

- Dear Friends,
Peace and Blessings.

06/13/15

The continued support we are privileged to ~~experience~~^{receive} is humbling and at times overwhelming. To ~~find~~^{experience} peace and gratitude behind these walls, amidst predators, criminals, victims and oppressors, to feel love so intensely, and acceptance of outcomes, whatever they may be, is a unique and unfathomable gift to which the only appropriate response is to remain in a space of gratitude and allow the gift to flow through us, to bless others and accept blessings in return. Thank-you to all who have sent messages of encouragement and solidarity - though they may not all be met with a response, they are no less valued and appreciated.

As my time in MDC draws to a close, it is ~~somehow~~ difficult to express how amazingly blessed these few weeks have been. Dorothy Day once said "from the bottom-up we see most clearly," and a times like these I find it impossible to argue with those words. There is so much going on around the world that threatens to overwhelm our natural impulse towards love and service of our neighbor, to spread fear and instill submissive compliance to systems of domination and control; The powers that be are so vastly and ~~aggressively~~^{aggressively} arranged against Love and Life, so adept at creating the illusion of ~~change~~ benevolence and choice, so committed to consolidating power and wealth, clinical in perpetuating confusion and stifling our natural creative energies. In silence, stillness, presence of to divine breath, they are unmasked and stripped of their power. Love is love is love is love is love and all that matters.

We pray ~~for~~^{in honor of} the lives lost in Orlando's violence, for all those caught up in victims of gun violence around the world, remembering that U.S. empire is the chief exporter of weapons and the fear that inspires violence. We stand in solidarity with ~~the~~^{Harris} Jasmine Mohammad, ~~who~~ facing 4 years in state prison as an African American ~~and~~ Black Lives Matter activist, ~~she~~ the only

prison in California's ^{complex} history ever convicted of lynching in the State of California, indicating astounding levels of ^{racial} injustice and hypocrisy.

We give thanks for small and large acts of service, love and resistance that bind us all together in the struggle for truth and freedom, for individuals and groups that take up this struggle ~~everywhere~~ wherever they may be called to do so, for all truth-tellers who expose the intersections of oppression and exploitation so prevalent in our society - the prison and military industrial complexes, environmental degradation, ^{income inequality} racism, ^{transphobia} sexism, homophobia and Islamophobia, nuclear expansion and climate change. We renew ourselves in commitment to love in each moment and every new day we may be privileged to witness.

Thank-you once again for all the love + support that holds us in grace and mercy. Let not our souls be smothered, nor the fire in our hearts be quenched. Let justice and peace be our means and our end, today and always. I am filled to overflowing with gratitude.

Love and Grace,
David Omondi