



Victim Offender Reconciliation Program

VORP News - March 1986

The VORP Gathering is March 13, 1986 and you are invited. The purpose of this gathering is to bring together those people who have contributed through financial contributions, volunteering, or in some other way expressed interest in VORP. This is a time to celebrate and to hear from Howard Zehr, our guest speaker, how we fit into the larger Victim/Offender Reconciliation picture both nationally and internationally. Howard is the person who more than anyone else has provided the vision for VORP.

Consistent with our participatory program, we are planning to eat a potluck meal together. You are invited to bring some food but we don't want that to keep you from coming. If your last name starts with A-L please bring a main dish and rolls; M-Z please bring a salad and a dessert.

We will be meeting at the College Community Mennonite Brethren Church social hall located at 2529 Willow Ave., Clovis. This is on Willow between Gettysburg and Shaw. Please arrive at 6:30 PM so that we can get the food organized and start eating by 6:45.

In order to help us with final arrangements, please call Greg Stobbe in our office if you have't, already informed us of the number that will be coming in your party. If you wish to invite guests in order to introduce them to VORP, we would welcome them.

I mentioned in an earlier letter that Christine Slonetsky has joined our staff. She came to us through the Mennonite Voluntary Service program. In order to introduce her, I have asked her some questions.

What is your age and family background and where is home? "I am 23 years old and the youngest of 6 children. Actually, I am the second youngest. My twin sister, Carol, is seven minutes younger than I. Aside from Carol, I have an older sister and three older brothers. My father was born in Prudhome, Saskatchewan, and my mother in Thunderbay, Ontario. After several years of marriage, they moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It was there that they raised six little Slonetsky's into six big Slonetsky's. I lived with my parents until age twenty at which point I began university in Waterloo."

What is your educational background? "After completing high school, I spent one year studying classical guitar at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. The next year, I entered the music program at the University of Toronto. Three months into the program, I decided that I did not want to continue. Later that year I transferred into the Faculty of Arts where I studied a wide range of subjects. Upon completing that year, I opted to pursue a degree in Religious Studies. I obtained a degree in Religious Studies from the University of Waterloo in December of 1985."

Why did you decide to pursue voluntary service? "Ever since I was a child, I have wanted to be a missionary in Africa. At age 18, I spent a summer in Austria with a missionary organization known as "Operation Mobilization." Many good things happened that summer. However, as I reflected on that experience, I felt less and less comfortable by the fact that the missions' aim was directed almost exclusively towards the spiritual needs of people. When I learned about the different Mennonite mission boards, I was attracted to their wholistic approach to fulfilling Christ's call. I see voluntary service as a vehicle by which both the people I work with and myself are able to realize our true selves both as individuals and as parts of a larger whole."

Why did you choose VORP in Fresno out of all the possible assignments you could have taken? "When I applied to voluntary service, I was overwhelmed by the number of jobs which were available. I only had very vague ideas of what I wanted to do which made my selection very difficult. I applied for the position with VORP in Fresno along with a number of other jobs. I finally narrowed it down to two. I think that what pulled the weight towards working with VORP was a conversation I had with Ron and Greg. They made it sound as though I was really needed. So here I am."

What are your favorite leisure time activities? "The two things which I enjoy the most are music and the outdoors. In addition to guitar, I play the flute. Outdoor activities I enjoy include traveling, camping, swimming, and jogging. Since I arrived in Fresno, I have gained an interest in sewing and cycling."

Christine is our case manager. She receives the referrals, sets up the files, contacts volunteers, and keeps the referring agency informed on the progress of the case and submits a final report when the case is completed. Christine is very competent and has learned quickly. We are pleased to have her on our staff and appreciate her willingness to serve. She and Greg both have volunteered to live on a subsistence allowance which is why VORP can have such a quality staff on such a low budget.