

# To Cross An Imaginary Line

By: *Bobbie Sue "Dreka" Davis*

Some may call us crazy or naïve for thinking we could make a difference or catalyze a change. The beautiful part about being God's children is having free will, and therefore an opinion. Each living being has a different perspective and that, in itself, is a blessing from Our Creator, even when we don't see eye-to-eye.

This year, June 19 and 20 was Father's Day weekend. Most, however, didn't know it was coincidentally Holy Trinity Sunday. That was the weekend five of us, now known as the "LANL Father's Day Five", was arrested after TNA's monthly prayer vigil at Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL). I will not soon forget that weekend or what I learned.

There were about forty of us that attended the twenty-four hour prayer vigil in protest of the new CMRR (Chemistry Metallurgy Research Replacement) site. This site is not to be confused with the CMR building. LANL manufactures plutonium pits, which are the core "triggers" of nuclear bombs, under the guise of CMR. Bear in mind, "making new cores means making new nuclear weapons," as Marcus Page stated in his piece "Heart of the Beast". The CMRR site is located approximately six blocks from the CMR building. The lab's mission supports the use and research of nuclear weapons, waste, and dumping. The CMRR site is under construction to build plutonium pits that will devastate the land and pollute the air and anyone living in or near it. We were praying for the land, the residents of Los Alamos, the workers enabling international criminal activity, and for the new generations that will have to put up with the radioactive mess that will, no doubt, be left behind. TNA (Trinity Nuclear Abolition), Veterans for Peace, Pax Christi, and the Raging Grannies all had members in Los Alamos exercising their Constitutional and, above all, God-given rights. We just wanted to bring to light the laws that have, apparently, been thrown to the wayside.

On June 19, 2011 at noon, the vigil began. It was a well-thought out, activity based vigil. Marcus Page and his partner, Chelsea Collogne, organized all of the events. There was prayer, many forms of meditation, discussions, singing, and even cheerleading, by the Radical Cheerleaders. Two activities that I really enjoyed that weekend were the walking meditations and placing stones at the corners of Diamond Drive and West Jemez. The walking meditation helped me reach a new level of awareness, patience, and solidarity. Placing the stones was symbolic of our unity for peace, justice, and change. We all could find some reason to love and admire these rocks, at least what they symbolized at that moment. It raises a question in my mind. If a rock could make us feel a change, such as that, why can't we, as a whole, bring change to fruition?



At six o'clock, Sunday afternoon, we ended our vigil for the day. We said a closing prayer, packed up, enjoyed supper at Ashley Pond, and then inspired our minds and bodies with a special "snoring" meditation. Monday, June 20, 2011, began early, around five in the morning. We arose, greeted the waking sun, fed our "hunger monsters", and got back to our site to vigil till around noon.

The energy that could be felt was astounding. It was as though all of our emotions were intertwined. It felt indicative that the spiritual energy from the activists in the past was with us, all around us. That type of energy enveloped us with the courage to keep smiling and to keep loving our opponents. As people spat at us, gave us not-so-appropriate-one-fingered-salutes, we held on to the strength. They definitely let us hear their unsavory thoughts about us and people like us. We held no focus on their negative projections that weekend, however. We were simply too pumped up with the Holy Spirit, and happy to the point of letting nothing deter us from what we came to do. Educating the people about the crimes being committed, in front of their faces, was one of the key points. Not to mention, many of the people at LANL cheered as they drove by and honked in appreciation of the vigil. This action I appreciated profusely.

Throughout the second day we did several more activities. The Radical Cheerleaders gave another round of cheers, everyone enjoyed more walking meditation, and just before the "Grand Finale", the beautifully inspiring Raging Grannies performed. There was so much love and respect emanating from everyone, as we sang along with the dulcet tones of our friends. Around 1130 am, we all began walking on South Diamond Drive, towards the CMRR site. Our goal: To pray there for one hour because we believe, "... LANL's nuclear weapon work is a spiritual problem that requires a spiritual solution." -Marcus Page, TNA Spokesman

On a personal note, I wanted to pray for the workers' eyes to be opened. I wanted the land that is being brutally raped by humans to take a stand, and for our future leaders not to make the same mistakes as their indifferent predecessors.

Before we had even reached the location of the CMR building, Donna Martinez and her security team blocked us. We all knew some of us had to continue pushing the boundaries and we all knew not all of us should or could push. So, those who needed to stay safe and support us through prayer and singing, stepped back. The remaining five of us were willing and able to plead with the guards to stop blocking our path. They expressed their disinclination to acquiesce to our request. We, in turn, expressed our own disinclination to stop. Will Covert said it beautifully, "We understand and respect that you have a duty. But please understand that we also have a duty..." A duty to God, to all of our children, and to ourselves. The tension eased as we expressed that we weren't doing this solely for us or our own children, but for theirs as well. They knew we weren't there to harm any inhabitants. We just wanted to pray.

After convening with the security, liaison, LAPD (Los Alamos Police Department), and other key personnel, they decided to escort us to the CMR building, and due to some confusion, would allow us to pray there for an hour. Although we were thankful and appreciative of their generous offer, our goal was to be at the CMRR site to pray. That was the place in need of the most prayer and attention.

I would just like to say that despite any tension, everyone was extremely cordial and kind to one another. Neither side showed any animosity towards one another.

Once the knowledge was made clear that we needed to be at the other site, they informed us that only people with "Q" and "L" clearances were allowed past the badging station. They said they would escort us to the next imaginary line of delineation between happy singing people and happy singing people with cuffs on, which happened to be 150 feet from the badging station to the CMRR site. As we walked less than a mile to the yellow sign marking the point of no return, many of us, to include the guards and other security enforcement-types, began chatting. We chatted and enjoyed each other's company as though going for a simple summer stroll.

We drew near to the sign, and the tension, once more, began to build. Chief Torpy and other LAPD officers were waiting, in anticipation of us going beyond our "allowed" area. Once we five drew near, we held hands and began singing,

"Stand up; Make a choice,

Create a world without nuclear threats.

All together we are strong now,

Break the nuclear chain."

The nuclear chain is the chain that binds us. It is the chain that keeps us rooted to the problem, without resolution being sought. We must start being the solution, not the problem.

Over and over and over we sang. "Don't cross that line," they said.

We released hands and in an act of peace to show our non-violent stance, we crawled, on our hands and knees, across the line. Still singing as we crawled.... Still singing as they stood us up..... Still singing as they cuffed us.... Still singing to this day. Three of us were bailed out that day. The other two left Los Alamos on Wednesday after their arraignment. We all face court and a penalty of up to 364 days in jail and/or \$1000 fine, plus court costs; for exercising our RIGHT TO PETITION OUR GOVERNMENT.

What this experience has brought, aside from a criminal record, possible jail time, and court fees; is knowing that we stood up for what was right and true. We also did it in a peaceful, non-violent, loving way. It brought an understanding that everyone has a duty and a job to do, and that sometimes; you have to cross an imaginary line. If you had looked into our eyes that day, you wouldn't have seen fear. You would have seen joy, love, and a lot of hope for the future.



L-R: Will Covert, Juan Montoya, Bobbie Sue Davis, Marcus Pegasus, Mitzi Kraft