

# Pilgrim Walks for World Peace

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Peace Pilgrim

By JANET BURTON

Her name is Peace Pilgrim; her home is the open road. She walks the highways and byways, a silver haired woman in navy slacks and shirt and a short tunic with pockets all around the bottom in which she carries her worldly possessions . . . a comb, a folding toothbrush and a ball point pen.

A fanatic? Yes, if complete dedication to what she feels is her mission in life, peace, is fanaticism.

On the front of her tunic is lettered her name "Peace Pilgrim," on the back "25,000 Miles for World Peace." She has walked those miles but she continues to walk for her vow is, "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She walks, this modern-day pilgrim, without a penny in her pocket; she is affiliated with no organization; she goes only where she is invited and speaks only to those who want to hear.

### Walks as a Prayer

She walks as a prayer and as a chance to inspire others to pray and work with her for peace.

She walks without fear through the deserts, the mountains, into small farm communities, to college campuses, through the country's teeming cities.

Peace Pilgrim has found her peace, a oneness with God and her fellow human beings that makes her life calm, serene, unhurried.

But, it was not ever thus for her. Thirty years ago she was by today's standards, a successful woman. She had money; she

had things. She did not have happiness.

She sought, in receptive silence, direction for her life. She had reached maturity emotionally and mentally; she did not have spiritual maturity. She started then to live to give instead of to get, living all good things in which she believed, and she admits that it took living a long time to catch up with believing. But, she had the wisdom to change only one thing at a time.

Two things happened to her at this time. She was blessed with good health and her life's work, work for peace, became known to her. She also took a vow of simplicity: "I shall not accept more than I need while others in the world have less than they need." She lives her life today only at the need level, believing that unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens.

Her spiritual growing up was one of struggle, but finally, after 15 years she found inner peace; she had brought her life into harmony with God's laws which are the same for all men,

and she had found her special place in the divine plan . . . a place that is unique for every human soul. At last she was ready to give her life to God and to service for a cause.

Once, amid the beauty of a New England hillside, she saw a map of the United States marked with the principal cities and a jagged course from Los Angeles to New York City.

### Began 15 Years Ago

And so, on New Year's Day 15 years ago Peace Pilgrim started her pilgrimage ahead of the parade at the Tournament of Roses. She had no plan, no destination, but television, radio and newsmen who spotted her at the parade talked with her and in one day she had given her message to every major

network and to the West Coast papers.

Her first pilgrimage took her into Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, along the lake front through Gary to Michigan and across the Great Lakes states to New York. She has walked three pilgrimages for peace counting her miles until she reached her first goal, and still she continues to walk.

Peace Pilgrim is not asking that others become pilgrims but rather she seeks to arouse people from their apathy, to make them think and to make them see that only through their own inner peace can there be peace in the world. She believes that world peace will come in her

lifetime. There is good in every human being and how soon it is brought out is up to us. We cannot stop peace, we can only postpone it.

Where she came from, who she was is of no importance. Her life as she lives it today is a message for the whole world. She looks not for results for "all good efforts bear good fruit and the results are in God's hands."

Her formula for inner peace is no magical miracle but steps which, if taken by every human being, can wrest the world from the brink of chaos toward which we are being pushed. They are simply: 1. change your attitude toward life, stop trying to escape; stop living on the surface; change your attitude toward problems which are all solvable with God's help; 2. bring your life into harmony with God's laws, both physical and spiritual; 3. find your place in God's plan whether it is as a carpenter, a farmer, a teacher or a shoemaker, and 4. live your life only at the need level.

### Purifications, Relinquishments

Peace Pilgrim implements these steps toward inner peace with what she calls purifications and relinquishments. She suggests physical purification: good food, exercise and adequate rest; purification of thoughts or positive thinking; purification of desire, and purification of motives, changing motives to service.

Perhaps the hardest of all is the relinquishing of: self will; the feeling of separateness, for anything that hurts one hurts all; all attachments, thus putting all material things into perspective and letting go of things which have outlived their usefulness; all negative feelings like worry for it is useless to mull over things which we cannot change; and living for the present moment which is the only time God gives a person to live.

Peace Pilgrim will walk this way again. She is spending her days talking to college students, to civic and service organizations and to church groups, and Gary is on her schedule for October, 1971.

Her schedule is kept for her by a woman in Pennsylvania; her newsletter is published in Cologne, N.J. Penniless and publishing a newsletter people ask. Peace Pilgrim receives thousands and thousands of letters from people all over the world. Many send her money, money which she will not use for herself. But, to put a meaningful use to the money she publishes the newsletter sent free of charge to all who ask. It can be obtained by writing to Peace Pilgrim, Cologne, N.J., 08213.

There are few who live their lives with the dedication of Peace Pilgrim, but her message is one which has been told since that Easter morning in the Garden of Gethsemane.