

**PRAY  
AND ACT  
FOR  
PEACE**



**A Visit with God**

*by Jane Hooper Peifer*

I knocked on the door, and it immediately swung open  
and there was God.

"Come in, come in, I'm so glad you came.

I was waiting for you.

The tea pot is hot and the muffins are still warm.

I followed into a warm cozy sitting room with 2 soft chairs.

"Sit down...I'll be right back."

I sank into the chair.

God was soon back carrying a tray.

The small table between us held our mugs and the muffins.

And after some small talk

God looked warmly into my eyes and asked,

"How are you?"

"Burdened," I said.

"Oh? About what?"

"Stuff. Big stuff...like the shape of our world stuff."

"What do you see?" God asked.

"Some of us are filthy rich. Others of us are deathly poor,  
and those in the middle are always complaining. Things like that...

and war and earthquakes and greed and...

We need help, God," I cried.

"What would you like me to do?" God asked.

"Well, for starters,

spread out the resources better

stop all the floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and cyclones

clean up the air and the rivers

eradicate diseases

take care of the children

and stop the wars! stop the killing!

Please, make it all stop!"

*Continued...*

**PRAY  
AND ACT  
FOR  
PEACE**



There was a long silence.

"Do you have children?" God asked.

"Yes."

"Did you ever make them do something that they didn't want to do?"

"Yes."

"Did it work?"

"No."

"It doesn't work for me either." God sighed.

Another silence.

"So what does work?" I asked slowly.

"Love."

Tears rolled down God's face.

"And love hurts...I know."

**Prayer**

Lord God, Almighty Lover of the Universe,  
shape us by your love,  
and grant us the grace to surrender to the way of love  
so that your dream (and our dream) for this world might be fulfilled.  
In the name of Jesus whose way was and is love,

Amen.

*Jane Hooper Peifer is pastor of Blossom Hill Mennonite Church,  
Lancaster, PA. Her congregation is currently acting for peace by  
resettling an Iraqi family in Lancaster city.*