

BENEDICTION

CHRISTIAN CONVICTION AND CULTURAL ACCOMODATION

North Carolina Council of Churches

Greensboro, North Carolina

February 21, 2011

Go in Peace

And now, I am supposed to say to you, "Go in peace." But how can I say, "Go in peace," when you are going out into a world where you are insecure, whether at home or on your neighborhood street?

- Out into a world where race is set against race and ethnic cleansing is a name for genocide?**
- Out into a world where people are hungry and homeless, while their governments squander billions of dollars on instruments of destruction that they dare not use?**
- Out into a world where Christians fear Muslims, Muslims fear Jews, and wars on terror are excuses for torture?**
- Out into a world where every night millions of mothers watch their children sink into a hungry slumber, only to awaken (if they awaken) to another hungry tomorrow?**
- Out into a world where those suffering from disease and disability cannot afford health care?**

With a world like that out there, how can I say to you, "Go in peace?" But I dare to say, "Go in peace," because Jesus says "I give you my peace."

But - remember - he who says, "I give you my peace" also says, "If you would be my disciple and [thereby] have my peace, take up your cross and follow me!"

So I dare to say, "Go in peace!" -- if you dare!

Clinton Marsh

Rev. Jean Rodenbough offered this benediction at the close of the Common Good Project meeting. She adapted the original from Clinton Marsh. Marsh was "a patriarch of the Presbyterian church who served as moderator of the old United Presbyterian Church in the USA. He has also served for some years as Chairperson Emeritus of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship." (as noted in an online Presb. organization website -- Marsh died in '02 -- he was an African-American clergyperson who served with great honor and was very active in peace

movements).

Marsh offered this benediction at the conclusion of each General Assembly Peace Breakfast.