



**INTERFAITH
FEDERATION**
OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

25 Years of Cultivating Peace, Justice, and Peace 1986 – 2011

3112 Convention St., Baton Rouge LA 70806

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25 WAYS THAT MAKE PEACE

1. Recognize that developing relationships that make for peace take time and energy:
Community building does not just happen.
It cannot be taken for granted.
It requires both great faith and great trust that is generated by a continuing display
of great human care that begins with me,
and then comes back to me.
--Joan Chittister, p. 70 *The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life*
2. Discover how peace is at the heart of every major religion by engaging in meaningful conversations with peoples of other faiths and exploring their texts. Among the books by people who've done it already: *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi & a Sheikh* by Ted Falcon, Don Mackenzie and Jamal Rahman; *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner
3. Live into your belief that every person's contribution to making peace is important by reading: *Give Peace a Deadline: What Ordinary People Can Do To Cause World Peace in Five Years* by Nathan Otto and Amber Lupton
4. Find a Peace Buddy to help each other make the distant, vague goal of peace definite and urgent.
5. Uncover your specific niche for helping create peace by applying the principles found in: *The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop* by William Ury.
6. Determine a way to continue the efforts of the United Nations 2001-2010 International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World by investigating: www.cpnw-world.org
7. Learn how to dig deep into yourself, examine your core values and align those values with actions that will contribute to the creation of world peace in five years: *Give Peace a Deadline*, pp. 195-209.
8. Write "vows" for this "marriage" attributed to an anonymous person. *Peace is the marriage of the people and the planet, with all attendant vows.*
9. Rejoice in the effectiveness of PeaceJam in creating a new generation of young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates and written about in: *PeaceJam: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace* by William Ivan Suvanjiieff and Dawn Gifford Engle
10. Using the DVD and extensive resource guide that are included with the book, choose one—or more—projects from "Ten Things You Can Do to Help" that follow each chapter in *PeaceJam* and address issues the young people had tackled while working with their Nobel Laureate.
11. Read about the efforts of four Canadian college guys to spread goodwill: *Cool To Be Kind: Random Acts and How to Commit Them* by Chris Bratseth, Erik Hanson, Brad Stokes and Val Litwin
12. And then, join the Kindness Crew at www.extremekindness.com and post your acts of kindness.

13. For ideas about dealing with hunger, check out:
www.seedspublishers.org www.bread.org
14. Explore the value of *Peacemaking Circles* and learn how to create effective ones:
www.peacemakingcircles.org www.project-nia.org www.seedsofpeace.org
15. Read about Christian Peacemaker Teams: www.cpt.org and decide on a specific action to take as a result of what you learn.
16. Learn a few words of welcome in the language of non-English speakers in our community. And then look for places to greet others around you, perhaps while standing in a line somewhere.
17. Read these words by Baruch Spinoza every day for a week:
Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.
18. Discuss this passage with a community or faith group:
 “When the armed forces are sent to war, it is sign that we as a nation have failed to find another way. ... That other way is not to be passive in seeking peace. It is to be pro-active in opposition to oppression, injustice and violence. It is to be pro-active in support of freedom, human rights, and mutual respect. True peacemaking requires the same commitment and courage it takes for a soldier to go to war. True peacemaking requires the values of a soldier: commitment to service, courage and self-sacrifice. ... Successful peacemaking requires the same level of commitment to finding non-violent options as we already seem to have to finding more efficient ways of killing people. ... The military is not the problem. It serves only to reflect the problem. Our society relies so heavily on the ability to threaten violence that we have lost the will and creativity to seek compelling, non-violent avenues to peacemaking. We don’t even know what the possibilities are. We do know that the path of violence does not lead to peace. It only leads to more violence. —pp. 63-64, chap. 13: “Do Christians Have to Be Pacifists?” in *Finding Faith: Honest Answers About God, the Bible and the Church Today* by Jack F. Price.
19. The United States Institute of Peace emphasizes these four words: “Think. Act. Teach. Train.” Journal about how you might incorporate those words into your life in ways that make for peace. What specific actions will you take as a result of your journaling?
20. Consider becoming a peace leader or taking other pro-active stances through www.wagingpeace.org
21. Write a bridge-building letter or send a card to an estranged friend or relative—see it as having potential for a permanent reconciliation.
22. Read or watch news sources with the goal of finding ways you can help create peace locally. Begin the process of converting ideas and goals into specific actions.
23. Enlist young people at home and in your faith community to join you in finding a project to put your hearts and minds and time into—or join them in ones in which they are already involved.
24. Write a thank you note to someone whose peacemaking work you admire.
25. Journal about these words in light of the importance of peacemaking and actions you want to incorporate into your life:

(L)ife with God rests in
 steeping ourselves in the spiritual traditions
 that show us the fundamental path to love of God and love of humankind.

Joan Chittister, p. 188, *The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life*

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