



WAGING PEACE MOVEMENT I – LISTEN

THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

Listen!

- N1: They left them there, in a field of sugar cane, two young boys, whose lifeless bodies their mothers would never hold again, two whose bullet riddled bodies would never speak to their friends again. Drugs, guns, youth, life, death—And now, our friends lost forever.
- N2: April 2007. My dear friends, a mother and daughter, were murdered... shot in their home by an intruder. We were like family and worshiped at the same church.
- N3: Violence does not pay; it only begets more violence. Where does it stop? When do we call it even or a draw?
- N4: My aunt and uncle were beaten in their home and my uncle died as a result. My aunt was reading her Bible in preparation for teaching Sunday School, when they came into their home and beat her and my uncle—we still grieve for them.
- N5: In my community, after the 9/11 event last year, I visited a church in North Baton Rouge and heard prayers, crying, and grieving about the killings and the crime in their neighborhood. I held hands with them and we prayed for peace.
- N6: Acts of violence and anger unleashed through and by the influence of alcohol. Great uncertainty and fear about how one person could be like two different people: Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde!
- N1: My brother was murdered last year—a terrible, jarring, jagged darkness. The first days... a gnawing at my soul.
- N2: The total feeling of helplessness after your home has been broken into, vandalized, and robbed. A feeling of invasion of your person and soul. Everything in drawers was dumped on the floor. It felt as if my whole person was invaded—all by someone craving drugs.
- N3: Violence does not pay; it only begets more violence. Where does it stop? When do we call it even or a draw?
- N4: I have a friend whose boyfriend was shot...
- N5: I have a friend who was in an abusive relationship.

- N7: I have friends whose parents abuse them. N5: I have a friend who was stabbed in the back, but now he likes the story. He says that his scar is his survival history.
- N4: Innocent people caught in the crossfire.
- N3: Violence does not pay; it only begets more violence. Where does it stop? When do we call it even or a draw?
- N4: Conversation with a first grader from the inner city:
- N5: Do you go to the park? N7: Yes, Ma'am.
- N5: Do you have a backyard? N6: Yes, Ma'am.
- N5: Is it safe to play in? N6: No. My cat was chasing a butterfly and a man shot it.
- N1: My youngest brother was murdered in 1988. It was grievous to all in my family and there is still so much anger. N2: Always the fear... I've been stalked... I'm still afraid...
- N3: Violence does not pay; it only begets more violence. Where does it stop? When do we call it even or a draw?
- N4: A nephew of mine was murdered by four young men—strangers—who thought it would be a fun thing to do. He was beaten to death with baseball bats. I would rather have been the mother of the victim than the mother of the killer. I learned to pray for those families. N5: I so loved that person. I don't really understand how he could have done what he did. God loves us. All of us, even him.
- N7: A family member taking prescription pain killers and alcohol was violent against our family. Words to describe my experience: fear, surprise that it happened, thoughts of what I could do to intervene, sadness for those directly affected...
- N1: Silence— N2: Violence is not always loud.
- N1: Vulnerable— N2: Reaching into your soul...
- N1: Open flesh wound— N2: Violence can happen in the silence.
- N3: Violence does not pay; it only begets more violence. Where does it stop? When do we call it even or a draw?

CHORAL RESPONSE

Listen! Listen!

Suffering upon suffering, Fear upon fear...
I know a boy whose sister was shot.

Listen!

Hurt upon hurt, Anger upon anger, Sadness upon sadness... My dear friends, a mother and daughter Were killed in their own home. We went to the same church.

Listen!

Harm upon harm, Anguish upon anguish, Despair upon despair... My brother was murdered last week; My father was killed last year; A terrible darkness, A jarring darkness, A jagged darkness, Gnawing at my soul.

Listen!

Hopelessness, Desperation... Saturday night My aunt was reading her Bible, preparing for Sunday School. My uncle was with her. A gang broke in and beat them In their own home. My uncle died.

Many years later, so many years, We are still grieving.

Listen!

Hatred toward the other, Trapped in the crossfire, Open flesh wound... My mother was abused. And then murdered. I mourn for her, I grieve. Why did you do this? I weep for the life she did not live. Many years later, we are still mourning.

Listen!

Reaching into your soul, Fear of the Unknown, In the church, In the synagogue, In the mosque, In the temple, In the streets And everywhere:

Listen!

We mourn for our families, We weep for our children, We grieve for our friends, Who are lost forever.

Listen!

Listen to them! Listen to them crying out for justice!

Listen!



WAGING PEACE MOVEMENT II – UNDERSTAND

THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

N1: Why do we respond to violence with violence?

N2: What gives you the right To harm someone?

N3: Why? Why did you do such a thing?

N4: Was this an act of revenge?

N5: When do we call it a draw?

N6: Can you imagine the desperation of Someone who took a life for two dollars?

N5: When they gave you a place to stay, Why did you shoot them?

N7: When will I walk into My own home without fear?

N4: Destruction is easier than creation.

N3: When someone turns to violence,

N4: It's because peace takes more work.

N2: What will it take to stop the hatred?

N1: Will an apology make peace?

N2: How did our minds get so tangled?

N3: If you want peace:

N4: First, you must build trust.

N5: Why take your anger out on someone

N4: Who did nothing to you?

N3: What can be done to prevent it?

N2: When will we stop talking

N1: And start doing?

N2: Without justice, there is no peace.

N3: Without peace, there is no justice.

N4: When will the hatred stop?

N5: You do not want to be hurt,

N6: So why hurt someone else?

N5: What if we treated everyone with respect?

N4: Violence does not pay;

N3: It only begets more violence.

N2: Understand this:

N1: Violence does not pay.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Why do we respond To violence with violence?

What gives you the right To harm someone?

Why? Why did you do such a thing?

Understand: Was this an act of revenge? When do we call it a draw? Can you imagine the desperation of Someone who took a life for two dollars?

When they gave you a place to stay, Why did you shoot them?

When will I walk into My own home without fear?

Understand: Destruction is easier than creation. Someone turns to violence, Because peace takes more work.

What will it take to stop the hatred? Will an apology make peace? How did our minds get so tangled?

Understand:

If you want peace first you must build trust.

Why take your anger out on someone who did nothing to you?

What can be done to prevent it?

When will we stop talking And start doing?

Understand: Without justice, there is no peace. Without peace, there is no justice.

When will the hatred stop? You do not want to be hurt, So why hurt someone else?

What if we treated everyone with respect?

Understand: Violence does not pay; It only begets more violence.

Understand: Violence does not pay.

ABOUT THE CHORAL WORK WAGING PEACE

The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge and composer Robert Kyr engaged the Baton Rouge community in a spirited dialogue about peace in the fall of 2012. Grief over the violence in our streets, as well a vision for peace, was expressed and named. The words from these dialogues serve as first-person testimony for the narrative and lyrics of *Waging Peace*. The world premiere of *Waging Peace* was May 5, 2013 in Baton Rouge LA. CD's of *Waging Peace* are available.



WAGING PEACE MOVEMENT III – FORGIVE

THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

Why?

N1: Why would you take out your own problems and insecurities on my loved ones?

N2: We did nothing to you and yet you found it necessary to do what you did.

N1: Maybe you weren't loved enough as a child.

N2: How can I forgive you?

N3: Where can I turn?

N4: How can I live again?

N5: I am left with questions too deep for words.

N6: God, do you weep when you see your children killing each other?

N5: It's not easy to let go ...

N4: It's not easy to forgive ...

N3: It's not easy ...

N2: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of flesh

N1: Peace begins with respect for all life.

N2: Love is family, taking care of each other.

N3: If we want peace, we must learn how to love.

N4: Love corrects all wrongs, love brings forgiveness.

N5: Lord forgive him, for he does not know what he has done or what he is doing.

N7: As God has forgiven me, let me also forgive the one who hurt me.

N5: Lord forgive her, for she does not know what she has done or what she is doing.

N4: The person who hurt me so much, I forgive her with all my heart.

N5: Lord forgive us, for we do not know what we have done or what we are doing.

N2: By the grace of God;

N1: By the grace of God;

N2: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of light;

N3: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of truth;

N4: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of love;

N5: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of peace.

Each: Forgiveness begins with me.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Forgive.

Hearts of stone Becoming hearts of flesh.

Forgive, even if it is hard to do.

Hearts of stone Becoming hearts of light.

Respect each other. Be open and listen.

Hearts of stone Becoming hearts of truth.

Forgiveness begins within.

Forgiveness begins with me.

Hearts of stone

Becoming hearts of love.

As I forgive, May I be forgiven.

Hearts of stone

Becoming hearts of peace. Forgive.



WAGING PEACE MOVEMENT IV– COLLABORATE

THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

N1: May we be at peace.

N2: May we find connection with others.

N1: *Let's collaborate.*

N3: May we do good, as envisioned by God.

N4: May we plant the seeds of peace in our community.

N3: *Let's collaborate.*

N5: May we see each other as children of an all-loving God.

N7: May we search together for the love that is within us.

N5: *Let's collaborate.*

N4: Peace begins at home.

N3: Love your neighbor to know peace.

N4: *Let's collaborate:*

N3: *Let's wage peace together.*

N2: Begin where you are;

N1: Do what you can with whatever you have.

N2: *Let's collaborate:*

N1: *Let's wage peace together.*

N3: Finish grieving;

N4: Remember love.

N5: Finally, an end to sorrow ...

N6: And always remember love.

N5: *Let's finally collaborate.*

N7: *It's time to wage peace.*

N2: I want to collaborate. It's time to wage peace.

N3: *Let's collaborate: Let's wage peace together.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

Listen to Me: Hear your own voice.
Collaborate.
Name me in your own name;
Treat me as you want to be treated.
Collaborate.
Respect yourself;
Respect one another. Collaborate.
Peace begins at home.

Love your neighbor To know peace.
Collaborate: Wage peace.
Begin where God is;
Do what you can With whatever you have.
Collaborate: Wage peace.
Finish grieving; Remember love.
Collaborate: Wage peace.



WAGING PEACE MOVEMENT V- PROCLAIM

THE VOICES of THE PEOPLE

N6: I must begin small.
N5: Maybe this whole thing starts when I give peace to myself.
N4: Not only peace, not just love, but compassion too.
N3: So much violence around us...It does not have to be this way.
N2: In your heart, there is a place of peace, of love.
N1: Find that place. Nourish it.
N2: I long for a community of peace, respect, and cooperation across ethnic, religious, and socio-economic groups.
N3: A culture free of violence, and full of life and peace will exist only when I seek unity in my own life.
N4: We have to stop talking too much and start doing things.
N5: It's not enough just to do things that make you look good.
N6: When a violent thought comes, oppose it with a stronger thought of peace.
N5: A thought of hatred must be overcome by a more powerful thought of love.
N6: I will teach my children to see goodness and life in others.
N4: *Pass it on.* Peace within can lead to peace around.
N3: We must cultivate individual acts of care and

understanding.
N4: Pass it on. A world of friends is a world of peace.
N2: I would say that peace begins with each one of us.
N1: We have to be willing to open our minds to look at everyone in the same way.
N2: Where there is peace in the heart, there is peace in the home.
N1: Where there is peace in the home, there is peace in the community.
N2: Peace in my community would be for everyone to live in a community where we look out for our neighbor's well being.
N3: *Pass it on.* A world of friends is a world of peace.
N4: *Pass it on.* Peace within can lead to peace around.
N5: I want peace for you – *truly...*
N7: I do too. I may never see you again, but I want it for you.
N5: *Please pass it on.*
N4: *Pass it on.*
N3: *Proclaim it! Pass it on!*
N2: *Don't let it stop!*
N1: *Pass it on!*

CHORAL RESPONSE

Proclaim! Proclaim:
Celebrate our differences, Respect one another.
Proclaim:
Peace begins with each of us.
Open your heart and know That we are all one.
Proclaim:
When there is peace in the heart,
There is peace in the home.
Proclaim:
Now is the time To teach our children to value all life.

Proclaim:
When there is peace in the home,
There is peace in the community.
Proclaim:
Change how you live And you will change
Everyone around you.
Proclaim!



INTERFAITH
FEDERATION of GREATER BATON ROUGE