



Beyond Forgiveness

Beyond Forgiveness resulted from Rich Meyers' inspiration for a collaborative effort by authors who write about spirituality and peace. Rich saw the importance for understanding how people can move beyond horrific acts of violence to forgiveness and atonement. He asked me to become one of its authors after he read my writing in the 2007 Shift Report. My chapter in Beyond Forgiveness, "At-one-ment," discusses my role in healing trauma survivors from countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Liberia, Haiti, Iraq, Iran, and Sudan. I also tell the readers about my Great Uncle Ammon Hennacy, a famous peace activist whose story is a compelling example of how humans can transcend cruelty and feel compassion towards those who inflicted it.

"Beyond Forgiveness shows how acts of atonement—making amends, providing restitution, restoring balance—can relieve us of the pain of the past and give us a hopeful future. This rich and powerful book includes 15 essays and interviews by high profile thinkers and activists including Huston Smith, Michael Bernard Beckwith, Azim Khamisa, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Jacob Needleman, Michael Nagler, Diane Hennacy Powell, James O'Dea, Arun Gandhi, Kate Dahlstedt, Ed Tick, Richard J. Meyer, Rev. Heng Sure and Douglas George-Kanentiio. Atonement is presented as a process that we must all learn to practice—from individuals to nations—if we are to become unstuck from the past and alive in the present."

Phil Cousineau, award-winning writer and filmmaker, editor and lecturer, cultural observer and television host.

Dr. Powell's chapter "At-one-ment" in the book, Beyond Forgiveness, Reflections of Atonement, adds a unique dimension. It encourages us to learn the skills of listening — without judgement —and to connect heart-to-heart. Dr. Powell's experience with treating trauma survivors, including the Lost Boys of Sudan, confirms that miracles occur every day."

Rich Meyer, businessman and inspiration for the Beyond Forgiveness Project.