

Know-how to build
peace
in a world of violence
and conflict

An e-book for
anyone interested in
creating a peaceful
world!



The Anabaptist
Association of
Australia &
New Zealand

Produced by David Hale &
Lucy Andrew-Park Jarasius



Sponsored by
the Australian Student
Christian Movement, Queensland



The Anabaptist
Association of
Australia &
New Zealand



Australian Student
Christian Movement

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by Lucy Andrew-Park Jarasius
& David Hale as
the authors.

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*“...for the
former order of things
has passed away.”*

REVELATION 21:4 NLT

Although there is much in the world of peacemaking to profile, for the purposes of this publication, we had to limit our scope. We propose that peace-work goes beyond government-to-government diplomacy. Individuals can aspire to and actualise their own international positive relationship-building when they visit other countries. The shared ideas and experiential learning shape, for better, or sometimes for worse, the broader efforts of international diplomacy.

The winners of the Nobel Peace Prize exemplify how varied peace work can be – from those who have won for safeguarding freedom of expression to ensure democracy to those active in the strategy and implementation of humanitarian assistance in the wake of human-initiated disaster.

We feel that our recommendations provide more grit and gravitas than the idealised “flower power” philosophy prevalent in the “hippie” movement of the mid-20th century.

Peace-building involves far more than merely inviting people to love each other. Multi-lateral approaches include government policy, non-government activism, freezing of national assets to make war less rewarding, post-conflict national rebuilding, foreign aid, peace education, development polices, working for gender equality, ensuring restorative justice for victims of war, and more.

Peace is not just about the absence of conflict. It includes a shift in vision and perspective, from a society prone to violence and condoning violence as a justifiable and acceptable response, to a society that is violence-aware, violence-wary and one that recognises a range of non-violent options to be explored and applied to contentious issues and volatile situations.

For all the historical conflicts that have arisen, there are an equal number of conflicts that have come (or will come) to an end. History is not only littered with conflicts, but also of conflict endings. This means that it is possible, at least in some cases, to establish peace.

Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize provide examples of just how difficult, peace-building can be. The 2016 winner, Juan Manuel Santos, the President of Colombia, won for helping to end a 50-year civil war. Yet, many people within the country, on both sides, did not agree to the terms of the peace agreement. It is incorrect to think that everyone supports peace agreements.

This e-Book promotes a vision worth working towards – discussion and action with a view to motivating people to reimagine a better world...

There is an inspiring description in the biblical Book of Revelation 21:4 which paints the picture of a world where people can flourish in good relationship with each other and the natural environment *“...there will no longer be death; there will no longer be sorrow and anguish, or crying, or pain; for the former order of things has passed away.”* (AMP)



Peace and Conflict Survey

We asked young people (students) in Australia, and New Zealand to complete a 10-question survey to get their views on peace, and conflict.

It is interesting to note there were different ideas on what constituted conflict. We, the authors, had in mind the armed conflicts like in Ukraine. Some of the students listed issues such as abortion, religious persecution, climate change, and polarisation.

What peace initiatives did students know about? The more well-known organisations such as the UN were mentioned. Economic aid, indigenous people recognition, and security pacts were some of the activities listed as peace building.

What drives conflict? Greed, polarisation, money, and misinformation were some of the factors cited.

Does religion help or hinder peace efforts? It was a mixed response – in part, reflective of the respective religious and secular belief systems of the students who participated. Some believed religion provided a framework for ethical conduct, while others believed that religion drove conflict.

The questionnaire did not ask which “religion” to which the participants referred in their comments.

Many people in society may argue they want peace. Yet, many are hard pressed to name peace advocates or organisations. The students mentioned a small number of famous peacemakers such as Jesus, Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela. There was a lack of female activists mentioned aside from Rosa Parks, and certainly no Australian or New Zealand entities were listed, an observation which we, the Authors deem worth pointing out.

Overall, very few peacemakers could be named. This is despite the Noble Peace Prize winners alone numbering in the dozens, let alone the many peace organisations that do in fact exist.

Members of the Sikh community provided a broader list of peace organisations. A reminder that peace stories, figures, and organisations include more than just those in this part of the world.

We wanted to know where people sourced their news about conflicts. It was mostly from mainstream news outlets like CNN, and social media.

We asked students what they thought was the worst conflict in history, and why? WW2 had several mentions based on the scope of it. WW1 was mentioned, although it killed less people than WW2. The pointlessness of it compared to WW2 was mentioned and therefore was considered by some to be worse.


Vietnam was mentioned in the list, being one of modern history's conflicts that shows just how complex war and peace can be.

A common idea expressed by participants of the survey was that the USA government is pro-war and stayed in Vietnam because they are colonialists. These simple narratives of war do not explain why we go to war. Neither do they help us to avoid it, discount it as an option or help us to de-escalate or cease armed conflict.

There were many who believed that communist forces would take over more countries if allowed to win in Vietnam. Many people close to President LBJ (USA) spoke about a president being in anguish over the war, wanting a way out but facing the dilemma that it would be the USA's first defeat in war in modern history. The President had to contend with family members in military service and yet had to face passionate protesters outside the White House, chanting about the boys the President sent to their deaths. The voices of the protesters were, in actuality, at the time heard by him and by his children. This impacted them personally.

We mention this scenario to show that war and peace are more complex than the simplistic narratives many people choose to believe.





*“For I am about to do
something new.
See, I have already begun!”*

ISAIAH 43:19 NLT

Profiling Peace-building Entities

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We mention a variety of secular or faith-based active peace-promoting organisations/agencies which people may consider supporting and/or being involved.

We include them because they have credibility in terms of being effective, promoting non-violence, offering a variety of ways to support or participate, facilitate activism before/during/after conflict, are International and/or Australian in location.

LOOK AT THIS:

provides contact details and general information.

WALK THE TALK:

suggests a particular way to action your peace-building aspirations.

LOOK AT THIS:

Common Grace

www.commongrace.org.au

AUSTRALIA

A movement of people pursuing Jesus and justice.

WALK THE TALK:

Knit a 'Climate Justice Scarf'
or get some friends together to attend
an Aboriginal Sunday event with you
(the Sunday before 26th January every year in Australia)



LOOK AT THIS:

Together for Humanity

AUSTRALIA

togetherforhumanity.org.au

togetherforhumanity.org.au/interschool-programs

An inclusive educational organisation that works with school communities to foster intercultural understanding and help students learn how to deal with differences. We stand for acceptance of every person regardless of ethnicity or faith.

WALK THE TALK:

Volunteer with TFH as a 'Presenter'
on teams visiting schools.



LOOK AT THIS:

Sydney Peace Foundation

sydneypeacefoundation.org.au

A foundation of the University of Sydney which awards the Sydney Peace Prize, Australia's international prize for peace.

WALK THE TALK:

Nominate a Peacemaker
for the Sydney Peace Prize.



LOOK AT THIS:

The Initiative for Peacebuilding

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne University Faculty of Arts
arts.unimelb.edu.au/peacebuilding

Brings together multidisciplinary research, engagement, and education to advance peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the Indo-Pacific region.

WALK THE TALK:

Watch this ASCM video interview:

Professor John Langmore On Peacemaking (YouTube)

Copy and paste this link into your web browser:

<https://youtu.be/au4bJ5B9CRg?si=QzAXhjA5h0sLIRVt>

Apply to participate in their research programs.

LOOK AT THIS:

Musalaha

ISRAEL / PALESTINE
musalaha.org
musalaha.org/internships

A faith-based organization that teaches, trains and facilitates reconciliation mainly between Israelis and Palestinians from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, and also international groups, based on biblical principles of reconciliation.

WALK THE TALK:

Consider doing an internship.



LOOK AT THIS:

World Student Christian Federation

www.wscf.ch/who-we-are

Welcomes people of all Christian faiths and encourages dialogue between students of different traditions.

WALK THE TALK:

Connect in with your local affiliate organisation of the WSCF and participate in their programs



LOOK AT THIS:

Kingian Non-violence

www.onearthpeace.org/knv

USA

A philosophy and methodology – with knowledge, skills, and motivation people can use to apply peaceful strategies for solving personal and community problems. Connected to

avpaustralia.org/avp-in-queensland/community-workshops/

AUSTRALIA

Alternatives to Violence Project, Queensland: a growing community of people who support those actively seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict. Members share experiences, skills, information and their time. It is a multicultural, independent, non-profit association of trained volunteers, offering experiential workshops that can help people to change their lives.

WALK THE TALK:

Book in for an AVPQ workshop.

LOOK AT THIS:

The International Rescue Committee

USA

What we do: International Rescue Committee (IRC) works to keep women and children safe from violence, works for economic well-being for all, provides healthcare, helps refugees, ensures they have access to quality education, and know their rights. They are committed to ensure all their programs are evidence-based. And they were founded by such people as Albert Einstein.

WALK THE TALK:

Make a donation:
your opportunity to give financially.

LOOK AT THIS:

The Carter Peace Center

USA

Send a Carter Center eCard. Founded by US President Jimmy Carter, and his wife Rosalynn, to ensure peace, and health in the world. The Center's work includes sending observers to monitor elections. Other projects not only attempt to treat diseases, but also eradicate some of them. Ending disease, reduces poverty, and helps to ensure a more prosperous life which reduces conflict.

WALK THE TALK:

Have hope. Spread hope:
send a Carter Center eCard to friends.



LOOK AT THIS:

Community Peacemaker Teams

USA

cpt.org


cpt.org/programs/tisn

Build partnerships to dismantle violence and oppression.

WALK THE TALK:

Take part in an undoing oppression workshop.





*“act justly...
love mercy...
walk humbly”*

MICAH 6:8 NIV

Statement on behalf of AAANZ

Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand, based on their brochure “Anabaptist/Mennonite Peace Beliefs 2021

“Anabaptists believe that a basic part of the good news of Jesus is peace. Therefore, it isn’t surprising that “pacifist” is one of the first things people think about when they think of Anabaptists. Anabaptists want to put into practice Jesus’ teaching, “Love your enemies.”

It is easy to fall into the common belief that democratic freedoms can only be attained or preserved through war. But history proves that democracy and freedom have also been preserved by brave people who stood up for justice. In fact, ideas about separation of church and state and freedom of religion and conscience – essential to modern democracies – came from the pacifist Anabaptists of the 16th century, not from the American or French revolutions.

In the early days of Christianity, when believers saw themselves as a prophetic minority, they steered clear of military force and killing. However, as Christianity became more of an established part of culture, this conviction began to break down. Contemporary Christian pacifists do not support judgmental attitudes towards Christians who choose to enter military service. However, they discern that this is inconsistent with Christ’s way of peace. Matthew 7:1, John 4:1.

Although a comparative minority in the scope of Christian faith expression, Anabaptism makes an important contribution to the field

of peace work. People from many denominations participate in and support peace-building initiatives such as open dialogue across a range of traditional and social media, practical training in conflict resolution and non-violent activism causing disruption to oppressive dominant systems, and the implementation of diplomatic process at various levels of social, political and economic endeavours. AAANZ is an entity supporting peace-building predicated on the radical teachings of Jesus Christ. Such work is essential if we are serious about achieving justice, wholeness and a more equitable world for future generations.”

The Anabaptist Association links people in Australia and New Zealand who share a passion for Jesus, community and reconciliation. The network finds inspiration from the life of Jesus, the earliest church and the convictions of the first Anabaptist communities to be peacemakers and people who dream about and work for a more compassionate world. Anabaptism today is not about starting a new religion or denomination but brings fresh perspectives on issues that matter and inspires people to go further and deeper in ways that make a difference.

Interested in finding out more? Go to www.anabaptist.asn.au

Statement on behalf of Australian Student Christian Movement

The Australian Student Christian Movement is an ecumenical movement with a primary focus on working with university students. “Ecumenism” is the idea that Christians of different denominations should work together, and thus, should have peaceful relationships with one another. ASCM welcomes people from all denominations and seeks to foster peace between not only Christian groups, but between Christianity and other religions. The movement additionally strives for peace in the broader world through social justice initiatives, such as promoting gender equality. ASCM endorses solidarity and acceptance, critical thinking, and living out our faith within the community.

Interested in finding out more? Go to ascm.org.au

Survey Questions

Q1:

Please list up to three (3) current world conflicts about which you are most concerned and explain your concerns about each one.

Q2:

Which entities do you think should pursue peace?

Please put a circle around your preferred option/s:

- a. Governments
- b. Non-Government entities
(including NFP organisations and/or individual people)
- c. None of the above
- d. All of the above
- e. Other:

Q3:

What govt initiatives for active peace-making do you know about?

Please list up to 3 suggestions you have for governments to prevent or solve international conflicts.

Q4:

Please list up to 3 things you think drive conflict in the world.

Q5:

Do you think religion can help to make the world more peaceful?

Why or why not?

Q6:

Do you think world peace is actually possible?
Why or why not?

Q7:

Should governments devote more resources to Diplomacy, or do you consider this wasteful? Why or why not?

Q8:

Please list up to 3 peace-promoting individuals/movements/organisations you know about. Please indicate whether you are involved with them or whether you have considered joining them.
If you are not involved with peace-promoting entities, what has stopped you?

Q9:

Please list your sources of news and information on peace and conflict
Please specify up to 5.

Q10:

In your opinion what is the worst conflict in history. And why?

About the Authors

Lucy accepted David's invitation to collaborate on the production of this eBook on Peace-building. It proved to be a challenge in terms of defining the approach, scope and thrust of a "small" project dealing with the "big" issues of conflict and violence so prevalent in today's world! However, good humour (and hopefully some wisdom) prevailed resulting in the offering of a brief publication giving the surveyed people a chance to air their views, and subsequent readers of the eBook ideas for practical engagement, as individuals in cooperation with others, in the work of actualising a vision for a more peaceful, just, and flourishing world. They thank ASCM and AAANZ for their respective support in producing the publication, and also Cameron Semmens from Wattle & Willow Books who brought it to life on the 'e-page'!

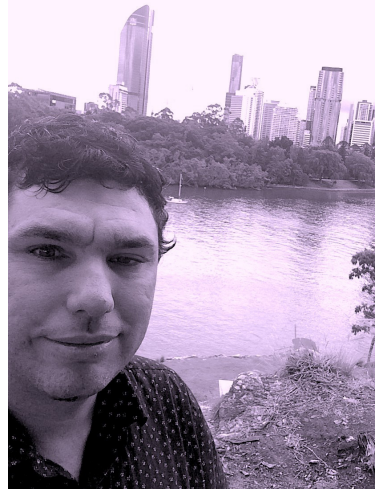
If you would like to contact the authors,
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with 'Know-how to build peace' in the subject line.

DAVID HALE

David Hale has been a staff worker for the Australian Student Christian Movement (ASCM), a hospital chaplain, and a university chaplain. His work focus includes interdenominational cooperation, collaboration with people of other faiths, and charitable projects. As a member of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, and a writer, David has a history of initiating conversations with student activists, academics, diplomats, faith-based community workers, producing “reality” audio and video recordings featuring subjects such as Social Justice, elimination of Poverty, Empowerment of Women, and Peace-building. His travels and aspirations blended well with ASCM work, and catalysed connections with young student activists in the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). David lives and works on Turrbal/Jagera country (Brisbane, S E Qld).



LUCY ANDREW-PARK JARASIUS

Lucy Andrew-Park Jarasius' life-long passion for dance-arts, faith-journey, and her love of learning opened opportunities to study, travel and "create". Practical and project-based qualifications, including a Graduate Diploma in Applied Social Sciences (Adult Education) and an Advanced Certificate in Creative Ministries equipped her to produce and implement short courses for students of various age, ethnic background, dance expression and religious affiliation. Dancer, Poet, Team Leader, Educator, Administrator, Lucy often gives freely of her time and resources, or does ad hoc honorarium work, for local, national, and international entities including International Christian Dance Fellowship (ICDF), ICDF Australia (ICDFAus), Australian Student Christian Movement (ASCM), the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ). Lucy does paid part-time work for Catholic Care Social Services. This employer successfully delivers programs in the Counselling, Migrant Settlement Services, Business Resilience and Indigenous peoples justice and well-being sectors. Lucy enjoys the opportunity to create good in the local community on Giabal/Jarowair/Jagera country (Toowoomba, S E Qld), where she now lives, having returned to her birthplace after decades away on many faith-life adventures.

Years of friendship and collaborative work amongst the Aboriginal Christian community, including Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries and Prophetic Voices of the Land, along with fresh insights from trips to the Middle East, have inspired Lucy to develop creative works and resources journeying deep into holistic intelligences and the ongoing story of empowerment for women, marginalised people groups, peace-promotion and non-violent social justice activism.

