



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 12:1

Fall 2018

The 30th Annual Silent Auction for the Peace Endowment Fund



This year 104 items were donated to the Peace Auction and \$1,470.25 was raised for the Peace Endowment Fund. Thank you to all who donated items for the auction and to those who bid on those items!

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 allies, competitors and enemies. The Peace Endowment Fund was established in 1982 to support efforts in the District to teach the things that make for peace!

Some Immigration History

Until now, "every president since World War II has protected immigrant groups facing hardship — even when they did not meet the standard definition of a refugee as established by the 1951 U.N. Convention." Some examples include:

- Harry S. Truman used his executive authority to allow people displaced by Nazi Germany to qualify for resettlement in the United States.
- John F. Kennedy protected Cubans who fled to the U.S. during and after the Cuban revolution.
- Ronald Reagan suspended deportation proceedings for Nicaraguans who fled that country's revolution in 1987.

However, when Reagan refused to do the same for Salvadorans also fleeing horrendous conditions at home, the Congress and the public became concerned that helping refugees was becoming too political and arbitrary. As a result, in 1990 Congress enacted the Immigration Act with bipartisan support that created Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

"The law gives the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the president and the secretary of state, the power to grant TPS status to migrants from countries experiencing armed conflict, natural disasters or other temporary and extraordinary circumstances. TPS status protects all foreign nationals from the designated countries as long as they file the proper paperwork and officials do not consider them a risk to U.S. security."

TPS provides temporary legal status (but not a path to citizenship) to foreign nationals present in the United States from designated countries whether they arrived 'legally' or not. It also allows these refugees to work legally to support themselves. TPS is granted two years at a time and presidents from both parties have regularly renewed it for people from countries where conditions have not improved enough for refugees to return safely. Since 1990 twenty-two countries have received TPS. When Trump took office, ten countries had TPS.

Despite the fact that conditions have not significantly improved in Nicaragua (economic collapse & violence), Haiti (earthquake, hurricanes, poverty), Sudan (violence, starvation, cholera epidemic), Nepal (violence), El Salvador (extreme violence), and Honduras (violence, economic disaster), the current administration has broken with past practice and ended TPS for some 300,000 refugees from these countries. None of these countries can accommodate the return of thousands of refugees with jobs, food, housing or safety. The U.S. administration is planning to end TPS for other countries as well with little regard for the conditions people in those countries face. Only some refugees from Syria, Yemen, and

Somalia were granted an extension of TPS. Conditions in these countries remain horrendous but TPS will not be granted to people making new claims. Before changing a country's status, the U.S. government must provide proof that conditions in a country have improved enough to end TPS protection for fleeing refugees. There is evidence that reports used to 'justify' changes in TSP status by the current administration have been intentionally incomplete and inaccurate.

The current administration claims that ending TPS will help stop 'illegal' emigration despite the fact that studies show the opposite to be true. Recently released documents indicate that reports done for the White House by DHS itself say that ending TPS will actually increase 'illegal' emigration.

Ending TPS help for refugees not only hurts the refugees themselves, it also makes the situation in their countries of origin worse, hurts the U.S. communities where they have settled, and hurts the U.S. economy.

- Many of these refugees have been here for decades. They have raised families and are integrated into communities here (are active in churches, volunteer in the community, have jobs, etc.). They do not have homes or jobs, or lives to 'go back to' in their countries of origin
- Most of the 'home countries' have fragile or non-functioning economies. They cannot provide jobs or basic services to their people including any guarantee of safety. Suddenly returning thousands of refugees would be devastating.
- Money sent to family members in countries of origin by people working here under TSP helps those family members stay in their home countries and helps stabilize those countries
- It will cost the U.S. over \$3 billion to deport the refugees who's TPS has been taken away
- The deportation of these workers will cost the U.S. economy \$45 billion in lost GDP and \$6.9 billion in lost Social Security and Medicare contributions. (Please note that, these people pay into these programs but cannot benefit from them.)
- U.S. employers will incur nearly 1 billion in turnover costs when they lose these workers.
- The loss of these workers will cripple some segments of the economy in which there are no workers to replace them.

Sources: **Washington Post**. "By ending 'temporary protected status' for half a million people, Trump has probably increased illegal

migration." By David Leblang , Ankita Satpathy , Alexa Iadarola , Ben Helms , Kelsey Hunt , Eric Xu , Rebecca Brough and Mahesh Rao. August 7, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/08/07/by-ending-temporary-protected-status-for-half-a-million-people-trump-has-probably-increased-illegal-migration/?utm_term=.8c9b104618f3

American Friend's Service Committee "Trump Has Ended Temporary Protected Status For Hundreds of Thousands of Immigrants. Here's What You Need To Know." By Kathryn Johnson, May 4, 2018.

<https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/trump-has-ended-temporary-protected-status-hundreds-thousands-immigrants>

"You can't reason someone out of something that they were not reasoned into." George Will



Remember Nigeria!

Update

The Nigerian crisis is now in its eighth year. It continues to have a heavy impact on Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The Nigerian church is struggling financially but still growing and starting new churches in areas where displaced members have resettled. About 70 percent of EYN members have now returned home. Recovery activities that will help families become more self-supporting are a priority. Efforts to help, include. repairing homes, peacebuilding efforts, trauma recovery, assistance with agriculture, education, food, medical supplies, home supplies, rebuilding churches, and providing funds for US volunteers and staff. The current response continues at a reduced level because donations are down to the Nigeria Crisis Response fund.



House repair in Lassa, Nigeria

Newsline. October 5, 2018

Did You Know

- Almost two-thirds of the gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides according to the Centers for Disease Control.
- The U.S. gun suicide rate is eight times higher than in any other high-income country.
- Access to guns means a suicide attempt is three times more likely to be fatal.
- Gun suicide deaths are concentrated in the states with the highest rates of gun ownership.
- Less than 5% of people who attempt suicide without a gun die. 85% of suicide attempts using a gun result in death.
- 75% of gun suicide victims are white men.

See everytownresearch.org

Peace Education Opportunities



Christian Citizenship Seminar 2019

April 27 – May 2, 2019 • New York City and Washington D.C.

The Church of the Brethren 2019 Christian Citizenship Seminar will be held April 27-May 2 in New York and Washington, D.C., with the theme "Creative Solutions to Violent Conflict Worldwide."

The event, held annually except National Youth Conference years, is for high school youth and their advisors. Limited to 60 participants, the seminar "provides students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue, and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue."

Registration is \$425 and includes lodging, two meals, mid-week transportation from New York to Washington, and all programming. Registration will open Dec. 3 at 12 p.m. Central Time. Further details are at www.brethren.org/ccs.

Newsline. October 5, 2018

Worship Resources

Make Praying for Peace Part of Your Worship

Remember in prayer:

1. **On-going mis-treatment of children & parents by immigration authorities at the U.S. border.** Many families are fleeing violence & persecution in Central America. It's not safe to return them to their place of origin. Immigration authorities continue trying to coerce or trick people into denying their legitimate asylum claims. Many children remain separated from their parents. Many families are not being reunited. Source: Brian Hoffman. "Refugees At Our Border: What's Going On?". ACN Who Is My Neighbor Series. Brian is one of only 3 emigration lawyers in Ohio where one of the emigration courts is located. He works with the court hear and at the border.
2. **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** – health workers are trying to end an Ebola outbreak.
3. **People in Syria** live with constant warfare. Much of the country is in rubble with no water, sewer, electricity, etc.
4. **Gun Violence Victims** – on average in the US 342 people, including 47 children, are shot every day. 96 of them, including 7 children die.
5. **Pray for people forced to flee their homes in this hemisphere.** 2.3 to 4 million Venezuelans have fled government corruption which turned their once flourishing country into a place where people cannot get enough food, medical care, etc. This refugee situation may be as serious as the one in Syria. Thousands more are fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, & Honduras.
6. **The Rohingya, minority group in Myanmar (Burma)** face persecution which amounts to genocide. A U.N. investigation found that Myanmar's military is responsible. The Rohingya are not even acknowledged as citizens in Myanmar where they have lived for generations.
7. **All people in this world who live with war.**
8. **People facing torture.**
9. **All those whose lives are dominated by fear.**
10. **Child Soldiers**
11. **People recovering from natural disasters** – especially those not getting the help they need in Puerto Rico where thousands are still without power, safe housing, clean water, etc. after last season's hurricane. People still dealing with the flooding in the Carolinas. Western fire victims.
12. **Those affected by the earthquake & tsunami in Indonesia** September 28th. Nearly 1,400 people were killed, many are missing, there is major destruction. The Soputan volcano erupted on the same island just after the tsunami
13. **Yemen, Niger, & elsewhere;** where the U.S. is involved in forgotten wars. Civilians are victims every day.
14. **South Sudan** has the world's worst human rights record. Many people are fleeing to Uganda to escape violence & famine.
15. **Nigeria:** The crisis there is now 8 years old. Remember EYN, & all people trying to rebuild their lives. 106 Chibok girls & more than 2,000 other women & children are still missing. There is continuing violence & famine.
16. **Bangladesh** – brutal attacks by Islamist militants on minority groups including non-Muslims & intellectuals are rising.

Bangladesh is also taking in more than 650,000 fleeing the genocide in Myanmar.

17. **Girls & Women** facing abuse & violence every day
18. **Women** who face sexual abuse in the workplace.
19. **Those in prison for their beliefs. Those in prison or persecuted because they report** on genocide & other human rights abuses around the world. Among them: reporters in Myanmar, opposition leaders in Cambodia & Russia, those working for change in Central America.
20. Those who **don't know God's peace** or have lost hope & joy.
21. **People facing execution** & those willing to execute because they put revenge above redemption & forgiveness
22. **People Displaced** by war or political unrest – the people of **Somalia, Syria, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Middle East, South America & others**
23. People **working for peace** locally & in the world.
24. **Veterans'** living with their part in war. 18 U.S. Iraq/ Afghanistan veterans commit suicide every day. (US Veterans Affairs statistics)
25. **Those now waging war by remote control** – they push buttons here that hurt or kill men, women, children on the other side of the world
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. **People affected by gun violence.**

Forgive Us

We have lost the art of disagreeing respectfully. We have lost the art of disagreeing and remaining friends. God forgive us such selfishness.

We too often consider our issues and our goals more important than people, then we hurt people in the pursuit of our goals, blame them for being hurt, and expect them to 'get over it'. We further expect they will celebrate how 'right' we were to hurt them and thank them for the pain we cause. God forgive us for such arrogance.

We have forgotten that a leader has authority over others only because the community grants it so that a leader can serve for the good of everyone. Leaders who treat authority as 'their right', use authority for their own ends, to gain power over others, or to enrich themselves have abused the trust the community has placed in them. This is especially true when the leader claims authority in matters of faith. God forgive us when we abuse the trust and faith of others.

We have also forgotten that seeking to understand motives and seeking truth are not crimes. Hiding truth, attacking and vilifying those we disagree with, and spreading misinformation about them or the situation we are in is wrong. So are back room deals and parking lot decision making that affect people's lives without their

participation or excluding those responsible for making such decisions to ensure we get our way. God forgive us for such deceitful conduct.

We are too susceptible to supporting someone without question or turning a blind eye to their sins and deceptions if they will do one thing we want done or because they will maintain our privileges over others. God, forgive us for such blind loyalty and selfish stubbornness.

Did You Know

There are 821 million people in the world. 1 in 9 of them do not have enough food or water.

In parts of Africa drought is the main factor. In Asia, flooding causes 80% of the crop damage that leads to food insecurity. Worldwide the climate crisis is a central factor in the hunger crisis. Hunger also fuels violence and conflict which in turn makes food shortages worse. After a period of improvement during which food insecurity declined before 2015, after 2015 the problem has been getting worse again.

U.N., FAO, UNICEF, World Food Program & World Health Organization



Resource List

See specific articles for related resource information.

"To rise above the racism of the past, we must acknowledge it."

With this statement, the Editor in Chief of *National Geographic* sets the stage for the April 2018 *National Geographic* issue on what is race. She acknowledges that the magazine did not always treat all people with respect or even accuracy in the past. The April issue takes a look at race in ways that should make us rethink what we think we know.

Look for Peace & Reconciliation Resources on the Northern Ohio District Website.

For access go to: www.nohcob.org

- ✦ Select the 'Resources' tap
- ✦ Then select "Peace & Reconciliation"
- ✦ There you will find:
 - The *Peace Advocate News* – current & back issues
 - Practical Peacemaking Tips
 - News from the Peace Task Team & Shalom Team
 - Occasional Peace News Notes on situations in the world needing our prayers and help
 - A Moment to Pray for Peace – a new resource for worship or personal devotion to be updated weekly.



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