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**INSIGHTS ON REBUILDING – A TIMELY PERSPECTIVE**

*Planting the Good Seed: Letters from a Quaker Relief Worker*, a first-hand account of Europe on the heels of World War II, provides a timely reminder of the devastating aftermath of war. Written by Robert McCoy and published by Wilmington College Peace Resource Center, the book recounts McCoy's three years with Quaker reconstruction efforts in post-war France and Austria.

"It was a different time, place and rationale for war, yet there are parallels to what we face in Iraq," states McCoy. "The need to restore infrastructure and basic social systems is obvious, but there is also a need to restore faith in the basic goodness of man and in hope for better days and lives ahead."

The book, based largely on letters McCoy wrote to his parents during his three years in Europe, gives a detailed picture of daily life and its challenges for both Europeans *and* volunteer workers. Shortages, mistrust, hopelessness, divided lands, conflicting agendas, and absurd bureaucracy all contributed to the difficult task of restoring and improving lives. His letters range from thought-provoking to heart wrenching to humorous, as he recounts his personal efforts to make a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens caught in extraordinary circumstances.

Robert McCoy, a life-long resident of Wilmington, Ohio, is available to speak to groups about his book and experiences; he can be reached at 937-987-2398. *Planting the Good Seed* is available locally through Extraordinary Lives, the personal history business that worked with McCoy to bring the book to print.

For additional information about personal, family and business histories, contact Mary Ann Mayers at Extraordinary Lives, LLC. Address: 5571 Deervalley Court, Suite 102, Cincinnati, OH 45247.

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