

CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS, SOLIDARIST NONVIOLENT
ACTIVISM, AND THE POLITICS OF PEACE: PEACE WITNESS THAT
CHALLENGES MILITARISM AND DESTRUCTIVE VIOLENCE

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Christian activist groups are often associated with right wing, conservative culture, especially in the North American political context. While such elements are certainly present in some faith communities, this article examines an alternative emerging expression of Christian group identity, which does not correlate well with left-right dichotomies and is oriented not towards other-worldliness, but is focused on justice in the here and now. Specifically, it looks at the methodological and theoretical foundations that encourage Christian Peacemakers Teams to engage in acts of violence intervention and prevention in a spirit of solidarity. This article assesses whether such a solidarist methodology has the potential to function as a dialogue of life, one that supports cultural, biological, and religious diversity. Further, it argues that this peace witness is an essential expression of Christianity in today's world.

War, social injustice, poverty and ecocide are phenomena which the vast bulk of mankind has participated in and accommodated to throughout recorded history.

—George Lakey, 1973¹

The greatest religious challenge of our age is to hold together social action and spiritual disciplines.

—Walter Wink, 1998²