

Testimonies CCP Basic Training

Rev. Jocelyn Bell, Chattanooga, TN, organized a training because there was no local protest against starting war with Iraq --- not from media, faith communities, university, or town. She was not an experienced organizer, but after the nonviolence training decided to take action and sent a challenge by email to everyone she knew: "At noon Wednesday I will be at the main intersection in silent vigil with a protest sign and invite you to join me, but I will be there in any event." She notified us a week later:

- 1/23/03: "Janet – thought you'd be interested in progress so far. People are forwarding my message to others on their e-mail lists! I have it posted on the united for peace website. Called a couple of other churches here – Quakers and UCC. E-mailed to pax Christi....A friend is obtaining fact sheets to hand out....I think this is really going to happen!!!!!!"
- 1/29/03: "Woe ---it really happened – in the pouring rain!!! WE had at least 50 people at our Stand for Peace – including a representative from a local mosque who had alerted media. Several TV stations and the newspaper came. People who were there asked for more --- so next week --- same time, same place!!! Jocelyn"
- 2/5/03: "Hi – Very sunny today – and people stood for an hour. Some repeaters, some new. Media coverage again --- they can't figure us out!.... Met with interfaith group yesterday – there will be a walk on the 15th and a vigil on the day we begin way, as well as the weekly vigils on Wednesday. Wow!!!.....Jocelyn"

"As a person who has just discovered that he is an activist, this was a fantastic experience that helped me network with other local activists and feel an extended experience of solidarity." *Paul King, Champaign, Illinois*

"What a marvelous experience! Now the 'burden' of knowledge requires a response of action." *Henry C. Williamson, Charleston, SC*

"Thank you for the extremely valuable workshop! I am also very grateful to be reminded that 'evil doers are also victims and not evil people.' Knowing this makes it so easier to forgive them, love them and live with them." *Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, Cannon Beach, OR*

"Our discussions about the teachings and examples of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and less well-known leaders were much more meaningful than just reading about nonviolence in a history book. The US and the world need people committed to nonviolence principles now more than ever, and it shows us how we can solve individual conflicts as well as conflicts between groups and even countries, using peaceful approaches. I hope others will take it to see how nonviolence can be applied." *Bill Crosier, Houston*

"The participation in 'role taking' as opposed to 'role playing.' That was a very valuable and important distinction. The chance to walk in the shoes of the enemy was very powerful." *Jon Reisdorf, Arcata, CA*

"Our board has made a commitment to offer this training every year. Several of our founders/board members are interested in doing further training and becoming facilitators." *Wendy Eads, Riverside, CA*

"I was very, very impressed at the amount of knowledge I was able to consume in such a short time." *Giana Cicchelli, Brea, CA*

"I learned the value of not shaming to harden your opponent's heart and the importance of planning/strategy and discipline." *John Johns, Azusa, CA*

Testimonies

CCP Training of Trainers

"Worried that your approach to advocating nonviolence is a bit rusty? I've just come back from a 3-day training for trainers of nonviolence, held at Kirkridge, led by Janet Chisholm, the CCP full-time trainer. Our age range was from early twenties to late seventies – 22 of us. I learned a huge amount that is new to me about how to do this work (I admit that my own attempts have been 'home-grown.')

Chisholm ...insists that nonviolence work begin in our own experience – we took part in many exercises, role plays, etc. – and then moved to generalizing, with material from Gandhi, King, Nagler, Lakey, Deming, Douglass, Moyer, etc. She insists that nonviolence work must move on to include components on 'Social Change' and 'Community Building' and 'Action.' I wish I could have taken this training 15 years ago – my work in training Witness for Peace delegations would have been more effective, and my workshop last summer at Montreat could have had more variety and challenge in it."

Anne Barstow, NY, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

"This has been the most helpful training event of my career [because it was the] most relevant and most inspiring and efficiently presented, at several points this was exquisite."

Rev. Beth Turner, Candler, NC

"The Nonviolence training was outstanding. I got so much out of it and heard nothing but words of praise and appreciation....I am encouraged over how God may use this experience to begin to moderate the hawkish nature of our state."

Rev. Phin Washer, San Antonio, TX

"Most helpful was learning about safe space, maximizing participation, & comfort-discomfort-alarm zones."

Russ Henley, Sevierville, TN

"The most helpful thing was actually co-facilitating a module myself during the training. I may not have had the confidence to continue this path without that experience."

Chris Stanley, Morristown, TN

"The course helps me pull into my peace witness other important aspects of my life that I've been seeing as separate from it, even in conflict or competition with it, e.g., my theater work. ... I've even gathered ideas to use in college courses that are not directly related to nonviolence!"

David Mycoff, Asheville, NC

"...I was very pleased that the workshop felt open to all spiritualities"

Richard Rowley, Bloomfield, NY

"This program is a phenomenal tool with unlimited potential."

Lezlie Christian, Norman, OK

"A truly remarkable learning event. It was healing, empowering and rich in educational content. I feel privileged to have participated and to be a part of this training network."

Don Christensen, St. Paul, MN