



## Message from Executive Director Randall Butler

### Remembering and Looking Forward

As the 10th anniversary of the attacks on 9/11 approach, I am sure that you have begun to remember where you were as the horrific events of that awful day unfolded before our eyes on our television screens. The images of the towers will forever be etched in my memory, but it is the memory of a highly unusual meeting on the first Sunday morning after that terrible day that has come to mind over and over again these past ten years.

That morning at 10AM, I facilitated an impromptu town hall meeting of the high school students at our church. I was a regular volunteer in the High School ministry back then and as I arrived that morning, I sensed that many of the 75 or so high school students in the room were still struggling to understand what had happened and to sort through their responses, emotionally and spiritually.

I began by asking them to share what they were feeling at that moment. Many spoke of continuing fear of future attacks that could come at any moment. Many expressed their deep sense of anger and a desire to strike back at whoever was responsible.

At some point, I told them that one of the questions I was struggling with was how I, who call myself a follower of Jesus, should respond to the attacks, particularly in view of his teaching on loving enemies. I was so proud of them as they wrestled with some of the hardest teachings of Jesus and their entirely natural response to the coordinated terrorist attacks on our country and the murder of so many innocent men, women and children.

After a few minutes of pretty lively discussion I posed this question: What is the difference between justice and revenge. It was a fifteen-year-old football lineman named Tyler that blew me away with the most profound response I have ever heard to that question. He stood to his feet and answered: "Revenge is motivated by hate; justice is motivated by love." In that moment, a fifteen-year old challenged this then 47 year old to look deep inside myself and confront the line between good and evil that runs down the middle of my own and every human heart.

As we remember those that lost their lives that day and think about how much life changed for so many all over the world, we must also look forward to envisioning our common future. As we do, a good place to start is with Tyler's words of wisdom: "Revenge is motivated by hate; justice is motivated by love."

- *Randall Butler*



## Reflections on the Transformational Leadership Workshop by Abdelgaleel Albasha

I would like to take this opportunity, at the outset, to express my sincere appreciation to the Institute for Sustainable Peace for its tireless and invaluable efforts to help empower Sudanese leaders to find common ground and envision a preferred and peaceful future for Sudan.

The 5th Annual Transformation Leadership Workshop was a unique and magnificent opportunity. Not only in terms of the attitudes displayed, but also in the creativity, skill sets, knowledge, and innovative styles of the participants. We had participants from a wide array of cultural, religious, ethnic, professional, and geographic backgrounds. Through an intentional and well-organized process we accepted each other, respected our differences, and within ten days became a family. We believe that training is an intervention for peace. Change is what happens when all people are free to develop themselves in the way they want, without having to fight for their rights to do so.

In my belief, the workshop adopted the motto that people from different backgrounds can come together to be effective peace rangers. In order to be effective and efficient peace rangers we were equipped with tools and skills such as: generative dialogue, appreciative inquiry, preferred scenario development, sustainable peace building, conflict analysis, good governance, and principled leadership.

Now we are peace rangers. Our commitment is to start from any place. We believe that wherever we are and whatever we deal with, change is something to be worked on and something we have to build on to. We strive for a democratic world and a peaceful creation. Please join us to accomplish these noble missions.

## The Role of Social Media in Non-Profits by Amy Buxbaum

In this era of iPads and iPhones, tweets and posts, podcasts and blogs, social media is becoming an increasingly important form of communication and outreach, transforming the way non-profits operate and interact with their supporters. These new outlets of communication allow nonprofits to provide opportunities for activism, facilitate collaboration, and really listen and engage with the public. It is equally important for both non-profit organizations and their supporters to become involved in spreading the word. Even a simple re-tweet or "like" can not only provide valuable feedback, but also help increase dialogue and awareness around important issues. So the next time you're on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) or just perusing the Internet, be sure to check out the ISP's pages let us know what you think!

*Amy Buxbaum is a senior at Rice University. She served as the ISP's Leadership Rice intern this past summer. Amy is responsible for creating the fantastic YouTube video recapping the Transformational Leadership Workshop. If you haven't seen the video, you can view it [here](#), if you have seen it, please pass it on!*

## Up-Coming Opportunities

The ISP has joined with Compassionate Houston as a Compassionate Partner. See their website for how you can be part of the 9/11 Compassionate Service of Remembrance activities being organized all over the city of Houston. <http://compassionatehouston.org/>

We are also partnering with Houston Grand Opera Community Outreach, the Rothko Chapel, and Inprint as they create opportunities for Houstonians to come together to commemorate 9/11 and to envision a better future. See the information below about how to participate:

### **Pieces of 9/11, Memories from Houston, Houston Grand Opera, Sunday, September 11 at 2pm and 4pm**

In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the horrific loss of life in the United States on 9/11, 2001, the Rothko Chapel is joining with HGO to present a song cycle of stories related to people in Houston who experienced the tragedy in a highly personal way. HGO commissioned acclaimed American composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer to write this song cycle.

### **Community Conversations about 9/11, Thursday, September 8, 7pm and Tuesday, September 13, 7pm**

Working with the Institute for Sustainable Peace, Inprint, and HGO, the Rothko Chapel will hold a series of facilitated community dialogues about Houstonians' experience of 9/11. Thursday, September 8 will explore the meaning of commemoration and memory and Tuesday, September 13 will focus on moving from anger to forgiveness.

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