

The Methodist Order of Peacemakers Pledge

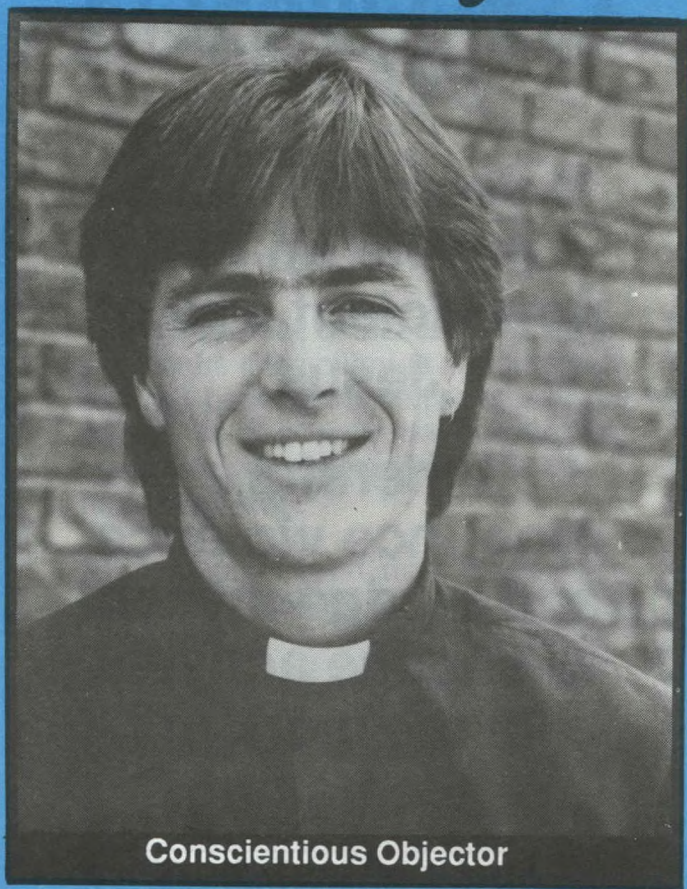
**“I desire to model
my life on the
non-violent way of
Jesus.**

**I therefore
renounce violence
and pledge myself
to engage actively
in the work of
peacemaking.”**

*Issued by the Conscientious Objectors
Support Group with the Methodist Order of
Peacemakers.*

*Information & support:
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Johannesburg
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Reverend Alan Storey



Conscientious Objector

On trial for non-violence

I believe that Jesus rejects violence and war. I take my stand on his teaching.

I believe that the Christian faith is about forgiving and transforming people, not defeating and destroying them. The Gospel is a journey to wholeness and healing, not hurting people and the supreme example of this is the cross of Christ.

There, Jesus met violence with non-violence giving humanity a new way of confronting evil. I must live by this new way and the ends I desire must be seen in the means I use.

In South Africa, apartheid has produced a culture of violence among us. South Africans must be set free from their trust in force and I have decided to be part of this process rather than being conscripted into the violence spiral.

Jesus calls me to be a peacemaker and as a member of the Methodist Order of Peacemakers I have pledged to model my life on the non-violent way of Jesus and to engage actively in the work of peacemaking.

I stand with all those - black and white - who have refused to use violence.

Therefore I must refuse to serve in the SADF.

I do not believe that religious persons have a monopoly on integrity and con-

science. Nor do I believe that Jesus would accept an unfair privilege.

Therefore I cannot accept the privilege given only to religious pacifists by the board for Religious Objectors.

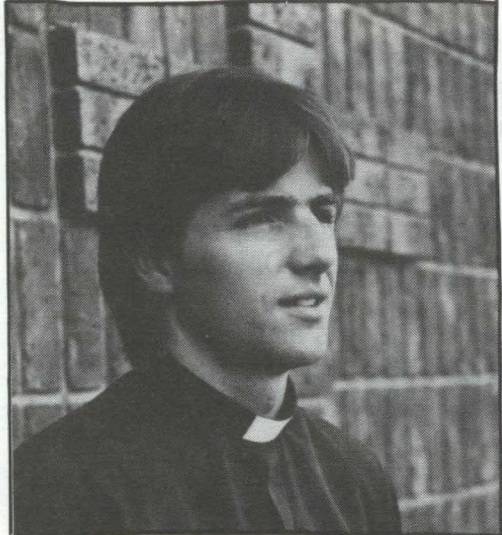
Furthermore, this action is not only aimed at the present state, but should be seen as a challenge to any future government.

It is my desire that this stand will go some way to ensure that the voice of non-violence will be heard in the halls of a Constituent Assembly and that the right to Conscientious Objection will be enshrined in a Bill of Rights inclusive of the whole population.

**“Jesus sets us free
from our trust in
force...”**



**...He chose
non-violence and I
must do the same"**



Alan Storey is 22 years old and a probationer minister at the Rustenberg Methodist Church.

He matriculated at Greenside High School in 1987, where he played first team cricket, rugby and ran in the 'A' athletics side.

After leaving school he worked as a labourer in Australia for a year and it was during this time that he became certain that he must do two things; enter the ordained ministry and refuse military service.

He has spent the past two years as a staff member of the Central Methodist Mission. His dedication to this task entailed living amongst the poor, unemployed and homeless in the centre of Johannesburg. The reality of his life and ministry to those people still serves as an example to all those who know him.

He is a founder member of the Metho-

dist Order of Peacemakers, a pacifist movement in the Church.

Alan received his call up for military service in September 1990, in March 1991 he was arrested for refusing to do military service.

Alan appeared before the magistrate on 15 April as required. Then came the surprise: He was told that he should come back on 17 June because the Attorney-General "was still deciding whether to press charges or to drop them!" His attorney was told that this was because of "representations from a number of quarters."

The implications of this could be very significant. If the charges are dropped, Alan will become the first conscientious objector to go entirely free and the long struggle for the rights of all COs will have been won.

If, on the other hand, the state is just playing for time and hopes to prosecute when some of the support has cooled off - well, so be it. Alan is ready for them and will give any magistrate a troubled conscience.

So, either way, Alan needs your support to witness for peace and non-violence. Hopefully your support for his willingness to suffer will be enough, and soon the prosecution of people like him will crumble at last.

Write to the State President.
Attend the trial.

METHODIST ORDER OF PEACEMAKERS

AIMS OF THE ORDER

- * To encourage a joyful spirituality and a non-violent lifestyle following the example of Jesus.
- * To encourage others to choose active non-violence in the search for justice.
- * To investigate, analyse and expose the causes of violence and conflict.
- * To support those who take costly non-violent decisions in the cause of peace and justice.
- * To develop and employ skills in creative conflict management.
- * To establish bonds of fellowship with each other and all groups involved in peacemaking.

THE RULE OF LIFE

- A. A commitment to christian fellowship, devotion and practice.
- B. A lifestyle reflecting the renunciation of violence -
 - (i) In our personal lives
 - (a) through daily spiritual disciplines
 - (b) through discovering and dealing with our own violence
 - (c) through study in non-violence
 - (ii) In our social lives
 - (a) by affirming the human dignity of all
 - (b) by understanding conflict and responding non-violently
 - (c) by preventing and resolving violence
 - (d) by confronting injustice and seeking justice
- C. Participation in the fellowship, training and activities of the Order, through a local chapter.

PROCEDURE FOR THE INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

1. Sign a copy of the pledge.
2. Attend a meeting of your local chapter and ask them to accept your pledge. They will arrange for your induction service either in your local society (or congregation, parish or assembly) or at a Conference of the Order.
3. Your local chapter will then lodge your pledge.

The contact persons of the Witwatersrand Chapter are:
 Rob Thomson 646-5332 (H) 23-2371 (O)
 Darryl Geffen 943-2685 (H).

METHODIST ORDER OF PEACEMAKERS PLEDGE

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Matt 5:9

I desire to model my life on the non-violent way of Jesus.
I therefore renounce violence and pledge myself to engage actively in the work of peacemaking.

I will seek to live according to the rule of life of the Methodist Order of Peacemakers.

I accept that this commitment may be costly to me, but make it trusting in Christ, who strengthens me.

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