

**Peacemaking Testimonies**  
*from the Peacemaking Ministries Website*

Here's a story that proves that these peacemaking principles can be used with Non-Christians. My colleague, "Steve," is an atheist. When we started working together, I grew increasingly uneasy by his casual use of the Lord's name as an epithet. I prayed about whether I could "overlook" this offense from an unbeliever, but it got to the point where I was cringing when I was around him—I knew I had to talk with him.

One thing going for me was that Steve respected me, and I valued our collegiality. I didn't want to offend or upset him. I prayed about how I could present this to him in a manner that would honor God, and would not ridicule Steve. I used some of the "PAUSE" Principles. As I prepared, it occurred to me that, although Steve was not interested in things of God, he respected me for my faith; that helped me determine how to present the issue to him.

On the particular morning when I decided to address this, I saw Steve and asked him whether we could talk sometime that day; he suggested mid-morning, and we agreed on a private meeting site. I didn't want to just dump it on him, so I wanted him to choose a convenient time, but I was grateful that it was within a few hours of my mention of it.

I began our dialogue with another of the PAUSE Principles, affirming our relationship. Then I got to the point, explaining that, when he used the Lord's name in vain, it hurt me, because that's who I worship. He was stunned. He said he had never thought of it that way, and that he really wasn't even that aware of using the Lord's name—"it's just the way I talk." I understood. My request was that he try, when he was around me, to refrain from using the Lord's name in vain. He readily agreed.

That ought to be the end of the story, but it's not. The next day, he told me that he had told his wife that evening about our conversation, and she had responded, "Y'know, I've been thinking that we really ought to clean up our language, so let's work on this together." Then Steve produced an empty jar, which he proudly set on his desk. He announced to everyone that he was going to clean up his language, and he would thus insert a quarter into the jar every time he used a word of profanity. He asked that we all hold him accountable. As you can imagine, some in the office were more than willing to remind him, and even egg him on, to see him toss those quarters into the jar. The funniest moments were when Steve, in mid-sentence, would fish for a quarter in his pocket, shove it into the jar, then proceed with the four-letter word he just couldn't wait to say.

That was a couple years ago. Steve doesn't need the jar on his desk anymore; his language is quite different than it was then. Whenever Steve would tell people that I "made" him clean up his act, I reminded him that I didn't ask him to give up all profanity; all I requested was that he not use the Lord's name in vain, around me, and he took it much further than that.

It takes courage to do Matthew 18:15, but with prayer and preparation, it is powerful enough to "work" even with non-believers.

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***Trusting the Mechanic***  
*Pastor Dave's comments on the following testimonial.*

While I was at the Annual Conference last September, for training in Conflict Coaching and Mediation, one of the staff of Peacemaker Ministries made a comment that I discussed with him later. The comment was about the effectiveness of the principles taught in *The Peacemaking Church*, because they are founded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who trust Christ, said the speaker, trust in His principles.

I concurred with the staffer, but told him of the same experience in reverse. I have watched sisters and brothers who weren't really so sure that they truly trusted in Jesus Christ and His Gospel. They came to see, however, the effectiveness of the principles of peacemaking. In coming to trust the principles, they have increased in trust of the Gospel of the One who teaches us the principles.

I likened it to a master mechanic and his tools. Someone needing repairs to a vehicle [relationship] might not really know or trust the mechanic. Have you ever been there when needing auto repairs? When the one needing repairs sees and experiences the effectiveness of the tools, and how they are used, that one comes to trust the mechanic who provides them.

Jesus Christ is our Master Mechanic, who provides us with tools to work as His apprentices [disciples]. He demonstrates the use of the tools of peacemaking, and gives them to us with instructions. Either we trust the tools because we trust the Mechanic, or we trust the Mechanic through successful experience with the tools.

The following testimonial reflects just that phenomenon. A non-believer observed the effects of the tools, and gave herself to the Mechanic.

Your loving servant in Christ,

*Pastor Dave*

We had a young lady last semester in one of our Tuesday evening Peacemaker classes. She only attended 3 sessions due to the fact that she had a one hour commute from her office to our church in the evenings and then a 2 hour commute home afterwards! I loaned her my set of the CD's of *The Peacemaker* to listen to on the road so that she would have time to do her "homework" for the class. She phoned me a few weeks later - she was ecstatic!

Unbeknownst to us, this woman was of a Middle Eastern religion with no ties whatsoever to Christianity. She had only heard of our class and chosen to come because of a conflict that she was involved in at work - she had no interest in our faith. Through just 2 or 3 classes and the materials, and as she stated, "seeing the peace so evident in your lives", she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. She now is a member of our church and attends our Sunday morning Peacemaker class during the Sunday School hour.

On her first week there she shared her testimony with the class. What evidence she provided for us and our new class this semester that the gospel really works!

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