

Peacemaking Quote

A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes . . . and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Contact Information

Pax Christi USA
532 West Eighth Street
Erie, PA 16502
814-453-4955
info@paxchristiusa.org
www.paxchristiusa.org

Pax Christi USA
Washington, D.C. Office
1225 Otis Street NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-635-2741

LOCAL GROUPS

Contact: Johnny Zokovitch
Phone: 352-219-8419
Email: johnnypcusa@yahoo.com

SALES

www.paxchristiusa.org

Visit www.paxchristiusa.org for more educational and spiritual resources for peace.

PAX CHRISTI USA

continued from p. 1

Here at Pax Christi, we want to encourage something more. We know our beliefs and we know what we stand for. We also know that to bring our beliefs to fruition we must go out to the highways and byways.

As but one example, members of the House and the Senate have local offices. One does not need to come to Washington to make contact. Individuals and groups taking the time to visit local offices to articulate their views certainly may have an impact, especially if these visits are made over and over again.

Even more, if, for example, you belong to a Pax Christi region, issue a formal invitation to your representative or your senators. Hold a public meeting not simply to listen but to question those who claim to represent you. And be sure to invite the media to report on what is said.

And let me propose one more very serious suggestion. Consider the unthinkable! We are continually called upon to support OTHERS for political office, but not very often are WE invited to be candidates ourselves! So, give some thought to being a candidate yourself or to encouraging someone you know to take the plunge. It would take time and energy, of course, but being an elected voice for peace at any level of the political spectrum would be well worth it!

However, important as it is, the election is not the only event of importance in November. From the 19th through 21st, thousands will gather at Fort Benning, Georgia, for the annual SOAWatch Vigil to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC. Once again, Pax Christi USA will be present and active, lending its voice to closing that infamous "School of Assassins." Mark those dates on your calendar, and, if at all possible, join us for this action-packed weekend. Those who support that "school" have tried to ignore us, frighten us, and even fool us, but they have failed. We are still there at the gates, and we will keep coming back until it is finally closed.

We also have a new event of importance on the November calendar, the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice (November 13-15 at Georgetown University). Among the many well-known participants, PCUSA's interns will be pre-

senting a workshop on the spirituality of nonviolence in confronting issues of injustice and oppression.

And, we must not forget, the upcoming December delegation to El Salvador in commemoration of the four U.S. churchwomen whose lives were cut short thirty years ago by cruel forces of darkness. (For more information contact Beth Kenyon in our office at beth@paxchristiusa.org or 202-635-2741.)

I would be remiss if I did not urge you to read this newsletter in its entirety. I would not want you to miss our reports on the innovative and very impressive work being done by PCUSA's interns.

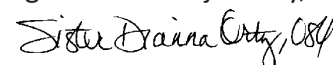
Earlier, I listed those dark "gifts" awaiting the newborn Jesus in, what, instead, should be a time of hope. The work of our interns is an authentic sign of genuine hope that shines even in the darkest of times.

While Advent may be a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus, it is not a time for delaying the effort to bringing peace and justice to the world. As we live out PCUSA's mission here in Washington, we are ever mindful that what we do would be impossible without you and your support in its many forms. Thus, in all truth, it is you and I, we who carry out PCUSA's sacred responsibilities to our fellow sisters and brothers throughout the world. In this spirit, I ask you to prayerfully consider an additional gift to Pax Christi USA beyond your regular membership dues. Simply send your check in the enclosed Be Not Afraid Fund envelope to the national office. Or, consider joining our Sustainers program to have a regular monthly contribution deducted from your credit card or bank account. You can do this for as little as \$10 a month, and you can stop it at anytime.

Thank you for all that you have done in the past. May I express the hope that your support will continue as together we await the birth of the One whose life infuses the mission of Pax Christi USA.

In advance, I thank you for your support and all you do and the gifts you offer to our world in the name of Peace.

Together on the journey,



Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

Pax Christi USA

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT



OCTOBER 2010

PEACE OF MIND FROM Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends,
I try to look at words as Ernest Hemingway suggested, as if I were seeing them for the very first time. And so, every year as the end of November approaches, there is the word, Advent. Of course, I understand the traditional way of viewing this period in the Christian calendar—the waiting for, the preparation for, Jesus' birth. Once more, we are now waiting for Jesus to come. It is a hopeful time—an expectant time—one filled with promise, or so we believe.

But as I thought of that word this year, there came to mind the preparation of gifts to be presented at the time of his birth: "only" 50,000 troops in Iraq; a nearly decade-long war in Afghanistan; nuclear weapons at the ready; not only irrational fear and hatred of Muslims spewing out of talk radio and cable TV but actual violence committed against the believers of Islam; a similar hate-filled condemnation of immigrants; the widespread use of rape as a weapon of war in countries around the world; detainees known and unknown held in prisons, often tortured, the fate of many to lie in anonymous graves; a seeming utter lack of concern for the environment—God's creation continually ravaged for the profit of a few and to the detriment of the many. These are only some of the gifts that will welcome Jesus into the world this year.

Can we really do no better than this? Of course we can, and I am a firm believer that Pax Christi USA offers just such an example. One need only consider our name to know that our members have far different gifts to bring to

the manger this Advent season.

We bring an uncompromising commitment to stand against these social sins, never to rest until they are consigned to the ash heap of history. With that commitment, and remembering our charism, the spirituality of nonviolence, let me share some of our thinking about the next few months.

First, there is the "election season." Although that "season" may seem to last throughout the entire year, there is no question that it will intensify during the months before November. Where does PCUSA stand in what appears to be a louder and louder, if not necessarily more rational, confrontation between political parties? It is important to remember that Pax Christi is nonpartisan. Our mission is to walk the path that Jesus charted for us so long ago—replacing hatred with love, cruelty with kindness, violence with peace, and injustice with justice.

PCUSA is an organization of peacemakers. Simply put, we work for peace and stand with those others who advocate it as well. In that connection, we press for nuclear disarmament as a precondition to authentic peace. And then there is immigration. We are committed to encouraging a humane immigration policy and to working in Congress and elsewhere to see such a policy developed and enacted.

That said, we have noticed that when persons of any political persuasion encourage the citizenry to become "involved," too often they seem to mean to vote on election day and to "contribute to the candidates of your choice" and little else.

continued on p. 8

INSIDE

Letter from Sr. Dianna Ortiz	1	War and November Elections—Time to Question the Candidates! (From FCNL)	5
Updates	2	The Presence of God: Reflection for Advent	
PCUSA Staff Visits to New Mexico		by Judy Coode	6
by Manuel Padilla	3	Pax Christi USA SOA Gathering	
Anniversary of the Afghanistan War: Actions		and Winter Young Adult Retreat	7
by Amy Watts	4	Contact Information	8

**PAX CHRISTI METRO NEW YORK SUPPORTS
THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY CENTER, PARK51**

In August, Pax Christi Metro New York released the following statement to the media in support of the Islamic Community Center planned near Ground Zero in New York City.

“Pax Christi Metro New York, a regional chapter of the international Catholic peace movement, wishes to express its full support for the proposed Islamic community center, Park51, in lower Manhattan.

“As an organization with members who lost loved ones at the World Trade Center site on September 11th, 2001, we recognize the excruciating suffering endured by so many.

“As a Catholic organization, we profess the Gospel of love and embrace Catholic Social Teaching on the sanctity of life, the dignity of the human person, and solidarity with the whole human family without exceptions.

“Since 9/11/01, we have engaged in numerous interfaith events and activities to mourn the losses experienced by people of all faiths, as well as those who profess no religious faith, and to build bridges of understanding and reconciliation among us all.

“The proposed Islamic Center is a much-needed facility to further the goal of mutual learning, respect, and appreciation across human boundaries. Rather than being a desecration of sacred ground, it is a sanctification of desecrated ground. It is a testament to what is great about the United States of America, the Constitution, and all civil laws. Let it stand as a symbol of our religious and patriotic commitments to freedom, diversity, and peaceful co-existence.”

Visit www.nypaxchristi.org for more information.

**NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON PEACEMAKING
DRAWS OVER 300 ACTIVISTS TO CHICAGO**

Pax Christi USA gathered over 300 activists to Chicago July 16-18 for the National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking. The theme was “Know Justice, Know Peace: Ending War at Home and Abroad” and included keynote presentations by author and theologian Reverend Bryan Massingale, STD; Elena Segura, director of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Immigrant Affairs; and author and journalist Jeremy Scahill. Pax Christi USA also formally announced its partnership with JustFaith Ministries; Jack Jezreel and Joe Grant of

JustFaith conducted a conference track on “the peace-building parish.” Other tracks centered on campus and young adult organizing, anti-racism, and the spirituality of nonviolence. On Sunday, PCUSA presented the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Women religious were recognized and honored throughout the conference. To view videos or read transcripts of the keynote presentations, visit www.paxchristiusa.org.

**REVEREND JOHN DEAR, SJ, ADDRESSES
STUDENTS, YOUNG ADULTS AT SUMMER RETREAT**

Thirty students and young adults from around the nation came together in Chicago for a special summer retreat with author and activist, Reverend John Dear, SJ. The focus of the retreat was “Jesus and Nonviolence.” Reverend Dear drew on his long experience working for justice and peace nonviolently and explored the nonviolence of Jesus and how we can witness to the reign of God right here and right now. The retreat, July 14-15, served as a pre-conference event for Pax Christi USA’s National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, “Know Justice, Know Peace: Ending War at Home and Abroad.” Young adults and students who attended the retreat were given free registration for the conference.

**PAX CHRISTI INDIANAPOLIS GROUP LAUNCHES
WITH VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACTIVIST**

Indianapolis-area advocates for peace and justice launched a new local community of Pax Christi with a special presentation by renowned peace activist Kathy Kelly at Marian University’s Library Auditorium on Sunday, August 29th. The co-coordinator for Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org), a campaign to end U.S. military and economic warfare, Kelly has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times. As a founder of Voices in the Wilderness, Kelly defied economic sanctions by bringing medicines to children and families in Iraq, and personally remained in combat zones at the start of both U.S.-Iraq wars. The new Indianapolis community of Pax Christi held its first organizing meeting two weeks after Kelly’s talk, setting goals and making plans for local action to promote peace and justice. For more information about this new Pax Christi community, contact Fran Quigley at (317) 750-4891 or franquigley@indy.rr.com.

PAX CHRISTI USA AT THE SOA 2010

Friday, November 19, 2010

6:15-8:15pm

in the Sycamore Room at the Convention Center

(note the room change; our usual spot is under renovation)

Join Pax Christi USA on Friday evening of the 2010 School of the Americas Vigil and Action for an evening of prayer, study and action. This will be the 10th year we have gathered for this pre-SOA event, highlighting those issues which cry out for a strong and prophetic response from people of faith and conscience. We’ll feature music from SOAWatch musicians, time for reflection and prayer, a program featuring prophetic figures from the movement for peace and justice, and the chance to join together with hundreds of other activists arriving early for the SOA Vigil and Action. For the 10 years we have been hosting this event, we have heard from speakers like Jesuit priest and theologian Jon Sobrino; Nobel Peace Prize recipients like Mairead Maguire; U.S. Bishops Gabino Zavala, Walter Sullivan and Thomas Gumbleton; activists and prophets like Kathy Kelly, Marie Dennis, and Rev. John Dear; and members of groups like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Military Families Speak Out, Peaceful Tomorrows, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, and Gold Star Families for Peace. Seating is limited, so arrive early!

For more information on this year’s program, visit www.paxchristiusa.org.

Pax Christi USA’s Winter 2011 Retreat for Students and Young Adults

February 18-20, 2011

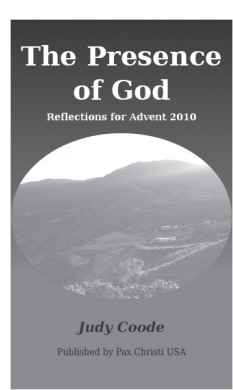
Washington, D.C.

Pax Christi USA’s Winter Retreat 2011 retreat is an opportunity for students and young adults between the ages of 18-35 to root themselves in that hope which sustains the work of creating a world which is good, beautiful, peaceful, just and sustainable. The retreat will feature 2 sessions with “wisdom figures” of our movement—mentors and teachers who will share their stories and lesson from a life of working for peace and justice. Student and young adult leaders within Pax Christi and from partner organizations will also offer an array of workshops focused on issues, skills development, lifetsyle, organizing and more. There will also be time for prayer, reflection, networking, socializing and checking out the D.C. area.

The cost of the retreat is on a sliding scale, and scholarships for travel are available. **Final preparations, including speakers, are being made for the retreat in September, so check the website at www.paxchristiusa.org or our Facebook page for updates and the latest information.**

For questions, contact Beth at beth@paxchristiusa.org or 202-635-2741.

continued on p. 6



Reflection for Second Sunday of Advent, December 5

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, and Matthew 3:1-12

“There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of God” (Isaiah 11:9).

Today’s reading from Isaiah is one of my favorites; it gives us the promise of the peaceable kingdom, with the lamb lying next to the lion, and the wolf and the leopard, everyone relieved of fright since “the earth was filled with the knowledge of God.” In other words, ignorance breeds fear. But opening our minds and hearts to the “other,” dismantling that ignorance that stifles love, will give us the security God promises. It is our responsibility to do this, even when the effort to remain open to God’s work in all things is sometimes challenging.

As we enter this second week of Advent, the reading from Romans assures us that God will give us the necessary patience and encouragement to make this peaceable kingdom happen, but we need to embody both fidelity and mercy—the former valued by the Jews and the latter by the Gentiles—to fully respond to God’s call. And how might this look? Matthew’s Gospel then introduces the fantastic prophet John the Baptist, a wild man whose deep faith in the Messiah is thrilling and a little scary. We almost pity the poor Pharisees and Sadducees who John slams as a “brood of vipers” (Matthew 3:7). What would he call us? Do we have John’s clarity of purpose? Are we ready for what—or who—is coming?

Reflection by Judy Coode as found in “The Presence of God: Reflections for Advent 2010.” These daily reflections, based on the lectionary readings, are available for purchase on the PCUSA Website in English or Spanish, \$3 plus shipping and handling. Bulk discounts available.

continued from p. 2

SOUTH DAKOTA PAX CHRISTI HOLDS SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bishop Gabino Zavala, bishop president of Pax Christi USA and member for over 20 years, and Ralph Hutchison, coordinator for the Oak Ridge Peace Alliance, were the featured speakers at the sixth annual South Dakota Pax Christi Growing Peace conference on September 18, 2010, in Watertown, SD. The theme of the conference was “A New Moment for Nuclear Disarmament.” The North Dakota Peace Coalition displayed a photo exhibit entitled “The Spirit of Hiroshima” and the Presentation College Players performed “A Thousand Cranes,” which is the true story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two-years-old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

The conference was sponsored by the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters, the Watertown Benedictine Sisters, and Pax Christi chapters in Aberdeen, Brookings, Sioux Falls, Timber Lake, and Yankton, South Dakota, and Estherville, Iowa. For more information, please e-mail sistersmandk@mchsi.com or call 605-882-6640.

PAX CHRISTI USA JOINS CAPITOL HILL DEMONSTRATION ON BP OIL DISASTER

On July 20, Pax Christi USA joined a broad coalition of public interest, faith, and environmental groups—as well as Gulf Coast residents directly impacted by the Gulf oil spill—to mark the three-month anniversary of the BP oil catastrophe at a rally on Capitol Hill. The coalition called on Congress to pass legislation to end the U.S. addiction to oil and urged lawmakers to donate campaign money raised from the oil industry to the clean-up efforts in the Gulf. The group gathered outside the U.S. Capitol carrying signs declaring, “Congress: You have oil on your hands.” Participants demanded that their members of Congress get dirty energy money out of politics and take immediate action to pass climate and energy legislation that protects people and the planet—not polluters. The rally featured speeches from leaders of diverse faith communities. Organizing groups included 350.org, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, MoveOn.org, Pax Christi USA, and Public Citizen, among others.

New Mexican Commemorations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings

Pax Christi New Mexico Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Weekend

On Friday July 30th, Pax Christi New Mexico held its annual commemoration of the atrocities of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the afternoon Pax Christi USA Bishop President Gabino Zavala held mass for us at Santa Maria de la Paz church. The evening was spent at El Museo, an art/theater/meeting space in Santa Fe. We were fortunate to have Fr. John Dear as the evening’s emcee and Bishop Zavala as the evening’s speaker. Bishop Zavala spoke plainly and beautifully to us about Catholic Social Teaching on nuclear weapons, the tragedy of our use of a nuclear weapon, and some of the challenges we face to rid ourselves of these weapons of mass destruction. The evening wrapped up with song from brothers Tim and Paul Frantzlich of “Feed Them With Music” (www.feedthemwithmusic.com).

On Saturday July 31st we began the morning with training in nonviolence at Santa Maria de la Paz. After the training everyone gathered at Ashley Pond at Los Alamos, the site of the construction of the bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We all put on sackcloth, carried with us ashes, and walked with banners and faith to an intersection of town. There we sat, in ashes, in silent vigil for thirty minutes, heeding the call of Jonah, repenting for the sin of nuclear weapons. There was a wonderful sense of community as we sat in reflection upon our actions and the violence in our own hearts that made the construction and use of such horrific weapons possible. Then we made our way back to the park where retired Colonel Ann Wright gave a speech. We concluded with music.

On Saturday July 31st we began the morning with training in nonviolence at Santa Maria de la Paz. After the training everyone gathered at Ashley Pond at Los Alamos, the site of the construction of the bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We all put on sackcloth, carried with us ashes, and walked with banners and faith to an intersection of town. There we sat, in ashes, in silent vigil for thirty minutes, heeding the call of Jonah, repenting for the sin of nuclear weapons. There was a wonderful sense of community as we sat in reflection upon our actions and the violence in our own hearts that made the construction and use of such horrific weapons possible. Then we made our way back to the park where retired Colonel Ann Wright gave a speech. We concluded with music.



Think Outside The Bomb (TOTB) Youth Permaculture Encampment

Think Outside the Bomb, which I visited in early July, had been preparing for a year to set up a permaculture encampment during the 2010 anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This camp, which sits on the property of Teresa Juarez in the town of Chimayo, is eight acres of beautiful green surrounded by sparsely vegetated desert hills and graced with a small stream. Here the young adults held workshops on

such topics as consensus building and permaculture planting. The encampment ended with a planned action at Los Alamos on August 7th.

The energy and enthusiasm of the camp participants was tangible as I talked with and listened to different people, some TOTB (for more, see <http://thinkoutsidethebomb.org>) organizers and some simply drawn by the culture being built, a counterculture to a mindset described by Liz Woodruff as “a bomb-making mentality.” This is the philosophy of permaculture, a process of turning waste into material to be reused, a system of cooperative support and community cohesion.

Everyone pitched in: planting the garden, prepping for meals, taking care of camp organization, welcoming guests, planning workshops and actions, developing media materials, and maintaining the system of the camp that is keeping the whole project functioning. I left that day warmed by all the love I had received and encouraged by the joy and sacrifice that members of my own generation have found in a life working for social justice.

~ By PCUSA Staff Manuel Padilla,
Washington DC Office

These experiences were part of Padilla’s first round of visits and interviews in New Mexico on the topic of uranium, a way of entering the dialogue on nuclear abolition. More will be posted on the PCUSA Website on Padilla’s interviews with some of those negatively affected by exposure to uranium in New Mexico, all of whom struggle against the uranium industry.

On October 7th of this year, we recognize—with deep sadness—the ninth anniversary of the Afghanistan War. A CNN poll conducted in early August reveals that 62% of those asked said they are opposed to the war. This is an all-time high. Let's continue to pray, study, and act boldly this fall to build the movement against this war.

Recent and Upcoming Events

On September 16th, Pax Christi USA held the Annual Momentum Event in Washington, DC. This year's theme was "An Evening in Solidarity with Afghanistan." People gathered to enjoy Afghan appetizers and music before hearing the keynote address by Bishop Gabino Zavala, Pax Christi USA Bishop President. His speech on the Afghanistan War was interspersed with testimonies, readings, and video clips from Afghan civilians, U.S. veterans, and Department of Defense personnel.

On September 28th, PCUSA held an Afghanistan Telephone Teach-In with scholar, author, and activist Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies. She briefed our grassroots participants on the war and then fielded some questions. If you missed this opportunity, look for the audio recording of the call on the PCUSA Website, to be posted soon. Bennis's book, co-authored by David Wildman, is entitled *Ending the US War in Afghanistan: A Primer* and is an excellent resource and full of good talking points. It can be purchased for \$10 online.

Right about the time you are receiving this mailing, Pax Christi groups across the country are preparing to participate in local actions on and around the anniversary of the Afghanistan War. Leaders in the peace movement decided that October 7-10, 2010, would be an International Call to Action against the Afghanistan War. The hope is that the public demonstration of opposition during these days—both in the United States and in Europe—would be a signal to the administration and the world like the one on February 15, 2003, was against the impending war in Iraq. The idea is to have as many LOCAL, decentralized events as possible to reach more people and show the growing opposition to the

war as people connect the war to the human and economic costs that we can no longer afford. Pax Christi USA joins many other peace organizations in endorsing this Call for Action! Please let us know if you participated by emailing amy@paxchristiusa.org.

Action Alert: Street Theater Action Against Drone Attacks

Appalled by the increase of the U.S. program of unmanned drone attacks in Pakistan? Looking for a creative anti-war action your Pax Christi group can do this fall? Consider joining PCUSA, the Institute for Policy Studies, Code Pink, and Voices for Creative Nonviolence in a joint effort to perform Mock Drone Attack Actions in cities all over the United States to help raise awareness about the realities of these attacks. The Mock Drone Attack Action's goal is to utilize "impromptu" street theater in order to simulate a drone attack. This action should capture the interest of both in-person witnesses and, after, internet viewers. This interest can then be harnessed to promote educational materials on the U.S. drone attacks happening in the Afghanistan-Pakistan war and provide pathways for more citizen resistance. Please check the PCUSA Website for a How-To Guide and educational materials on drones. Contact amy@paxchristiusa.org with questions.

~ by PCUSA Staff Amy Watts, Washington, DC office

It's Election Season! If you attend candidate forums, consider posing these questions from the Friends Committee on National Legislation to get the candidates on record about the wars and budget priorities. You can see all FCNL's proposed questions on a variety of peace and justice issues at www.fcnl.org/pubs/candidatequestions10.htm. Questions reprinted with permission.

Do not let the war fall out of consciousness; make Afghanistan an election-year issue. Be prepared: take these questions to your candidates.

1. In Fiscal Year 2010, the United States committed \$167.1 billion to fund the war in Afghanistan, including \$33 billion in supplemental spending. \$159 billion has been requested for Fiscal Year 2011 with the looming possibility of another multi-billion dollar supplemental measure. ***If elected, would you help bring an end to this wasteful spending on a failed military strategy in Afghanistan that adds to the U.S. deficit for little strategic gain?***

2. President Obama has committed an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan; many experts believe this escalation will destabilize the region by increasing border issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan while simultaneously undermining the United States's ability for diplomatic success. ***Would you support efforts to push the Obama administration to develop an exit strategy from Afghanistan such as the bills recently proposed by Senator Feingold and Representative McGovern?***

3. The Obama administration, the military, coalition forces, and the Karzai government have acknowledged that political reconciliation among all groups—including the Taliban—will be necessary for the United States to successfully hand off power to the Afghan government. The administration and military have pursued a strategy that presumes the Taliban must be sufficiently weakened before negotiations can occur; on the other hand, coalition forces, including the United Kingdom, have been making efforts to politically reconcile with the Taliban now. ***Can you please explain your position on U.S. efforts to encourage political reconciliation with all Afghan groups—including the Taliban?***

4. In 2009, the United States invested 1% of U.S. tax dollars on diplomacy, development, and international cooperation, while upwards of 33% of tax dollars were spent on the Pentagon to pay for current and past wars. ***Do you favor greater investments in peacefully preventing deadly conflict so the United States can mitigate conflicts before they reach a level of***

irreversible "crisis"?

5. According to the Congressional Budget Office, road projects in Afghanistan that were awarded \$3 million in funding are subcontracted so much that by the time the money gets to the project, there will only be \$300,000 to use for actual development. This kind of development profiteering is not only a waste of taxpayer dollars, but it is also not conducive to developing Afghanistan. ***If elected, what would you do to encourage the U.S. to move away from the current development model in order to allow for Afghan-led development?***

6. The use of drone strikes inevitably causes civilian casualties, which is a catalyst for recruitment in fundamentalist groups in Pakistan and other places. Moreover, the use of drone strikes is likely to generate anti-American sentiment in Pakistan because it is a breach on Pakistani sovereignty. ***Do you view use of drones in Pakistan as a strategic error for the United States military?***

7. The U.S. strategy in Afghanistan is predominantly military in nature despite the fact that the Counter-Insurgency Manual, written by General David Petraeus, calls for a strategy that is 80% civilian led. ***If elected, would you support a Counter-Insurgency based, civilian-led strategy or support the continuation of the current military-led strategy in Afghanistan?***

8. President Obama has defined the mission in Afghanistan as an effort to "disrupt, destroy, and dismantle" al-Qaeda and prevent the establishment of terrorist safe havens in the country. General Petraeus has stated there are few, if any, al-Qaeda left in Afghanistan. In addition, General McCrystal has stated that with 400,000 native-speaking military personnel, there would be areas of the country that Coalition forces still could not secure. ***Given these acknowledgements by two top generals in the region, do you agree that the mission outlined by President Obama seems to be an unnecessary waste of resources and lives due to a calculated political decision?***