

*(continued from front)*

- made up of a 40-member full-time Christian Peacemaker Corps and 125-member part-time Reserve Corps;
- currently also serving in Barrancabermeja, Colombia; Hebron and At-Tuwani, Palestine; Kenora, Ontario, Canada; and on the Mexico-United States border; and
- supported by donations.

### **CPT is not:**

- an aid or development group,
- a spy organization,
- a Christian evangelism group.

CPT does not advocate the use of violent force to save lives of its workers should they be kidnapped, held hostage, or caught in the middle of a conflict situation.

### **Continued Concern**

We remain concerned about the well-being of our teammates. We remain concerned about the well-being of all Iraqis who are suffering under occupation.

Those who are with our teammates have demanded the release from captivity of the Iraqi detainees held in United States and Iraqi prisons. Christian Peacemaker Teams believes that no single person, no single nation, can meet the demands of Justice. No single person, no single nation, can meet the demands of Peace. We believe that it is everyone's responsibility to do their part to bring each combatant and each captive home to their families and to end the war and occupation.

### **Statement of Conviction**

In a "Statement of Conviction," the long-term CPT members stated that they "are aware of the many risks both Iraqis and internationals currently face," and affirmed that the risks did not outweigh their purpose in remaining. They express the hope that "in loving both friends and enemies and by intervening nonviolently to aid those who are systematically oppressed, we can contribute in some small way to transforming this volatile situation."

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# **Love Your Enemies. Free the Captives. End the War.**

December 9, 2005

*Jesus said: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

—Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

### **Why we are gathered**

On November 26, 2005, two members of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and two members of a CPT visiting delegation were taken in Baghdad. Al Jazeera television has shown several video tapes of the four.

We gather to ask for an end to the occupation of Iraq and the speedy release of these four CPTers. We plead for all captives to be liberated and all oppression to cease.

### **CPT in Iraq**

CPT initiated a long-term presence in Iraq in October 2002, six months before the beginning of the U.S.-led invasion in March of 2003. The primary focus of the team for 18 months following the invasion was documenting and focusing attention on the issue of detainee abuses and basic legal and human rights being denied them. The current focus has expanded to include efforts to end occupation and militarization and to foster nonviolent and just alternatives for a free and independent Iraq. Iraqi friends and human rights workers have welcomed the team as a nonviolent, independent presence and asked that the team tell their stories back home. CPTers are some of the few internationals left in Iraq who are telling the truth about what is happening to the Iraqi people

### **CPT is:**

- an ecumenical Christian organization, violence reduction program and committed to human rights;
- faithful to truth-telling and well-trained in nonviolence; *(continued on back)*

## We lift these men up in prayer



### Tom Fox

Tom Fox, 54, is from Clearbrook, Virginia, and a dedicated father of two children. For two years, Tom has worked with CPT in partnership with Iraqi human rights organizations to promote peace. Tom has been faithful in the observance of Quaker practice for 22 years. While in Iraq, he sought a more complete understanding of Islamic cultural richness. He is committed to telling the truth to U.S. citizens about the horrors of war and its effects on ordinary Iraqi civilians and families as a result of U.S. policies and practices. Tom is an accomplished musician. Tom is a quiet and peaceful man, respectful of everyone, who believes that “there is that of God in every person” which is why work for peace is so important to him.

**Tom's words:** *“But if Jesus and Gandbi are right, then I am asked to risk my life, and if I lose it, to be as forgiving as they were when murdered by the forces of Satan. Standing firm is a struggle, but I'm willing to keep working at it.”*



### Norman Kember

Norman Kember, 74, is from London, England. He and his wife of 45 years have two married daughters and a 3-year-old grandson. He has been a pacifist all his life, beginning with his work in a hospital instead of National Service at age 18. Before his retirement, he was a professor teaching medical students at St. Bartholemew's Hospital in London. He is well known as a peace activist, and has been involved in several peace groups. For the past 10 years he has volunteered with a local program providing free food to the homeless. He likes walking, birdwatching, and writing humorous songs and sketches.

*“Norman is a man of integrity who has for years been against war as a means of settling international disputes. He is also a man with a sense of humour and I hope that the humour and the faith together will sustain him through this trying time.”*

—The Rev Alan Betteridge, one of the presidents of the Baptist Peace Fellowship



### James Loney

James Loney, 41, is a Catholic Worker from Toronto, Ontario. He has been a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams since August 2000, and is currently the Program Coordinator for CPT Canada. On previous visits to Iraq, his work focused on taking testimonies from families of detainees for CPT's report on detainee abuse and making recommendations for securing basic legal rights. James was leading the November 2005 delegation in Iraq when he went missing. James is a peace activist, writer, trained mediator, and works actively with two Toronto community conflict resolution services. He has spent many years working to provide housing and support for homeless people.

**James' words:** *“I believe that our actions as a people of peace must be an expression of hope for everyone. My hope in practicing nonviolence is that I can be a conduit for the transformative power of God's love acting upon me as much as I hope it will act upon others around me.”*



### Harmeet Singh Sooden

Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, is a Canadian electrical engineer from Montreal. He studied at McGill University and is now working on a masters degree in English literature in Auckland University in New Zealand to prepare for a teaching career. He enjoys art, is active in squash, and worked part time as a local squash coach. His family describes him as peaceful and fun-loving and he is known to be passionate about the plight of the underprivileged around the globe. He works tirelessly in his spare time to educate and help others.

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) is an organization committed to reducing violence by “Getting in the Way”—challenging systems of domination and exploitation as Jesus Christ did in the first century.

