

Peace Messenger

News, Connections & Commentary

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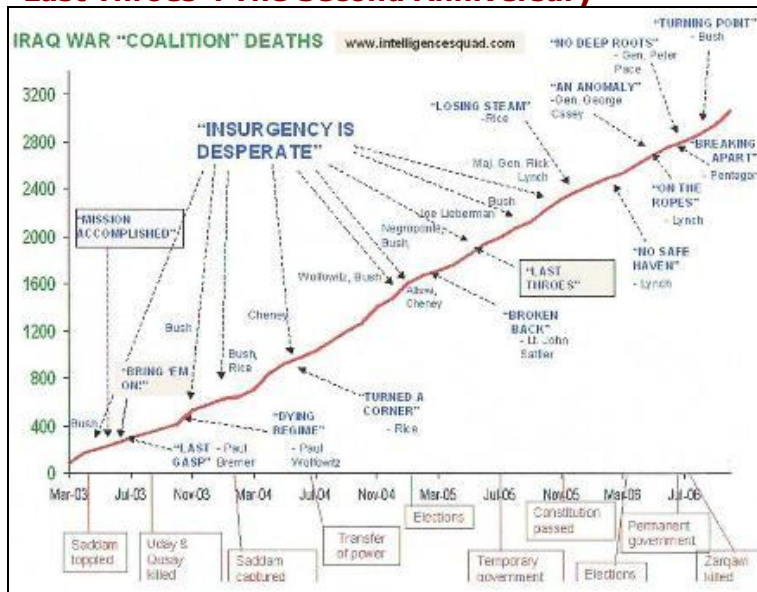


June 1, 2007
Speaking the truth in love

In this issue...

- **"Last Throes": The Second Anniversary.** Half of U.S. troop fatalities have come in the two years since the Vice President declared the Iraqi insurgency to be in its "last throes"
- **Benchmark No.1: Cheap Iraqi Oil for U.S. Corporations.** The so-called "Support the Troops" bill makes plain the war's purpose, says retired State Department official Ann Wright
- **Dream Team for Darfur.** Ira Newble and Cleveland Cavaliers team mates join efforts to prod 2008 Olympics host China to do more to influence Sudanese allies
- **Book Feature: I Forgive You, But...** A new book by Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson of La Sierra University and Adventist Women for Peace sets forth biblical principles for forgiveness
- **At the Peace Messenger weblog,** comments by Nicholas Miller, Alison Jones Agins, and Doug Morgan on A.T. Jones' trenchant call for a revival of the gospel of peace.

"Last Throes": The Second Anniversary



On May 30, 2005, Vice President Cheney declared that the insurgency in Iraq was in its "last throes" and predicted "the level of activity that we see today from a military standpoint, I think, will clearly decline."

In the two years since, 1,799 U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq, roughly half of all U.S. fatalities. At least 12,378 U.S. soldiers have been wounded. More than two-thirds of the

Peace Messenger Recent Issues:

- *Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund (May 25)
- *Doss Statue Unveiled (May 18)
- *U.S. Military Aid Goes to Governments Using Child Soldiers (May 11)
- *Third Option for Iraq (May 4)
- *Iraq - An Ever-worsening Crisis (April 13)

Liberty for Church, Chaplain and State

A vigorous and extensive interchange about Adventists and military chaplaincy is underway at the [Spectrum Blog](#). You can register your views on a poll posted there, as well as by adding your comments!

Gun and Death Reduction in Australia

In 1996, after an assailant massacred 35 people at a resort area in Port Arthur, Tasmania, Australians responded to the horror by banning the possession of automatic rifles and shotguns. Gunowners proceeded to turn in 650,000 guns to the government (which reimbursed them for the cost). Since that year, gun deaths in Australia have been cut in half. The country's per capita gun crime rate is a tenth that of the United States

("Gun Points," [Christian Century](#), May 29, 2007, p. 5)

minimum 65,000 Iraqis civilian casualties documented from news reports by [Iraq Body Count](#) have taken place during the past two years.

Though several months old now, the truth conveyed by the graphic above from www.intelligencesquad.com (you can get a better view there) becomes, tragically, ever more true.

Nevertheless, Cheney insisted 10 months after his statement that it was "basically accurate" and "reflected reality." One year later, he again stood by his words.

Seventeen months later, in October 2006, Cheney finally acknowledged, "I would have expected that the political process we set in motion...would have resulted in a lower level of violence than we're seeing today. It hasn't happened yet. I can't say that we're over the hump in terms of violence, no."

[Click here for a video](#) of the Vice President's remarks and reactions to them at ThinkProgress.org. [top comment](#)

Benchmark No.1: Cheap Iraqi Oil for U.S. Corporations

From commentary at truthout.org by Ann Wright, who served 29 years in the US Army and US Army Reserves and retired as a colonel and resigned from the US Department of State in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq.

On Thursday, May 24, the US Congress voted to continue the war in Iraq. The members called it "supporting the troops." I call it stealing Iraq's oil - the second largest reserves in the world.

The "benchmark," or goal, the Bush administration has been working on furiously since the US invaded Iraq is privatization of Iraq's oil. Now they have Congress blackmailing the Iraqi Parliament and the Iraqi people: no privatization of Iraqi oil, no reconstruction funds.

This threat could not be clearer. If the Iraqi Parliament refuses to pass the privatization legislation, Congress will withhold US reconstruction funds that were promised to the Iraqis to rebuild what the United States has destroyed there....

What does this "Support the Troops" legislation mean for the United States military? Supporting our troops has nothing to do with this bill, other than keeping them there for another 30 years to protect US oil interests....

With the Bush administration's "Support the Troops" bill and its benchmarks, primarily Benchmark No. 1, we finally have the reason for the US invasion of Iraq: to get easily accessible, cheap, high-grade Iraq oil for US corporations....

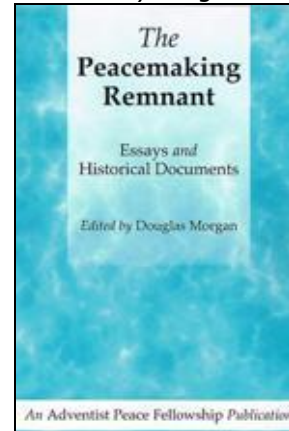
[Full essay at truthout.org](#) [top comment](#)

Dream Team for Darfur

Ira Newble of the Cleveland Cavaliers announced on May 10

The Peacemaking Remnant

"A revolutionary work in that it broadens the concept of remnant"
--*Ministry* magazine



Historical Documents

1860s GC Resolution

Joseph Bates

Ellen White

George W. Amadon

Alonzo T. Jones

Contemporary Essays

Charles E. Bradford

Charles Scriven

Keith Burton

Zack Plantak

Kendra Haloviak

Ryan Bell

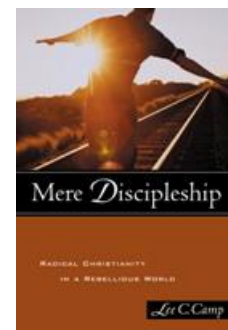
Ronald Osborn

Doug Morgan

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In **Peace Pursuits**

The APF Store



Mere Discipleship *Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*

By Lee Camp

33% discount

that he and 11 of his team mates on the NBA squad have signed an open letter to the government of the People's Republic of China, urging the Chinese government to take immediate action on the crisis in Darfur, in advance of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Newble has joined efforts with [Olympic Dream for Darfur](#), which is calling on China to use its influence to encourage the government of Sudan to be more responsive to international efforts to address the Darfur crisis, and to do so prior to the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing.



Newble explains his involvement: "I have been distraught about the crisis in Darfur, and especially with recent news that shows the situation has not improved – and more innocent people are continuing to die. China is playing a major role in the crisis. The 2008 Beijing Olympics gives professional athletes the chance to speak out about the ideas of peace and brotherhood that the Olympics represent. I urge all athletes to ask China to do what it can to protect civilians in Darfur."

Cavaliers' super-star LeBron James is not among the signatories.

Links: more in the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) and the [full text of the athletes' letter](#). [top comment](#)

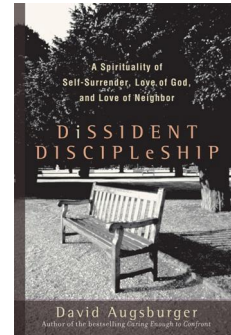
Book Feature: *I Forgive You, But...*



In this new book from Pacific Press, Lourdes Morales-Gudmundsson provides a comprehensive study of the biblical principles of forgiveness and shows us their workings in the stories of victims and perpetrators as they struggle through pain, anger, and guilt toward peace and reconciliation. The book guides the reader into the relational heart of peacemaking, thus giving usable help for resolving foundational issues at every level of conflict.

Frederic Luskin, director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project recommends the book as "an intelligent and well-written explication of forgiveness from the creation of the grudge to the resolution into healing" and calls it "must reading for any Christian unsure of why or how to forgive."

I Forgive You But . . . grows in part out of Dr. Morales-Gudmundsson's twenty-five years of presenting seminars on forgiveness. In addition to being professor and chair of the Department of Modern Languages at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, Lourdes is one of the organizers of



Dissident Discipleship
A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God, and Love of Neighbor
By David Augsburg
33% discount

Adventist Women For Peace.

Speaking of which, [click here](#) to take a look at the [re-vamped weblog](#) hosted by this innovative and initiative-taking group of peacemakers! [top](#)

At the [Peace Messenger weblog](#) . . .

Comments on [A.T. Jones' denunciation of pro-war preachers](#), excerpted from the *Review and Herald* (June 27, 1899) in last week's issue:

Nicholas Miller writes: "Adventists typically have not been pure pacifists, unwilling to support war efforts in any way. Rather, we have historically been conscientious objectors (which might be better termed conscientious cooperators), committed to serving through peaceful means, but serving nonetheless. The Bible allows for the use of force in self-defense and in defense of others, and it is these basic principles that serve as the basis for at least some Christian 'just war' theories. Would it have been Christian to stand aside and watch the Nazis kill 12 million instead of 6 million Jews?..."

Alison Jones Agins writes: "It is my belief that the beast 'roaring like a dragon' opened his mouth and begin to roar when a group of planters and missionary sons overthrew the Queen of Hawaii so they would not have to submit to her edicts and they could control things as they pleased. In 1893, Queen Liliuokalani was deposed, and a republic was instituted, 1894, headed by Sanford B. Dole and a entire nation was subjugated to the men of power and money ..."

Doug Morgan writes: "I think Nick's comments are to a considerable extent true of post-World War I American Adventism, but not of 19th-century Adventism..."

Get in on the full discussion and add your insights at the [Peace Messenger weblog](#). [top](#)

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Editor: Doug Morgan

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