

You Will See the Coming of the Human One... in Colombia

Introduction This is the first part of *Christian Peacemakers (CPT)* four-week 2011 Advent series on peace and justice from the perspective of local peacemakers working in Colombia. CPTer Alix Lozano invites readers to reflect on a Gospel reading: *Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)*. (CPT is featured in the *Inspirational People* section of *Hill Connections*.)

The story of the coming of the Human One is located in the center of this type of eschatological discourse [studies of the end of times]. The cosmic shock is typical of apocalyptic prophecy and used to introduce the great acts of God and give a turn to the story. The *parousia* (presence) is presented as the day of the great gathering of all the people of God, therefore, it can not be a day of fear but with joy.

Responding to the question of “when,” Jesus says that the important thing is not to feed the passivity and fear waiting for the destruction of the world or doomsday, but to learn to **discern the signs of the times**, to read the will of God in every moment of life, to be vigilant, and to responsibly and creatively build the kingdom of God. The call is to live fully in the present time and await the Coming of Jesus with joy. The concern should not be “when” Jesus will come, but to find now that his coming is continuous, it is the present. Jesus was resurrected and

lives among all. The issue is not that he comes “again” because he was never really gone. The hope is the **glorious manifestation** of this Jesus who has always been among his people.

In the department of Bolívar, in Colombia, we accompany two farming communities: El Garzal and its neighbor, Nueva Esperanza. They are struggling to retain possession and title to their lands they have lived on and farmed for generations. It is land that relatives of a drug dealer now want to strip from them. In their struggle they have been exposing the powers represented in political and governmental authorities who legitimize persecution, oppression, and the twisting of the law against the farmers and for the powerful.



These communities have read **the signs of the times** assuming their hope is in the “Human One” manifested daily in the gift of life and the earth as sustenance, and in the organizations that support their struggle. These communities have realized that the “Human One” is present, inspiring them to achieve peace and justice. They have understood that “the coming of the Human One” means not the presence of a warrior, but the prince of peace, and that nonviolence is the way to resolve conflict in a context where violence rages constantly through the strong presence of different armed actors. The deeds of communities like Garzal and Nueva Esperanza are allowing the **glorious manifestation** of the Human One.

So all this invites us to continue reading the signs of the times with new eyes, new perspectives, openness and understanding, with new methods so that when Jesus comes, when he is present in everyday life, we do not want him to find us sleeping.



(over)

Let Us Pray

Spirit of God, **You are Love**

teach me the art of loving my sisters
and my brothers,
to listen to their needs and take care of them,
to be just and merciful every day of my life
while waiting for the glorious coming
of the Lord Jesus.

Spirit of God, **You are Lord and Giver of Life**

Deliver me from sin and despair,
of half-heartedness
and anything else that prevents me from living fully
as a true child of God,
while waiting for the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus.

Spirit of God, **You are the Teacher Within**

Remember the words of the Carpenter of Nazareth
and teach me his ways to live according to his will,
while waiting for his glorious coming at the end of time.



Spirit of God, **You who reveals the Truth**
deliver me from all obscurity and error
and help me understand the
Good News of Hope
while I await the glorious return
of Jesus Christ.

Spirit of God, **You who prays in us**
with sighs unimaginable,
Put a cry on our lips: "Come, Lord Jesus!"
Put a hope in our hearts:
"The Lord will come."

May the Lord come to us, today and forever.
We await his coming in glory.
We await your salvation and
everlasting life you promise us.
Amen.

(Author unknown)

*Gratitude to CPT for use of their pictures from their Colombia Project.
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