

...*BRIEFLY*

NEWSLETTER OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP
Vol. 62 General Assembly Issue 2006
Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today

THE PEACE BREAKFAST

at the 217th General Assembly, Birmingham, Alabama

Saturday, June 17, 2006

6:45 to 8:45 A.M.

Sheraton Hotel, Ballrooms III & IV at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Complex

Speaker **THE REV. DR. ALICE WINTERS**

Our Presbyterian Mission Worker in Colombia Speaks on Peacemaking in the Midst of Violence

2005 Peaceseeker Award

Ann Barr Weems

Presbyterian Poet Peaceseeker

2006 Peaceseeker Award

Milton Mejia and Anne Barstow

for the Accompaniment Program in Colombia

“The Blessing of the Letters”

Join in Prayers for the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Endowment Campaign

***IMPORTANT – RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BEFORE COMING TO THE G.A. IN
BIRMINGHAM (because the breakfast comes early, on the 2nd morning of the Assembly)***

Tickets \$14.00 through the G.A. registration service. (Full Breakfast)

PPF discount to Commissioners and Advisory Delegates: \$5.00 rebate at the breakfast with official name tag

SPECIAL REDUCED PRICE FOR ADVANCE TICKETS BY MAIL:

\$13.25 per ticket, if you send your check before June 1st, made out to Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, to PEGGY HOWLAND, 245 Rumsey Road, Apt. 3-J, Yonkers, NY 10701-4526. Tickets will be held for you at the door. Send your e-mail address for confirmation or for information to PegHowland@aol.com

From the Editor...

Welcome, Commissioners and PPF members, to this General Assembly issue of ...**BRIEFLY**, the newsletter of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

As Presbyterians gather for the first biennial Assembly in Birmingham, commissioners will tackle a record number of overtures, a task force report and difficult peace issues, such as divestment and our witness to Israel/Palestine. And after 2 years, you know that there will be plenty of pent up Presbyterianism going around!

For over 60 years, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has stood for dialogue, hospitality and courage at each Assembly. We invite you to visit our booth and our June 17 breakfast where you will hear Presbyterians of remarkable courage. Join us as we "lay hands" that day on the letters for our new Endowment Campaign and lift our prayers for the courage of peacemakers of the future.

We in the PPF are proud of the courageous witness of out-going moderator Rick Ufford-Chase, who happens also to be our PPF co-moderator. With a war going on and another on the drawing board, he has lived out "the peacemaker's calling." Thank you, Rick & family. We wish you well.

This special GA issue is dedicated to the memory of 2 American peacemakers: William Sloane Coffin and Tom Fox. One lived a more-than-full life of peacemaking. The other's life was taken in Iraq by the cycle of violence he sought to transform. May their courage live in all that we do---in Birmingham and beyond.

Jan Orr-Harter, editor

BRIEFLY...is the quarterly newsletter of the
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
P.O. Box 271 Nyack, NY 10960
www.presbypeacefellowship.org

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Peacemaking Calendar

May 21-22 Days of Prayer & Action for Colombia
To sign up, contact Erik@witnessforpeace.org

June 2-3 No2Torture Gathering in Chicago
First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, IL
www.no2torture.org

June Is Torture Awareness Month

June 15-23 Visit the Peace Fellowship Booth at the 217th General Assembly. **See Daily Events p. 8**

June 17 The Peace Breakfast, Birmingham,
See p. 1 **Please make reservations early.**

July 17-23 PPF Ghost Ranch Seminar, *Economy, Ecology & Empire*, see p.8 Co-Sponsored by the Witherspoon Society & Presbyterians for Restoring Creation

July 25-August 11 Young Adult Peacemaking Network Travel Study Seminar to Russia; Topic: Terrorism in Our Time: The Response of Church and State. For information and application forms, see www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/ya.htm

Aug. 2006 PPF Educational Delegation to Colombia to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Colombian Presbyterian Church. Contact Anne Barstow at annebarstow@peoplepc.com

Sept. 21-Oct.2 PPF Colombia Educational Delegation to Barranquilla and Uraba. Contact Parrish Jones at parrishjones@starpower.net

Sept. 18-20 PPF National Committee, Chicago



IRAN ACTION ALERT: Watch the PPF website for news on rumored U.S. plans to attack Iran in the near future, possibly coordinating with Israel to use tactical nuclear weapons to destroy the Iranian nuclear program. Experts believe this will lead to all-out war in the Middle East and beyond.

Resources:

The Iran Plans by Seymour Hersh, *The New Yorker*, www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/060417fa_fact
www.thinkprogress.org/2006/04/08/bombing-iran/
www.globalresearch.ca

U.S. Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121

president@whitehouse.gov

Whitehouse Comment Line 202-456-1111

(The operator said, "I hope he listens to you.")

1Peacemaking at the 217th General Assembly By Marilyn White, Austin, TX

Israel-Palestine and Divestment

The controversial process initiated in 2004 by the 216th General Assembly to consider divestment from selected companies doing business in Israel will be reconsidered by the 217th GA when it meets in Birmingham in June. At press time, 14 overtures on the Israel-Palestine conflict had been received. Only one (O-62, Presbytery of San Francisco) reaffirms the divestment decision and it encourages investment in joint Palestinian-Israeli ventures and directs the Peacemaking Program to offer study tours to visit both Israelis and Palestinians.

Seven overtures would overturn or apply brakes to the divestment process, asking GA to "suspend," "cease," "revoke," or "rescind" it. Of these, the most extreme is O-1 from the Presbytery of Mississippi, which not only calls for rescinding the process to explore divestment, but also would remove the 2004 request for the U.S., Israel, and the Palestinian leadership to negotiate compromises leading to peace. The overture goes on to suggest that the only restriction against an Israeli security wall should be that it not encroach upon land that was Palestinian before 1967. It calls for repeal of the 216th GA's criticism of Christian Zionism. It concludes with an interesting proposal to refer future overtures that might "damage relationships with Jews to the presbyteries for a period of study and reflection before voting to approve or reject such overtures."

The mildest of this group of overtures (O-57 from Eastern Virginia) merely "suspends" divestment activity until a new task force can prepare a comprehensive Middle East policy for consideration by the 218th GA.

Six overtures address the controversy itself without asking to terminate the divestment process. O-15 asks the GA to be "fair, evenhanded and just in their language and actions." Overtures from National Capital, New York City, Transylvania, and Chicago include among their requests that new investments be made in ventures which are contributing to the region's peace in some way. A second overture from the Presbytery of New York city joins Eastern Virginia in the call for a task force but without

adding a suspension of the policy in the interim.

With at least 7 overture advocates representing the anti-divestment forces at General Assembly, divestment defenders will be at a disadvantage when the issue is considered in committee. *The Israel-Palestine mission network is looking for people willing to testify at the open hearing and to help distribute briefing materials to commissioners.*

Constructive Nonviolence

The Presbytery of Baltimore submitted an overture "on recognizing the value of proactive, constructive nonviolence & establishing nonviolence training." If passed, the church would incorporate proactive, constructive nonviolence as an essential part of the peacemaking program by implementing a major training program for clergy and laypersons in constructive nonviolence. Each presbytery would be encouraged to recruit a training coordinator and offer retreats and workshops to congregations.

Torture

O-64, from the Presbytery of San Francisco, calls for an independent investigation of torture allegations against the U.S. and for the appointment of a special counsel to prosecute those involved in mistreatment of detainees. Commissioners from National Capital Presbytery are planning to introduce a resolution "to condemn torture in any and all of its forms anywhere, particularly by any agent of the United States government, and ask the General Assembly to instruct its agencies to pursue broadly ecumenical and inter-religious strategies to promote the faith community's unique responsibility to protect human rights of all persons under custody."

Haiti

Two overtures address problems in Haiti. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida is specific in its request to cease the practice of immediate deportation of Haitian refugees, but vague in its call for our government to "address the political and social situation in Haiti." An overture from the Presbytery of New York City fills the gaps by naming the groups who have contributed to the violence and expressing its disapproval of U.S. interference in Haiti's democratic processes. It suggests generous trade agreements and financial aid without deleterious conditions.

The Congo

The Presbyteries of New Hope, Chicago, and Eastern Virginia have submitted similar (cont. p. 5)

...**BRIEFLY** Talks with Rev.
Christian Iosso, Coordinator of
the Advisory Committee on
Social Witness Policy (PCUSA)

Briefly: Chris, you're new as Coordinator of ACSWP, but an old member of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. **Iosso:** Yes, my first Peace Fellowship Breakfast was in 1977 when Maggie Kuhn received the Peacemaker award and William Sloane Coffin was the speaker. I still have the poster. Bill Coffin was soon to begin the Riverside Church Disarmament Program

Briefly: What is ACSWP? **Iosso:** We pronounce it "A-C-SWP." It is 12 people elected by the General Assembly to be stewards of the past statements of General Assembly and to figure out what needs to be said in response to requests from presbyteries and the pressure of current events, all in light of Christian conscience and the work of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Briefly: You are working on many issues, from bioethics to usury to voting rights and war. **What's your favorite thing about ACSWP?** **Iosso:** The richness of the thinking over the decades and the involvement of countless concerned people over the years. The 1936 statement that basically set the Committee's form talks about people "consecrated" to reflect on our witness and on where are the possibilities for transformation in the world. I love that it is an ongoing work of reformation.

Briefly: What's your least favorite part? **Iosso:** A time frame that is always slow---it can frustrate observers and participants. It takes a long time to go through a committee process and to consult with other parts of the church as well. It's not hierarchical, but a matter of accountable networking within the Presbyterian structure. And after all of that work and time, we remain an advisory group, not a programmatic or implementation group. So action follows Assembly decisions.

Briefly: What calls you to this ministry? **Iosso:** My faith has always been an effort at a comprehensive explanation and response to reality. I felt a call of concern early on in college about the structure of society and business. I was pre-law in a school that

did not have a religion department. But a clearer call came to me, largely through the human rights struggle in South Korea and later in South Africa---the heroism of the witnesses touched me. I heard a Namibian bishop speak, many influences from the third world and human rights---and that all had something to do with my not going to law school, but moving toward this ministry. I've been an activist at times, going yearly to Nicaragua, teaching at Sing Sing prison, working on housing issues and being a local pastor. I decided early on not to be an academic, but **there is still so much need to make the case for the church's witness**---it needs to be reflective and comprehensive. Paul talks in Corinthians about making "every thought captive to Christ." In social witness terms, I want to help us find the redemptive possibilities within cultural and economic trends--so here I am.

Briefly: How does the work of ACSWP impact peacemaking issues? What most needs to change in order to reduce the level of violence and war?

Iosso: We have to lift up peaceful or relatively peaceful transitions that have occurred, such as South Africa, Eastern Europe----successful and incredibly cost-effective peacemaking and restoration of the moral order---for instance, the truth and reconciliation commissions and healing processes that have been tried in South Africa and more broadly. **It's a matter of combining proactive nonviolence with sustainable development and international accountability.** The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is way ahead of most of us in understanding the full fabric of nonviolence. In American culture we still have so much romance about the myth of redemptive violence. But in the world at large, there is a much greater reluctance to go to war.

Briefly: Do you think that the U.S. will launch a nuclear strike against Iran, as recent articles suggest?

Iosso: I believe there are war plans for Iran, but they have been there for 3-4 years. There are also military plans for Syria. You may remember the phrase "Real men go to Tehran." And the way to Tehran is through Baghdad." Iran is on the drawing board and the current president of Iran is trying to provoke a response from the United States and Israel. The issue, it seems to me, is the relative maturity of the Bush team---not just awareness of the cost of such a war, but their maturity and competence in foreign policy. With additional military leaders now calling for Rumsfeld to resign,

we can see that the U.S. military is not going to follow the line of the neo-conservatives. The idea of imposing democracy by force has lost legitimacy under the Bush foreign policy. **Briefly:** And Iran is a kind of theocratic democracy. You wanted to talk about what ACSWP is **open to doing.** **Iosso:** Yes, of interest to PPF is the question around just peacemaking and humanitarian intervention, whether there can be any use of protective military strategy in, for example, Darfur. Also, a resolution on Torture was approved by ACSWP and we want to reinforce the work being done by No2Torture and the Princeton group and others. On energy policy ACSWP is working on a 2008 document and we are looking to involve more people to help us look at changing geo-political dynamics and a stronger theological component related to energy. On Iraq we are all hamstrung by the question of the facts.

(Briefly: You would have made a great lawyer.)

Iosso: On Iraq, so much has been withheld, including the realities of grief. No one is going to these funerals or seeing these bodies. It's a kind of insulation and that affects the moral discourse. One thing to consider is a conference that we are holding for Sept., right after 9/11, on peacemaking and *what is the new thinking.* We are trying to get new thinking from both pacifists and neo-realists and put our heads together. I resonate with a statement from Rick Ufford-Chase that "Pacifism as a word doesn't mean much; we have to talk about nonviolence."

Briefly: What about the upcoming Assembly in relation to peacemaking? **Iosso:** The 2004 Assembly took a strong stand against the Iraq invasion and I see in most of the church a growing consensus for withdrawal. The tough issue will be Israel/Palestine. Divestment is a symbolic action. We do not have enough money to determine what corporations do. The church is having to learn another justice narrative, that of the Palestinians, without denying the justice narrative of our Jewish friends and neighbors. **This Assembly is a time of creative moral learning, even in some tension.**

Rev. Christian Iosso holds a PhD in Christian Social Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York and previously served as a pastor and on the national staff of Mission Responsibility Through Investment. He has three children. Over the years several members of the PPF have served on or contributed to the work of ACSWP, including Anne Barstow and Nile Harper. To

learn about and comment on the ongoing work of ACSWP, see www.pcusa.org/acswp/

General Assembly Peacemaking Issues, Cont. overtures advocating appropriate actions for the U.S., the U.N., and concerned Presbyterians to promote peace in the poverty-and-war-stricken Democratic Republic of Congo. All 3 overtures stress a need for free, fair, and democratic elections.

International Trafficking

The Synod of the Northeast has submitted an overture on condemning international trafficking in and sexual exploitation of children. In addition to focusing attention on the need for education and advocacy, the overture calls for a boycott of companies in the travel and tourism industry that have not yet signed the "Code of Conduct for Protection of Children from Commercial Exploitation in Travel and Tourism."

How you can help

Most General Assembly committees will hold open hearings on Friday, June 16. If you would like to testify on one of these issues at an open hearing, please contact PPF's General Assembly issues coordinator, Bill Galvin (galvinbill@yahoo.com or 202-483-2220). If any commissioners or delegates from your presbytery would like more information or to help on any of these overtures, ask them to contact Bill. Note: This will be a "paperless" Assembly. Bring your laptop and wireless card. The Peace Fellowship will co-sponsor a joint website with other progressive groups on GA issues.

See www.justpresbys.org

"**MORE THAN BRIEFLY**" ---To make room for the following 2 page General Assembly resource on Israel/Palestine, some **terrific** articles must appear on our website instead of this issue. **My apologies to our writers**, Editor. See "More Than Briefly" at www.presbypeacefellowship.org for articles on:

- Report on Ecumenical **Advocacy Days**, 2006
- The **World Council of Churches** 9th Assembly
- Update on **No2Torture** and Princeton Conference
- Beth Pyles, on **Christian Peacemaker Team-Iraq**

•Colombia news, including emergency exile plans
•Howard Zinn, "After the War"

•Book Reviews by Jane Hanna
•Order info on **Church & Society** Peacemaking issue and much more.

General Assembly Resource: Breaking Down Barriers: Israel /Palestine

by Linda Bergh, United Methodist Church

"Is there anybody out there?" read the graffiti on a section of the 26' high, razor-wire topped separation barrier that stretches along one of Jerusalem's borders. This concrete separation barrier, proceeding through Jerusalem, around three sides of Bethlehem, and winding on southward, is a physical separation which symbolizes the many facets of separation and oppression which the Israeli government's Occupation policies have created between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. How did this happen? What role do Palestinians play in this?

In January of 2006, eleven Central NY United Methodists joined forty-five other United Methodists from throughout the U.S. on a journey to Israel/Palestine, seeking to listen, see, and learn about the efforts toward peace with justice in these lands. Our time frame extended from the celebration of Armenian Christmas (1/18) through the Palestinian elections (1/25) and the election results, before our departure on January 27th. We stayed in Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Two peoples want and need a homeland in Israel/Palestine. For the Jews, who suffered an oppression in Europe that culminated in the horror of the Holocaust, coming to this site of the Zionist dream seemed the answer. The U.S. and the U.N. agreed and, in 1948, Israel was formed. For the Palestinians, this land where they lived was home. However, the means by which Israel came into existence displaced many of them. They, too, need to be able to have their home. Plans have been put forth for both peoples to live in these lands, but none have yet been fully negotiated. **While the violent acts of some Palestinians as suicide bombers must be stopped, the violence of daily dehumanization and oppression by Israeli government policies must change as well.**

Viewing the effects of the Occupation and Israeli policies on both the Palestinian and Israeli Jewish peoples gives one **a sense of urgency for a just solution.** Much of what is happening in the West Bank can be termed "de-development". Illegal Jewish settlements built on Palestinian land stand on hills around East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. In fact, they can be seen in the midst of Hebron and on the tops of some of the south Hebron hills. Dynamiting for settlements above the village of Wadi Fouqin has caused cracks in the school building, and makes Palestinian villagers concerned about the stability of their homes. Sewage systems from the extensive hilltop settlement sometimes break, polluting the fertile farmlands in the valley below. Cutting off of the hilltop for more development is causing erosion and mudslides as well.

The separation barrier, or wall, in places becoming a tall electric fence with security sideroads, blocks farmers from their land or water sources, students from schools, workers from jobs, families from relatives--even separating a parent from children if they have different area ID. For Palestinians to travel anywhere either within or outside of the West Bank, they must go through numerous checkpoints. Young soldiers may decide arbitrarily when or whether to let them pass.

...The separation barrier was to have been built through the grounds of Al Quds University, but international activist pressure caused Israel to change the route slightly. Similarly, on the Mount of Olives, a Catholic convent for Palestinian Christians convinced the Israeli government not to wall them off from their congregation. But for farmers who just want to farm, or people who need to get to an Israeli hospital, **the barrier may mean a livelihood or not, or life or death.**

Home demolitions, with no regard for a family's needs and no recognition of centuries-old deeds of ownership, happen in the name of security. Cave-dwellers in the southern hills of Hebron have had even their cave homes smashed. They may not build homes or re-inhabit their caves, and must have a special permit even to live in tents on their own land. If land is proven to be uninhabited by way of aerial photographs, the Israeli government claims it.

Acts of destruction by over-zealous illegal settlers in Palestinian lands occur to get Palestinians to leave. We saw fields of olive trees cut down to stumps by settlers just the week before. These stumps, if they survive, will take years to grow and be fruitful again. The Israeli government continues to allow building of illegal Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

More Palestinian land is confiscated for the Israeli-only bypass roads and highways which are inaccessible to Palestinians. These roads effectively allow Israelis to travel through the land without going near Palestinians, and ensures that Palestinians must take many back roads and roundabout routes in their travels.

Israeli Jews also suffer from the effects of the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. Their presence in the West Bank as soldiers makes this the only image of Jews that many young Palestinians have. And for the Israeli Jewish youth, for whom military service is compulsory, duty in the West Bank may cause them to be haunted by the dehumanizing acts they are ordered to carry out. They may be deeply marked with "we/they" thinking and reliance on a power and control mindset.

Some of our Methodist group heard a member of "Breaking the Silence" speak about his experience as a young soldier in the Israeli Defense Forces serving in the West Bank. His family was proud of him, and he felt that he was a good and loyal person doing his duty. One night in a house search in the West Bank, he realized that he was holding a gun on an

older man, a Palestinian father, who had to ask permission to use his own bathroom. As the young soldier proceeded to a bedroom in the home, and began to dump things out of a child's schoolbag, he glanced over and saw the young boy looking at him. Suddenly he thought to himself, "I'm a monster. I belong to one of the best, most moral armed forces in the world, and **my family thinks of me as a good son, but this child sees a monster.**" Later, this young soldier found "telling his story" as a source of healing for the behavior he had become part of.

Israeli Jews also suffer as the very land they love becomes polluted, denuded, and stripped of some of the most productive farmlands because of the zealous encroachment of illegal Jewish settlers or preparations for the separation barrier. The very steps that have been taken to increase security and decrease fear have only led to an increase in fear for Israelis, as the desperation that has been created for many Palestinians sometimes breaks out in violence.

And finally, the increased separation between peoples who have had some experience of living and working together, Jews and Palestinians, in the past--this increased separation also has increased the amount of "not knowing" one another.

There are voices speaking for peace, people working for peace in Israel/Palestine. Palestinian Christian teachers and pastors in Bethlehem and in Jerusalem spoke to us of the importance of education in giving youth a sense of self-worth, hope, and positive ways to deal with problems. One creative Palestinian teacher of English, at a Christian girls' school in Bethlehem, had her students keep diaries. These were diary entries during the years of invasion and curfew in 2000 - 2004. They were published in the book *The Wall Cannot Stop our Stories*.

Americans and Europeans involved in Christian Peacemaker Teams in Hebron continue to be present with both Palestinian families and with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, trying to build understanding. These Christian Peacemakers sometimes stay with Palestinian families who fear attack or house demolitions.

In the village of Wadi Fouqin, where the anticipated separation barrier/wall will be built near the fertile valley, our Palestinian Muslim guide told of peaceful negotiations with an Israeli village on the other side of the "Green Line" or border. People in this Israeli village have offered to negotiate with the Israeli government to alter the path of the separation barrier onto their Israeli land to prevent destruction of some of the fertile valley farmland.

A group called "Parent's Circle Family Forum" spoke with us, as they speak with school groups and others. Their group consists of Jews and Palestinians who have lost family members to violence. Two speak, one Palestinian, one Jew, to tell of the value of forsaking a spirit of revenge and adopting a spirit of compassion and understanding. Their combined witness, each speaking of their loss because of violence on the other side, is very convincing.

Finally, there are the strong Jewish voices of those who work for peace. Participating in a vigil in Jerusalem with the "Women in Black", a group of Jewish women who stand against the Occupation, we learned that they had been meeting every Friday for the last fourteen years in a public square near the Prime Minister's house. A couple of them were in their 90's, one had been a museum curator, and still another, more recent attendee, was a university student. While we were with them, a Jewish man who sometimes joins the vigil stopped to chat. He said he had hopes that the Occupation would end soon, because injustice was being found out, and injustice cannot stand forever.

Gila Svirsky, a Jewish woman who came to Israel when she was eighteen and now works for the "Women's Coalition for a Just Peace", said she didn't really know a Palestinian until she was forty. In Haifa, Professor Ilan Pappé told us that he grew up in a typical Jewish home with typical Jewish understandings of his history. He said that it was when, as a history student, he came across original source documents referring to 1948 that he had a new sense of what had occurred. He feels that a true understanding of that event is key to peaceful solutions.

Other Israeli Jews who have worked for justice include Jeff Halper, who directs "The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions", and members of "Rabbis for Human Rights". They have stood in front of bulldozers as they came to demolish Palestinian homes, and have worked for just solutions for Palestinian homeowners.

As our time in Israel/Palestine drew to a close, we saw the pre-election enthusiasm of many posters; a campaign truck with loudspeaker passing by with joyful supporters of candidates calling people to vote. We learned that, after an orderly and democratic election process, Hamas had won a majority. **The sense was that they (Hamas) and everyone were surprised.** Their hope seemed to be that of working for an open, honest government that would bring good social services to their people. For those who weren't sure about the result, there was a "wait and see, but let's work with them" attitude.

Our group left Israel/Palestine with a request to "tell the story". When we asked where they placed their hope, people said, "In international civil society". And so, the question remains, "Is there anybody out there?"

... BRIEFLY Eyes Wide Open, the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) exhibit of boots and shoes honoring the casualties of the Iraq war returns to the Washington DC Mall May 11-14, including Mothers' Day. To email your elected officials to visit this moving exhibit, see www.afsc.org/eyes/

DARFUR/SUDAN- To ask Oprah to focus on Darfur, see www.sudanadvocacy.com/action_items.htm or write Oprah Winfrey, P.O. Box 909715, Chicago, ILL 60690. The facts: 400,000 people dead, 2.5 million displaced

and 3.5 million at risk of starvation. For **A Million Voices for Darfur** post cards, see www.millionvoicesfordarfur.org

**CONVERSATIONS at the PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP BOOTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXHIBIT HALL, BIRMINGHAM – JUNE 2006**

Open to All – Please Join Us!

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 10:30 – 11:30 AM "Continuing the Dialogue on Colombia"
The Rev. Dr. **Alice Winters**, Peace Breakfast Speaker & Mission Worker in Colombia, and **Milton Mejia** and **Anne Barstow**-2006 Peaceseeker Honorees (for the Colombia Accompaniment Program)

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 3:00 – 4:00 PM "Presbyterian Peaceseeking Poet" **Ann Weems**
2005 Peaceseeker Award Honoree

MONDAY, JUNE 19 10:30 – 11:30 AM "Rethinking War, Rethinking Peace, Making Peace:
Trusting the Nonviolence of Jesus Christ Today"
Discuss the issues and new ideas raised in the Nov/Dec Issue of the journal **Church & Society**
Tom Driver, Editor, and Authors of Articles in the Issue

MONDAY, JUNE 19 3:00 – 4:00 PM "The Face of Accompaniment in Colombia"
Listen to stories of those who have been accompaniers in Colombia during
this past year, and learn how you might become or support an accompanier.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 10:30 – 11:30 AM "Back from Baghdad – Experiences with CPT in Iraq"
Beth Pyles, a Presbyterian who is a reservist with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Iraq

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 3:00 – 4:00 PM "Saying NO to Torture" Speaker TBA

Times are subject to change, so please check with the Peace Fellowship Booth at GA for "Booth Conversations" info. Also stop by for book signings, peacemaking resources, information about the new Endowment Campaign and just plain good conversation!

...Briefly Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
P.O. Box 271 Nyack, NY 10960

To become a new member of PPF, see enclosed
reply slip or www.presbypeacefellowship.org

**Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Ghost Ranch Seminar July 17-23, 2006
"Economy, Ecology & Empire"**

Leaders: **Barbara Rossing**, author, *The Rapture Exposed*, **Gary Cook**, Worldwide Ministries
Division, **Walter Owensby**, author, *Economics
for Prophets*. See www.ghostranch.org
or mjhfos@aol.com

For book reviews, see "More Than Briefly"
at www.presbypeacefellowship.org

