



INTERFAITH PEACE MINISTRY OF ORANGE COUNTY

" Doing the work of faith-based peace with justice "

DR. MARVIN MEYER TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

By Dennis Short, President, IPMOC

World renowned scholar and expert on the Nag Hammadi archeological discovery in Egypt in the 1970's will be the featured speaker at our **March 27th Annual Dinner** at Chapman University. He will speak on the topic of "Christian and Muslim Dialogue Today". He's been involved in Christian Muslim Dialogue for over thirty years.

Dr. Meyer came to Chapman in 1986 and has distinguished himself as a teacher and researcher. For years he led the faculty in preparing the curriculum and presenting the required freshman seminar in War and Peace. While religion courses are not required, Dr. Myers courses are some of the most popular because of his enthusiasm and clarity of presentation.

Chosen by National Geographic to be the translator of the Gnostic Gospel of Judas, Dr. Meyer gained worldwide acclaim. He is also the Director of the Schweitzer Institute at Chapman and an expert on Schweitzer's "reverence for life" philosophy. He is the author of numerous books and articles and has also served as panelist on interfaith dialogue numerous times. In 2006 he published an article on "Sayings of Jesus in Islamic Literature" in Social History Magazine. Dr. Meyer has appeared on the History and Discovery channel's numerous times and in 2010 he was interview by Al-Jazeera on the Nag Hammadi library, Christianity and Islam.



PEACE MINISTRY'S NEW DIRECTION

By Dennis Short, President, IPMOC

Faced by dwindling funds and reduced energy, the board met in December to decide our future. Closing our 31 year ministry down was an option which was rising to the top, when longtime Board Member Shabbir Mansuri introduced us to Dr. Hasnain Walji and a whole new focus - Christian Muslim Jewish Dialogue and Understanding. Given the amount of Islamaphobia in the U.S. we decided to focus on this direction as a way to peace.

Dr. Walji was born in Tanzania, educated in the UK now residing in Irvine, CA. Hasnain Walji, is an internationally acknowledged researcher, speaker and writer, involved in developing professional training applications in the field of nutrition, integrative healthcare and behavioral finance. He has authored 26 books, all written from naturopathic perspective, endorsed by the Natural Medicine Society of England, translated in several languages including Spanish, French, German, Turkish, Hungarian, Portuguese and Chinese.

With his background, in Nutrition Counseling as well as Communications and Media Studies, he has developed a rare insight into the applications of information technology in the field of nutrition and integrative healthcare and now uses the same principles in delivering financial literacy education to consumers. For the last 30 years he has been actively involved in coordinating research, compilation of content and liaising with software engineers to develop user-friendly education software and interactive multimedia programs. Currently he is developing multimedia 'edutainment' tools like the Frugality Game and Financial Strength Builder to bring financial literacy to the American household. He has just published

an industry whitepaper on the Impact of Financial Literacy in the Workplace and is continuing with further research on the subject of behavioral finance and financial strength.



Dr. Walji's institutional work for the Muslim community spans over 30 years. Since 1976 he has served the World Federation of KSI (Khoj Shia) Muslim Communities, as Secretary General, Vice-President and then as President of this UK based international nonprofit body. This group sponsors the education of 15,000 children around the world. There are over 100 Centers affiliated with this organization. KSI is a registered Non-Government Organization of the United Nations. He is a lay preacher at the Pico Rivera Muslim Community Center. He is the founding member and has served on the advisory board of the Universal Muslim Association of America (UMMA) Northern America Shia organization which represents 15-20% of the Muslims in the United States and is based in Washington DC. He is the Research Director of the Frugality Nation Foundation, an Irvine based nonprofit organization with a mission to strengthen the financial strength of the American Household. His passion is to further interfaith understanding and has traveled the world speaking to diverse audiences for the past 20 years in a quest for seeking a peaceful world for his grandchildren.

Dr. Walji will be introduced and asked to make a few comments at our upcoming **Annual Dinner on March 27 at 5:30 pm - Chapman University.**

Last Year Dr. Walji and friends hosted and underwrote a Christian-Jewish Muslim Mother's Day event for 300 people in Brea, California. We are presently looking for a venue in Orange County to host this year's event on Sunday, May 1st.

*When you find peace within yourself,
you become the kind of person who can live at
peace with others.*

Peace Pilgrim quotes (American Teacher and Spiritual Leader
and Peace Prophet, 1908-1981)

2011 PAUL DELP AWARD RECIPIENT Dr. Frederick W. Bush

By Jeanne Whitesell, Board Member, IPMOC

Frederic W. Bush, who taught Ancient Near East Studies and Old Testament at Fuller Seminary from 1965-2000, will be honored this year at the Interfaith Peace Ministry annual dinner/meeting with the Paul Delp Award.

In 1974-75 Fuller Seminary granted Dr. Bush a full year of sabbatical leave to live in Jerusalem and study the physical and historical geography of Palestine/Israel. Throughout that year he traveled throughout Israel and Palestine where he was able to observe the circumstances and conditions of the Palestinians living therein. Since that year he has had a deep interest in the issue of a just and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 1997-98, Dr. Bush learned about the work of an organization called "Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)." The program trains Christian people in non-violence and proactive methods of reducing violence and making peace and then sends teams to various areas of the world where such actions are needed. In August 1999, Dr. Bush spent three weeks with a CPT team in Hebron, Palestine seeking to mediate and reduce violence between the extremist Israeli settlers there and the Palestinian residents.

During this time he also visited with such Jewish organizations as Rabbis for Human Rights, B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Bat Shalom, the Israeli women's peace organization, and the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions. With the latter group he spent one day rebuilding a home in the village of Walajeh near Bethlehem, which had been destroyed two days earlier.

Since that time, Dr. Bush has been involved in numerous Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian organizations, which are working for a just and peaceful solution to the conflict. He has written numerous articles covering the whole history of the conflict which over the years he has delivered at numerous venues. All of these articles are available from Dr. Bush as attachments to e-mails. Contact him at fredericbush@lcqlen.com

Finally, Dr. Bush was a member of the IPMOC governing board. For the last two years and until his recent move to Carlsbad Dr. Bush served as chairperson.



GET ON THE BUS

By Suzanne Darweesh, Board Member, IPMOC

Get on the Bus was started 12 years ago in response to women in prison in the San Joaquin Valley complaining that they never saw their children. This was because California prisons tend to be located off the beaten track in rural areas inaccessible by public transportation. That first year one bus carrying about 20 children arrived around Mother's Day in response to the women's request. We have since discovered through various studies that the program which last year involved 60 buses carrying around 1500 children benefits the children as well. It helps their self-esteem to know that they are loved by their parents (trips to men's prisons near Father's Day were instigated a few years back), that they are not the cause of their parents' mistakes, that they were not abandoned by their parents by choice. Furthermore, children with incarcerated parents perform better academically in school as a result of contact with their parents, and tend not to establish delinquency patterns or repeat the actions of their parents.

The program nevertheless reaches only a small proportion of the children who could benefit from it. Approximately 200,000 California children have one parent in state prison. Fifty-four percent of incarcerated mothers and fifty-seven percent of imprisoned fathers report never having had a single visit from their children.

How does Get on the Bus work? It brings children and their guardians from all over the state to visit their mothers and fathers in ten different

prisons throughout California. It offers free transportation, meals and snacks, activity bags for the children on the bus, comfort bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, teddy bears on the way home, and post-event counseling.

How can churches and individuals help? Be a volunteer for a bus from your area (seven buses will originate from Orange County this year). Be an event sponsor and contribute \$1500 by April 1 and your church will get its logo printed on the back of the Event t-shirt! Be a bus sponsor and contribute \$500 and get your name printed on the back of the t-shirt. Be a family sponsor by contributing \$300. Be a child sponsor by contributing \$75. Make a donation of any amount to help fund buses, food, travel bags, and teddy bears. Sponsor an activity which will raise money and awareness, for example, encourage your Sunday School children to put together travel bags for the children riding the bus. Let Suzanne Darweesh know if you would like a speaker or video to find out how best you might be involved at sdarweesh@aol.com. They may be found at <http://www.getonthebus.us/> and on Facebook at Get On The Bus.

MANAGING FINANCIAL STRESS

By Hasnain Walji, Ph.D, Board Member, IPMOC

According to an American Psychological Association survey, over three-quarters of Americans (76 percent) cite money as a significant cause of stress. And while the economy appears to be becoming healthier, personal financial problems still worry many Americans.

Having high amounts of debt has caused an increase in health problems like insomnia, drinking, smoking, eating disorders, and severe anxiety and depression.

Let's look at a few ways you can manage your financial stress so that you can live a healthy life both physically and financially. Like most of our everyday stress, this extra tension can be managed.

First and foremost, recognize the problem exists. Being in denial will only increase your stress levels. Before you can take any action, you must first take responsibility for your choices and accept ownership. Stop denying you have a financial issue, and instead, take a clear and direct

look into what is truly happening.

The next step is to develop a mindset that relieves the negative emotions that cloud you from moving forward. A personal financial coach may help define your goals and create a plan that fits your situation.

Changing the way you think about money is an important part of reducing financial stress. Many people think that lacking money is the same as being poor. The truth is, poor is simply a state of mind. You can have little money and still live a life full of happiness and abundance.

Once you've acknowledged your situation and taken responsibility for past financial behaviors, you must let yourself off the hook. Avoid beating yourself up over decisions from the past. Try to determine spending habits from past behavior so you can avoid them in the future. We all make mistakes and develop bad habits.

Whatever your habits are, think about what you can do to prevent them from happening again in the future. Take small and frugal steps. What can you cut back on right now to reduce the amount you are spending each month? Maybe a cheaper haircut? Can you cut back on your cable or telephone? By bringing awareness to these behaviors and making small changes, you will ultimately feel proud of yourself and begin to see your stress reduce.

To relieve stress here are some healthy tips to help manage it.

1. Exercise. Evidence shows that exercising will significantly help reduce all types of stress. Just taking a walk or riding your bike in the fresh outdoors can help significantly.
2. Take deep breaths. You've probably heard this one before. Did you know when you inhale and exhale slowly your heart actually slows down? It might not seem like it; but if you focus on your breathing for a few moments every time you feel stressed, you will eventually calm down.
3. Find ways to relax. Find an activity that helps rejuvenate your mind and body. This is a great time spend time with friends and family especially since vacations may not be a possibility. Look for alternatives locally that you can enjoy together.

Last but not the least: conventional wisdom has always held that when we help others, some of the

good we do flow back to us. That satisfaction has always been thought to be largely emotional - feeling good when you do good. Now, a growing body of research has shown that volunteer work - especially when it involves personal contact with others - can help reduce stress and improve your mental and physical health.

So find your passion and look for volunteering opportunities that go along with your values. The IPM and its focus on peace in an interfaith context is one such venue you might want to consider. We invite you to join us in our quest for peace and justice to humanity.



FREE DENTAL CLINIC

West Coast University Dental Hygiene Clinic
877-WCU-CLINIC or 877-928-2546

The Interfaith Peace Ministry of Orange County has been asked to help spread the word about a new community service in Orange County. We are delighted to do so.

In April 2010 West Coast University opened the WCU Dental Hygiene Clinic in Anaheim. The clinic serves as an educational facility for dental hygiene students as they pursue their Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene. The students offer care to the growing numbers of Orange County residents who lack access to dental hygiene services.

The Clinic offers a full range of dental hygiene services - all at no cost to patients - and the patient care is supervised by faculty members who are licensed Dentists and Registered Dental Hygienists. This Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene is one of only four in the state of California.

The Clinic is located at 1477 S. Manchester Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92802 (directly across the street from Disneyland, off Harbor Blvd.) and may be found at:

<http://www.westcoastuniversity.edu/wcuclinic/>.

Thanks to all who responded to our request to send your newsletter by e-mail. You are probably wondering now why we are sending you a paper copy again. It's because we are including in the newsletter the form for you to make reservations for the annual dinner/meeting and, instead of sending out postcard notification, we are only using the newsletter this year for registration. We still hope to use the internet more in the future and if you haven't already notified us of your willingness to receive the newsletter via e-mail we would still appreciate that information at: jswhitesell3211@yahoo.com

USA AID TO EGYPT

By William Hartung, author of Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex. (from Democracy Now, 1-31-11. www.democracynow.org)

Tens of billions of US dollars have been given to the Mubarak regime in Egypt, one of the highest recipients of foreign aid in the world, behind Israel. But actually that money doesn't necessarily go to Egypt. It goes to U.S. military contractors.

Bill Hartung is director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, and has closely examined how the United States has propped up the flagging Mubarak regime, largely with military aid.* It's a form of corporate welfare for companies like Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics, because it goes to Egypt, then it comes back for F-16 aircraft, for M1 tanks, for aircraft engines, for all kinds of missiles, for guns, for tear gas canister. A company called Combined Systems International actually has its name on the side of the canisters that have been found on the streets in Cairo.

Lockheed Martin has been the leader in deals worth \$3.8 billion the last 10 years; General Dynamics, \$2.5 billion for tanks; Boeing, \$1.7 billion for missiles, for helicopters; Raytheon for all manner of missiles for the armed forces. But in reality a lot of the money is basically recycled. Taxpayers could just as easily be giving it directly to Lockheed Martin or General Dynamics.

According to lists of arms sales notifications compiled by the Pentagon's Defense Security

Assistance Agency, in the last decade alone, the Department of Defense has brokered over \$11 billion in U.S. arms offers to the Egyptian regime on behalf of weapons manufacturers Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Boeing, Raytheon and General Electric.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES:

Go to <http://ocpeace.org/calendar.html> for more details.

WEEKLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

EVERY FRIDAY at 5pm: Anti-War/Anti-Imperialism Protest at Bristol & Anton in Costa Mesa.

Contact by email: Chuck Anderson - QUETZALCOATL38@aol.com.

EVERY SATURDAY at 11am: Peace Demo at Main Beach, Pacific Coast Hwy and Ocean Ave in Laguna Beach. Contact: 949-499-3190

EVERY SUNDAY at noon: "Enough" demo at Huntington Beach Pier.

Contact by email: afitguy@excite.com

Website: www.theyoungturks.com/section/Enough

EVERY SUNDAY at 3pm: Food Not Bombs in Santa Ana, 26 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana. Help serve food. Contact by e-mail:

santaanafoodnotbombs@riseup.net

EVERY SUNDAY at 7pm: Peace Vigil at Huntington Beach Pier

Contact: mtheriault@socal.rr.com

TWICE MONTHLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY at 5:30pm: Code Pink Antiwar Protest in Orange at Glassell and Chapman (Orange Circle). Contact kathy@codepinkoc.org

Website: www.codepinkoc.org.

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY at 5pm: Women in Black Demo at Harbor and Newport in Costa Mesa. Contact: Carlene at 949-720-7065 or Lilian at 714-545-1450.

SECOND SATURDAY at 10am: OC Peace Coalition General Meeting at 2091 Business Center Dr, Irvine (New Friends Meeting House) and **FOURTH TUESDAY at 7pm**, Unitarian Universalist Church of Anaheim, 511 Harbor, Anaheim. www.ocpeace.org.

MONTHLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

Military Families Speak Out. Check:
www.mfsooc.org or call 562-833-8035 for up-to-date information.

USUALLY THIRD TUESDAY - 7:30-9:30:
Cousins Club at Irvine Ranch Water District, Irvine. Contact: www.cousinscluboc.org or e-mail: info@cousinscluboc.org

EVERY LAST WEDNESDAY - 5:00pm-6:30pm.
Senior Patriots Against the War, Seal Beach Leisure World. Call 562-430-7509 or 562-430-1047.

"4th THURSDAY" FILM SERIES – 7-8pm at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 7056 Washington Ave, Whittier

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY – 7pm, Moving Pictures Film Series at Sisters of St. Joseph Center, Mother Louis Room, 480 S. Batavia, Orange. 6:30-7:00 PM: Gathering & Refreshments, 7:00-9:00 PM: Film & Discussion. 714 633-8121 Ext. 7716
justice@csjorange.org www.sistersofstjosephorange.org/



Check out IPMOC.org!

Articles and suggestions for both the website and newsletters may be sent to jswitesell3211@yahoo.com.



OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

Green Theology, a six week seminar Wednesdays, **March 16 to April 20, 2011, 5-7pm**, with a final week-end session **April 28-29, 2011** at Orange Coast UU Church, 1259 Victoria Ave., Costa Mesa. More info: call 949-351-5948, e-mail green@ocuuc.org or www.ocuuc.org/greensanctuary.php.

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ will speak at a fundraiser for **Get On The Bus** on **March 17, 2011** at St. Angela Marici Church, 585 S Walnut, Brea, from 11:30 to 1:30. Sister Prejean is author of 'Dead Man Walking'. More info: Donna Thune 714-257-1214.

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NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2011
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED