

40 DAYS OF PEACE

LENT 2012 POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

USPG PowerPoint talk for Lent 2012

Note to speaker: please feel free to adapt these notes to your own style.

40 Days of Peace USPG Lent Appeal 2012

Come with USPG on a Lenten journey of peace – and help to support the vital peace work of Anglican Churches around the world

SLIDE 1

40 Days of Peace: USPG Lent Appeal 2012

Key dates:

Wednesday 22 February: Ash Wednesday

Friday 6 April: Good Friday

Sunday 8 April: Easter Day

SLIDE 2

Come with USPG on a Lenten journey of peace – and help to support the vital peace work of Anglican Churches around the world.

During Lent, USPG is encouraging churches to undertake a 40-day journey of peace.

This is an opportunity to explore our understanding of 'shalom' – the Hebrew word for peace that means wholeness, fullness, completeness.

In this presentation, we will be looking at the peace work of Anglican Churches. We will be looking at what it means to be a peace-maker. And we will have an opportunity to renew our commitment to peace – with God, with our neighbours, and with the environment.

SLIDE 3

Jesus is the bringer of peace. He is the Prince of Peace. And yet, around the world, people are in conflict. In Zimbabwe, Anglicans are the target of an ex-communicated bishop (Dr Nolbert Kunonga) who is attempting to seize control of church property by evicting congregations, even tear-gassing and attacking them.

SLIDE 4

But the church remains a model of peace. It continues to seek justice – but uses only legal channels and is able to turn the other cheek. The Rt Revd Chad Gandiya, Bishop of Harare, said: 'The church is growing in spite of all its hardships. What are challenges to us as a church have turned out to be God's opportunities for ministry.'



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SLIDE 5

What is this peace that passes human understanding? It is the Easter gift. It has the power to inspire and turn indifference into compassion. In Sri Lanka, with support from USPG, the church is reaching out to women who were widowed during a 25-year civil war that ended in 2009 having claimed more than 70,000 lives.



SLIDE 6

Hilary P Wirasinha, of the Diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, told USPG: 'The church is committed to peace with honour and dignity, and justice and equal rights for all, especially for poor, oppressed, marginalised and minority groups.'



SLIDE 7

The peace of God inspires us to see reconciliation with our neighbours. Let's look at Pakistan, where Christians face persecution because they are in a minority and because some Pakistanis view Christianity as an American/western religion that is in opposition to Islam.



SLIDE 8

But despite these hardships, Bishop Mano Rumalshah, of the Church of Pakistan, is able to say: 'The ultimate aim of Christian service is to proclaim the message of peace to friends and foes, leading all people towards reconciled relationships, which is God's ultimate purpose for us all.' USPG is supporting the Church of Pakistan.



SLIDE 9

The Anglican Church in Egypt is also active in upholding inter faith dialogue. Egypt has been much in the news lately due to the political uprising. It has also seen clashes between Muslims and Coptic Christians. The church is providing food supplies and literacy and jobs skills training for the marginalised.



SLIDE 10

The Rt Revd Mouneer Anis, Bishop of Egypt, said: 'The Anglican Church can play a bridging role between churches and with the other faiths. Though we are tiny, it seems we are the most active in inter faith in this region.'



SLIDE 11

Being a peace-maker means more than being a peaceful or 'peaceable' person. It can get very messy and requires an ability to listen, to empathise and to speak plainly and honestly. In Israel/Palestine, USPG is a strong advocate for Palestinians who feel betrayed at the hands of the Israeli government and army.



SLIDE 12

USPG is supporting the Diocese of Jerusalem as it seeks a peaceful solution and reaches out to marginalised Palestinian communities through healthcare and other services.



SLIDE 13

Being a peace-maker can mean going against the grain, opposing the structures of power, even being an irritant in societies that would prefer to ignore injustice. In the Amazon, the Anglican Church – supported by USPG – is campaigning against illegal logging and the destruction of the traditional homelands of indigenous peoples.



SLIDE 14

Some campaigners risk their lives. In the last 30 years, more than 800 people have been murdered because of their attempts to defend the rainforest and its people against unscrupulous big business. The situation in the Amazon shows how important it is to get right our relationship with the environment.



SLIDE 15

And, as we remember the price that Jesus paid on the cross, we also remember the supreme sacrifice made by many peace-makers around the world. In the Philippines, over 1,200 human rights advocates have been killed in the last ten years after standing up for the poor.



SLIDE 16

USPG is backing the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) which blames the government for ignoring the plight of the poor, while allowing international businesses to strip the Philippines of natural resources and destroy rural land. Fr Rex Reyes Jr, of NCCP, said: 'A violation of human rights anywhere is a violation of human rights everywhere.'

A PLEDGE OF PEACE

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace, etc...

SLIDE 17/18

A PLEDGE OF PEACE:

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace.

You call us to seek shalom in our own lives
and the lives of those around us:
This we now do.

In this broken world, guide us
and give us strength to bring shalom
into our personal lives,
into our church and community,
into our nation
and globally, among people of different faiths and backgrounds.

We pray for a healing of the broken shalom that exists
between men and women,
between rich and poor,
between the powerful and the disempowered, and
between human beings and Creation.

Lord Jesus, you gave us your peace.
Give us openness to embrace this peace,
hope to experience it in our own lives,
and courage to share it throughout the world.

Amen

SLIDE 19

USPG is working alongside Anglican Churches as they reach out to vulnerable communities. We are a voice for the voiceless. Please support this work with your prayers and donations.

USPG urgently needs your gifts of money, time and prayer to enable the world church to share God's love.

SLIDE 20

For more information:

Tel: 020 7921 2200

Email: enquiries@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk/peace

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