



Transforming lives through • help • healing • hope

Dear Ministry Partners;

Fitting into the turbulent and chaotic time of the 1960's there was a song back in the early 1970's that became quite popular - when flower children, hippies, civil rights and Vietnam protesters took to the streets.

The song was sung originally by a group called, *The New Seekers*. The song became a smash hit in 1971 when Coca-Cola memorialized it in a commercial, "*I'd like to teach the world to sing.*" Those of us that grew up during that time can probably sing the lyrics once we get started. The song wasn't long and it sung like a mantra repeating over and over. Of course, the Coca-Cola lyric wasn't in the original song since it was changed to fit the commercial but here are the lyrics of the original song:

*I'd like to build the world a home
And furnish it with love
Grow apple trees and honey bees
And snow white turtle doves*

*I'd like to teach the world to sing
In perfect harmony
I'd like to hold it in my arms
And keep it company*

*I'd like to see the world for once
All standing hand in hand
And hear them echo through the hills
For peace throughout the land
(that's the song I hear)*

Chorus

*I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony
I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony*

A very idealistic view of the world or is it? As the song was sung, Coca-Cola had deliberately included a snapshot of the diversity of the world population in their commercial. In my opinion it was a brilliant commercial and one during our turbulent and chaotic time in 2020 could be sung again and again. A mantra of hope, love, sharing – the diversity of the world community standing shoulder to shoulder wanting to help each other.

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Throughout this global pandemic of COVID-19 it could be easy for us to fall into self-ism - standing alone and separate. Currently, we all need to follow the directives, warnings and guidance of our Federal, State and local governments, as well as health care professionals and continue to do everything possible to help stop the spread of this deadly virus. But what happens after the virus has dissipated? Many people have lost their jobs, unemployment is at an all-time high, the economy is predicted to collapse, businesses have closed and the real possibility food shelves might still be empty. There continues to be many 'unknowns' as to what the future will look like after COVID-19. But one thing seems certain – there will be many people that will need our help and the need in our community may exceed anything we've ever seen. It won't be a time to stand alone and practice self-ism.

There will be a paramount need for resources and assistance. At Grace Mission we anticipate a greater need for food, clothing, and general assistance. For over 23 years Grace Mission has provided assistance during difficult times. But we have never stood alone. We have helped our community with your help by standing shoulder to shoulder. Please help us prepare for the future after COVID-19 by donating now on PayPal through the Grace Mission website gracemission.net or you can send a donation to PO Box 10472 Tallahassee, FL 32302.

We may not sing in perfect harmony but we can stand hand and hand to make a difference.

In hope,

Pastor Amanda+