

Station I: Jesus is Condemned (General Dynamics)

READER # 1: It is Passover in Jerusalem. Jews from everywhere come to remember and celebrate God's liberation of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. But where is God to deliver the people from the Roman occupation? Roman Governor Pontius Pilate is in Jerusalem for the occasion. On a warhorse he led hundreds of heavily armed troops into the city to keep law and order during festival time. From the opposite direction Jesus of Nazareth had entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, to the delight of impoverished, palm waving people—the antithesis of Roman militarism.

Now Jesus stands before Pilate. He is in custody for shutting down commerce in the Roman-controlled Jerusalem temple, for prophetically enacting God's liberation of his still exploited and enslaved people and the downfall of Rome and its collaborators. Jesus, unarmed herald of God's nonviolent kingdom of the poor and vulnerable, faces Pilate and all the might of the Roman Empire—its armies, ships, wealth, slavery, and terror. The question of sovereignty hangs heavy in the space between them. Who is sovereign? The world conquering, deified Roman Emperor, or the silent God who agonizes with the people under the Roman yoke?

Pilate sentences Jesus to death by crucifixion.

Crucifixion is Rome's answer to dissidents, subversives, and rebellious slaves. Jesus is condemned for sedition, as an enemy of the state, a traitor to Rome and its divine Cesar who claims to be Son of God, healer, Prince of Peace, and Savior of the World. Jesus has defied both the state and the religious establishment in which he lived, for the sake of his suffering and humiliated people. Now he will share their fate.

READER # 2: The United States maintains what it calls a nuclear triad—three ways of waging nuclear war—an arsenal made up of 14 Trident ballistic missile submarines, 400 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles in underground silos, and 66 strategic bombers which can deliver nuclear armed cruise missiles or gravity bombs.

READER # 3: Across the street is General Dynamics NASSCO (National Steel and Shipbuilding Company) shipyard a naval ship repair facility. Other General Dynamics sites have designed, produced, installed, and maintained the fire control and guidance systems for every sea launched ballistic missile ever in the US nuclear arsenal, including today's Trident II D-5 missiles aboard Trident submarines. Fire control and guidance systems help missiles to target, track, and hit their targets, factoring in everything from missile tube wear to environmental factors like air density. General Dynamics will support the missiles' life extension program, allowing them to threaten all life on the planet into the 2040's.

Beginning in 2030 the new Columbia class ballistic missile submarines will replace the Trident fleet. General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, will design and build 75% of each Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine.

READER # 4: Original Child Bomb by Thomas Merton

Points for meditation to be scratched on the walls of a cave:

1: In the year 1945 an Original Child was born. The name Original Child was given to it by the Japanese people, who recognized that it was the first of its kind.

2: On April 12th, 1945, Mr. Harry Truman became the President of the United States, which was then fighting the Second World War. Mr. Truman was a vice president who became President by accident when his predecessor died of a cerebral hemorrhage. He did not know as much about the war as the President before him did. He knew a lot less about the war than many people did.

About one hour after Mr. Truman became President, his aides told him about a new bomb which was being developed by atomic scientists. They called it the "atomic bomb." They said scientists had been working on it for six years and that it had so far cost two billion dollars. They added that its power was equal to that of twenty thousand tons of TNT. A single bomb could destroy a city. One of those present added, in a reverent tone, that the new explosive might eventually destroy the whole world. But Admiral Leahy told the President the bomb would never work.

3: President Truman formed a committee of men to tell him if this bomb would work, and if so, what he should do with it. Some members of this committee felt that the bomb would jeopardize the future of civilization. They were against its use. Others wanted it to be used in demonstration on a forest of cryptomeria trees, but not against a civil or military target. Many atomic scientists warned that the use of atomic power in war would be difficult and even impossible to control. The danger would be very great. Finally, there were others who believed that if the bomb were used just once or twice, on one or two Japanese cities, there would be no more war. They believed the new bomb would produce eternal peace.

4: In June 1945 the Japanese government was taking steps to negotiate for peace. On one hand the Japanese ambassador tried to interest the Russian government in acting as a go-between with the United States. On the other hand, an unofficial approach was made secretly through Mr. Allen Dulles in Switzerland. The Russians said they were not interested and that they would not negotiate. Nothing was done about the other proposal, which was not official. The Japanese High Command was not in favor of asking for peace, but wanted to continue the war, even if the Japanese mainland were invaded. The generals believed that the war should continue until everybody was dead. The Japanese generals were professional soldiers.

5: In the same month of June, the President's committee decided that the new bomb should be dropped on a Japanese city. This would be a demonstration of the bomb on a civil and military target. As "demonstration" it would be a kind of a "show." "Civilians" all over the world love a good "show." The "destructive" aspect of the bomb would be "military."

6: The same committee also asked if America's friendly ally, the Soviet Union, should be informed of the atomic bomb. Someone suggested that this information would make the Soviet

Union even more friendly than it was already. But all finally agreed that the Soviet Union was now friendly enough.

7: There was discussion about which city should be selected as the first target. Some wanted it to be Kyoto, an ancient capital of Japan and a center of the Buddhist religion. Others said no, this would cause bitterness. As a result of a chance conversation, Mr. Stimson, the Secretary of War, had recently read up on the history and beauties of Kyoto. He insisted that this city should be left untouched. Some wanted Tokyo to be the first target, but others argued that Tokyo had already been practically destroyed by fire raids and could no longer be considered a “target.” So it was decided Hiroshima was the most opportune target, as it had not yet been bombed at all. Lucky Hiroshima! What others had experienced over a period of four years would happen to Hiroshima in a single day! Much time would be saved, and “time is money!”

8: When they bombed Hiroshima they would put the following out of business: the Ube Nitrogen Fertilizer Company; the Ube Soda Company; the Nippon Motor Oil Company; the Sumitoma Chemical Company; the Sumitoma Aluminum Company, and most of the inhabitants.

9: At this time some atomic scientists protested again, warning that the use of the bomb in war would tend to make the United States unpopular. But the President’s committee was by now fully convinced that the bomb had to be used. Its use would arouse the attention of the Japanese military class and give them food for thought.

10: Admiral Leahy renewed his declaration that the bomb would not explode.

READER # 5: 11: On the 4th of July, when the United States in displays of fireworks celebrates its independence from British rule, the British and Americans agreed together that the bomb ought to be used against Japan.

12: On July 7th the Emperor of Japan pleaded with the Soviet Government to act as mediator for peace between Japan and the Allies. Molotov said the question would be “studied.” In order to facilitate this “study” Soviet troops in Siberia prepared to attack the Japanese. The Allies had, in any case, been urging Russia to join the war against Japan. However, now that the atomic bomb was nearly ready, some thought it would be better if the Russians took a rest.

13: The time was coming for the new bomb to be tested, in the New Mexico desert. A name was chosen to designate this secret operation. It was called “Trinity.”

14: At 5:30 A.M. on July 16th, 1945, a plutonium bomb was successfully exploded in the desert at Alamogordo, New Mexico. It was suspended from a hundred-foot steel tower which evaporated. There was a fireball a mile wide. The great flash could be seen for a radius of 250 miles. A blind woman miles away said she perceived light. There was a cloud of smoke 40,000 feet high. It was shaped like a toadstool.

15: Many who saw the experiment expressed their satisfaction in religious terms. A semi-official report even quoted a religious book—the New Testament—“Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief.” There was an atmosphere of devotion. It was a great act of faith. They believed the explosion was exceptionally powerful.

16: Admiral Leahy, still a “doubting Thomas,” said that the bomb would not explode when dropped from a plane over a city. Others may have had “faith,” but he had his own variety of “hope.”

17: On July 21st a full written report of the explosion reached President Truman at Potsdam. The report was documented by pictures. President Truman read the report and looked at the pictures before starting out for the conference. When he left his mood was jaunty and his step was light.

18: That afternoon Mr. Stimson called on Mr. Churchill, and laid before him a sheet of paper bearing a code message about the successful test. The message read “Babies satisfactorily born.” Mr. Churchill was quick to realize that there was more in this than met the eye. Mr. Stimson satisfied his legitimate curiosity.

19: On this same day sixty atomic scientists who knew of the test signed a petition that the bomb should not be used against Japan without a convincing warning and an opportunity to surrender.

At this time the U.S.S. Indianapolis, which had left San Francisco on the 18th, was sailing toward the Island of Tinian, with some U-235 in a lead bucket. The fissionable material was about the size of a softball, but there was enough for one atomic bomb. Instructions were that if the ship sank, the uranium was to be saved first, before any life. The mechanism of the bomb was on board the U.S.S. Indianapolis, but it was not yet assembled.

20: On July 26th the Potsdam declaration was issued. An ultimatum was given to Japan: “Surrender unconditionally or be destroyed.” Nothing was said about the new bomb. But pamphlets dropped all over Japan threatened “an enormous air bombardment” if the army would not surrender. On July 26th the U.S.S. Indianapolis arrived at Tinian and the bomb was delivered.

21: On July 28th, since the Japanese High Command wished to continue the war, the ultimatum was rejected. A censored version of the ultimatum appeared in the Japanese press with the comment that it was “an attempt to drive a wedge between the military and the Japanese people.” But the Emperor continued to hope that the Russians, after “studying” his proposal, would help to negotiate a peace. On July 30th Mr. Stimson revised a draft of the announcement that was to be made after the bomb was dropped on the Japanese target. The statement was much better than the original draft.

22: On August 1st the bomb was assembled in an air-conditioned hut on Tinian. Those who handled the bomb referred to it as “Little Boy.” Their care for the Original Child was devoted and tender.

23: On August 2nd President Truman was the guest of His Majesty King George VI on board the H.M.S. Renown in Plymouth Harbor. The atomic bomb was praised. Admiral Leahy, who was present, declared that the bomb would not work. His Majesty George VI offered a small wager to the contrary.

24: On August 2nd a special message from the Japanese Foreign Minister was sent to the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow. “It is requested that further efforts be exerted. . . . Since the loss of one day may result in a thousand years of regret, it is requested that you immediately have a talk with Molotov.” But Molotov did not return from Potsdam until the day the bomb fell.

READER # 6: 25: On August 4th the bombing crew on Tinian watched a movie of “Trinity” (the Alamogordo Test). August 5th was a Sunday but there was little time for formal worship. They said a quick prayer that the war might end “very soon.” On that day, Col. Tibbetts, who was in command of the B-29 that was to drop the bomb, felt that his bomber

ought to have a name. He baptized it Enola Gay, after his mother in Iowa. Col. Tibbetts was a well-balanced man, and not sentimental. He did not have a nervous breakdown after the bombing, like some of the other members of the crew.

26: On Sunday afternoon “Little Boy” was brought out in procession and devoutly tucked away in the womb of Enola Gay. That evening few were able to sleep. They were as excited as little boys on Christmas Eve.

27: At 1:37 A.M. August 6th the weather scout plane took off. It was named the Straight Flush, in reference to the mechanical action of a water closet. There was a picture of one, to make this evident.

28: At the last minute before taking off, Col. Tibbetts changed the secret radio call sign from “Visitor” to “Dimples.” The Bombing Mission would be a kind of flying smile.

29: At 2:45 A.M. Enola Gay got off the ground with difficulty. Over Iwo Jima she met her escort, two more B-29s, one of which was called the Great Artiste. Together they proceeded to Japan.

30: At 6:40 they climbed to 31,000 feet, the bombing altitude. The sky was clear. It was a perfect morning.

31: At 8:09 they reached Hiroshima and started the bomb run. The city was full of sun. The fliers could see the green grass in the gardens. No fighters rose up to meet them. There was no flak. No one in the city bothered to take cover.

32: The bomb exploded within 100 feet of the aiming point. The fireball was 18,000 feet across. The temperature at the center of the fireball was 100,000,000 degrees. The people who were near the center became nothing. The whole city was blown to bits and the ruins all caught fire instantly everywhere, burning briskly. 70,000 people were killed right away or died within a few hours. Those who did not die at once suffered great pain. Few of them were soldiers.

33: The men in the plane perceived that the raid had been successful, but they thought of the people in the city and they were not perfectly happy. Some felt they had done wrong. But in any case they had obeyed orders. “It was war.”

34: Over the radio went the code message that the bomb had been successful: “Visible effects greater than Trinity. . . . Proceeding to Papacy.” Papacy was the code name for Tinian.

35: It took a little while for the rest of Japan to find out what had happened to Hiroshima. Papers were forbidden to publish any news of the new bomb. A four-line item said that Hiroshima had been hit by incendiary bombs and added: “It seems that some damage was caused to the city and its vicinity.”

36: Then the military governor of the Prefecture of Hiroshima issued a proclamation full of martial spirit. To all the people without hands, without feet, with their faces falling off, with their intestines hanging out, with their whole bodies full of radiation, he declared: “We must not rest a single day in our war effort. . . . We must bear in mind that the annihilation of the stubborn enemy is our road to revenge.” He was a professional soldier.

37: On August 8th Molotov finally summoned the Japanese Ambassador. At last neutral Russia would give an answer to the Emperor’s inquiry. Molotov said coldly that the Soviet Union was declaring war on Japan.

38: On August 9th another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, though Hiroshima was still burning. On August 11th the Emperor overruled his high command and accepted the peace

terms dictated at Potsdam. Yet for three days discussion continued, until on August 14th the surrender was made public and final.

39: Even then the Soviet troops thought they ought to fight in Manchuria “just a little longer.” They felt that even though they could not, at this time, be of help in Japan, it would be worthwhile if they displayed their good will in Manchuria or even in Korea.

40: As to the Original Child that was now born, President Truman summed up the philosophy of the situation in a few words. “We found the bomb” he said “and we used it.”

41: Since that summer many other bombs have been “found.” What is going to happen? At the time of writing, after a season of brisk speculation, men seem to be fatigued by the whole question.

READER # 7: People exposed within a half mile of the atomic fireball were seared to bundles of smoking char in a fraction of a second as their internal organs boiled away. The small black bundles now stuck to the streets and bridges and sidewalks of Hiroshima numbered in the thousands.

READER # 8: “Fire will devour the cities and the strongholds of every nation...A shower of fire will devour the deep and eat up the land...even the sanctuaries and sacred places will be laid waste, the weaponry will take down every house.” (Amos 1, 2, & 7)

Station II: Jesus Carries His Cross (AECOM)

READER # 1: Roman soldiers force Jesus to carry the crossbar. The orders come through the chain-of-command: from Pilate to the centurion to the soldiers who force Jesus to carry the instrument of his own execution. The Imperial Roman Army of the time was made up mostly of volunteers from the colonies that took advantage of the good job opportunity. Now the soldiers' job is to make sure Jesus gets to Golgotha in one piece so the public execution can have its effect. They are the ones tasked with holding the empire together, with the shedding of blood, the giving of life for the state, and the dirty work of crucifixion. Their pay comes from taxes paid by the people of Rome and from the taxes and labor extracted from the occupied peoples themselves. Soldiering puts bread on the table but also exacts a price.

READER # 2: The nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 killed nearly a quarter of a million people, mostly civilians, who were incinerated in an instant or who suffered agonizing deaths in the weeks and months that followed. In the 75 years since, many thousands more have died from radiation related illnesses.

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War estimates that roughly 2.4 million people will die from the effects of atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1980. Others, also including many indigenous people, die from the effects of uranium mining.

READER # 3: AECOM (Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations, and Maintenance) is a global infrastructure firm. It is part of a group of companies managing stockpile maintenance and modernization of the US nuclear weapons arsenal at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, where research, design, development, and production of nuclear weapons takes place.

READER # 4: Closer than ever: It is 100 Seconds to Midnight
The 2020 Doomsday Clock Statement from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had helped develop the first atomic weapons in the Manhattan Project, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists created the Doomsday Clock two years later, using the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero) to convey threats to humanity and the planet. The decision to move (or to leave in place) the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock is made every year by the Bulletin's Science and Security Board in consultation with its Board of Sponsors, which includes 13 Nobel laureates. The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate

change, and disruptive technologies in other domains. The statement is addressed to the leaders and citizens of the world and dated January 23, 2020.

Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers—nuclear war and climate change—that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society’s ability to respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the international political infrastructure for managing them to erode.

In the nuclear realm, national leaders have ended or undermined several major arms control treaties and negotiations during the last year, creating an environment conducive to a renewed nuclear arms race, to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to lowered barriers to nuclear war. Political conflicts regarding nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea remain unresolved and are, if anything, worsening. US-Russia cooperation on arms control and disarmament is all but nonexistent.

Public awareness of the climate crisis grew over the course of 2019, largely because of mass protests by young people around the world. Just the same, governmental action on climate change still falls far short of meeting the challenge at hand. At UN climate meetings last year, national delegates made fine speeches but put forward few concrete plans to further limit the carbon dioxide emissions that are disrupting Earth’s climate. This limited political response came during a year when the effects of manmade climate change were manifested by one of the warmest years on record, extensive wildfires, and quicker-than-expected melting of glacial ice.

Continued corruption of the information ecosphere on which democracy and public decision making depend has heightened the nuclear and climate threats. In the last year, many governments used cyber-enabled disinformation campaigns to sow distrust in institutions and among nations, undermining domestic and international efforts to foster peace and protect the planet.

This situation—two major threats to human civilization, amplified by sophisticated, technology-propelled propaganda—would be serious enough if leaders around the world were focused on managing the danger and reducing the risk of catastrophe. Instead, over the last two years, we have seen influential leaders denigrate and discard the most effective methods for addressing complex threats—international agreements with strong verification regimes—in favor of their own narrow interests and domestic political gain. By undermining cooperative, science- and law-based approaches to managing the most urgent threats to humanity, these leaders have helped to create a situation that will, if unaddressed, lead to catastrophe, sooner rather than later.

Faced with this daunting threat landscape and a new willingness of political leaders to reject the negotiations and institutions that can protect civilization over the long term, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Science and Security Board today moves the Doomsday Clock 20 seconds closer to midnight—closer to apocalypse than ever. In so doing, board members are explicitly warning leaders and citizens around the world that the international security situation is now more dangerous than it has ever been, even at the height of the Cold War.

Civilization-ending nuclear war—whether started by design, blunder, or simple miscommunication—is a genuine possibility. Climate change that could devastate the planet is undeniably happening. And for a variety of reasons that include a corrupted and manipulated

media environment, democratic governments and other institutions that should be working to address these threats have failed to rise to the challenge.

The Bulletin believes that human beings can manage the dangers posed by the technology that humans create. Indeed, in the 1990s leaders in the United States and the Soviet Union took bold actions that made nuclear war markedly less likely—and as a result the Bulletin moved the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock the farthest it has been from midnight.

But given the inaction—and in too many cases counterproductive actions—of international leaders, the members of the Science and Security Board are compelled to declare a state of emergency that requires the immediate, focused, and unrelenting attention of the entire world. It is 100 seconds to midnight. The Clock continues to tick. Immediate action is required.

READER # 5: *The testimony of Sadae Kasaoka:*

At the time of the Atomic bombing, I was 13 years old, a first year student of a girls' school. Every day we had to perform labor service with no classes or summer holidays. Until the day before the A-bombing, I had been working outside demolishing buildings in Otemachi, near the hypocenter.

On August 6, I took a day off and stayed home. It was a fine day. My parents were not at home, having gone out early in the morning to help demolish their friend's house near City Hall. As I heard the air-raid all-clear siren, I felt relieved, thinking that we would not have to worry about any more enemy planes coming. After clearing the breakfast table and washing the dishes, I finished airing the laundry in the garden and went into our house.

At 8:15am I was moving to the room which had a 2.5-meter glass window facing east. Suddenly, all the windows in front of me became red. Well not exactly. It was a beautiful color like the sunrise mingled with orange. That moment I heard an enormous boom, the glass broke and the shattered pieces whizzed at me. The overwhelming power of the blast knocked me down and I lost consciousness for an instant. When I came to and happened to put my hand on my head, I felt it was slimy. I was hurt by the broken glass, but I didn't feel pain. I thought I had to escape, and I hurried into the neighborhood air-raid shelter with my grandmother. Some neighbors were already there, but nobody knew anything about what had happened.

After a while, I came out of the shelter feeling uneasy. Fallen roof tiles and plaster of houses were scattered around. Shortly after 9:00am, a man in the neighborhood, who had been downtown, returned. He was so badly burned and his skin so peeled that his face and arms looked pink. He shouted, "Hiroshima was terribly damaged. With a flash everything was destroyed."

I heard that adults and middle-school students, who had been at the city center for work, were taken to elementary school buildings which were being used as temporary first-aid stations. I was becoming increasingly worried about my parents. I asked my uncle to go search for them, but he came back soon because raging flames had blocked him from going any further.

My elder brother, who was living in Kobe, was on his way to Hiroshima that morning. He was exposed to the A-bomb near Hiroshima Station. As soon as he got home that evening, he went out to look for our parents. That night, hearing the news that Father had taken shelter in a relative's house in Oko-cho, my brother went there and came back with him in a two-wheeled

cart. My father, lying on the door board, looked dead. His face was swollen and his clothes were burned off, leaving him naked. His body was black and shiny. I could identify him just by his voice. We had no medicine, so we grated cucumbers and potatoes in order to make a medicated dressing. It dried soon, but we couldn't replace it as frequently as needed. When I touched him, his black skin peeled and the muscle underneath was visible. His body was burned not only on the surface but also inside.

He remained conscious and said with concern for his wife, "We were in Zakoba-cho. I tried to escape with Kichi but lost her. Please find her." He wanted desperately to drink water. At that time we were told that burned people would die if they drank water, so I lied to him that the water supply was cut off. My father loved drinking and saved beer in the storehouse. He pleaded, "If there is no water I want beer instead." But I didn't give him any drink, which is still one of my greatest regrets. All I could do was to fan him, because it was hot and flies could infest his wounds. The wounds festered and were crawling with maggots inside and out.

I hurried to the field for something juicy to give him instead of water. Luckily I found tomatoes there, and wrenched them off into a basket. Then I looked up and observed a very strange scene. People, whose whole bodies looked whitish, had their hands up in front of their chests with something tattered hanging from them. They were silently staggering in procession toward the Military Hospital, looking like ghosts. I learned later that the tattered thing was their peeling skin and that the whitish look was caused by their bodies covered with ash. My father breathed his last on the night of August 8th, still worrying about his little children and missing wife. So many people died that we could not use a crematory, so we dug a hole on the beach and cremated him by making a fire with collected boards and sticks. Many bodies were cremated on the beach. A bad smell was lingering where the cremation smoke was rising.

My elder brother went out to search for Mother, but he couldn't easily trace her. He learned that soldiers carried survivors by ship to first-aid stations in Saka, Ninoshima or Miyajima. Finally he located her name on the list in Ninoshima, but she died on the 8th and her body was already cremated. Her relic was just a small bag including some ashes and hair. My heart still breaks when I think of how helpless she was to be separated from her husband and how desperately she wanted to come home, worrying about her family.

The next year I got skin eruptions all over my body and three big open sores on my right arm, which took more than half a year to heal. I suffered from lingering anemia as well. My life without my parents was miserable. I barely lived day by day supported by my grandmother, brothers and sisters. It can't be denied that because I was an A-bomb survivor some employers refused to hire me and I was denied some marriage chances. Later I got married to another A-bomb survivor; however, my husband died of cancer when he was 35 years old. I call the A-bombing evil itself.

READER # 6: And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!" (Genesis chapter 4)

Station III: Jesus Falls (Norfolk Naval Base or SUBCOMLANT and NATO)

READER # 1: One hundred pounds of timber across a bleeding back, the face beneath the beam, smashing to cobblestones unprotected. He could have recanted before Pilate, Caiaphas, Herod, or the Sanhedrin. He could have stopped proclaiming and manifesting God's kingdom and instead quietly pursued a family and work-life. But his family was everywhere, and his work—to defend the small from the powerful, to spread the good news of God's love for the poor, the outcast, and the despised, and to demonstrate Gods' unarmed love to all people everywhere in every generation. He regains his feet to finish what he started.

READER # 2: There are 14,500 nuclear weapons in the world held by nine countries. Ninety percent belong to the United States or Russia. Seven other nations possess them: China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom. Five European NATO countries host US nuclear weapons on their soil: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey. Some 1800 nuclear weapons are on high alert and ready for use within minutes.

READER # 3: Hampton Roads is the most militarized place on the planet. Behind us is Norfolk Naval Base, home to the US Atlantic Fleet and the largest naval complex in the world. Among the tenant commands on base is the Commander Submarine Force Atlantic or SUBCOMLANT. The admiral who holds this post is responsible to operate, maintain, train, and equip combat ready submarines that will patrol the Atlantic, Arctic, Eastern Pacific, and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea. This includes the two squadrons of Ohio-class Trident ballistic missile submarines that are stationed at Naval Station Kings Bay in Georgia. The SUBCOMLANT is responsible for everything Trident short of being in the chain of command for launch orders.

Norfolk Naval Base is also home to the only NATO command in North America. The five NATO countries named above store 150 US B-61 nuclear gravity bombs between them, maintained by US forces and ready to load onto host country fighter bombers.

READER # 4: *On July 7, 2017, 122 United Nations member states voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. None of the 9 nuclear weapons states took part in negotiating the treaty. The United States led a walkout of the meetings with 20 of its nuclear allies. Nevertheless, the treaty will go into effect for signatory countries when 50 nations have signed and ratified it. As of today, 81 UN members have signed and 35 have ratified, including ex-nuclear powers Kazakhstan and South Africa, along with Mexico, Austria, New Zealand, and the Holy See (which joined Guyana and Thailand to sign and ratify on the very first day possible). Though it took 72 years for the world to draft a treaty banning nuclear weapons, when enacted, they will join biological and chemical weapons as the final weapons of mass destruction to be outlawed internationally.*

The following are excerpts from the treaty.

READER # 5:

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Preamble

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Determined to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the consequent need to completely eliminate such weapons, which remains the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances,

Mindful of the risks posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, including from any nuclear-weapon detonation by accident, miscalculation or design, and emphasizing that these risks concern the security of all humanity, and that all States share the responsibility to prevent any use of nuclear weapons,

Cognizant that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation,

Acknowledging the ethical imperatives for nuclear disarmament and the urgency of achieving and maintaining a nuclear-weapon-free world, which is a global public good of the highest order, serving both national and collective security interests,

Mindful of the unacceptable suffering of and harm caused to the victims of the use of nuclear weapons (hibakusha), as well as of those affected by the testing of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of nuclear-weapon activities on indigenous peoples,

Reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Basing themselves on the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the principle that the right of parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, the rule of distinction, the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks, the rules on proportionality and precautions in attack, the prohibition on the use of weapons of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, and the rules for the protection of the natural environment,

Considering that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would also be abhorrent to the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience,

READER # 6: *Recalling* that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations, and that the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security are to be promoted with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the first resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopted on 24 January 1946, and subsequent resolutions which call for the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Concerned by the slow pace of nuclear disarmament, the continued reliance on nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, and the waste of economic and human resources on programs for the production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing that a legally binding prohibition of nuclear weapons constitutes an important contribution towards the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons, including the irreversible, verifiable and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons, and determined to act towards that end,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Reaffirming that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Reaffirming also that the full and effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, has a vital role to play in promoting international peace and security,

Recognizing the vital importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime as a core element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime,

Reaffirming the conviction that the establishment of the internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Emphasizing that nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of its States Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination,

Recognizing that the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, and committed to supporting and strengthening the effective participation of women in nuclear disarmament,

Recognizing also the importance of peace and disarmament education in all its aspects and of raising awareness of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations, and committed to the dissemination of the principles and norms of this Treaty,

Stressing the role of public conscience in the furthering of the principles of humanity as evidenced by the call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and recognizing the efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, parliamentarians, academics and the hibakusha,

Have agreed as follows:

READER # 7:

Article 1: Prohibitions

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances to:

- (a) Develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
- (b) Transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly or indirectly;
- (c) Receive the transfer of or control over nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices directly or indirectly;
- (d) Use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
- (e) Assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
- (f) Seek or receive any assistance, in any way, from anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Treaty;
- (g) Allow any stationing, installation or deployment of any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or at any place under its jurisdiction or control.

Article 4: Towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

2. ...each State Party that owns, possesses or controls nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices shall immediately remove them from operational status, and destroy them as soon as possible but not later than a deadline to be determined by the first meeting of States Parties, in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan for the verified and irreversible elimination of that State Party's nuclear-weapon program, including the elimination or irreversible conversion of all nuclear-weapons-related facilities.

4. ...each State Party that has any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in its territory or in any place under its jurisdiction or control that are owned, possessed or controlled by another State shall ensure the prompt removal of such weapons, as soon as possible but not later than a deadline to be determined by the first meeting of States Parties...

6. The States Parties shall designate a competent international authority or authorities to negotiate and verify the irreversible elimination of nuclear-weapons programs, including the elimination or irreversible conversion of all nuclear-weapons-related facilities...

Article 6: Victim assistance and environmental remediation

1. Each State Party shall, with respect to individuals under its jurisdiction who are affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, in accordance with applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, without discrimination, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion.

2. Each State Party, with respect to areas under its jurisdiction or control contaminated as a result of activities related to the testing or use of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, shall take necessary and appropriate measures towards the environmental remediation of areas so contaminated.

Article 12: Universality

Each State Party shall encourage States not party to this Treaty to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty.

READER # 8: “Rejoice heartily...shout for joy...See, your king shall come to you...humble, and riding on the foal of a donkey. He will banish the chariot and the warhorse from you. The instruments of war he will disarm, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea...and to the ends of the earth.” (Zechariah chapter 9)

Station IV: Jesus Meets His Mother (Jacobs Engineering)

READER # 1: The words must ring so hollow at this moment; “blessed are you among women.” Blessed? To watch a son trudging to his death, covered with blood and spit? Blessed? Her last moments with her son who spent nine months mysteriously growing in her womb, who sucked life from her breast, who ran to her for comfort at life’s first, surprising, injuries. Her son—a broken, pain wracked man, moments from even greater anguish. Her little boy. Her baby.

READER # 2: The United States has some 3800 operational nuclear warheads. About 1,750 are deployed: some 1300 on ballistic missiles, 300 at bomber bases, and another 150 gravity bombs deployed at European bases. About 2,050 are stored for potential upload onto missiles or aircraft. There are also 2,000 retired warheads that are still intact and awaiting dismantlement, for a total inventory of around 5,800 warheads.

READER # 3: Jacobs Engineering Group partners in a joint venture responsible for maintaining the United Kingdom’s Trident II D5 nuclear arsenal carried aboard their four Vanguard-class ballistic missile submarines. The company is also part of the consortium responsible for operating, managing, and providing infrastructure support of the US nuclear weapons test site, the Nevada National Security Site, where subcritical testing maintains the readiness of the US arsenal.

READER # 4: *Beatrice Fihn is the Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). In December 2017, in Oslo, Norway, ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for “its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.” The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the fruit of their work, making nuclear weapons the last category of weapons of mass destruction to be prohibited by international law. Along with Setsuko Thurlow, a Hiroshima survivor, Fihn accepted the peace prize on behalf of ICAN; the following is her acceptance speech.*

READER # 5: At dozens of locations around the world—in missile silos buried in our earth, on submarines navigating through our oceans, and aboard planes flying high in our sky—lay 15,000 objects of humankind's destruction. Perhaps it is the enormity of this fact, perhaps it is the unimaginable scale of the consequences, that leads many to simply accept this grim reality. To go about our daily lives with no thought to the instruments of insanity all around us.

For it is insanity to allow ourselves to be ruled by these weapons. Many critics of this movement suggest that we are the irrational ones—the idealists with no grounding in reality—because nuclear-armed states will never give up their weapons.

But we represent the only rational choice. We represent those who refuse to accept nuclear weapons as a fixture in our world, those who refuse to have their fates bound up in a few lines of launch code. Ours is the only reality that is possible. The alternative is unthinkable. The story of nuclear weapons will have an ending, and it is up to us what that ending will be. Will it be the end of nuclear weapons, or will it be the end of us? One of these things will happen. The only rational course of action is to cease living under the conditions where our mutual destruction is only one impulsive tantrum away.

Today I want to talk of three things: fear, freedom, and the future.

By the very admission of those who possess them, the real utility of nuclear weapons is in their ability to provoke fear. When they refer to their "deterrent" effect, proponents of nuclear weapons are celebrating fear as a weapon of war. They are puffing their chests by declaring their preparedness to exterminate, in a flash, countless thousands of human lives.

Nobel Laureate William Faulkner said when accepting his prize in 1950, that "There is only the question of 'when will I be blown up?'" But since then, this universal fear has given way to something even more dangerous: denial.

Gone is the fear of Armageddon in an instant, gone is the equilibrium between two blocs that was used as the justification for deterrence, gone are the fallout shelters. But one thing remains: the thousands upon thousands of nuclear warheads that filled us up with that fear.

The risk of nuclear weapons use is even greater today than at the end of the Cold War. But unlike the Cold War, today we face many more nuclear armed states, terrorists, and cyber warfare. All of this makes us less safe.

Learning to live with these weapons in blind acceptance has been our next great mistake. Fear is rational. The threat is real. We have avoided nuclear war not through prudent leadership but good fortune. Sooner or later, if we fail to act, our luck will run out.

A moment of panic or carelessness, a misconstrued comment or bruised ego, could easily lead us unavoidably to the destruction of entire cities. A calculated military escalation could lead to the indiscriminate mass murder of civilians.

If only a small fraction of today's nuclear weapons were used, soot and smoke from the firestorms would loft high into the atmosphere—cooling, darkening and drying the Earth's surface for more than a decade. It would obliterate food crops, putting billions at risk of starvation. Yet we continue to live in denial of this existential threat.

But Faulkner in his Nobel speech also issued a challenge to those who came after him. Only by being the voice of humanity, he said, can we defeat fear; can we help humanity endure. ICAN's duty is to be that voice—the voice of humanity and humanitarian law; to speak up on behalf of civilians. Giving voice to that humanitarian perspective is how we will create the end of fear, the end of denial, and ultimately, the end of nuclear weapons.

READER # 6: That brings me to my second point: freedom.

As the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the first ever anti-nuclear weapons organization to win this prize, said on this stage in 1985: "We physicians protest the outrage of holding the entire world hostage. We protest the moral obscenity that each of us is being continuously targeted for extinction." Those words still ring true today.

We must reclaim the freedom to not live our lives as hostages to imminent annihilation. Man—not woman—made nuclear weapons to control others, but instead we are controlled by them. They made us false promises: that by making the consequences of using these weapons so unthinkable it would make any conflict unpalatable, that it would keep us free from war.

But far from preventing war, these weapons brought us to the brink multiple times throughout the Cold War. And in this century, these weapons continue to escalate us towards war and conflict—in Iraq, in Iran, in Kashmir, in North Korea. Their existence propels others to join the nuclear race. They don't keep us safe, they cause conflict.

As fellow Nobel Peace Laureate, Martin Luther King Jr., in 1964, called them from this very stage, these weapons are "both genocidal and suicidal". They are the madman's gun held permanently to our temple. These weapons were supposed to keep us free, but they deny us our freedoms.

It's an affront to democracy to be ruled by these weapons. But they are just weapons. They are just tools. And just as they were created by geopolitical context, they can just as easily be destroyed by placing them in a humanitarian context.

And my third point I wish to talk about, the future.

I have the honor of sharing this stage today with Setsuko Thurlow, who has made it her life's purpose to bear witness to the horror of nuclear war. She and the hibakusha were at the beginning of the story, and it is our collective challenge to ensure they will also witness the end of it. They relive the painful past, over and over again, so that we may create a better future.

There are hundreds of organizations that together as ICAN are making great strides towards that future. There are thousands of tireless campaigners around the world who work each day to rise to that challenge. There are millions of people across the globe who have stood shoulder to shoulder with those campaigners to show hundreds of millions more that a different future is truly possible.

Those who say that future is not possible need to get out of the way of those making it a reality. As the culmination of this grassroots effort, through the action of ordinary people, this year the hypothetical marched forward towards the actual as 122 nations negotiated and concluded a UN treaty to outlaw these weapons of mass destruction.

READER # 7: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides the pathway forward at a moment of great global crisis. It is a light in a dark time. And more than that, it provides a choice. A choice between the two endings: the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us.

It is not naive to believe in the first choice. It is not irrational to think nuclear states can disarm. It is not idealistic to believe in life over fear and destruction; it is a necessity. All of us face that choice. And I call on every nation to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The United States—choose freedom over fear. Russia—choose disarmament over destruction. Britain—choose the rule of law over oppression. France—choose human rights over terror. China—choose reason over irrationality. India—choose sense over senselessness. Pakistan—choose logic over Armageddon. Israel—choose common sense over obliteration. North Korea—choose wisdom over ruin.

To the nations who believe they are sheltered under the umbrella of nuclear weapons, will you be complicit in your own destruction and the destruction of others in your name?

To all nations—choose the end of nuclear weapons over the end of us!

This is the choice that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents. Join this Treaty.

We citizens are living under the umbrella of falsehoods. These weapons are not keeping us safe, they are contaminating our land and water, poisoning our bodies and holding hostage our right to life. To all citizens of the world: Stand with us and demand your government side with humanity and sign this treaty. We will not rest until all States have joined, on the side of reason.

No nation today boasts of being a chemical weapon state. No nation argues that it is acceptable, in extreme circumstances, to use sarin nerve agent. No nation proclaims the right to unleash on its enemy the plague or polio. That is because international norms have been set, perceptions have been changed. And now, at last, we have an unequivocal norm against nuclear weapons. Monumental strides forward never begin with universal agreement. With every new signatory and every passing year, this new reality will take hold.

This is the way forward. There is only one way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons: prohibit and eliminate them.

Nuclear weapons, like chemical weapons, biological weapons, cluster munitions and land mines before them, are now illegal. Their existence is immoral. Their abolishment is in our hands. The end is inevitable. But will that end be the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us? We must choose one. We are a movement for rationality, for democracy, for freedom from fear. We are campaigners from over 500 organizations in 103 countries who are working to safeguard the future, and we are representative of the moral majority: the billions of people who choose life over death, who together will see the end of nuclear weapons.

READER # 8: *A six year old boy remembers Hiroshima:*

Near the bridge there were a whole lot of dead people. There were some who were burned black and died, and there were others with huge burns who died with their skins bursting. Sometimes there were ones who came to us asking for a drink of water. They were bleeding from their faces and from their mouths and they had glass sticking in their bodies. And the bridge itself was burning furiously. The details and the scenes were just like Hell.

A fifth grade girl:

Everybody in the shelter was crying out loud. Those voices...they weren't cries, they were moans that penetrated to the marrow of my bones and made my hair stand on end...I do not know how many times I called begging that they would cut off my burned arms and legs.

And a young woman:

We gathered the dead bodies and made big mountains of the dead and put oil on them and burned them. And people who were unconscious woke up in the piles of the dead when they found themselves burning and came running out.

READER # 9: “I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live...” (Deuteronomy chapter 30)

Station V: Simon Helps Carry the Cross (Boeing)

READER # 1: The Roman soldiers force Simon to carry Jesus' cross. Like the crowds that Pilate and the chief priests manipulated into crying for Jesus' death, there are no innocent bystanders. Another Simon taking the place of Simon Peter, Jesus' closest companion, who denied knowing him in order to avoid his own cross.

READER # 2: The US Air Force operates a force of 400 silo-based Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) in three groupings between Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota and Montana. First deployed in 1970, it was the first missile able to carry multiple warheads. Today the 400 ICBMs as deployed carry one warhead each—either a 300 kiloton W87 or a 335 kiloton W78, each at least 20 times as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima—though in theory, the W78 equipped ICBMs could still carry 2 or 3 independently targetable warheads each, for a total of 800 warheads available for the ICBM force. The missiles completed a decade-long modernization program in 2105 to extend their availability through 2030.

The missiles can fly over 8000 miles within 30 minutes and strike within 1000 feet of their targets.

READER # 3: Since 1958 Boeing has been responsible for the development and production of three versions of Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. Boeing will help keep the 400 Minuteman IIIs currently deployed operational until 2030 and will produce the new Ground Based Strategic Deterrent system to replace them. It is also working on a Flight Termination Receiver, which would allow for a missile's destruction after it has already been launched.

Boeing is producing the guided tail kit for the B61-12 to upgrade the US nuclear gravity bombs deployed in Europe, has contracts for key components for US and UK Trident II D5 nuclear weapons, and is part of a research team for the new nuclear armed Air Force Long Range Standoff Missile scheduled for deployment in 2027.

READER # 4: On July 16, 1945, the very first nuclear bomb was detonated in a New Mexico desert. The Manhattan Project which developed the bomb cost \$2 billion (1% of US expenditures on World War II) and employed some 600,000 people over a three year span. Leading up to the test some of the physicists placed bets on the outcome. Some thought there was a chance that the explosion could set the entire atmosphere on fire and kill every living thing on earth. They tested it anyway. Its code name, "Trinity," suggests the scientists knowingly tinkered with the elements in a way theretofore reserved only for the Almighty.

The blast was a mere 30 miles away from the nearest town. Nobody was evacuated, warned, or informed of potential health hazards before, during, or after the test. The explosion

was so fierce it fused the sand together into a radioactive green glass. The people nearby were doused with 10,000 times the normal recommended levels of radiation, New Mexico's infant mortality rate shot up the three months after the test, and ultimately 30,000 people are believed to have contracted cancer because of it.

White, radioactive mist drifted out from the blast and landed on the crops and homes of nearby ranchers. One rancher living only 12 miles away from ground zero saw his cattle, which had been covered in the dust, become discolored and suffer radioactive burns and deformities.

Since then nuclear weapons have been tested on more than 2,000 occasions—in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. Tests have been carried out at more than 60 locations around the globe, often on the lands of indigenous and minority peoples, far away from those who made the decisions to conduct them. While some test sites have been virtually uninhabited, others have been densely populated. The tests have irradiated people working on the programs, the downwind and downstream communities, and the whole global population. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has estimated that roughly 2.4 million people will eventually die as a result of the atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1980, which were equal in force to 29,000 Hiroshima bombs.

The United States conducted at least 1,054 nuclear weapons tests between 1945 and 1992. Most took place at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site and the Pacific Proving Grounds in the Marshall Islands. The military had a long history of using war games to train troops. During the nuclear testing era, troops were exposed to detonations to see how they would react to a nuclear attack and whether equipment would still function.

From July of 1945 to November of 1962 some 550,000 US military personnel were involved in a wide range of experiments and exposures. Thousands of personnel were on ships in the Pacific. Thousands more stood or crouched in trenches carved into the Nevada desert. Pilots and their crews flew planes into mushroom clouds. Others were underwater in the ocean as blasts were detonated, swimming as frogmen or in submarines. Some parachuted into blast sites soon after the explosions.

All of the atomic vets were sworn to secrecy. Until the secrecy was lifted decades later, they could not tell anyone about their experiences. Even if they became ill, they could not tell doctors they might have been exposed to radiation.

Scientists had known from the earliest days of building the atomic bomb that radiation posed risks. Research found increased rates of certain cancers among the survivors of the Japanese bombings. It also showed that the children of survivors were more likely to have smaller heads and physical disabilities.

There never was a coordinated attempt to study or track the health effects of radiation on the atomic veterans or their children.

READER # 5: *The testimony of Robert Stroup, from the March 2013 issue of the newsletter of the National Association of Atomic Veterans:*

I was at the nuke tests called "Tumbler-Snapper." I was a member of the 82nd Airborne from September, 1948 to June, 1952. After injuring my back in a parachute jump my commanding officer said that I would be going up to Las Vegas, and would have plenty of time for my back to heal. What he didn't tell me was that I would be driving *through* Las Vegas, on

the way to Camp Desert Rock, where we were housed in a row of tents, and where we were going to be used as guinea pigs for some atomic-bomb tests.

Once we got there, we were brainwashed extensively, about how lovely the detonation of an atomic bomb was, and how beautiful the cloud was, and that radiation is not a worry, and, “Oh by the way—all of this is top secret and you can’t say nothing to nobody about what you see or do here. And, if we did say anything, we would be arrested and tried as a spy.” Now that does get your attention!

Then, on the morning of April 22, 1952 they brought us fresh starched fatigues and caps, we were told to take a medicine from a small paper cup, and after that they took our pictures. Then we were loaded on trucks and taken over to Frenchman’s Flat, where there were a bunch of trenches. Behind the trenches there was a bunker with what looked like dark tinted bullet-proof glass windows. While we were getting our instructions, officers and civilians were going into the bunker building.

After we all got down into our trench, the loudspeakers cranked up, and told us to lay flat and cover our eyes with our hands. Then we heard the countdown, and then came the blast. I could see the bones of my hands and fingers, and that scared the Hell out of me and my buddies. The loudspeaker then said we could get up and look at the mushroom cloud. The fireball was huge, and had all the colors of the rainbow, with lightning at its base, and the heat was almost unbearable. Then we got hit with strong blast wave, that temporarily stunned me, and I remember it moving me back across the trench and then forward, all in a split second. It was like being dropped from 20 feet up onto your back and it was a while before I could breathe. Soon the mushroom cloud was directly over our heads.

Then the officers and civilians came out of the bunker behind us and we were ordered to “move-out” towards ground zero. About half way there, we passed a sergeant with a jeep and a radio directing traffic and were told to go up to the “mock-up” display area, with a building, cars, trucks and about ten airplanes. The building and other items were destroyed, or badly broke up. Some of the airplanes were broke in half. On the way back, we passed an area where they had goats, sheep and hogs staked out—some were in trenches and some were above ground. Those above ground were dead, and most of those in trenches were badly burned. We could smell the burning flesh and see the smoke of those that were still alive, making awful sounds. I have never forgotten what I saw, heard, and smelled that day.

We then got back into trucks and headed back to Camp Desert Rock where we were instructed to strip, discard all our clothing in a large bin, take showers and walk before a man with a Geiger-counter. Then they gave us all new clothing, boots, caps, etc. Two days later we were taken to Las Vegas to board a troop train. The train windows were sprayed silver on the outside so we couldn’t see out, and we did not know where the Hell we were going to end up. My eyes felt like I had sand in them and they were sore and I had floaters or spots going across my field of vision, which I can still see at times.

Four days after that atomic blast, I began to get sick, throwing up and I also had a bad case of diarrhea with a lot of blood. There were several other soldiers on the train who were also getting sick. When we complained about our health problems, they told us that the food on the train is what made us sick. During that two week train trip, I slept a lot and I thought I was going to die. I had no appetite and was very weak. I ate very little, but I drank a lot of milk. A couple weeks later I was discharged, without a physical, and with no medical officer present.

I then went home to Espanola, New Mexico, and laid around for about six months till I felt like I could start working without hurting. During that time, I reported to my local Veterans Administration clinic to see if they could do something for me. They told me that the Army said my records were lost. I told them “with all due respect, I think that is a full crock-of-chicken-droppings.” Finally, the VA said my records were burned up in a fire at St. Louis, Missouri. OK, more chicken-stuff. After I kept on raising cane, the VA said I suffered from severe PTSD, ear problems, eye problems, bone problems, cartilage deterioration, and on top of that, I had a bad nervous disorder. The short side of all this is, I was a total wreck.

Five years after that nuke test I developed a tumor and all my blood vessels were beginning to rupture. And I have had nothing but Holy-Hell in trying to get relief from what the Army has put me through. Each day, I wonder why our government did all that to us, without even telling us what would happen down the road.

Over the years I heard that a lot of my buddies, who were at that test, are also having tough times with their health problems, and like me, they can't get any record of being at that Camp Desert Rock nuke test. At times, the frustration is almost unbearable. I hope you print this so others can see how we were treated back then, and thanks for listening to my story.

READER # 6: “Suddenly one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and slashed at the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Jesus said to him, ‘Put back your sword where it belongs. Those who use the sword are sooner or later destroyed by it.’”
(Matthew chapter 26)

Station VI: Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face (Bank of America)

READER # 1: Such a small gesture in the face of this horror. Unafraid, she pushes her way past the guards. A moistened cloth, cool against the blistered forehead. Over in a moment and changing nothing that will come. But she does it anyway, before being shoved away by Roman spears.

Veronica—vera ikon—true image. The image of Christ is imprinted on her cloth, as it is on all of history's subjugated, oppressed, and crucified peoples.

READER # 2: *Much of the following is taken from the 2018 PAX report "Don't Bank on the Bomb: A Global Report on the Financing of Nuclear Weapons Producers." PAX is based in the Netherlands and works to build just and peaceful societies across the globe.*

PAX's "Don't Bank on the Bomb" report digs into the financial underpinnings of the nuclear weapons industry. It begins by profiling the top 20 companies involved in the production of key components for the nuclear weapons arsenals of France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States. The list of companies is not exhaustive; there are countless companies involved in the broad nuclear weapons complex. Rather, the report is an attempt to identify the privately owned companies that are those *most heavily* involved in the development, testing, production, maintenance, and modernization of nuclear warheads and their delivery *systems* (such as missiles), but not those companies only involved in delivery *platforms* such as bombers and submarines. The contracts these companies have with nuclear armed countries are for materials and services that keep nuclear weapons in their arsenals.

This Holy Week we are shedding light on a number of these top 20 nuclear weapons producing corporations; AECOM, BAE Systems, Boeing, General Dynamics, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Jacobs Engineering, Lockheed Martin, and Northrup Grumman.

The 20 companies help stock the arsenals of France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States—countries where nuclear weapons production is overwhelmingly done by the private sector. In the other five nuclear-armed nations—China, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and Russia—the development, testing, production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear forces is carried out primarily or exclusively by government agencies.

PAX's report goes on to declare that from January 2014 through October 2017, 329 banks, insurance companies, pension funds and asset managers from 24 countries invested *significantly* in the top 20 nuclear weapon producers. In total, more than \$525 billion was made available to the nuclear weapon producing companies by the financial institutions listed.

The top 10 investors alone provided more than \$253 billion to the identified nuclear weapon producers, nearly half of the total investment. All of the top 10 are based in the US. The top 3—Blackrock, Capital Group, and Vanguard—have a combined investment of more than \$110 billion. This week we will visit two of the top ten, Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

The financial institutions make funds available for companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons through providing corporate loans, project finance, or working capital;

underwriting share or bond issuances; managing investments in shares and bonds of the selected producing companies; and owning company shares and bonds themselves.

Without these funds, those nuclear weapon producing companies wouldn't have the resources to engage effectively and competitively in securing contracts or continuing to produce the key components needed for nuclear weapons.

Between January 2014 and October 2017, Bank of America made \$25,851,000,000 available to 18 of the 20 leading nuclear weapons producing companies, including \$1.7 billion to AECOM, \$500 million to BAE Systems, \$1.7 billion to Boeing, \$2.1 billion to General Dynamics, \$400 million to Huntington-Ingalls, \$500 million to Jacobs Engineering, \$4.5 billion to Lockheed Martin, and \$600 million to Northrup Grumman.

READER # 3: At the end of the day, only nine countries have nuclear weapons. Nine untrustworthy countries that are gambling with the future by making their nuclear weapons more usable, developing new nuclear capabilities, and announcing more and more possibilities for the actual use of their nuclear forces. Compelling change from these nine countries will take a variety of approaches. One of those is pressuring the private companies involved in their arsenals through the financial sector. Those financial institutions currently seeking to profit from nuclear weapons can be, like the handful of countries that still believe in the utility of nuclear weapons, increasingly isolated and stigmatized.

Investments are not neutral. Financing and investing are active choices, based on a clear assessment of a company and its plans. Financial institutions have a choice, either to contribute to the end of nuclear weapons, or to provide the financing that will allow nuclear weapons to end us. By adopting public policies prohibiting investment in the nuclear weapons industry, the stigma associated with these weapons of mass destruction are deepened.

Stopping the financial flow to weapons producing companies has proven to have real impacts on those companies. For example, citing pressure from financial institutions, several producers of cluster munitions have stopped their production, including Textron, Lockheed Martin, Orbital ATK, and Singapore Technologies Engineering—despite the fact that they are all from states not party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

PAX's "Don't Bank on the Bomb" project is an attempt to stop the production of nuclear weapons by limiting or ending investments into their producers and engaging the financial sector to strengthen the stigma against them.

Since the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons two of the five largest pension funds in the world announced changes in their relationships with nuclear weapon producers. The second largest, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund, has announced it will keep its 1 trillion 37 billion dollar asset pool from nuclear weapons producers, as has ABP, the fifth largest, with assets of \$500 billion.

"Don't Bank on the Bomb" is a grassroots divestment movement to stigmatize nuclear weapons producers and their investors for profiting from weapons with indiscriminate, inhumane, and catastrophic consequences. Divestment delivers real results, preventing humanitarian harm caused by illegal weapons by creating the conditions for the companies producing the weapons to cease this area of business.

When the world is closer to nuclear war than ever, we need to make sure that no one should profit from this terror.

READER # 4: There are other grassroots campaigns putting pressure on the non-signatory countries to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as well. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has a Cities Appeal it is trying to get passed by town and city councils across the world. The resolution reads: “Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we support the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to join it.”

Hundreds of cities and towns have passed such a resolution, including Washington DC and Paris (both capitals of nuclear weapons states), Edinburgh (capital of Scotland, home to British nuclear weapons), Berlin, Munich, and Nuremberg, Germany (host nation to NATO nuclear weapons), also New York City, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Salt Lake City, Portland, Philadelphia, Evanston, Honolulu, Anchorage, and Toronto, Melbourne, Sydney, Bastogne, Cadiz, Geneva, Oslo, Manchester, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

ICAN also promotes a Parliamentary Pledge that legislators can sign committing them to work for the signing and ratification of the Treaty by their governments. Thirteen hundred legislators from 32 countries have joined so far, from Argentina to Bahrain, Cameroon to Indonesia, and Slovenia to Malaysia. 22 US legislators have taken the pledge.

Also “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” is a national initiative to change US nuclear policy with five common sense steps. Organizations, cities, and the states of California, New Jersey, and Oregon have all passed resolutions declaring their support for the five steps. What follows is an example; Joint Resolution number 33 of the California Legislature’s 2017-2018 regular session, which was approved by a 22-8 vote on August 27, 2018:

READER # 5: WHEREAS, Since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 15,000 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-five percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; for example, as few as 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs, small by modern standards, would put at least five million tons of soot into the upper atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting two billion people at risk of starvation; and

WHEREAS, A large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping

temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions the vast majority of the human race would starve and it is possible we would become extinct as a species; and

WHEREAS, Despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons do not possess some magical quality that prevents their use; and

WHEREAS, Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, speaking about the Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” yet our nuclear policy cannot be the hope that luck will continue; and

WHEREAS, As the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

WHEREAS, The planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

WHEREAS, There is an alternative to this march toward nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, that the Legislature urges our federal leaders and our nation to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon our federal leaders and our nation to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Governor.

READER # 6: “To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who mistreat you...do to others as you would have them do to you...love your enemies and do good to them...then you will be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful as God is merciful.” (Luke chapter 6)

Station VII: Jesus Falls a Second Time (Norfolk Naval Shipyard)

READER # 1: He raised the people's hopes for freedom from military occupation, oppressive taxation, and corrupt leadership, for the renewal of village and community life. He was a sign of God's presence amid their suffering and hope for a new day. Those hopes now fall with him in the street. Hope seems too small a thing, love too delicate, and faith too fragile, in the face of the overwhelming force of Roman power.

READER # 2: The Norfolk Naval Shipyard is the oldest continuously operated shipyard in the United States and the oldest and largest industrial facility that belongs to the US Navy, going back to 1767. The Confederate ironclad Virginia was constructed here in 1862 before its famed nearby battle with the ironclad USS Monitor. Today, Norfolk Naval Shipyard is one of the largest shipyards in the world and specializes in repairing, overhauling, and modernizing ships and submarines.

The seaborne leg of the US nuclear triad is our fleet of Ohio-class Trident ballistic missile submarines. Norfolk Naval Shipyard recently finished major overhauling of the last of the six Tridents based at Kings Bay, Georgia, allowing each of them to prowl the world's oceans for another 20 years. They will continue to return here for regular maintenance. The Pacific fleet has eight Tridents based at Bangor, Washington.

Each Trident submarine can carry 20 Trident II D-5 missiles, each of which can carry up to eight nuclear warheads. The missiles can carry 455 kiloton W88 warheads or 90 kiloton W76-1s. Recently deployed on the Trident sub USS Tennessee are a small number of new W76-2, 5 kiloton warheads, dangerously intended to be more usable against opponents like Iran and North Korea, to wage what war planners consider to be a winnable limited nuclear war.

Fully loaded, each Trident submarine can carry the equivalent of 1825 Hiroshima bombs, and as 12 Tridents are deployable at any time, the entire fleet can carry over 328 megatons of explosive power—656 *billion pounds* of TNT—or 86 pounds of TNT for every child, woman, and man on the planet.

READER # 3: *The Plowshares movement began in 1980 when eight people inspired by the prophet Isaiah's vision of a disarmed world used household hammers and their own blood to begin the conversion of nuclear swords into plowshares. The following statement concluded Jesuit Fr. Daniel Berrigan's personal testimony during the trial of the very first Plowshares group, the Plowshares Eight, who had hammered and poured blood on the nose cones for Mark 12A nuclear warheads under construction at the General Electric plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania:*

Our act is all I have to say. The only message I have for the world is: We are not allowed to kill innocent people. We are not allowed to be complicit in murder. We are not allowed to be silent while preparations for mass murder proceed in our name, with our money, secretly.

I have nothing else to say in the world. At other times one could talk about...many other questions. But this Mark 12A is here. And it renders all other questions null and void. Nothing, nothing can be settled until this is settled. Or this will settle us, once and for all.

It's terrible for me to live in a time where I have nothing to say to human beings except, "Stop killing." There are other beautiful things that I would love to be saying to people. There are other projects I could be very helpful at. And I can't do them. I cannot.

Because everything is endangered. Everyone is up for grabs. Ours is a kind of primitive situation, even though we would call ourselves sophisticated. Our plight is very primitive from a Christian point of view. We are back where we started. Thou shalt not kill; we are not allowed to kill. Everything today comes down to that—everything.

READER # 4: *The latest of the 100 some US Plowshares actions took place on April 4, 2018. Longtime Jonah House member Liz McAlister, along with Catholic Workers Martha Hennessy, Clare Grady, Patrick O'Neill, Mark Coleville, and Carmen Trotta, and Jesuit priest Steve Kelly, entered Naval Station Kings Bay and using hammers, blood, banners, and spray paint, symbolically disarmed the home of the east coast Trident fleet, acting at the nuclear weapons bunkers, an administration building, and a monument honoring naval nuclear missiles. They await sentencing. The following is a statement they brought with them onto the base:*

We come in peace on this sorrowful anniversary of the martyrdom of a great prophet, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fifty years ago today, April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee as a reaction to his efforts to address "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism." We come to Kings Bay to answer the call of the prophet Isaiah (2:4) to "beat swords into plowshares" by disarming the world's deadliest nuclear weapon, the Trident submarine. We repent of the sin of white supremacy that oppresses and takes the lives of people of color here in the United States and throughout the world. We resist militarism that has employed deadly violence to enforce global domination. We believe reparations are required for stolen land, labor and lives.

Dr. King said, "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world (today) is my own government." This remains true in the midst of our endless war on terror. The United States has embraced a permanent war economy. "Peace through strength" is a dangerous lie in a world that includes weapons of mass destruction on hair-trigger alert. The weapons from one Trident have the capacity to end life as we know it on planet Earth. Nuclear weapons kill every day through our mining, production, testing, storage, and dumping, primarily on Indigenous Native land. This weapons system is a cocked gun being held to the head of the planet.

As white Catholics, we take responsibility to atone for the horrific crimes stemming from our complicity with "the triplets." Only then can we begin to restore right relationships. We seek to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons, racism and economic exploitation. We plead with our Church to withdraw its complicity in violence and war. We cannot simultaneously pray and hope for peace while we bless weapons and condone war-making. Pope Francis says the abolition of weapons of mass destruction is the only way to save God's

creation from destruction. Clarifying the teachings of our Church, Pope Francis said, “The threat of [nuclear weapons] use as well as their very possession is to be firmly condemned...weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family, which must rather be inspired by an ethics of solidarity.”

Nuclear weapons eviscerate the rule of law, enforce white supremacy, perpetuate endless war and environmental destruction and ensure impunity for all manner of crimes against humanity. Dr. King said, “The ultimate logic of racism is genocide.” We say, “The ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide.” A just and peaceful world is possible when we join prayers with action. Swords into Plowshares!

READER # 5: *A personal statement from Kings Bay Plowshares member Clare Grady:*

Since taking part in the Griffiss Plowshares Action with six friends in 1983, disarming a B-52 Bomber, outfitted to carry first strike cruise missiles, I see Plowshares actions as sacramental; outward signs of inward and spiritual divine grace.

Responding to God’s call to disarm, I see the act of hammering as an act of transformation.

When I withdraw my CONSENT to the existence and use of these weapons in my name, I experience a transformation of the weapon, of myself, and of my relationship with the system that the weapon upholds. This system embodies the giant triplets, identified by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as racism, extreme materialism and militarism.

When I disarm the weapons, which I see as the head of the beast, I find myself brought (through the courts and jails) into the belly of the beast. It is from this place that I see with new eyes, the nature of the beast, the system that kills and steals 24/7 in my name.

I see a corollary: to the extent that we white people of privilege withdraw our consent to the existence of nuclear weapons, we will begin to unravel the triplets. We will see with new eyes.

No longer will we scapegoat people of color here and around the world, as savage, illegal, criminal or terrorists. Instead, we will see that they have been living and resisting the real crime, the real savagery, the real illegality and terrorism, perpetuated by this system.

We will see with new eyes and understand the words of Martin Luther King, “The greatest purveyor of violence is my own government.” We will see our complicity and we will see that in withdrawing our consent, we say yes to life, a life fed by truth, justice, and peace. Amen.

READER # 6: *A medical officer in Hiroshima remembers the bomb:*

“I looked at the road before me. Naked, burnt, and bloody, numberless survivors stood in my path. They were massed together, some crawling on their knees or on all fours, some stood with difficulty or leaned on another’s shoulder. Not one showed any feature which forced me to recognize him or her as a human being.”

Another witness:

“I happened to meet a child who appeared to be between the ages of two and five. He was lying naked and barely breathing. He could no longer utter a word to ask for help. Then I realized that a hundred or more children were lying there. All their bodies were bloated. Some had their heads broken, others their arms torn off.”

And a mother:

“My daughter kept calling to me. ‘It hurts Mommy. My legs hurt. I can’t move. Hurry and get me out.’ I tugged at her but could not move her. No matter how desperately I tried, I just could not free her. The fires were moving closer and closer... [Later] the sky darkened and a heavy black rain began to fall, pounding the earth. It did not last long. My husband and I spent the night there on the river bank, a long night during which we did not sleep. I cried loudly uttering a stream of apologies to my dead children. ‘I’m sorry, Kazu. Forgive Mommy. I was so cruel to leave you. I was afraid of the fire Kazu, forgive me, forgive me...’”

READER # 7: In the days to come, people will stream to God’s mountain for instruction in how to live. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Isaiah chapter 2)

Station VIII: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Northrup Grumman)

READER # 1: They pull their shawls around their heads and wail, another journey to accompany a son, husband, relative or friend to Golgotha and crucifixion. Jesus turns to them and says, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.” Rome will stop at nothing to secure its empire. It is unaffected by the suffering, humiliation, and death of people in the colonies. Indeed, in less than a generation the Romans will slaughter every man, woman, and child in Jerusalem.

READER # 2: The airborne leg of the US nuclear triad consists of 66 strategic bombers which can deliver nuclear armed cruise missiles or gravity bombs. Forty six of the Air Force’s 87 B-52 bombers and all 20 of its B-2 bombers are nuclear capable. The bombers are based at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Each B-2 can carry up to 16 nuclear gravity bombs and each B-52 can carry up to 20 nuclear armed air-launched cruise missiles. About 850 nuclear weapons are assigned to the bombers—some 300 are deployed at bomber bases with the rest in storage ready to ship and load. The explosive power of the B61 and B83 gravity bombs can vary from 10 kilotons to 1.2 megatons—from two-thirds to nearly 80 times that of the Hiroshima bomb. The W80 warhead on the AGM-868 air launched cruise missile can be adjusted from 5-150 kilotons.

READER # 3: Northrop Grumman is part of the partnership producing and maintaining Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles and is working on the propulsion system for their replacement Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. It also produces Trident II (D5) launcher subsystem components for the US and the UK and does repairs on the AGM-868 air launched cruise missile. It is the part of the consortium processing uranium at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee and assembling, dismantling, and maintaining nuclear warheads at the Pantex Plant in Texas. Northrup Grumman is also partly responsible for the Nevada National Security Site, previously known as the Nevada Test Site, which modernizes warheads for the US arsenal and provides data to UK nuclear labs.

READER # 4: *The testimony of Sakue Shimohira:*

In my story, my parents had already been killed in Manchuria and my grandmother and grandfather had become my mother and father.

[During the war] as soon as a B-29 would fly overhead, the air raid siren would sound and we would run frantically for the air raid shelter. There, we had to cover our heads with a thick cotton blanket for protection from the bombing. With the atomic bomb, you have no way

of escaping. With conventional bombs, you hear them get closer and closer, exploding all around you. Many people had lost their hearing due to the explosions of the conventional bombs. In order to protect ourselves, we had to cover our eyes with four fingers and stick our thumbs in our ears, so that our eyes did not fly out and we did not lose our hearing.

On August 9, early in the morning, there was an air raid siren. I was ten years old and I ran to the shelter along with my eight-year-old younger sister and my older sister's one and-a-half year-old son, while my older sister stayed at home with mother, in case of fire. My father was a civilian army employee and had already left town for the day.

We were in the shelter with other neighborhood children, 800 meters away from the hypocenter of the bomb. There were four entrance holes into the bomb shelter. There were many people inside. The area where we lived is the Catholic area of Nagasaki. As we were Christians, even we the children believed that the Americans would not bomb us—would not bomb our neighborhood. However, war does not make such distinctions.

The B-29 Bockscar came with the atomic bomb Fat Man from Tinian Island that morning. They first went to Kokura, their intended target, but due to bad visibility, they had to go to Nagasaki. In Nagasaki, their intended target was near Spectacle Bridge. There also, the visibility was poor, so they headed north. The area that they headed to was the Catholic area, where I lived, and where we believed that they would not drop such a horrible bomb. But war does not think about that.

The air raid warning was lifted, and we made to leave the bomb shelter, but my younger sister remembered something my brother had said: that even when the all clear sounds, we should not leave the air raid shelter. We went back inside the shelter with eight others.

At 11:02am, we heard a bomber, and 500 meters overhead, the atomic bomb exploded. I was thrown against the stone wall in the simple shelter and knocked unconscious. When I regained consciousness, I saw a horrific sight. There were so many people in the shelter. People with their eyes hanging out, crying "Help! Help!" "Mother, help me!" "Mother! Mother!" There were people with blackened flesh all over, yelling "Kill me! Kill me!" "Water! Water!" Their skin was hanging off, still attached at their fingernails, their muscles exposed and also hanging out. Many fell over and died right there. I screamed for my mother.

With my body shivering, I could not move. I did not know where my little sister was. I had to try and find her and save her. It turned out that she was in the other corner of the shelter. I had to walk over and on the dead bodies in order to get to her, but when I stepped on some of them, it turned out that they were not dead. They cried out as I stepped on them, trying to get to my sister. I woke my sister up, made her regain consciousness. Together, we yelled for our mother.

We also had to find our nephew. We called for him: "Tabu!" He was against a shelter wall, between tatami mats and the wall. We used tatami mats to sleep on if we had to sleep in the shelter, and they had been lined up against the wall. This protected Tabu from the blast.

The next morning people came looking for any survivors. They called into the shelter, but we could not move because of how many dead bodies were there. Then adults came in, including my father, and helped get us out.

Once I was outside, I saw that there remained no houses at all. Only churches and schools remained standing, somewhat intact. I could only see the dead bodies, everywhere. We went to

find our mother. Our neighborhood was surrounded by flames and the whole area was a sea of fire.

We went towards where my house used to be and cried out, “Mother!” All we could see was blackened, charred bodies. We walked along the river to try and find our Mother. Along the river, there were so many people. They needed water to live, but they were so weak that even if they made it to the river, few had the energy or strength to lift the water to their mouths. Even if they did lift it, they did not have the energy to swallow it. Reaching for the water, they died.

Our house was across the bridge, but there was nothing left—only debris. I called for my mother, but heard no voice. We found the gate of the house, but the debris was very hot. There, we found a blackened body with four fingers on its face. We removed the fingers from in front of the face and saw that it was our sister. We could not find our mother.

We went next door, and there she was, a blackened corpse. There was nothing left by which to identify the charred black bodies, so we looked for the teeth. On one of the bodies there, the eye sockets were empty, and through them we could see the golden teeth. We knew—we believed—that it was our mother. At that moment, we heard another airplane overhead and ran back to the shelter, but it was so full that we could not get in.

READER # 5: That night, our brother found us. Two or three days later, he got very sick. He began throwing up something yellow and his body grew colder and colder. “I want to die,” he said, “I want to die.” He died.

We went to the countryside and were separated among relatives so that we could survive.

Within the next year father died and us three children returned to Nagasaki. As no food was available, we would go up into the hills and pick things like pigweed and wild green onions, which we managed to live on. Those of us who had survived then gathered the ashes of the unidentified victims and held a memorial service in their honor. We struggled in our daily lives, eventually managing to erect a small but habitable shack out of the remains of burnt wood in the scorched wasteland.

The American army had come, by this point, and they started building an airfield. They flattened the ruins, the ashes, and the remains with bulldozers, even though there were still ashes left there—ashes of people and their lives.

There was no food so we would gather the remains of the food from the American base—the leftovers of half-eaten burgers, bitten-into bread, and food stuck inside cans—wash them off in the river, and eat them. We had survived the bomb, and now we were trying to live, but we could not live as humans.

Yamazato School reopened. My sister went to fourth grade, I went to sixth grade. There were no windows, no walls. Only the concrete foundation remained. Classrooms were separated by the blackboards.

My hair began to fall out, my gums began to bleed, and I had bloody stools. My sister came down with similar symptoms. At that time, people were saying that these were infectious diseases and contagious. This was the beginning of the prejudice against the hibakusha.

Several years later when my sister was a third-year high school student she underwent an operation for appendicitis. Afterwards, however, the cut where the incision had been made wouldn't heal over, probably because her white blood cell count had gone down as a result of the atomic bombing, and started giving off a foul odor that she grew anxious about. Sometimes I heard a strange noise: the maggots in my sister's stomach. She was bullied at school for it. She

then began to say, “let us join Mother. Let us commit suicide and join Mother.” I always said, “No, let us live. We survived. We should live.”

At that time, many people took their own lives. After fretting and fretting about her condition, at nineteen, my sister also committed suicide. One day she did not come back home and I heard people talking about yet another suicide that had occurred at Ohashi. I ran to see.

There, at Ohashi, were my sister’s remains. When a person throws themselves in front of a train, their body parts fall apart and fly in different directions. The way that I knew it was my sister was because the wound from her stomach had stuck to the rails, festering. “Why did you die?! Why not try harder?!” I cried. I then also decided that I would die. I went to the train tracks and tried to commit suicide, but I was too afraid to do it. Back then, the trains were steam trains. They were huge, scary, roaring. Several times, at the last moment, I would jump off the tracks.

It takes courage to die, and it takes courage to live. There is a courage to die, and a courage to live. I did not have the courage to die. My sister did. I was the only one left in my family after the bomb. I chose the courage to live.

If I died too, then there would be no one left to tend to the family grave. No one would be able to offer flowers and water to those who died and were buried.

In my life, I have suffered from many diseases: thyroid cancer, ovarian cancer, appendicitis, operations on my backbone. We cannot let other hibakusha happen. Nagasaki must be the last atomic weapon ever used on people. Someone told me that world peace is helped by the atom bomb but I strongly disagree. We must oppose nuclear weapons.

One life is heavier than the Earth. We cannot repeat what happened. We must tell what happened. We must have a world without war, and make a world of peace. What is peace? To have a heart that can understand other people’s pain.

We must have a world without war and without atomic weapons.

READER # 6: As Jesus drew near, he saw Jerusalem and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace.” (Luke chapter 19)

Station IX: Jesus Falls a Third Time (Lockheed Martin)

READER # 1: He is denied even the dignity of a noble end. There is no head held high here, no final speech of courageous defiance. Only a broken man sprawled face down in the dirt. Rome's well-oiled machinery of death stands poised to consume yet another victim.

READER # 2: The land-based leg of the US nuclear triad, its arsenal of Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), will begin to be replaced about 2030 by what is now called the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD). Four hundred missiles will be deployed and upgraded through 2075. The new missile is expected to have a greater range than the Minuteman III, making it possible to target not just Russia from the continental United States, but also potentially China, North Korea, and Iran.

The GBSD will be capable of single or multiple warheads. They would carry a version of the 300 kiloton W87 warhead, each 20 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

READER # 3: Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is far and away the world's largest weapons maker with 2018 revenues of \$53.8 billion and almost \$5 billion in profits. It has 116,000 employees worldwide.

Lockheed Martin builds Trident II D5 ballistic missiles for the US Trident ballistic missile submarines and the British Vanguard-class submarines. It is involved in the production and maintenance of Minuteman III nuclear ICBMs, and is now developing their replacement, the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. It is part of the team that manages the UK Atomic Weapons Establishment, which designs, manufactures and maintains nuclear warheads for the UK. It is engaged in US nuclear weapons modernization at the Pantex, Savannah River and Y-12 facilities, as well as work on hypersonic missiles and high-powered lasers.

Lockheed Martin is also building the F-35 Lightning, the plane that will ultimately be used by every military branch. The Pentagon is poised to buy 2400 planes with NATO and other allied countries buying 700. Among their armament, they will be capable of carrying two nuclear "bunker buster" gravity bombs.

Behind us is Lockheed Martin's Center for Innovation. It is called The Lighthouse. Here employees collaborate with military, government, academia, industry, engineers, analysts, and international partners, to conduct war-games, modeling and simulating war-fighting scenarios in order to improve today's weaponry and to envision the weapons of the future.

READER # 4: *Father George Zabelka was a Catholic chaplain with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He served as a priest for the airmen who firebombed Japan and then dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Zabelka, who died in 1992, gave this talk before a Pax Christi conference on the 40th anniversary of the nuclear bombings.*

The destruction of civilians in war was always forbidden by the Church, and if a soldier came to me and asked if he could put a bullet through a child's head, I would have told him, absolutely not. That would be mortally sinful. But in 1945 Tinian Island was the largest airfield in the world. Three planes a minute could take off from it around the clock. Many of these planes went to Japan with the express purpose of killing not one child or one civilian but of slaughtering hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands of children and civilians—and I said nothing.

I remember one young man who was engaged in the bombings of Japanese cities. He was in the hospital on Tinian on the verge of a complete mental collapse. He told me that he had been on a low-level bombing mission, flying right down one of the main streets of a city, when straight ahead of him appeared a little boy, in the middle of the street, looking up at the plane in a childlike wonder. The man knew that in a few seconds the child would be burned to death by napalm which had already been released.

To fail to speak to the utter moral corruption of the mass destruction of civilians was to fail as a Christian and a priest as I see it. Hiroshima and Nagasaki happened in and to a world and a Christian Church that had asked for it—that had prepared the moral consciousness of humanity to do and to justify the unthinkable.

As a Catholic chaplain I watched as the B-29, Bockscar, piloted by a good Irish Catholic pilot, dropped the bomb on Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, the center of Catholicism in Japan. I knew that Catholic schools, churches, and religious orders were annihilated. And yet I said nothing.

I never preached a single sermon against killing civilians to the men who were doing it. I was brainwashed! It never entered my mind to protest publicly the consequences of these massive air raids. I was told it was necessary—told openly by the military and told implicitly by my Church's leadership.

It seems a sign to me that 1700 years of Christian terror and slaughter should arrive at August 9, 1945 when Catholics dropped the Atomic Bomb on top of the largest and first Catholic city in Japan. One would have thought that I, as a Catholic priest, would have spoken out against the atomic bombing of nuns. One would have thought that I would have suggested that as a minimal standard of Catholic morality, Catholics shouldn't bomb Catholic children. I didn't. I, like that Catholic pilot of the Nagasaki plane, was heir to a Christianity that had for seventeen hundred years engaged in revenge, murder, torture, the pursuit of power and prerogative and violence, all in the name of our Lord. I walked through the ruins of Nagasaki right after the war and visited the place where once stood the Urakami Cathedral. I picked up a piece of a censer from the rubble. When I look at it today I pray God forgives us for how we have distorted Christ's teaching and destroyed His world by the distortion of that teaching. I was the Catholic chaplain who was there when this grotesque process begun with Constantine reached its lowest point—so far.

After the war, I worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Civil Rights struggle in Flint, Michigan. His example and his words of nonviolent action, choosing love instead of hate, truth instead of lies, and nonviolence instead of violence, stirred me deeply. This brought me face to face with pacifism—active nonviolent resistance to evil. I recall his words after he was jailed in Montgomery, and this blew my mind. He said, "Blood may flow in the streets of

Montgomery before we gain our freedom, but it must be our blood that flows, and not that of the white man. We must not harm a single hair on the head of our white brothers.”

I struggled. I argued. But yes, there it was in the Sermon on the Mount, very clear: “Love your enemies. Return good for evil.” I went through a crisis of faith. Either accept what Christ said, as silly as it may seem, or deny him completely.

READER # 5: For the last 1700 years the Church has not only been making war respectable: it has been inducing people to believe it is an honorable profession, an honorable Christian profession. This is not true. We have been brainwashed. This is a lie.

War is now, always has been, and always will be, bad, bad news. I was there. I saw real war. Those who have seen real war will bear me out. I assure you, it is not of Christ. It is not Christ’s way. There is *no way* to conduct real war in conformity with the teachings of Jesus. There is no way to *train* people for real war in conformity with the teachings of Jesus.

The morality of the balance of terrorism is a morality that Christ never taught. The ethics of mass butchery cannot be found in the teachings of Jesus. In Just War ethics, Jesus Christ, who is supposed to be all in the Christian life, is irrelevant. He might as well never have existed. In Just War ethics, no appeal is made to him or his teaching, because no appeal *can* be made to him or his teaching, for neither he nor his teaching gives standards for Christians to follow in order to determine what level of slaughter is acceptable.

If someone walks into a church and destroys the altar and statues, etc., it is called a sacrilege. A sacrilege is the desecration of what is considered holy. But for the Christian, the ultimate place of the holy is the human person. We are the “temples of the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, every act of violence toward a human being is an act of desecration of the temple of God in this world. War for the Christian is always sacrilege. There is no such absurdity as a Christian ethic of justified sacrilege.

So the world is watching today. Ethical hairsplitting over the morality of various types of instruments and structures of mass slaughter is not what the world needs from the Church, although it is what the world has come to expect from the followers of Christ. What the world needs is a grouping of Christians that will stand up and pay up with Jesus Christ. What the world needs is Christians who, in language that the simplest soul could understand, will proclaim: “The follower of Christ cannot participate in mass slaughter. He or she must love as Christ loved, lived as Christ lived, and, if necessary, die as Christ died, loving ones enemies.”

I would like to suggest that there is an immediate need to call an ecumenical council for the specific purpose of clearly declaring that war is totally incompatible with Jesus’ teaching and that Christians cannot and will not engage in or pay for it from this point in history on. This would have the effect of putting all nations on this planet on notice that from now on they are going to have to conduct their mutual slaughter without Christian support—physical, financial, or spiritual.

For the 300 years immediately following Jesus’ resurrection, the Church universally saw Christ and his teaching as nonviolent. In the face of at least three serious attempts by the Roman state to liquidate her, the Church insisted without reservation that when Christ disarmed Peter he disarmed all Christians. Christians believed that Christ was, to use the words of an ancient liturgy, their fortress, their refuge, and their strength, and that if Christ was all they needed for security and defense, then Christ was all they should have. Indeed, this was a new security

ethic. When opportunities were given for Christians to appease the state by joining the fighting Roman army, these opportunities were rejected, because the early Church saw a complete and an obvious incompatibility between loving as Christ loved and killing. It was Christ, not Mars, who gave security and peace.

Today the world is on the brink of ruin because the Church refuses to be the Church, because we Christians have been deceiving ourselves and the non-Christian world about the truth of Christ. There is no way to follow Christ, to love as Christ loved, and simultaneously to kill other people. It is a lie to say that the spirit that moves the trigger of a flamethrower is the Holy Spirit. It is a lie to say that learning to kill is learning to be Christ-like. It is a lie to say that learning to drive a bayonet into the heart of another is motivated from having put on the mind of Christ. Militarized Christianity is a lie. It is radically out of conformity with the teaching, life, and spirit of Jesus.

READER # 6: Now, brothers and sisters, on the anniversary of this terrible atrocity carried out by Christians, I must be the first to say that I made a terrible mistake. I was had by the father of lies. I participated in the big ecumenical lie of the Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox churches. I wore the uniform. I was part of the system. When I said Mass over there I put on those beautiful vestments over my uniform.

As an Air Force chaplain I painted a machine gun in the loving hands of the nonviolent Jesus, and then handed this perverse picture to the world as truth. I sang “Praise the Lord” and passed the ammunition. As Catholic chaplain for the 509th Composite Group, I was the final channel that communicated this fraudulent image of Christ to the crews of the Enola Gay and the Bockscar.

All I can say today is that I was wrong. Christ would not be the instrument to unleash such horror on his people. Therefore no follower of Christ can legitimately unleash the horror of war on God’s people. Excuses and self-justifying explanations are without merit. All I can say is: I was wrong! But, if this is all I can say, this I must do, feeble as it is. For to do otherwise would be to bypass the first and absolutely essential step in the process of repentance and reconciliation: admission of error, admission of guilt.

I was there, and I was wrong. Yes, war is Hell, and Christ did not come to justify the creation of Hell on earth by his disciples. The justification of war may be compatible with some religions and philosophies, but it is not compatible with the nonviolent teaching of Jesus. I was wrong. And to those of whatever nationality or religion who have been hurt because I fell under the influence of the father of lies, I say with my whole heart and soul I am sorry. I beg forgiveness.

I asked forgiveness from the Hibakusha (the Japanese survivors of the atomic bombings) in Japan last year, in a pilgrimage that I made with a group from Tokyo to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I fell on my face there at the peace shrine after offering flowers, and I prayed for forgiveness—for myself, for my country, for my Church. This year in Toronto, I again asked forgiveness from the Hibakusha present. I asked forgiveness, and they asked forgiveness for Pearl Harbor and some of the horrible deeds of the Japanese military. We embraced. We cried. Tears flowed. Pray to God that others will find this way to peace.

All religions have taught brotherhood. All people want peace. It is only the governments and war departments that promote war and slaughter. So today again I call upon people to make their voices heard. We can no longer just leave this to our leaders, both political and religious.

They will move when we make them move. They represent us. Let us tell them that they must think and act for the safety and security of all the people in our world, not just for the safety and security of one country. All countries are interdependent. We all need one another. It is no longer possible for individual countries to think only of themselves. We can all live together as brothers and sisters or we are doomed to die together as fools in a world holocaust.

Each one of us becomes responsible for the crime of war by cooperating in its preparation and in its execution. This includes the military. This includes the making of weapons. And it includes paying for the weapons. There's no question about that. We've got to realize we *all* are responsible. Silence, doing nothing, can be one of the greatest sins.

The bombing of Nagasaki means even more to me than the bombing of Hiroshima. By August 9, 1945, we knew what that bomb would do, but we still dropped it. We knew that agonies and sufferings would ensue, and we also knew—at least our leaders knew—that it was not necessary. The Japanese were already defeated. They were already suing for peace. But we insisted on unconditional surrender, and this is even against the Just War theory. Once the enemy is defeated, once the enemy is not able to hurt you, you must make peace.

Thank God that I'm able to stand here today and speak out against war, all war. The Hebrew prophets spoke out against all false gods of gold, silver, and metal. Today we are worshipping the gods of metal, the bomb. We are putting our trust in physical power, militarism, and nationalism. The Bomb, not God, is our security and our strength.

The Hebrew prophets said simply: "Do not put your trust in chariots and weapons, but put your trust in God." We must all become prophets. We must all do something for peace. We must stop this insanity of worshipping the gods of metal. We must take a stand against evil and idolatry. This is our destiny at the most critical time of human history. But it's also the greatest opportunity ever offered to any group of people in the history of our world—to save our world from complete annihilation.

READER # 7: "Listen, you rulers of Jacob and Israel! For you ought to know what is right, but you hate good and love evil. You have devoured my people's flesh; you have flayed the skin off them, and the flesh off their bones, broken their bones to bits, then cut it all up like meat in a pot...You abhor justice...you build up the nation through bloodshed...you make decisions for gifts...your religious leaders are bought as well..." (Micah chapter 3)

Station X: Jesus is Stripped (Wells Fargo)

READER # 1: Rome has done all it can to strip Jesus' Kingdom of God of every pretense of legitimacy, and now the guards physically strip him naked to degrade and shame him before his people. Roman perversity knows no limits—torturous death and humiliation at a local crossroads is its forte—a warning to anyone who would oppose the power of the Empire.

READER # 2: The US is modernizing its nuclear bomber force by upgrading command and control capabilities on existing bombers; developing improved nuclear weapons (the B61-12 and the Long-Range Standoff Missile); and designing a new heavy bomber, the B-21 Raider. The B-61-12 will be the first guided, standoff nuclear gravity bomb and will replace all 320 existing gravity bombs. The Long-Range Standoff will replace the 530 AGM-868 air launched cruise missiles, use a modified version of its 5 to 140 kiloton W-80 warhead, and with longer range, greater accuracy and enhanced stealth, will enable launch further away from future air-defense systems. The B-21 Raider will replace the B-2s during the 2030s and 40s.

READER # 3: Wells Fargo helps keep nuclear weapons makers solvent, competitive, and productive, and profiting from investments in them.

Wells Fargo made 13 billion 497 million dollars available to 14 of the 20 leading nuclear weapons producing companies between January 2014 and October 2017, including \$1 billion to AECOM, \$131 million to BAE Systems, \$1.8 billion to Boeing, \$1.6 billion to General Dynamics, \$550 million to Huntington-Ingalls Industries, \$700 million to Jacobs Engineering, \$2.4 billion to Lockheed Martin, and \$950 million to Northrup Grumman.

READER # 4: *Three decades after the end of the Cold War, the United States and Russia still keep roughly 1,800 nuclear weapons ready for immediate launch against each other. This dangerous "hair trigger alert" means leaders in a crisis would have just minutes to check facts and decide whether to use nuclear weapons. Command and control systems are not perfect. People make mistakes. Sabotage can happen. Machines break, technology has flaws and systems fail.*

With nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world today, the possibility of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch is real. A planet-ending nuclear war could be triggered by a false warning planted by a cyber-terrorist. Non-state actors are seeking nuclear weapons as we speak. The following scenarios, a number from Eric Schlosser's book "Command and Control," give a glimpse into how close we've come to unintentional nuclear war:

On January 24, 1961, after more than ten hours in the air, a B-52 nuclear bomber carrying two 4-megaton hydrogen bombs began to break up over Faro, North Carolina. Three of the 8 crewmen died in the crash and the two bombs fell to the ground. The parachute on one bomb failed and the bomb plunged into a muddy field at 700 miles per hour, disintegrated, and remains buried under a farm to this day. The parachute of the second bomb worked but when the bomb hit the ground, a firing signal was sent. Every safety mechanism designed to prevent

detonation failed except one. The single safety switch that worked was later discovered to have been defective in dozens of other cases. Had the bomb exploded—with the power of 250 Hiroshimas—lethal radioactive fallout would have spread over Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said that “literally [only by] the failure of two wires to cross, was a nuclear explosion averted.”

August 1974. In his last weeks in office during the Watergate crisis, President Richard M. Nixon was clinically depressed, emotionally unstable, and drinking heavily. U.S. Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger instructed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to route “any emergency order coming from the president”—such as a nuclear launch order—through him first.

On November 22, 1977, the Soviet submarine K-171 accidentally released a nuclear warhead off the coast of Kamchatka. The incident only came to light with a newspaper report in 1993. The jettisoned warhead became the subject of a search and recovery operation involving dozens of Soviet ships and aircraft, which eventually retrieved the intact nuclear device.

November 9, 1979. Computers at NORAD headquarters indicated a large-scale Soviet attack on the United States. Within minutes, U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile crews were put on highest alert, nuclear bombers prepared for takeoff, and the National Emergency Airborne Command Post—the plane designed to allow the US president to maintain control in case of an attack—took off. After six minutes, satellite data had not confirmed the attack, leading officials to decide no immediate action was necessary.

Investigations later discovered that the incident was caused by a technician who had mistakenly inserted a training tape containing a scenario for a large-scale nuclear attack into an operational computer. In a later declassified Top Secret letter, a senior US State Department adviser said that “false alerts of this kind are not a rare occurrence. There is a complacency about handling them that disturbs me.”

Hours before dawn on June 3, 1980, President Carter’s national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was awakened with the news that Soviet submarines had launched 220 missiles at the United States. It was a time of intense hostility between the superpowers. The Soviet Union had just invaded Afghanistan and the US and its allies responded by boycotting the Moscow Olympics—humiliating the Soviets internationally. Brzezinski asked for confirmation; seconds later, he was told that not 220 but 2,200 missiles were on their way. Crews started the engines on their nuclear bombers. Missile crews opened their safes. As Brzezinski was calling the President to recommend a retaliatory strike, fresh data came: this time, there were no radar warnings of a missile attack, and the incident was declared a false alarm. The culprit? A defective computer chip that was replaced for under a dollar.

The Titan II missile, the largest intercontinental ballistic missile ever built by the United States, was equipped to carry the most powerful thermonuclear warhead ever carried by a U.S. missile—with 600 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb. The single warhead on the Titan II had three times the explosive force of all the bombs used during the Second World War combined—including both atomic bombs.

On September 18, 1980, a workman in Damascus, Arkansas was doing standard maintenance on a Titan II, with the 9-megaton nuclear warhead in its nose cone, when he accidentally dropped a socket wrench between the platform and the missile. The wrench fell 70 feet and punctured the fuel tank, filling the silo with rocket fuel. The fuel eventually caused the missile to explode, flinging the nuclear warhead into a ditch 200 yards away. Had [the warhead] detonated, the state of Arkansas would have been consumed by firestorms.

READER # 5: On June 25, 1995, a U.S. scientific missile lifted off from an island near the coast of Norway to study the northern lights. Across northern Russia, radars tracked the missile, and an early warning center read the rocket as a nuclear missile launched from a US submarine, capable of hitting Moscow with multiple nuclear warheads in 15 minutes. President Boris Yeltsin and his top nuclear advisors went into crisis mode. His advisors opened up the nuclear briefcase, placed the button on Yeltsin's desk and said: "We're under attack." President Yeltsin had ten minutes to decide whether or not to launch Russian missiles in response. Two minutes before the decision deadline, the warning center's senior duty officer told President Yeltsin that the missile's flight path posed no threat. Days after the crisis, the Russians discovered that the U.S. notification of an upcoming satellite launch never made it up the chain of command.

2003. Half of US Air Force units responsible for nuclear weapons failed their nuclear safety and security inspections despite the fact that they had advance warning of the inspections. The pass rate for these inspections, which take place every 18 months, had hit an all-time low.

On August 29, 2007, at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, 12 cruise missiles were scheduled to be flown to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana to be decommissioned. Instead, six cruise missiles armed with nuclear warheads were strapped onto a B-52 bomber not certified to carry nuclear weapons. The crew neglected multiple times to verify that the cruise missiles were not armed, ignoring protocol. The plane sat overnight on the tarmac at Minot, unguarded. The nuclear missiles were flown by pilots who did not know they were carrying nuclear weapons to an airbase that did not know they were coming. Once in Louisiana, the weapons sat on the tarmac overnight unguarded. By the time the mistake was discovered, the six thermonuclear weapons had been missing for a day and a half and no one in the US Air Force noticed. A former head of the nation's strategic command said: "I have been in the nuclear business since 1966 and am not aware of any incident more disturbing."

In 2010, 50 Minuteman III missiles suddenly went offline, and for almost an hour launch crews could not communicate with their missiles. The problem was later attributed to a circuit card improperly installed in a computer.

The Air Force vehemently denied that its command-and-control systems had been hacked. But during a speech in June 2015, General James Cartwright, a former head of the US Strategic Command, argued that the ongoing threat posed by cyberattacks was one reason that the United States and Russia should take all of their missiles off alert. "You've either been hacked and not admitting it, or you're being hacked and don't know it," Cartwright said.

An investigation by a newspaper in Brittany found major security problems at Ile Longue, France's ballistic-missile submarine base. During an exercise there, French

commandos managed to sneak into the base, put an explosive device inside a sub loaded with nuclear warheads, and leave without being detected.

Little is known about how the nuclear weapon complexes in India, Pakistan, and North Korea are being run. The high rate of industrial accidents in those first two countries should raise concern about their ability to operate the world's most lethal technological system. Defectors from North Korea claim that major industrial accidents there are routine. Every country that has a nuclear arsenal faces the challenge of securing not only its weapons but also its fissile materials. At the moment, there are about two million pounds of weapons-grade uranium and about a million pounds of plutonium in the world. The amount that a terrorist would need to build a powerful nuclear device could fit into a gym bag.

A final note from Eric Schlosser:

I obtained a document from the Sandia National Laboratory, 1 of our 3 nuclear weapons labs, which listed 1,200 US nuclear weapons involved in significant accidents or incidents *just from 1950 to 1968*. At times the most dangerous incidents didn't involve a plane crash or a fire or an explosion. Sometimes a ground crew member would unload a nuclear weapon improperly from a plane on a runway and arm the bomb. So you'd have a fully armed nuclear weapon that could be dropped from a height of three or four feet and detonated full scale.

There were incidents I found of short circuits in which someone's walking past a missile and notices that smoke is coming out of the warhead, or hears a strange humming sound. And in those more banal, mundane incidents you could have had a short circuit that provided electricity to the detonators; what you need to get a full-scale nuclear detonation.

READER # 6: *On September 26, 1983, in an underground Soviet Air Defense command bunker outside of Moscow, a radar screen showed that 5 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles had been launched by the United States towards the Soviet Union. Lieutenant-colonel Stanislav Petrov, filling in for a sick officer, was faced with a huge red screen reading "LAUNCH" while a siren howled. The missiles would strike within 30 minutes.*

The launch team was close to panic. Petrov was not at all certain, his gut told him to question the warning because he had been trained to expect an all-out US nuclear attack, and because more reliable Soviet ground radar could not confirm the launch.

If he reported it as a real launch, the Soviet military brass and the Kremlin would have no time for extra analysis in the few minutes left before the incoming nuclear-tipped missiles hit Soviet territory. They likely would have ordered a retaliatory strike, triggering a nuclear war.

He decided to tell his commander that the system was giving false information. The incident remained classified for 15 years. The following is taken from various interviews:

I realized that I had to make some kind of a decision, and I was only 50/50... There was no rule about how long we were allowed to think before we reported a strike, but we knew that every second of procrastination took away valuable time, that the Soviet Union's military and political leadership needed to be informed without delay. All I had to do was to reach for the phone; to raise the direct line to our top commanders—but I couldn't move. I felt like I was sitting on a hot frying pan. My legs went limp, I felt like I couldn't even stand up...

I had all the data [to suggest there was an ongoing missile attack]. If I had sent my report up the chain of command, nobody would have said a word against it...

I was scared. I knew the level of responsibility at my fingertips...

I didn't want to be the one responsible for starting a third world war...

Twenty-three minutes later I realized that nothing happened. If there had been a real strike, then I would already know about it. It was such a relief...

I only did my job, but they were lucky it was me on shift that night.

The slightest false move can lead to colossal consequences—that hasn't changed [since 1983]. One way or another, you still need a person to order a launch of these weapons, a person can always make a mistake.

The false alarm was later determined to have been caused by a malfunction of a satellite, which mistook the reflection of the sun off high clouds for a missile launch.

READER # 7: Nuclear weapons are “the most compact, efficient, inexpensive, inexorable mechanisms of total death... [they have become] capable of creating not only cities of the dead and nations of the dead but a world of the dead.” (Richard Rhodes, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*)

READER # 8: “The threat of [nuclear weapons] use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned.” (Pope Francis)

Station XI: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross (Raytheon)

READER # 1: The thick iron nails smash through the wrists, ripping nerves, and shredding flesh. He carried his cross now it carries him, up in the air and slammed into place, causing excruciating pain, all the weight of his battered body dragging on those nails. “This is the King

of the Jews,” reads the charge, nailed above his head—a king who proclaimed a kingless kingdom. A king who lets himself be killed.

READER # 2: *From “The Growing Dangers of the New Nuclear Arms Race” by Eric Schlosser, May 2018:*

Less than a decade after President Barack Obama called for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the nine countries that possess them are engaged in a new nuclear-arms race. North Korea has most likely developed a hydrogen bomb, and its Hwasong-15 missiles may be large enough to transport not only a warhead but also decoys, chaff, and other countermeasures that would thwart America’s Ground-Based Midcourse Defense anti-ballistic-missile system. India recently commissioned its second ballistic-missile submarine, launched an Agni-5 ballistic missile that can strike targets throughout Pakistan and China, and tested nuclear-capable BrahMos and Nirbhay cruise missiles. Pakistan now has the world’s fastest-growing nuclear stockpile, including low-yield warheads on Hatf-9 missiles for use against Indian troops and armored vehicles. Israel is expanding the range of its Jericho III ballistic missiles and deploying cruise missiles with nuclear weapons on submarines. France and the United Kingdom are developing replacements for their Vanguard and Triumphant ballistic-missile submarines. China is about to introduce Dongfeng-41 ballistic missiles that will be mounted on trucks, loaded with up to ten nuclear warheads, and capable of reaching anywhere in the United States. Russia is building a wide range of new missiles, bombers, and submarines that will carry nuclear weapons. The R-28 Sarmat missile, nicknamed Satan-2, will carry up to sixteen nuclear warheads—more than enough for a single missile to destroy every American city with a population larger than a million people. Russia plans to build forty to fifty of the Satan-2s. Three other countries—Iran, Japan, and South Korea—may soon try to obtain their own nuclear arsenals.

READER # 3: Raytheon is involved in projects to stretch the lifecycle of the guidance systems of the Navy’s Trident II (D5) nuclear missiles and to support, sustain, and maintain a communications system upgrade for Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. It is part of teams developing the replacement missile for the Minuteman IIIs (the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent) and conducting studies in support of the Long Range Standoff, replacement for the current air launched cruise missile, the AGM-868. It also has a contract to design a communications system for command and control of nuclear armed bombers.

READER # 4: *Four Star General Lee Butler had a 33 year Air Force career. From 1991 to 1994 he was commander of all US strategic nuclear forces, with authority over the nuclear triad of bombers, submarines, and land-based missiles. During his tenure he knew more than anyone in the world about US nuclear forces and was advisor to the president should there be a nuclear attack. Within a year of retiring he began traveling the world as an outspoken nuclear weapons abolitionist:*

For all of my years as a nuclear strategist, operational commander and public spokesman, I explained, justified and sustained America's massive nuclear arsenal as a function, a necessity and a consequence of deterrence. Bound up in this singular term, this familiar touchstone of security dating back to antiquity, was the intellectually comforting and deceptively simple justification for taking the most extreme risks and the expenditure of trillions of dollars. It was our shield and by extension our sword. The nuclear priesthood extolled its virtues, and bowed to its demands. Allies yielded grudgingly to its dictates even while decrying its risks and costs. We brandished it at our enemies and presumed they embraced its suicidal corollary of mutual assured destruction. We ignored, discounted or dismissed its flaws and cling still to the belief that it applies in a world whose security architecture has been wholly transformed.

But now, I see it differently. Not in some blinding revelation, but at the end of a journey, in an age of deliverance from the consuming tensions of the Cold War. Now, with the evidence more clear, the risks more sharply defined and the costs more fully understood, I see deterrence in a very different light. Appropriated from the lexicon of conventional warfare, this simple prescription for adequate military preparedness became in the nuclear age a formula for unmitigated catastrophe. It was premised on a litany of unwarranted assumptions, unprovable assertions and logical contradictions. It suspended rational thinking about the ultimate aim of national security: to ensure the survival of the nation...

Deterrence was flawed equally in that the consequences of its failure were intolerable. While the price of undeterred aggression in the age of uniquely conventional weaponry could be severe, history teaches that nations can survive and even prosper in the aftermath of unconditional defeat. Not so in the nuclear era. Nuclear weapons give no quarter. Their effects transcend time and place, poisoning the earth and deforming its inhabitants for generation upon generation. They leave us wholly without defense; expunge all hope for meaningful survival. They hold in their sway not just the fate of nations, but the very meaning of civilization...

I saw the arms race from the inside, watched as intercontinental ballistic missiles ushered in mutual assured destruction and multiple warhead missiles introduced genuine fear of a nuclear first strike. I participated in the elaboration of basing schemes that bordered on the comical and force levels that in retrospect defied reason. I was responsible for war plans with over 12,000 targets, many struck with repeated nuclear blows, some to the point of complete absurdity...And through every corridor, in every impassioned plea, in every fevered debate rang the rallying cry, deterrence, deterrence, deterrence...

Deterrence is a slippery conceptual slope...It gives easy semantic cover to nuclear weapons, masking the horrors of employment with siren veils of infallibility. At best it is a gamble no mortal should pretend to make. At worst it invokes death on a scale rivaling the power of the creator...

As a nation we have no greater responsibility than to bring the nuclear era to a close. Our present policies, plans and postures governing nuclear weapons make us prisoner still to an age of intolerable danger. We cannot at once keep sacred the miracle of existence and hold sacrosanct the capacity to destroy it. We cannot hold hostage to sovereign gridlock the keys to final deliverance from the nuclear nightmare. We cannot withhold the resources essential to break its grip, to reduce its dangers. We cannot sit in silent acquiescence to the faded homilies of the nuclear priesthood. It is time to reassert the primacy of individual conscience, the voice of reason and the rightful interests of humanity...

If I could strike one word from the lexicon of the nuclear weapons enterprise, it would be “deterrence.” Because it’s easy. It’s lazy. It’s using rhetoric for a replacement of a really rigorous thinking about what is exactly implied by your actions. I would force people to actually describe what it is they think they are doing [by holding onto nuclear weapons] in very detailed terms, and then defend it on that basis...

Fifteen hundred nuclear warheads [deployed by both the US and Russia today] is still a mind boggling amount of destructive potential. *Mind boggling*. I can’t think of anything that underscores that better than how concerned we are about *one* falling into the wrong hands. We still readily accept 1,500 as a reasonable number. That’s the kind of “logic” that we get locked into in the nuclear era...

Rather than being concerned about the moral implications of these devices, we continue to pursue them as if they were our salvation—as opposed to the prospective engine of our utter destruction. Human beings are by far the most destructive species the planet has ever seen. We kill each other for a variety of reasons, ranging from pleasure to vengefulness to fear for survival. As long as these weapons exist, and people hold them in such high regard for reasons of national esteem, they act as a brake on our capacity for advancing our humanity...

The cold, hard fact of the matter is that a nuclear weapon is, at its very core, anti-ethical. It is simply a device for causing wholesale destruction. Nuclear conflict is essentially an irrational activity, because essentially what you’re doing is signing your own death notice.

READER # 5: Beginning in the late 16th century, the Micronesian people of the Marshall Islands were colonized by various imperial powers. The islands derive their name from John Marshall, an English sea captain who visited in 1788. The native people always called them “jolet jen Anji” or “Gifts from God.”

After gaining military control of the Marshall Islands from Japan in 1944, the United States assumed administrative control under United Nations auspices as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands following the end of World War II.

According to article 76 of the United Nations trusteeship charter, the US was obliged to further international peace and security, protect the islanders' physical well-being, promote their social and economic advancement, and aid in their progressive development towards self-government or independence. Instead, the United States relocated the people of Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls and between 1946 and 1958 used the depopulated coral reefs to conduct 67 nuclear weapons tests. Fallout from the tests spread to the surrounding islands and many people suffered from radiation disease and died of cancers.

On March 1st, 1954, the US conducted its largest nuclear bomb test ever, code name Castle Bravo. Despite advanced warning about impending winds towards inhabited islands the test wasn’t rescheduled. Due to a design error, the explosion reached a yield of 15 megatons, making it two and a half times larger than expected and more than 1,000 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb. Radioactivity spread over more than 4200 square miles, traces detected in Australia, India, Japan, Europe, and the United States. Five hours after detonation, radioactive

fallout began to rain on nearby atolls. The children played in the fine, white, powder-like substance. They ate it.

The crater left by the Castle Bravo test is visible from space. Bravo is singularly responsible for much of the cancers, burns, and defects that the Marshallese continue to endure today.

READER # 6: *The testimony of Marshall Islander Lijon Eknilang:*

I cannot have children. I have had miscarriages on seven occasions. On one of those occasions, the child I miscarried was severely deformed—it had only one eye. Our culture and religion teaches us that reproductive abnormalities are a sign that women have been unfaithful. For this reason, many of my friends keep quiet about the strange births they have had. In privacy, they give birth, not to children as we like to think of them, but to things we could only describe as ‘octopuses,’ ‘apples,’ ‘turtles,’ and other things in our experience. We do not have Marshallese words for these kinds of babies, because they were never born before the radiation came.

Women on Rongelap, Likiek, Ailuk, and other atolls in the Marshall Islands have given birth to these ‘monster babies.’ Many of these women are from atolls that foreign officials have told us were not affected by radiation. We know otherwise, because the health problems are similar to ours. One woman on Likiep gave birth to a child with two heads. Her cat also gave birth to a kitten with two heads.

There is a young girl on Ailuk today with no knees, three toes on each foot and a missing arm. The most common birth defects on Rongelap and nearby islands have been ‘jellyfish’ babies. These babies are born with no bones in their bodies and with transparent skin. We can see their brains and hearts beating. The babies usually live for a day or two before they stop breathing. Many women die from abnormal pregnancies, and those who survive give birth to what looks like purple grapes that we quickly bury.

READER # 7: When they came to the place called the Skull they crucified him. (Luke chapter 23)

Station XII: Jesus Dies (BAE Systems)

READER # 1: “My God, my God!” he cries, then offers up his spirit to the God who seems to have forsaken him. Life itself dies with the man on the cross. Humanness perishes in the violent pursuit of security, power, wealth, revenge, and victory.

READER # 2: “It is such a supreme folly to believe that nuclear weapons are deadly only if they're used. The fact that they exist at all, their presence in our lives, will wreak more havoc than we can begin to fathom. Nuclear weapons pervade our thinking. Control our behavior. Administer our societies. Inform our dreams. They bury themselves like meat hooks deep in the base of our brains. They are purveyors of madness. They are the ultimate colonizer. Whiter than any white man that ever lived. The very heart of whiteness.” Arundhati Roy

READER # 3: BAE Systems is a global military, security, and aerospace company based in the United Kingdom. It is involved in the nuclear weapons programs of the UK, France, and the United States. It produces key components for Trident II (D5) missiles for the US and UK nuclear arsenals. It develops US Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile systems, analyzes their test launches, and is working on their replacement, the Ground Based Missile Deterrent. BAE Systems is part of one joint venture that provides nuclear armed air-to-surface missiles for France, and another that is developing the UK's Dreadnought ballistic missile submarines which will replace their Vanguard fleet in the 2030's.

READER # 4: *Hiroshima, Japan is one of the places outside the United States where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated. Tadatoshi Akiba was mayor of Hiroshima from 1999 to 2011 and marked the day by calling for justice, nonviolence, human rights, and nuclear disarmament. King wrote about nuclear weapons as early as graduate school, the following are excerpts from his writings:*

“Advice for Living” column, Ebony Magazine, December, 1957

Question: Do you believe that the development and use of nuclear weapons of war should be banned?

Answer: I definitely feel that the development and use of nuclear weapons of war should be banned. It cannot be disputed that a full scale nuclear war would be utterly catastrophic. Hundreds and millions of people would be killed outright by the blast and heat, and by the ionizing radiation produced at the instant of the explosion. If so-called “dirty bombs” were used, large areas would be made uninhabitable for extended periods of time, and additional hundreds and millions of people would probably die from delayed effects of local fall-out radiation—some in the exposed population from direct radiation injury and some in succeeding generations as a result of genetic effects. Even countries not directly hit by bombs would suffer through global fall-outs. All of this leads me to say that the principal objective of all nations must be the total abolition of war. War must be finally eliminated or the whole of mankind will be plunged into the abyss of annihilation.

April 13, 1960 article in Christian Century, "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence:"

I have come to see more and more the need for the method of nonviolence in international relations. While I was convinced during my student days of the power of nonviolence in group conflicts *within* nations, I was not yet convinced of its efficacy in conflicts *between* nations. I felt that while war could never be a positive or absolute good, it could serve

as a negative good in the sense of preventing the spread and growth of an evil force. War, I felt, horrible as it is, might be preferable to surrender to a totalitarian system. But more and more I have come to the conclusion that the potential destructiveness of modern weapons of war totally rules out the possibility of war ever serving again as a negative good. If we assume that mankind has a right to survive then we must find an alternative to war and destruction. In a day when sputniks dash through outer space and guided ballistic missiles are carving highways of death through the stratosphere, nobody can win a war. The choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence.

I am no doctrinaire pacifist. I have tried to embrace a realistic pacifism. Moreover, I see the pacifist position not as sinless but as the lesser evil in the circumstances. Therefore I do not claim to be free from the moral dilemmas that the Christian non-pacifist confronts. But I am convinced that the church cannot remain silent while mankind faces the threat of being plunged into the abyss of nuclear annihilation. If the church is true to its mission it must call for an end to the arms race.

READER # 5: *June 5, 1963 sermon, "A Knock at Midnight:"*

It is midnight within the social order. On the international horizon nations are engaged in a colossal and bitter contest for supremacy. Two world wars have been fought within a generation, and the clouds of another war are dangerously low. Man now has atomic and nuclear weapons that could within seconds completely destroy the major cities of the world. Yet the arms race continues and nuclear tests still explode in the atmosphere, with the grim prospect that the very air we breathe will be poisoned by radioactive fallout. Will these circumstances and weapons bring the annihilation of the human race?

When confronted by midnight in the social order we have in the past turned to science for help...But alas! Science cannot now rescue us, for even the scientist is lost in the terrible midnight of our age. Indeed, science gave us the very instruments that threaten to bring universal suicide. So modern man faces a dreary and frightening midnight in the social order...

In the terrible midnight of war people have knocked on the door of the church to ask for the bread of peace, but the church has often disappointed them. What more pathetically reveals the irrelevancy of the church in present-day world affairs than its witness regarding war? In a world gone mad with arms buildups, chauvinistic passions, and imperialistic exploitation, the church has either endorsed these activities or remained appallingly silent. During the last two world wars, national churches even functioned as the ready lackeys of the state, sprinkling holy water upon the battleships and joining the mighty armies in singing, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition." A weary world, pleading desperately for peace, has often found the church morally sanctioning war...

The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. If the church does not participate actively in the struggle for peace and for economic and racial justice, it will forfeit the loyalty of millions and cause people everywhere to say that it has atrophied its will. But if the church will free itself from the shackles of a deadening status quo, and, recovering its great historic mission, will speak and act

fearlessly and insistently in terms of justice and peace, it will enkindle the imagination of humankind and fire the souls of men and women, imbuing them with a glowing and ardent love for truth, justice, and peace. People far and near will know the church as a great fellowship of love that provides light and bread for lonely travelers at midnight.

READER # 6: *Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1964:*

Violence as a way of achieving...justice is both impractical and immoral. I am not unmindful of the fact that violence often brings about momentary results. Nations have frequently won their independence in battle. But in spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problem: it merely creates new and more complicated ones. Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding. It seeks to annihilate rather than convert. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.

A[nother] great evil confronting our world is that of war. Recent events have vividly reminded us that nations are not reducing, but rather increasing their arsenals of weapons of mass destruction. The proliferation of nuclear weapons has not been halted. The fact that most of the time human beings put the risk of the nuclear war out of their minds because it is too painful and therefore not acceptable does not alter the risk of such a war. So man's proneness to engage in war is still a fact, but wisdom born of experience should tell us that war is obsolete. No nation can claim victory in war. A so-called limited war will leave little more than a calamitous legacy of human suffering, political turmoil and political disillusionment. A world war, God forbid, would leave only smoldering ashes as a mute testimony to the human race whose folly led inexorably to ultimate death. And so if modern man continues to flirt unhesitatingly with war, he will transform his earthly habitat into an inferno such as even the mind of Dante could not imagine.

Therefore I venture to suggest, to all of you and all who hear and may eventually read these words, that the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence become immediately a subject for study and for serious experimentation in every field of human conflict, by no means excluding the relations between nations. It is, after all, nation states which have produced the weapons which threaten the survival of mankind and which are both genocidal and suicidal in character. It is as imperative and urgent to put an end to war and violence between nations as it is to put an end to racial injustice.

It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it. We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace. In short, we must shift the arms race into the peace race. If we have the will and determination to mount such a peace offensive, we will unlock hitherto tightly sealed doors of hope and transform our imminent cosmic elegy into a psalm of creative fulfillment.

All that I have said boils down to the point of affirming that humankind's survival is dependent upon our ability to solve the problems of racial injustice, poverty, and war; the solution of these problems is in turn dependent upon us squaring our moral progress with our scientific progress, and learning the practical art of living in harmony...

This means that more and more, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. We must now give an overriding loyalty to humanity as a whole in order to preserve the best in our individual societies. This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all people. I'm not speaking of some sentimental and weak response which is little more than emotional bosh. I'm speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as a supreme unifying principle of life.

Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality. This Hindu-Moslem-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is beautifully summed up in the First Epistle of Saint John:

Let us love one another for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. Those who love not, know not God; for God is love. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

Let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day. As Arnold Toynbee says: "Love is the ultimate force that makes for the saving choice of life and good against the damning choice of death and evil. Therefore the first hope in our inventory must be the hope that love is going to have the last word." We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate. Love is the key to the solution of the problems of the world.

READER # 7: *A message to the world from a Nagasaki survivor who was nine at the time of the bombing:*

War is sorrowful. I have had so much trouble, looking for a job, and getting married because of the fact that I lost both of my parents to the bombing. Long ago, when my older brother and I were sleeping side by side at our aunt's house, I asked my brother, "Why do we have to go through this much pain and suffering?" I still can't stop my tears from flowing down my cheeks when I try to talk about war. I don't want my daughter and grandsons to have to endure such sorrow.

READER # 8: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil...do not look for revenge, rather, 'if your enemy is hungry feed them; if he is thirsty give him something to drink...' Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." (Romans chapter 12)

Station XIII: Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross (Department of Energy)

READER # 1: Wild dogs and scavenging birds routinely consume the bodies of crucified people. Rome controls the fate of dissidents even to disposal of the corpse. Somehow Joseph convinces Pilate to let him have Jesus' body, and Jesus is taken down from the cross. The final office of loving friends, to rip out the nails, let the strangely heavy body fall into the winding sheet, and carry it away—the last and perhaps most difficult kindness.

READER # 2: The Congressional Budget Office published a report in October 2017 that estimates that between fiscal years 2017 and 2046 nuclear weapons spending will cost taxpayers \$1.2 trillion. The Arms Control Association projects that the 30 year cost will approach \$1.7 trillion. Nearly every element of the US nuclear arsenal is slated to be upgraded over this time—every delivery system (warheads, missiles, submarines, and planes)—every production complex, and command, control, communication, and early warning system.

Other nuclear armed states, notably China and Russia, are upgrading their arsenals and have tested, produced and deployed more brand-new systems than the United States over the past decade. But the US military has upgraded and refurbished nearly all of its existing strategic and tactical delivery systems and the warheads they carry to last well beyond their originally planned life service and is now in the early stages of replacing many of these aging systems with new systems. Though decades old, these modernized forces are more capable than the originals and the new systems will include additional capability upgrades. The current and planned US financial investment in nuclear forces is unrivaled by any other nuclear power.

READER # 3: The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is a cabinet level department of the US Government concerned with policies regarding energy and nuclear materials. Its roots are in the Manhattan Project that developed nuclear weapons during World War II, and today it is responsible for the nation's nuclear weapons program.

The DOE has a system of 17 National Laboratories for both energy and weapons related research. The primary mission of the DOE's Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (the Jefferson Lab), behind us, is to enable basic research of the atom's nucleus by scientists and students worldwide. The protons and neutrons within the atomic nucleus are assembled by more fundamental subatomic particles called quarks and gluons. Jefferson Lab is home to one of the most powerful microscopes in the world for studying these subatomic building blocks: the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility.

The National Nuclear Security Administration within the Department of Energy has the federal responsibility for the design, testing and production of all nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons components are designed at Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (California). Nuclear weapons systems are engineered at Sandia National Laboratories (New Mexico). Tritium, which makes fission bombs more powerful, is produced at South Carolina's Savannah River Plant. Key components are manufactured at Los Alamos, the Kansas City Plant, and Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. Testing is done at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site while final weapon and warhead assembling and dismantling happens at Pantex in Texas.

READER # 4: *Setsuko Thurlow was 13 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her hometown of Hiroshima, Japan. In 1954 the US tested a thermonuclear bomb in the Marshall Islands under the code name Castle Bravo. The bomb produced a 15 megaton explosion, more than 1,000 times as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. After that,*

Thurlow made it her life work to tell her story and to call for global nuclear disarmament. A leading figure in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the following is her 2017 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

I speak as a member of the family of hibakusha—those of us who, by some miraculous chance, survived the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For more than seven decades, we have worked for the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

We have stood in solidarity with those harmed by the production and testing of these horrific weapons around the world; people from places with long-forgotten names, like Moruroa, Ekker, Semipalatinsk, Maralinga, Bikini; people whose lands and seas were irradiated, whose bodies were experimented upon, whose cultures were forever disrupted.

We were not content to be victims. We refused to wait for an immediate fiery end or the slow poisoning of our world. We refused to sit idly in terror as the so-called great powers took us past nuclear dusk and brought us recklessly close to nuclear midnight. We rose up. We shared our stories of survival. We said: humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.

Today, I want you to feel in this hall the presence of all those who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I want you to feel, above and around us, a great cloud of a quarter million souls. Each person had a name. Each person was loved by someone. Let us ensure that their deaths were not in vain.

I was just 13 years old when the United States dropped the first atomic bomb, on my city Hiroshima. I still vividly remember that morning. At 8:15, I saw a blinding bluish-white flash from the window. I remember having the sensation of floating in the air.

As I regained consciousness in the silence and darkness, I found myself pinned by the collapsed building. I began to hear my classmates' faint cries: "Mother, help me. God, help me."

Then, suddenly, I felt hands touching my left shoulder, and heard a man saying: "Don't give up! Keep pushing! I am trying to free you. See the light coming through that opening? Crawl towards it as quickly as you can." As I crawled out, the ruins were on fire. Most of my classmates in that building were burned to death alive. I saw all around me utter, unimaginable devastation.

Processions of ghostly figures shuffled by—grotesquely wounded people—they were bleeding, burnt, blackened and swollen. Parts of their bodies were missing. Flesh and skin hung from their bones—some with their eyeballs hanging in their hands. Some with their bellies burst open, their intestines hanging out. The foul stench of burnt human flesh filled the air.

Thus, with one bomb my beloved city was obliterated. Most of its residents were civilians who were incinerated, vaporized, carbonized—among them, members of my own family and 351 of my schoolmates. In the weeks, months and years that followed, many thousands more would die, often in random and mysterious ways, from the delayed effects of radiation. Still to this day, radiation is killing survivors.

Whenever I remember Hiroshima, the first image that comes to mind is of my four-year-old nephew, Eiji—his little body transformed into an unrecognizable melted chunk of flesh. He kept begging for water in a faint voice until his death released him from agony.

To me, he came to represent all the innocent children of the world, threatened as they are at this very moment by nuclear weapons. Every second of every day, nuclear weapons endanger everyone we love and everything we hold dear. We must not tolerate this insanity any longer.

READER # 5: Through our agony and the sheer struggle to survive—and to rebuild our lives from the ashes—we hibakusha became convinced that we must warn the world about these apocalyptic weapons. Time and again, we shared our testimonies.

But still some refused to see Hiroshima and Nagasaki as atrocities, as war crimes. They accepted the propaganda that these were "good bombs" that had ended a "just war". It was this myth that led to the disastrous nuclear arms race—a race that continues to this day.

Nine nations still threaten to incinerate entire cities, to destroy life on earth, to make our beautiful world uninhabitable for future generations. The development of nuclear weapons signifies not a country's elevation to greatness, but its descent to the darkest depths of depravity. These weapons are not a necessary evil; they are the ultimate evil.

On the seventh of July this year, I was overwhelmed with joy when a great majority of the world's nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Having witnessed humanity at its worst, I witnessed, that day, humanity at its best. We hibakusha had been waiting for the ban for seventy-two years. Let this be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.

All responsible leaders *will* sign this treaty. And history will judge harshly those who reject it. No longer shall their abstract theories mask the genocidal reality of their practices. No longer shall "deterrence" be viewed as anything but a deterrent to disarmament. No longer shall we live under a mushroom cloud of fear.

To the officials of nuclear-armed nations and to their accomplices under the so-called "nuclear umbrella," I say this: Listen to our testimony. Heed our warning. And know that your actions *are* consequential. You are each an integral part of a system of violence that is endangering humankind. Let us all be alert to the banality of evil.

To every president and prime minister of every nation of the world, I beseech you: Join this treaty; forever eradicate the threat of nuclear annihilation.

When I was a 13-year-old girl, trapped in the smoldering rubble, I kept pushing. I kept moving toward the light. And I survived. Our light now is the ban treaty. To all in this hall and all listening around the world, I repeat those words that I heard called to me in the ruins of Hiroshima: "Don't give up! Keep pushing! See the light? Crawl towards it."

Tonight, as we march through the streets of Oslo with torches aflame, let us follow each other out of the dark night of nuclear terror. No matter what obstacles we face, we will keep moving and keep pushing and keep sharing this light with others. This is our passion and commitment for our one precious world to survive.

READER # 6: On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome Jesus because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, saying "You do not know what spirit you are of." (Luke chapter 9)

Station XIV: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

(Newport News Shipbuilding a division of Huntington-Ingalls Industries)

READER # 1: So this is where it ends—all the hopes, all the certainty of the coming reign of God and its glory. Someone else’s tomb, borrowed in haste, with sentries to keep away the mischief-makers. The door is closed and sealed and that’s the end of it.

But the words of his final prayer still settle over Golgotha, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And humanity still doesn’t realize what it means to take up the sword.

The taking of human life through acts of aggression or defense, terrorism or counter terrorism, wars hot or cold, “just” or “unjust,” are all a repetition of the crucifixion. Jesus, God become human, crucified time and again—human beings, the dwelling place of the divine, sacrificed to the false gods of war. We are all implicated. His prayer is for all of us. His body is laid in the tomb for all—for victim first, but also for executioner—a call to live as one human family, to disarm and pursue love, compassion, and mercy, no matter the cost. Soon his body will be living proof that such a life prevails over death.

READER # 2: Newport News Shipbuilding is the sole designer, builder, and refueler of US Navy aircraft carriers and one of two builders of US Navy submarines. With some \$5.2 billion in revenues, \$550 million in profits, and over 23,400 employees, it is the largest industrial employer in Virginia and the largest shipbuilder in the United States.

A division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, Newport News Shipbuilding is currently building the new Ford-class aircraft carriers and Virginia-class fast attack submarines, and refueling and overhauling Nimitz-class carriers. Mobile teams maintain and modernize their carriers and subs around the world.

Huntington Ingalls Industries is also involved in several facilities involved in the production, development, and stockpiling of US nuclear weapons, including Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, and the Savannah River Site.

Newport News Shipbuilding is currently working on design and engineering efforts on the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines slated to replace the Ohio-class Trident submarines, one per year, beginning in 2031. The first sub will begin construction next year and all 12 should be in service by 2042. They are expected to remain active until 2085. This shipyard will build 22% of each sub while General Dynamic’s Electric Boat facility in Groton, Connecticut will build the remainder. New buildings have been constructed at the north end of the yard to handle the work on the new submarines.

Columbia-class submarines, like the Tridents, will carry Trident II D5LE sea launched ballistic missiles. Each sub will be a launch platform for up to 16 missiles loaded with up to eight warheads each, for a maximum of 192 deployed missiles. The Columbia fleet will carry the explosive power of some 1,565 Hiroshima bombs through the century.

Will one or more of the submarines under development and soon to be built here fire the first shots of Doomsday?

READER # 3: *The following is taken from “One Thousand Paper Cranes” by Takayuki Ishii, and other sources:*

Seventy five years ago on the morning of August 6 the skies over Hiroshima, Japan, were clear. At 8:15am a B-29 that had taken off from Tinian Island let drop a single bomb on a country that had already absorbed 7 million high explosive and incendiary bombs. The bomb detonated a half mile above the city.

Blinding light, ferocious wind and searing heat preceded a deafening sonic boom. The temperature on the ground got as hot as the surface of the sun. Within a half-mile of the

hypocenter the destruction was utter and complete and the devastation stretched for miles. Nearly everyone caught outdoors died instantly and those who survived endured horrific burns. Radiation exposure would affect thousands more. Of Hiroshima's population of 370,000, history's first nuclear weapons attack would eventually claim some 150,000 lives.

A mile from the hypocenter, every home in the Sasaki neighborhood was destroyed. Amazingly everyone in the flattened Sasaki home survived, at least initially. Two year old Sadako had been blown out of the window by the blast. As she fled with her mother and brother, they were covered in "black rain," radioactive dust and ash. Her grandmother turned back to the house and was never seen again. The earth burned beneath their feet as they traversed a horrific landscape of suffering, death, and destruction. Rescue teams eventually took the family to another city, where they met up with her father.

A few months later both of her parents became very ill from radiation poisoning, but they recovered. Nine years after the bombing, Sadako wasn't so fortunate. A painful swelling under the sixth-graders ears revealed that she had leukemia, "atom bomb disease," and she was given less than a year to live.

She was admitted to Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital where she shared a room with another young girl named Kiyoko. One day a high school student delivered hundreds of folded paper cranes to the hospital and a nurse gave some origami cranes to the two friends. In Japan it is legend that folding 1000 paper cranes will make a wish come true. The two began folding cranes wishing for their own healing. Paper was scarce and they used medicine wrappers, gift wrap from other patients, candy wrappers, and whatever scraps they could scrounge up. As they continued, their wish became for an end to all such suffering and for peace on earth.

After three weeks they completed 1000 cranes. Soon thereafter Kiyoko was indeed cured and released. Sadako's condition had worsened and she began folding another thousand. She died before she could finish, on October 25, 1955 at age twelve.

At Sadako's wake her friends and classmates swore an oath before her cremated remains that they would build a monument to honor her and all the children who suffered and died from the effects of the atomic bomb. Their efforts sparked a children's peace movement and fundraising campaign that swept through Japan and transformed the origami crane into an international symbol for peace and nuclear disarmament.

On May 5, 1958, Children's Day in Japan, the Children's Peace Monument was unveiled in the center of Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. It depicts Sadako lifting a golden crane skyward. At the foot of the statue is a plaque that reads "This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the World."

Each year some 10 million paper cranes are sent to the Children's Monument from young people around the world. The origami offerings amount to about 10 metric tons annually, more than the weight of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombs combined.

READER # 4: *Indeed, death doesn't have the final word. Philip Berrigan wrote the following in 1997 to an assembly of Pax Christi Maine while in jail for his part in the Prince of Peace Plowshares action aboard a just completed nuclear capable Aegis Guided Missile Destroyer at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine.*

On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, out of fear, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." Once he had said this he showed them his hands and his side. (John 20: 19-20)

The peace of Christ, Pax Christi, be with all of you. Pax Christi is another name for the kingdom of God, or Shalom, as the Hebrew Scriptures described. It is that peace where domination is no more, where injustice is undone, where violence is a relic of the past, where swords have disappeared and plowshares are abundant. It is the peace where all people are treated as sisters and brothers, with respect and dignity, where each life is sacred, and where there is a future for the children. It is such a world that God calls us all to help make a reality.

After conferring peace on his disciples the resurrected Jesus shows them his hands and his side, his wounds from the cross. The cross is the instrument of peace. There is no Pax Christi aside from taking up the cross. In our day, as in Jesus', the cross is the consequence of confronting institutional evil which victimizes and oppresses entire peoples. The cross means taking the offensive with truth and nonviolently breaking unjust laws that perpetuate official violence. Nuclear weapons, humanity's greatest evil, are our starting point. We begin by breaking the web of laws that preserve these weapons for doomsday. In our country this can mean going to jail, risking reputation, job, or income, and even being disowned by family or friends. Yet, amid a criminal state which daily prepares for nuclear holocaust, it truly means freedom, a sense of self and vocation, and a whole new community of friends and family. In fact, it means resurrection. If we only picket, speak, write, or vote against nuclear weapons, we still cooperate with their legality and hence their existence. By breaking the unjust laws protecting them, we actually begin to knock out the underpinnings of an empire that spreads terror, war, and poverty worldwide, and to create Pax Christi here and now.

As with the disciples in the locked room fear never totally abandons us. Yet the exercise of faith is to control fear enough to act against the oppression of the powerful. Pax Christi is not only the end but also the means available to help us to keep fear in check, pick up the cross, and continue Jesus' nonviolent revolution. The more of us who take to the street and refuse to run the country for the benefit of the bosses, and the more we stop obeying their unjust laws, the more we side with God, who passionately sides with terrorized, bombed, starved, and violated people, and the less choice the mighty will have but to step down. Then human creativity, skill, and energy can be freed up to fulfill the rightful purpose of creation. Weapons can be dismantled and melted down and ways found to share the world's bread.

If the Scripture tells us anything, it is that God comes to accomplish the justice awaited by humankind for thousands of years. To break unjust laws is to add our hands to this work, to put our faith in God, and to pick up the cross.

Finally, Pax Christi is among you right now. Jesus stands in your midst. He offers peace, shows you his hands and his side, and issues a call for help in building the kingdom of justice and peace.

READER # 5: Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." (John chapter 20)