We see all kinds of dangers 'out there' and for many; fear threatens to dominate life. For some, seeking safety takes priority over everything. For others, personal or family needs and desires come to be the only things that matter and meeting them at any cost has become an acceptable priority.

Lord, remind us that in these times, the real danger is not 'out there', it is *within each of us*. Most of the problems in the world come from within – when individuals begin to think only in 'I' terms.

- 'I' am more important than anyone else
- 'my' needs always come first
- 'I' am always right
- getting anything 'I' want at any cost is OK and top priority
- the earth and everything on it is there for 'me' to take and do with what 'I' please
- other people are not as important as 'I' am
- other people are only out to hurt 'me' or keep 'me' from getting what 'I' want

The real danger is when individuals allow these attitudes to dominate their thinking so that they forget what You taught

- it is the Lord God who is the center of the universe not 'me'
- the earth is the Lord's and 'I' am called to care for it not use it up or destroy it just to meet 'my' needs
- God made all people and loves all people – He declared that all people are good as part of His creation
- No one person is an island able to get along alone
- Jesus called His followers to be part of a community in which everyone's needs are 'my' needs and all is well for 'me' only when everyone's needs are met.
- 'everyone' includes me, family, friends, strangers, and enemies

Lord, help me to see that the sins of selfishness in any individual *including me* are the real danger in these times. Forgive me my selfishness and help me to learn your lessons. As one of your children, I am responsible for the welfare of all your children. Safety comes only when everyone is safe. Amen

Life Is In the Howling Wind

Lord, the wind is howling today. The sun is shining yet the air is cool, but with more than a touch of spring in it. The seasons are changing once again. New life is peaking out of the ground and tree buds are fat and ready to burst out into life.

Use the wind to clear away the gloom and dread that threaten my soul. Fill me with the pulse of new spring life so that I will be invigorated and ready to speak and act in your name; to stand with all people in need where ever and whoever they are. For your new life is not a gift for me alone. It is available freely to all for the asking. Remind me that with the gift comes the responsibility to share it.

I am called to speak out and work to make sure that no one walls in your gifts or tries to keep them only for themselves. Let your howling and refreshing wind bring compassion where there is selfishness, wisdom where there is foolishness, unity where there is division, kindness where there is antagonism and cruelty. Make me an interment of your peace and justice. Amen



See specific articles for related resource information.



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