our vision of this ministry in further scope and detail. Beyond the summer of 1987 we do not know where we will be or what specific form this call will take in our lives. We still have our community house in Colorado, and the farming work of Erimias continues with vigor. A possibility is that we would return to Erimias to develop the Boarding House into the retreat and reflection center described above. But that cannot happen without others to join us who are dedicated to implementing that purpose. For now, we wait upon the Lord and ask your prayers and spiritual support as we do so. *If anyone who receives this has ideas, suggestions, or visions which - upon prayerful reflection - seem to relate to our quest for future clarity, please be in touch with us!*

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law notes

by Bill Durland

Corporate War Tax Resistance ... In February, I was asked by Scott and Muffy Paradise of Boston to counsel them concerning their war tax resistance. Scott is an Episcopal priest and an employee of the Diocese of Massachusetts. I traveled to Boston to help Scott represent his views before a meeting of an Episcopal Diocesan Council committee meeting for the purpose of discerning the church's role in the matter of Scott's war tax resistance.

The 200th General Session of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts declared its "belief that nonviolent participation in the Pledge of Resistance, the Sanctuary movement and war tax resistance are ... faithful responses." The specific issue here was the extent of the involvement that the Diocese, as employers, might face as a result of supporting Scott's individual resistance. I explained the legal consequences to the committee, as well as the theological witness which inheres in their public support of Scott's conscience.

Scott presented a paper to his church entitled "A Road to Resistance," concluding with the thought that, "In these times thoughts of that small group of Germans in the Confessing Church under Hitler keep haunting me ... the times are very dangerous and very evil. If, indeed, the end is near, how much more important it is that, at least a few of us witness to God's incarnational love for the world and all its inhabitants to demonstrate in our lives that there is faith on earth. (Luke 18:8)."

The committee, including the present Bishop and the forthcoming one, were very gracious. They decided to place the issue on the agenda of the Diocesan Council for further examination. My hope is that the Diocese will be able to take a strong stand for corporate church resistance thus recognizing the urgency of our times. Church bodies have an unprecedented opportunity now to be the Resistance Church - the Confessing Church of the 80's. Scott and Muffy Paradise are moving their church in that direction by their faithful action.

A Quaker employer and owner of the Yellow Springs News in Yellow Springs, Ohio has already taken a corporate stand in respect to the IRS and war taxes. His employees have refused to have their withheld tax money sent to the IRS for war preparations and employer Ken Champney agrees. For several years Ken has refused to cooperate with his "legal" obligation to act as tax collector for IRS in his role as employer. The IRS has sent him a series of letters. So far there is a standoff. We've been counseling Ken for over a year. He hopes to go to court representing himself. Perhaps Ohio war tax resistance lawyers will be able to pick up the challenge locally by assisting Ken in that endeavor. Meanwhile, although he and his fellow workers of the Yellow Springs News are not an institutional church, their faithful and courageous actions are, in fact, practicing church in the news business!

A final note on the war tax resistance scene: Several people in the Philadelphia area have been served with IRS liens on their joint bank accounts. In Pannsylvania, heretofor, joint bank accounts held by husband and wife (in which one is a war tax resister and one is not) have been immune from levy by IRS on the "tenants by the entireties" law of the state of Pennsylvania. That law simply says that each party in a joint account owns the entire account. Under that theory, the IRS, if it levied on such an account, would be taking money from a third party who is not the subject of the IRS lien. Such action would be illegal. IRS has backed down on one of the three cases. In the case of the other two, however, it appears IRS will press the matter which would precipitate a court case if the war tax resisters involved are agreeable.

Civil Disobedience ... Readers will remember that our fall newsletter carried an announcement of Brandywine Peace Community's Thanksgiving Day action at GE's King of Prussia Space Division Headquarters. The Thanksgiving witness was highlighted by the building of a shanty to symbolize homelessness and poverty which was then carried onto the GE property by 14 peace people, including Bill Durland.

Brandywine's Holy Thursday and Good Friday witness consisted of a peace march from GE's center city Philadelphia plant to the King of Prussia site. Commencing with a liturgy, we walked the 20 miles, carrying banners and distributing leaflets, over the next two days. We arrived at the King of Prussia plant at noon on Good Friday, and after a religious service 23 of us prayerfully entered the GE property resulting in our arrests. In both actions all arrested were booked and released and no trial dates were set. Only fees were imposed. Resisters do not usually pay them.

Traveling Peace Ministry ... While in the New England area to help Scott Paradise, I renewed my traveling peace ministry by speaking to New England War Tax Resistance in Boston and later to the Franklin Pierce Law School in Concord, New Hampshire. The subject of my address at Franklin Pierce was "Civil Disobedience, Conscience and International Law." I'm grateful to all concerned in Boston and Concord for hosting me and providing hospitality.

In the winter I wrote a law journal paper on the same subject as the address named above. The paper was solicited by the St. Louis University Law Journal, after I had treated the same subject in a lecture at the law school there in January, 1985. However, after receiving the paper, the Law School Journal editor informed me that my legal writing was not "detached" and therefore not suitable for publication! I responded to the editor that perhaps our times are so urgent that we cannot afford to be detached. In truth, I find that I am no longer able to write "detached" papers.

I am reminded of a favorite expression of Daniel Berrigan which he uses to refer to some of his actions of public witness - "we were not well received." My writing was not well received by the St. Louis University Law Journal, but I was well received in Boston and Concord and deeply appreciate that fact!

Recently Genie and I gave a far from detached talk at the invitation of the Atlantic Life Community for their annual retreat held at a camp near Philadelphia. Our subject was "The Ways of Nations." We were blessed to see many old friends among east coast peace activists - some of whom we have not seen since leaving here six years ago.

We gave a presentation on the same subject before an audience of about 50 people gathered at the community home of the Medical Mission Sisters in northeast Philadelphia just last week.

During the months of January through April, Genie took on work as a parttime staff person for the War Tax Concerns Support Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Quakers). Her primary responsibility was to plan a major Tax Day action involving most of the Philadelphia-area peace and war tax groups. With a lot of help from Bob Smith of Brandywine Peace Community and some of the "old hands" at the Yearly Meeting, the witness was a great success. We drew attention to the relationship between Sanctuary and War Tax Resistance, emphasizing the way U.S. tax dollars are being spent in Central America; calling war tax resistance a sanctuary for conscience; and urging that resistance activities can create a sanctuary for the future. About 100 people turned up to take part on a cold rainy day in center city Philadelphia.

Final item of note in our "traveling peace ministry" is that I have been appointed to a committee at Media Friends Meeting (our local Meeting) to determine whether the Meeting should declare itself a public Sanctuary for Central American Refugees.

Important!

Bill and Genie Durland, or CENTER PEACE, can be contacted by writing us in care of

PENDLE HILL
Wallingford, PA 19086
Our phone number is (215) 566-3851