

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 (NIV)

**Ben Hampshire** is a freelance journalist who works with Sports Chaplaincy UK.

## PEACE PERSPECTIVE

In scripture peace is less an emotion, than it is a perspective - a state of mind proclaiming any trauma in life is subject to the triumphant victory of Jesus Christ, who works all things together for the good of those who love him. Jesus' death and resurrection means we no longer fight for victory, but live from the victory he has won for us, offering up a perspective of peace.

Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch activist who aided many Jews in fleeing Nazi Concentration Camps in World War II, allowed her perspective of peace to influence her experience when she stood face-to-face with a former Nazi SS guard from Ravensbruck.

Ten Boom, who lost her sister Betsie in the very same camp, recalls the moment the officer held out a hand requesting forgiveness, saying, 'Jesus, help me! I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling.' And she went on, 'I forgive you, brother, with all my heart!' In one moment of radical grace, Ten Boom allowed her trauma to be subject to the triumph of Jesus, and it became a moment where the love of God overflowed in the most profound and beautiful way. Will you allow your grievances to be set aside to pick up the perspective of peace Jesus offers to you today?



### PRAYER

*Father God, would you give us the courage today to set aside our emotions and allow any trauma we have experienced become subject to your triumph and flood our perspective with your peace, that it may overflow into the lives of all around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### ACTION

*Corrie Ten Boom's example is a clear indicator that peace-making is not an emotional act, but a willing choice. Today, write an email, a text message or even a letter to someone you need to make peace with. Maybe you could even include a gift. After all, love gives.*

Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'

John 21:16 (NIV)

**Andrew Willett** is a United Reformed Church minister and an Evangelism and Renewal Advocate for GEAR (Group for Evangelism and Renewal).

## FORGIVENESS CAN LEAD TO PEACE

One obstacle to peace can be a lack of forgiveness. In the Bible (John 21) we read of Jesus' forgiveness of Peter. The back story is that Peter, whilst under pressure had sinned, he had denied three times that he knew Jesus. After Jesus died, Peter felt awful, it could have destroyed him. But now Jesus offered forgiveness. Three times Jesus asked him if he loved him, in some ways to cancel his three denials. Peter now could 'take care of my sheep'; history tells us that he did do this and he brought

peace and joy with the good news of Jesus. This path is still available to us, to know forgiveness, to forgive and so to bring peace.

### PRAYER

*Lord God, we thank you for the example of the reinstatement of Peter and the effect that he had. We pray this path for ourselves, those that we know and those on our minds from the news. As we are forgiven we pray that we will forgive and bring peace.*

The Lord is enthroned as King forever.  
Psalm 29:10-11 (NIV)

**Paul Gask** is a Regional Director for Christian Vision for Men.

## NEVER AGAIN

As we look back on tragic events which have long been confined to the history books, how many times have we heard those two words, 'never again'? Never again, indeed, yet each time we switch on the news channels on our TVs, or pick up a newspaper, all we see is conflict: conflict between countries from across the globe. It's a far too familiar story, with history constantly repeating itself. Countries at war may seem far away, and yet, time and time again, we see similar conflicts on our own

streets, with young men losing their lives ... still. What have we really learned? So, this year, more than ever, let us remember that 'never again' starts with me.

### PRAYER

*Lord, we remember those lives lost in all those world conflicts of yesteryear. We pray for all those families who are caught up in similar conflicts both at home and abroad today. We lift our world leaders to you and pray for your peace to be sovereign over all. Amen*

24  
OCTOBER  
19 DAYS

*Glorious things are spoken of you O City of God. Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; Philistia too and Tyre with Ethiopia - this one was born there they say.*

Psalm 87:3-4 (NRSV)

**Rev John Howard** is a Presbyterian of the Methodist Church serving as a mission partner in Israel Palestine.

## BUILDING PEACE

In 1917 at least in part for short term gain, the Balfour Declaration was signed. What became the conflict in Israel Palestine was in part shaped in the closing years of World War I. Today there are many people from different lands all trying to play their part in building peace. Courageous Palestinians having been denied their human rights for generations yet refuse to turn to violence. Israeli peace activists facing hostility from their own communities bravely work to bring people together and understand each other, though these actions

seldom get reported in the news. We believe in a God who cares for all his children, and for whom justice and peace are qualities of his being. Jesus said 'blessed are the peacemakers'.

### PRAYER

*Loving God, we pray for peace-makers from every land working in Israel Palestine, especially Israelis and Palestinians. May their efforts be blessed and the path to peace be found for all your children of the land called Holy. Amen*

25  
OCTOBER  
18 DAYS

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

John 14:27 (NIV)

**Christian Wienkamp** works with Sports Chaplaincy UK across the North East of England and is also chaplain to Newcastle International Airport.

## PEACE IN CRISIS

As a Christian, when I am in the midst of crisis, either personally or supporting others going through real trials, uncertainty, disaster or fear, this verse always seems to come to the forefront of my mind. It reminds me that Jesus is the source of peace that it so different, lasting, powerful, pure and secure from anything the world could ever offer. It always carries me through. Furthermore, in the midst of other people's crises, it reminds me of who fills me, who lives

in me, who works through me, and whose power and wisdom I can rely on to bring a sense of peace and perspective to others.

### PRAYER

*Father, I thank you that you offer a peace that goes beyond everything the world could ever offer and you are always there to help in times of need. Thank you that we can rely on your peace to strengthen us in our weakness and carry us through every fear.*

26  
OCTOBER  
17 DAYS

*No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person. But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.*

Romans 5:7-8 (CEV)

**Catherine Butcher** is communications director for HOPE.

## FORGIVENESS

Edith Cavell was a Christian who served as a nurse and matron in enemy-occupied Belgium during the First World War. She was executed in 1915 for enabling around 200 Allied soldiers to escape to neutral territory. The night before her execution she told the chaplain who shared communion with her: 'Standing as I do in view of God and eternity: I realise that

patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.' Edith understood that Jesus' greater love commands us to love our enemies as well as our neighbours and friends.

### PRAYER

*Father God, help me to love and forgive as you love and forgive me. Amen*

27  
OCTOBER  
16 DAYS

*They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.*

Isaiah 2:4 (NIVUK)

**Rachel Jordan-Wolf** is National Mission and Evangelism Advisor to the Church of England, and one of the HOPE trustees.

## FIRM CONVICTIONS

In the First World War there were about 15,000 men who were conscientious objectors, the vast majority of whom were Christians. Some served as non-combatant troops, others were exempt on grounds that their jobs were of national importance, but others were arrested and court marshalled for their refusal to fight. One of those who was court marshalled described his beliefs as follows: 'My firm rooted conviction is: War is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ; therefore I respectfully, but absolutely refuse to take part in that which is so deep rooted in my

mind as wrong.' Among the conscientious objectors in Dartmoor serving their sentences in hard labour were some of the early leaders of the Pentecostal movement in England. They held weekly Bible studies, praise and prayer meetings and were joined by Christians from other denominations which had a positive impact on the spread of the Pentecostal movement.

### PRAYER

*Father, we look forward with hope to the day when Isaiah's vision of peace becomes a reality worldwide. Amen*