

Songs for JusticeWalkers Lyrics to the Companion CD

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In partnership with



Catholic
Campaign
for Human
Development



breadfortheworld
INSTITUTE



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1. Dream God's Dream

(Chorus)

Dream God's dream.
Holy Spirit, help us dream
Of a world where there is justice,
And where everyone is free
To build and grow and love,
And to simply have enough.
The world will change,
When we dream God's dream.

I'm dreaming of a world
Where the color of one's skin
Will mean less than what's within the person's heart.
A world where water's clean,
And where air is safe to breathe,
And every child born has enough to eat.

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the call
God is offering to me,
How to use my energy and my best gifts
To do the work of Christ,
To say, "God please use my life!"
To spread Your healing love,
And to live your Truth.

(Chorus)

I'm dreaming of the way
That I want my life to go.
I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet.
I'm reaching for the stars,
But I won't forget the scars,
Of Christ who died to show
That the Dream's for all...

(Chorus)

2. "Follow Me" (87 Times)

I met this preacher from Australia.
He read the Bible searching for its dominant
themes.
And he counted 87 times when Jesus said...
"Follow me!"
Well you know, that got me thinking,
Maybe that's the bottom line
of what "Christian" means.
'Cause "I follow Jesus," is deeper than "I believe."
'Cause it don't take much to mentally agree with a
set of beliefs written down in some creed.
Now don't get me wrong, we need to know what
we believe.
But lately I've been wondering...

(Chorus)

Am I following Jesus, or just believing in Christ?
'Cause I can believe and not change a thing,
But following will change my whole life.
He never said,
"Come, acknowledge my existence!"
Or, "Believe in me,
I'm the second person of the Trinity!"
But 87 times he said... "Follow me!"

But if I'm a follower of Jesus,
then why am I such a good life insurance risk?
And why, when I do my giving,
do I still keep so much when so much hunger
exists?
And if I follow Jesus, then why do I have so many
friends among the affluent,
and so few among the poor?
And if I follow Jesus,
Why do missiles and guns make me feel more
secure?

And it don't take much to mentally assent
to a statement of faith we can confirm
and forget.
But following will change our lifestyle if we get it.
And more and more I'm wondering...

(Chorus)

Yes, we need to know what we believe,
to follow the Jesus who's real.
God save us from the Christ's we create in our
image (you know what I mean...).
The Jesus who's as left wing or right wing as we.
The one who baptizes our cherished ideologies.
The one who always seems to favor our side
against some enemy.

Now I don't mean to sound self-righteous.
God knows, I've got more questions than answers
to proclaim.
But it's been over 20 years now since Jesus called
my name.
So forgive me if I'm mistaken, but there's
something wrong with a lot of churches
in America these days.
And I think the Spirit's trying to tell us,
there's a question that the churches need to raise...

Are we following Jesus, or just believing in Christ?
'Cause we can believe and not change a thing,
But following will change our whole life.
He never said,
"Come acknowledge my existence!"
Or, "Believe in me,
I'm your first class ticket to eternity..."
But 87 times he said... "Follow me!"

3. "I See You"

On the last night of a trip I took to Haiti,
I was driving down this crowded city street.
I can still see the diesel fumes lingering in the
headlights.
I can still see that little girl's bare feet.
She was wearing a tattered yellow dress.
She was 4 or 5 years old I would guess.
Another orphaned street kid, working hard to just
survive,
To be honest, I was hoping to drive right by.

But the traffic was grid-locked to a standstill.
And when she noticed my white skin, she came
real quick.
She leaned up against my window
and then with one little hand,
She pointed back and forth from her belly to her
lips.
At first she seemed a little bit too practiced
at pulling strings of guilt and sympathy.
And then, I'm not sure why,
but I looked right into her eyes,
And as I did, these words washed over me.

(Chorus)
I see you! I see you!
Hey little girl, I won't pretend that you're not
there.
I see you! I see you!
Little girl Christ, I see you.

People tell me, "Please - don't give these street
kids money!
It just perpetuates their cruel dependency."
And to be honest, I didn't like the thought of
pulling out my wallet.

You never know who else is working these
crowded streets.
Compassion sure was feeling complicated.
Mother Teresa called these kids,
"Christ in disguise."
But there was nothing that seemed right, to try to
do for her that night,
Except to try to tell her with my eyes...

(Chorus)

And how often I have quoted that familiar, cold
statistic:
32,000 children starve to death each day.
A few more years, some high-heel shoes and
lipstick,
And little girls will do what they must do just to
still the hunger pains,
One more day.

I could see the traffic up ahead was moving.
But she and I kept looking eye to eye.
And when the moment finally came to take my
foot off of the brake,
She shrugged her shoulders, and then she cracked
this little smile.
And as I drove away I made a promise.
Little girl, I never will forget your face.
And I'll do what's mine to do, to change the world
for kids like you,
And when I hear 32,000, I'll remember you and
say...

(Chorus)

4. "Calling at the Crossroads"

What 'cha gonna do when it's time to choose?
What 'cha gonna do with your life?
How you gonna use what's been given to you?
How you gonna know what is right?
There are many voices that call to you,
And God's voice won't always be loud.
But if you want to do what Christ wants you to, here's a truth to think about:

(Chorus)

Where your greatest source of joy
Intersects with the needs of the world,
Go and find that place!
And hear the Spirit calling you (calling you).
Where your greatest source of joy
Intersects with the needs of the world,
Go and find that place!
And hear your calling at the Crossroads.

Some are gonna tell you that you must ask first--
Where's the biggest money to be made?
But I will tell you there's no check that's worth pushing what you love away.
And some are gonna tell you that growing up means saying no to your dreams.
But I believe the Spirit wants to cross your dreams with a wounded person's needs.

(Chorus and Bridge)

You might be a wonderful artist.
Your gift flows from deep in your soul.
But someone has said, "There's no market
For what you do, so let it go!"
But I say give praise to the God who creates.
And ask God to show you how
Your artistry can somehow be used
To raise up in a world that puts down.

(Chorus)

Note: The idea for this song came from a statement by author Frederick Buechner -
"Your calling is where your own greatest joy intersects with the needs of the world."

5. "Something Beautiful For God"

Know this one thing above all else--
We are loved, loved by God.
Let this be how we see ourselves--
As people loved, loved by God.
And once we know the love of Christ,
Feel God's healing in our lives,
Loving service is how we give our love back to God.

(Chorus)

Today let us do something beautiful for God!
Do something small, but do it with great love!
Do what we can, where we are, with what we've got!
Today let us do something beautiful for God!

Everyone who we meet today
Is God's child, God's own child.
May our lives help them hear God say,
"You are my child, God's own child!"
A smile can radiate God's love,
Let them see the Christ in us,
let our lives be the cheerfulness of God in this world.

(Chorus)

Jesus will visit us today,
In disguise, in disguise.
Poor and weak, Christ will come our way,
Jesus Christ, in disguise.
The lonely, poor, the victimized,
Love for them is love for Christ;
Love is water to quench the thirst of Christ on the cross.

(Chorus)

6. "Green World"

Sometimes the earth and its beauty
Hits me so hard that it almost hurts.
God, you are some kind of artist,
And I'm a big fan of your handiwork.
When I see a pastel sunset,
Its like God is signing God's name.
Another magnificent one of a kind,
Worth more than this whole world could pay.

(Chorus)

God made this green world green,
Air and water clean.
We come from the earth, and to earth we shall return.
Let's go back to Genesis 2, and relearn
Humans are here in the garden to serve,
And service is the purpose of God-given power.
We are more the earth's than earth is ours!
We are more the earth's than earth is ours!

When God gave dominion to humans,
You know I don't think that God ever had in mind
A license to take the earth prisoner,
And lock her in chains made of dollar signs.
The earth and its fullness is Yahweh's.
Stamp that verse on our property rights.
That means that the land is not ours to exploit,
It's just ours to take care of for a while.

(Chorus)

There's a demon named "corporate pollution"
And its minions reach deep in the government.
And some folks just mimic Rush Limbaugh saying,
"There's no crisis in the environment."

But God knows we're wounding this planet...
one Styrofoam cup...
one acid rain drop...
one toxic waste dump...
one oil tank spill...
one SUV war...
one trip to the store at a time...

And maybe it's time we disciples of Christ work harder to live greener lives...

7. "If You Eat Each Day"

Haiti is the poorest country in this hemisphere.
I go there now and then to get my vision clear.
Sometimes it gets so hazy in this land of
"I consume, therefore I am."

I was working in this clinic
for the dying and diseased,
Living skeletons with AIDS and TB,
Organized and run by Mother Teresa
and her Sisters of Charity.
I asked the nun in charge,
"Sister, what should I do?"
She smiled and said, "I've got a job for you."

Then she gave me a pair of scissors and said,
"See that man right there?
He'd like for you to cut his hair."
I said, "Oh sister, are you sure?
I mean, it's not like I have given
many hair cuts in my day."
But I was there to help,
so I just smiled and said, "OK!"
So there I was, this natural born Vidal Sassoon,
just snipping that hair away.

We struck up conversation as best we could.
His English was broken,
my Creole's not too good.
But we managed to communicate enough for him
to say something I never will forget.
You see, I asked him, "Do you think I'm rich?"
And this was his response to me--
He said, "Well, how many times a week

do you eat?"
Well, his question took my voice away.
And then he said, "You mean you eat every day?"
And I said, "Yeah," and he just said this;
"Well, if you eat each day, you're rich."

Somehow that moment felt to me like Holy
Ground.
I finished his haircut, and when I turned around,
there was a whole line of customers who kinda
liked the way I cut that one man's hair!
So, I gave them haircuts, but they gave me so
much more.
They gave me the perspective of the poorest of
the poor.
And I know I'll spend the rest of my life
trying to somehow respond.
'Cause if it's true as we often say that wealth is
relative, it just might take the dying poor in a place
like Port au Prince,
To help us see this relativity from God's point of
view, to cut through our first world denial with
gospel Truth.
And as for me,
I know I need to receive this paradigm shift--
That in a hungry world, if we eat each day...
We're rich!

Haiti is the poorest country in this hemisphere.
I go there now and then to get my vision clear.
Sometimes it gets so hazy in this land of
"I consume, therefore I am..."

8. "Staring At My Overflowing Plate"

It's so easy not to see you,
Close you out like a shade in the window.
Your condition seems so foreign.
Are you lazy? Why are you poor?
Someone said you and I are connected,
That your hunger is linked to my fatness.
But how can that be -- I never met you
I don't know your name.

I've got problems of my own.
I'm so busy – I do good things!
And I don't know if I can make room
In my life for your misery.
Someone said that the whole world is changing,
For you no longer will stand to be used.
But talk like that -- it makes me frightened, scared what I might lose.

(Chorus)
Jesus, is that you in the window,
With your nose pressed against the pane,
Staring at my overflowing plate?

I've got questions of my own,
I'm not sure who to trust or believe.
Politicians seem so sure you
Pose a threat to my liberty.
I go to church and I listen to my pastor
Speak of justice beyond charity.
Says the gospel is good news to poor folks, but where does that leave me?

(Chorus)

...help me not to pull the window shade.

9. "I'd Just Like To Know"

I don't mind you trying to maximize your profits.
I'm not trying to take a dime from your pocket.
I don't want to see anyone lose a job.
And I've no intention to stage a boycott.

(Chorus)

I'd just like to know where my money goes.
I'd just like to know if there's a sweat stain hidden in the clothes I buy.
Tell me why, if you've got nothing to hide, you don't disclose the names of the factories that you use,
Open up their doors to an independent human rights group.
If there's a reason why you won't, I'd just like to know.

Wal-Mart, Disney, Nike, Guess, and J.C. Penney...
I can't name them all – there's just too many.
And I know these markets are competitive by nature.
I am not saying you shouldn't use third world labor.

(Chorus and Bridge)

Tell me please, what's with these off-shore factories with barbed wire fences and guns at the gates?
Tell us please, we need to know exactly
How our clothes are made,
And what kind of wage those workers get paid.
Let's bring it all to the light of day.

(Repeat verse one and Chorus)

(Tag)

It's a small world after all; you can't do business in the shadows. (Repeat)

What 'ya doing in Nicaragua, Indonesia, and Saipan?
Bangladesh and Guatemala, Malaysia and Vietnam...
Maquillas in Honduras, in China and Salvador...
In Thailand and Burma – what's going on behind those factory doors?
In New York City, in Haiti and L.A...
The Dominican Republic – let's bring it all into the light of day.
I'd like to know what you're doing in Mexico – Liz Claiborne and K-Mart and Reebok and J Crew...
I hear Victoria's got a secret... Eddie Bauer and the Gap, Abercrombie and Fitch...
All I'd like are the facts; all I'm asking is this...
Let's bring it all into the light of day.

10. "Born of Blood and Love"

A man once dared to touch the idols of this world.
He said, "Soldier, you don't have to shoot your gun!"
And as he preached the Word, the doors flung open wide,
And the guns he tried to silence took his life.
And blood inside the cup was running on the ground.
Life had been proclaimed and life had been shot down.

Once there were four nuns who went to Salvador,
To find the face of Jesus in the poor.
But death squads on the right took those sacred lives,
And the government was duly horrified.
And blood inside the cup was running on the ground.
Life had been proclaimed, and life had been shot down.

(Chorus)
But death can never stop what's been born of Blood and Love.
Give glory to the Son!
And guns can never drop what's been born of Blood and Love.
Proclaim it till he comes!
The grave can never stop the rising up, born of Blood and Love.

Six more holy men, and tens of thousands more,
Have drunk the Savior's cup in Salvador.
To boldly speak the truth, and then to pay the price,
The way of those who follow Jesus Christ.
And blood inside the cup is running on the ground.

Life has been proclaimed, and life has been shot down...

(Chorus)

11. "Yesterday I Saw Jesus"

Yesterday I saw Jesus,
And he was living in San Salvador.
I saw the one who frees us,
And he was homeless, and landless, and poor.
I almost did not recognize him.
You'd never know he was King of Kings.
His wife and his children beside him,
And he was begging for bread of all things.

Yesterday I saw Jesus,
And he was living in a shanty town.
I saw the one who frees us,
And in the streets they were shooting him down.
The government sent in the soldiers,
Declared a state of emergency.
They ripped through the town with their dozers, and the press was forbidden to speak.

(Chorus)
When did we take you in, Lord?
When did we give you a drink?
When did we see you naked?
When did we watch you bleed?
When did we see you in prison?
When did we give you something to eat?
Well, whatever you did to the least of these... You did it unto me.

Yesterday I saw Jesus,
And she had nowhere she could lay her head.
I saw the one who frees us,
And she had fallen through the safety net.
The father of her children had left her.
The monthly check she received was too thin.
She knocked on the door of the shelter,
But there was no room left in the inn.

(Chorus and Bridge)
Yesterday I saw Jesus Christ,
Child of war running for his life.
God of Love, give us hands to reach
Out to Jesus Christ the refugee...

12. "Strands in the Web"

Praise the Creator for the sun in the sky,
Gift to all peoples and nations.
Praise for the cycles and seasons of life,
Brother and sister creation.
Praise for the trees and the sap and the seeds.
Praise for the good food we eat.

(Chorus)

And the Mother will always provide,
For a people who treat her with care.
Every being and thing will survive,
When we're strands in the web of all life.

Praise for the waters which fill up our wells.
Praise for the balance of nature.
Praise for the person who loves more than self.
Praise for the gift of a neighbor.
Praise for the elders who teach us to share.
Praise for the will to be fair.

(Chorus)

Praise for the truth which can set captives free
From prisons of misunderstanding.
Praise for the people now able to see
The embers of hate they were fanning.
Praise for the rights of all peoples on earth.
Praise for respect they deserve.

(Chorus and Tag)

The gift of creation will flourish and thrive
When we're strands in the web of all life.

13. "Sarah's Song"

I took a bunch of teenage pilgrims
A couple of worlds away,
To get their first-world adolescent hearts
broken open by the so-called third-world's pain.
We played around and laughed a lot
As the Spirit broke open our lives.
We ate wine soaked bread
And became a little Body of Christ.

There was one young woman, her name was Sarah.
She was ready to hear the Spirit speak.
From the moment she walked through that orphanage door
She had tears running down her cheeks.
They were tears that come from reaching the summit
Of some personal mountain top,
Tears that come from being free to feel
What must break the heart of God.

About 8 months later,
I was doing my wandering troubadour thing.
Another church teenage retreat...
This one was called a "Youth happening."
That same girl Sarah was one of the youth leaders,
And she was given the task to preach.
And in the course of her well-crafted message
She said, "I'd like to tell you what happened to me."

She said, "Last summer, I volunteered in a Haitian orphanage for the better part of a week,
And my heart got just stolen away
By this little boy who wouldn't let go of me.
So I spent most of the week just holding him.
And on the last day when I had to leave,

He called me 'Mama.' He called me 'Mama.'
And..."

(Chorus)

"When that orphan called me 'Mama'
It was like God was calling my name.
And ever since that day
Everything's changed."
She said, "You know, I used to think I'd probably be a chemist.
I mean, I had my life all figured out.
But ever since I went to Haiti,
It's like God turned me upside down.
And I think I might do something different now,
Like maybe some kind of ministry.
It's kind of hard to explain to my parents
'Cause all I know is something happened to me..."

(Chorus)

"When that orphan called me 'Mama'
It was like God was calling my name.
And ever since that day,
Everything's changed."

14. "The Wooden Bell"

No one listens to the cry of the poor,
Or the sound of a wooden bell.
No one listens to the cry of the poor,
Or the sound of a wooden bell.

It's hard to hear two worlds away,
The sound is dull and quickly fades,
The wooden bell of Cité Soleil.
The open sewage and the flies,
The silent screams of hungry eyes,
The wooden bell of Cité Soleil.
Lord, they don't need me taking guilt trips.
And they don't need me feeling sorry for them.
They need me praying for the strength of grace, to be a person who will live my faith.

(Chorus)
God of good news to the poor,
God of what's worth living for,
Help my ears to hear the wooden bell.
God of all that matters most,
God of cross and Easter hope,
Help our ears to hear the wooden bell.

There are no sound byte TV crews.
The wooden bell won't sell the news.
The story's old in Cité Soleil.
This is no isolated case.
It's two-thirds of the human race.
Reality is Cité Soleil.
But they don't need us feeling sad now.
They need us living in the joy of Jesus.
That's when we hear beyond a rich world's noise,
The wooden ringing of the Spirit's voice.

(Chorus)

No one listens to the cry of the poor,
Or the sound of the wooden bell.
No one listens to the cry of the poor,
Or the sound of the wooden bell.

15. "Things the Lord Requires"

'Wake up in the morning
See what the anchorwoman's got to say.
A coup d'état down south somewhere,
And bundle up, it's cold outside today.
And there's meltdowns and machine guns
Right in my living room.
These satellites have shrunk the world,
What am I supposed to do?

(Chorus)

I'll try to be a doer of justice.
I'll try to be a person who's kind.
I'll try to be somebody who's humble.
'Cause these are the things the Lord requires.

I'm trying to change my coffee brand.
Some companies exploit the third world poor.
But I feel like I should laugh or cry,
I've tried to change so many things before.
But I gave up legalism
'Cause it only left me judged.
I'll do the best that I can do,
Though it never seems enough.

(Chorus and Bridge)

Justice, kindness, humbleness,
Let these be my desire.
Justice, kindness, humbleness,
Show that the Spirit's alive.

(Chorus)

16. "Westbound On Interstate 80" (The Sneaker Song)

Westbound on Interstate 80,
driving with my family.
Little kids, little bladders, you know how it is,
"Dad, can we stop soon please?"
Saw one of those blue signs, "Rest Area 2 Miles."
We got there just in time.

While I was waiting for my children,
I saw this homeless man.
Dirty hair, dirty clothes, you know how it is,
Looking like a street man can.
Something in my heart said,
"How can I help this man?"
And then these words popped right into my head
that said...

How does the love of God abide in you,
If you have this world's goods
and yet refuse to help someone in need?
How does the love of God abide in you,
If you have this world's goods
and yet refuse to help someone in need?

And then I saw his shoes.
You see, both of his shoes were worn out.
Most of his toes were bare.
And then I heard this voice,
and I think it was the voice of God.
It said, "Give the man your extra pair."

And I thought,
"Oh God - that's a crazy thing to do.
Besides, how am I supposed to know
if these thoughts are sent to me from you?"

And anyway, my only extra pair's my favorite New
Balance running shoes."
And then that same voice said something like,
"Those will do!"

How does the love of God abide in you,
If you have this world's goods
and yet refuse to help someone in need?

So as my kids got in the car,
I laughed and thought, "This is insane."
So I turned the motor over
and began to drive away.
I got almost to the highway
when my heart stepped on the brakes.
I said, "There's something I forgot, you guys –
just wait."
And so I found that man and said,

"Excuse me sir, but you look down on your luck."
And he said, "Yeah, I guess I am.
You got an extra buck?"
And I said, "Yeah, but try these shoes."
And they fit just like a glove.
And he said, "God bless you."
And I thought, "God sure does."

Westbound on Interstate 80,
feeling kind of strange, but free.
Could it be God's gift to me – a gift to me?
Just to see that homeless man...
"Dad!" – You guessed it...
"Can we stop soon please?!"

17. "If My Soul Should Be Required Tonight"

Once there was a farmer
Whose land produced so well,
His barns could not contain the excess grain.
He built the barns up larger
And then said to himself,
"I've all I need for years now laid away."
But God said to him,
"Fool! This night your soul shall be required,
And all this wealth of yours,
Whose will it be?"

(Chorus)

And if my soul should be required tonight,
What would Jesus say to me?
If my soul should be required tonight,
Would my treasure stay with me?
Would he find me rich in things
Or find me rich in Christ,
If my soul should be required tonight?

There is always someone
Who's urging me to buy,
Who's making luxury look like a need,
Investments in convenience,
In comfort and in style,
With all my satisfaction guaranteed.
And its bigger, better, newer, faster,
Buy now pay tomorrow,
Seduced with credit cards and toll-free lines.

(Chorus and Bridge)

And it's so easy to justify
The way I live, and all these things I buy.
But this world's so hungry; Lord I've seen the need.
Can I truly love and keep the piles for me?

(Chorus)

18. "I'll Stand With You"

If you find that you're locked out just because of who you are,
Or because of how you look or who you're with,
Well, I may not have the power to unlock the doors myself,
But I do believe God wants you to know this:
You won't have to stand there alone
I know this because...

(Chorus)
I'll stand with you,
Whenever you're excluded.
I'll stand with you,
When you can't stand on your own.
I'll stand with you,
When you're put down or wounded.
'Cause that's what I know that Jesus would do.

If you're told that who you are is offensive in God's sight,
If you're mocked or disregarded or disgraced.
If you're powerless or poor, if you're left out or despised,
If you're victimized by prejudice or hate,
I'll stand up for your dignity,
Until we're all free.

(Chorus)

You won't have to stand there alone.
We know this because...

We'll stand with you...