

# DOPA | 2019

Días de Oración y Acción por la Paz de Colombia Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia

Sep. 20-23

# Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia

Dopa 2019

Worship Resources

Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia Worship Resources 2019

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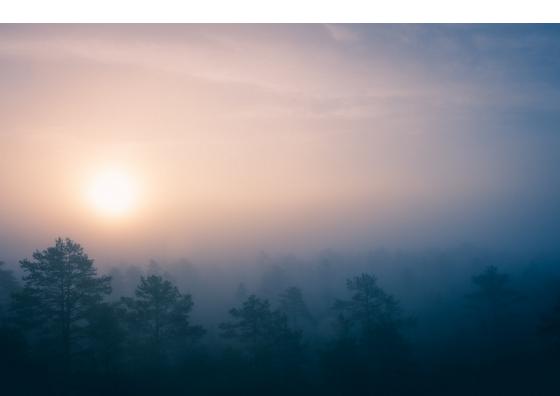
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### I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant Ezequiel 37:26

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## Presentation



Churches in Colombia, the United States, and around the world have been praying and acting for a just and lasting peace in Colombia for decades. Today, Colombia's peace process has made promising steps, fortified by committed women and men from every region of the country, but it remains a fragile and contested beginning.

The initiative of Days of Prayer and Action for Peace of Colombia was born in 2006 in order to raise awareness among the churches of the United States about the Colombian reality and to motivate to make incidence to the Congress of their country to improve their policy towards Colombia and promote peace This year we urgently resume the call: "Let's make peace!" inviting to churches around the world to participate. Thank you for being part of this movement.

This packet offers a collection of prayers, poems, songs, reflections, and educational materials to promote peace in the world, in your community, and particularly in Colombia. They are for your use in religious services, public vigils and events, in

Sunday schools—and in any other space that would be appropriate in your context.

available More at resources are www.facebook.com/DoPAColombia and you may send questions and requests via email (dopacolombia@gmail.com). Please share photos, videos, and reflections on your experience with Days of Prayer and Action on social media with @DOPAColombia and the hashtags #DOPA2019, use #PactemosLaPaz, #YoPactoLaPaz

## Prayers



## Responsive prayers, suitable for Call to Worship

Let us cherish this day the Lord has made:

A day full of love and peace.

Because we are a family

All of us, men and women, have everything we need. We pray today for peace with justice.

We pray for our children and relatives, for our friends,

for all of our brothers and sisters across the world who struggle for justice,

and for ourselves.

Help us to promote the spiritual, moral, social, economic and political growth that our great family throughout the world needs.

Thank you for your Holy Spirit which joins us as one body, the church, to reach this goal.

#### **Amen**

- adapted from a litany by Daira Elsa Quiñones, Bogotá

### Establish your peace, Lord!

Loving God, we cry out to you

As we seek peace and solutions to conflict,

Establish your peace, Lord!

¡Establece tu paz, Señor!

In the midst of corruption, impunity, and violence,

Establish your peace, Lord!

¡Establece tu paz, Señor!

In the search for justice and peace in Colombia,

Establish your peace, Lord!

¡Establece tu paz, Señor!

In the pain that children, women, and men are suffering,

¡Establece tu paz, Señor!

Establish your peace, Lord,

according to your will!

Amen.

-adapted from Adaía Bernal, DOPA 2013

## A prayer from young girls

Today I want a new world with love in every place where every single person will truly love each face

O Lord, give me your Spirit to sing for everyone so each and every nation lives in harmony and with fun

I also want to thank You for all people under the sun and pray in every moment your Holy Will be done

> – Gissel Sampayo (9), Zuleima Sampayo (10), and Marta Ortiz, DOPA 2013

#### Grant Us Peace

Grant us peace that will **BREAK**our silence in the midst of violence
then prophetic voices shall resonate

Grant us peace that will **PULL US DOWN**from the steeple of our pride
then we'll learn to wash each other's feet

Grant us peace that will **EMPTY** us of hate and intolerance then we'll turn guns into guitars and sing

Grant us peace that will **SHUT** our mouths up
when we speak too much
then we'll learn to listen and understand what others are saying

Grant us peace that will **DISTURB** us in our apathy then we'll dance together under the sun

Grant us peace that will **BURN** our lethargic hearts then we'll endure burning and let love and justice glow

- from the Philippines, used in DOPA 2015

## Prayers of the People —A Litany of Lament

No more victims! We cry out to heaven, although we know that it is on earth where many destinies are decided.

From your holy dwelling, oh Blessed Lord, you look upon us with sadness, like a good Father who sees his own children destroy one another and weeps for their souls, their stories, their memory, because even God's heart aches at this infamy.

We cry to you, Eternal God:
For the life we defend,
for the memory we will not lose,
for so many stories that demand justice,
for the peace we desire,
for dreams truncated by bullets,
for the graves of the unidentified dead,
for children who will never grow up,
for women killed and for those who mourn their beloved dead,
for all who safeguard hope,
and for hope itself;

And for every righteous desire, for my sister and my brother And for myself, as I wearily clamor for those absent, And for those who are present, Lord, we pray.

Help us to cherish life and to re-establish the bonds which make of this earth Your true Kingdom, and of us your beloved and chosen people.

May there be no more victims, because that is not your desire. *Remind us that you are not too far away* for your mercy to reach us, for your comfort to cover us. Remind us that we belong to you, not to the oppressor or to the violent.

We offer you our presence and testimony. Receive them, along with this great clamor of our hearts, and bless us with your renewal.

Amen.

adapted from a prayer by Nelson Celis, from DOPA 2016

## The Lord's Prayer from Micoahumado

#### Our Father,

You are in the assemblies of campesino

men and women who work the soil, in the struggles of those who stand up for their rights, their families, and their land.

#### Your name is hallowed

Because the people still have hope,

and can eat beans, yuca, rice, and corn...
the fruits of their labor and their relationship with the earth.
You are holy because in spite

of their challenging circumstances they keep up their hopes and stay in the struggle.

#### Yes, Lord, let your Kingdom come

Because when your kingdom comes,

there is safety for everyone, and no one is afraid to walk freely on their land, everyone respects their autonomy.

May the land be cultivated always

and only to bring abundant life, and never seeking war or death.

#### Let your will be done,

Which means freedom for everyone,

breaking the yokes that oppress the community.

Your will is the proclamation of the Good News to the poor,

comfort for the afflicted,

for all who have suffered from the war and its injustice.

#### Give us this day our daily bread,

the bread of walking our fields

without being killed by a landmine.

the bread of medical care and education

for our people in the countryside

the bread of peaceful living,

free from threats and fears that afflict us and damage the wellbeing of our community.

#### And forgive us, Lord

for not knowing how to share the bread

which you have given us

#### As we forgive those

who have taken away the things you have given to us.

#### Lead us not into temptation

the temptation to believe all is lost

and that nothing can be done,

the temptation to give up,

the temptation to think we can go it alone.

#### But deliver us from evil

From the landmines that kill our people and destroy our crops Deliver us from the evil of sinister forces that work in darkness, that seek to end our way of life.

Deliver us from the evil of division, which arises among us as the fruit of fear

and hopelessness, weakening our unity

For yours is the kingdom, yours is the power, and yours is the glory For you alone are God, forever. Amén.

—from DOPA 2015, based on the "Lord's Prayer from Guatemala" by Julia Esquivel Micoahumado is a village in southern Bolívar province, which in 2019 has seen new landmines and civilian casualties in conflict between the ELN guerrilla and government forces

## Pastoral Prayer or Charge (Sending words)

*Help us, O Lord,*So that our words, our actions,

and ourlives might reflect your love.

That your Holy Spirit might accompany us

to find the path of peace.

That we might love one another

as sisters and brothers,

That we might fully trust in your constant

accompaniment and presence.

Help us, O Lord, so that we might see your mercy and hear your voice.

Heal the wounded hearts and restoreaffected lives.

With your help, O Lord, we will walk in yourpeace and love! Amen

-Adaía Bernal, DOPA 2014

## A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless us with restless discomfort About easy answers, half-truths, And superficial relationships, So that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with holy anger At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, So that we may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless us with the gift of tears
To shed for those who suffer from pain,
Rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish,
So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them
And transform their pain into joy.

May God bless us with enough foolishness To believe that we really can make a difference in this world, So that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

## Songs



### Kyrie eleison

by Rodolfo Gaede Neto

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world, God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain!

Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people. Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice, to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!

We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness: until your kingdom comes, Kyrie eleison!

#### Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5deYkwAl\_Dw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDZ3g0ZXPHE

## Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Francis of Assisi

Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring Your love, Where there is injury Your pardon Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there's despair in life let me bring hope, Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek, So much to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand, To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Video con letra y acordes: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WM46CK2fDU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WM46CK2fDU</a>

### Canticle of the Turning

Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat) Words: Lyrics: Rory Cooney basado (1990) Music: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN (Irish Traditional Folk Song)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

#### Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.

And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;

These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

#### Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9QeTmRCpW4

## Pact



### Let's Make a Pact for Peace!

In these Days of Prayer and Action for Peace in Colombia, we speak of making a pact not so much in a legalistic sense, but from an ethical and theological perspective, based on the scriptures of the Judeo-Christian traditions. Those biblical pacts are not precisely contracts, their validity does not depend on the fulfillment of certain terms. We believe in a God who makes promises, and keeps them. Even when we do not respond in kind to God promises, God does not erase the pact with the humanity, but renews it.

Making a pact begins with the initiative of one party, who receives with joy the affirmative response of the other, but does not require it. The one who makes the pact does so first and foremost as an expression their character and commitment, before any intent to establish terms in a mutual agreement.

By signing our names to this pact, we seek to put in words some of the basic principles that orient our way of living as people of faith and conscience. They are an attempt to respond to the question: What do we desire, for other people and for ourselves? We hope that people of diverse political perspectives, social classes, ethnic and religious groups, can be united in this pact, which expresses our commitment to seek the common good.

#### Our Pact for the Peace of Colombia

We affirm that life is sacred, in all its expressions, in humanity and the rest of creation. And so, we pact to reject war and violence as methods to solve conflict.

We affirm that we are all part of this country, not only those of us who think the same. And so, we pact to listen to those who think or behave differently, engaging in dialogue about their ideas and lived experiences, and although we may not agree with them, to avoid hating or stigmatizing the other.

We affirm that without justice it is impossible to build peace. And so, we pact to defend the proper and independent operation of the mechanisms of the Holistic System of Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-Repetition which keep the victims of Colombia's conflict at the center in the effort to do justice after generations of war.

We affirm the value and dignity of campesino farmers, Afrodescendant communities, and indigenous ethnic groups. And so, we pact to promote their rights and to celebrate their leadership in Colombian society.

We affirm that peace is not a destination but a way of life. And

so, we pact to cultivate patience, humility, coherence, and love in our life, so that these radical values might orient our actions and the practices and policies of our society.

# Resources for Christian education



## Let's make a Pact for Peace

por Nemy Silva, MCC - Colombia

#### **Objectives:**

- To construct a conception of peace with the children
- To promote peace as the holistic wellbeing of all people and creation

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES/ RESOURCES
8 min.	A bag of surprises	To begin, the facilitator will show the children a bag, indicating that there is a surprise inside. It is important to encourage them to think and share their opinions on what might be inside, to create a participatory environment.  In the bag there will be four photographs or pictures that represent situations of exclusion or abuse of certain human rights, destruction of nature, child labor, etc.  In this first activity, the idea is to show the pictures to the children one by one, asking about what they see, what they think is happening, what opinion they have about each situation.	Paper bag Photographs or pictures
15 or 20 min.	The peace kite	In this second activity we will speak with the children about how Jesus described peace:	A sheet of tissue paper or

- Many years ago a man came to the Earth to be with people who were sick and excluded, he shared with everyone no matter where they came from, and he taught about the importance of creation and the need to preserve it. Mainly, he spoke and acted with love toward himself, towards others, and with everything around him.
- Jesus said: I have a gift for you: peace of mind and of the heart.
   And the peace that I give is a gift that the world cannot give. So don't be distressed or frightened.

John 14:27

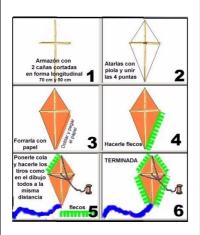
For Jesus, peace didn't come from weapons, it wasn't a result of war and much less of selfishness, as perhaps many people think.

While talking about this, we will return to the pictures and talk about what might change those situations, and work on defining peace together, inviting the children to draw and color what peace means to them.

The drawings will be used to decorate the kites that we will make together.

While we make the kites, we can mention that we build peace together in unity and that we are all part of its construction; a comparison is with the newspaper
2 lightweight
sticks
Tape or glue
Cord or
string, thin
and resistant
Fabric strips
Drawings
made by the
children
Crayons and
markers

materials to make the kite, which come together to make something new that they're all part of and that no one piece could do alone.



#### Instructions to make a kite:

- Cross the two sticks you've gathered and tie them together where they intersect with a piece of strong cord or string.
- 2. Connect the string to each of the corners, in order, to outline a rhombus.
- 3. Cover the kite with tissue paper or newspaper, attaching it with tape.
- 4. Tie short cords to each of the three upper corners and

		connect them with the long string.  5. Use the fabric pieces to make the tail as shown in the drawing in blue.  6. Decorate with the drawings made by each child.	
At the teacher s' discreti on	Let peace fly!	In closing, invite the children to share if they wish, showing their kites and their drawings and how they can contribute to peace, and commit to building peace together and to let it fly like our kites.  If you have limited time or not enough adult helpers, invite the children to ask for help flying their peace kites at home.	Kites

### A forever peace

Pastor Flor Esther Sánchez Murcia. DIPAZ member , Bogotá.

#### **Objective:**

To illustrate the importance of building peace, to live in harmony in the different areas of life.

#### **Descripcion:**

This lesson has four parts to develop with the children, each one related to the subject of peace. The order can be adjusted according to the criteria of the teachers.

- 1. Game with application
- 2. Illustration with a moral lesson
- 3. Biblical principle and teaching
- 4. Artistic activity as a reminder.

#### 1. Game: Charades for Peace

In preparation for this game we need small papers that say tolerance, respect, solidarity, dialogue, reconciliation, peace. A set should be prepared for each group.

Arrange the children in groups of five, and have each group choose a child to take out a paper, read it silently, and act out the word in 30 seconds while the other children guess what it is. The children take turns acting out the charades, and the

group with the most correct guesses wins.

#### **Application:**

When the game is over, gather everyone together again and ask what words they acted out. Tell them that each one of those values helps us to build peace.

Ask, how many of you want there to always be peace in our city and our country? Affirm that this is why today we are going to see how we can build a Forever Peace.

#### 2. Illustration

Tell this story, and emphasize the moral.

#### An almost impossible peace

Giants and dragons had been enemies forever. They had gotten really good at it. They knew better than to wage wars with terrible battles in which thousands of them died. Now they settled things every year by playing bowling matches. Each giant played against a dragon. The loser became the winner's slave for a year. If the dragon won, it would have a strong giant for all its heavy tasks. If the giant won, it would have free flights and fire for an entire year.

This way nobody got killed, but they hated each other more and more. Every year the winners were even more cruel with the losers, taking revenge for what they'd had to do when they lost.

Eventually they didn't care about winning the bowling match anymore. What mattered was not to lose it.

And the one who was most afraid of losing was the giant Yonk, the best bowler of all. He had never lost a match. Many dragons had been his slaves, and they were dying to see him lose so they could take revenge. That's the reason Yonk was so afraid to lose. Especially since last year, when the first bad throw of his life got him nervous. And he decided to change.

The following year he won again, and left the bowling match with the dragon he had defeated. When they got to his house, the enslaved dragon expected the worst sort of treatment, but Yonk had a very different proposal for him.

"This year you will not be my slave. We will just practice bowling and I will teach all my secrets to you. But you must promise me this: when you win your match next year, you will not mistreat your giant. You will do just like I am doing now with you."

The dragon accepted happily. Yonk kept his promise: he spent the year without making the dragon fly him around or light him a fire. The dragon also kept his promise, and ever since then, they both do the same thing every year. Yonk's idea spread so far that in a few years there were many giants and dragons who spent their days bowling, leaving behind the fights and mistreatment of the past, treating each other more like playmates than enemies.

Much later Yonk lost his first game. But by then he was no longer scared to lose, because he was the one who decided not to enslave the dragons, bringing hatred to an end, sowing the first seed of that almost impossible peace between giants and dragons.

Moral: Building true peace requires that those with the ability (or who feel they have the right) to attack or mistreat others choose instead to take steps towards forgiveness and reconciliation.

#### 3. Biblical principle:

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant." Ezekiel 37:26.

In this Bible verse we hear that God wants all people to always have peace, and God affirms it through a covenant. Do you know what a covenant is? (allow them to respond). A covenant is a sort of pact, an agreement that we make with others in the hope of achieving good things.

God made a covenant with us to give us peace forever,

promising to be with us and help us so that things will go well for us. Wars, fighting and abuse have damaged that covenant, but God has given us the tools to make sure the covenant lasts forever. Those tools are: respect, tolerance, solidarity, forgiveness, reconciliation, dialogue, cooperation and many other things that you can practice at home, at school, in the park, and many other places.

Just like Yonk in the story that I told you, who made changes that brought peace to those around him, you can make changes too, so that life will go better for you and those around you. That's how we build Forever Peace.

#### 4. Artistic Activity

We will make an origami dove.

Process: To learn how to make an origami dove, you can watch this Youtube video (in Spanish). Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D09DyDWu-4g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D09DyDWu-4g</a>

Materials: a 20X20 cm sheet of paper for each child. These sheets can be different colors so that doves will be many colors.

# A story to reflect upon: Why is the boy angry?

By Francisca Pacheco, Chile, MCC - Colombia

On a day like any other, a chocoano boy (who lives in Chocó) came to the edge of a river near his house. It was not a good day, like the previous one had been. Today he was angry. Why was the boy angry?

He sat at the edge of the water and threw stones into the river as hard as he could, and even though he was angry, sometimes he laughed when the water splashed his face.

While he was showing off how angry he was, he heard a bird begin to sing. What he didn't know is that the bird had been watching him for quite a while, until finally his curiosity got the best of him, and Bird approached the boy and said: "Hello Boy, what are you doing?"

Boy looked at the bird, shrugged his shoulders, and continued throwing stones in the river. Bird, not minding that response, started talking again. "I spent the whole morning flying, I crossed part of the San Juan River, ate some fruit, and even got a little bit scared because I saw that there is a dragon not very far from here..."

Bird hadn't finished speaking when Boy asked: "Do baby birds know how to fly, too?"

"I knew you had a tongue to speak with!" Bird responded cheerfully.

Boy laughed out loud while he showed Bird his tongue and made funny faces at him. While they laughed they heard footsteps, and both turned around and saw Girl with a basket full of clothes on her head, humming a song while she walked. She was surprised to see them, too, and didn't even say hello before looking at Boy and saying "Don't just stare, come help me wash this mountain of laundry!"

Boy just laughed and didn't move.

Girl said: "Well, I would like to be a boy too, so I could play and not wash clothes."

"I would like to be a bird and fly very high and far!" said Boy.

"What's so bad about being children?" responded Bird. "You can play, bathe in the river, go to school and learn."

"We aren't always allowed to play, and going to school isn't

always fun, either," Girl and Boy said, making faces.

As Girl approached the water to begin to wash, something moved among the clothes. Timidly pushing aside a t-shirt, Snake appeared, zigzagging and getting ready to say hello, when Girl jumped backwards and shouted "A snake!".

Boy got up, looked around, and picked up the biggest stone he saw, planning to throw it at Snake, while Bird watched the scene, astonished.

Snake saw the threat and shouted, "Sssssstop!" She shouted so loudly that they all stood still like statues and she continued: "I do not want to hurt you. I heard you talking and wanted to be part of the conversation, too." Girl and Boy looked at each other, not understanding what was happening. They had always been told that snakes were dangerous, that they shouldn't let them get close, that snakes weren't like them and even their skin was different. And now Snake wanted to be their friend.

Bird laughed and said to Snake: "You scared Them! What were you doing, hiding in the laundry?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Snake, don't you know how to walk?" Boy asked.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Do you know how to run?" Girl asked.

From over in the trees they heard barking and a voice that said "I do! I can walk, and run, too! I can run! Want to see? I can run!"

And Dog appeared, running between them and sniffing them.

While they laughed and talked, it became very easy to see how the ways they were each different made them more interesting and special and helped them enrich their own lives and the lives of others.

After most of the morning was over, they heard a loud roar coming from the trees, a roar that made you want to run far away as it came crunching through the trees. Girl, Boy, Bird, Snake, and Dog looked at each other with surprised faces, and waited for a moment, scared, but also very curious to know what had made such a loud noise.

Among the trees a great big mouth appeared, made of yellow iron, its strong teeth breaking everything around them, leaving great big hollows in the ground of the riverbank while its legs like long cylinders squashed whatever got in its way. The new group of friends shouted in unison: "A dragon!" And they began to flee.

Dog helped gather the clothes that Girl had been washing and put them in the basket. Girl put Snake back in the basket and she and Boy each grabbed a handle and ran carrying the basket while Bird flew up high and helped them find the best path.

They ran a few minutes until they arrived at the village where they stopped to rest, exhausted from running but also very happy because they realized they made a good team. They were glad the things people say hadn't kept them from making new friends, so they could learn that their differences actually brought them together.

In the end, they learned that peace wasn't just about not fighting, peace meant coming together, and getting to know those who were similar to them and also those who did not look anything like them.

Boy wasn't angry anymore.

<sup>\*</sup> After telling the story, encourage the children to talk about things that us make different, and how we can learn from and celebrate those differences.

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