

Action Steps

December 23, 2009

At Least a Million People Praying for Peace

I received an e-mail a few weeks ago from Michael Rosenblum, “an ordinary United Methodist in Knoxville, Tennessee.” In 2006, he started praying for Muqtada al-Sadr, an Islamic cleric in Baghdad. He wrote to tell me about his effort to recruit at least a million people to pray for peace both in their worship services and in their personal devotions during the month of January. I think this is a splendid idea. I too am fool enough to believe that committed believers committed to prayer can change the world.

I think that the more people who commit to prayer and who commit to prayer and fasting the better the world will be. Such are just peace moves. Therefore an action step for those of us who are committed believers and committed peacemakers is to join Mr. Rosenblum in his efforts to recruit at least a million people to pray for peace.

Here is a prayer that I found in the “Pronouncement on Affirming the United Church of Christ as Just Peace Church.” (For more ideas about how to make your congregation a just peace congregation, I recommend this document. It may be found online.) This is a prayer that Benedictine Sisters pray each day at noon.

Lead me/us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth
Lead me/us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me/us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe.

And the world can use more prayers for peace. I hope that you will write your own.