

# Peace & Justice

## SUPPORT NETWORK

Photo by Renee Neufeld

## Thank you



**G**ratitude is the overwhelming feeling I experience as I write this. Gratitude for God's love for us, through Jesus. Gratitude to you all for allowing me to serve the church through my role with PJSN. Gratitude for the glimmers of hope that refuse to be dimmed, even as the horizon seems to darken.

This is unusual for me. To be honest, I'm not great at gratitude. I like to think I have good manners and give thanks when its due, but I'm temperamentally set to always be thinking about what's next. While that can be a positive attribute in some areas, I struggle to stop and fully recognize the blessings of each day.

The long road of disruption and uncertainty that is

COVID-19 has forced me to recalibrate my inner compass. The energy I get from looking hopefully ahead is still an important part of who I am, but it has been tempered by a thankfulness for the things that are here and now. Maybe when COVID-19 recedes I'll regress, but I hope not. It feels good to thank God and to be grateful for the gifts God gives.

As a new year unfolds, I'm especially grateful for the ways PJSN is networking and connecting with such a wide variety of people and groups across Mennonite Church USA. Our work is so much better when done in partnership and collaboration. We're forging new partnerships this year. And while I'm very excited about where they may lead, I'm enjoying the process and conversations that are the foundation for new things.

One thing I unabashedly hope for in 2021 is the chance to visit with you all again in person. Until then, we do a lot with digital tools. If I can be of support to you or your church in its peacemaking efforts, using Zoom or other technologies, please let me know! I would love to connect with your congregation or small group.

Thank you for reading *DoveTales*. I hope the updates and ideas in these pages are helpful in your peacemaking.

Peace.



Jason Boone  
Minister of Peace and Justice



Photo by Gabrielle Henderson on Unsplash

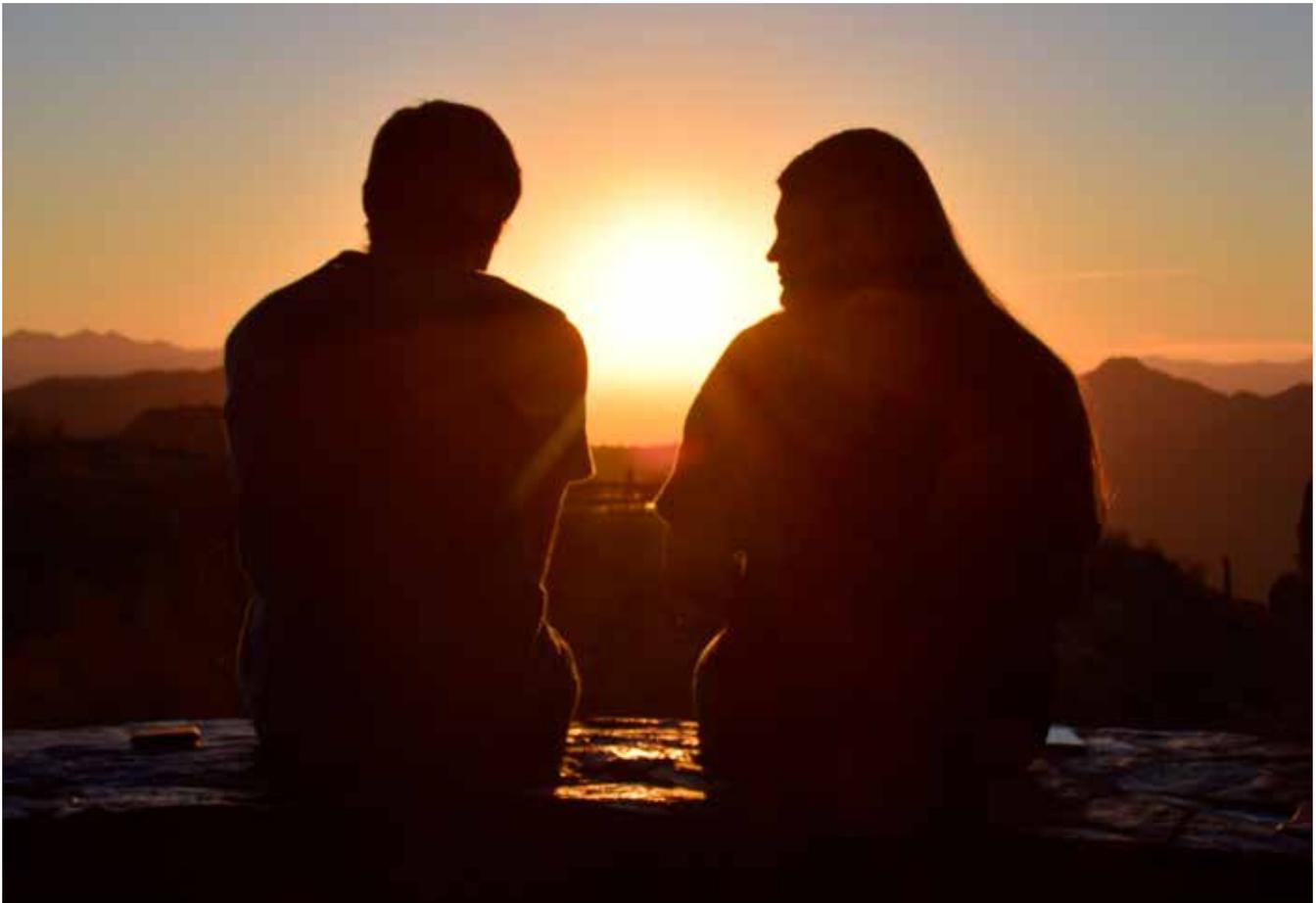


Photo by Laurie Oswald Robinson

Participants of Mission Network's alumni and friends service-learning tour to Arizona take time to talk, as the sun goes down.

## Peace with neighbor

**I**s there still a place for dialogue in our fractured world? Are conversation and deep listening still useful tools for a peacemaker? Or have we passed a point where the demands of justice require different mechanisms?

It may be out of fashion in some circles, but I DO still believe in the healing power of dialogue to bridge divides and the power of peaceful communication as a pathway to reconciliation.

True dialogue in pursuit of peace means honestly reckoning with injustice, wrongdoing and sin. The

**True dialogue in pursuit of peace means honestly reckoning with injustice, wrongdoing and sin.**

hard work of dialogue, and dedication to non-violent problem-solving, has helped correct some of the most deeply-rooted injustices and helped heal the most bitter conflicts.

Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN), part of Mennonite Mission Network, is working with our friends at Mennonite Central Committee on a webinar that shows

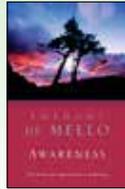
the power of dialogue and peaceful communication and gives you tools to use in your own community. Visit [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org) to learn more and register today!

### Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

*DoveTales* is a publication, created by the Peace and Justice Support Network, a ministry of Mennonite Mission Network, to resource individuals and congregations in their pursuit of Christian peacemaking and justice-seeking. Ideas, articles and reports can be submitted to the editor. Editor: Jason Boone, coordinating minister for the Peace and Justice Support Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370; 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23065; [Peace@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:Peace@MennoniteUSA.org). Copy editor: Jessica Griggs. Designer: Cynthia Friesen Coyle. PJSN website: [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org). Opinions expressed in *DoveTales* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.

## Peace with God

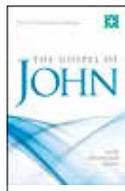
The stress and anxiety that all of us feel from the ongoing pandemic and political strife can leave us feeling distanced from God. Here are three books that have helped me draw closer to God in these stressful times; I hope that you will find them helpful during this season of uncertainty and anxiety:



**Awareness** by Anthony Demello. Demello was a Jesuit priest and therapist, with a deep knowledge of Scripture and the human condition. This book revolutionized my life when I first read it, years ago. I still flip through it periodically, when I need to shift my perspective.



**Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening** by Cynthia Bourgeault. Centering prayer is a spiritual discipline that you may have heard about, or even practice. If not, Bourgeault's book is an excellent introduction. It also outlines the history of centering prayer in the Christian tradition and explores the power it carries for inner transformation.



**The Gospel of John.** Different gospel accounts speak to us in different seasons of life. Sometimes, Mark's terseness is invigorating; Luke's scope can be inspiring. In times of stress, the Gospel of John comforts me and helps me experience the vastness of God's love, through Jesus. It takes my mind off of myself and onto the things that are eternal.

## Peace with the world

The Mennonites Against Militarism (MAM) campaign we began last fall is off to a great start! It's generating new conversations and ideas on how we can faithfully oppose the militarism that has insidiously crept into almost every part of our society.

One exciting aspect of MAM is its exploration of how militarism negatively impacts the environment. PJSN is working with Mennonite Creation Care Network and other Mennonite partners to define what those impacts are and how we can work to oppose and undo them.



We're finding that, by and large, this is new ground. The "network" part of the Peace and Justice Support Network is invaluable. We are making new connections between the people and organizations that are passionate about these topics and creating a new space in which to explore them together.

Now, we're working on creating opportunities for YOU to learn more about these connections and to take action. Stay in touch with us through future issues of *Dove Tales*, [www.PJSN.org](http://www.PJSN.org) and the PJSN Facebook page for more information, as opportunities develop!

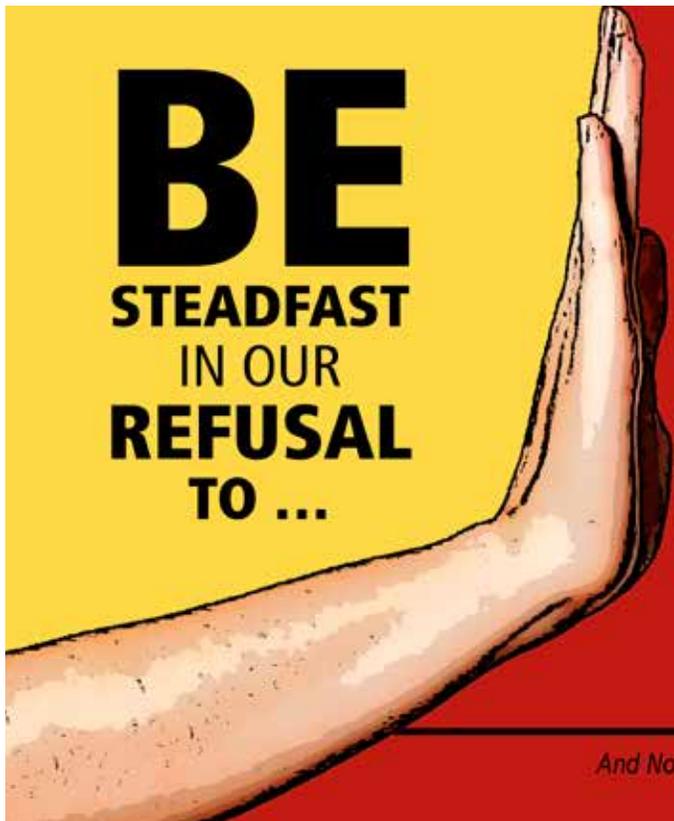


**DoveTales**

Peace and Justice Support Network  
Mennonite Mission Network  
PO Box 370  
Elkhart, IN 46515

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE

**PAID**  
PERMIT NO.7  
SOUTH BEND,  
INDIANA



**BE**  
**STEADFAST**  
IN OUR  
**REFUSAL**  
TO ...

- **PARTICIPATE IN**
- **TRAIN FOR**
- **PAY FOR**
- **DIRECTLY**  
**PROFIT FROM**

**THE USE OF**  
**MILITARY**  
**VIOLENCE.**

*And No One Shall Make Them Afraid: A Mennonite Statement  
on Violence, Faith and Life Press, Herald Press, 1998.*

**#MENNONITESAGAINSTMILITARISM**