In a world increasingly beset by conflict and violence – often involving religion – christians and churches everywhere are having to reflect more deeply on what it means to follow Christ, the Prince of Peace. This course is jointly in the areas of missiology and christian theology. We shall be examining the biblical and theological reasons why peacemaking is absolutely central to mission, not an optional extra to it; and at the same time taking an honest look at some 20th century and contemporary instances where the churches have been caught up in situations of conflict and have – or have not – been agents of reconciliation.

I’m greatly looking forward to leading this course because like everyone else I’m still a long way down on the steep learning curve of peacemaking! And I very much hope that among the participants will be people who, coming from different national and international backgrounds, can bring their own experiences of conflict and so add to the challenge and enrichment of our learning together. All are welcome!

Meanwhile, two thoughts to ponder:

“Let us have the courage to face the truth. It is not particular nations or classes or statesmen which are the makers of war; it is not Kings or Emperors, it is not militarists, it is not the scare-makers and the Press: it is you and I. They are the puppets of destiny; we are the creators of destiny.” Eglantyne Jebb, English Quaker peace activist (1915)

“Be under no illusion that your efforts will bring about the holy city for children. But likewise, do not despair of making a difference. For it is God’s cause; and God will take both your fumbling efforts and your skilled efforts and use them as building stones for God’s holy city.” Nicholas Wolterstoff, American philosopher, sermon on Isaiah 11:6-9 (2011)