

## When Blood and Bones Cry Out: Journeys through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation

By John Paul Lederach, Angela Jill Lederach

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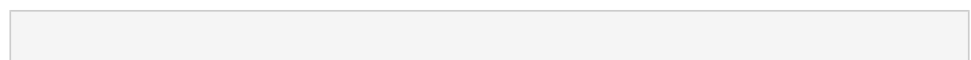
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Around the world communities that have suffered the trauma of unspeakable violence--in Liberia, Somalia, West Africa, Columbia, and elsewhere--are struggling to recover and reconcile, searching for ways not just to survive but to heal.

In *When Blood and Bones Cry Out*, John Paul Lederach, a pioneer of peace-building, and his daughter, Angela Jill Lederach, show how communities can recover and reconnect through the power of making music, creating metaphors, and telling their extraordinary stories of suffering and survival. Instead of relying on more common linear explanations of healing and reconciliation, the Lederachs demonstrate how healing is circular, dynamic, and continuing, even in the midst of ongoing violence. They explore the concept of "social healing," a profoundly important intermediary step between active warfare and reconciliation. Social healing focuses on the lived experience of those who have suffered protracted violence and their need to give voice to that experience, both individually and collectively. Giving voice, speaking the unspeakable, in words and sounds that echo throughout traumatized communities, can have enormous healing power. Indeed, the Lederachs stress the remarkable effects of sound and vibration through tales of Tibetan singing bowls, Van Morrison's transcendent lyrics, the voices of mothers in West Africa, and their own personal journeys. And they include inspiring stories of transformation: a mass women's protest movement in Liberia that forces leaders to keep negotiating until a peace agreement is signed; elders in Somalia who walk between warring clans year after year to encourage dialogue; former child soldiers who run drum workshops and grow gardens in refugee camps; and rape victims in Sierra Leone who express their pain in poetry.

With equal measures of insight and compassion, *When Blood and Bones Cry Out* offers a promising new approach to healing traumatized communities.



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**When Blood and Bones Cry Out: Journeys through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation** By John Paul Lederach, Angela Jill Lederach Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #987879 in Books
- Published on: 2011-10-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.40" h x 1.10" w x 9.20" l, 1.13 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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### Editorial Review

Review

"This is a remarkable book, a book full of hope about situations that seem hopeless."

--Parker J. Palmer, author of *A Hidden Wholeness*

"Based on deep listening and respect for the people who have suffered the most from violence, this book offers sensitive insights for approaching the space between trauma and forgiveness." - *Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

**John Paul Lederach** is Professor of International Peacebuilding at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame. His books include *The Moral Imagination* and *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*.

**Angela Jill Lederach** is a research associate at the Center for Public Policy Studies in Boulder, Colorado.

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