

To be at peace

Many thanks to Pastor Rob Burdette of Summit Mennonite Church for his Dec. 18 letter headlined `` `Swords into plowshares,' " the most inspirational Christmas message I encountered during the entire season.

His response to Chip Bok's Dec. 6 editorial cartoon captioned ``Evidence of natural selection," generously gave Bok credit for pointing out the dangers of working for peace and the bravery it demands. Burdette offered an eloquent explanation of how Scripture relates to what it truly means to be at peace and how hard that is to attain and maintain.

In the past, I've had difficulty in ``getting" Bok's style of truth through humor as a political cartoonist. Perhaps his portrayal of a mean-spirited view of Christians and others who pursue peace over war was actually a parody on our current national attitude that blithely dismisses peace efforts as being too meek, mild and unrealistic in these days of reckless foreign policy and warrior worship that gets confused with patriotism. If this is so, then I will chalk one up for him.

More important, it has taken the faithful words of Burdette to remind Christians about the Christmas message of peace. In our love, we are to challenge the status quo when it hurts the least among us, meet adversity with solutions and peaceful resolution, and honor God first while giving government its appropriate dues. There is nothing wimpy about it.

I wish more pastors as leaders would speak up, because they also know these things are true.

Pat Simons

Hudson