



# The ANGLICAN PACIFIST of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter of the New Zealand Branch of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

## To Christchurch members from the Chairman and Committee of APFNZ:

Our hearts go out to you in this terrible catastrophe which has ravaged your beautiful city.

We are praying for protection for you and your families. God grant that you may be strengthened at this time in all your tribulations, and that in the midst of this destruction you may know his peace and be instruments of his healing grace.

Many of us will be contributing to the Bishops' Emergency Appeal, but please let us know if there is any other way in which we can help.

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### From the Chairman

Our APF weekend conference will soon be underway, and the registration form accompanies this newsletter.

For many years the conference was held in mid-winter, but as this is the optimum time for illness and travel difficulty, we decided to change the season. Last year it was held in April at Whakatane. Despite an interesting programme and an excellent venue, we had only half the usual number of people. Whether this disappointing outcome was the result of post-Easter fatigue, or a small-town venue, or other imponderables, I cannot tell, but we hope that more people will be able to come this year.

We are a small society and although there are other

## CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE PRAYER

Sande Ramage

God – the world is in an uproar.  
While ordinary people in the Middle East  
call for justice and a fair way of life,  
the ground rolls beneath Christchurch again.

It's incongruous that I sit here looking out at green trees  
and a still horizon beckoning me to hope  
while troops are opening fire on demonstrators in Libya  
and the Cathedral tower shatters.

Life is not fair - life is not just.  
Nor is it able to be taken in measured doses.  
Chaos can mean there is nowhere else to go  
and nothing left to do  
but to cry out to you  
as though you are the silent ear,  
hearing our cries  
absorbing them into yourself  
and crying with us.

Even as bullets fly and buildings disintegrate,  
may compassion rise in all of us  
to be the God that walks and talks in the world today.

# APF Annual Retreat & AGM

April 1 to 3, Houchen House, Hamilton. Programme on back page

pacifists around, most of us are surrounded by people who consider us quaint, or naive, or unrealistic and in times of war, cowardly and unpatriotic. The majority of church people appear to go with the Constantinian flow, and consider our no-war stance to be eccentric and much less important than, for example, the issues surrounding homosexuality. Therefore as we spend much of our time espousing a minority viewpoint, it is important for us to meet others of like mind from time to time. I think that this is the most important function of our conferences.

However, we can also learn a lot. Our programme this year includes a Bible study about a very basic question: in what circumstances is a Christian allowed to intentionally take the life of another person, or is killing prohibited? Do we reach our pacifist position from believing that we must not kill, or do other considerations lead us to our “no to war” end-point? Hornus, in his book, ‘It is not lawful for me to fight’ (1980), states that the pacifism of the early church was the result of members refusing to kill other people. However, since the 4th century, Christians have killed a lot of people for one reason or another, and the churches’ energies have been deployed more in defining the cull, than in seeking absolute protection for every human being.

The following session continues the theme from another angle, and members will be asked how they first became involved in pacifism, who and what influenced them at the time, and what led them to join the APF. I hope that everyone present will be able to contribute, and I would suggest not more than 5 minutes per person.

The third session follows on from last year, when Sande Ramage encouraged us to look at our core beliefs, and the purpose of the Fellowship. The viewpoint she took was that of marketing a product to attract and inspire outsiders, particularly the

younger generation. She skilfully put us through the mangle, and left the committee with some homework. It has been a surprisingly difficult task, and this session will review and build on last year’s work.

The Saturday evening session is designed to entertain as well as inform. It is suggested that everyone brings one or more short items to the gathering. These could be a favourite quote, or passage from a recent read, or a book review. It could be some music, (a CD player will be available), we could sing, or someone could produce a short talk on a particular bee in their bonnet. Someone might have a picture to show, etc. Peacemaking is the theme, and hopefully it won’t all be serious.

The rest of the programme will be obvious from the registration form, and I hope that many of you will be able to come. The conference is open to people not in the APF, so if you have friends who would be interested in attending, please bring them along.

I finish with a quote from a book that I recently picked up second-hand in London. It is written by Peter Calvocoressi, a historian and book publisher.

“The pacifist cannot do anything. His role is not to do, but to be. But it is immensely important that he continue to be. He sees to it that we preserve the ideal of peace. He stands on the line between civilisation and barbarism. Without him, society crosses that line. His kind are the quintessential martyrs, often derided and disregarded, but never snuffed out. He proclaims the supreme value of peace, even though he cannot ensure it. For this ineffectiveness, he is not to be belittled, because without him the impulse to peace could be lost.”

*(A time for Peace, p.112, Hutchinson 1987)*

Shalom, Jonathan.

## Peace & Conflict Studies Centre

The ANZPCSC trust has raised \$100,000 towards the cost of a Peace Education lecturer. A further anonymous donation of \$500,000 will enable a Deputy Director to be appointed. The centre will thus have three full time staff plus two post doctoral Fellows.

**From the Trust’s newsletter, February 2011:**

### **Appointment of new Trustee.**

Treasa Dunworth is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland, where she teaches and researches in the area of international law. Her particular interests lie in arms control and disarmament, as well as the accountability of international organisations and the role of international law in New Zealand domestic law.



## News from the Centre. Graduation 2010

The first Graduation Ceremony for the Centre took place on the 18th December 2010 and 10 students graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in Peace and Conflict Studies.

### Enrolments for 2011

17 students from within NZ and overseas have registered for the Post Graduate Diploma and this number is expected to rise during enrolment week. 11 students are enrolled in the Masters by Thesis programme and these students are drawn from Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Canada, Australia as well as NZ. The Centre has also enrolled 5 Ph.D students.



*The NCPAS Faculty at their first Graduation Ceremony.  
(From left: Kevin Clements, Heather Devere, Karen Brouneus, Isak Svensson)*

# Elderly US Peacemakers face prison sentences

Gandhi: Non-co-operation with evil is as much a duty as is co-operation with good.

*Tacoma, Washington, Monday, December 13, 2010, (with acknowledgement to PMA.)*

The federal criminal trial of five veteran peace activists ended after the jury found them guilty on all counts. The defendants challenged the legality and morality of the US storage and use of thermonuclear missiles by Trident nuclear submarines at the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base outside Bremerton, Washington.

In their defence the peace activists argued three points: the nuclear missiles are weapons of mass destruction; those weapons are both illegal and immoral; and that all citizens have the right and duty to try to stop international war crimes from being committed.

The five were charged with trespass, felony damage to federal property, felony injury to property and felony conspiracy to damage property. Each defendant faces possible sentences of up to ten years in prison.

On trial were : Anne Montgomery, 83, a Sacred Heart sister; Bill Bischel, 81, a Jesuit priest; Susan Crane, 67, a member of the Jonah House community; Lynne Greenwald, 60, a nurse; and Steve Kelly, 60, a Jesuit priest.

The five admitted from the start that they cut through the chain link fence surrounding the Navy base during the night of November 2, 2009. They then walked undetected for hours nearly four miles

inside the base to the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific, where activists say hundreds of nuclear missiles are stored. There they cut through two more barbed wire fences and went inside. They put up two big banners which said, "Disarm Now Plowshares: Trident Illegal and Immoral", scattered sunflower seeds, and prayed until they were arrested at dawn. Once arrested, the five were handcuffed and hooded with sand bags, because the marine in charge testified, "when we secure prisoners in Iraq or Afghanistan we hood them ... so we did it to them."

There were many indications that the jury found it difficult to convict the Disarm Now Plowshares defendants. Jury questions, facial expressions, body language and post-trial conversations all gave this impression.

After the verdict was read and the judge was about to dismiss the jury, Steve Kelly stood and announced that the defendants would like to bless the jury. They all stood with their hands raised in blessing as Steve said, "May you go in peace and have a safe, happy holiday."

Sentencing is scheduled for March 28, 2011, at 9:00 am.

*Let us support these courageous people with our prayers.*

# APF Annual Retreat and AGM

Houchen House, 83 Houchen Road, Hamilton

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd April 2011

## PROGRAMME

### Friday

- 4.30 pm onwards: Arrive.
- 6 pm Dinner
- 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting
- 9 pm Night prayer

### Saturday

- 7.45 am Eucharist
- 8.30 Breakfast
- 9.15 Bible Study: "Why is it wrong to kill?"
- 10.30 Morning tea
- 11 am Members' stories about how they became pacifists
- 12.30 Lunch
- Free time
- 3 pm Afternoon tea
- 3.30 pm Discussion on Sande Ramage's proposals and brainstorming committee's progress
- 6 pm Dinner
- 7.30 pm. Members talk about books, DVDs, films, songs and other resources which they have found helpful.
- 9 pm Night prayer

### Sunday

- 8.30 am Breakfast
- 10 am. Eucharist at St Peter's Cathedral
- 12.30 Lunch
- 2 pm Depart

**Fees:** \$200 per person, residential for the whole weekend (subsidised)

*Please return the registration form as soon as possible.*

## Anglican Pacifist Fellowship New Zealand Branch

[www.converge.org.nz/pma/apf](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/apf) or [www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk](http://www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk)

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*Members are invited to submit copy for publication in our newsletter. Please email it to one of the editors.*