

THE
**LONDON
LECTURES**
2008



Christian Approaches to Armed Conflict *Peter Dixon*

① War in the 21st Century: when is it right to fight?

Thursday 6 November, 6.30-8.30pm

Christian pacifists hold the view that it is always wrong to use violence, while other Christians claim that there are circumstances when it is not only right but an essential form of service. This debate has continued for centuries and is still relevant today. How does the Just War tradition stand up against the existence of weapons of mass destruction and the prevalence of international terrorism?

② War in the 21st Century: when is it right to intervene?

Thursday 13 November, 6.30-8.30pm

War between states is by no means impossible but is today less prevalent than war within states, often involving ethnic cleansing and other forms of abuse. Often the most powerful nations seem unable to act effectively. Whose responsibility is it to intervene to protect human life, and is religion – including Christian faith – part of the problem or part of the solution?

③ War in the 21st Century: what does it mean to be powerful?

Thursday 20 November, 6.30-8.30pm

Military action is the most obvious means of intervening in conflict, for example in the form of peacekeeping. It is expensive and may or may not be effective. Are there other ways of bringing an end to violence, and does the Christian faith have any wisdom to contribute? Peace and justice often seem to be in tension with each other. We learn from the Bible that the relationship between power and weakness is not always straightforward. Are there lessons here to apply to modern violent conflict?



④ War in the 21st Century: can humans ever be reconciled?

Thursday 27 November, 6.30-8.30pm

The desire for reconciliation does not belong only to Christians. Indeed, Christians have often been most at fault. However, the power of forgiveness and the healing of relationships are central to the Christian faith. How can we deal effectively with the past and grapple with the difficult and painful questions of amnesty, impunity, truth-telling and justice which are essential to the recovery of a society after violent conflict?

A former Royal Air Force pilot, **Peter Dixon** has led Concordis International for five years, establishing it as an independent conflict resolution charity. He has managed a wide range of strategic peace-building interventions, predominantly in Sudan, both nationally and for Darfur and the East. Before joining Concordis, he managed training in international relations for high-level officials from 40 nations and worked in the German Defence Ministry on regional arms control and confidence-building. He has worked on short-term development projects in Nepal, Peru and Nicaragua, and managed multi-national conferences in Central and Eastern Europe. He holds an MBA and recently completed a Master's degree in International Relations at Cambridge University. He is continuing part-time research there for a PhD on barriers to co-operation in conflict interventions.



VENUE: The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, St Peter's, Vere Street, London, W1G 0DQ

Tickets can be booked in advance or paid for at the door: £6 per individual ticket, £3 for students and OAPs

Series tickets: £20 for the series of 4 lectures, £10 for the series for students and OAPs

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