

## Behind the Walls

**Introduction** This is from a February 8, 2008, *Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT)* net release by Charletta Erb, a *CPT-Colombia* team member; used with permission.

Charletta shares: “This poem formed in my mind as I reflected on a community struggling with how to respond to violence committed by neighbors within their households. Communities in the midst of war often experience an increase in violence against women and children.”



Love immersing the river  
A door opens for me to enter  
To hug, to sit, to smile

A hand to hold

Courage to shout through walls  
Digo la verdad! (*I tell the truth*)  
Prayers shake out our anger

Outside, voices rise  
Heat in the air  
In their voices

O Dios mio, no! (*Oh my God, no!*)  
Yet we come not to judge  
But to decide to protect  
Mandarin to cool

She opens the door to stand  
Aqui yo estoy para frente (*Here I am out front, up front*)  
Si, digo la verdad!  
My community  
Will support me, protect me  
She breathes heavy, but poised  
Out from behind the walls



*CPT is featured as an inspirational story on Hill Connections.*

*For other CPT-related stories on this site,*

*search for “Christian Peacemaker Teams” using the search engine in the masthead.*

*Poem and graphics combined by Hill Connections.*