

Peace with Justice Sunday Offering
June 11, 2006



Dear Pastor & Offering Chair Person,

In the 2006 Peace with Justice Poster - A Child soldier stands grimly at Sinyea Village, Liberia. This year a **Methodist woman became the president of Liberia**. Seeds of HOPE have been planted for the nation of Liberia. Help to bring peace and justice to a hurting world. Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, June 11, 2006, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Your gift makes a world of difference. **IF THE DESIGNATED DATE DOES NOT FIT WITH YOUR CHURCH'S CALENDAR, PLEASE SELECT AN ALTERNATE DATE FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S OBSERVANCE OF PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY OR MAKE A DONATION FROM YOUR MISSION FUND.**

FREE collection leaflets, posters and offering boxes are available for worship services, Sunday School class offerings, Vacation Bible Schools or small group fellowship gatherings. Order by phone from UMCOM (888) 346-3862 or order direct by internet at <http://www.umcsgiving.org/content/sundays/peace.asp>

In this mailing, you will find bulletin inserts, samples of free resources from UMCOM and worship materials.

The SWTX Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) would like to thank you for your donations in the past and remind you that

One-half (50%) of the offering will remain in the SWTX Conference

Some of the areas of Peace with Justice Ministries within the SWTX Conference include:

- Living the Social Principles Workshops
- Texas Impact Programs:
 - *Public Education Funding
 - *Breath of Life: Clearing Texas Air
 - *Faithful participation in democracy: recognizing every person's voice
- Restorative Justice Ministries:
 - *Prisoner Releasee Referral
 - *Criminal Justice Legislation Awareness
- Reconciliation & Healing Methods Training
- Creating A Culture of Peace Ministry
- Interface with conference Events
 - *Weekday Ministries Workshops
 - *UMW: Shalom, Salaam, Peace Bible Study
 - *District Leadership Training Workshops
- Collaboration with Texas Conference of Churches, Church Women United and JUSTPEACE
- Peace with Justice Networking Listserv

For information, resources or scheduling a presentation or workshop for your congregation, contact Southwest Texas Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator, Wanda Holcombe at (888) 349-4191, Extn. 576, (512) 619-3469 or E-mail: wholcomb@umcswtx.org

Thank you in advance for participating,

Rev. Bill Johnson, Chair-Conference Board of Church & Society
Wanda Holcombe, Peace with Justice Coordinator -SWTC

Peace with Justice Offering
50% for National & International UMC
Website: www.umc-gbcs.org

Peace with Justice grants serve populations of homeless, youth at risk, college students, families, and church leadership. Often they involve young persons and their families in ministry. Look on the GBCS website to see how the other 50% of the offering is being used for PwJ Grants in the US and internationally from Liberia to the Philippines. Also Barbara Ford Young, who is a member of the Southwest Texas Conference Board of Church & Society, can share information too as she is a member also of the Board of Directors for the GBCS on the Peace with Justice Committee. A few of the Ministries receiving Peace with Justice Grants in 2005:

- Ghana-West Africa: Student Consultation on Peace
- Rio Grande Conference: Immigration
- Moscow - Russia: Racial Attacks & Harassment
- Texas Conference: Creating Culture of Peace Program

Peace with Justice Biblical Foundations Considerations

In the heart of the Old Testament is the testimony to shalom, the Hebrew word that means peace. Shalom is positive peace: harmony, wholeness, health, and well being in all human relationships. It is the natural state of humanity as birthed by God. It is harmony between humanity and all of God's good creation. All of creation is interrelated. Every creature, every element, every force of nature participates in the whole of creation. If any person is denied shalom, all are thereby diminished. Paul's letter's announce that Jesus Christ is "our peace". It is Christ who has "broken down the dividing wall of hostility", creating one humanity, overcoming enmity, so making peace (Ephesians 2:14-19). It is Christ who ordains a ministry of reconciliation. Repentance prepares us for reconciliation. Then we shall open ourselves to the transforming power of God's grace in Christ. Then we shall know what it means to be "in Christ". Then we are to become ambassadors of a new creation, a new Kingdom, a new order of love and justice (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

It is the foundation of our faith that enables us in The United Methodist Church to offer hope to those in despair and to bring forth joy to replace sadness. Sow love where there is hatred; where injury, pardon; where darkness, light. As instruments of peace and justice, we can seek to replace discord with harmony and to repair the brokenness that shatters the wholeness of shalom.

Some other suggested Biblical passages to use:

Amos 5:24, Isaiah 32:16-18 Isaiah 54:10, Ezekiel 37:26, Revelation 7

Peace with Justice Suggested Hymns

- "Let There Be Peace on Earth," 431 (UMH)
- "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace," 2171 (FWS)
- "For the Healing of the Nations," 428 (UMH)
- "Behold a Broken World," 426 (UMH)
- "Many Gifts, One Spirit" 114 (UMH)
- "What Does the Lord Require of You," 2174 (FWS)
- "Spirit Song", 347 (UMH)
- "The Hope of the World," 178 (UMH)
- "Hymn of Promise," 707 (UMH)

