

Olive Branches

2005 Spread the Peace Grants Awarded

by Leo Hartshorn

The Peace and Justice Support Network annually provides Spread the Peace grants as seed money for new local peace and justice projects. PJSN seeks to spread the work of peace and justice through these grants. PJSN awarded the following grants for 2005:

Grant for \$1,000 to Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, Ore. This grant will be used toward financing the travel expense and part of the honorarium for Perry Yoder who will be on a teaching tour around the Pacific Northwest. This project is motivated by a desire to strengthen the Mennonite commitment to biblical peace and justice, particularly in light of the recent political situation in the US and the Iraq war. Some dates and times include workshops at Mennonite Country Auction in Ritzville, Wash. on Oct 6 and 7, 2006, a Peace and Justice Seminar, including Sunday school, sermon, and fellowship meal at Zion Mennonite on Oct. 15, 2006.

Grant for \$1,000 to Hyattsville Mennonite Church, Hyattsville, Maryland. This grant will be used toward the first three months of rent for

the new Anabaptist Peace Center in Washington, D.C. The new office will be rented from the new Mennonite Central Committee Washington office. The mission of the Anabaptist Peace Center is to engage in education, action, and inter-denominational cooperation in order to encourage and assist both church and society to put into practice Jesus' call to peace and justice.

Grant for \$1,000 to Chicago Community Mennonite Church, Chicago, Ill. This grant will be used to provide six months sanctuary for a Colombian Mennonite pastor and his wife who are threatened with death. They will leave Colombia and live in Chicago for a time. There will be opportunity to network and strengthen relationships with Chicago area Mennonite churches, educate other faith groups and discuss U.S. involvement in Colombia.

If you are interested in applying for a 2006 Spread the Peace grant from PJSN contact: Valerie Weidman, PJSN Administrative Assistant, 543 Garden Hill Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603, 717-397-3855, ValerieW@MennoniteMission.net.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA is to proclaim and promote God's desire for justice (Micah 6:8), Christ's call to peace-making (Matthew 5:9), and the Spirit's reconciling work (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Thanks for Contributions to PJSN in 2005

We are grateful to all who contributed to the PJSN in 2005. Thanks to your generous contributions we raised enough for the Mennonite Mutual Aid matching grant. Every contribution matters!

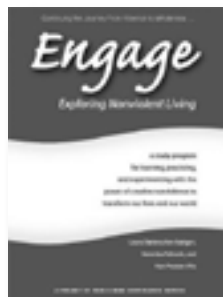
At the time this is written, we still don't know if we've brought in enough to make ends meet for 2005. Please consider a donation to PJSN in the first half of the year so that PJSN can create new resources, print newsletters, pay salaries, hold a regional peace gathering in the Northwest and help you, your church, and your neighbors spread the Good News

of Christ's peace and justice. You may use the enclosed envelope or donate on-line at <http://peace.mennolink.org/donations.html>

This fall, Melonie Buller, Columbus Mennonite Church, Columbus, Ohio accepted our invitation to serve as the PJSN treasurer. She will coordinate the financial activities for PJSN. She is a Certified Public Accountant and works for an affordable housing developer. We welcome her to the PJSN Leadership Team. Melonie can be contacted at: MelonieBuller@aol.com .

New Nonviolence Study and Action Book for Personal and Social Change Published

Pace e Bene Press has just published *Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living*, a workbook on practicing nonviolent options to transform our lives and our world. *Engage* offers individuals, organizations, and social movements ways to tap and use their nonviolent power for positive and long-lasting change. Mohandas Gandhi once wrote, “If the method of violence takes plenty of training, the method of nonviolence takes even more training. . . .” *Engage* is a process that invites people to explore and use this method.



take action for justice and peace in the midst of war, injustice, environmental destruction, and many other pressing challenges facing humanity today. *Engage* is a substantial update and expansion of Pace e

Bene Press’s successful curriculum, *From Violence to Wholeness*. Over 20,000 people have taken *From Violence to Wholeness* workshops, and 13,000 people bought the original *From Violence To Wholeness* book. The new book is designed for use by people and groups from all walks of life and contexts and is available \$22. (S&H) at:

Full of stories, exercises, and resources, this 320-page book offers a process for training people, groups, and organizations to strengthen and deepen their ability to

Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service
2501 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612
510.268.8765, paceebene@paceebene.org

What people are saying about *Engage*:

“It is only when the individual becomes peaceful that the world will become peaceful. *Engage* is the way to transform the self.”

—Arun Gandhi, President, MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.

“This book, *Engage*, is a toolkit for salvation. Beta-tested in the laboratory of hundreds of workshops, it spans the whole field of necessary knowledge to save the world, from the loftiest reaches of theory to how to use a flipchart. No doubt there will be many more handbooks like it in the years to come, but at present this is the only one I know of, and every community should have one.”

—Michael Nagler, Founder, Peace and Conflict Studies, UC Berkeley.

Reach and Teach, an online peace and justice service (Reachandteach.com) says:

“Any group what wants to learn about, practice, and/or experiment with the power of creative non-violence will benefit from this wonderful study guide. Lessons are multi-disciplined and highly engaging for every type of learner, and facilitation of any lesson is straight-forward, with clear instructions.”



Campesino Christ by Leo Hartshorn

Loving Strangers as Ourselves: Biblical Reflecion

This booklet is a timely resource for churches. In this booklet you will find seven lessons written by seven different Anabaptist authors reflecting on God’s view of strangers in scripture. In the biblical text God reminds his people about how to treat the stranger who lives among us. Each lesson has an introduction to the topic, exploration of the biblical text, exploration of the topic, a life application and discussion questions. These biblical reflection lessons could be used in Sunday school or for small group discussion. To price and to order your copy contact:

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Olive Branches is a bi-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 Keeler, Titus Peachey, Roger Farmer, Mark Frey, and Matt Friesen. **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, Americus, Ga. **Web site:** www.mennoniteusa.org/peace. **Opinions expressed in *Olive Branches* are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.**