



# PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE IN IRAQ



***We need a surge in the nonviolent army of the Lord. We need a surge in conscience and a surge in activism and a surge in truth-telling.***

—Reverend Warnock, March 16, 2007 at Washington National Cathedral. He is pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, once pastored by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Christians across the United States are witnessing and praying around the clock to create real security and peace in Iraq through orderly U.S. troop withdrawal. Many denominations have committed to a specific day of the week. Building on our weekly prayer meetings, Mennonites have chosen Wednesdays. Will you, your family, your Sunday school class, your congregation—join the unceasing prayer?

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, with Mennonite Church USA Peace and Justice Support Network as a Partner, sponsored an ecumenical witness in Washington, D.C., on March 16th. This same group, now joined by Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office, is continuing their commitment to publicly worship Jesus as Prince of Peace and say no to war.

## **A Constant Vigil to End the Occupation**

### **Mennos on Wednesdays**

The Mennonite Church USA Peace and Justice Support Network and the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq invite you and your congregation to pray for our government to withdraw soldiers from Iraq in a timely manner and to shift budget resources to provide for humanitarian assistance. We are counting on Mennonites—you!—to fill the 24 hours of Wednesdays with prayer. Through an Unceasing Prayer Vigil we witness against the occupation with a common Christian message across the denominations: ***we oppose this war because of our deep-rooted faith and belief that God's peace is the right of every human being.***

Are you ready to join the surge of Christians telling the truth about war and praying for peace? Visit the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq website, [www.ChristianPeaceWitness.org](http://www.ChristianPeaceWitness.org) for the CPWI complete commitment, to register your vigil (and to see who else has planned a witness), to find worship resources and to buy buttons (4/\$1) like the graphic above. Wear a button constantly; fill your pockets with buttons to give away.

**Choose to be a light for Christ's peace in your community!**

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## Prayer

You might use this prayer from Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, thus joining with your Christian sisters and brothers across the nation:

Loving God,

We pray for ourselves:

that we may be the body of Christ, saying “No” to war and “Yes” to peace;  
that we may be followers of the Prince of Peace, learning to love our enemies;  
that we may be faithful disciples, bringing good news to the poor and release to the captive;  
that we may be united by Christ’s cross, patient and passionate, tender and tenacious.

We pray for others:

for the people of Iraq, whose lives and dreams are broken daily;  
for the victims of torture and abuse, and their perpetrators, whose bodies, hearts, minds and souls are being scarred forever;  
for soldiers and their families, torn apart by war, sacrificing more than many of us can understand;  
for communities suffering from poverty and violence, fear and division;  
may they each know that they are held in your love and our prayers.

We pray for your world:

that nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
that human shall not lift up spear against human,  
and that no one shall study war, or greed, or prejudice.

We pray for peace.

Make us your peacemakers,

that we may learn in our hearts and words and actions,  
in our votes and policies and halls of governance,  
to overcome hatred with love, evil with good, and violence with peace.

We pray for peace in the name of the One who offers us the peace of Christ,

AMEN.