

Reader	Script
A	<p>Much has happened since our last meeting. The Martin Place Siege captured the attention of the Australian and global media. Overseas, the massacre of cartoonists in the Charlie Hebdo office dominated media coverage for days. Such events divert attention away from any progress towards peace and peace stories themselves, are rarely considered newsworthy. Secrecy continues to shroud Australia's "Operation Sovereign Borders" and our new military engagements in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the current crop of designated enemies appears to pray more often than we do.</p> <p>I have recently found a lot of encouragement in a paper by Michael Kinnamon from Seattle University. Kinnamon argues that the global ecumenical movement is a movement for peace. He identifies five principles of an emerging consensus in the ecumenical movement.</p> <p>Let us reflect on each of these principles:</p>
B	War is contrary to the will of God.
C	There are some forms of violence in which Christians may not participate and which the churches must condemn.
D	Non-violent resistance is central to the way of peace.
E	Peace is inseparable from justice.
F	Reconciliation stands at the heart of the gospel message.
A	The ecumenical movement in my own local area has been slowly getting involved with social justice issues. Kinnamon recommends four actions that can help form a peacemaking sensibility in local communities and I hope these challenges are taken up.
G	Pray on a regular basis for those regarded as enemies by our nation or group.
H	Practice peace in our own congregations, especially by committing ourselves to seek relationship with people we prefer to avoid!
I	Seek partnership with a near-by congregation that historically has taken a different approach to matters of war and peace.
J	Join with other congregations in a local activity that counters violence.