

room cloud with Bibles in their hands."

Twenty years later to the day, Lynch went to the test site with a small group to protest development of the neutron bomb. "We got up very, very early in the morning, went right up to the test site, and posted ourselves on some folding chairs," she says.

The witness was highlighted by the visit of Japanese *hibakusha*, survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings. One elderly woman, who earlier had been surrounded by children whom she was teaching to make folded-paper peace cranes, brought a book of drawings, memories of the bombings, that she wanted to present to test site officials. A guard refused to accept it or shake her extended hand, which was covered with cheloid scars from radiation, until the crowd gently began chanting, "Take her hand, take her hand."

Franciscan priest Louie Vitale—who in the mid-1950s had served in the U.S. Air Force's Air Defense Command and "realized then the awesomeness of the damage [nuclear weapons] could do, and the secrecy and lying" that surrounded them—was also part of that witness. He says of nuclear testing, "The government found that when they did the most objectionable things in remote places, no one paid any attention." But people are paying attention now, as the persistent courage of a group of people of faith has exposed the truth of the Nevada Test Site.

Ground zero ■ The road into the heart of the test site winds out beyond Mercury, past another gate. During a nuclear weapons test, no one except essential personnel at a "control point" are allowed beyond this gate in what is termed the "forward area."



Top, prayer and song at the edge of the test site.

Above, Rosemary Lynch.

Camp Desert Rock, where they were arrested and charged with trespass. In the sheriff's car on the way to the Beatty jail, while the deputy was trying desperately to read them their rights, Louie's Mickey Mouse watch launched into a rendition of the famous Disney theme song. Louie, handcuffed, could do nothing to stop it, and the deputy only shouted more loudly and furiously.

Lent of 1985 brought Larry Scott, organizer of the first demonstration at the test site in 1957, into the life of LDE. One day he simply walked into the small LDE office, humbly introduced himself, and, seeing a need, "fixed our stopped-up toilet," says Anne Symens-Bucher. Plans were in the works for an August

being suited to Oakland, California, and Anne Symens-Bucher was hired as a full-time organizer.

During Lent of 1984, according to Symens-Bucher, the organizers invited Jim Wallis of *Sojourners* to the test site to help give the campaign a national profile and bring other faith-based peace and justice organizations on board. Wallis, Vitale, Symens-Bucher, and LDE staff member Duncan MacMurdy were given a tour of the test site by the DOE, the conclusion of which has reached the annals of LDE legend.

After the tour, including at their request a stop to pray at a test crater, the four felt compelled to return to Camp Desert Rock, where they were arrested and charged with trespass. In the sheriff's car on the way to the Beatty jail, while the deputy was trying desperately to read them their rights, Louie's Mickey Mouse watch launched into a rendition of the famous Disney theme song. Louie, handcuffed, could do nothing to stop it, and the deputy only shouted more loudly and furiously.

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