

# FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

## August 2016

### A Source of Violence

Dave Zarembka, from Kenya, quotes Clarence Darrow between the Great Wars, to show a source for violence. “For some reason,” Dave says, “you never hear this discussed these days, perhaps because we can no longer remember those days when the world’s war-making machines and their rationale did not dominate political life.”:

“Now, your Honor, I have spoken about the war [World War I]. I believed in it. I don’t know whether I was crazy or not. Sometimes I think perhaps I was. I approved of it; I joined in the general cry of madness and despair. I urged men to fight. I was safe because I was too old to go. I was like the rest. What did they do? Right or wrong, justifiable or unjustifiable—which I need not discuss today—it changed the world. For four long years the civilized world was engaged in killing men. Christian against Christian, barbarian uniting with Christians to kill Christians; anything to kill. It was taught in every school, aye in the Sunday schools. The little children played at war. The toddling children on the street. Do you suppose this world has ever been the same since? How long, your Honor, will it take for the world to get back the humane emotions that were slowly growing before the war? How long will it take the calloused hearts of men before the scars of hatred and cruelty shall be removed?

We read of killing one hundred thousand men in a day. We read about it and we rejoiced in it—if it was the other fellows who were killed. We were fed on flesh and drank blood. Even down to the prattling babe. I need not tell you how many upright, honorable young boys have come into this court charged with murder, some saved and some sent to their death, boys who fought in this war and learned to place a cheap value on human life. You know it and I know it. These boys were brought up in it. The tales of death were in their homes, their playgrounds, their schools; they were in the newspapers that they read; it was a part of the common frenzy—what was a life? It was nothing. It was the least sacred thing in existence and these boys were trained to this cruelty.

It will take fifty years to wipe it out of the human heart, if ever. I know this, that after the Civil War in 1865, crimes of this sort increased, marvelously. No one needs to tell me that crime has no cause. It has as definite a cause as any other disease, and I know that out of the hatred and

### Calendar

**7. Sunday .....**  
**Potluck lunch at 11.30 a.m..**

**14. Sunday .....**  
**Forum –. Update on Conditions for Incarcerated Immigrant Families,**  
**with Robin Harvey**

**21 & 28. Sundays.. No Meeting for Business, Planning for Kickoff of First Day family program starting September 4**

..... .  
**31. Midweek Meeting at Gary’s home, 7.00**

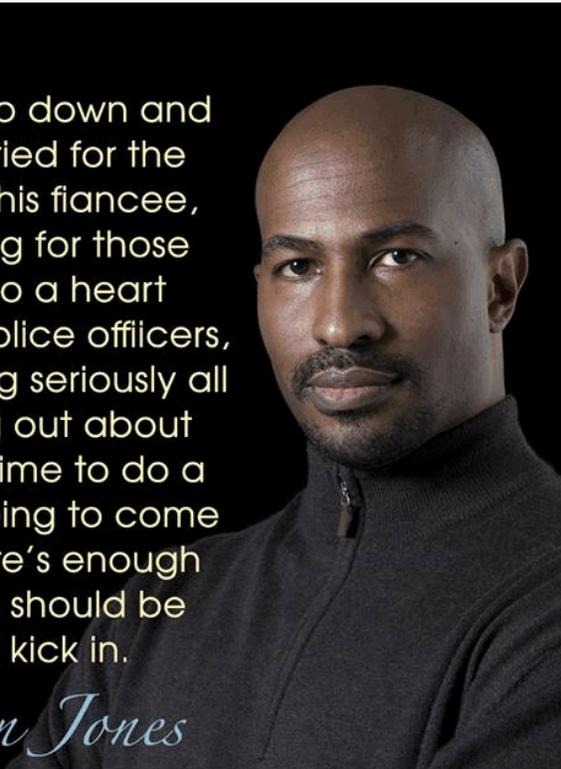
bitterness of the Civil War crime increased as America had never seen before. I know that Europe is going through the same experience today; I know it has followed every war; and I know it has influenced these boys so that life was not the same to them as it would have been if the world had not been made red with blood. I protest against the crimes and mistakes of society being visited upon them. All of us have a share in it. I have mine. I cannot tell and I shall never know how many words of mine might have given birth to cruelty in place of love and kindness and charity.”

Thus, Clarence Darrow. We know that men returning from the horrors of Iraq and Afghanistan find it difficult to adjust to peaceful ways of life. How deeply does this penetrate other lives than their own? And how long will it last?

And now we find that the killer of police in Dallas had served in the armed forces in Afghanistan. And Omar Mateen, an Afghan-American, the shooter in Orlando, is quoted as saying he, "wouldn't stop his assault until America stopped bombing his country". He surely learned the cheapness of life as if he had been there.



**There will be no newsletter in September.**



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Everybody’s got to reach deep down and find some empathy. If you cried for the brother who bled out next to his fiancée, but you didn’t cry this morning for those police officers, it’s time to do a heart check. If you cried for those police officers, but you have a hard time taking seriously all these videos that are coming out about African Americans dying, it’s time to do a heart check. We are either going to come together or come apart. There’s enough pain on both sides that there should be some empathy starting to kick in.

[www.peacealliance.org](http://www.peacealliance.org) ~Van Jones

And we must grieve for Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, all those killed “by mistake,” by someone who thinks, under illusion, that he is doing God’s work by shooting, or driving, into a crowd. We, of course, are confident that we do God’s work

by being nonviolent. And at least we do noone any harm.

### Personal News

Rose, who was married here

twenty years ago, returned to see us. She is a Chicanita! And now comes, so welcome, with 3 children, a mature mother. Betsy has ceased to care for the children on Sundays due to uncertainties about her hours. Carol says her daughters can't wait to see what will transpire when Hillary, Angela, and Teresa put their heads together! James is in New York attending a reunion of The Community Free Theatre. He was one of the 5 founding members back in the 1970's. He is also visiting family in Salem, NY.

Janet and Ken's son is very upset about the killing of black men by white police. How much do they know about the black community? Are they enough in touch to be trustable by members of that community? He fears that racism, still alive, threatens blacks because the power is in the hands of the whites.

## Business Meeting

Meeting for Business commenced with :

*Teach your children what we have taught our children that the earth is our mother. What ever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. This we know. The earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth. This we know. All things are connected--like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. What ever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand . Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.*

Chief Seattle

Meeting opened with silent worship. At a Called Meeting for business on July 10, Friends approved the request to co-sponsor "Healing our Hearts: One Month after Orlando": interfaith gathering of music, meditation, reflection, and affirmation to heal our hearts and our world in the aftermath of the violence in Orlando.at Unity of San Antonio. Those attending are asked to suggest a 2-minute silence..If this is not a single event, it is approved that FMSA be included in future events. Friends approved a donation of \$100 to Orlando One for victims and families of the violence.

We received a letter of thanks from

Omar Shakir, Imam of Masjid Bilal, for use of FMSA facilities for a pre-Ramadan Conference and fund raising event. The clerk read the letter that indicated Masjid Bilal's gratitude and sense of fellowship with our Meeting. The clerk expressed her hope that our two communities might join together for a meal and worship.

The Treasurer's report was read by clerk of the Finance Committee. The RAICES Bond Fund has increased by \$4,378.52 because of the semi-annual dividend from Friends Fiduciary Corporation . The treasurer will send a check to RAICES for \$5,000 in July unless instructed otherwise. General contributions continue to lag.

Jim gave the Ministry and Oversight Report He will clerk the Committee until the end of this year. The Committee discussed concern of late arrivals to Meeting for Worship. They welcome suggestions. They proposed topics for forums through the end of the year. Friends made several suggestions regarding the late arrivals. One Friend mentioned that at the end of worship, people get up and move about to greet each other, making an abrupt transition from the silence. It was suggested that children may participate in worship, either for the first or last 15 minutes.

The Peace & Social Concerns Report, instead of replacing the Quaker banner, suggested printing tee-shirts with "Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)" on the front and the testimonies on the back. They proposed forum topics through December and are seeking a volunteer who feels led to keep track of upcoming Texas executions and who is willing to announce those after Meeting for Worship. Friends were in agreement about the tee-shirts and suggested the addition of a logo.

The Nominating Committee has reviewed the Roster for 2017.. They will speak to F/friends to confirm their continuing responsibilities and/or their "leadings." They reviewed the current Handbook description of Outreach and concluded that it no longer reflects the reality. They propose replacing the current

section “Outreach Committee” with one that describes the functions as they appear in the Roster. They propose replacing the title and purpose with the following wording, to be considered by Meeting at a later date.

Inreach/Outreach Functions Purpose: To provide help in bringing members, attenders and inquirers together in friendship and spiritual community, and to make others aware of Friends’ principles. *This purpose is best served by individuals taking responsibility for specific tasks and does not require a traditional committee with regular meetings. Individuals may report to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as needed.*

The Property Committee reported that the criminal mischiefs have been taken care of. An insurance claim was filed for the glass replacement. The police will check our property for the next two weeks between 3 PM and 3 AM. The committee is grateful to James Goslin for helping so much. The committee requests that Friends double check that all doors are locked before leaving.

Meeting closed in silence.

## **An Open Letter to Hillary Clinton**

As Quakers, we are disappointed in your opposition to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and your unwavering support for the right wing government of the State of Israel, despite its unconscionable repression of the Palestinian people.

We understand that you think BDS stands in the way of peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

In your letter of May 9 to the Israel Action Network and the Jewish Federations of North America you explain that the movement aims to “punish” Israel by “dictating” how the two sides should resolve the core issues of the conflict.

We respectfully disagree with this analysis. As you surely know, the balance of power has always been in Israel’s favor.

Israel, a nuclear armed country with a modern military supported by \$128 billion dollars in US aid since its founding, is pitted

against smaller and smaller enclaves of Palestinians, now crowded into barely 15% of historical Palestine, harassed and dehumanized at checkpoints, deprived of work, food, water, building materials, travel, health care – everything that human beings should enjoy.

The fact that Palestinian civil society has called for a powerful, nonviolent, international response to this untenable situation should be understandable.

As you may know, Quakers have been serving since the 1880s in Palestine, where we have had the opportunity to learn from and appreciate the Palestinian people, their culture, their work ethic, and their resilience in the face of suffering.

We respectfully suggest that as someone who hopes to act as a fair negotiator, you should avail yourself of every opportunity to do the same.

You often reminisce that when you and Bill visited Israel for the first time three decades ago, you walked the ancient streets of Jerusalem’s Old City and fell in love with the country and its people.

We believe you will be a better negotiator if you allow yourself to fall in love with the Palestinian people as well.

It is not hard to do.

242 signers,

started by Ann Arbor Meeting.

## **Warfare**

With the shooting of police officers, apparently by a sniper, in Dallas, we are in danger of open warfare breaking out in this country. One of the problems lies in the unequal and long imprisonment of nonviolent black offenders. Jose Santos Woss, of FCNL, tells us. “Just two days before members of Congress head home for their long summer recess, . . . Now is the time to act and organize. Your members of Congress will be home – in your community – in July and August. If this momentum is to continue, they need to hear from you. . . .”

This comes after Janet and Ken’s black

son expressed his anger at the shooting of innocent black men by police.

## Miscellany

" Our life is love,  
and peace and tenderness;  
and bearing one with another,  
and forgiving one another,  
and not laying accusations one against  
another,  
but praying one for another,  
and helping one another up  
with a tender hand."

Isaac Pennington, 1667

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Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw recently was the keynote speaker at the Women of the World (WOW) Festival in London, discussing the intersections of race, gender, class, ethnicity, and disability. What a complex set of divisions crosses America. Yet, at the same time those intersections mean that people opposing each other on one issue may find themselves on the same side in another. The very complexity of the divisions may help to bind us together.

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What of race? A new study on the police use of force by Roland Fryer of Harvard found no bias against black civilians in police shootings in 10 cities and counties, including Houston. It did find bias against blacks in every other type of force, like the use of hands or batons.

So blacks are right in their experience of police bias in the more frequent no-shooting confrontations with police, but not in more rare ones where police fired shots. "It is the most surprising result of my career," said Dr. Fryer. There have been many questions about his data.

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Michelle Obama, on the first day she sent her children off to school in January 2009, after the Obamas moved into the White House: "I will never forget that winter morning as I watched our girls, just 7 and 10 years old, pile into those black SUVs with all those big men with guns. And I saw their little faces pressed up against the window, and the only thing I could think was, 'What have we done?'"

They were on the way to Sidwell Friends School.

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Do you know someone who thinks they might want to try out Quaker worship? Send them this link:  
<http://quakerspeak.com/what-to-expect-quaker-meeting-worship/>

But, how does it feel when God speaks through you? It doesn't say. Ali Mendoza says, "If God has ever spoken, then God is still speaking. And expecting God to move, through somebody... maybe through me, maybe not through me, maybe just internally and the message is just for me, maybe one that needs to be shared – and I think that is so provocative. It's provocative to say, "there's no guidelines here!" I want to know what I'm expecting. And I don't! I don't know what I'm expecting every Sunday, but I know that I'm expecting."

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ACLU won a "huge" victory for voting rights.: a federal appeals court struck down North Carolina's repressive voter suppression law, saying it was a "blatant attempt to undermine African-American voter participation by eliminating voting practices disproportionately used by Black voters."

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On QuakerQuaker, Kevin Camo said, "Some years back, the committee of which I was clerk decided to elder a Friend for sharing vocal ministry too frequently. As long-term readers may recall, I aimed to deal as fairly with him as I could, but he took immediate offense and never returned to Meeting again. I wanted to open a free-flowing dialogue based on mutual respect, but he was content to take his ball and go home. Before parting ways, he accused me of acting as the Meeting police (which I was not) and gave me at best three minutes of his time."

We also remember having to elder a Friend for this reason. He was very open and took it in a very Friendly fashion. Eldering is not a disciplinary procedure but merely a reminder. Martin Kelly said "How do Friends

support one another in discernment? Sometimes, it involves gathering in a Quaker clearness committee.” In the conversation which followed Friends were urged to read about Clearness Committees and to listen rather than advise.

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The Gathering of Friends General Conference was held in Minneapolis in July. Here is what the Star Tribune discovered from Barry Crossno, General Secretary:

“Quakers oversee more than 100 schools in the country, hundreds of “meeting houses,” retirement centers and a volunteer foreign service corps, and they can claim 13 colleges and an entire state — Pennsylvania — founded on Friends’ principles .

Their social impact has always exceeded their ranks, which now have dipped to about 85,000 in the United States. While some religions would panic, the folks at this conference take it in stride, believing that their message will resonate with those ready to receive it.

“Some people think we wear plain clothes, that we address people as thee and thou,” he said. “I even had someone ask me, ‘What’s it like to live without electricity?’”

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Here are thoughts about Black Lives Matter from a Friend there at the Gathering;

“I have felt that as Quakers, as a primarily white church, we did not appropriately have something to say about Black Lives Matter. That it is not white people’s place to speak to either what Black people’s experience is or what actions they are lead to take. That much of our attempts to help, while well meaning, reflects an ignorance of the actually history of racism in this country or the experience of Black people. However, the day after hearing all these messages from Black people about present day racism, I found myself in Meeting for Worship reflecting upon the fact that during the abolition movement Quaker’s first moved to get unity in the Society of Friends that the owning of slavery was wrong and to labor with Quaker slave holders to get them to give up owning slaves.

The position taken was that slavery was morally wrong both for the slave and for the owner. That it was morally corrupting to own a slave.”

He adds, “I think that the Quaker notion that there is that of God in all people is an important offering to the national dialogue.”

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An electric shopping cart from Target was apparently ridden all the way to the meetinghouse one Saturday when it was then plugged in to recharge, still there on Sunday.

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Elie Wiesel has died, a great fighter for human rights. Except, we are reminded, for Palestinians. He was forever focussed on the Holocaust, from which he narrowly escaped as a boy. And he was forever focused on supporting Israel, the post-WWII secure home for the Jews. His support never wavered, even when other Jews (e.g., JVP) accused Israel of oppressing Palestinians. Hussein Ibish, who reminds us of this, excuses him, considering his personal, and Jewish, histories.

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Very differently, at the website (what would Pennington have thought of that?) [www.insightonconflict.org](http://www.insightonconflict.org) there are numerous items of work investigating conflict, potential conflict, and peacebuilding groups, in nations around the world.

In July, one report concluded that “internationals” have a role to play in developing needed peacebuilding programs in Pakistan, and investigates the innovative aspects of the processes which led to the historic ceasefire in Colombia. There, the parties to the conflict and lessons have developed innovative frameworks and approaches, including positioning the rights of the victims at the centre of the talks; addressing the structural problem of rural development; creating a Gender Subcommission; and planning for implementation long before the agreement is signed. In addition they developed a clear procedural distinction

between peace negotiations and the subsequent peace process to aid talks. The negotiations between the two parties are aimed at ending conflict. The pacifications involve the wider society.

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American universities are confessing “complicity” in slavery. Harvard’s president described his university as “directly complicit in America’s system of racial bondage.” (NYTimes,7/11/16) Ken, raised in Plymouth, England, was free of any such association. Until he found that Hawkins, a Plymouth hero, had engaged in the three way traffic from there. Carrying what to him were baubles, but which were, to Africans unable to make them, treasures, he traded with African traders who brought the slaves to the coast, carried the slaves to the Americas, sold them and bought American products, rare in England, and shipped them back home, selling them profitably for cash. Elizabeth granted him a crest which included two slaves under a palm tree.

So Ken’s home is also complicit. Francis Drake of course, also from Plymouth, was a “legal” pirate, having permission from the queen to sail the Spanish Main robbing Spanish freighters of their cargo. But he was not that lowly thing, a trader, himself.

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Here is a prayer by a Catholic very much for what we desire:

Our Lady prays for all who are targeted by gun violence: African-Americans, the poor and marginalized, and police officers.

All are her children.

All are our brothers and sisters.

Let us ask Our Lady to pray for us.

Yet how different the mode of prayer is from ours. And we would at this time add Muslims and, perhaps, even just Americans to the list. It surely grows, uninterruptedly, all the time. We join that Catholic man in his prayer, in our own way.

“Protestants get their ultimate authority from the Bible, Catholics from the Pope,” added Marybeth Neal of Minneapolis, quoted in the *Star Tribune*. “We take our ultimate authority

from the inner light.”

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John Woolman’s veracity was so well known that two of his friends thought it would be a joke to trap him into telling an untruth. When one of them was sitting in his parlor with him, the other knocked on the front door and inquired if his friend was there, it having been arranged that the friend would make a hasty exit through a window. But John Woolman replied, “I left him in the parlor!” *Friendly Anecdotes*

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A Canadian Quaker struggled with his anger at the Orlando shooting. “The Friends in my Meeting have been very supportive as I’ve struggled to feel and understand my anger. I felt angry about the shooting, but I also felt safe and nurtured and understood by my fellow Friends. They have not tried to tell me to feel something else, or to have an emotional goal. Just knowing that they are with me as I sit with my anger has made that anger fade.”

## Confronting Islamophobia

Naveed Moeed: When we see acts of racism and Islamophobia, we should be called to reach out and say, “Hey. That’s not right.” It should be within the very DNA of Quakers to fundamentally react against the loathsome rhetoric . . .

Raed Jarrar: Many people in our community, the AFSC community, or the Quaker community at large ascribe to views of our cities and the world at large where people are treated equally and respectfully. We have to act on it. And within our safe spaces, we have to be very vocal, and we have to be very active in acting on these principles at a time that it really matters.

### *How Quakers Can Make a Difference:*

Layla Razavi: I think allies are incredibly important, and I think this really stretches across from movements that are trying to counter Islamophobia to broader movements against racism. All of these movements really benefit when there are allies that are engaged,

and what I mean by engaged isn't leading those movements per se; what I mean by "engaged" is people who are holding their peers accountable.

Read Jarrar: We are living at a political moment where it really matters to act. It really matters to speak out, and to reach out to American Muslims or refugees or immigrants and to engage in discussions with groups or individuals who are disseminating anti-Muslim or anti-Immigrant rhetoric.

Naveed Moeed: There are a plethora of ways that Quakers can help in all of the different Quaker communities across the United States. Wherever you are, there is probably a local Muslim community, and a Muslim community that may increasingly feel that it is isolated and fearful. Establishing links with local Muslim communities is something that I believe Quakers in particular are adept at doing, and should be encouraged to do.

We are not a huge movement. We are not large but we are powerful in our own ways, and our power and our strength comes from being able to cross cultural barriers and divides.

From Muslim (and previously Muslim?) consultants on *Quakerspeak*.

## Ice Raids May/June

Asylum seekers who arrived after 1 January 2014 are priorities for removal. In the past week we have provided services to roughly 20 families detained after being arrested by ICE in these raids. More are arrested every day . . . Failing to show up to immigration court for a hearing results in an automatic deportation order. If DHS has the wrong address and the hearing notice is never received by a family, or they do not have a lawyer and fear attending, the judge can STILL issue a deportation order, even if no one ever explained their rights, the asylum process, told they needed a lawyer, or spoke to them in their language (mainly an issue for speakers of indigenous languages from Guatemala).

A Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University research found that "knowledge of the increased risk of migrating to

the U.S. and the increased risk of deportation has no impact whatsoever on their decision to migrate. Rather, the overwhelming predictor...is whether or not that person has been victimized by crime in the previous year."

*How to help:*

SOCIAL MEDIA: #StoptheRaids #RefugeNotRaids #NiMas #NotiMore

Call on government officials to stop the raids  
President Obama - call: 202-456-1111; email: [whitehouse.gov/contact](mailto:whitehouse.gov/contact)

Sen. John Cornyn - call 210-224-7485

## Thomas Ellwood, Quaker, said

"The winter tree

Resembles me,

Whose sap lies in its root:

The spring draws near

As it, so I, shall bud,

I hope, and shoot."

A quotation, referring to the springtime shoots of winter trees, words not so appropriate perhaps now in a country awash with guns where little girls get shot by mistake, or . . . shoot their grandmas.

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues,

they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Words of Paul, resounding down through two millennia.

## **A Call to the Steps of Peace**

“In these times of senseless bloodshed and violence, both globally and nearby, another even stronger movement of common unity and compassion is happening in the world and in San Antonio. From within that movement, the individuals and organizations signed below [omitted] issue this call to all our neighbors and fellow citizens:

“A Call to the Steps of Peace towards a Compassionate San Antonio!

On July 11, 2016, our city leadership issued a challenging call to action from San Antonians after the sad, violent events of the last weeks.

In response to the city's call, we in the movement of common unity and compassion offer our resources of peacemaking skills, nonviolent education, community relational networks and strategic coordination through the lens of compassion. We extend our city leadership's call to all people of San Antonio and beyond.”

This call [to the City Hall steps towards a Compassionate San Antonio] is to:

A hopeful vision that we can all share for our children and our children's children, of life free

from violence and fear,

Common ground of potential good will that lies within each of us, even when it cannot be seen outwardly,

All peoples of good will, good faith, good reason and good hearts,

A golden reminder to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves.

There is no need to look further than to the compassionate resources within each of us, the very resourceful soul of our own city. The answers we seek already exist within us and require only our uniting together.

We, the undersigned below, are resolved to:

Move forward in our continuing efforts toward a vibrant and compassionate San Antonio;

Reach out to all as our neighbors, no matter who they are, near or far; no matter their race, religion or relationship in this world;

Stand strong and firm together with you, fellow San Antonians, hand in hand, always looking forward, not retreating in the wake of the violence among us;

Offer our skills and human resources, our lives and our commitment towards a peaceful and compassionate San Antonio.

San Antonio has a rich history of rising to the times by holding peace in our hearts and saying no to violence. "Not in our City!" Join us in this history-making today. Sign with us, engage with us, be with us in becoming the best “we” that we can be in San Antonio and in this world we call our home.

In trusting collaboration with each other, we sign and say, "Compassion lives here!"  
Compassionate San Antonio”

from the PeaceCenter

## **Advice or Query**

Are you honest and truthful in all that you say and do? What happens when you are under pressure? Do you choose integrity over success? How do you deal with life's inevitable choices?  
What brings you and those around you the most peace?

Meeting for Worship is held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and a Forum discussion at 11.30, usually lasting until about 12.45. Children are invited to join worship for the first fifteen minutes, after which they may go to join with the Young Friends program. Child care is available during Forum.

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