

# The Path of Hope

Nonviolent efforts to bring about peace and justice are far more numerous than most people realize. Young people have been key participants in many such efforts. The LPF **Path of Hope** exhibit and its related activities and resources seek to honor the memory of these movements and heroes and to encourage social change efforts today.

The Path of Hope includes equal numbers of activities, heroes, and movements for peace (on blue labels), racial and ethnic justice (orange), freedom and independence (red), and social justice and the environment (green).

Lutheran Peace Fellowship and the Peace & Justice Resource Center have used the Path and/or Path activities with countless groups since the late 1980s. Many groups and classrooms have created their own Path of Hope and shared its stories and insights widely in their communities.

Here then is just a sampling of inspiring and challenging events in which ordinary people have improved their lives through nonviolent action. They encompass virtually every geographic area of the world, period in history, and type of social concern:

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1350 B.C.E. **Hebrew midwives**, in the first recorded act of civil disobedience, refuse to obey Pharaoh's order to kill male Hebrew babies. After years of slavery in Egypt the Hebrew people leave in the **Exodus**, an experience of liberation central to Jewish and Christian understanding of God acting in history.

750 B.C.E. **Amos** is called from his job as a shepherd to denounce Israel and its neighbors for their social injustice, shallow religious ritual and reliance on military might. (Amos 5, 8)

600-520 As a teenager, **Jeremiah** is called to be a prophet, and like **Isaiah** and **Micah**, he criticizes the injustices of the day and pleads for the Children of Israel to make the pursuit of love and justice central to their lives.

167 The Book of **Daniel** depicts two instances of civil disobedience against the king's edicts; being willing to face death rather than sin. (Daniel 3, 6)

26 C.E. Thousands of Jews protest symbols of the Roman empire which Jews consider to be idolatrous. When threatened with death, they offer their necks to the sword but will not budge. Pilate removes the offensive emblems.

33 **Jesus** lives a life of nonviolence and compassion for all without regard to age, social status, race, or gender.

40-80 **Paul** and the **apostles** preach the Christian gospel of justice, nonviolence, and reconciliation. As Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed... Live in harmony with one another. Do not repay evil for evil. If your enemies are hungry, feed them." (Romans 12)

50-200 In contrast to later Christian support of militarism, pacifism is typical among **early Christian communities**, with members being encouraged to make a vow of nonviolence or required to leave the military. Church leaders opposed to killing, even by the government, include **Arnobius, Basil the Great, Cyprian, Irenaus, Justin, Origen, and Tertullian**.

340s **Martin of Tours**, a Roman army officer, renounces violence when he becomes a "soldier of Christ." Martin Luther, Martin Niemoller, and Martin Luther King, Jr. are all named after him.

1200 **St. Francis of Assisi** turns his back on wealth as a youth; lives a life of nonviolence and concern for others and for all creation. To this day animals are often blessed in churches on his birthday.

1200s Thousands of women join women's communities called **Beguines** that develop creative religious and eco-nomic forms and offer leadership opportunities to women.

1520s **Bartolome de las Casas**, a West Indian landowner and priest, is outraged by the brutality of the Spaniards toward the Indians. He writes reports and makes several trips back to Europe in a life-long effort to convince the king and religious leaders to treat Indians fairly.

1520s Challenging the empty religious practices of his day, **Martin Luther** re-emphasizes that God is revealed in the cross and in love – both Christ's and the Christian's. In the final decades of his life, Luther gives increasing emphasis to the importance of responding to the needs of the poor by Christians.

1537 The "Historic Peace Churches" which oppose war for conscience sake, are founded, including **Mennonites**, in 1537; The Society of Friends, known as **Quakers**, in 1652; and **Brethren**, in 1708.

1644 **11 African American servants** in New Amsterdam file a petition for freedom, the first recorded legal protest in what Europeans call the "New World."

1681 **William Penn's Letter to the Delaware Indians** leads to treaties that keep the peace between whites and Indians for two generations.

1758 **John Woolman** persuades the large Philadelphia Friends Meeting to condemn slave-holding by Quakers. He later writes "A Plea for the Poor," calling for an end to injustice and greed which he sees as the root of conflict.

1765-75 **American colonists** conduct three nonviolent resistance campaigns against British rule; they result in a condition of independence by 1775, a year before war is declared in 1776.

1780 **Quakers** start the first antislavery society in the U.S.

1840s The **Underground Railroad** helps slaves escape to the northern U.S. or Canada led by "conductors" such as **Harriet Tubman** who led 19 groups to safety, despite her epilepsy and her own vulnerability as an escaped slave.

- 1846 **Henry David Thoreau** is jailed for refusing to pay taxes to support the Mexican-American War. He writes a powerful essay, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience," which influences Tolstoy, Gandhi and generations of peacemakers.
- 1848 **Lucretia Mott**, along with **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, organize the first women's rights convention.
- 1850 **Hungarian** patriots engage in nonviolent resistance to Austrian rule and eventually are able to regain self-governance for Hungary.
- 1854 **Elihu Burritt** advocates organized civil disobedience – not just individual belief and activity – to end the power of governments to make war.
- 1867 **2000 Chinese workers** hired to build railroads in Western United States organize a week-long strike protesting inhumane and racist conditions.
- 1871 **1000 women in Paris** block cannons and stand between Prussian and Parisian troops, preventing war.
- 1873 Women celebrate the first "**Mother's Day**" originally a peace holiday as proposed by **Julia Ward Howe**.
- 1891 **Ida B. Wells** starts her lifelong anti-lynching campaign by establishing her own newspaper, the *Memphis Free Speech*, to draw attention to brutal lynch mob murders of African Americans.
- 1898-1902 Thousands protest the brutal Spanish-American War; leaders include **Mark Twain**, author of *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, *The War Prayer* and other works on the folly of war.
- 1900s Beginning as early as the 1700s, the **U.S. labor movement** strives to secure economic justice, workers' dignity, and better working conditions. Among nonviolent methods used: strikes, picket lines, and worker organizing.
- 1901-05 **Finns** nonviolently resist Russian oppression, forcing them to repeal a law imposing a military draft.
- 1905 **Mohandas Gandhi** begins his first major nonviolent resistance campaign in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1909 The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** (NAACP) is formed to fight prejudice and discrimination; W.E.B. duBois, Ida B. Wells, and Mary Terrell are among the founding members.
- 1914 The **Fellowship of Reconciliation** is founded as World War I begins by a German Lutheran pastor and an English Quaker, pledging "to keep the bonds of Christian love unbroken across the frontier."
- 1914-1918 **Conscientious objectors** to World War I number more than 4,000 in the United States. Although torture and brutality are common in prison and several men die, by their courage they make non-participation in war as a matter of conscience easier for future conscientious objectors.
- 1919-47 **Mohandas Gandhi** leads the struggle for Indian independence from British rule through nonviolent means such as the 1930 "Salt March" across India to the ocean where protesters gather salt in violation of British law, publicly evading oppressive British taxes.
- Badshah Khan**, a leader of the Pathans, a people with a strong warrior tradition, organizes a "nonviolent army," which numbers as many as 100,000 people, to oppose British rule and resolve conflicts. In the process he explodes three myths: that nonviolence can be followed only by those who are gentle; that it cannot work against ruthless repression; and that it has no place in Islam.
- 1920 After 75 years of struggle, the **U.S. women's suffrage movement** achieves a constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.
- 1923 20,000 **women silk workers** in Shanghai, China go on strike demanding a 10-hour work day.
- 1923 French and Belgian occupation of the Ruhr valley is ended after noncooperation by **German citizens** makes the occupation too costly, both economically and politically, despite severe repression.
- 1927 The **Filipino Federation of Labor**, the **League of United Latin American Citizens** (1928), and the **Japanese American Citizens League** (1930), are organized in the face of rising discrimination in U.S. society.
- 1930s **Toyohiko Kagawa** leads a movement in Japan to help the poor and to oppose growing militarism.
- 1933 The **Catholic Worker** is founded by **Dorothy Day**, a reporter, and **Peter Maurin**, a self-taught French peasant. The movement and the *Catholic Worker* newspaper emphasize hospitality to the poor, pacifism, and voluntary poverty. Catholic Worker houses are organized in dozens of cities in the U.S. and elsewhere.
- 1934 **20,000 students** participate in a one-day anti-war strike in the U.S.
- 1933-34 A group of pastors including **Martin Niemoller** – a veteran of the German Navy in World War I – forms the "Pastor's Emergency League." It support pastors who are part-Jewish or lose their salaries because of the Nazis.
- 1934 An official convention of Lutheran and other delegates unanimously passes the **Barmen Declaration** asserting the gospel's independence of Nazi authority. The declaration leads to the founding of the **Confessing Church**, which, despite its limitations, became the most effective anti-Nazi group in Germany.
- 1940-45 **Finland** saves all but six of its Jewish citizens from Nazi death camps through nonmilitary means.
- 6,500 of 7000 **Danish** Jews escape to Sweden, most of the rest are hidden, aided by the people and tips from within the German occupation force.
- A rail worker strike in **Holland** almost shuts down traffic from November 1944 until liberation in May 1945 despite extreme

privation to the people – as is portrayed in the *Diary of Anne Frank*.

Public resistance in **Norway** undermines Nazi plans; for example, teachers refuse to teach Nazi propaganda.

**Romania** at first persecutes Jews, then refuses to give up a single Jew to the death camps.

Thousands of **Bulgarians** march in demonstrations, hide Jews, and send countless letters protesting anti-Jewish measures. **Bishop Kiril** threatens to lead civil disobedience and lie down on the tracks in front of trains. All Bulgarian Jews are saved from Nazi death camps.

After the war, German generals admit their complete inability to cope with such nonviolent strategies.

1941 **Lutheran Peace Fellowship** is founded to provide worship and advocacy resources, a newsletter and other publications, workshops, support for fellowship, and a place to explore faith responses to issues of peace and justice. Its first major project is helping to support Lutheran conscientious objectors in work camps.

1942 German students form the **White Rose** resistance movement against the Nazi regime distribute thousands of leaflets which expose the nature of the Nazis and its treatment of Jews and urge “obstruction of the war machine by passive resistance,” including sabotage. Several of its leaders are arrested and beheaded by the Nazis in 1943.

1943 Lutheran youth leader, pastor, and theologian **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** is jailed for his efforts on behalf of German Jews. He had refused an offer to live and teach safely in the United States and returned to Germany in 1935 to lead an underground seminary and work in the resistance. He is hanged by the Nazis in 1945 after he is linked to a plot against Hitler.

1944 The Central American dictators Jorge Ubico (in Guatemala) and Maximiliano Martinez (in El Salvador) are ousted as a result of **nonviolent civilian revolts** and general strikes. Between 1931 and 1961, eleven Latin American presidents leave office as a result of civil strikes.

1945 **Claude Eatherly** pilots the plane that drops the first atomic bomb used in wartime. He later comes to regret his involvement in the bombing of Hiroshima and speaks widely about the horrors of modern weapons and war.

1945 The **United Nations** is founded to resolve disputes before they result in war. Since then, the UN has developed agencies and programs on arms control, human rights, the environment, hunger and development, indigenous peoples, peacekeeping, refugees, children and women to name a few.

1950s A priest and several students in the Basque region of Spain begin a cooperative factory. It grows into a network of 170 worker-owned-and-operated cooperatives called **Mondragon**, with 21,000 well-paying jobs, a bank, chain of stores, and technical schools. They develop many creative democratic processes emulated elsewhere.

1955 **500,000 women in Indonesia** demonstrate for women's rights on International Women's Day.

1955 **Rosa Parks** is arrested after refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus where blacks were required to ride. The black community launches the **Montgomery bus boycott**, led by **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** After a year of hardship the boycott succeeds, revitalizing the civil rights struggle in the United States.

1957 Despite threats to their lives, **Daisy Bates, Elizabeth Eckford**, and seven other young students become the first African Americans to attend the previously all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

1958 **Ken Caulkin**, a founder of the Student Peace Union, is run down by a truck and seriously injured in a protest against the first Atlas missile base being built in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

1959 The **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** (SCLC) is organized by **Martin Luther King, Jr., Ella Baker** and other black leaders. It becomes the most influential African American civil rights organization.

1959 **Septima Clark** sets up Freedom Schools all over the South to teach black history and to train African Americans as voters and community leaders.

1960 **Four black students** “sit in” at a Woolworth lunch counter to protest the rule that only whites can eat there. The nonviolent tactic of “sit-ins” spreads in campaigns to desegregate restrooms, theaters, restaurants, and libraries.

The **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee** (SNCC) is formed to mobilize young people and connect black & white youth using nonviolent direct action methods like “sit-ins.”

1961 Young black and white **Freedom Riders** protest discrimination on buses. A bus is burned in Alabama, riders are attacked in Birmingham, and spend 40 to 60 days in jail in Jackson, Mississippi. Six months later, the U.S. government bans segregation on buses, trains, and transport facilities.

1961 **Amnesty International** is founded to document and protest torture and capital punishment. It gains over a million members by 1980 with many high school & college chapters.

1963 The **March on Washington** is the largest demonstration to date bringing over 250,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** offers his “I Have a Dream” speech.

1963 **Limited nuclear test ban** treaty is signed by President Kennedy after six years of demonstrations by peace groups and growing concern by the public about the health hazards of nuclear testing.

1964 The **Freedom Summer** project recruits 700 young people to help register voters in Mississippi. Although three volunteers – Goodman, Schwerner and Cheney – disappear as training begins and are later found murdered, almost all of the volunteers continue their work.

- 1964-73 **Draft card burning** marks growing resistance to the U.S. war in Vietnam; millions of people join in rallies, demonstrations, draft counselling, tax resistance, civil disobedience, street theatre, and other forms of protest.
- 1964 **500,000 pupils** stay home from school in New York City to protest racial segregation.
- 1965 The **United Farm Workers** union launches a grape boycott led by **Cesar Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta** to allow farmworkers to organize for decent pay & working conditions. They weren't allowed unions like other workers. 1000s of individuals, schools, and churches support the boycott.
- 1965 Because of the enthusiasm and activism of many African Americans – like **Fannie Lou Hamer**, a sharecropper who simply wanted to vote – the **Voting Rights Act** is passed by Congress.
- 1968 **Philip** and **Dan Berrigan** and seven other Catholic priests and lay people destroy 378 draft files in the Catonsville, Maryland draft board and await arrest. The protest sparks dozens of similar acts of civil disobedience, and their action and court room statements form the basis of Dan's eloquent drama, *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine*.
- 1965 The growing **Liberation Theology** movement in Latin America emphasizes solidarity with the poor and oppressed; **Helder Camara**, **Gustavo Gutierrez**, **Juan Segundo**, **Jon Sobrino**, and later **Elsa Tamez** are among its leaders.
- 1969 **Greenpeace** adopts nonviolent direct action methods to dramatize its message to protect the environment. Its creative tactics included sailing boats into nuclear testing and whaling areas and hanging banners from bridges.
- 1970 The killing of four students by the National Guard at **Kent State** University sparks strikes and protests at 1000s of colleges. More than a million people join Vietnam protests for the first time. A few days later, two African American students are killed at Jackson State College.
- 1970 The first **Earth Day** is held in cities around the United States to focus public attention on environment issues.
- 1971 At the age of 90, **Jeanette Rankin** leads **8000 woman** on a march to the Pentagon against the Vietnam War. **1000 veterans** protest the war; many throw their medals onto the Capitol steps.
- 1972 The **Trail of Broken Treaties** march occupies the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington, DC to dramatize Native American needs.
- 1973 **Art Simon**, a Lutheran pastor in NY City, organizes **Bread for the World** to educate, organize and lobby on hunger issues. It soon has 45,000 individual and congregation members. It lobbies the U.S. Congress to pass the Right to Food Resolution in 1976, the Africa Relief and Recovery Act in 1984 and still works to expand funds for U.S. hunger programs.
- 1975 Groups defending the rights of **indigenous peoples** are organized around the world to protest logging or stealing of their land, and other abuses. More than 1000 such groups are formed by the mid-1980s.
- 1976 60,000 join **Peace People** demonstrations in Belfast and Dublin. **Mairead Corrigan** and **Betty Williams** receive the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts at nonviolent reconciliation in Northern Ireland.
- 1977 "**Mothers of the Plaza**" buy a newspaper ad in Argentina to publish the names of mothers and pictures of 230 "disappeared," that is, people kidnapped, tortured, and/or killed by the military.
- 1977 The **Nestle boycott** leads to a UN World Health Organization agreement restricting promotion and sale of infant formula in poor countries. Infant formula is less healthy than breast-feeding due to a lack of clean water and its high cost.
- 1979 A **Gay Rights March** draws 100,000 demonstrators to Wash., DC to protest discrimination against homosexuals.
- 1980 **Adolfo Perez Esquivel** receives the Nobel Peace Prize for the work of *Servicio Paz y Justicia*; a group he had founded to intervene on behalf of human rights victims all over Latin America.
- 1980 Archbishop **Oscar Romero** of El Salvador is murdered while celebrating mass. He had come to identify with the poor, and to urge soldiers not to participate in violence.
- 1980 **Solidarity** movement is founded in Poland. Repressed by the government, within in a few years it is widely declared dead even by many Western correspondents. In 1989 it wins every available seat in Parliament and now governs the nation; its victory comes without a single violent act despite the killing of 100 of its members.
- 1980s **Witness for Peace** sends thousands of Americans to Nicaragua in a 'shield of love' to help stop violence by U.S. backed "contra" guerrillas... 80,000 U.S. citizens sign a "**Pledge of Resistance**" promising to commit civil disobedience if the U.S. invades, helping avert U.S. military action ... 300 churches offer **Sanctuary** to protect Central American refugees from deportation.
- 1981 Protests against U.S. cruise missiles based at **Greenham Common** in England begin. At its peak, more than 8,000 women live in tents outside the base, demonstrating and committing civil disobedience. In one protest, 30,000 people encircle the base.
- 1982 750,000 people gather in NY City for the largest **disarmament protest** in U.S. history. During the 1980s a wide variety of nonviolent methods are used from demonstrations to peace quilts, nuclear freeze petitions to street theatre. More than 37,000 people are arrested for civil disobedience actions protesting the threat to use nuclear weapons. University **Peace Studies** programs grow from two colleges in 1972 to over 300 by 1987.
- 1982 **Sister Helen Prejean** becomes a pen pal to a prisoner

- on death row. She later writes a powerful memoir on her experience, *Dead Man Walking*, which is made into an award-winning film.
- 1984 The book *I, Rigoberta Menchu* details the struggle of Guatemalan women in the face of the U.S.-supported military government that killed and tortured more than 100,000 people. Rigoberta Menchu receives the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.
- 1984 **Linda Stout**, a tenant farmer's daughter, creates **Piedmont Peace Project** to organize rural poor for jobs, services, peace, and low-income empowerment; she later writes *Bridging the Class Divide*.
- 1986 Nonviolent **People Power** in the Philippines brings down the oppressive Marcos dictatorship. After a long period of protests, demonstrations of tens of thousands of people are able to prevent a military response from succeeding. Its success inspires movements in Asia, South Africa, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere.
- 1986 Palestinian **Intifada**, or "resistance" to Israeli military occupation begins. Contrary to many media reports, it used mostly nonviolent means.
- 1987 3,000 people gather on Mother's Day at the **Nevada Test Site** to protest preparations for nuclear war; the U.S. had detonated 1000 nuclear explosions between 1945 and 1990, more than all other nations combined.
- 1988 Black and white church leaders in South Africa unite to condemn apartheid in an **Emergency Convocation** and call churches to active nonviolent resistance .
- 1988 Well-known Palestinian nonviolent activist **Mubarak Awad** is expelled from Israel, despite pleas from President Reagan and the U.S. ambassador who says, "You need more Awads in Jerusalem, not fewer."
- 1989 **Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and East Germany** all win freedom from Soviet control by nonviolent means. Nonviolent independence movements within the Soviet Union are launched in **Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Armenia, Moldavia, and the Ukraine**.
- 1989 **Romanian** secret police attempt to arrest **Rev. Laslo Tokes**; his parishioners jam the streets, light candles, and refuse to move. The crowd grows to 50,000 in the city center. Violent suppression by the government sparks the revolution that overthrows the dictator Ceausescu.
- 1989 The Chinese government crushes a nonviolent **student protest** at **Tiananmen Square** but not before images are televised around the world such as an unarmed young man stopping a column of tanks.
- 1989 Student protests lead 20% of U.S. universities to fully withdraw investments from corporations with ties to South Africa; almost 60% respond to some extent to the **divestment campaign**.
- 1990 **Disabled demonstrators** at the U.S. Capitol building demand passage of a bill guaranteeing their civil rights. 60 people highlight their demands by crawling out of their wheelchairs and up the Capitol steps.
- 1990 King Birendra of **Nepal** yields to protests that topple his government and grants multi-party democracy, a parliamentary system, and freedom of speech, religion, press, and assembly.
- 1990s Lutheran Bishop **Medardo Ernesto Gomez** is a leader in the rebuilding of El Salvador after its bloody civil war. "Sister Parish" links between US and Latin American churches are important sources of support in El Salvador, Guatemala, and elsewhere, and also help educate U.S. citizens.
- 1990-1991 Demonstrations in 20 cities protest U.S. buildup to war against Iraq; polls show the majority of Americans support nonviolent resolution of the conflict. **Erik Larson** is among 2000 young soldiers seeking conscientious objector status. After the war, support grows for a **Code of Conduct** to end U.S. arms sales to dictators who amass weapons to invade neighbors or repress their people.
- 1991 **Russian demonstrators** in the tens of thousands surround the Moscow *White House* (their parliament building) to protect President Boris Yeltsin from a coup that fails despite command of four million soldiers and thousands of tanks and aircraft.
- 1992 Demonstrations and educational events around the world turn the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus into a classroom on the plight of **native peoples** and the effects of colonialism.
- 1992 60,000 people attend an **anti-war rock concert** in Belgrade, Serbia to protest war in the former Yugoslavia; in Stara Moravica, a **solidarity action** is held in support of 83 young people who refuse to serve in the military. Among the victims of Serbian shelling in Sarajevo, Bosnia, daily **nonviolent demonstrations** and protests take place.
- 1994 **Nelson Mandela** is elected the first black President of South Africa, just four years after he is released from jail.
- 1995 **Million Man March** by African Americans in Washington, DC highlights constructive efforts of black men & challenges them to fight racism in their communities back home.
- 1995 The human rights activist in Burma, **Aung San Suu Kyi**, is released from six years of detention; her political party had won an overwhelming victory in 1989 but wasn't allowed to take office. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.
- 1996 Unmet needs of children is the focus of the **Stand for Children** march in Washington, DC led by **Marion Wright Edelman** of the Children's Defense Fund and local organizers and advocacy organization.
- 1998-99 Thousands of churches, schools, and groups pass resolutions endorsing the **Nobel Appeal for Peace** "For the Children of the World." The UN designates the years 2001-2010 as the **Decade for a Culture of Peace & Nonviolence**.

74 million people sign a pledge of nonviolence by 2001!

1999 Over 50,000 people participate **WTO protests in Seattle** during World Trade Organization meetings. Lutheran Peace Fellowship youth hand out 8,500 flyers calling for justice for poor and working people, basic changes in the role of the World Trade, and nonviolence in the protests.

2002 Protests escalate against the Israeli **Wall** separating Jewish and Palestinian areas often putting barriers between Palestinians and their land, jobs, relatives, and neighbors. **Rachel Corrie**, a 23-year-old American peace activist, becomes a symbol of resistance when she is killed in March by an American-made bulldozer in Gaza while nonviolently protesting the destruction of the homes of Palestinians.

The Lutheran World Federation and ELCA launch the **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel**; a sizable number of youth participate.

2003 In March alone, more than six million people around the world protest plans of the US government to launch a **war on Iraq** that violates morality and international law, and is promoted by reasons that prove inaccurate such as a major new threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

2005 In a **mass participation fast**, concerned Americans express their remorse and penitence for the failure of their elected officials in Congress to follow up with effective action their declaration of **genocide in the Darfur area of Sudan**.

2006 On May 1, over 1,500,000 people take part in the largest **immigrant rights** protest in U.S. history. May Day, which for 60 years has been a celebration of the contributions of working people around the world, becomes an annual event to push for comprehensive immigration reform.

2001 In just a decade, citizen lobbying led to canceling of more than \$120 billion of debt in developing countries, in what came to be called the **Jubilee movement**. Since 1986 the world's 66 poorest countries paid \$230 billion in debt service, more than they received from donor countries in that time.

2008 Chinese troops and security forces use gunfire to quell **protests in Tibet**, led mostly by young Buddhists monks. The largely nonviolent demonstrations against Chinese rule of Tibet, with leadership from the Dalai Lama, occur just weeks before the summer Olympics begin in China.

### Sources and Resources

Especially useful sources of information for the Path of Hope include: Peter Ackerman and Jack DuVall, ***A Force More Powerful***; Robert Cooney and Helen Michalowski, ***The Power of the People: Active Nonviolence in the US***; Staughton Lynd and Alice Lynd, ed., ***Nonviolence in America: A Documentary History***; Pam McAllister, ***You Can't Kill the Spirit***, and ***This River of Courage***; Michael True, ***Justice Seekers, Peace Makers***, and ***To Construct Peace***; Walter Wink, ***The Powers That Be, Jesus & Nonviolence***, and ***Engaging the Powers***; and Glen Gersmehl, ***Social Movements: A Resource Guide***.

2008 January 15, **nuclear disarmament** moves even more mainstream as former "cold warriors" Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry, and Sam Nunn call for the complete **elimination of nuclear weapons** in a *Wall Street Journal* article "Toward a Nuclear-Free World." They gain support from 70% of living former U.S. secretaries of defense, secretaries of state, and national security advisors, and from leaders around the world. In 2009, the US and Russia agree to a 25% cut in nuclear arsenals.

2009 More than four million Americans, many of them youth, have joined the **ONE Campaign, Bread for the World**, and other groups to fight extreme poverty and preventable disease, especially in Africa. They seek to hold world leaders of 191 countries accountable for commitments they made in 1999 to cut extreme poverty and hunger in half by the year 2015, and for seven other **Millennium Development Goals**.

2009 The Obama administration takes office with a **federal budget** that spends \$686 billion on the military but less than \$12 billion each on diplomacy and development. A nation's budget says a lot about its priorities. LPF and many other citizen groups advocate major changes in a U.S. budget that spends so small a share on nonviolent approaches to conflict and on addressing underlying causes of conflict. [*LPF's What Brings Security?* computer-based activity explores this further.]

2009 Millions of people from all walks of life take to the streets to protest the **elections in Iran** for what they regard as inaccurate or even fraudulent handling of ballot results.



**The Path of Hope** grew out of conversations and workshops with **young people** many of whom felt discouraged by the priorities and heroes of our culture. Beginning in 1988, students chose most of the 120 stories and 400 photos and drawings for what was at first called "The Wall of Hope." **The Path vividly illustrates the creativity, effectiveness, and prevalence of nonviolent responses to violence and injustice around the globe and throughout history.**

This exhibit has traveled across the U.S. and Canada to over 600 schools, conferences, churches, and events such as ELCA Youth Gatherings where it inspired tens of thousands of young people. The 'Path' and its activities and resources were mainly developed by Lutheran Peace Fellowship which has shared it freely: Hundreds of classes and groups have used LPF's free "how to" kit to **create their own** Path of Hope.

**We'd love to see your reactions to the Path of Hope, and your ideas for updates and action. Lutheran Peace Fellowship welcomes your partnership in sharing the gift of justice and peace in our troubled world.**

For other Path of Hope and nonviolence resources, and to connect with the amazing community of peacemakers that is LPF: [lpf@ecunet.org](mailto:lpf@ecunet.org) 206.720.0313 [www.LutheranPeace.org](http://www.LutheranPeace.org)