

January 2025 Letter to the Fellowship

Dear NFAMLP Colleagues and Friends,

It was devastating to wake up New Years morning and see the acts of terrorism in New Orleans. It was especially sobering to recognize some of the scenes and to realize that just 12 weeks ago, many of us gathered in those very restaurants for prayer, fellowship, and reconnecting.

It is overly grievous that these senseless acts of violence, born of hatred and fear, took place as we are celebrating the season of light. They stand in direct contrast to the love and peace that God calls us to embody

For our siblings in NOLA who are ministering to those who are hurting, even as you are dealing with your own trauma, we hold you in prayer. We stand in solidarity with those victims of terrorism, those affected by this to purely evil intent; those who have lost their lives, their loved ones, their sense of security and their peace of mind.

While those of us who are not there cannot fully understand the pain of those who are there, we mourn with you and stand with you in the midst of trauma and our hearts break with those who are hurting

May we all seek to be agents of hope, reconciliation, and healing to those who have been affected by this evil.

Let us be reminded that our response to violence is not to repay evil with evil, but to overcome evil with good, as Scripture teaches us in Romans 12:21. We are called to be people of peace, to love our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us. In the midst of sorrow, let us cling to God's promise that He is near to the

brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18).

May we commit ourselves to pray, to act, and to work for a world where peace reigns, and where every person is treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve as children of God.

May we, through our faith, be instruments of God's love, reconciliation, and healing, working toward a world where peace, justice, and the love of Christ shine brightly.

In Christ's love and peace,

Rev Bev Roscoe, Vice Chair NFAML

Gracious God,

We come before You in grief and sorrow, as we witness the devastating impact of terrorism in our world and country. We lift up to You all those who have been affected by acts of violence—those who have lost their lives, their loved ones, their homes, and their peace. We pray for the wounded, for those who live in fear, and for the families who bear the heavy burden of loss and trauma.

Lord, we ask for Your comforting presence to surround them, bringing healing to broken hearts and peace to troubled minds. May they feel Your embrace in their suffering and know that You are near, even in the darkest of times.

We pray for police officers and first responders and for the households and loved ones to whom they will return, with their minds full of images and voices and questions. May they know your peace and discern Your Spirit bringing healing and renewed hope.

We pray for the leaders of the communities, that they may act with wisdom, justice, and compassion in the face of terror. We ask that You would guide them to promote peace and to work toward the restoration of security and unity in places of unrest.

Lord, we also pray for those who carry out these acts of violence, that You would soften their hearts and transform their minds. Show them the error of their ways and lead them to the light of Your truth. Help us all to seek peace, to be peacemakers, and to build bridges rather than walls, as we are called to love one another as You have loved us.

We pray for Your Kingdom to come, for Your peace to reign, and for Your justice to prevail. May Your love overcome all hatred, and may Your grace bring healing to all nations.

***In the name of the Prince of Peace,
Jesus Christ, Amen***