



News From Holland

Holland First United Methodist Church

April 2008

Rev. Victor Pena, Pastor

Web Site: www.hollandum.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Peacekeeper vs. Peacemaker

Scripture: Matthew 5:9 and John 14:27

Recently a friend of mine shared with me some thoughts on peacekeeper versus peacemaker and I want to share that with you and contemplate the difference.

Jesus was the ultimate peace “maker”. We are the children of God because Jesus gave us peace by removing conflict from us: sin.

Do you realize there is more conflict in families than between nations! And church families are no exception!

In dealing with the conflict let’s look at the concepts --

Peace keepers call a truce with no resolution - a cease fire. But the conflict remains.

Peacemakers get to the heart of things. There can be no peace without some degree of confrontation. This confrontation does not have to be blood shed or a permanent rift -- it can be dialogue.

Let’s consider Samuel Colts approach -- In 1873, he introduced a pistol that was named “The Peacekeeper”. Because of its simple design, and the use of shell cartridges rather than older style loaders, anyone could learn to use the weapon. It was easy to load and the graduated sight made it simple to aim and fire. It was said that God made every man different, but Sam Colt made them equal. The concept being that a larger, stronger man could no longer overpower a smaller weaker man. What formerly depended on strength now depended on speed and accuracy.

The pistol did not resolve conflict – it only escalated it.

In November 1982, President Ronald Reagan dubbed the new mobile M-X missile “The Peacekeeper”. This missile, because of mobility and more modern guidance systems, would be a great deterrent to foreign aggression.

In over 3100 years of recorded world history, the world has only been at peace 8% of the time or a total of 286 years and 8000 treaties have been made and broken.

It appears that peacekeeping does not work very well. Not only does peacekeeping not offer any solutions to the conflict, quite often the peacekeeper themselves got shot.

John MacArthur says, “A truce just says you don’t shoot for awhile. Peace comes when the truth is known, the issue settled, and the parties embrace each other.”

This is what is happening in many families. Trying to keep the peace and conflict still exists. *Until all parties sit down and hash it out, no peace can be made.*

Jesus the prince of peace was made in God's likeness. As His children, we should be at peace, and bring peace to all that is around us, even if that means getting our hands dirty!

Here are more categories to ponder!

Peace breakers: Those who go out of their way to break down relationships; to cause trouble and division. Their motivation is self.

Peace fakers: We have all been this at one time or another. That is one who prefers peace over truth. They see peace as simply the absence of any kind of argument. They will go to lengths to avoid any kind of conflict. In doing this they settle for a counterfeit peace that is based on avoiding the real issues.

Peacemakers: Are prepared to put others well-being above their own comfort level. Peacemakers act out of love, real love. They are prepared to tell the truth and trust God for the outcome in order to have a peace that is worthwhile and lasting.

Remember though, that real peacemakers will often be crucified. The ultimate peacemaker died on the cross. He was making real peace, between God and man.

We are called to be peacemakers because we have found the peace ourselves.

A person cannot be a peacemaker until he finds peace for himself.

The source of peace is God, and through Christ we experience that peace.

Conflict is inevitable.

Peacemaking is hard.

At a time when peace on earth, good will to men is everywhere, these are things we should consider. Are we a peacekeeper or a peacemaker?

----- everybody okay?

Pastor Victor

U M W News

The Holland UMW met at the Fellowship Hall on March 26, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Cynthia Norville presented part one of our study for this year. We will continue the study at our next meeting on April 16th at 1:00 pm. Please join us!

Cowboy Church

Our **April** Cowboy Church is scheduled for **April 27th at 5:00 pm**. Don't forget to bring those cookies.

Judy's News

New Calling –Granger UMC

Thank you for your continued interest in this new calling. I wanted to share the exciting news. The church has paid for our two youth (15-16 years old) to attend camp at Glen Lake this summer. First time ever! The girls are excited and already have their registration in and accepted!

Another first in a very long time was their participation in the Laity Banquet. I was very excited we were there and could answer roll call!

Monthly Luncheons

April's church luncheon will be on Thursday, April 24th @ 11:30 A. M. at Dynasty. Everyone is invited.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Victor continues to teach the Book of Romans at 6:30 P.M. Try to attend. Studying The Word is what we as Christians are suppose to do.

**Holland First United Methodist Church
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