

GREETINGS ONCE AGAIN, in the name of the Prince of Peace ---

Within two days of this writing is the beginning of Lent, 2012, the start of a 6-weeks' journey with Jesus once again toward the peaceful and joyous Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, followed by his nonviolent acceptance of the violent cross, culminating in his glorious victory over death and sin at the open tomb.

In the midst of all the rich and eternal lessons to be remembered and re-learned during Lent, let us highly value once more God's plan for achieving the blessings and eternal goals brought to us by the Prince of Peace. May that Peace, taught and demonstrated by our Savior, be our example as we faithfully follow "In His Steps" anew.

CHALLENGING REMINDERS FROM GOD'S WORD:

As Jesus came near and saw the city (of Jerusalem), he wept over it, saying, *"If you, even you, had only recognized on this day THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."* (Luke 19:41-44 -- NRSV)

Edition [No. 25] of our Brethren Historical and Biblical Bases for Peacemaking Series

brings you a *Brethren Evangelist* article by Harrie C. Funderberg of New Carlisle, Ohio, in 1935 -- leaving no doubt where he stands regarding Brethren believers serving in the military in those days.

PEACEMAKING AT WORK!

On Earth Peace, the primary Peace organization in the Church of the Brethren, published a booklet in 2006, entitled **SHALOM - Christ's Way of Peace**, by Lani Wright and Susanna Farahat. Here are the highlights of the opening illustration:

Rick Polhamus, a Church of the Brethren member serving on a Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron several years ago, was escorting Palestinian children to school and back, to ensure their safety. The children had to pass through military checkpoints between home and school, and sometimes were subjected to violence from Israeli settlers.

One day some settler youth were throwing stones at the children, preventing them from leaving school out the front door safely. So Rick began taking the children out the back gate. But he encountered an Israeli soldier, who said they could not come that way. Rick tried to negotiate with the soldier, to no avail.

Just then Rick's cell phone rang. He answered, listened a few seconds, and then said "Just a minute." Turning to the soldier, Rick held the phone out to him and said, "It's your mother -- she wants to know what you're doing."

The look of shock and fear on the soldier's face lasted only a few seconds until he realized that the call wasn't really from his mother. "But what if it were?" Rick asked. **"What would you tell your mother you are doing?"** Soon the children were allowed out the back gate and returned safely to their homes.

[The website for On Earth Peace is www.onearthpeace.org .]

QUOTES:

If Jesus taught us anything, he taught us how to die, not how to kill. (John L. McKenzie)

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Still.....KEEPING PEACE IN MIND!

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BRETHREN HISTORICAL and BIBLICAL BASES for PEACEMAKING
[No. 25]

From the 20th Century – 1900's:

[1935] In 1935, Harrie C. Funderberg of New Carlisle, Ohio, claimed "Military Training Unchristian" with these thoughts. "Military training is nowhere sanctioned in the New Testament, and is unethical and unchristian. 'Twice-born' people, we are taught in the Book of all books, are no more of this world. However, they have the right to live in it. (See John 17:15, 16)." In support he uses "Thou shalt not kill," Matt. 5:44, Rom. 12:19, John 18:36. "We have been taught that we could worship our Lord according to the dictates of our conscience. But when a set of men, church members or non-church members, . . . require military training, they compel some to violate conscience. And I can say without fear of successful contradiction that their stand can never be supported by the New Testament." . . .

After reviewing some of the Brethren historical peace stand, he continues, "War is disastrous to the future of the race. It takes of our men and boys those who are physically best and leaves those with physical defects for the propagation of the race. The majority of those who return are disabled and unfit. War is horribly disastrous. . . . I have as yet to find anywhere in the age of Grace where any man was deputized to be a dictator over his fellow man in matters of conscience." ". . . What is more Hell-like than when man confronts his fellowman in battle? Think of it, man made in the likeness of God and of Christ murdering his fellows, and in wholesale fashion? Just a plain sense of morality should teach us better. And more especially does the Gospel. . . . The Christian can find no excuse for taking life, but much is to be found against it." He argues that if he gets in an argument in his town and fights and kills, he is tried and electrocuted. "But if I go out on the battlefield and kill, the more men I kill, the bigger hero I am. Nothing is done with me then. Why? because the Government is back of me. I ask you, Where did the Government get the right to command me to kill my fellow-men?" . . . "Anyway, war does belong to the world and not to the Christian church." (*Brethren Evangelist*, Vol. LVII, No. 39, 10/12/1935, pp. 6, 7)

To Be Continued in the next Peace Email