

The 2007 North Carolina State Fair Peace Booth August 7, 2007

Dear Friends of the Peace Booth --

Do you remember when Harry Truman was president? (Nope, neither do we, but we've read about it.). The only head of state to authorize the use of atomic weapons on civilians (Japan), Truman was president from 1945 to 1953. It was during Truman's presidency that a small group of Quakers started setting up shop at the North Carolina State Fair. The Peace Booth was born in 1951, during the onset of the Cold War. Today, an amazing 56 years later, Quakers and many other believers in peace have kept the Peace Booth going at the NC State Fair.

As they do each summer, the folks on the Peace Booth steering committee are asking you to make an annual donation to this very important work. Costs to rent space, buy insurance and cover materials are more than \$2,500 per year. And it's worth every penny. Where else can peacemakers get a chance to spread our message to thousands of NC citizens over the course of 10 days? That's what the Peace Booth does; with 120 volunteers, who staff the booth in pairs for 130 hours, the Peace Booth offers an invaluable presence at the Fair each fall.

This year's Fair opens October 12 and runs through Oct. 21. The artfully designed booth will reflect a message of peace. The Peace Booth will offer three petitions, a great selection of diverse peace-based literature and faith statements, as well as a fun activity for children. Free stickers and bookmarks will be provided to those who visit the booth.

In addition to monetary donations, a coordinator and 12 volunteers are needed each day to staff the booth in two-hour shifts. Weekday mornings and afternoons are always the hardest shifts to fill. You can also join the Peace Booth steering committee and share your creativity and ideas to make the booth even better.

If you can help, please return the form below as soon as possible. On October 3-4, orientation sessions will be offered for all coordinators and volunteers who plan to staff the booth (volunteers receive a free fair admission ticket -- a \$6 value).

Our peace message is one of the few signs of hope in a world where violence and war overwhelm us. The US is now in its fifth year of what seems like endless war. Pres. George W. Bush and his administration have talked openly about following Truman's dark legacy by threatening the unilateral use of nuclear weapons against Iran. One only wishes this was all a bad dream. It's not. In fact, many analysts claim the world has never been more unsafe than it is today. War, once an option of last resort, seems to be the only option on the table.

The Peace Booth, however, is a sign of hope. In a world overwhelmed by violence and fear, we must strive for peace. Yes, a better world is possible. Please be as generous as possible in your support this year. Remember the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

For more information about the Peace Booth go to our WEB site at www.ncpeacebooth.org

Thank you and Peace,

Barbara Zelter

George Reed

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- Yes, I would like to help continue this great work. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____. Please list my/my group's name on the donor list as follows: _____
 - My church/peace group would like to staff the Peace Booth for a day. Please contact me, _____ to make arrangements. Phone number(s): _____
 - I, _____, can personally volunteer to staff the Peace Booth for two hours on the following date(s) in October 2007: 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21. I understand a free pass to the fair will be available. Phone number(s): _____
 - I, _____, can be available for: Set up on October 10 (evening)
 Take down on October 21 (evening). Phone number(s): _____

Please return to: **The Peace Booth**, 3325 Bentwillow Dr. Fuquay-Varina NC 27526