
RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHRISTIAN NONVIOLENT ACTIVISTS

Aukerman, Dale – *RECKONING WITH APOCALYPSE: TERMINAL POLITICS AND CHRISTIAN HOPE*. Crossroads, 1993. Love of enemies is not just a high ideal, but the very heart of the Christian Gospel and central to the meaning of life. This book is a critique of contemporary culture and politics and should be studied widely in our churches.

Bonk, Jon – *THE WORLD AT WAR, THE CHURCH AT PEACE: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE*. Kindred Press, 1988. A grassroots pastoral response to the need for a better understanding of biblical nonviolence in the congregation. Bonk examines in detail the biblical texts often used to justify war and the New Testament's teaching against lethal violence.

Dear, John – *DISARMING THE HEART: TOWARD A VOW OF NONVIOLENCE*. Herald, 1993. A powerful argument for grace-based nonviolence as the way for all who would follow Christ. Here is some of the best writing available on the meaning and methods of nonviolence, thoroughly rooted in scripture and Jesus. The spirituality and psychology necessary to sustain personal commitment to the way of nonviolence is explored in depth.

Dellinger, David – *FROM YALE TO JAIL: THE LIFE STORY OF A MORAL DISSENTER*. Pantheon, 1993. Dellinger, a pacifist, was jailed twice during WWII and the Korean War. The book is worth reading just for the gripping jail accounts. Dellinger has participated in numerous international peace teams, civil rights efforts, anti-Vietnam War projects and human rights struggles. His reflections are candid.

Desroches, Len – *ALLOW THE WATER: ANGER, FEAR, POWER, WORK, SEXUALITY, COMMUNITY – AND THE SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENCE*. Editions Dunamis Publishers, 1996. Hundreds of encouraging stories of nonviolence by a Canadian activist/practitioner. Points us toward the kind of action that can transform guilt into spiritual and social reconstruction.

Douglass, James – *THE NONVIOLENT COMING OF GOD*. Orbis, 1991. A radical reinterpretation of the gospels that explores the parallels between Jesus' prophecies about the end of the world and the nuclear threat of today. Douglass poses the choice between nonviolence and nonexistence with a passion shaped through his own long-time commitment to the community of resistance.

Easwaran, Eknath – *A MAN TO MATCH HIS MOUNTAINS - BADASHAH KHAN, NONVIOLENT SOLDIER OF ISLAM*. Nilgiri Press, 1984. Khan was a friend of Gandhi and organized Pakistani Pathan tribesmen to accept nonviolence as a superior weapon.

Eisler, Riane – *THE CHALICE AND THE BLADE: OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE*. Harper, 1987. Stretching reflections on building a partnership society by an author who has tried to reach beyond the boundaries of contemporary civilization.

Ellsberg, Robert (ed.) – *GANDHI AND CHRISTIANITY*. Orbis, 1991. Through dozens of selections from Gandhi's voluminous writings, this anthology displays both the Mahatma's fascination with the figure of Jesus and his criticism of Christianity as he encountered it. Includes essays by Diana Eck, Ignatius Jesudasan, James Douglass and Bob McCahill.

Kellerman, Bill W – *SEASONS OF FAITH AND CONSCIENCE: KAIROS, CONFESSION, LITURGY*. Orbis, 1991. Reads like a manual for Christian Peacemaker Teams, setting forth the Biblical and theological basis for confronting the powers of deception and death in the public arena as a crucial form of faithful discipleship and worship. This book combines exegesis of familiar biblical stories with candid sharing of personal discipleship in anti-nuclear witness to our time.

Langelan, Martha J. – *BACK OFF: HOW TO CONFRONT AND STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND HARASSERS*. Fireside, Simon and Shuster, 1993. Documents real-life success stories from women who have stopped harassers. The book focuses on direct-action tactics that work and examines the dynamics of sex and power in sexual harassment. Langelan includes an excellent chapter on nonviolence.

Mauser, Ulrich – *THE GOSPEL OF PEACE*. Westminster-John Knox, 1992. A detailed study of the New Testament texts on peace, with attention to meanings for the contemporary world. (This is the first in a new series of biblical and theological studies edited by the Institute of Mennonite Studies.)

McManus, Philip, and Gerald Schlabach – *RELENTLESS PERSISTENCE: NONVIOLENT ACTION IN LATIN AMERICA*. New Society Publishers, 1990. Case histories, testimonies, and reflection on often neglected efforts at nonviolent social change through courageous people's movements. The book brings together liberationist and nonviolent perspectives in what Patrick Coy suggests may be the most important book on nonviolence since Gene Sharp's *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* (1973).

Meyer, Art & Jocele – *EARTHKEEPERS: ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES ON HUNGER, POVERTY, AND INJUSTICE*. Herald Press, 1991. A compelling analysis and call to action toward a sustainable society, rooted in biblical thought.

Myers, Ched – *SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN: MARK'S STORY OF DISCIPLESHIP*. Orbis, 1996. A n innovative commentary on the Gospel of Mark. Excellent for personal or group Bible study, it applies Jesus' call to nonviolent action to our times and insists on the radical nonviolent political and economic dimensions of Jesus' call to discipleship. Based on Myer's earlier work, *Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus*; Orbis, 1988.

Michalowaski, Helen and Robert Cooney (ed.) – *THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE: ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES*. Eleven chapters arranged chronologically deal with each major nonviolent effort for social change in U.S. history. There are excellent biographical pages on various "personalities" plus helpful documents such as Chief Seattle's Message. A thorough bibliography and listing of peace organizations in the U.S. plus two to three pictures or graphics on nearly every page and leaflet reproductions make this book great stuff.

McClain, George D. – *CLAIMING ALL THINGS FOR GOD: PRAYER DISCERNMENT, AND RITUAL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE*. Abingdon, 1998. Practical, prophetic and profound, this work illustrates a pattern of imagination that leads us into public liturgy, direct action and engagement with structural evil.

Peachey, Titus and Linda – *SEEKING PEACE*. Good Books, 1991. As the subtitle states, this book presents more than 70 "true stories of Mennonites around the world, struggling to live their belief in peace. Full of courage and spirit!"

Ruth-Heffelbower, Duane – *THE ANABAPTISTS ARE BACK! MAKING PEACE IN A DANGEROUS WORLD*. Herald Press, 1991. (Stories collected by Phillip Stoltzfus; Foreword by Gene Stoltzfus); This book weaves together firsthand accounts from the experience of Christian Peacemaker Teams with a basic explanation of Christian nonviolent theory and practice.

Sharp, Gene – *THE POLITICS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION*. Porter Sargent 1973. Three volumes: Part I: Power & Struggle; Part II: Methods of Nonviolent Action; Part III: Dynamics of Nonviolent Action. No parallel in terms of its comprehensive treatment of the theory and practice of nonviolent action.

Stassen, Glen H. – *JUST PEACEMAKING: TRANSFORMING INITIATIVES FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE*. Westminster/John Knox, 1992. Argues that Jesus did not teach nonresistance understood as political quietism in the Sermon on the Mount, but rather a strategy of active, transforming initiatives in situations of injustice. Chapters on the struggles for nuclear weapons restraint, human rights, care for children, and parallels with 12-step addiction programs make Stassen's "steps of just peacemaking" practical and persuasive.

Tracy, James – *DIRECT ACTION: RADICAL PACIFISM FROM THE UNION EIGHT TO THE CHICAGO SEVEN*. University of Chicago Press, 1997. Brilliant and penetrating story of the radical pacifist wing of the pacifist movement that grew up during WWII. Main actors include Dave Dellinger, A.J. Muste, Bayard Rustin, and many others. Honestly portrays their socialist leanings and their religious experience placing them within the broad stream of American pacifism and reflecting one of the strands that led to the formation of CPT.

Wink, Walter – *ENGAGING THE POWERS*. Augsburg Fortress Press, 1992. Essential and foundational reading making the connection between contemporary social/political structures and the Biblical language of principalities and powers. Third volume of a trilogy: *NAMING THE POWERS* (1984); *UNMASKING THE POWERS* (1986).

Yoder, John Howard – *THE POLITICS OF JESUS*. Groundbreaking study of the political implications of Jesus life and message.