



LIVING THE MISSION PRAYER

AWAKEN RISK BLESS

COMPASSIONATE ACTION AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“Let us not love in words, nor in mere talk, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Love is the deed of justice, or, as the Medellín documents eloquently stated, “Love is the soul of justice. [The Christian who] works for social justice should always cultivate peace and love in one’s heart” (CELAM 1968, 71). For the Christian, this deed is done in spite of the Other deserving to be loved.

Hence, to love in this fashion is to question, analyze, challenge, and dismantle the social structures responsible for preventing people from reaching the fullest potential of the abundant life promised by Christ.

—de la Torre, Miguel A.. Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins--Second Edition.

3 a. You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness.

b. Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ’s vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a,b

PROCESS

The following is an ongoing process of contemplation and action based off the Pastoral Spiral or Cycle in the book *Social Analysis for the 21st Century* by Maria Cimperman. This process is a cycle that continues as we commit to ongoing spirit-led reflection, learning, and action individually and in community.

1. Engage in prayerful reflection seeking the Spirit’s guidance as you consider the following questions:
 - a. What is happening in my village, town, city, or country that is causing human suffering or environmental degradation?
 - b. Where is the Spirit nudging me to further explore an oppressive or unjust practice, policy, or system?
2. Why is this suffering happening?
 - a. What do I need to learn to become better informed on the multiple dimensions of this issue? (i.e. sociological, economic, political, cultural, environmental, religious – See *Social Analysis for the 21st Century* by Maria Cimperman for support in this analysis)
 - b. Who can I invite to join me on this journey of discovery?
3. What does this mean for me as one called to follow Jesus the peaceful one?
 - a. How does my personal faith journey with Jesus the peaceful one challenge me to understand and respond to this issue?
 - b. How does my faith community (i.e. relationships, experiences, enduring principles, mission initiatives) challenge me to understand and respond to this issue?
4. How will I respond?

- a. Where is God already moving ahead of me through persons and/or organizations working to bring about positive change?
- b. How can I offer my specific gifts and skills to join with an existing organization or take initial steps to address this issue?
- c. Who can I invite to join me in this response?
- d. How will I stay fully awake to the Spirit's prompting in personal spiritual practice, conversation with others, and engagement in next steps?