



EXTENDING BEYOND

Service Adventurers forge peace from war

By Zachary Headings



One of the core values of the Anabaptist faith is that we are to be “ambassadors of reconciliation” in the world (*Missio Dei* #18, p. 17). Reconciliation is the joining of evangelism and peacebuilding. So, as

Anabaptists, we know that peacebuilding is at the core of our beliefs. We are called to “fight” differently (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

We know that violence leads to more violence. Jesus teaches us to confront violence with nonviolence and correct the injustices that motivate it. As many of our alumni know, one of the ways that Mennonite Mission Network encourages the practice of peacebuilding is through what we call “learning components.”

In late January, the Colorado Springs (Colorado) Service Adventure unit undertook a learning component with RAWtools. RAWtools is an organization that advocates for peace by

forging guns into garden tools and providing nonviolence training, resources and more.

The unit spent the day in the RAWtools blacksmithing shop, hammering gun parts into things like spades, a mattock and “disarm hearts” — heart-shaped necklaces, named after part of RAWtools’ mission statement: “Disarm hearts, forge peace, cultivate justice.”

Shelby and Travis Clarke, the Colorado Springs unit leaders, had planned for a RAWtools learning component from the moment they started as unit leaders. The Clarkes are friends with Mike Martin, the founder of RAWtools, and his father, Fred Martin, who hosts the blacksmithing shop in his garage.

“It was really interesting to see the process,” said Malia Bauman, a Service Adventure participant from Harrisonburg, Virginia, “How something that causes so much pain can be turned into something that can cause joy.” She went on to say that she felt a rush when she

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RAWtools transforms guns from weapons of destruction into garden tools, like these spades. Photo by Shelby Clarke.

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

— 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV)



Photo by Shelby Clarke

The Colorado Springs Service Adventure unit made hearts, spades and helped with a mattock. Here, Micah Wenger, Travis Clarke, Malia Bauman and Neeltje Sandersfeld learn about RAWtools.

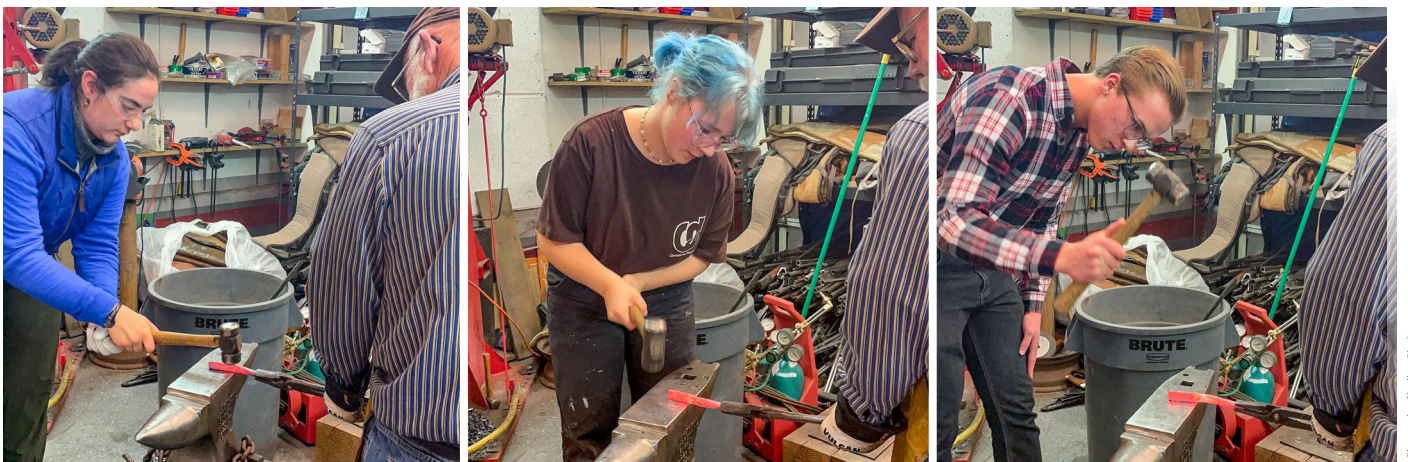
deconstructed gun-metal into something that can cultivate life, like a garden tool.

Mission Network partners with a network of peace-builders, teachers and cultivators, working across the globe to be ambassadors of Christ's peace and reconciliation. As a friend of Mission Network, you are part of that network. You understand the formative impact service can have — an impact that extends not just to us but to the people around us, as well. You know the peace that comes with a service experience, and now, we want your help to pass that peace along to others by donating to Mission Network.

Not only does your gift support future service

participants in meaningful ways, but it also supports partner churches and organizations across the globe. With your help, we can ensure that more participants in our service programs experience the transformative power of service and become agents of God's peace and hope in their communities — just like you.

Whether you can give a little or a lot, your contribution will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our personnel and partners. Thank you for your continued support of Mission Network and for being part of this community — your community. Together, we can continue to pass along peace to future generations. ■



Photos by Shelby Clarke

Fred Martin holds the hot metal, while Service Adventure participants Malia Bauman, Neeltje Sandersfeld and Micah Wenger pound it into shape.

Pass along peace! Give today, by visiting MennoniteMission.net/Donate.
Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our participants and partners around the world.

JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGE

Tour guide, Jake Williams, shared some of his family story with a Just Peace Pilgrimage group from Community Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, Virginia), as they toured Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. Photo by Rene Hostetter

LOOKING TO

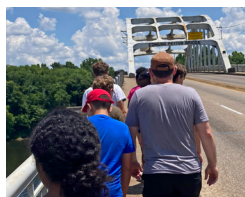
LEARN AND GROW?

CONSIDER A JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGE!

MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace

Listen and learn — Mennonite Mission Network invites you and your congregation or group on a pilgrimage to explore what God is doing to bring about justice and peace in the world, as well as ways in which you can participate in such movements. Come with your Sunday School class, youth group, friends or just yourself, and join us as we learn together how to walk in solidarity and celebration of life.

Three types of tours



Racial Justice Pilgrimage



Christ at the Borders Pilgrimage



Solidarity With Indigenous Peoples Pilgrimage



We are called to community

A message from Marisa Smucker, Interim Executive Director



As Christians, we are called to a different standard than the rest of the world. We seek to follow the way of Jesus and believe that strength and wisdom is provided through the Holy Spirit. God reaches out to each of us, even today, in our daily living, asking us to love God, to love ourselves,

to love our neighbors and even to love our enemies. God calls us to share the good news and serve others.

A calling from God can happen in many ways. We might be called to a specific group of people, a place or, perhaps, a situation. The calling may be a series of small nudges throughout a person's lifetime or an overarching

“The call is not about us but about what God is doing in the world.”

call that stretches out for many years. However or whenever God calls, will you be ready to respond by saying, “Here am I. Send me!” as the prophet in Isaiah 6:8 did?

No call is too small nor too large. For the call is not about us but about what God is doing in the world. Throughout history, time and again, God has reached out to humankind, inviting us to join in this work. We can answer boldly with a “Yes!” when we have the mind of Christ and trust that God will be with us.

And as Anabaptists, we value community. Whether these callings keep us close to our families and home communities or move us to new spaces or places, we are committed to sharing our callings with one another and encouraging one another along the way. For as the body of Christ, we are always connected, and we keep each other in prayer. ■

Marisa Smucker

Marisa Smucker
Interim Executive Director



Thank you for being part of what God is doing! How is God calling you to share in additional ways with Mennonite Mission Network?

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