

# 2012 Lenten Reflections



With so many witnesses in a great cloud all around us, we too, then, should throw off everything that weighs us down and the sin that clings so closely, and with perseverance keep running in the race which lies ahead of us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross, disregarding the shame of it, and has taken his seat at the right of God's throne.

- Hebrews 12:1-2  
New Jerusalem Bible

## It's Never Too Late

One of the first phrases I learned in my English as a Second Language class at the age of 12 in Texas was, "It's never too late." I really like this phrase for a couple of reasons. It actually acknowledges the fact that it's already late on the one hand, but it also holds out a promise of hope that's beyond time, because it is never *too* late. It acknowledges the same hope as God's promise to keep running the race that lies ahead of us. A hope that's beyond time, a hope that, as a Palestinian-born Christian, continues to uphold my belief that nonviolence is The Only Way this race can be run.

It is already late for the world to stop my people's dispossession, diaspora, imprisonment, and daily suffering under checkpoints, walls, and barriers. However, it's never *too* late to keep our eyes fixed on God's promise, on a divine realm of deliverance beyond our human understanding and capability. The same God who delivered the Jews out of Egypt *will* once again deliver His people (Christians, Muslims and Jews in Palestine/Israel) out of the bondage of the Occupation. "We too then should throw off everything that weighs us down and with perseverance keep running in the race which lies ahead of us." There is no other way this can be done.

Our histories have become so inextricably tied that, even if one believes violence could be an option, we can rest assured that it never will work in the Holy Land. The present day Palestine embodied in Ruth and present day Israel embodied in Naomi have the same story and the same God.

~ Tarek Abuata,

*Tarek Abuata is the Support Team Coordinator for the Christian Peacemaker Teams ([www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)) and the Director of Partner Relations for United Palestinian Appeal ([www.helpupa.org](http://www.helpupa.org)).*

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