

## International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

### The Choice...

Peace through strength was a phrase that I often heard used as a child growing up in the midst of the Cold War. Roughly translated it meant that we can be safe only through the threat of escalating violence. This narrative bears with it the assumption that the only solution to conflict is to triumph in Power over our perceived enemy - by winning a war that leaves destruction everywhere. So Hope is based in systems that hold Power but the 'right' Power.....and then I read the story of John Woolman.

John Woolman was a simple man who lived a simple life. Born in 1720 and died in 1772 - just under 52 years old. He was born into a Quaker farming family and became a successful merchant and tailor. But at the age of 23 while still learning the work of a clerk he was given the task of writing a bill of sale - something a clerk would be expected to do. But, this was a bill of sale for a slave and John refused. Later he was asked to write a will for a fellow Quaker who wanted to give a slave as a part of his estate - not only did he refuse but he invited the man to free the slave, which he did. Now take note of a couple of things - before the Revolution and the declaration of independence a man without political power or influence, without wealth or connection, became one of the leading voices in the Abolitionists movement both in America and in England! In fact he died in England while calling the English to fully abandon slavery.

It is said that by the time of his death the formal Quaker movement had officially abandoned slavery mostly due to the work of John Woolman. He never held office or worked to change laws but it was said that his simple presence brought freedom. When staying with fellow Quakers on one occasion, he was about to dine and realized that the host indeed did not have paid servants but slaves serving -he quietly left the house - his fellow Quaker was so convicted that he freed his slaves the next day. He began to embrace a life where nothing he would use was made at the expense of a slave. So his clothing was simple but his presence was powerful because, by his confession, his mind and body were held not be the ideals of an old nation or the idea of a new nation but by a Kingdom led by Love. That to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself, was the greatest and highest command and more powerful than the powers of human government.

So he traveled into the south to challenge anyone who would listen - on one instance he found himself in a war zone during the 7 year war when Native Americans were warring against settlers. Unsure of his own safety yet passionate about the treatment of the weak and powerless whether slave, native American, or poor he met with a Native American Chief and after he prayed the chief was noted as saying...*"I [would] love to hear where [these] words come from"*. The Chief recognized that his words came from somewhere divine.

What happens when one man decides to be led by what he described as the inward light called the Truth. The Truth as revealed by the Person of Truth - Jesus? When Jesus came, He choose. He choose to reveal the love of the Father to us!

What happens if we choose? If we choose to believe the words of Jesus - no greater command than this - Love God and Love People. What if we choose to believe that these words are an actual invitation to change the way we live and inhabit the world?

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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

What if we actually became convinced that the Hope of our Nation is not who occupies the White House but how I live in my house? What if we decided not to wait for an election day to choose - what if *each* day we choose...Matthew 6 Prayer, Fasting and Giving from the Matthew 22 Command -Love?

- Prayer - that is about living convinced of a God who is actually near and who knows me and desire me and wants to produce the fruit of His Spirit in me?
- Fasting - no longer about a holy hunger strike but saying No so that I can say Yes to His leadership and Love present in my life.
- Giving - towards the needy yes - but also about confronting my natural inclination to want to depend on myself verses His provision.

Beloved - Election day is coming...but my Hope is in the King who has already been installed and His Kingdom. The hope, victory, and life of this Kingdom is not based in the systems of this world but in truth of the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

A Prayer:

Almighty God give us courage to follow the way of the cross, and to trust that though it confounds the logic of the world, your way interrupts the patterns of sin and death, both now and forever.

Now Lord, enable us to heal the broken systems. Equip us with wisdom and foresight. May our lives interrupt injustice with your Grace. Amen



**Join Us As we Pray for our City**

- Thursday 6—7 am—phone call meeting. Contact Ben @ 260-403-4948 to join.
- Friday—7pm @ 247 Pearl St.
- In person and Via Zoom—833 669 278

Refreshing unrehearsed times with the Lord and with other Jesus lovers! We look forward to being with you together in the presence of our beautiful Father.

**Also have you visited our website lately....?**  
[www.IHOPFW.com](http://www.IHOPFW.com)

**Did you know....**

- weekly teaching led most weeks by Ben or Denise takes place Sundays at 247 Pearl -10 am.
- our Podcast is up and running under the name ‘**the best news ever**’.

Please rate and review our podcast if you are able, it will be helpful to continue to share the best news anyone could ever hear - the Love of God revealed in Christ.

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him in His kingdom purposes.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

**IHOP Fort Wayne  
5907 West Wallen Road,  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818**

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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