

were coming out of a factory and gathered around me with their arms folded and asked: If your prayer were answered, what would happen to us? I asked: Would you sacrifice your sons for your jobs?

I have a proposal: As disarmament begins we change the function of our so-called defense department from destruction to construction, sending out groups to help build, to bring life. I have talked about this with officers of the military and they feel that this is possible. Training changes constantly in the army. This kind of work is already being done in building for occupation, etc. It is needful for the people in this land to face the problems in connection with world peace. I presented a petition on world disarmament and reconversion. I recognized that I did not need to convince them. They know if we do not do this the world will perish together. They send me back to the people, especially in this country, for our people have not been faced with war. Only a very few are not apathetic but want to do something. I was talking with a minister in Fresno who had been in Japan. He was being shown around in Hiroshima by a Christian minister. He was shown a scroll which said: ... "we will not make the same mistake again." The mistake referred to was that they had departed from God's laws and militarized their country. They had been a peaceful people but followed the West. The Japanese minister continued: Of course you will suffer for the dropping of the bombs, but we believe we brought this on ourselves when we departed from God's laws. The first men to go against Korea (?) marched from Hiroshima. No one can depart from God's laws and not suffer the consequences.

Deep repentance is required and a real beginning to do differently in the future. I would like to see a community peace group in every town which would have as its work to approach prayerfully and think through and act upon the problems in connection with world peace. For this is a very dangerous situation. Think of the decision you face. On the one hand the terrible possibility of a mutual war of annihilation, but on the other hand a golden age of peace which would come if we are willing to bring ourselves into harmony again with God's laws. I remember musing beside an old fort one day. I wondered what it would say to us. At that site I wrote an article summing up the world situation. (see reports from Peace Pilgrim and collection of quotes)

There are wonderful things today. Underneath all the activity for war preparation there is a deep longing for peace in the world. Let us not judge by the situation we are in the midst of. Our prayer will be answered. There will be peace in the world. This is in accordance with God's law. But since we have free will, how soon it will come is up to us.

(Peace Pilgrim described her mission at the beginning: In a time of serious crisis it happens that individuals are selected to do something dramatic to arouse and inspire the people. --So she felt called to walk and talk)