

BRETHEN PEACE INITIATIVE – 2-6-2012

HELLO YOU BRETHREN PEACE PEOPLE:

VALENTINE'S DAY IS NEXT WEEK, so how about some LOVE THOUGHTS this time!!!

[Our good peace friends, **Jim and Kathy McGinnis**, founded the **Institute of Peace and Justice** 41 years ago in St. Louis, Missouri -- and I've shared resources from their unique peace ministry with you before. Last Fall they circulated the following Litany from one of their publications, entitled "IF ONLY TODAY YOU KNEW THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE." In response to my request, it is shared here with their permission. And I would encourage you to check out their website for other valued peace resources and programs -- www.ipj-ppj.org. Perhaps you can share the Litany with your Sunday School class; or with your family; or with your congregation; or in a sermon!]

A Litany on the PEBBLES of LOVE

In the face of the **boulders** of disrespect for all who are different,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of RESPECT, DIGNITY, and DIVERSITY,**

In the face of the **boulders** of having it all my way,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of MUTUALITY.**

In the face of the **boulders** of tuning out others,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of LISTENING LOVE.**

In the face of the **boulders** of grudges and retaliation,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of FORGIVING LOVE.**

In the face of the **boulders** of using more than our share,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of SIMPLE SUFFICIENCY.**

In the face of the **boulders** of violence against other species and the earth itself,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of BEAUTY and RESPECT.**

In the face of the **boulders** of violent entertainment,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of PLAYFULNESS.**

In the face of the **boulders** of discrimination and exploitation,
LET US BE **PEBBLES of SOLIDARITY.**

"In the face of escalating violence, escalate love!"

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In Edition [No. 24] of our Brethren Historical and Biblical Bases for Peacemaking Series, BRETHREN EVANGELIST Editor, George S. Baer, shares his anti-war thoughts in 1935 -- always timely considerations for Bible-believing people of faith. [Consult Page 3 Below.](#)

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BRETHREN DISTRICT CONFERENCES this Spring and Summer:

This next Sunday, February 12th, is our FLORIDA DISTRICT CONFERENCE to be held in Bradenton at the Crossroads Community Church -- the first of several in our Brethren Church in this new year of 2012. As was done last year, **Brethren Peace Initiative** will prepare a page of information for every District Conference across the denomination between now and the summer conferences. Please watch for that information and consider ways you can integrate it into your congregation's life and peaceful outreach. Thank you!

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**NOW Brethren Peace Initiative has an URGENT NEED!
Namely, we need your Financial Support!!
Here are the Facts!!!**

Our only source of income is from donations/contributions from some of you readers. In the past, gifts have come from 9 individuals or families since 2008 -- some sent sizeable gifts; others (just as important) have sent moderate gifts. All are valued, as you can understand. But now, with our balance at about \$33.00, our need is GREAT as you can also understand.

Some of our expenses are for literature for distribution. But a major expense is to send our semi-monthly BPI Peace Email to 13 WMS women who have no email capabilities, which costs BPI about \$25.00 per month. We are pleased to do that, for we want those ladies to share in our ministry (along with several others who are in the email network), but it does cost money. There are no salaries, of course, or travel expenses for the BPI Leadership Team.

Large donations are certainly welcomed and appreciated. But just as much, many smaller contributions are greatly appreciated --\$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00etc -- make a big difference. Here's what to do if you can be a part of this crucial need right now:

Make checks payable to "**Brethren Peace Fund.**"

Send to Stan Gentle, Treasurer
Brethren National Office
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

Stan will send an acknowledgement
and we will send you a "thank you."

This is an appeal; this is a plea; please try to help!!!

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A final Valentine "LOVE" Directive:

Jesus tells you and me: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this everyone everyone! will know that you are my disciples, IF you have love for one another."

Keeping Peace in Mind,
Phil Lersch, Facilitator
Brethren Peace Initiative, which includes
Rich and Carolyn Hagopian,
Mark and Chantal Logan
Ryan Gilmer and Matt Black

BRETHREN HISTORICAL and BIBLICAL BASES for PEACEMAKING

[No. 24]

From the 18th (1700's) and 19th (1800's) Centuries:

NOTE: Our resources from the 18th and 19th Centuries have all been reported in previous **Peace Email** Attachments, so from this point on only statements from the 20th Century will be published.

In the 20th Century, previous statements have already been printed from conferences and individuals from 1900 to 1935. Thus, in this and following **Peace Email** Editions will be statements on record from 1935 on.

From the 20th Century – 1900's:

[1935] In 1935, George S. Baer, Editor of the Brethren Evangelist, wrote about "The Christian and War." In speaking about convictions against war, he says, "The vast majority of Christian teachers are neglecting that part of the teaching of the Word; at that point as at many others, they are not teaching the 'whole Gospel.' They are keeping quiet about the curse of war and the sin of strife and the taking of life. With only a comparatively few doing any searching of the Scriptures for themselves, there is a deplorable lack of religious conviction against war. And without such religiously founded conviction, there will be no strong, definite, persistent opposition to participation in war. There may be, and is, among men of the world much opposition to war based upon many reasons, but when a crisis arises and war is made to appear as a patriotic duty, all such opposition is usually withdrawn, or temporarily suspended, because such a course is easier than continued opposition.

But for the Christian, whose opposition to war is based upon religious convictions, based upon faith in and an acceptance of the teachings of Christ for his life,— for him there can be no sharing in so unchristian an institution as war. He may be called upon to suffer persecution for his faith's sake, but if his conscience has really been enlightened and empowered by the Word of God and his Holy Spirit, there will be no compromise, no blessing of war, no sharing in the sin of carnal warfare. It is not the spirit of disloyalty to human governments that causes the Christian to take such a stand, for he has been taught in the written revelation of God by which his life is guided, to be obedient to the regularly constituted authorities. The Christian is by his very nature (his new nature) a law-abiding citizen. But when the decrees of men contravene the clear and definite word of God, he must say with the rock-like disciple of old, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" (*Brethren Evangelist*, Vol. LVII, No. 13, 3/30/1935, p. 3)

To Be Continued in the next Peace Email