

Does your Jesus drop bombs?

By ANE District Moderator David Sollenberger

How does it change our perspective when we “fix our eyes on Jesus” as our 2026 Atlantic Northeast District Conference theme suggests? I was reminded the other day that not everyone is familiar with the video segments that I have shared with the church over the years. I was referring to a story by popular evangelist Tony Campolo at the 1986 Annual Conference during his sermon at that conference. He recalled how he explained to his draft board the reason for his request for Conscientious Objector status; he told the General who was hearing his case that he read the book *In His Steps* which advised readers to ask themselves in all situations, “What would Jesus do?” in that situation.

Tony explained that the government could teach him to fly an airplane with bombs aboard, even over enemy territory. But when it was time to release the bombs, he would ask, “Jesus, if you were in my place, would you release these bombs?” He recalled that the General yelled at him, “That’s the dumbest thing I ever heard. Everybody knows Jesus would never release bombs!” Tony shared with the Brethren audience that that General knew more Brethren theology than most Brethren he knew. It seems that when we make Jesus the focus of our life and actions, those actions can be viewed in a whole new light. If you would like to watch or download that clip, it’s available [here](#).

I have shared that clip often because I think that fixing our eyes on Jesus makes a difference, not only in light of the bombing that is happening in our world today, but in all facets of our life.

Moderator David Sollenberger is a videographer from Annville, Pa., and a member of Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren. He has documented decades of conferences and programs of the denomination, including Annual Conference and National Youth Conference, where he has been a speaker. He is known at National Older Adult Conference for the humorous NOAC News. He has produced numerous documentaries about church ministries and history and has traveled to missions and sister churches in Nigeria and South Sudan, among others. He has served on the former General Board and on the Vision Interpretation and Implementation Committee for the Church of the Brethren Vision Statement 2012-2020. He served as the 2022 Moderator for the Church of the Brethren.

