

Center Peace

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% Pendle Hill
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Dear friends and supporters...

May 30, 1986 is the 8th anniversary of the founding of the Center on Law and Pacifism. It is also the date we have chosen to mark the "official" end of Center on Law and Pacifism as it has existed for these 8 years. In place of the Center on Law and Pacifism, CENTER PEACE will continue. Over the years, Center on Law and Pacifism has enlarged and shifted its focus from advocacy and support for religiously motivated civil disobedience to a concentration on the wholism of alternative, prophetic living in the face of failed worldly ways. CENTER PEACE is the name and entity that will live on designating our continuing work in this area.

CENTER PEACE, staffed by Bill and Genie Durland, will do research, teaching and experimentation in the alternative community of the Resistance Church emerging as remnant bodies of Christians seek to live the Kingdom ethic in the midst of the nations. Our work in this area began through our urging corporate church war tax resistance. It grew as we provided research and advocacy for church congregations engaged in corporate resistance. And it grew through our own experiment in wholistic community at Erimias in Colorado. While we are at Pendle Hill the focus of CENTER PEACE will be in our teaching, writing, and speaking about these concerns. Our prayer is that someday it will blossom into a retreat, reflection and research center for the study and practice of Christian community based on Gospel pacifism.

In the March-April 1985 issue of the CENTER PEACE Journal, we explained a vision that we then saw as the "Thomas Becket Institute." That vision, as described, is part of what we will continue to pursue. The "institute" did not come to actualization partly because of our decision to answer the call to spend some time teaching at Pendle Hill. But the substance of the "institute's" vision and a continuing vision of CENTER PEACE are one and the same. The Center on Law and Pacifism was primarily a theological and legal counseling and advocacy center with CENTER PEACE as its journal. With the end of Center on Law and Pacifism, CENTER PEACE will be retained as our name, but at this time rather than being a center, it is a commission, a travelling ministry for the purposes described above. Its first major project will be the publication of the book Bill has been working on for the past several years - The Ways of Nations and the Ways of God. (see p. 4). In addition to finishing the book we will concentrate our energies on responding to the needs of the Resistance Church and emerging alternative communities as those needs come to our attention. We will continue to need your help. Donations for our continuing ministry and research will be gratefully received. Checks should be made out to CENTER PEACE. Donations received over the past several months have been used to help with travel expenses when we have been asked to speak to groups which cannot afford honoraria, for expenses associated with completing Bill's manuscript, and for office supplies such as paper, typewriter ribbons, mailing labels, etc. We are deeply grateful for the faithful support of many of you through what must seem like an amorphous time in the progress of our work. Those of you who let us know of your continuing interest through contributions of money, time, suggestions and encouragement will be periodically informed by newsletter as to our doings.

It is our conviction that we need to live as if the Kingdom has come while yet in the midst of the nations. In the face of impending nuclear holocaust, we need to know and articulate through both words and lifestyles what our "YES" is for creation. We are clear about our NO's -- resistance has required that of us. Providing a forum for the exchange of ideas about the formation and practice of our alternative YES is our undertaking.

The most testing aspect of this vision for us is that although the mandate is clear, the road upon which it will lead us is yet unclear. It is our determination to teach at Pendle Hill for one more year. Our expectation is that that time will help us to develop