



by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

# RELIGION

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:  
II CORINTHIANS 9:7-15

## UMs Pray For Peace Speedy End To War

Last-minute pleas for continued negotiations in the Persian Gulf having failed United Methodists Jan. 17 offered prayers for a speedy end to the conflict with a minimum loss of life and destruction on both sides, and voiced hopes for future peace.

It was generally agreed that Saddam Hussein had to be dealt with, but some persons interviewed by United Methodist News Service questioned whether all diplomatic avenues had been exhausted. Several voiced hope that the fighting could be ended and peace negotiations resume.

Also cited was the need to put the conflict in the context of broader Middle East issues, avoiding the appearance of a "religious" war. A warning about violation of Arab-Americans' civil liberties was sounded.

Prayers were asked on behalf of military personnel and their families on both sides of the conflict, as well as for civilians killed or wounded.

"We should have tired other diplomatic and economic opportunities," said Bishop Leroy C. Hodappk, Indianapolis, president of the Council of Bishops. "Since that obviously is not the case now, I hope the whole thing can be settled quickly with as little involvement of ground forces and loss of life as possible."

"Saddam Hussein had to be dealt with, but I would hope that, in the future, injustice could be handled in some way other than militarily."

Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, San Francisco, secretary of the Council of

Bishops and a prominent figure in the church's effort for peace, said he had hoped the United States would "have used more restraint and patience. Now that war has begun, I pray for a speedy end...I call for an immediate cease-fire...(and) appeal to all parties to return to the negotiating table."

James W. Holsinger Jr., chief medical director of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington and lay leader of the Virginia Annual Conference, said, "Force is the last resort we have in dealing with international affairs, but since we live in an imperfect world, the use of force to maintain civility among nations sometimes is required."

James A. Harrell Sr., Elkin, N.C., dentist, former Elkin mayor and lay leader of the Western North Carolina Conference, voiced a similar view. "We all hate war," he said, "but when you look at it from the long view...President Bush has done the correct thing and I fully support him."

Another North Carolina United Methodist layman took a unique approach. Paul Hardin III, chancellor of the University of North Carolina, said a Jan. 16 basketball game between the Tarheels and archrival North Carolina State was postponed because "this is a moment (in which) our lives are changing, not a moment to play basketball."

Ronald Williams, a member of A.P. Shaw United Methodist Church in Washington, said, "As a Christian, I think we could have waited this thing out and let sanctions take their toll."

Maybe giving the sanctions a little more time to work would have been more effective than war and massive bombing on a continuing basis."

Madison Street United Methodist Church in Clarksville, Tenn., is about five miles from Fort Campbell, Ky., from which 19,000 troops have been sent to Saudi Arabia. The church has about 75 military families in its membership or constituency, and a large number of military civilian employees.

The Rev. John Collett, pastor, said a fellowship supper was in progress when news of the attack broke. The dinner was dismissed, most of the group went to the sanctuary for prayer, and calls were made to spouses of Gulf troops.

"I had hoped that options other than military action could have been used," Collett said, "but have been pleased that the action has been one trying to seek objectives with a minimum loss of life on both sides." Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, leader of the church's Washington Area, said he was "saddened by President Bush's decision that diplomacy in the Persian Gulf has failed and the time for war has come. I call upon all citizens to continue to pray for peace, for the earliest possible cessation of hostilities, and that all parties will return to the negotiating table under auspices of the United Nations."

Sue Robinson, a Board of Global Ministries' area executive for Africa, the Middle East and Europe, said she was "dismayed" at the U.S. attack. "We need to withdraw most of the

troops and let other nations, particularly the Arab nations, take leadership in negotiating a settlement."

Robinson called an international peace conference on the Middle East, beginning with Palestine, "an absolutely necessary thing to do." The fear of the Palestinians is that "under the cover of war the Israelis will take them over the Jordan and just dump them."

The Rev. Joe Hale, Lake Junaluska, N.C., general secretary of the World Methodist Council, also put the conflict in the wider context of the Middle East issues.

"The most decisive and swift military victory imaginable will neither address nor resolve the problems that will remain in the Gulf and in the Middle East," he said. "I am further concerned the action in the Gulf not be perceived as Christians, Muslims and Jews fighting each other."

"Just as the ill-conceived crusades severely crippled the Church for hundreds of years, in our time of 'fax'...(and) scenes of blood and killing instantly depicted in vivid color on television, a war thought of in terms of a conflict between religions would be devastating," Hale said.

The Rev. Thom White Wolf Fasset, general secretary of the Board of Church and Society, warned about "another kind of violence now being reported on an hourly basis regarding the suspension of civil liberties for Arab-Americans" because of fears of terrorism.

"We decry any acts of racism that

discriminate against a national grouping of peoples in the United States during these most critical times," he said.

The president and deputy general secretary of the Board of Global Ministries' World Division expressed concern in a joint statement issued Jan. 17 for "the magnitude of the warfare to be employed against populations of the region and the potential for violence that threatens the whole world."

Bishop J. Lloyd Knox, Birmingham, Ala., president, and the Rev. Robert J. Harman, New York, staff executive, called for "sensitivity to those for whom the burden of war is an additional injustice, especially the large numbers of persons of color in the ranks of the voluntary army of the United States." They urged churches to provide special care for families of military personnel and those who conscientiously oppose participation.

The National Council of Churches announced that leaders of 32 Christian and Orthodox bodies, including the United Methodist Church, have approved a nine-point strategy for an inter church response to the war.

Included is a pastoral ministry to civilians and military personnel, and humanitarian aid to displaced persons and other victims of the fighting. Church World Service estimates that refugees needing help will number in the millions.

James A. Hamilton, the United Methodist who is NCC general secretary, and other NCC leaders issued a

statement saying that "Operation Desert Storm may be a success for advanced military technology, but the resort to war reflects a failure for the human spirit."

On Capitol Hill in Washington, the United Methodist Building's Simpson Chapel was offered to members of Congress and Supreme Court justices, their staffs, and others as a place for prayers for peace. The United Methodist Building is adjacent to the Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Senator's offices.

The president of the Uniting church in Australia's Assembly,

a body that includes Methodists in that country, called the decision to begin military action "terribly wrong." History, said Sir Ronald Wilson, "will condemn us for having allowed national pride an self-interest to dictate the course of events."

Bishop Jack M. Tuell, Los Angeles, called on all 410 United Methodist congregations in Southern California and Hawaii to open their churches for daily prayer during the crisis.

Bishop C.P. Minnick Jr., Raleigh, N.C., had asked each of the 844 United Methodist Churches in the eastern part of the state to have someone at the altar between noon and 1 p.m. Jan. 14.

In Albany, Calif., the independent Methodist Federation for Social Action conducted a service to exercise "the spirits of militarism from the leadership of the U.S. government."

### Colors...continued from page two

Universal cries of Mourning will respond to the Heavens with Prayers that find their way to God who weeps for us all!

We have not pursued a reckless road to violence.

The facts are with us, and we must strive to keep ourselves constantly informed.

My prayers for peace are raised with yours. We all pray that the true colors of war will be washed, and we'll emerge crystal clear, shimmering through the kaleidoscope of our own tears into a future rainbow.

Upon that rainbow we can build a bridge toward each other...a bridge of hope, not despair.

The power of war is awesome, but not more so than the power of prayer, united, to bring a swift truce to those of us who will take up arms to preserve the balance of a world in peace with its neighbors, abhorring terrorism and the carnage of human life in a reckless disregard for anything. Acquisition of one's neighbor by force must be met with requisition. When peaceful means have been exhausted and the aggressor threatens further forceful acquisition, we proceed to beat our plowshares into swords.

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up;

"Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong."

"Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither

cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about."

Joel 3:9, 10  
For those who would seek the ultimate peace, however, the bible offers another miracle in its healing power through the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 2:4) which are repeated word-for-word in the final chapters of the Old Testament, which are then followed by the New Testament!

These are the culminating words for peace triumphant:

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it."

"For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever."

Micah 4:3-5

*Note: The True Colors of War is an ongoing series of articles written by Dr. A. Lee Henderson, written exclusively for the Portland Observer. Dr. Henderson, a widely published author, is completing his new book, "Crisis, Conflict, and Challenge", which will be published in 1991.*



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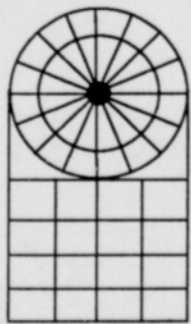
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Jesus Loves You!

### Allen Temple CME Church



Psalm 34:3

4236 NE Eighth Avenue

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Portland, Oregon 97211

**(503) 287-0261**

Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

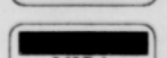
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School

9:00 A.M.

Morning Worship

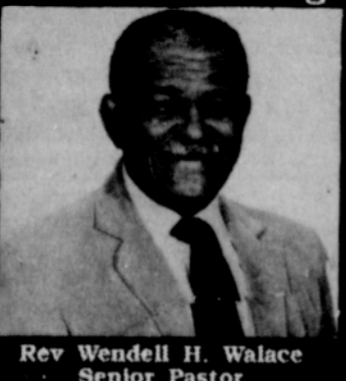
10:30 A.M.

Maranatha School of Ministry

6:30 P.M.

Mid Week Service - Wednesday

7:30 P.M.



Rev. Wendell H. Wallace  
Senior Pastor

MARANATHA CHURCH

### St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97203

Church Phone: 289-0147

Study Phone: 289-1911

Sunday Service

10:45

Sunday School

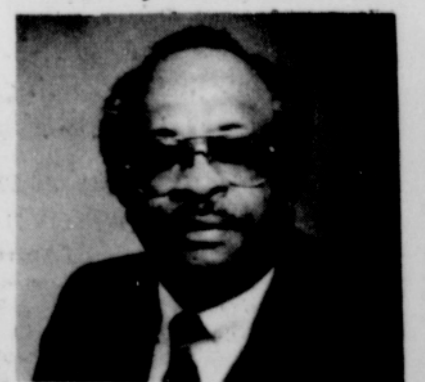
9:30

Bible Study

6:00

Evening Service

7:00 P.M.



Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever you're going to do for the Lord, do it now.

I Peter iv.11