

Talking Points Regarding Iraq Medical Relief Appeal

Every day we listen to the news reports of dozens killed and many more injured as the madness in Iraq continues. It is imperative for Christians to express compassion to the civilian victims and offer tangible assistance.

Whether we choose to “bring peace by fighting” or “withdraw and accept a chaotic aftermath”, conscience requires that we must express our conviction that we actually care for the injured, the oppressed, those who bear the brunt of this tragic situation.

It is in the American tradition that during wars, the home-front role was compassionate engagement and sacrifice. We bought war bonds, rationed resources, gave blood, limited travel, and assisted our defeated foes to rebuild their nations. This special conflict requires nothing less. We cannot remain passive.

The United Church of Christ has supported an active missionary program in Iraq for well over a century. With the formation of congregations, schools, and hospitals we were participants in that nation’s history. We therefore need to continue to support an expression of Christian charity for all, and we dare not abandon our Iraqi brothers and sisters in Christ.