



Day 47

Beloved Peacekeepers,

Today, our practice moves beyond the personal, beyond the interpersonal, to the wholeness of community. Community understanding and teaching -- non-violence challenges us to stand for truth (and I would say TRUTH), by taking action that honors the dignity and worth of every human being.....we begin with disarmament.

Today's Principle, Today's Practice - DISARMAMENT

Have a conversation with someone today about what the world would be like if there were no weapons nor any need for them. Imagine such a world....

Ask yourself: How could disarmament affect our daily lives? What is a handgun for? What is a rifle for? What is an automatic weapon for? What are nuclear weapons for? Why would you own a gun? How do you feel about owning a gun and using it? What do you think about countries owning nuclear weapons? What do you think about countries using nuclear weapons? Do you think disarmament would insure peace? Discuss national disarmament as opposed to personal disarmament?

Activity - Take time with your family - discuss what they've seen in movies, on television, and in real life that describe their experience of the consequences of gun usage.

Research how other countries function without public gun ownership (i.e., Great Britain, Holland, Japan, etc.).

Look at other forms of "weaponry" used - words, actions, etc., see how you can disarm those within yourself and communities you participate.

Journal Activity: Journal your thoughts....today, use crayons or color pens - live differently and vibrantly!

Consider this Quotes on Disarmament:

That belief that it is possible to achieve security through armaments on a national scale is a disastrous illusion. In the last analysis, the peaceful coexistence of peoples is primarily dependent upon mutual trust. - Albert Einstein

Our primary long-range interest in Geneva, however, is general and complete disarmament - designed to take pace by stages, permitting parallel political developments to build the new institutions of peace which would take the place of arms. The pursuit of disarmament has been an effort of this Government since the 1920's - John F Kennedy 6/10/63 (<http://www.education-india.net/inspirationals/jfkpeace.php>)

Anybody who really wants to abolish war must resolutely declare himself in favor of his own country's resigning a portion of its sovereignty in favor of international institutions: he must be ready to make his own country amenable, in case of a dispute, to the award of an international court. He must, in the most uncompromising fashion, support disarmament all round, as is actually envisaged in the unfortunate Treaty of Versailles; unless military and aggressively patriotic education is abolished, we can hope for no progress. (**Albert Einstein**, published 1934)

As I looked for quotes to share regarding disarmament, I was surprised how many spoke of being free through the ownership of guns.....I invite all to read the text of JFK's speech at the American University, sponsored by the Methodist Church - his theme "Strategy for Peace." It is on each of us individually and collectively to step forward and take our stand - we are a Global Village, we no longer hurt another! I'm reminded of a GREAT teacher's wisdom "what is done to the least of us, is done to me" - As we move into community, let the teacher's words be ours.....

Blessings,

Kathleen
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PS - we are in the midst of transition to utilizing email from the homepage - if you have not received the past few days thoughts - they are posted at www.snvoakland.org