

brought messages of hope to other areas of the world torn by violence. He has reminded people of what has to be done:

"At the end of their conflicts, the warring groups in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Burma, Afghanistan, Angola, the Sudan, the two Congos, and elsewhere are going to have to sit down together to determine just how they will be able to live together amicably, how they might have a shared future devoid of strife, given the bloody past that they have recently lived through."

Based on the experience of South Africa, Tutu is convinced that forgiveness is a key element in creating a lasting peace and releasing the positive energy necessary to build a better future for humanity. He believes that true reconciliation of enemies is impossible without the new perspectives brought about by deep forgiveness.

"Forgiving and being reconciled are not about pretending that things are other than they are," Tutu acknowledges. "True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the pain, the degradation . . . It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end dealing with the real situation helps to bring real healing."

With the other members of the South African commission, Tutu was frequently astonished at "the extraordinary magnanimity that so many of the victims exhibited." There were some persons who admitted that they could not forgive the hardships inflicted on them, which demonstrated the fact that "forgiveness was neither cheap nor easy."

"In forgiving, people are not being asked to forget," Tutu declares. "On the contrary, it is important to remember, so that we should not let such atrocities happen again. Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done . . . It involves trying to understand the perpetrators and so have empathy, to try to stand in their shoes and appreciate the sort of pressures and influences that might have conditioned them."

Tutu points out. "In the act of forgiveness, we are declaring our faith in the future of a relationship and in the capacity of the wrongdoer to make a new beginning on a course that will be different from the one that caused us the wrong . . . It is an act of faith that the wrongdoer can change."

Tutu acknowledges that he and others in the commission were strongly affected by their religious faith. But he expresses the conviction that all human beings will "always need a process of forgiveness and reconciliation to deal with those unfortunate yet all too human breaches in human relationships. They are an inescapable characteristic of the human condition."

Archbishop Tutu sums up his conclusions in the title of his book—"No Future Without Forgiveness." Whether human beings like it or not, we will have to forgive one another in order to survive.

In my own life, I have found it extremely hard to forgive people who have treated me with cruelty or contempt. I have also found it hard to forgive myself for the severity with which I treated my sons when they were children. I convinced myself that I punished them for their own benefit, to make sure they followed the right path, but I later realized I had harmed them by my angry words and outbursts of rage. I had suffered often from the punishing behavior of my own father and it took me years to forgive him. My own sons have forgiven me more readily than I forgave him. The whole process has been painful but cleansing in the end.

When I wrote speeches for Harry Truman in the 1948 presidential campaign I used harsh words to describe the actions taken by the Republican leaders in the Congress. I was not ready to forgive them and I hoped that

my fellow citizens would punish them in the election that year. I was exhilarated when Truman triumphed and the Republicans lost their majority in the Congress. It seemed to me I had taken part in a righteous cause—and I still believe that. Yet the hot words of that campaign produced bitter feelings among the losers and a hostile atmosphere which made it almost impossible for Mr. Truman to get his proposals enacted. He forgave nearly all of the leaders who had attacked him, but some of those leaders would not forgive him for the charges he had made against them.

In all of the election campaigns that have occurred since the United States was founded, injuries have been inflicted—injuries that might have been healed by a better understanding of the power of forgiveness. If we are going to solve the tremendous problems we face now and in the future, we must learn from the South African experience that facing the truth and engaging in continuous efforts for reconciliation are essential for all of us.

It is not easy to uncover the full truth about any situation. In the decades I have lived since I was born in 1914, I have been searching for the truth about many of the events which have affected my life—and I now realize that the process of seeking and discovering what really happened to me and millions of others in those crowded years may go on forever. I now try to base my comprehension on the French saying: "To understand all is to forgive all."

For many years I placed the blame for the two World Wars of the 20th century principally on the Germans—and I could not forgive them for the tremendous devastation I believed they had caused in the world. Under the Kaiser, they had been belligerent and savage; under Hitler, they had tortured and murdered millions of people. Perhaps God could forgive them for what they had done in that century. I couldn't.

Perhaps my enduring rage against the Germans was partly due to the disfiguring wounds that had been inflicted on my father in World War I. He came home from that war with a hole in his neck and a twisted face that frightened me. In my childhood I had to awaken him from nightmares in which he was fighting with Germans who were trying to kill him with trench knives and bayonets. He had engaged in hand-to-hand, face-to-face, combat in the trenches in France—and he never got over it. His screams will echo always in my mind. He had killed enemies with his own bayonet but they were always coming back at him in nights of horror.

While I can never condone the atrocities committed by some Germans under the Kaiser and under Hitler, I have learned enough about the history of Germany and the history of other nations to understand why those atrocities occurred. When I was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, I heard a former chancellor of the German Democratic Republic, Heinrich Bruning, describe how Count von Papen and other German aristocrats tricked President Paul von Hindenburg into appointing Hitler as chancellor of Germany. Hitler had been defeated by Hindenburg in the German election of 1932, but he was placed in power later by plotters who thought they could control him. The monstrous rise of Nazism was due to the errors of arrogant men. Such errors have been crucial factors in the history of many nations.

My father participated voluntarily in World War I, answering Woodrow Wilson's call to serve in "a war to end a war" and "to make the world safe for democracy." But many of the Germans who fought in that bloody struggle believed that God was on their side and they were justified in what they did. In the light of history, I realized

that many of their men who fought in the trenches suffered from ghastly nightmares similar to those which afflicted my father. War itself was an encompassing evil which brought evil effects to many generations of human beings.

Desmond Tutu's harrowing book, which links truth and reconciliation to the power of forgiveness, offers ways to enable future generations to end the savage cycles of war and revenge. Let us hope that people all over this bleeding world will read it and learn from it. It sheds a great light on what needs to be done.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
PETER J. ROWAN OF THE U.S.
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Lt. Col. Peter J. Rowan. Since July 1998, Lt. Col. Rowan has served as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' District Engineer for the Chicago District. His term in Chicago is nearly at its end, and he is scheduled to leave for his next posting in late July.

Over the course of the last two years, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him as we partnered up on a number of projects. The Chicago Shoreline, TARP, Stoney Creek, and the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The list goes on and on and on. In every case and in every instance, he has done a wonderful job in working with my staff and me.

Lt. Col. Rowan began his career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 1979. He continued his education and received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. He also undertook additional studies in the Engineer Officers Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

He then used his advanced training to further Corps missions across the United States, from Colorado to Nebraska to Kansas and Texas. He also served combat-related assignments in Germany. For the 249th Engineer Battalion in Karlsruhe, he was a platoon leader, company executive officer, and assistant operations officer. He then went on to serve as assistant corps engineer with V Corps, part of the 130th Engineer Brigade in Heidelberg.

His hard work and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Lt. Col. Rowan is the recipient of a number of awards and decorations for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

But his most heartwarming accomplishment may very well be that of his family. Lt. Col. Rowan is a devoted husband to his wife and a wonderful father to four children.

I know that I speak for my colleagues from Chicagoland when I say that Lt. Col. Rowan's professionalism, responsiveness, and leadership is an asset to the Corps and our nation. He has done so much for the Chicago District, and I know he will continue to do even more in his career. I salute Lt. Col. Rowan and wish him and his family all the best.