

The Path of Hope

Nonviolent efforts to bring about peace and justice are far more numerous than most people realize. LPF's "Path of Hope" exhibit and its related activities and resources seek to honor the efforts, creativity, and courage of these movements and heroes and to encourage social change efforts today.



The Path lifts up 160 inspiring and challenging examples of ordinary people joining together for social change through nonviolent means. They span the globe and every period in history, and include similar numbers of efforts for peace... racial and ethnic justice... freedom and independence... and social justice and the environment. Take a look:

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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 all male Hebrew babies. After years of slavery in Egypt the Hebrew people leave in the **Exodus**, an experience of liberation central to both Jewish and Christian views of God acting in history.

750 **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 teen, **Jeremiah** is called to be a prophet, and like **Isaiah** and **Micah**, criticizes injustice and pleads for the Children of Israel to make love and justice central to their lives.

563-483 **Buddha** urges: "Better than 1000 hollow words, is one word that brings peace," and "You can't find inner peace except by working not just for yourself, but for the whole human family."

500 **Lao Tzu** teaches compassion, simplicity, and patience: "In governing, don't try to force issues or defeat enemies by force. Violence, even well-intentioned, always backfires." (Tao Te Ching)

388 Aristophanes' play **Lysistrata** depicts women stopping a war by withholding sex from their soldier-husbands.

26 C.E. 1000s of Jews protest idolatrous symbols of the Roman empire. Threatened with death, they offer their necks to the sword and stand their ground. Pilate removes the emblems.

1-33 **Jesus** lives a life of nonviolence and compassion for all without regard to age, social status, race, or gender, and is put to death for the threat he posed to the established order.

30-80 **St. Paul** and the **apostles** urge Christians to seek justice, nonviolence, and reconciliation. As Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed. Live in harmony. Don't repay evil for evil. If your enemies are hungry feed them." (Rom.12)

50-200 **Pacifism** is typical in early Christian communities, with members being encouraged to make a vow of nonviolence or even required to leave the military. Church leaders opposed to killing even by governments include **Arnobius**, **Basil the Great**, **Cyprian**, **Irenaus**, **Justin**, **Origen**, and **Tertullian**.

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

570-632 **Muhammad**, the founder of Islam, urges: "Be steadfast, in equity; let not enmity incite you to act other than with justice. Be always just, that is nearer to righteousness." (Qur'an, 16, 91)

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. Animals are often blessed in churches on his birthday.

1200s 1000s of women join **Beguines**, women's communities with cooperative economic forms and leadership opportunities.

1520s Landowner and priest, **Bartolome de las Casas**, outraged by Spaniard brutality, writes reports and travels back to Europe to convince the king and religious leaders to treat Indians fairly.

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

1537 "**Historic Peace Churches**" opposing war for conscience sake are founded: **Mennonites**, in 1537; Society of Friends, known as **Quakers**, in 1652; and the **Brethren**, in 1708.

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

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

1758 **John Woolman** persuades PA Quakers to condemn slave-holding by Quakers. is "A Plea for the Poor," calls for an end to injustice and greed which he sees as the root of conflict.

1765-75 **American colonists** conduct 3 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. His "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience" influences Tolstoy, Gandhi and countless others.

1848 **Lucretia Mott** along with **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and others organize the first women's rights convention.

1850 **Hungarian** patriots engage in nonviolent resistance to Austrian rule; eventually 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**.
- 1870s, 80s **Maoris** in New Zealand organize widespread non-violent resistance to European confiscation of land, e.g. soldiers were greeted by rows of skipping and singing children.
- 1891 **Ida B. Wells** starts her lifelong anti-lynching campaign by setting up a newspaper, the *Memphis Free Speech*, to draw attention to brutal lynch mob murders of African Americans.
- 1898-02 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 more on the folly of war.
- 1900s From the 1700s, the **US labor movement** works to secure economic justice, workers' dignity, and better working conditions. using nonviolent methods: strikes, pickets, 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 **NAACP** (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is formed to fight prejudice and discrimination; W.E.B. duBois and Ida B. Wells are among founding members.
- 1914 As World War I begins the **Fellowship of Reconciliation** is founded by a German pastor and an English Quaker, pledging "to keep the bonds of Christian love unbroken across the frontier." It becomes the world's largest peace & justice group.
- 1914-1918 **Conscientious objectors** to World War I top 4,000 in the US. Though torture and brutality are common in prison, their courage makes 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 Gandhi and countless protesters gather salt in violation of British law, publicly evading oppressive British taxes.

- Badshah Khan**, a leader of the Pathans, with its strong warrior tradition, organizes a "nonviolent army" of as many as 100,000 people to oppose British rule and resolve conflicts. He explodes 3 myths: that nonviolence can be used only by the gentle; it cannot work against the ruthless; and that it has no place in Islam.
- 1920 After 75 years, the **U.S. women's suffrage movement** wins a constitutional amendment giving 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 it 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) formed to fight rising discrimination.
- 1930s **Toyohiko Kagawa** leads a movement in Japan to help the poor and to oppose growing militarism.
- 1933 The **Catholic Worker** is founded in NY by **Dorothy Day**, a reporter, and **Peter Maurin**, a French peasant. The movement and its newspaper emphasize hospitality to the poor, pacifism, and voluntary poverty. Catholic Worker houses are established in dozens of cities in the U.S., as well as several farms.
- 1934 **20,000 U.S. students** hold a one-day anti-war strike.
- 1933-1934 A group of pastors including **Martin Niemoller** – a veteran of the German Navy in World War I – forms the "Pastor's Emergency League." It supports pastors who are part-Jewish or lose their salaries because of the Nazis.
- 1934 An official Lutheran convention unanimously passes the **Barmen Declaration** asserting the gospel's independence of Nazi authority. It helps create the **Confessing Church** which historians deem the most effective German anti-Nazi movement.
- 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 Nov. 1944 until liberation in May 1945 despite great privation to the people – as is portrayed in the *Diary of Anne Frank*.
- Public resistance in **Norway** undermines Nazi plans; e.g., teachers refuse to teach Nazi propaganda. **Romania** at first persecutes Jews, then refuses to give up any to death camps.
- Thousands of **Bulgarians** march, hide Jews, and protest 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 education, advocacy, and worship resources as well as workshops, support for fellowship, and a place to explore faith responses to issues of peace and justice. Its first major project is helping sustain Lutheran conscientious objectors in work camps.



- 1942 German students form the **White Rose** resistance movement and distribute 1000s of leaflets exposing 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 in 1943.
- 1943 Lutheran youth leader, pastor, and theologian **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** is jailed for his efforts on behalf of German Jews, including escorting Jews across the border to freedom. He refuses an offer of safety in the U.S. in 1935 in order to lead an underground seminary and work in the resistance. He spends two years in a concentration camp and is hanged by the Nazis in 1945 after he is linked to a plot against Hitler.
- 1944 Central American dictators Jorge Ubico (Guatemala) and Maximiliano Martinez (El Salvador) are ousted by **nonviolent civilian revolts** and general strikes. From 1931 to 1961, civil strikes cause 11 Latin American presidents to leave office.
- 1945 **Claude Eatherly** pilots the plane that drops the first atomic bomb used in wartime. He comes to regret his involvement speaks widely about the horrors of modern weapons and war.
- 1945 The **United Nations** is founded to resolve disputes that can result in war. The UN has developed programs on human rights, arms control, the environment, hunger & development, peace-keeping, indigenous peoples, refugees, children, women, etc.
- 1950s Basque leaders and students in Spain form 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, stores, and technical schools. It develops many creative democratic processes widely copied 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 creativity in coping with the hardship that ensues, the boycott succeeds, revitalizing the U.S. civil rights struggle.
- 1957 Despite large white protests and 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 that only whites can eat there. With major community support, the campaign expands to a boycott and succeeds. The nonviolent "sit-in" tactic spreads in campaigns to desegregate restrooms, movie 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 protesters spend 40 to 60 days in jail in Jackson, Mississippi. In six months, the U.S. bans racial segregation on buses, trains, and transport facilities.
- 1961 **Amnesty International** is founded to document and protest torture and capital punishment. It gains a million members by 1980, with many high school and 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 "IHave a Dream" speech.
- 1963 **Limited nuclear test ban** treaty is signed by Pres. Kennedy after six years of demonstrations by peace groups and growing concern about health hazards of nuclear testing.
- 1964 **Freedom Summer** recruits 700 young people to register voters in Mississippi. Three volunteers (Goodman, Schwerner and Cheney) disappear as training begins and are later found murdered, yet almost all of the volunteers continue their work.
- 1964-73 **Draft card burning** marks growing resistance to the Vietnam war; millions demonstrate, offer draft counseling, tax resistance, civil disobedience, street theatre, and other protest.
- 1964 **500,000 pupils** stay home from school in New York City to protest racial segregation.
- 1965 **United Farm Workers** union launches a grape boycott led by **Cesar Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta** to permit farm-workers to organize for decent pay and conditions. They had not been allowed to form unions like other workers. Many 1000s of people, schools, and churches support the boycott.
- 1965 Violence of police against nonviolent civil rights marchers in **Selma**, AL alerts millions of whites to voting rights injustices. That and the enthusiasm and activism of many African Americans -- like **Fannie Lou Hamer**, a sharecropper who simply wanted to vote -- push Congress to pass the **Voting Rights Act**.
- 1968 **Philip** and **Dan Berrigan** and seven other Catholic priests and lay people destroy 378 files in the Catonsville, MD draft board and await arrest. It sparks dozens of similar acts of civil disobedience; and forms the basis of Dan's eloquent drama.
- 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 National Guard kills four students at **Kent State Univ.** sparking protests at thousands of colleges. Over a million people join Vietnam protests for the first time. A few days later, 2 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 environmental issues.

1971 At 90, **Jeanette Rankin** leads **8000 women** on an anti-Vietnam War march to the Pentagon. **1000 veterans** protest the war; many throwing their medals onto the Capitol steps.

1972 **Trail of Broken Treaties** march occupies Bureau of Indian Affairs in Wash, DC to dramatize Native American needs.

1973 **Art Simon**, a Lutheran pastor in NY City, founds **Bread for the World** to educate and organize on hunger issues; it soon has 45,000 members. It lobbies Congress to pass the Right to Food Resolution, the Africa Relief & Recovery Act, etc.

1975 Groups defending **indigenous peoples'** rights organize around the world to protest logging, stealing of their land, and other abuses. 1000 such groups are formed by the mid-1980s.

1976 **Habitat for Humanity** is founded by Millard and Linda Fuller to build houses for low-income people with help from volunteers. Habitat has helped build or repair 600,000 houses and served more than 3 million people around the world.

1976 60,000 join **Peace People** protests in Belfast and Dublin. **Mairead Corrigan** and **Betty Williams** receive Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts at nonviolent change in Northern Ireland.

1977 "**Mothers of the Plaza**" buy a newspaper ad in Argentina to publish mothers' names and pictures of 230 "disappeared" – people kidnapped, tortured, and/or killed by the military.

1977 **Nestle boycott** leads to a UN World Health Organization agreement restricting promotion and sale of infant formula in poor countries. It is less healthy than breast-feeding due to its cost and a lack of clean water in many low-income countries.

1979 A **Gay Rights March** draws over 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*; which he founded to intervene on behalf of human rights victims in 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 The **Solidarity** movement is founded in Poland. Severely repressed by the government, it is widely declared dead by many Western experts. In 1989 it wins every available seat in Parliament and now governs the nation; yet it committed not 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... 300 churches offer "**Sanctuary**" to protect Central American refugees from deportation... 80,000 sign a "**Pledge of Resistance**" to commit civil disobedience if the U.S. invades, which helps avert such military action.

1981 Protests against U.S. cruise missiles based at **Greenham**

Common in England begin. At its peak, 8,000 women live in tents outside the base, demonstrating and committing civil disobedience. One protest: 30,000 women encircle the base.

1982 750,000 people gather in NY for the largest **disarmament protest** in U.S. history. A wide variety of nonviolent methods are used in the 1980s from demonstrations to peace quilts, nuclear freeze petitions to street theatre. 37,000 people are arrested for civil disobedience protesting the nuclear threat.

University **Peace Studies** programs grow from two colleges in 1972 to over 300 in every part of the country by 1987.

1982 **Sister Helen Prejean** becomes a pen pal to a prisoner on death row. She later writes a powerful and moving memoir, *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. She 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* about her experience.



1986 The nonviolent **People Power movement** in the Philippines brings down the oppressive Marcos dictatorship. After a long period of struggle, demonstrations of tens of thousands of people prevent a military response from succeeding. It inspires movements in Asia, South Africa and Eastern Europe.

1986 The Palestinian **Intifada**, – or "resistance" – to Israeli military occupation begins. Contrary to many government and media reports, it used mostly nonviolent means.

1987 Mother's Day draws 3,000 to **Nevada Test Site** to protest preparations for nuclear war; the U.S. exploded 1,000 nuclear devices from 1945-1990, 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. Laszlo Tokes**; his parishioners jam the streets, light candles, refusing

to move. The crowd grows to 50,000. Violent govt. suppression sparks the revolution that overthrows the dictator Ceausescu.

1989 The Chinese government crushes a nonviolent **student protest** at **Tiananmen Square**; images circle the globe 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% support the **divestment campaign**.

1990 **Disabled demonstrators** at the U.S. Capitol building demand passage of a bill guaranteeing their civil rights. 60 people crawl out of their wheelchairs and up the Capitol steps.

1990 King Birendra of **Nepal** yields to protests that topple his government, grants multi-party democracy, a parliamentary system, and freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly....

1990s Lutheran Bishop **Medardo Ernesto Gomez** is a leader in rebuilding El Salvador after its bloody civil war. "Sister Parish" links with churches in the U.S. are important sources of support in Central America, and help educate U.S. citizens.

1990-91 People in 20 U.S. cities protest buildup to war on Iraq which polls show most Americans oppose. Over 2000 young soldiers seek conscientious objector status. After the war, support grows for a **Code of Conduct** to end U.S. arms sales to dictators who repress their people and threaten neighbors.

1991 Tens of thousands of **Russian demonstrators** surround the Moscow *White House* (their parliament building) to protect Pres. 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 to the New World 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 youth who refuse to serve in the military. Even under Serbian shelling in Sarajevo, **nonviolent protests** take place daily.

1994 **Nelson Mandela** is elected the first black President of South Africa, just four years after he is released from jail.

1995 The **Million Man March** by African Americans in Washington, DC highlights constructive efforts of black men and challenges them to fight racism and injustice on returning to 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 receives the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

1996 Unmet needs of children is the focus of the **Stand for**

Children march in Wash., DC led by **Marion Wright Edelman** of the Children's Defense Fund and local advocacy groups.

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 2001-2010 as the **Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence**. Over 74 million people sign a pledge of nonviolence by 2001!

1999 50,000 people participate in **WTO protests in Seattle** during World Trade Organization meetings. LPF youth hand out 8,500 flyers calling for justice for poor and working people, basic changes in 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 U.S. peace activist, is killed by an American-made bulldozer in Gaza while nonviolently protesting the destruction of the homes of Palestinians.

2003 In March alone, 6 million people across the globe protest U.S. plans to launch a **war on Iraq** that violates morality and international law, promoted by reasons that prove inaccurate like 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 on their declaration of **genocide in the 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.

2007 In just a decade, citizen lobbying leads to the cancelation of more than \$120 billion of debt owed by 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 Buddhist monks -- and the Dalai Lama. The largely nonviolent protests against Chinese rule of Tibet, occur just before the Summer Olympics in China.

2008 **Nuclear disarmament** goes mainstream as "cold warriors" Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, William Perry and Sam Nunn urge **elimination of nuclear weapons** in the *Wall St. Journal*. 70% of living former U.S. secretaries of defense and state, national security advisors, and leaders around the world agree.

2009 Four million Americans, many of them youth, join the **ONE Campaign, Bread for the World**, and other groups to fight extreme poverty esp. in Africa. They work to hold world leaders of 191 countries accountable for their 1999 commitments to cut extreme poverty and hunger in half by the year 2015, and for support of the seven other **Millennium Development Goals**.

2009 As Obama takes office, the **U.S. budget** spends over \$650 billion on "**defense**" but less than \$20 billion on **diplomacy or development**. Citizen groups urge major increases in spending on underlying causes of -- and nonviolent responses to -- conflict.

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.

Dec. 2010 Protests in **Tunisia** attract widespread support and lead to the fall of the government. They spark a wave of protest from Algeria to Yemen, focusing on jobs, political freedom, and government repression and corruption. Before long these protests are referred to as "**The Arab Spring.**"



Jan. 2011 Large protests and acts of civil disobedience in **Egypt** capture world attention. Demonstrations in **Tahrir Square** often number over 100,000 and lead to a long-term occupation. They force the fall of the Mubarak government in late February.

Major **uprisings** occur in Bahrain, Syria, and elsewhere. Many protest leaders had participated in **nonviolence workshops** and studied translations of analyses by Gene Sharp and others, as well as an FOR comic book on the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

2011 **Occupy Wall Street** demonstrations in NY City protest the large inequalities of wealth, income and access to services in the U.S., as well as rampant corporate corruption and political influence. The protests utilize many nonviolent tactics under such slogans as "we are the 99%," and spark "**Occupy**" activity and movements in 1000 U.S. communities, 900 more across the globe.

2012 The shooting of 20 first graders and 6 teachers in **Newtown**, Connecticut spark the largest organizing efforts in years for **gun control**, e.g. to expand background checks, limit the size of bullet magazines, and end the sale of assault weapons....

2014 Widespread demonstrations in **Ukraine** bring down the corrupt and repressive regime of President Viktor Yanukovich.

2015 Citizen protests push leaders of 150 nations to meet in Paris to make plans to address the looming disaster of **climate change**.

Especially useful Sources of Information relating to the Path of Hope include: Peter Ackerman and Jack DuVall, **A Force More Powerful**; Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan, **Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict**; Robert Cooney and Helen Michalowski, **The Power of the People: Active Nonviolence in the U.S.**; Mary Ann Luke, ed., **Pilgrims and Seekers**;

Pam McAllister, **This River of Courage** and **You Can't Kill the Spirit**; Michael True, **To Construct Peace**; and **Justice Seekers, Peace Makers**; Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday, **Cloud of Witnesses**; Kathryn Watterston, **Not By the Sword**; Juan Williams, **Eyes on the Prize**; Walter Wink, **Engaging the Powers** and **The Powers That Be**; Stephen Zunes, **Nonviolent Social Movements**.

The **Global Nonviolent Action Database** offers over 1000 stories from 190 countries and is fully searchable by issue and geography: <http://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/> PJRC, **Social Movements** guide.

For Reflection and Discussion

Which of these stories are **new** to you? Which are familiar, perhaps in new ways? Which are especially **encouraging**?

What will **we add** to the story of justice and peace, of compassion and nonviolence in these challenging times?

What might **help** us join the long tradition of positive social change? How can we **support one another** in exploring and taking on meaningful involvement for peace with justice?



The Path of Hope grew out of numerous conversations and workshops with young people, many of whom felt at odds with and discouraged by the priorities and heroes of our culture. Beginning in 1988, students chose most of the initial 110 stories and 300 photos and graphics for what was then called the "Wall of Hope." The Path/Wall, seeks to dramatically illustrate the breadth, creativity and effectiveness of nonviolent responses to violence and injustice throughout history and around the globe.

The exhibit has traveled across the U.S. and Canada to over 600 schools, conferences, churches, groups, and events attended by over 180,000 people. These have included the Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship conference in Canada, and annual meetings of the major peace education groups, the Peace & Justice Studies Association (PJSA), and Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED).

A notable exhibit arena has been ELCA Youth Gatherings where it has inspired tens of thousands of young people. Hundreds of classes and groups have used our free "how to" kit to create their own Path of Hope, and/or used its dozen activities for exploring the potential of nonviolent social change.

The Path, and its visuals, activities, and resources were developed by Lutheran Peace Fellowship and the Peace & Justice Resource Center (Wall of Hope: www.pjrcbooks.org). Both share the exhibit and other resources freely with other groups. For example, the San Antonio PeaceCenter has exhibited widely their own rendering of the Path with graphics, posting it on their website under the name, "The Great Peace March." They have also developed a creative "Mexican bingo game" activity based on the Path (see: www.salsa.net/peace).

We'd love to hear your comments on the Path of Hope, and your ideas for additions, updates, and especially, **action**. We welcome your partnership in sharing the gifts and skills of peace, justice, and welcoming community in our troubled world.

For other Path of Hope and nonviolence resources, and to connect with the community of peacemakers that is LPF, please contact us at: lpf@ecunet.org 206.349.2501, and look for Path and many other peace resources at: www.lutheranpeace.org.