

# The Peace Memo

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January, 2012

## 2012

The celebrations are finished, the last of the festive mess cleared away. We have reconnected with family and friends. We return to our work having had a slight break from life.

But the world's trajectory has not changed. Wishes for Peace on Earth have not brought peace. On the contrary, as the U.S. military leaves Afghanistan (leaving thousands of contractors and civilians behind), it has agreed to sell \$29 billion of arms to Saudi Arabia. The State Department claims this will "...send a strong message to countries in the region that the United States is committed to stability in the Gulf and broader Middle East." It will also provide 50,000 jobs. (<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/90068900?U.S.%20announces%20Saudi%20arms%20deal%20amid%20tense%20relations%20with%20Iran#ixzz1i8aofpmV>)

How must it feel when the best way to provide for your children is by participating in an industry whose purpose is death?

Still, peace building continues the world over; people refuse to abandon the possibility. Let us take heart from their work and continue our own.

First, some housekeeping. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may unsubscribe by sending an email to [peacememonewsletter-off@csot.com](mailto:peacememonewsletter-off@csot.com) from your email program. This will automatically unsubscribe you. If for some reason you have problems with this, please send an email to [hubbard@csot.com](mailto:hubbard@csot.com) with your name and the email address you want to unsubscribe and it will be removed manually.



## The Noise of Democracy: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between The 2<sup>nd</sup> David L. Dungan Memorial Lecture

Speaker: [Jeff Sharlet](#)

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Time: 7-9 PM; reception and book signing follow

Place: Cox Auditorium, Alumni Memorial Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Jeff Sharlet is the author of *The Family*, *C Street*, and *Sweet Heaven When I Die*, and is a contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and *Harper's*. He teaches creative nonfiction at Dartmouth College.

Jeff Sharlet has done some of the most important writing/research on US religion and politics in the past few years. His work, particularly on *The Family*, is cited by scholars and journalists. Not only does he have high visibility (appearing on several talk shows and in leading publications) but his work bridges academy and community interests. His latest book is [\*Sweet Heaven When I Die: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between\*](#).



## Bill Moyers Returns!

Bill Moyers is returning Broadcasting! He says, "It's not just that I lack retirement skills, as my wife and co-editor, Judith, keep reminding me. Or that the squeaky rocking chair on the front porch got on my nerves. I'm coming back because in tumultuous times like these I relish the company of people who try to make sense of the tumult. These are the people I'll bring to our new broadcast, [\*Moyers & Company\*](#)."



The show debuts on PBS stations in January, 2012.

## Good news from Washington: Peacebuilding on the Rise

[Elaine Hallmark](#)

This message comes from the [Peace Alliance](#).

*Amidst the noise, it's sometimes hard to hear good news coming from Washington. But here is some: Support for peacebuilding in Washington is on the rise. And over the last year the Administration has taken some major steps to improve how US agencies build peace. These are all significant accomplishments for the work of peace and will pave the way for future progress.*

To read more about some of these encouraging developments, as well as opportunities for you to participate, visit [Beyond War](#).

## Disparity

The triennial Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) is one of the best sources for [data on wealth in the U.S.](#) And, of course the Forbes 400 estimates the worth of the wealthiest amongst us—all 400 wouldn't be captured in the SCF. If we look at both the SCF and the Forbes 400 we can glean some interesting insights.

In 2007 (the most recent SCF) the cumulative wealth of the Forbes 400 was \$1.54 trillion or roughly the same amount of wealth held by the entire bottom fifty percent of American families. This is a stunning statistic to be sure.

Upon closer inspection, the Forbes list reveals that six Waltons—all children (one daughter-in-law) of Sam or James "Bud" Walton the founders of Wal-Mart—were on the list. The combined worth of the Walton six was \$69.7 billion

in 2007—which equated to the total wealth of the entire bottom thirty percent!

## MADE IN AMERICA

The National Museum of American History in June opened a [gift shop that sells only American-made merchandise](#). The change came "thanks to a determined senator," Diane Sawyer said on ABC World News. About this time one year ago, [Vermont Senator Bernie] [Sanders](#) had gone shopping for gifts for his grandchildren at the museum. He noticed a counter stocked with small busts of U.S. presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama manufactured in China and other low-wage countries. Sanders returned to the history museum for the grand opening of a gift shop that had been newly restocked with made-in-America merchandise. "I'm proud to see that in a short period of time, there have been changes," he said.

## PIET Plans Third Annual Peacebuilders' Potluck

The [Peacebuilding Institute of East Tennessee](#) is planning to hold its annual potluck dinner Friday, February 24, 2012, at Church of the Good Shepherd, Fountain City, Tennessee. Look for details in next month's *Peace Memo*.

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## Some Other Peace Awards

In looking for year-end peacebuilding accomplishments, these awards came to light.

[Peace and Sport](#) (Monaco) Awards for:

- Peace and Sport Image of the Year
- Best Project for Peace from an International Sports Federation
- Non-Governmental Organization for Peace of the Year
- Best Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Year
- Special Jury Prize
- Champion for Peace of the Year

For more information and great photos, visit the website.

## From Our Peacebuilding Affiliate in Uganda

KAMPALA - Uganda was recently ranked by *Lonely Planet* as the world's most preferred tourism destination for the year 2012. [Lonely Planet](#) is the world's largest Travel Guide Book and Digital Media Publisher. Uganda emerged number one out of 10 other countries surveyed, followed by Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Denmark, Bhutan, Cuba, New Caledonia, Taiwan and Switzerland.

The ranking comes at a time when Uganda is focused on intensifying marketing and promotion of the country both domestically and internationally.

*Lonely Planet* singles out Uganda as the place where Savannah meets the vast East African lakes and where snow-capped mountains bear down on sprawling jungles, but there is more to this Pearl of Africa. Apart from being home to half to the world's surviving mountain gorillas, Uganda is also blessed with half of Africa's bird species, waterfalls, hot springs, forests, national parks and unique climate among others.

Uganda's history is very rich with UNESCO world heritage sites including Nyero rock paintings, Kasubi tombs (currently being reconstructed after the 2010 inferno), Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and the newly discovered home of early man in Karamoja .

And barely a month after this ranking, the National Geographic has listed the Virunga Mountain Ranges as the World's Best Tourist Site. It describes the Virunga as evidence of the dual creative and destructive nature of volcanoes.

Uganda is therefore poised to host visitors to its varied and rich natural, cultural attractions as well as the abundant flora and fauna.

*Lonely Planet* refers would-be travellers to [Uganda](#) to the UK [Foreign & Commonwealth Office travel advice](#) on the country, as there are customs and laws visitors need to be aware of. – ed.



## Interrelatedness

Earth is approaching a convergence of vectors that support life here: population, resource depletion, climate change, distribution of food, access to clean water. This is not news; we've known about our planet's limitations for generations. And we've understood principles of responsible stewardship, even if we've never mastered their practice.

It takes no great logical leap to realize that increased stress on populations will increase conflict. That international power structures do not connect the dots suggests that their talk about peace is just talk and their priorities lie elsewhere.

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Barbara Freese's landmark book, [\*Coal: a Human History\*](#), provides some perspective on where we are and why we chose this path. This article by BBC News environment correspondent Richard Black gives a clear time line. It remains for us – environmentalists, peacebuilders, and all who care – to insure a home for our children.

## Climate talks end with late deal

**1712** - British ironmonger Thomas Newcomen invents the first widely used steam engine, paving the way for the Industrial Revolution and industrial scale use of coal.

**1800** - World population reaches one billion.

**1824** - French physicist Joseph Fourier describes the Earth's natural "greenhouse effect". He writes: "The temperature [of the Earth] can be augmented by the interposition of the atmosphere, because heat in the state of light finds less resistance in penetrating the air, than in re-passing into the air when converted into non-luminous heat."

**1861** - Irish physicist John Tyndall shows that water vapour and certain other gases create the greenhouse effect. "This aqueous vapour is a blanket more necessary to the vegetable life of England than clothing is to man," he concludes. More than a century later, he is honoured by having a prominent UK climate research organisation - the Tyndall Centre - named after him.

**1886** - Karl Benz unveils the Motorwagen, often regarded as the first true automobile.

**1896** - Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius concludes that industrial-age coal burning will enhance the natural greenhouse effect. He suggests this might be beneficial for future generations. His conclusions on the likely size of the "man-made greenhouse" are in the same ball-

park - a few degrees Celsius for a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> - as modern-day climate models.

**1900** - Another Swede, Knut Angstrom, discovers that even at the tiny concentrations found in the atmosphere, CO<sub>2</sub> strongly absorbs parts of the infrared spectrum. Although he does not realise the significance, Angstrom has shown that a trace gas can produce greenhouse warming.

**1927** - Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach one billion tonnes per year.

**1930** - Human population reaches two billion.

**1938** - Using records from 147 weather stations around the world, British engineer Guy Callendar shows that temperatures had risen over the previous century. He also shows that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations had increased over the same period, and suggests this caused the warming. The "Callendar effect" is widely dismissed by meteorologists.

**1955** - Using a new generation of equipment including early computers, US researcher Gilbert Plass analyses in detail the infrared absorption of various gases. He concludes that doubling CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations would increase temperatures by 3-4C.

**1957** - US oceanographer Roger Revelle and chemist Hans Suess show that seawater will not absorb all the additional CO<sub>2</sub> entering the atmosphere, as many had assumed. Revelle writes: "Human beings are now carrying out a large scale geophysical experiment..."

**1958** - Using equipment he had developed himself, Charles David (Dave) Keeling begins systematic measurements of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Mauna Loa in Hawaii and in Antarctica. Within four years, the project - which continues today - provides the first unequivocal proof that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are rising.

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**1960** - Human population reaches three billion.

**1965** - A US President's Advisory Committee panel warns that the greenhouse effect is a matter of "real concern".

**1972** - First UN environment conference, in Stockholm. Climate change hardly registers on the agenda, which centres on issues such as chemical pollution, atomic bomb testing and whaling. The United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) is formed as a result.

**1975** - Human population reaches four billion.

**1975** - US scientist Wallace Broecker puts the term "global warming" into the public domain in the title of a scientific paper.

**1987** - Human population reaches five billion

**1987** - Montreal Protocol agreed, restricting chemicals that damage the ozone layer. Although not established with climate change in mind, it has had a greater impact on greenhouse gas emissions than the Kyoto Protocol.

**1988** - [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) formed to collate and assess evidence on climate change.

**1989** - UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher - possessor of a chemistry degree - warns in a speech to the UN that "We are seeing a vast increase in the amount of carbon dioxide reaching the atmosphere... The result is that change in future is likely to be more fundamental and more widespread than anything we have known hitherto." She calls for a global treaty on climate change.

**1989** - Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach six billion tonnes per year.

**1990** - IPCC produces First Assessment Report. It concludes that temperatures have risen by 0.3-0.6C over the last century, that humanity's emis-

sions are adding to the atmosphere's natural complement of greenhouse gases, and that the addition would be expected to result in warming.

**1992** - At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, governments agree the United Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its key objective is "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Developed countries agree to return their emissions to 1990 levels.

**1995** - IPCC Second Assessment Report concludes that the balance of evidence suggests "a discernible human influence" on the Earth's climate. This has been called the first definitive statement that humans are responsible for climate change.

**1997** - Kyoto Protocol agreed. Developed nations pledge to reduce emissions by an average of 5% by the period 2008-2012, with wide variations on targets for individual countries. US Senate immediately declares it will not ratify the treaty.

**1998** - Strong El Nino conditions combine with global warming to produce the warmest year on record. The average global temperature reached 0.52C above the mean for the period 1961-1990 (a commonly-used baseline).

**1998** - Publication of the controversial "hockey stick" graph indicating that modern-day temperature rise in the northern hemisphere is unusual compared with the last 1,000 years. The work would later be the subject of two enquiries instigated by the US Congress.

**1999** - Human population reaches six billion.

**2001** - President George W Bush removes the US from the Kyoto process.

**2001** - IPCC Third Assessment Report finds "new and stronger evidence" that humanity's

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emissions of greenhouse gases are the main cause of the warming seen in the second half of the 20th Century.

**2005** - The Kyoto Protocol becomes international law for those countries still inside it.

**2005** - UK Prime Minister Tony Blair selects climate change as a priority for his terms as chair of the G8 and president of the EU.

**2006** - The Stern Review concludes that climate change could damage global GDP by up to 20% if left unchecked - but curbing it would cost about 1% of global GDP.

**2006** - Carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach eight billion tonnes per year.

**2007** - The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report concludes it is more than 90% likely that humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases are responsible for modern-day climate change.

**2007** - The IPCC and former US vice-president Al Gore receive the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

**2007** - At UN negotiations in Bali, governments agree the two-year "Bali roadmap" aimed at hammering out a new global treaty by the end of 2009.

**2008** - Half a century after beginning observations at Mauna Loa, the Keeling project shows that CO2 concentrations have risen from 315 parts per million (ppm) in 1958 to 380ppm in 2008.

**2008** - Two months before taking office, incoming US president Barack Obama pledges to "en-

gage vigorously" with the rest of the world on climate change.

**2009** - China overtakes the US as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter - although the US remains well ahead on a per-capita basis.

**2009** - Computer hackers download a huge tranche of emails from a server at the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit and release some on the internet, leading to the "ClimateGate" affair.

**2009** - 192 governments convene for the UN climate summit in Copenhagen with expectations of a new global agreement high; but they leave only with a controversial political declaration, the Copenhagen Accord.

**2010** - Developed countries begin contributing to a \$30bn, three-year deal on "Fast Start Finance" to help them "green" their economies and adapt to climate impacts.

**2010** - A series of reviews into "ClimateGate" and the IPCC ask for more openness, but clear scientists of malpractice.

**2010** - The UN summit in Mexico does not collapse, as had been feared, but ends with agreements on a number of issues.

**2011** - A new analysis of the Earth's temperature record by scientists concerned over the "ClimateGate" allegations proves the planet's land surface really has warmed over the last century.

**2011** - Human population reaches seven billion.

**2011** - Data shows concentrations of greenhouse gases are rising faster than in previous years.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

When	Who	What	Where	Details
Jan 28, 1 PM	Peacebuilding Institute	Steering Committee Meeting	<a href="#">Church of the Sav- ior</a> 934 Weisgarber Rd. Knoxville, TN	
Feb 24	<a href="#">PIET</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Peacebuilders' Pot- luck	<a href="#">Church of the Good Shepherd</a> 5337 Jacksboro Knoxville, TN	TBA – but we guarantee an excel- lent lasagna supper and an chance to meet with other peacebuilders.
Feb 28, 7-9 PM	<a href="#">Jeff Sharlet</a> , Mellon Assistant Professor of English Dartmouth Col- lege, Hanover, NH	Second Annual David L. Dungan Memorial Lecture	Cox Auditorium, Alumni Memorial Building University of TN Knoxville, TN	<i>The Noise of Democracy: Faith, Faithlessness, and the Country In Between</i> For more information, see article on p. 1.

We are always looking for news of events from all over. Not only does it inform readers of nearby opportunities, it provides tremendous support by letting us know what our colleagues are doing. So please send calendar items to the [editor](#).

Please consider supporting our work in ways that are appropriate to your location and means. We would love to have more willing hands. Check the calendar for meetings and events in Knoxville. If you buy books online, please consider ordering, through [our portal](#), from Powell's, an independent bookseller in Portland, Oregon that is competitive with Amazon. We get a small percentage of sales completed through this link.