

# Fellowship of Reconciliation

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Dear Friend:

Before getting to the main purpose of this letter (asking you to take out a subscription to Fellowship magazine), let me tell you about my adopted grandmother.

While on a final trip before trial and imprisonment for draft resistance, I met her in New Mexico. She was just about 80, I suppose, but as vigorous as people come at any age. (When the weather was right, she took her sleeping bag and camped out on mesa tops.) She spoke the languages of the Pueblo, Hopi and Navajo, and indeed looked like she was born to these ancient peoples, though in fact she came from French stock and was born in Minnesota. She had written many books, both for children and "grown-ups".

She wasn't uncaring about the trials and tribulations being suffered in the world. Her nephew was a draft resister, of which she was immensely proud. She, herself, was still working to make the world a saner and kinder place to live, though she knew well how hard the task was.

One day she noticed me reading an over-solemn booklet on some political subject, and asked me why I was reading it. I made a response nearly as solemn as the booklet, and asked her if she wouldn't like to read it too.

"Oh no," she said. "I never read anything that doesn't make my heart beat."

I mention my adopted grandmother to you, and her advice on reading, because it is that advice we try to keep in mind in editing Fellowship each month. Though our work puts us in day-to-day contact with some of the worst news there is (and, by way of response to it, some of the best), our growing number of readers maintain that the magazine is one of their main sources of energy and hope.

This magazine exists because of our peculiar conviction that no one's murder is an occasion for thanksgiving.

Actually, we think it is peculiar that our conviction is so rare. It's un-nerving that so many people (like Madame Defarge in Tale of

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LETTER TO THE THANGS FOR PRISONERS  
THE NEW BREAD IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
FELLOWSHIP  
PLANTS AND PEACEMAKERS  
THE U.S. MIGHT BE YOURS TO LOSE  
FELLOWSHIP

Two Cities) have lists of persons whose quick and permanent removal would improve things, and peculiar that so few people seem to notice that all the executions and wars of the past have only eroded human security.

Our pacifist convictions find many expressions in Fellowship. Note a few recent articles:

Conversations with a Poplar Tree by Thich Nhat Hanh. "Yesterday afternoon," he begins, "I awarded the poplar tree in my yard the Nobel Peace Prize. I really did. I came to the tree and asked about institutional violence. Since the answer didn't come right away, I sat down and waited. The yard was covered with beautiful leaves..."

This Hardest of Letters by Edgar Jones. A father's letter to his daughter (at a yoga center in India) about the death of his son (her brother) in a mountain climbing accident: a meditation on life, death, conflict and change.

Cesar Chavez: An Interview on Nonviolence. This is the only conversation that we know of in which Chavez discusses in depth his reasons for nonviolence. "The thing we have going for us is that people are willing to sacrifice themselves," he says. As for violence, "It's foolish to gamble everything on one roll of the dice--which is what violence really gets down to."

Peacemaking in the Middle East by Allan Solomonow.

The Quest for Peace in Ireland by Richard Deats.

Forming Community: Baltimore's Jonah House by Elizabeth McAlister.

The Legislation of Fascism by Diane Leonetti.

A Letter to Vietnamese Prisoners by Daniel Berrigan.

The Funeral Industry and the Prison Industry by Jessica Mitford.

Each issue includes news, book reviews, letters, artwork and photos. Whether it might become your most awaited magazine, we don't know, but we believe it will quickly find an important spot in your monthly reading.

Few magazines really believe that life is an inviolable right. The few that do are worth getting.

Yours in peace,



Jim Forest  
Editor, Fellowship

Special Offer:

With your new subscription, we'll send you any--or all--of the Fellowship articles cited in the letter. Mention which ones you want.

We'll also send, gratis, a portfolio of four drawings by Vietnam's principal living artist, Vo-Dinh; the drawings were a gift from the artist to the FOR.