

40 Hour MCC Immigration Training

This intensive five-day training is designed to provide immigration case workers employed at not-for-profit agencies the foundation to gain accreditation from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and to practice before the USCIS, immigration judges, and the BIA.

- **When:** September 11–15, 2007 (Tuesday—Saturday)
- **Where:** Mennonite Central Committee

Welcoming Place,
21 South 12th Street
Akron, PA 17501-0500

- **Cost:** \$500—non-profit organizations, \$600—if you work for a private law firm. This fee covers registration and materials only. Lodging, meals and airport transportation are extra.
- For more information: www.mcc.org/us/immigrationtraining/



New Youth Peace Web Site

Choices, choices, choices! Youth today have so many choices that sometimes they are known as the generation that has difficulty making decisions. Recently Mennonite Church USA high school youth received postcards inviting them to “Choose LIFE!” and to go to www.MennoniteUSA.org/youth-forpeace for Christian conversation about choices. This new section of the PJSN web-site invites youth to learn and comment on ecology, immigration, Palestine, discipleship, American history, Bible reading, video games and loving enemies, all from a biblical viewpoint.

You can help!

- Youth are bombarded with information. Ask LisaA@MennoniteUSA.org for postcards that you can hand to youth and personally invite them to look over the website. Then you give

them a tangible incentive to add their comments.

- Volunteer to be an e-mail mentor for youth thinking about peacemaking.
- Read over the website and suggest additional authors—youth to blog; adults for issue pages.
- Pray for youth as they receive an historically immense amount of information to process.
- Ask your youthful friends how often they receive invitations to join the military (mail, TV, magazines, posters and recruiters at high school, etc). Then research the opportunities your youth have to learn about peacemaking. How can you offer more life-giving choices?

*Susan Mark Landis, peace advocate
Mennonite Church USA Executive
Leadership*

Thanks to Supporters

Thanks to all who donated to PJSN in 2006. Your contributions make it possible for PJSN to:

- Challenge church leadership to act for peace & justice
- Gather Mennonite peacemakers together in Washington, DC (March 16) and in San Jose (July 2–7)
- Provide resources to congregations and individuals for education and worship
- Inform you about opportunities to advocate for peace & justice
- Support Leo Hartshorn, Peace Minister, and Susan Mark Landis, Peace Advocate

This year, PJSN must raise more than \$100,000. Please make your check payable to Mennonite Mission Network, write PJSN on the memo line, and mail your donation to Peace & Justice Contributions, Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Or donate on-line at www.mennoniteusa.org/peace.

With your support, PJSN keeps peace & justice central to the mission of Mennonite Church USA and of the church in the world.

*Melonie Buller
meloniebuller@aol.com*

Thermostat

“The church should not merely be a thermometer that records the ideas and principles of popular opinions; it should be a thermostat that transforms the mores of society.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thermostat, a new Mennonite youth mime troupe from Harrisonburg, VA performed. The team is dedicated to challenging the apathetic culture of the 21st century and creatively calling society, especially the Church, to raise moral, ethical and spiritual standards. “Saving Me” illustrates one soldier’s struggle with the vulgar realities of war which lead to her transformation and then to others’. The story calls us to break the silence, and to share with others that there are alternatives to war and violence. This piece also honors the brilliant and courageous work of Christian Peacemaker Teams, who have challenged our world with their simple, yet profound, philosophy of “getting in the way.”

After Thermostats’ presentation, an Iraqi Veteran of War spoke who commented that the piece seemed as if it were written about him, in that it accurately retold his own story from soldier transformed by God to peacemaker.

Susan Mark Landis, peace advocate, Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership, phone/fax: 330-683-6844, SusanML@MennoniteUSA.org, www.MennoniteUSA.org/peace



From left to right—back row: Alcinda Brubaker, Emma Serrels, Jenna Serrels, Josh Marin, and Tabea Zimmerman. Front row: Liz Marin, Hanna Heishman, Grant Serrels, Garrett Serrels and Levi Lyman-Barner



Peace and Justice Support Network
Mennonite Mission Network
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Dove Tales

The Sanctuary movement in 2007

By Zulma Prieto

The Sanctuary movement poses a learning experience at different levels. First of all, it makes us focus in our spiritual commitment and faith in action. It also forces us to see whether our faith can be tested by the culture that surrounds us. The industrialized countries have been receiving an overflow of Third World immigrants. Most of the immigrants flee from countries impoverished by the same countries that after using their cheap labor now want them to leave by any possible means. In the case of United States, the presence of the twice-oppressed peoples has created a divided position at all levels of society including the church. The presence of the oppressed calls the church to define itself as been ruled by the love of God or by the law of the nation.

For the past seven months, Elvira Arellano, has claimed sanctuary in a Chicago-area Methodist Church. In her statement before starting a hunger strike Good Friday, 2007, Elvira said: “As I have stayed here in Sanctuary with my U.S. citizen son, Saulito, for seven months, the Congress and the President have taken no action to fix the broken law. Meanwhile, millions of people live in the shadows and millions of children live in fear of being abandoned. While nothing is done to fix the broken law, the raids and deportations continue to escalate every week. I am starting this hunger strike, on the eve of Good Friday, as a prayer that our people will mobilize, that the hearts of the people of this nation will open and that the elected officials will act to preserve our families and the Holy Bond between the children and their mothers and fathers. I pray that

Currently we face a time when people of faith must speak up once more. It is time for us to accept the challenge of loving one another above all, as Jesus wanted us to.

not one more family will be separated, not one more child left behind. (Source: www.nationalfast-forimmigrantjustice.com).

In many communities throughout the country we hear similar stories. While people hope to hear a word of compassion and hope from their churches many of those churches are deaf to their cries for help. In many cases the churches get together in endless dialogues about what to do and how to do it. The agendas have a different timing. The poor need a prompt answer. Others have many other things in their agenda. In my opinion, we should encourage immigrants, displaced and refugees to see themselves as living witnesses of an unfair globalization. They can turn out to be

the prophets of social justice, and a call to conversion and change.

To offer Sanctuary to those who need it is not just a simple act of kindness. Even more, it is an act of justice and love as we acknowledge that we are all sojourners and

the land and its resources are not ours. Offering a place for safekeeping to those in need conveys the responsibility to confront the financial powers that create the legal system that serves their own interests.

During the 1980s and 1990’s Sanctuary was a movement among the churches in the United States. Like the Underground Railroad used during the 19th century to help the slaves, the churches decided to help Central American refugees who were fleeing from their countries. Many religious communities risked their status to help those facing persecution and even death.

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Currently we face a time when people of faith must speak up once more. It is time for us to accept the challenge of loving one another above all, as Jesus wanted us to. It is the time to embody that love in tangible demonstrations of support to those who have been disempowered and disenfranchised.

Throughout history the church has been involved in providing safety for people. Peace is hard to gain with the power of money and politics. The Sanctuary movement can speak truth to power.

Zulma Prieto was born in US. Her family originally comes from Colombia, South America where she was raised. Married to Jimmer Prieto, they have two children. Zulma finished studies in Philosophy and Humanities at Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Some of her short stories and poetry have been published in Colombia. Zulma and Jimmer hold M.A. degrees from AMBS Seminary in Peace and Justice Studies and are also holders of an Indiana teaching license. Zulma is the co-founder and editor of El Puente, the first Spanish language newspaper in Indiana that started in March of 1992. Currently the newspaper that has a community-based orientation is published twice a month and it includes the collaboration of people from several origins.

PJSN at San Jose

The Peace and Justice Support Network will be present at San Jose 2007. We will be hosting two Bible study sessions, providing seminars, giving away and selling resources at our display, and performing Drumming for Peace sessions. Check your San Jose schedule for times and locations.

Bible Study

Michael Hardin, Director of the School of Peace Theology, Education Coordinator for Every Church a Peace Church, and founder of PreachingPeace.com, will be leading two sessions of Bible study on How Jesus Read His Bible. He will be reflecting on Jesus' nonviolent interpretation of the Old Testament.

• Tuesday and Thursday, July 3 and 5, 2007, 6:30 pm; Location: Blossom II, Marriott Hotel

Seminars

PJSN encourages its supporters to attend the peace and justice related seminars provided at San Jose being led by PJSN leaders and friends.

Adult

- Preaching Peace and Justice—Leo Hartshorn
- CPT: Witnessing to What We Have Seen—Carol Rose
- Christians in Iraq: Struggle for Peace and Place—Peter Dula
- Blaming Eve: Confronting Sexism in Church and Society—Linda Gehman Peachey, Titus Peachey
- The Bible and Israel: Two Views and More—Willard Swartley
- Why Justice Is Not Enough—Willard Swartley

- What Stance Do You Take About War? (Youth)—Andre Gingerich Stoner
- What Can You Really Do To Make Peace Practical in Everyday Life?—Rich Meyer
- Restorative Justice and Conflict Resolution in the North American context—Ted Lewis
- 5% hog the M&M's—Susan Mark Landis and MCC Washington staff
- Veterans for Peace—Titus Peachey
- Peacemaking and Patriotism: What's a Faithful Mennonite to Do?—Keith Graber Miller

Public Witness

God's love has no borders: Immigration reform must be just *El Amor de Dios no tiene fronteras! La reforma de inmigracion tiene que ser justa.*

- San Jose 2007 public witness
- Wednesday, July 4, 2007, 1:00-4:30
- All ages
- Through worship and education, followed by public witness, we will proclaim that all human beings deserve just treatment.

Display

The PJSN display will be located in the Mennonite Mission Network tent. Free Peace and justice resources will be available, as well as PJSN products for sale. Through the day Drumming for Peace will present short sessions to teach peace principles through rhythm.

PJSN hopes to see our friends and supporters at San Jose 2007!

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq

March 16, 2007

Washington, D.C. and local communities

Over 200 Mennonites with green armbands joined the 4000-person ecumenical call for the end to the Iraq War during the worship service at the Washington National Cathedral, a prayer walk to the White House and an act of 'divine obedience' of stopping to pray and being arrested. Some Mennonites also visited with their legislators to express their concerns, gave/attended workshops and nonviolence trainings, and gathered Saturday morning for a PJSN-led time with input by Peter Dula. Susan Mark Landis served on the event's Steering Committee and delivered the opening prayer at the Cathedral. Numerous other Mennonites volunteered organizational, musical, mime, graphic design and architectural gifts. Hundreds of Mennonites who planned to attend were stopped by snow and ice. Many others hosted and attended local events.

The service consisted of three sections, with a brief song, readings and a witness. The first section was "War - Lament" and the readings were the reflections of a U.S. Soldier, an excerpt from the diary of a young Iraqi and a woman in Baghdad. The witness was brought by Celeste Zappala, mother of Sherwood Baker of Philadelphia who was killed in Iraq on April 26th, 2004. She helped found Gold Star Families for Peace. She read a poem about the moment when a military officer came to the door to tell her that her son had been killed.

The second section, "The Cross," included a reading from the testimony of an Abu Ghraib detainee who told about having electrodes attached to his testicles and his interrogators yelling at him and threatening to turn them on. The witness was Reverend Doctor Raphael G. Warnock, the head preacher from Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King preached. Dr. Warnock preached a brief, rousing sermon in charismatic style. He said that it is not a question of whether or not the United States loses the war, but whether we lose our soul. He also reminded us of MLK's analysis of the unholy trinity of poverty, racism and war. It was an inspiring call to repentance as a nation.

Third section was "Hope" and featured a reading from Sheila Provencher of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq read by Carol Rose, CPT co-director. The witness in this section was Reverend Doctor Bernice Powell Jackson, United Church of Christ minister and World Council of Churches North American director. She told us that hope must be rooted in action and a commitment to public struggle. Her framing of our witness as an act of hope helped frame the later march as a Christian witness different from many past marches I've attended.



Top photo: Ecumenical service at Washington National Cathedral; Middle photo: Ron Byler, Associate Executive Director of MC USA and Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, holding PJSN flag during procession; Bottom photo: Candlelight march at White House.

The service was concluded by a call to action by Jim Wallis. He said that our march was not an act of protest, but an act of faith. "Politics is not likely to save us," he said. "It will take faith to end this war." He called us to change the climate of fear that has allowed the Bush administration to carry out its policies with impunity. With a rising voice he called on us to "cast out the fear" in the way that Jesus taught us, with perfect love.

For me, Wallis's best moment was when he reminded us that our war in Iraq has led to many in the world associating America's imperial designs with evangelical Christianity. Having lived in London, England for two and a half years, this resonated with me strongly. Wallis invited us to take advantage of our opportunity there in the national cathedral to say as one

Snapshots from the Peace Witness

Reflections

Five of us from Tabor Mennonite in rural Goessel/Newton, Kansas came together for the event. We ranged in age from 21 to 81. We all marched the entire way even if the older couple was a bit hesitant at first when we filed out of the National Cathedral where the winds were blowing snow and cold. We all attended the Menno gathering on Saturday and also had Keith Swartzendruber walk with us to the recently relocated Mennonite offices on Capitol Hill. The young man who was in my church group has applied to MCC and is thinking about taking an assignment in DC with the Peace Section so it was extremely helpful for him to SEE the building and area where he would possibly work.

I needed to hear Celeste Zappala, Raphael Warnock, and Jim Wallis inspire me to keep on working for peace. Sometimes it seems lonely and unpopular but I feel so strongly that we need "inner peace and outer peace" more than we ever have. Leann Toews

We were all impressed with the speakers and the program. The walk went very well. It wasn't as reverent and solemn as I expected. It was a very important moment and it is one more link in the chain that will hopefully lead to the end of the war. I was involved in the anti-war movement against the Vietnam war and the his-

tory books acknowledge that importance of the anti-war movement. Joe Yoder

Biking for Peace

At a forum discussing the war in Iraq at Eastern Mennonite University in mid-February, professor and former MCCer in Iraq/Jordan Peter Dula stated that there are two things we can do to nonviolently counter the war—refusing to pay war taxes and getting off the oil grid by



using public transit or riding bike. After the discussion, a group of students began considering what it would be like to bike to Washington, DC, for the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq event the following month as a tangible expression of what it means to live and witness for peace. One member of the EMU community stated, "I use my bike for transportation as a statement of active peace building. If I get smeared one day by a tractor trailer on the road, how is that different from those who lose their lives for their beliefs?" In the photo, Kristina Landis displays her biking to DC injuries.

David Landis, Franconia Conference



Relief boxes for Iraq

Mennonites hosted several local events. "A Service of Prayer and Protest" was held March 18, 2007 in Reedley, CA. With scripture, prayer and the arts, Mennonite Peacemakers brought to God our lament for the ongoing violence and loss of life—both American and Iraqi, both soldier and citizen. We asked that God give us strength to resist trusting in violence and guide us in finding creative ways to engage the powers of our world for peace. We prayed for the end of war. The attendees paid for and put together 40 refugee kits for delivery to Iraq by Mennonite Central Committee.



Marc Schlegel, Ken Martens Friesen, Scott Key, Joshua Friesen, Brian DePalma, Delores Friesen, unidentified youth, Lynn Jost, John Isaac, Stephen Penner, Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower

body that "America is not the hope and light of the earth, Jesus is." This may seem like an obvious statement, but for those of us who have spent significant time abroad, is a deeply important statement to make. And hearing it said so strongly in the National

Cathedral was very important to me.

Based on a blog post by Tim Nafziger from the Young Anabaptist Radicals blog (<http://young.anabaptistradicals.org>)



Dove Tales is a tri-annual publication created by the Peace and Justice Support Network, Mennonite Church USA, to resource individuals and congregations in our collective peace and justice work. Ideas, articles and reports can be sent to the editor. **PJSN Leadership Team:** Leo Hartshorn, Valerie Weidman, Andy Peifer Nisley, Jorge Vielman, Yvonne Diaz, Melonie Buller, Titus Peachey, Roger Farmer, Matt Friesen and Jim Roynan. Editor: Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network, 202 South Ann Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-399-8353, LeoH@MennoniteMission.net. Designer: Cynthia Friesen Coyle, volunteer. **PJSN web site:** www.MennoniteUSA.org/peace. **Opinions expressed in Dove Tales are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.**