

WITNESS FOR JUSTICE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

700 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115-1110
Phone: 216.736.3700
Fax: 216.736.3703



Rev. Sala Nolan Gonzales
Minister for Criminal Justice and Human Rights

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The Lifting of the Veil

Rev. Sala Nolan Gonzales
Minister for Criminal Justice and Human Rights

I buried my father on Friday. I was intensely conscious of the thinning of the veil between this life and his experience at the moment of death, of the distance between the cloud of unknowing and the full light of truth. To lift the veil means to make known a thing that has been secret. I hope that my father's spirit can see it all now the good and the bad, the dark and the light, what people show proudly and what they try to hide. I hope he has accounted for his life, and I hope it turned out well.

I come away from this burial with a painful awareness of the atmosphere of lies in which we live, of the sea of corruption in which we are drowning. An economy poisoned by secret investment deals. Laws made in back-room agreements between politicians and lobbyists. A war based on non-existent weapons of mass destruction. People in prison because witnesses lied. Histories rewritten and heritages lost. People tricked into hating each other and themselves.

At this tender moment in my life, I wonder what it would mean if we lost the ability to lie. I wish we all had to make an accounting, every day. I wish we all had the gifts of sight, clarity, knowledge.

On September 24, the FBI raided the homes of peace activists across many states, seeking evidence of material support for terrorism. They are activists from established groups who oppose wars and disagree with government policies. They have been under secret surveillance, their privacy violated, their homes invaded. In this instance, one group—the FBI—had the opportunity to see into the private places of others, and another group—those who oppose current policy—was blindsided. It underscores the damage that can

be done by inequity of vision, when one group has secret knowledge at the expense of another. It reminds us that some who have the gift of knowledge do not use it wisely but use it instead to destroy dissent. It reminds us that dissidents who do see and dare to speak pay a heavy price. Carlos Alberto Torres is a Puerto Rican nationalist who opposed US domination of his country. He was released from federal prison last month after being incarcerated for 30 years.

I believe the number of those who have the gift of sight is growing, perhaps through increased sensitivity, but certainly through the means of instant global communication that millions of people now hold in their hands. I believe the earthly transformation is actually happening. I wonder, are we willing to see more? Every day offers a thousand moments when we can see and express the truth. Will we be wise?

Bring it on. Let all our intentions be seen, and let the chips fall where they may.

At the point of death, we are known by what we have done. At that moment, we are held accountable to everyone who knew us, and to the universe, and to ourselves.

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