



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 11:4

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Practical Peacemaking Tips

When Is It Time To Walk Away?

Part of peacemaking 101 is that when a conflict arises, you can stop a fight by just walking away. This is one of the first tools we teach from the peace-making tool box. For children on the playground, just walking away sometimes allows a schoolyard spat to be forgotten and relationships to resume. For children and the rest of us, walking away gives time for people to calm down and switch their brains from fight or flight mode to thinking mode. When people are thinking again, the fact that the answer requires only a few words – “I’m sorry”; “I forgive you” may become clear. Even when the issue is thornier, walking away allows people to consider the situation calmly and reasonably so it is much more likely a solution to the difficulty can be found. However, the key to how effective it is to walk away comes with what happens next. Especially with thorny issues, if all parties are able to sit down together once they are back in thinking mode and talk things out, walking away when the problem started worked and peace can result. If there is no follow up talking time and the parties involved do not try again to reason together, there can be no healing and the situation can get worse.

Do's and Don'ts:

- Do pray about the situation and for the other parties involved – not that they will agree with you, but that God will bless and be with them.
- Do pray for an open mind so you will be open to God's leading, to hearing and studying points of view different from your own, and to options you had not thought of.
- Do not gripe or complain about the other party to yourself or anyone else. Do not talk about the other party and the situation to anyone who will listen. This only turns the other party into a villain in your mind, makes you more entrenched in your views, and produces biased supporters for your point of view, all of which make the problem bigger.

- Do practice Matthew 18 if attempting to talk to the other person yourself does not work. Bring in a third party both of you respect to help.
- Do not make sure the third party is convinced that you are right and is 'on your side' before the meeting with the other party takes place. A third party must be neutral. If they are not, it will probably make the problem worse. When one or both parties start lining up 'allies' a disagreement between two people can escalate into a community splitting problem that can tear a family, congregation or other affected group apart.
- Do use good listening skills
 - Put as much effort into hearing what the other person says as you put into figuring out what you want to say
 - Repeat back to the other party what you heard them say to make sure they are satisfied that you heard what they meant
- Do not forget, you can control and change how you think, react and respond to the situation not how anyone else thinks, reacts or responds. If your goal is to change or fix 'them' you have failed to make peace before you start.
- Do let past disagreements go; do not hold grudges.

Remember, no two people will agree on everything. It is OK to agree to disagree. This too can bring peace if both parties do not let having different views on an issue stand between them. When views are deeply held, this kind of peacemaking can be hard work. It takes humility as well as love and respect for the other person not a secret belief that you are really 'right' and someday 'they' will see that. A little empathy, and compassion come in handy too. Peace does not mean everyone thinks the same way about everything. Peace means accepting each person as a child of God, unique, complicated, valued, and loved; capable of greatness and sometimes sinful just as you are yourself.



Peace Witness News Action Options

A series of hearings is continuing at sites around the country, held by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. These hearings are on the future of the military draft, draft registration, and compulsory service including compulsory military or national service for women, health care workers, and people with language, IT, or STEM skills. Hearings were held in Boston, Mass., in Nashua, N.H., and in Jacksonville, Fla. in May. Peace church members were encouraged to attend and express support for alternative, non-military service in place of a military draft. Written comments are being received by the commission by email to info@inspire2serve.gov with "Docket No. 05-2018-01A" in the subject line of the e-mail message, or use this online form: <http://www.inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts>. **The deadline to submit written comments has been extended through Sept. 30. This is a critical conversation!!**

Source: *Newsline*. May 4, 2018

Coming at District Conference

The 30th Annual Silent Auction for the Peace Endowment Fund



Some Background on the Auction:

The Peace Task Team organized the auction to raise money for the District Peace Endowment Fund. This fund supports peace education efforts in the District. **The First Silent Auction at District Conference to support the Peace Endowment Fund was held at Oberlin College in 1988 – 30 years ago this year!**

As one of the Historic Peace Churches, we are committed to teaching Christ's message of peace – peace within ourselves as we make our peace with Jesus; peace within our families, our congregations, and with our friends; peace in our communities; and peace in the world with our friends

and those we may call enemy. The Peace Endowment Fund was established in 1982 to support efforts in the District to teach the things that make for peace!

We Need YOU

to bring handmade items and goodies (handcrafted items, artist's work, homemade food) for the auction and/or come prepared to bid on the donated items in the auction! **See the District Website nohcob.org for more information.**



Peace Day Is Coming!

September 21 is the International Day of Peace and of Prayer for Peace. *Make plans to observe Peace Day!*

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by a United Nations (UN) resolution. In 2001, UN General Assembly set the date as 21 September each year. The observance is to strengthen the ideals of peace and alleviate tensions and causes of conflict. The UN statement reads:

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The United Nations Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 because they understood that it would not be possible to build a peaceful world if steps were not taken to achieve economic and social development for all people everywhere, and ensure that their rights were protected. The Sustainable Goals cover a broad range of issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment and social justice.



Sustainable Development Goal 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" calls for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

A peaceful society is one where there is justice and equality for everyone. Peace will enable a sustainable environment to take shape and a sustainable environment will help promote peace.

2018 Peace Day Theme: "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70", celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

"The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. The Universal Declaration – the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages - is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted." The full text of the declaration can be found at <http://www.standup4humanrights.org/en/declaration.html>.

Did You Know:

There are 54 countries in Africa and the continent is bigger than China, the U.S., India, Japan, and much of Europe combined. While Arabic is the most widely spoken language on the continent, more than 2,000 other languages are also spoken in Africa. More than 500 languages are spoken in Nigeria. More than 200 languages are spoken in Cameroon. South Africa has 11 official languages. This means Africa may be the most multilingual continent on earth. That is why it is common for people in Africa to be multilingual.

Source: *Worldark: The Magazine of Heifer International*. "For the Record Facts & Figures." Summer 2018. p. 6-7

Worship Resources

Make Praying for Peace Part of Your Worship

Remember in prayer:

1. **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** where a new Ebola outbreak has begun and violence continues.
2. **The people of Syria** – living with bombing and missile attacks, chemical attacks, and constant warfare. Vast areas of the country are in rubble with no water, sewer, electricity, etc. services functioning
3. **Victims of gun violence** – especially children. Since Columbine in 1999 150,000 students in 170 schools have experienced a school shooting, and the number continues growing . . .
4. **World leaders willing to risk the use of nuclear weapons** to save face, project personal power, advance their self-interest, to show off, just because they can. . .
5. **People recovering from natural disasters** – hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, extreme cold . . . especially those not getting the basic help they need including Puerto Rico. **Note: the Saturday offering at District Conference** will be designated for Puerto Rico relief. Thousands of people there are still without power, safe housing, clean water, etc. after last season's hurricane.
6. **Yemen, Niger, & elsewhere;** where the U.S. is involved in often forgotten wars. Civilians are victims every day.
7. **All people in this world who live with war.**

8. **People facing torture.**
9. People trying to put their lives & their countries back together after living through **genocide or 'ethnic cleansing'** events. Myanmar, & Rwanda are only two of many such places.
10. **People affected by gun violence.**
11. **South Sudan:** The country with the world's worst human rights record. Large numbers of people continue to flee to Uganda to escape violence there. They also face famine.
12. **Nigeria:** The 106 Chibok girls & more than 2,000 other women & children still missing including some school girls taken in February, EYN, all those affected by the continuing violence & famine.
13. **Bangladesh** – brutal attacks by Islamist militants on minority groups including non-Muslims and intellectuals are rising. Bangladesh is also taking in more than 650,000 fleeing the genocide in Myanmar.
14. **Those in prison** because of their beliefs.
15. All those whose lives are dominated by **fear**.
16. **Child Soldiers**
17. Those who **don't know God's peace** & have lost hope & joy.
18. **Those facing execution** – & those willing to execute because they put revenge above redemption & forgiveness
19. **People affected by gun negligence** – especially 525 child shooters in 2016. Many of these shooters are toddlers. . .
20. **People Displaced** because of war or political unrest including the people of **Somalia, Syria, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, countries in the Middle East, and South America**
21. People **working for peace** locally and in the world.
22. **Veterans'** living with their part in war. 18 U.S. Iraq/Afghanistan veterans commit suicide every day. (US Veterans Affairs statistics)
23. **Girls & Women** facing abuse and violence every day
24. **Women** who face sexual abuse in the workplace.
25. **People facing Deportation** –women, children, & men are frequently pulled from their homes & work places, with little or no due process. Some children come home from school to find parents gone without warning. . . It is now U.S. policy to take children from their parents. Several hundred children taken from their parents are now unaccounted for.
26. **800,000 children, now young people,** who fall under the provisions of the Dream Act – the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which is to be cut
27. **Those now waging war by remote control** – they push buttons from far away that hurt or kill men, women, children

A New Worship Resource is Available on the District Website

Starting in June a new worship resource will be available on the Northern Ohio District website. **“Take a Moment to Pray for Peace”** will be posted new each week. It will include a prayer, litany, or reading; and prayer list suggestions for the week. These may be used in Sunday worship, other gatherings, or in your personal devotions. Permission is given to print them in your Sunday Bulletin. Here is a sample:



Let Us Pray

Jesus, remind us:
We are no braver than any other people.
We are no wiser or smarter.
We have no greater capacity for love or hate.
Forgive us for the sin of pride if we think these

things are not true.

We, like all other people, are children of the same God made in the image of our creator.

If we have received and accepted the gift of God's love, we know Christ as our Savior and we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

Remind us that you call us not to be proud or boastful but to serve,

for we did not earn Your love and are not worthy of Your precious gift.

We are called to share what we have received from you with all who may not know

God offers the same gift to them too.

Help us bend our will to yours,

so we can be your vessels to share your message with the world unclouded by our own.

Remind us that our actions may speak even louder than our words;

that what we do with a humble heart in your name, be it sharing a cup of water, or preaching the word

may bear abundant fruit only when it is **Your** water and **Your** word we let **You** share through us without our interference. Amen

LLF 6-18

This week pray for:

Children and school staff recovering from the trauma of a school shooting and those living in fear of a shooting in their school. Remember young school shooting survivors who are speaking out for changes in American gun culture to keep them safer.

Children and parents fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. Even when they exercise their rights under international law and follow U.S. procedures to seek asylum, children are being taken from their parents and parents imprisoned by U.S. officials . . .

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Resource List



See also specific articles for related resource information.

In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle is a resource provided by the World Council of Churches that enabled us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. The site offers prayers for and with the people of different parts of our world for every week. There are prayers, scripture, and resources which can be used in corporate worship or personal devotions. There is also information on the churches in each region. Using this resource can help us get to know more about the people we share the planet with. Knowing people brings us closer and helps promote peace as we learn to understand the joys, hopes, and needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. Go to Ecumenical Prayer Cycle at: oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle.



Remember Nigeria!

Update

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) organized a day-long Interfaith Peace Conference in Yola (state capital of Adamawa State). EYN President, Joel S. Billi, spoke at the occasion urging participants from the major religions, Christians and Muslims, to be ambassadors of peace.

Billi showed concern that “peace has gone beyond the reach of many Nigerians, people are panicking because of lack of peace.” He said that in the past, Christians and Muslims lived not just in relative peace but total peace. “I don't want to apportion blame to anybody, but lack of peace today in our nation; if I have to apportion blame, I will...apportion huge blame to religious leaders.”

“I am so happy today seeing Muslim brothers and sisters seated side-by-side with Christians. You have made my day. All of us, the participants of the conference, must go out to be ambassadors of peace at the end of this conference,” he reiterated.

The participatory discussions made the conference so interesting, which the organizers hope will give abundant fruit to promote peaceful co-existence and restore the lost trust among Nigerians.

Source: Newline May 30, 2018



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