

# THINKING ABOUT WAR AND PEACE AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

## RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE AND SEMINARY STUDENTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
NOVEMBER 2005

The 215th General Assembly (2003) directed the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to produce and distribute resources for college and seminary students on the morality, costs, and consequences of war in the light of the teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the whole of the Scriptures.

### **PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

#### *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*

This resolution, adopted by the 192nd General Assembly (1980), established peacemaking as an emphasis of the church and led to the creation of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf)

#### *Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future (with study guide)*

This study paper focuses on Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future, a resolution adopted by the 216th General Assembly (2004).  
[www.pcusa.org/acswp/pdf/iraq-resolution.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/acswp/pdf/iraq-resolution.pdf)

#### *Iraq and Beyond*

This resolution was adopted by the 215th General Assembly (2003).  
[www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/iraqbeyond.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/iraqbeyond.pdf)

#### *Faithful Living in a Time of Violence and Terrorism*

This six-session study explores the issues addressed in the Resolution on Violence, Religion, and Terrorism approved by the 216th General Assembly (2004).  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/rtvbook.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/rtvbook.pdf)

#### *A Resolution and Confession on the Torture and Abuse of Prisoners*

This statement was adopted by the 216th General Assembly (2004).  
[www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/abuse.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/abuse.pdf)

#### *On Preventing War Between the United States and Iraq*

This brief statement was adopted by the 214th General Assembly (2002).  
[www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/preventingwar.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/iraq/gastatements/preventingwar.pdf)

## **PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENTS**

### **AVAILABLE THROUGH PRESBYTERIAN DISTRIBUTION SERVICES**

Call 800-524-2612 or go online at [www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace/index.jsp) to order.

#### *Iraq and Beyond (with study guide)*

This study paper focuses on Iraq and Beyond, a resolution adopted by the 215th General Assembly (2003).

PDS #6860003005; \$3.00 plus s/h.

#### *Just Peacemaking*

This six-session study considers Just Peacemaking and the Call for International Intervention for Humanitarian Rescue, a resolution adopted by the 210th General Assembly (1998).

PDS #70-270-02-024; \$4.95 plus s/h.

#### *Christian Obedience in a Nuclear Age*

A statement by the 200th General Assembly (1988) that explores the question of the morality of war, with the added dilemma of whether the existence of nuclear weapons has changed the nature of war in such a way as to reshape the Just War Principles.

PDS #6860004003; \$1.00 plus s/h.

#### *Christian Obedience in a Nuclear Age*

This book contains background study information on the statement.

PDS # OGA88102; \$2.00 plus s/h.

## **PCUSA WEB-BASED RESOURCES**

#### *Presbyterians and Military Service Series*

- Resources on Military Service, the Draft and Conscientious Objection
- Enlistment—Q and A
- The Draft—Q and A
- Conscientious Objection—Q and A
- Selective Conscientious Objection and Just War Principles—Q and A

This series contains leaflets exploring options related to military service ranging from enlisting to registering for the draft to conscientious objection status. They include many helpful contacts in order to find more information. [www.pcusa.org/oga/publications.htm#prompt](http://www.pcusa.org/oga/publications.htm#prompt)

#### *Helping Families Talk About War, Violence, and Terrorism*

[www.pcusa.org/family/warfamily.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/family/warfamily.pdf)

#### *The Human Effects of War*

A Reflection by the Rev. Ken Moe, Grand Canyon Presbytery

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/ravageswar.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/ravageswar.pdf)

#### *Discussing Tough Issues*

A Resource to Help Congregations Discuss Issues around the Conflict with Iraq

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/toughissues.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/toughissues.pdf)

#### *Implementing the Commitment to Peacemaking in a Time of War*

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/commitment.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/commitment.htm)

### *The Cost of War*

The youth of Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia preached this sermon on Sunday, March 23, 2003.

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/costofwar.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/costofwar.htm)

### *Power: A Bible Study of Mark 9:33-35*

This one session study explores the understanding of power revealed in Jesus' words in Mark 9:33-35.

[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/un/powerstudy.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/un/powerstudy.pdf)

## **A SOLDIER REFLECTS**

The following journal entries come from a young soldier deployed to Iraq during the early days of the war. He has shared his reflections, anonymously, so that others may know something of what young men and women in the military faced.

- *Seychelles, Seychelles by the Seashore* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/seychelles.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/seychelles.htm)
- *The Beginning and the End* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/beginning.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/beginning.htm)
- *Such Is War* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/suchiswar.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/suchiswar.htm)
- *Patrols Across the River* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/patrols.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/patrols.htm)
- *The Children of Kabron* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/kabron.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/kabron.htm)
- *An-Nasiryah* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/annasiryah.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/annasiryah.htm)
- *These War Torn Streets* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/wartorn.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/wartorn.htm)
- *Life in the Sandbox* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/sandbox.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/sandbox.htm)
- *On the Way to the Persian Gulf* - [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/soldier.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/ya/soldier.htm)

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBER FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Recognizing the stress placed on individuals serving in the military, a coalition of nonprofit, non-governmental organizations have created the GI Rights Hotline: 800-FYI-95GI or 800-394-9544. The hotline provides information to members of the military about discharges, grievance and complaint procedures, and other civil rights. Individuals who have enlisted in the armed forces and come to question that decision based on new understandings of faith may use the hotline.

## **Books**

- Bainton, Roland H., *Christian Attitudes toward War and Peace* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1979).
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Peace* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001).
- Cahill, Lisa Sowle. *Love Your Enemies: Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1994).
- Long, Edward Leroy, Jr. *Facing Terrorism: Responding as Christians* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004).
- Nelson-Pallmeyer, Jack. *Saving Christianity from Empire* (New York: Continuum Books, 2005).
- Wink, Walter. *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1998).
- Winn, Albert Curry. *Ain't Gonna Study War No More: Biblical Ambiguity and the Abolition of War* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993).

## WEB SITES

- Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel  
[www.pccmp.org](http://www.pccmp.org)
- Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy  
[www.pcusa.org/acswp/](http://www.pcusa.org/acswp/)
- Presbyterian Peacemaking Program  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking)
- Presbyterian Washington Office  
[www.pcusa.org/washington](http://www.pcusa.org/washington)
- Women and Military Service (from the PCUSA Office of Women's Advocacy)  
[www.pcusa.org/womensadvocacy/resources/women-military.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/womensadvocacy/resources/women-military.htm)
- Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
[www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org)
- American Friends Service Committee: Youth and Militarism Program  
[www.youthandthemilitary.org](http://www.youthandthemilitary.org)
- Center on Conscience & War  
[www.centeronconscience.org](http://www.centeronconscience.org)
- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors  
[www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)
- Christian Peacemaker Teams  
[www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)
- Fellowship of Reconciliation  
[www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)
- I Will Not Kill  
[www.iwillnotkill.org](http://www.iwillnotkill.org)
- Nonviolent Peaceforce  
[www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)
- WCC Decade to Overcome Violence  
[www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org)



**The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and  
the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy  
are ministries of the General Assembly Council of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202**  
Presbyterian Peacemaking Program  
1-888-728-7228, ext. 5788  
Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy  
1-888-728-7228, ext. 5814  
This resource is available at:  
[www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#college](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/pubs/pubs.htm#college)