

Quaker House Newsletter

Front-Line Peace Witness Since 1969

Early Fall 2008

Fayetteville, NC www.quakerhouse.org

Chuck Fager, Director

Visits to the Dark Side – And Back?

Two new books shine a sharp spotlight on Fort Bragg and its role in our current war. The first is *The Dark Side*, by the *New Yorker's* Jane Mayer. It brings together several years of pioneering reporting on the creation of the US torture system after 9-11.



Retired General Jerry Boykin at a Fayetteville megachurch, August 2008: Preaching Against the "Gravest Threat" the US ever faced.

Much of Mayer's narrative focuses on Washington, and in particular the machinations within the White House. But one of the key events in the launching of what I have called the "Torture Industrial Complex" occurred on September 16, 2002, at Ft. Bragg, hosted by the Special Operations Command. Interrogators from Guantanamo were brought to Bragg for briefings by Special Forces trainers on their SERE program – Survival-Evasion-Resistance & Escape. **Page 2 >>**

Showdown In Canada: GI Exiles Caught In Political Crossfire

Just as we were going to press, media reports were saying that a national election in Canada was to be called for mid-October.

This news adds political turmoil to an already uncertain situation facing US soldiers who have refused to go to Iraq and sought refuge in Canada.

But it also adds opportunity. A new government might be more sympathetic to the resisters than the Conservatives now in power. A majority of the Canadian parliament voted in June to find a way to let the exiles stay.

But such a change may come too late for Jeremy Hinzman, a paratrooper from Ft. Bragg who arrived in Toronto in early 2004. On August 13, the Canadian border agency ordered him to be deported from Canada by September 23.

If he returns to military custody here, Jeremy can expect to face a court martial for desertion, and a prison sentence. **Page 3 >>**



Protesters in Fayetteville respond to news of the deportation order for Jeremy Hinzman.

The GI Hotline At 14: New Number, New Records In Call Volume

The GI Rights Hotline "opened for business" on September 22, 1994. It was a collaborative project of a number of groups, with then Director of Quaker House Sandy Sweitzer playing a key role.

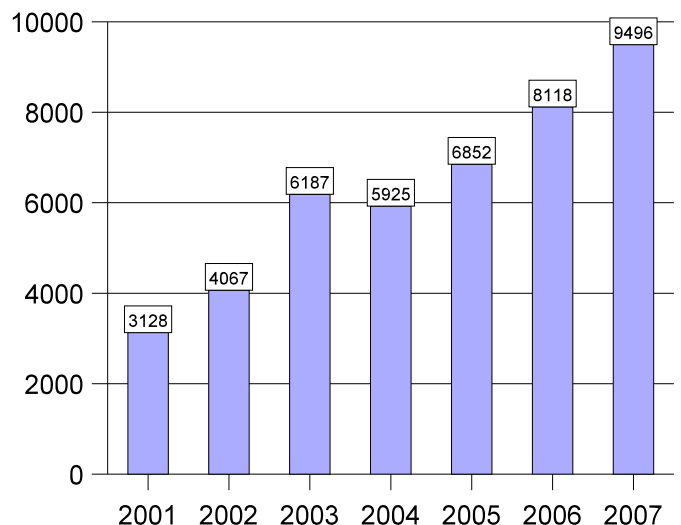
Calls to the Hotline increased steadily. In 2003 the Quaker House total was more than 3000; by 2007 it had passed 8000.

The past year has seen a lot of internal transition in the Hotline network, including a new phone number (**877-447-4487**), new hosting arrangements, and a reorganized approach to network governance.

All the recent reshuffling has delayed the collection of solid statistics for the past year. Now we have them, and they show a remarkable jump, from the previous high of 8118 calls in 2006, to almost 9500 calls in 2007.

This surge in calls put much pressure on our veteran Hotline counselors, Steve Woolford & Lenore Yarger, who provide 35 hours per week of live phone coverage for the Hotline. The pressure was increased when their second child, Charles Quinn Yarger, was born in May, 2007. To cope with the continued increase, we added a third part-time Hotline counselor. Since that counselor moved on last spring, we have not yet filled the post, due to a financial slowdown related to the tough economy.

Quaker House GI Hotline Calls: 2001-2007



With continuing deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, stresses on soldiers and their families remain intense. We still hear sad and shocking stories almost every day.

Truth In Recruiting Returns – Wilkes County NC

With another school year starting, our Friend Sally Ferrell in Wilkes County NC is making another effort to bring Truth In Recruiting materials to the high schools there. (See our Newsletter reports about her multi-years struggle in the issues for fall 2007 and winter 2008.) Military recruiters have long had broad access to the same schools, and she wants equal access for alternative information.

Ferrell's quiet conflict with the county school superintendent was recently the subject of an Associated Press article that went out on the national newswires. And if the schools don't make some arrangement soon for her to bring her truth in recruiting items, the North Carolina ACLU is ready to file a lawsuit.

"Are we going to pursue litigation? I think it's pretty clear that the School Board isn't giving us any choice to do anything else," Katherine Parker, legal director of the ACLU's state chapter, told the AP reporter.

Sally was briefly able to set up a table in a high school last year. But there was objection to some of her materials – specifically our "Sgt. Abe" flyer examining the enlistment agreement – which officials criticized as "religious."

Quaker House Renovations Almost Done!



Old House-New House: ready for more decades of work for peace.

You can't tell much from a black and white snapshot, but this is a view of Quaker House after four months of renovations work. Besides replacing old and dangerous wiring, much of the interior has been updated and reconfigured. Plus the front porch floor has been replaced,

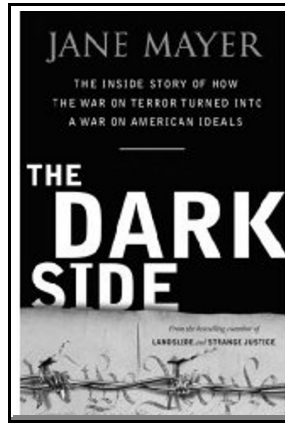
the garage rebuilt, and it and the whole house has been repainted, inside and out. And much more.

We're still finishing up the last items on this years-long effort. But the goal of the project – to get Quaker House in shape for another generation of peace witness – is now within reach.

And this is a good time to say **THANK YOU** again to all who made it possible: the many donors, the architect and contractors, and the board members who put both brainpower, dedication, and muscle into it. Like this:



Hands-On Policymaking: Quaker House board members dealing with long-term garage issues.



Dark Side, cont. Part of the SERE training subjects soldiers to supervised abusive treatment, including waterboarding, simulating conditions they might encounter if captured. The techniques are reportedly applied to coerce trainees into signing false confessions, and it appears that almost all trainees break down and sign.

The techniques demonstrated at Ft. Bragg then "migrated" to US military and CIA prisons at Guantanamo, Iraq and Afghanistan. There they became the basis for a routine of interrogation-by-torture which came to public notice first at Abu Ghraib, but has been documented at many other centers.

This torture regime has been condemned around the world. Further, as Mayer shows in extensive detail, it has produced many false and recanted confessions, but little in the way of documented useful intelligence. Moreover, hundreds of people held and abused for years at Guantanamo and other prisons have been ultimately released without being charged; that is, they were innocent. Nevertheless, Mayer reports that this torture program still has the support of the White House, and it continues.

The other book, *Never Surrender*, is by a Special Forces insider and former commander, retired General William G. "Jerry" Boykin. In 2003 Boykin came to public notice because of a series of speeches he gave at large churches, in uniform, which framed the US war against Al Qaeda and terror as an apocalyptic religious struggle, with the US representing God against Satan, under divinely-appointed political leaders.

Boykin was criticized and investigated for these statements, but was cleared of any wrongdoing and finished his career as a top pentagon planner of secret anti-terror missions.

Most of *Never Surrender* re-tells war stories from Boykin's days as a member and leader of the super-secret Delta Force. These are exciting enough, and include the failed Iranian hostage rescue mission in 1979, the Grenada and Panama invasions, and the costly "Black Hawk Down" fighting in Mogadishu Somalia.

Boykin, who was wounded twice, has certainly earned his spurs as a warrior. However, as Boykin admits, his tales are limited to incidents which have already come to public notice. Most of his Delta missions are still shrouded in secrecy.

One question which arises from reading these two books in tandem is, how much did Boykin know about the fateful "migration" of SERE torture techniques? At the time of the 2002 interrogation conference, he was commander of the Special Warfare School at Ft. Bragg; training was part of his job.

And a second question follows the first: whatever his role, what does Boykin think of the program now, six years on? What would he make of Mayer's extensive evidence that cruelty in interrogations produces many confessions, most of them false?

Boykin has been to Fayetteville more than once this summer, promoting his book, and will return shortly after this newsletter goes to press. Most recently, he preached at a local megachurch, and spoke at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum. He did not address these questions directly, but many comments suggest that he supports it to the hilt, and would see any slackening as a defeat.

Indeed, during these visits, Boykin has repeated his contentions about the eschatological character of the struggle against "radical Islam," which embodies the work of Satan. The US has been "ordained by God" to be a "light in a world of darkness," and this conflict will "soon" culminate in the cataclysmic fulfillment of biblical prophecies, especially Ezekiel 38's tale of the war of "Gog" and "Magog."

Boykin joins other end-times writers in predicting that Russia will join Islamic nations in a massive, invasion of Israel. This invasion will climax at the battle of Armageddon; the invaders will be divinely doomed to fail, but the bloodshed will be, well, apocalyptic. **More >>**

MORE QUAKER HOUSE NEWS

Now Online: Quaker House Newsletters: Twenty-two issues of the Quaker House newsletter, from 2002 through Spring 2008, have now been uploaded to our website. All are in PDF files. To read one or all, just click on the "Newsletters" link at: www.quakerhouse.org.

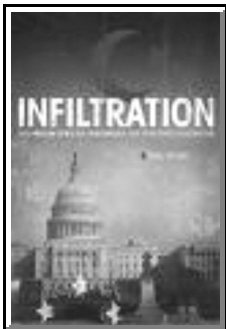
Sign Up for Email Updates: Quaker House is joining the wired generation, and will soon begin sending out periodic email updates about our work and projects.

If you'd like to receive these updates, please send us an email with your contact information to: hillside223@aol.com.

Coming Soon: The Quaker House Book. In 2009, Quaker House will reach the 40th anniversary of work as a front-line peace witness. As part of the observance, we're at work on a book telling the Quaker House story. It's an exciting saga, so watch for more news about the book.

Dark Side, cont. Boykin also took pains to rebuke critics who had accused him of wanting to re-create the ancient Christian crusades against Islam. He insisted that only one to three per cent of Muslims support the "Radical Islam" he considers satanic.

Yet in his talks he also urged his listeners to read several other books which undermine this qualified view. They include *America Alone*, by conservative columnist Mark Steyn, and *Infiltration*, by journalist Paul Sperry. Both these books deride such three per cent notions as self-defeating illusions. As Sperry puts it, "the term fundamentalism is foreign to Muslims. They are all fundamentalists, or they are not Muslims."



Mark Steyn is no less assertive. Most of Europe, he contends, is in a "demographic death spiral" and performing an act of "auto-genocide," because of Muslim immigration. This, he says, portends "the end of the world as we know it," and its replacement by a slow-mo plunge into "societal collapse, fascist revivalism, and then the long Eurabian night."

These are the backup sources Boykin recommends. The depth of the danger he sees was underlined by one other warning Boykin restated several times: that our political leaders, even those now at the highest levels, will not dare speak truthfully about this dire situation, because of "political correctness." The implication seemed to be that they are in on the plot.

No wonder he kept repeating that the US is in greater danger now than it has ever been, much more even than at the height of the Cold war's nuclear standoff with the Soviet Union.

Yet if the adequate response to such an apocalyptic threat is not a "crusade," then what other term would be adequate? My thesaurus does not mention many options: *Rally. Campaign. Movement. War.* Or – well, I suppose I should have guessed it: *jihad.*

The Dark Side's conclusion is more understated, as befits the *New Yorker's* style. Mayer notes that by early 2008, "growing numbers of former administration insiders had abandoned the government with the conviction that in waging war against terrorism, America had lost its way. Many had fought valiantly to right what they saw as a dangerously wrong turn." But thus far, these principled conservatives have lost every major fight inside the White House.

Thus in these two books, we have starkly competing visions of both our recent past, and likely future: *Never Surrender*, and prepare for Armageddon; versus a careful delineation of our national slide into *The Dark Side*, with the way out as yet unclear.

Canada, Cont. The Canadian border agency issued the deportation order on August 13, turning aside Hinzman's request to stay in Canada on humanitarian grounds.

Jeremy's attorney, Alyssa Manning, said she will file a last-ditch request with Canadian court for a stay which would delay the deportation. In July, Manning obtained such a stay for another GI exile, Corey Glass, just hours before Glass was to be deported. Manning said the border agency's decision failed to take into account the impact of deportation on Hinzman's family.



Parents Jeremy Hinzman & Nga Nguyen welcome their new, Canadian citizen daughter Meghan, Toronto, July 2008.

Hinzman's family grew in late July, when his second child, Meghan, was born in Toronto. His case now involves a family of four, with his wife Nga, and son Liem, with Meghan qualifying for Canadian citizenship.

Hinzman was the first US soldier to seek refuge from the Iraq war in Canada. He would be the second American GI to be deported. Robin Long was turned over to US authorities in July. After several weeks in jail, Long was court-martialed in late August and sentenced to 15 months in prison.

We'll continue to follow Jeremy's situation closely.

LATE UPDATE: You can see Jeremy and his family make a personal appeal to the Canadian prime minister, in a short YouTube video, at the website for the Resisters support campaign. Go to www.resisters.ca and scroll down.

An Email About Jeremy Hinzman:

August 13, 2008

Dear Mr. Fager:

I recently read your comments in the Fayetteville Observer regarding Jeremy Hinzman's request for permission to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds being denied.

"I expect this is not a happy day for him up there," Fager said. "This is a very disappointing decision. It puts Canada more fully in complicity with an illegal and immoral war. Jeremy will probably end up back here at Fort Bragg. That's usually what happens."

Sir, all wars past and present are illegal and immoral, but whether we like it or not, they are fought nonetheless. As citizens of this great nation, we are obligated to defend her at all cost when the need arrives. In my opinion, and I am a Veteran of this country (Navy), Jeremy Hinzman is nothing but a coward who is hiding behind his claim for humanitarian grounds. He needs to be brought back to Fort Bragg so he can come face to face with the people he ran away from, the citizens of the United States of America.

One other thing, if people who are living in this country do not like the policies of this government whether they be right or wrong, then they have the choice to get out and go live somewhere else where everything is perfect for them!

Sincerely,
Don Kaminska
Fayetteville, NC

Quaker House Newsletter

Front-Line Peace Witness Since 1969
223 Hillside Avenue, Fayetteville NC 28301
www.quakerhouse.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Fayetteville NC
Permit No. 172

Address Service Requested

Early Fall 2008

Inside:

- > Ft. Bragg GI In Canada Ordered Deported
- > Visits to "The Dark Side" Brought To Light
- > GI Rights Hotline Calls Set Another Record
- > Ready For More Service: Renovations Done!
- > *And More!*

Quaker Chuckles

Getting The Picture

One morning at New Hope Friends School, Teacher Sarah Makepeace gave her kindergarteners a drawing lesson, and then directed them to draw something from the natural world. As possible models she had flowers, rocks, a shiny piece of weathered driftwood, and other items set around the room.

As the children leaned into their desks, pencils and crayons moving, Teacher Sarah moved among them, observing the work. When she saw Charity Scattergood working with fierce concentration, the pedagogue paused to inquire what the drawing was.

"Oh, thank thee for asking," said Charity. "I'm drawing God."

"Really," said the teacher. "But don't thee remember at meeting last week, I told thee that no one knows what God looks like?"

Undeterred, the child turned back to her drawing. "Thee just wait," she said. "They will in a minute."

Immediate Revelation, Immediate Mediation

A lovely but worried Jewish woman, who was preparing to marry a handsome Catholic man, was confiding in her maid of honor, who happened to be a Quaker and a trained mediator.

"We're having a problem, Sue," said the bride-to-be. "Traditions are very important to both our families, and this is making choosing a theme song for the wedding a big challenge. Christopher's brother has a fine operatic voice, and he's especially noted for singing

'Ave Maria'. But all my mother could do when he mentioned this was to heave a big sigh and say, 'Oy vey! What will we do?'"

Her Friend thought a moment, then her conflict resolution reflexes clicked in. "That's it!" she said. "Let him sing 'Oy Vey Maria.'"

The Color of Truth

"Mother," said young Obadiah, "why is it that some of thy hairs are white?"

"Well," said his mother, wanting to be both serious and facetious, "Every time thee does something bad or that makes me cross, one of my hairs turns white."

Obadiah pondered this for a moment. "Then, Mother," he said at last, "how come ALL of grandmother's hairs are white?"

Chips Off the Old Block

Back at New Hope Friends School, it was lunch time. At the head of the cafeteria line was a large bowl of apples. Teacher Sarah wrote a note and put it next to the bowl: "Please take only one. God is watching."

At the other end of the lunch line there was a plate piled with chocolate chip cookies. When Charity Scattergood got there, she saw another note, in a child's hand: "Take all thee wants. God is watching the apples."

**Thanks for your tax-deductible donations, which make the work of Quaker House possible.
Have you considered including Quaker House in your estate planning?**
