

## Walk for Peace

If you live in this part of North Carolina, you have undoubtedly heard about this week's "Walk for Peace." A group of 19 Buddhist monks is on a 2,300-mile walk from their home state of Texas to Washington, DC. Their historic pilgrimage traverses 10 states, stopping at state capitals, historic landmarks, and local communities along the way to a February arrival in our nation's capital. Locally, they gave presentations at Truist Stadium in High Point and the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, both to standing-room-only crowds. The large crowds and media attention show that people want peace instead of the chaos of our world.



Their message was one of Peace, Love, Kindness, and Compassion. One of their spiritual leaders said, "We walk not to protest, but to awaken the peace that already lives within each of us... not to force peace upon the world, but to help nurture it, one awakened heart at a time." They said, "Walk for Peace invites all people, regardless of faith, culture, or background, to come together in the spirit of compassion, mutual respect, and understanding." The monks are peacemakers with an important message. The Bible reminds us: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).*

Don't we all want to experience peace in our lives? Like a breath of fresh air, we would love to live in a stress-free world. Jesus warned us that we will incur problems, but to look to Him for peace. *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33). In Romans 12:18, scripture tells us, *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."* Did you catch the last two words: with all?



Christian evangelist Billy Graham preached about spiritual peace. He said, the world doesn't have any real peace to give. The world's attempt at peace depends on compromise and negotiation, not on truth. Spiritual peace is based solely on Jesus Christ as our foundation and can't be achieved on our own. Only because of His forgiveness can we be at peace with ourselves and others. We don't need

to worry about our imperfections. We are free to interact with others with genuine kindness, compassion, and respect for others. In a nutshell, it reflects "who" and "whose" we are.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" is a popular Christian song often sung during the annual celebration of the birth of Christ. Its second line makes it personal: "and let it begin with me." Our inner motivation is to be like Christ, expressed outwardly towards others. The Peace Walk is a simple reminder that peace is possible within us and then radiates outward to families, communities, and society as a whole." Let us have God's peace in our hearts so we can radiate God's love, kindness, and compassion for others. Thanks to God, we can say, "Let it begin with me."

**The Bible Says:** *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you (2 Thessalonians 3:16); Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid John 14:27).*

**Closing Prayer:** This is personal. In your own words, pray that your inner peace will result in love, kindness, respect, and compassion for others.