

# MANNA *in the wilderness*

Our 25th Year!

September 2011

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 26, Number 1

LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC WORKER PRESENTS:

## **Wes Howard-Brook and Sue Ferguson Johnson**

### **Speaking at:**

Christ the King  
Catholic Community Hall  
4925 S. Torrey Pines  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
(cross street: Tropicana)

Friday, October 7, 2011,  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., free:  
“Coming Out of Empire,  
Within and Without.”

Saturday, October 8, 2011,  
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., free:  
“Loving Our Enemies,  
Destroying Our Enemies:  
Which Joshua?”

### **Reviews of Wes**

#### **Howard-Brook's book:**

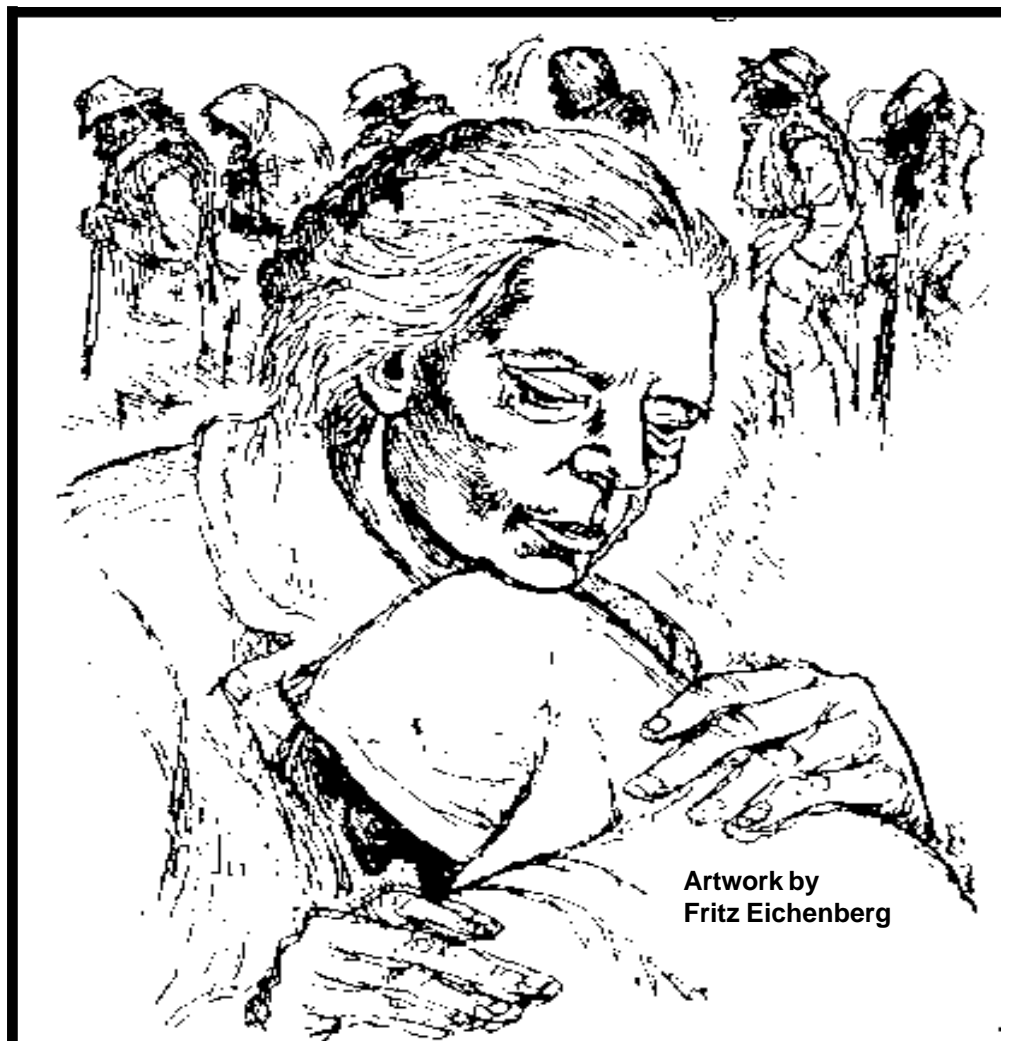
*“Come Out, My People!”  
God's Call out of Empire in the  
Bible and Beyond.*

(Awarded First Place in Scripture by  
the Catholic Press Association.)

*“Come Out, My People is undoubtedly one of the most important theological studies to be released in 2010. In recent memory, there have been other works that examine parts of scripture in light of the concept of empire (e.g., Brian Walsh and Sylvia Keesmaat's Colossians Remixed; Richard Horsley's Jesus and Empire and Paul and Empire), but none with which I am familiar has tackled the whole of the scriptural narrative with the depth and the clarity with which Howard-Brook has exhibited here.*

—**Englewood Review of Books**

*(continued on back page)*



Artwork by  
Fritz Eichenberg

## **The Play: Haunted by God-**

## **The Life of Dorothy Day**

performed by Lisa Wagner of the

Stillpoint Theatre Collective

Saturday, October 8, 2011

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., free

Christ the King Community Hall

4925 S. Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV 89118 (cross street: Tropicana)  
“It's not easy to capture the spirit of a woman nominated for sainthood, but Wagner does it with charm, wit and tremendous faith in the power of her words. Day is fascinating because she was so human and so holy at the same time, and Wagner and her co-writers ... are wise enough to show both sides. They skillfully balance Day's charms, passions, mistakes and misgivings making the point that people who are not perfect in a dogmatically religious sense are still capable of performing great acts of faith and love.” -Maura Troester, *Chicago Reader*

(continued from front page)

*“A remarkable offering for those who care about the interface of power and faith with all the threats and seductions that go with it . . . . As I read, I felt overwhelmed, both by the mass of data and by the cunning of interpretation. I could not put it down, and expect to continue to be instructed by it.”*

—**Walter Brueggemann**

*“Howard-Brook undertakes what few dare anymore: an introductory primer for the whole Bible. . . This book invites disciples to ‘connect the dots,’ in order to recover our ancient, anti-imperial identity, and to embrace a radical faith and practice that are personal and political.”*

—**Ched Myers**

*“Howard-Brook illuminates how ancient empires exercised control and manipulation of people not simply by political and military means, but also through the religion of empire. Throughout he makes clear that the core message of the God of creation is to call people out of empire, to refuse to cooperate with the forces of destruction and domination today.”*—**Richard Horsley**

*“Will become a classic for communities that seek first to receive*

*the gracious gift of God’s alternative future to Empire.”*—**Jarrold McKenna**

*“If we who sojourn in America are to be a community that can both name and resist the lure of Empire, we need a story more powerful than the story called America. Wes Howard-Brook knows that the Bible tells such a story. May its story be ours as we’re set free from our imperial imaginations to dream with our Creator of a new world here and now.”*—**Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove**

In this sweeping and transformative approach to biblical interpretation, Wes Howard-Brook presents the Bible as a struggle between two competing “religions”: not “Judaism” and “Christianity,” but the “religion of creation” versus the “religion of empire.”

Howard Brook demonstrates how, throughout the Hebrew scriptures, these two religions battled for the hearts and minds of the people in claiming radically divergent views of who YHWH is and

**Website: [www.lvcw.org](http://www.lvcw.org)  
[www.catholicworker.org](http://www.catholicworker.org)**

what it looks like to be YHWH’s people. In the New Testament, Jesus proclaimed and embodied one of these views—the “religion of creation”—and denounced the “religion of empire.” Though he was killed by the upholders of empire, his resurrection was the definitive vindication of the religion of creation. As a consequence, those who follow his path can accept no violence or domination toward people or creation in his name.

While many recent scholars have studied the imperial context of the New Testament, this is the first book to trace this theme throughout the entire Bible. As such, it sets a challenge for the future of biblical studies, while also defining a new framework for radical discipleship in our time.

—**Orbis Books**, Order: 1-800-258-5838 or [www.maryknollmall.org](http://www.maryknollmall.org)

*Wes Howard-Brook teaches at Seattle University and collaborates in the ministry, Abide in Me, with his wife, Sue Ferguson Johnson. He is author of Unveiling Empire and The Church Before Christianity and co-editor of The New Testament: Introducing the Way of Discipleship (with Sharon Ringe).*

**PRAY FOR  
PEACE  
IN OUR  
WORLD!**

(FOR  
TAB)

**Thank You to our donors who  
make this ministry possible.  
2011: Our 25th year!**

## POPES & CATHOLIC BISHOPS POSITIONS ON RECENT WARS

In 1991, Pope John Paul II opposed the Gulf War and publicly appealed to U.S. President George H.W. Bush not to wage it. In 2003, he once again opposed a war in Iraq and appealed to U.S. President George W. Bush to refrain from going to war. At the Vatican on January 13, 2003, the Pope declared that “War is never just another means that one can choose to employ for settling differences between

nations” and reiterated that “war cannot be decided upon . . . except as the very last option and in accordance with very strict conditions.”

On May 2, 2003, Pope Benedict XVI (then Cardinal Ratzinger) stated: “There were not sufficient reasons to unleash a war against Iraq. To say nothing of the fact that, given the new weapons that make possible destructions that go beyond

the combatant groups, today we should be asking ourselves if it is still licit to admit the very existence of a ‘just war.’”

U.S. Catholic Bishop’s letter to U.S. National Security Advisor on April 6, 2011: “Our nation must continuously review the use of military force...to insure that it is proportionate and discriminate. In particular, we encourage the U.S. to review the use of unmanned drones.”

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Las Vegas Catholic Worker  
(702) 647-0728  
500 W. Van Buren Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3039  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### PLEASE JOIN US:

**Wednesday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m.:**  
Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.  
**Wednesday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.:**  
Breakfast served at G & McWilliams to the poor & homeless (about 150 people).  
**Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - noon:**  
Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men home for showers, to wash clothes, and to have a great lunch.  
**Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.:**  
Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Court-house, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S.  
**Thursday, 11:30 a.m.:**  
50 Bag lunches delivered to homeless.  
**Last Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.:**  
Deliver food boxes to homes in need.  
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