WONDERINGS

As noted in the last "wonderings" column, for any organization to stay healthy it must periodically look at its mission and/or purpose for being. It needs to evaluate what it is doing to realize its mission and what changes need to be made, if any, to fulfill its purpose.

This is a very short hand way of describing some of the work the Friends for a Non-Violent World (FNVW) Executive Board, volunteers and staff are struggling with this October and November. By the time you read this we will have started a series of retreats, meetings and discussions on questions such as:

1. What is the mission (purpose) of Friends for A Non-Violent World?

2. Where are we now in relation to this mission?

3. Where do we want to be in 1991(our 10th year), in 1995, etc.

4. How do we plan to get from here to there? What will be our strategy for this next year or two?

The founders of FNVW began with a strong sense of mission. Various brochures have stated: FNVW continues to believe it is important to maintain a Quaker presence and or witness, to build the anti-nuclear movement, to work on issues of peace and justice and to insist on the use of non-violence as a process as expressed in respect and love.There have been changes over the years as to priorities in program focus, but the committment to non-violence has underlain everything we have done.

Along with this focused examination we are creating of a plan that will have the following characteristics:

Feasibility - Is this plan realistic given our resources of money, volunteers and skills?

Measurability - Are our goals specific enough to know whether or not they are achieveable?

Timeliness - Has there been a realistice time line been designed?

Flexibility - Is it fluid enough to be amended if it's not working?

Inspiration - Does this plan generate excitement? Is it inspiring and worth working on?

As we walk through this process we are finding several benefits. It is a cleansing process that can have a unifying effect on FNVW. We can see individual programs as parts of a greater whole. It provides us with a way to approach programming and fund raising with a greater sense of direction, guidance and support.

We are looking for additional persons who appreciate this planning process and are willing to work with us as we learn.

Do you wish to join us?

John E. Martinson

Program Director

Friends for a Non-Violent World publishes this newletter four times a year in January, April, July and October. FNVW has its roots in the Quaker faith and has been shaped by a belief in the power of nonviolence as a way of effecting change.

Newsletter committee: Jim Bruener, Emily Knight, John Martinson, D. Kidder, Patty Wright, Jean Egbert.

For additional information or comments, contact FNVW at 2025 Nicollet Avenue South #203, Mpls., Mn. 55404 (612) 870-1501.

CRAFT SALE

Did you know that on December 3rd you can do most of your holiday shopping, get together with friends (and Friends), take home some home-baked goodies and never once set foot in a shopping mall or approach your stove?

You can do all this and more (perhaps treat yourself to a massage?) at the FNVW Craft Sale, Saturday, December 3rd from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Minneapolis Friends Meetinghouse, 44th and York Avenue South.

Select unique gifts from an array of pottery, needlework, calendars, woodwork, homemade edibles, a variety of services such as massage and gourmet cooking, and donations from local restaurants.

Be sure to allow time for lunch and visiting! The craft sale is the major fundraiser for FNVW, and it's also a major fun-raiser. If you would like to participate by helping during the sale or donating crafts and services to sell, please call FNVW office at 870-1501 or Betty Firth at 827-4285.

VETERANS BRING LIFE TO NICARAGUA

Don Irish

Editors Note: Don Irish, an active FNVW volunteer,traveled in Nicaragua this past spring as a long term member for Witness for Peace (WFP), a non-partisan organization observing, investigating and reporting events of violence occuring in Nicaragua. The following is an excerpt from a letter of Don's dated July 29 in which he reports on the arrival of supplies in Managua from the U.S. veteran's convoy.

This morning the veteran's convoy was featured downtown at Valasquez Park. About 11:00 A.M. a convoy lead car was followed by twelve to fifteen veterans moving down the street in several rows of wheel chairs. Then came the convoy of numerous colorfully labeled vehicles, most of them pick-ups. Stickers like "Another Veteran for Jesse Jackson", "Another Veteran for Peace." "Farms not Arms", "The People Want Peace", and so on were affixed to the truck bodies along with painted slogans.

Leaving their vehicles parked in several rows they proceeded to the platform with President Daniel Ortega, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and other national dignitaries. Ortega was in jeans with an open neck sport shirt; D'Escoto had on a white quayabra shirt.

Raul Val Dez, U.S. veteran from Texas, spoke for the convoy, delivering his message in Spanish. He alluded to the domestic impact of U.S. intervention policies, depriving American children of education, health care and other benefits. while killing Nicaraguan children. He indicated that 50% of Texas Hispanic children were not in school. Thus the international poicies of the U.S.

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