

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

A Moment for Peace

By Kerry Methner / CASA

IN A WORLD WHERE INDIVIDUAL WORDS can elicit visions of horror and violence, such as Darfur or Hiroshima, Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived in Santa Barbara recently to support the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, embodying as an individual, one word, hope.

“Nuclear disarmament is not an option for governments to take up or ignore. It is a moral duty owed by them to their own citizens, and to humanity as a whole,” Archbishop Tutu noted.

The 1984 Nobel Laureate for Peace has been a member of the NAPF’s Advisory Board since he accepted their highest honor, the Distinguished Peace Leadership award in 1990, for his work against apartheid in South Africa.

The 79 year old leader of South Africa’s Peace and Reconciliation Commission who is entering a phased retirement started his pre-dinner conversation with an apology that drew a chuckle... “Please excuse me if I sit, I’ve become less young.”



Archbishop **Desmond Tutu** with hosts **Nancy and Larry Koppelman**, and their daughter, **Renee**

That was the beginning of a conversation punctuated with laughter and the gracious spirit of Tutu.

He began on familiar ground, but soon was weaving new threads into the conversation about nuclear disarmament.

Set in the beautiful and peaceful environment of Nancy and Larry Koppelman’s beachside home, guests relaxed into Dr. Tutu’s message after enjoying savory appetizers by Ayda Robana’s Om Seet Mama Catering and wine by MaryBeth and James Vogelzang’s Vogelzang Vinyard.

“It’s a historic moment,” Anna Grotenhuis expressed, summarizing what many felt as they awaited Dr. Tutu’s arrival.

Tutu took up a thread of Santa Barbara’s own history, the environmental movement, noting how at first they were considered peculiar. Drawing a parallel, he noted that nuclear disarmament supporters might also be in that category. And just as the environmental movement has moved mainstream, including concern about global warming, Tutu hinted that those who speak for nuclear disarmament will also find themselves mainstream.

“We have one planet to call home and it is at considerable risk,” he shared.

But that was not his message. His message

“We have one planet to call home and it is at considerable risk,” Archbishop Desmond Tutu shared.

was to “not give up on anyone,” because they can change.

“Look at the United States where there is racism on one hand and a black president in the white house,” Tutu explained. “So, don’t give up.”

He continued, “Why do we accept it? A billion and a half people every day go to bed hungry... Don’t give up.”

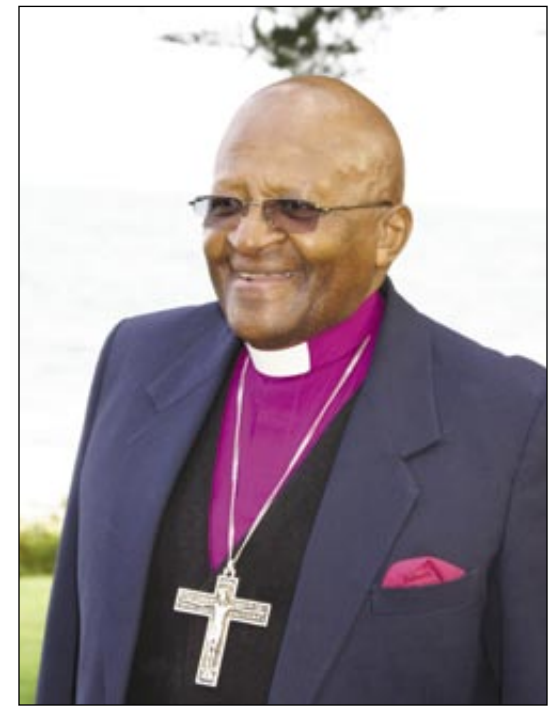
The critical insight that Archbishop Tutu shared was that the environmental movement and the recognized threat of global warming are intimately related to nuclear weapons and to war.

When, as he shared, hunters in Greenland can’t hunt due to thin ice; polar bears are drowning; south sea island trees are being poisoned by rising salt water; and tribes in Africa are fighting for more and more limited grazing land, water and warming become matters that can insight war. Any nuclear engagement would exacerbate these problems.

“People will go to war because of water. Water is as precious as gold, platinum,” he shared. “People like David [who started the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation] may have been regarded as crazy, but people will eventually get it... We are playing with worse than fire. I want to commend David and all his supporters who have been speaking up even when it has been unpopular. They’ll be seen in the years to come as saviours of our world.”

Tutu can hold this positive, faithful stance in part because he has seen it work. After the ending of apartheid, he led the Peace and Reconciliation Commission. His most powerful tool? Forgiveness. “He forged a new way to peace, through forgiveness,” related Krieger. In the process Tutu helped transform South Africa and the world. “He is a man of great faith.”

For information on the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation visit www.wagingpeace.org or call 965-3443.



Archbishop **Desmond Tutu**



Anna Grotenhuis and **Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree**



Gerry Spence and **Mark Hamilton**



Diana Basehart, **Sharon Siegel**, and **Ann Smith**



Peter McDougal and **Herb Kendall**



U.S. Congresswoman **Lois Capps** with **Gary Becker** and **Anne Smith-Towbes**



Nancy Koppelman and **Mary Ellen Tiffany**



NAPF Interns **Cara Gregiore** and **Olivia Wong** with **Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree**



Nancy and **The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Bullock** of All Saints-By-The-Sea



NAPF President **David Krieger**, **Mollie Ahlstrand**, **Nancy Koppelman**, and **Richard Mineards**