

Summer of Peace 2013™

“Prayer for Syria” with Stephen Dinan, James O'Dea, Grandmother Flordemayo, Sister Jenna, and Zainab Al-Suwaij (Sept 7)

[0:00:00]

Stephen: Greetings, everyone, and welcome to a really very important call for me personally, a prayer for Syria, a call to prayer for Syria. This is Stephen Dinan, the founder of The Shift Network.

And if you are like me, you've been progressively more shocked and saddened by the turn of events in Syria, the depths of suffering that's really been occurring over the last years and increasing, and now really threatening to bring in players from around the world who are trying in many ways to do their best to resolve this, to halt the atrocities, to transform the situation. It's a very complicated and very challenging situation, and it's really a litmus test in many ways for how we can come together as a global community to really help in the healing and the peaceful transformation of situations like this not only today but in the future.

So we have gathered here today in order to enter into prayerful communion with each other, to invite some leaders representing different lineages to offer their heartfelt soulful prayers for the healing of this situation, for the wisdom of all the leaders and players involved. And then we will, after that, open the lines to hear the prayers and blessings from many others who are joining with us from around the world right now.

We have seen a lot of science that has supported the power of prayer at a distance and the power of intention. One of the things that become obvious is that it's not just about imposing our will upon a situation but really restoring the sense of sacred connection and union and from that place and prayer for the highest good of all beings, then the magic can happen, healing can happen, physical healing.

And so the way I see our half hour together today is that we are all adding our prayerful intention to the healing and transformation of this situation that we are all calling upon our higher selves and the

higher selves of all those who are involved to find a path that is healing, find a path that is peaceful.

So what we're going to begin with is I'm going to just say a few words of prayer and then invite our four featured leaders to offer their prayers for a few minutes. And I invite each of us to become centered, grounded, perhaps put a hand on your heart and let the words echo in your own being. You might even say them to yourselves so that we're creating a prayer circle that stretches across these wires and impacts in a positive way the situation.

And then if you feel truly called afterwards, we will be inviting other people to offer their prayers before we do some closing blessings. So again, you are full participants in this process, in this whole creation of a field of healing and a field of transformation now that is extending to the situation in Syria and to the leaders who are trying to decide on the right courses of action.

So I'll just begin by invoking the presence of the Holy One who goes by so many names, that lives and breathes and animates us all. May you help us find our right alignment in the days and weeks ahead. And right now, may you help us connect with the part of ourselves that is powerful and can positively affect situations at a distance. And we ask that you listen to and amplify our prayers for those who are involved in this ongoing tragedy.

Now, I want to invite Zainab as our Islamic representative from the American Islamic Congress to offer your first prayers for a few minutes for the healing and transformation of this situation.

Zainab: Thank you very much. I would like to start us with the couple of verses in Arabic and then I will be translating it to you too.
[0:04:20] [Foreign Language]

Oh, God, oh, Allah, you are the peace, and peace comes from you and peace goes back to you. Give us all this peaceful feeling. Make us united. Make us strong. Don't let the voices of evil separate us. Give us stability. Give us strong beliefs in our humanity. Give us rewards based on our deeds and our contribution on this earth.

[0:05:13]

Forgive our sins and accept our deeds.

Please, Almighty, help us unite. Help us be together. And accept our small contribution and save us from all the voices of evil and all of the voices that wants to destroy our unity. Amen.

Stephen: Amen. James O'Dea from The Shift Network's Peace Ambassador Program and author, would you go next?

James: Yes, indeed.

First, we stand in the place of reconciliation. We affirm the energy of reconciliation with our own being and remain rooted in the power of this, which is the destiny of humanity to inhabit on a planetary scale. We see this field of reconciliation expanding in this momentous hour for the peace movement as millions of people across the planet ask their governments to turn away from war and use every means to bring the parties of the conflict in Syria to the negotiating table.

We stand in the place of compassion for all beings locked in the jaws of violent enmity, creating hell out of illusory hatred, superiority, self-righteousness, religious division, and blind judgment.

We stand in the place of heart-rending grief for the slaughter of children, women and men massacred in such great numbers and those displaced in fleeing their native land in terror.

We will not permit our hearts to be frozen in numbness or polarized in addictive rivalry. Rather, we affirm the power of millions of hearts across the planet, broken wide open, as the instrumental and awakening force for all those hearts in Syria that are shut down and filled by hatred.

We stand in a place of truth that calls all to accountability for crimes against humanity, the truth which reveals the religious hypocrisy and violates the holy precepts of all the prophets and wisdom keepers against religious hatred and killing in the name of God.

We stand as global witnesses of the power of the divine will to enter through human consciousness as truth, reconciliation, forgiveness and healing justice in restoring peace in Syria.

Condemnation is easy, but our work and our prayer is to awaken our collective moral imagination so that each of us may touch, taste, feel and see peace until the day a new humanity shall inherit a universal culture of peace on earth. Amen.

Stephen: Amen. Thank you, James.

Now, I want to just invite us to take a breath and metabolize that incredibly beautiful prayer.

Next, we will invite Grandmother Flordemayo, representative from the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Flordemayo, please offer your prayer with us.

Flordemayo: Thank you so much. I send regards to everybody in the four directions. Beloved Creator, beloved Mother, giver of all things, beloved Creator, maker of everything that is with us, all of the beauty that is around us, beloved Mother in the north and the south, the east and the west. Send us the blessing, beloved Creator, as we stand here in the center of this earth.

As I stand here before you in this little place in New Mexico with my arms extended, looking towards the Grandfather Sun, sending the blessings of the warmth energy, the purity of the Grandfather's spirit, beloved Creator, as we send it out to the east, to the Middle East, to Syria, send it out to all of the families, beloved Creator, the mothers out there, the grandmothers, the grandfathers, and all of the little bitty children, beloved Creator.

[0:10:21]

We stand here before you asking you to please extend your arms. Bring your cloak of protection into that area, to all of the people and all of the surrounding countries around there, to the mind of those leaders that are making decisions for the sake of the people. Allow them to feel their hearts as they also have families, as they also have children.

Beloved Creator, remind them that they also have so much to lose in this making of decisions that they're doing right now. Beloved Creator, bring these prayers from around the world, each and every one of us, as we form this circle of prayer. Beloved Mother, as we

form this circle of light around all of us to bring this peace into this area, beloved Creator, and to all of the countries around the world, all of the leaders around the world that are dwelling on this particular topic right now, beloved Mother. You know how to touch them, beloved Creator, allowing them to make those right decisions for humanity, beloved Mother.

As we stand before you, send the prayers of peace, send the prayers of light, beloved Creator. As we stand here before you, underneath our Grandfather Sun, let us send our blessings out there. Let us embrace each and every one so that they can feel the love of the prayers that we're sending out this very moment so that these things can turn around in a good way, so that their hearts can be touched, so that anything that is uneasy and not good, beloved Creator, take that indifferent feeling and take it away from them and bless them in a good way and embrace them in a good way so that we can continue to pray for peace and bring peace into this country, beloved Creator, as we think about all of those people out there. As I mentioned before, the children, the young adults, the young moms and dads, the grandmothers and grandfathers of these countries, beloved Creator, take care of them and take care of all of these things.

If I've forgotten to mention anything, beloved Mother, please take care of all of that as we stand here sending our prayers in the four directions, beloved Creator. Thank you so very much. As I send blessings to each and every one across the nation, thank you, beloved Mother-Father, Creator-Maker, all of the beauties that is around us. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

James: Thank you. Taking a moment of silence to honor that prayer.

Now, Sister Jenna from the Brahma Kumaris, I invite you to share your prayer with us.

Jenna: Om Shanti. This is never a comfortable place to be in to witness one of our brothers forgetting the natural nature of the soul, being peace.

So just for this moment, I'd like to invite everyone, everyone, here, Syria, especially the leadership there, this invitation is an invitation of remembrance to step inside and invite silence, the original

energy of the soul, in which that silence is capable of experiencing the love from God.

[0:15:23]

And as the love continues to come through the soul, the soul automatically performs actions that will be beneficial for everyone.

This call to prayer, this call to reflection, this call to peace, invites you to become comfortable with your natural innate silence of the soul so we can feel and take power from God to overcome the limitations that the human soul struggles with.

President Assad, the families in Syria, our government in the US, and everyone involved in this moment of time, I invite you to sit in your mental silence and sit in that place until you finally experience how much love is available from the Supreme, how much love is the original nature of the soul.

With this, we offer to call to prayers to all and everyone, and stay in our silence so we can feel his love. Om Shanti.

Stephen: Om Shanti. Thank you, Sister Jenna.

And I will close our prayers with a reading of a prayer that we have been pulling together that represents the unifying prayer for so many different states and streams for this situation. We're going to post this next week on its own site.

To the Holy One who is known by many names and lives through each of us, we humbly pray for peace, justice and wisdom to prevail in Syria. We offer our prayers for all engaged in this conflict, including Bashar al-Assad, his allies and the opposition leaders, to remember the righteousness and compassion within them and to open to the nonviolent transformation of the situation for the good of Syria and all humanity.

We hear the cries of our brothers and sisters mourn the dead and displaced. We affirm that we are all children of the same source and ask to be cleansed of any of our misdeeds that may have contributed to this suffering. We commit to learning from this tragedy and ask for guidance in making our most positive contribution to the healing, cultural change and reforms required

to prevent all such tragedies in the future. May peace prevail in Syria and on earth. Amen.

Now, I want to open this circle since this is a shared circle. We have almost a thousand people on the live line with us right now. If you are on the live line, touch *2 to raise your hand. We invite people just one or two sentences of prayer or blessing as a way to weave our voices together, and we want to do as many as we can. So again, just a sentence or two.

[Participant] from Washington.

[0:20:06]

Participant: Hello?

Stephen: Yes.

Participant: My prayer is this. May all beings be happy, may all beings be peaceful, may all beings be healthy. May they be free and awakened. And may there be peace on earth. Amen. Thank you.

Stephen: Amen. [Participant] from Ontario.

Participant: Peace on earth. And in my language **[0:20:38] [Foreign Language]**. May peace prevail on earth.

Stephen: [Participant] from Oregon.

Participant: May love touch everyone's heart and fill everyone's soul all around the planet, and may we transform into peace and love and light. May we be in that light. Thank you.

Stephen: [Participant] from Cambridge.

Participant: Yes. Dear Lord, please open all of our hearts so that we don't ourselves hold any negativity. Bless us all and everyone around to open their hearts with love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Stephen: [Participant] from Florida.

Participant: I'd like to share a couple of sentences from Guanyin's prayer. "To those who withhold refuge, I cradle you in safety at the core of my

being. To those that cause a child to cry out, I grant you the freedom to express your own choked agony. To those that inflicted terror, I remind you that you shine with the purity of a thousand suns."

Stephen: Thank you. [Participant] from Montreal.

Participant: Yes. I would just simply like to share this simple prayer.

"To the Supreme Being, make us an instrument of your peace. Where there's hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy." Peace, love and blessings to all. Thank you. It's the prayer of St. Francis.

Stephen: [Participant] from Seattle.

Participant: Yes. We call upon the highest and deepest authority of infinite love to descend into the hearts, minds and souls of all of creation to remember the connectivity that we all are and shatter anything that is not that.

Stephen: [Participant] from Colorado.

Participant: Yes. I just wanted to give prayer for the best and that in this up and coming Peace Day, September 21st, this is also recognized as a ceasefire day, that I hope that we will have as much of that moments as we can have. And just as recognizing the moments between the breath, we recognize the moments of ceasefire between the moments of war, and that those moments should widen. May peace prevail on earth.

Stephen: [Participant] from New York. Okay. Let's try [Participant] from New Jersey.

Participant: Yes. "May the gift of life be recognized and honored by all. I wish that life should not be cheap but sacred. I wish the days to be centuries, loaded and fragrant." By Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Stephen: Thank you. [Participant] from Los Angeles.

Participant: May the inner peace that we are all experiencing create a brand-new foundation that informs all of human society in moving now and into the future. Thank you.

Stephen: Thank you. [Participant] from Georgia.

Participant: May the peace that connects us all create a world that works for everybody. Peace and love.

Stephen: [Participant] from Wisconsin. Let's try somebody from Missoula, Montana.

[0:25:12]

Participant: Hi, yes. May the land of Syria find peace and restfulness in the wake of distrust and nonrestfulness. I pray that angels descend upon the land and spread their love and spread their wings, and open a net of safety for all beings in that place to experience and uplift.

Stephen: Beautiful. In the last few minutes, I just want to return to our speakers and just invite a final 30 seconds of blessing and just helping each of us move into right action and alignment as we become better and better peace ambassadors in the world and agents of positive change. Maybe we can start with James.

James: Yes. This is a moment so precious, my beautiful friends. It is more precious than we realize that so many hearts on planet earth are turning towards skillful peace, asking for negotiations, calling out for a different kind of revolution. We are part of that movement, so I bless that movement. I support it in every way.

We're beginning to see the emergence of a culture of peace on Planet Earth and you are part of it becoming more skillful every day in the way you use your consciousness, your heart, your action in the world to transform our planet. Many, many blessings.

Stephen: Flordemayo.

Flordemayo: Thank you. In the name of peace, beloved Creator, we thank you. In the name of peace, beloved Creator, we thank you. In the name of peace, beloved Creator, we thank you.

Stephen: Sister Jenna.

Jenna: As is my vision, there will be the world grounding. This is a call. Be consistent, persistent, disciplined, that we maintain the spiritual tradition of ourselves and others and to emerge that trust and faith and it will impact humanity. And we will see the love of God in the eyes of our fellow being by maintaining the love of God in our own eyes.

Stephen: Yeah. And as we come to the close of our time together, I just invite a moment of silence and everyone to put their hands on your hearts and feel the connection. Actually, the hundreds of people, I think there are 850 or 900 people on the line right now who have chosen to take 30 minutes to join together in this shared prayer that stretches across the world. I just give our gratitude to our brothers and sisters who have joined us here and send a final beam of love to all those actors in this drama, ourselves included, for us to find the highest path and to heal the wound, clear the conflict, to open to the grace that is possible for this to become a situation that transforms rather than creates further damage.

So just as we close together with this moment of silence and gratitude, just sending our collective energy to all those players from Bashar al-Assad to his senior leaders, to the leaders of the opposition, to Obama and his team in Congress and leaders of other world governments. They know that we are together in this with you, that we love you, that we affirm your highest good and wish for the best outcome for all beings. May it be so. May it be so.

[0:30:00]

We will make this available in tomorrow's title listing. So if you wish to share it with people, I think we will post it on the site where you registered. So if you've found value in this call, you are free to share it freely with your friends and allies.

Much love and blessings to you all. Goodbye.

[0:30:31] End of Audio

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