

WE'RE BAAAACK !!!

Greetings, friends old and new! The Peacebuilding Institute of East Tennessee has undergone some changes recently. During our transition, we have not published the *Peace Memo*. Now we're back, better than ever. *Peace Memo* will be issued electronically, on or near the first of each month.

This is *your* newsletter. Please send us articles, news of your events, links to web sites, questions, and anything else you would like to share with the worldwide peacebuilding community. Let us learn from each other! Our success depends on your contributions.

This issue is late because of the holidays and my travel schedule. For future issues, please send your submissions to thepeacememo@gmail.com by the 18th of the month. While I can't guarantee I'll fit everything in, I'll do my best to keep *Peace Memo* informative, relevant, and lively.

For peace,

Victoria

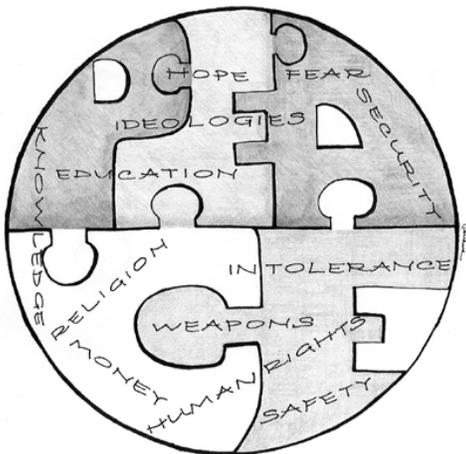


Image by Rossana Henriquez, source: <http://selections.rockefeller.edu/cms/miscellaneous/is-peace-possible-.html>

Twelve Actions for a More Peaceful 2011

Original 10 posted by [Craig Zelizer](#) on December 20, 2010. Supplemented and amended by Jim Foster and Victoria Medaglia.

Hi Everyone --

I wanted to put together a list of [10 possible recommendations](#) to help make the world more peaceful and encourage others to contribute their own lists as we move into 2011.

1) Examine how to create more peace in your personal life - If we do not have some degree of peace in our own internal lives, there is the question of how effective we can be in helping to build peace in our organizations, communities, societies, and the world. There is no recipe for building peace, but there are many options that people have explored such as meditation, yoga, exercise, writing, reflecting, building community, and more. Some key resources here are: [Peace Revolution](#), [Beliefnet.com](#), [The Fetzer Institute](#), [Charity Focus](#) and [The Daily Good](#).

2) Share your experiences and hopes for peace, as well as frustrations around conflict - [The Peace and Collaborative Development Network](#) is an open resource where people can share both their success stories of helping to address conflicts around the world, and also ask questions/inquiry about ways to improve practice. If you have a particular success story, please share it with others. If you have questions/challenges that you would like input on please feel free to post it on this site (and of course on other social networking sites).

3) Support Organizations working to effect change in the world - There are thousands of dynamic organizations around the world working to address conflict, build community, foster economic development, and more. There are many ways you can

support organizations such as contributing financially, volunteering, and more. I do not want to endorse specific organizations, but some resources that can be helpful in identifying opportunities include the [Peacebuilding Institute](#), [Institute for Interfaith Relationships](#), and [Voices in the Treetops](#), among others.

4) Advocate for Preventing and Ending Conflicts - One of the challenges in conflict prevention is that often policymakers, NGO professionals, academics and others may have information about the potentially negative direction of conflicts. However, translating this information to effective policy changes often requires extensive advocacy campaigns by individuals, NGOs, religious groups, and the larger civil society. Advocacy can mean anything from writing a legislator, talking with policymakers, taking direct action, and more. For some useful examples of Advocacy Approaches see the [International Crisis Group](#), [Women Thrive Worldwide](#) and the [Genocide Intervention Network](#).

5) Mainstream a Conflict Sensitive Approach into your organization/company - Many organizations and companies around the world are beginning to look at how they can integrate a conflict sensitive approach (see the work of [International Alert](#)) throughout their external and internal operations. This means examining how an organization's internal hiring, procurement and other policies, as well as the external interactions and services can help to potentially reduce conflicts.

6) Get Additional Training - There are many different paths to pursuing a career in international conflict and related fields. If you feel like you might benefit from additional training there are many academic options, professional training programs, summer institutes and more that can help provide additional training and skills. Watch

the [Peace Memo](#) for announcements of workshops and other events.

7) Join an Existing Network - There are many academic and professional networking organizations that exist around the world that focus on conflict related issues. In the United States, the [Association for Conflict Resolution](#) is a network of practitioners, the [Peacebuilding Institute](#) is a network of organizations, the [Peace and Justice Studies Association](#) is a network of academics and activists, the [International Conflict Management Association](#) has an annual conference.

8) Engage in Productive Dialogue with Others - One of the keys of addressing conflicts is building understanding and connections between people with diverse perspectives. There are many organizations working on facilitating and engaging communities in dialogue, conversation, and discussion. Find an organization in your community, or start your own process. Some great resources in this area include the [Public Conversations Project](#), the [Kettering Foundation](#), and the [World Cafe](#).

9) Foster Sustainable Economic Development - One of the key ingredients in building peace in post-conflict societies is to help create sustainable economic opportunities for communities. This can be done through a variety of means, international development, [social entrepreneurship](#), [socially responsible investing](#), lobbying for changes to foreign assistance programs and more. One of my favorite resources is [Social Edge](#) sponsored

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by the Skoll Foundation. Also check out the [Institute for Spirituality and Global Economics](#), an affiliate of the Peacebuilding Institute.

10) Build Community in your Own Life -

There are many ways to build community in your own personal and professional circles. If you don't know your neighbors, invite them over for a party or gathering, start a new group to gather people around a common interest, look for existing volunteer opportunities, contribute time and resources for helping others, etc.

11) Pray for peace within, peace in our families, peace in our neighborhoods and peace in our world –

Invite others to join you in these prayers. Contribute to a critical mass of those persons committed to peace through spiritual means. Join communities of faith that are committed to issues of peace and justice. Subscribe to [En Christo: A Journal for a New Christianity](#) or other publications that promote peace and justice. (Jim)

12) Strive to develop less violent ways of communicating –

Many of the metaphors and images that make our language so colorful are derived from sports (tackle a problem) or war (battle disease). One I use more than I like is, "That blew me away!" Do I take that image from high winds or from IEDs in Afghanistan? Are there less violent, equally vivid expressions I could use? For more on nonviolent communication, see the [Center for Nonviolent Communication](#). (Victoria)

Please feel free to add your own suggestions and lists for a more peaceful 2011.

Enjoying your freedom? Thank a protester!

Celebrate 12 Years of Cooperative Peacebuilding in East Tennessee!

*The Peacebuilding Institute
of East Tennessee
Invites You
To a Peacebuilders' Potluck*



**Friday, January 28
6:30-9:30 PM**

**Church of the Good Shepherd
5337 Jacksboro Pike, Fountain City**

We will provide lasagna (including vegetarian and carnivore), bread, salad, and drinks.

Bring a desert – enough for a crowd. Bring a friend or two.

RSVP: jimsandyfoster@yahoo.com

WELCOMING THE STRANGER: KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

A time to come together and get to know the strangers among us, even realizing that we are also strangers among them. We will have some myth-busting and inspiration moments to help us put a face to the many issues affecting this city.

SPEAKERS

Patricio Gonzalez. An eloquent Dreamer (young people yearning for higher education) who was brought to the United States when he was five years old by his parents without the proper documentation.

Miguel Gonzalez. The driving force of the Welcoming Shelbyville Initiative. An active member of this community who has seen this project become a reality.

David Morales. Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition's (TIRRC)

Communications and Welcoming Tennessee Initiative Coordinator (WTI).

Abdulkadir Gure. TIRRC's Non-Latino Organizer, originally from Somalia and president of the Taxi association in Nashville. Gure's stories are powerful and will definitely encourage you even in your daily life.

De Ann Pendry. A professor of Anthropology at UTK, and someone who has been serving the immigrant community for many years.

Miguel Carpizo. A student of Society, Culture, and people. Graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor in Science in Sociology with a concentration in immigration and cultural diversity. A philosopher of life without any formal studies.

THE SPARROW SINGS

November, 2010

All during the recent election campaigns there was hardly any mention of the high cost of the 2 invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Besides the deaths—often estimated over 1 million people—more than \$1.1 trillion has already been spent, with no end in sight. It is estimated that it has cost the U.S. \$50 million to kill each Taliban. The proposed U.S. embassy to be built in Kabul will cost \$500 million. A new audit shows that the U.S. cannot account for nearly \$18 billion earmarked for the Afghan occupation. ([Democracy Now](#), 10/29/10). U.S. soldiers sent to Iraq and injured will need \$600 billion for their healthcare. However, there is hardly a peep from the Tea Party, which usually vehemently complains about the overspending of tax payer money. Over 55% of federal taxes are spent by military bureaucrats and lobbyists at the Pentagon. If we cut military spending by only 1% we

could completely eliminate poverty in the U.S. ([Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Online](#), 11/19/10) If we used the tax money for basic human needs instead of invading and occupying countries for economic reasons we could guarantee all our citizens—not just some—education and healthcare. In other words, we could have what most Europeans already have. All we have to do is follow their example and drastically cut military spending. It would be a step in the right direction towards a more peaceful and just world. We get what we pay for. -----Don Timmerman

“Rather than keeping us safer, the prison at Guantanamo has weakened American national security.” -- Frida Berrigan, Senior Program Associate at the New America Foundation's Arms and Security Initiative (ASI)

“The raids are a problem always ... always. ... They have to go away.” -- President Kazai of Afghanistan, who says the U.S. should shift from a military focus to civilian efforts in order to reduce its “intrusiveness” into daily Afghan life

“Not to lie, steal, and harm is true Islam. -- Abdul Ghaffar Kahn in *Nonviolent Soldier of Islam* (Nilgiri Press, 1984, 1999; originally entitled *A Man to Match His Mountain* by Eknath Easwaran).

“...If you can hold the person you love, be thankful. If you can walk on green grass, touch a tree, be thankful. If you can breathe air that didn't come through a ventilation system, or a window with bars, be thankful. If you can stand in an open field or some other place at night and look up at the heavens, be thankful. No one appreciates the simple things as much as a man or woman locked away.... I wrestle with what to say to you and words are sometimes so inadequate. So if you are free today, un-imprisoned, be thankful. Give the person next to you a hug for me. May the Great Spirit bless you always in all ways with the things you need.

May you find joy in doing what is right and righting what is wrong and seek to be the best example of what a human should be in our lifetime.” -- Leonard Peltier, prisoner of conscience

While 50 million Americans are suffering hunger or are at risk of it, the U.S. political system is focused entirely on the plight of millionaires facing a tax increase December 31. Two million children in the world die each year from hunger. - CARE

Some 92% of Afghans are not aware of what happened on 9/11. -- [Truthout](#), 11/23/10

Soldiers in 4-9 Infantry Brigade stated that the Army drove one soldier to suicide. Soldiers are humiliated if they seek help for mental problems from their superiors. A rash of incidents involved soldiers from the Joint Base Lewis Mchord in Washington had untreated mental issues, including one soldier who shot a police officer in Salt Lake City UT. -- [Veterans for Peace](#)

For FY2009-2018 the U.S. military aid to Israel will total \$498,726,440.08. – [Jewish Voice for Peace](#)

The Obama administration has abandoned plans to close the Guantanamo Bay prison. Gitmo will remain open for the foreseeable future. He also said Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, will remain jailed without trial indefinitely. He will not have the opportunity of a trial. -- A.P.

It will cost \$4 billion to reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenals to 1,550 nuclear warheads and 700 missile silos and bombers each. The \$4 billion will come on top of the \$10 billion the administration has already offered to upgrade nuclear facilities over the next decade. – [Democracy Now](#), 11/15/2010

PASSING THE PEACE

"What Your Church Can Do RIGHT NOW For Peace"

[Passing the Peace](#) is an interfaith, international organization that believes all people share the same dream: to live peacefully with our neighbor, to provide for ourselves and our children, and to work towards a brighter tomorrow.

This two and one-half day event will focus on outreach ministries locally, nationally and globally as well as advocacy/prophetic work designed to foster a world of peace and justice for all God's people. (Important: This event has been recognized as a 2 unit continuing education event by the leaders of the New Jersey Board of Ordained Ministry for clergy participants).

When: February 28 - March 2, 2011

Where: St. John's UMC, Hazlett, NJ

Registration

Early Bird (Before Feb 1, 2011): \$159.00

Regular Registration (After Feb 1, 2011): \$189.00

Group rates for 3 or more attending from the same church: \$400.00/\$500.00.

Accommodations:

Best Western Hazlet Inn

3215 New Jersey 35, Hazlet NJ

(732) 888-2800

*Special conference rate of \$79.00/night

Reserve Now

Since this is a long way for many or our readers, people may consider carpooling. Contact Victoria (thepeacememo./,,,,,,@gmail.com) and she'll put you in touch with each other so you can make your own arrangements. Please include your ZIP code in your email.

Peace Memo



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!*

When	Who	What	Where	Details
January 16 2:00 PM	PIET	Planning Meeting	Church of the Savior 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN	Finalize plans for the Peacebuilder's Potluck
January 28 6:30-9:30 PM	PIET and Friends	Third annual Peacebuilders' Potluck	Church of the Good Shepherd 5337 Jacksboro Pike, Fountain City	Reservations required: Jim Foster: phone 865-573-4089, email: jimsandyfoster@yahoo.com
February 10 7:00-9:00 PM	Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition	Program	Church of the Savior 934 N. Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN	Welcoming the Stranger: a community forum on the situation of legal and undocumented immigrants.

