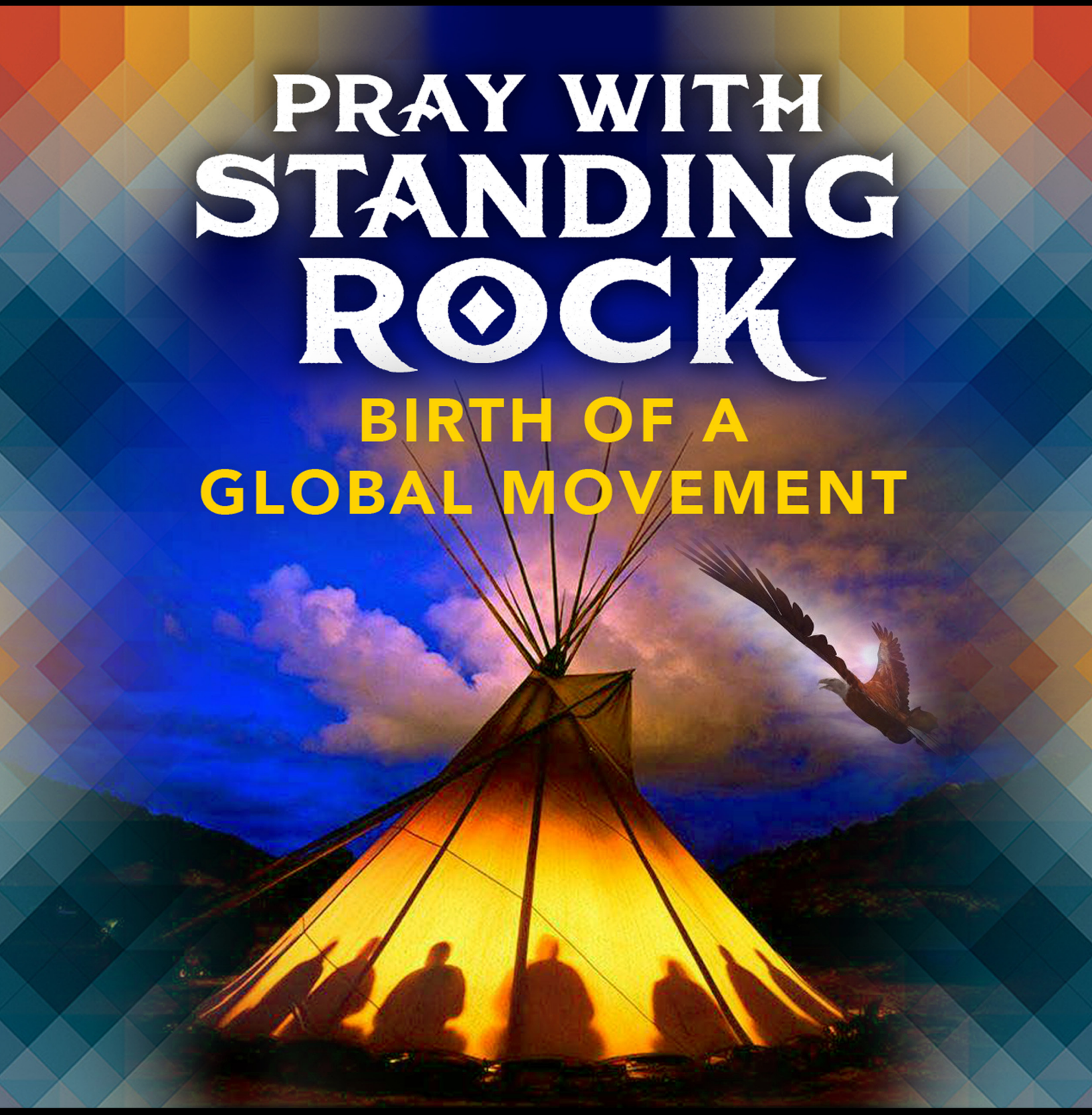
PRAY WITH STANDING ROCK

BIRTH OF A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



A COMPILATION OF STORIES, WISDOM & PHOTOS
FROM THE FRONT LINES

First Edition
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Pray With Standing Rock
Birth of a Global Movement

Inspired by the People of Standing Rock

and Presented with Deep Gratitude

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Complied by Jacob Devaney
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In April of 2016 a small group of Sioux, the “Chante tin’sa kinanzi Po”, started a prayerful resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Special thanks to Jasilyn Charger, Joseph White Eyes and the One Mind Youth Movement. In August, native youth runners led by Ms. Bobbi Jean Three Legs ran 2,000 miles from Standing Rock to Washington DC to bring petitions and the important message that “Water is Life” or “Mni Wiconi”.

People of all faiths and cultural backgrounds flocked to stand in support with their native allies to protect the land and water. Water Protectors have a message for the world in what has become the birth of a global, prayerful movement to protect and honor the sacred.

“Today, on this same sacred land, over 100 tribes have come together to stand in prayer and solidarity in defiance of the black snake. And more keep coming. This is the first gathering of the Oceti Sakowin (Sioux tribes) since the Battle of the Greasy Grass (Battle of Little Bighorn) 140 years ago. When we first established the Sacred Stone Camp on April 1 to stop the pipeline through prayer and non-violent direct action, I did not know what would happen. But our prayers were answered.” -Ladonna Brave Bull Allard, Yes Magazine

Indigenous spirituality acknowledges that all of life is interconnected through nature, while knowing that humans have a responsibility to steward and protect the land. Standing Rock's resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline has become globally symbolic of the struggle to protect our environment from the heartless exploitation of extraction industries that threaten water, land, air, and life itself. For the first time in history, we are seeing a unified global movement to stand and act in solidarity with our indigenous relatives to protect the sacred.



"Each of us is put here in this time and this place to personally decide the future of humankind. Did you think the Creator would create unnecessary people in a time of such terrible danger? Know that you yourself are essential to this World." -Chief Arvol Looking Horse

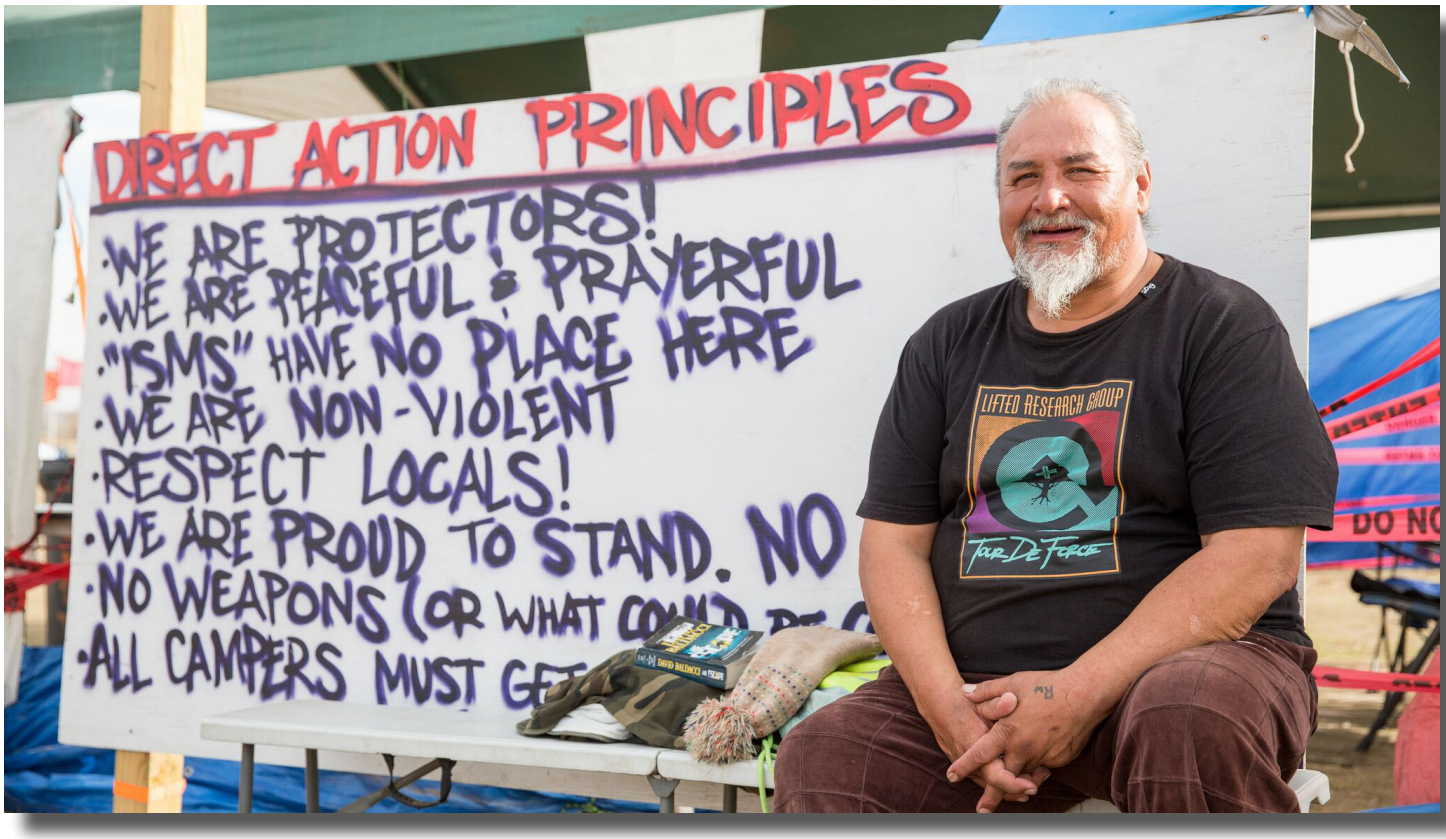
This is sacred land, rich with cultural history, prayer, and wounds. In 1863 an estimated 300 – 400 Sioux were massacred while peacefully gathered for an inter-tribal buffalo hunt at Whitestone Hill. The survivors from Whitestone Hill made their way west to the narrow part of the Cannonball River near the confluence with the Missouri River where they crossed for safety. They rebuilt their communities and lived in a sacred way for the past 150 years on this very same land where the Dakota Access Pipeline is currently slated to cross the river.



“Everybody there has a reason that they heard the prayer and the call to come here. That’s the spirit moving. I hear people say “I don’t know why I felt so strongly to come…” but the prayers are traveling all across the universe and that’s what they feel.” -Faith Spotted Eagle [*Global Wopida Audio Brodacast*]




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Earth's Birthday Project
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DIRECT ACTION PRINCIPLES
·WE ARE PROTECTORS!
·WE ARE PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL
·"ISMS" HAVE NO PLACE HERE
·WE ARE NON-VIOLENT
·RESPECT LOCALS!
·WE ARE PROUD TO STAND. NO
·NO WEAPONS (OR WHAT
·ALL CAMPERS MUST
LIFTED RESEARCH GROUP
TOUR DE FORCE



On September 3, the 153 anniversary of the Whitestone Massacre, Dakota Access pipeline workers intentionally bulldozed sacred burial sites. Water Protectors arrived to stop them and were greeted by guard dogs and mace. This incident received international press and brought awareness to people everywhere about the injustices happening at Standing Rock. Many more were moved to support this important movement in a myriad of ways.





In early November the Pray with Standing Rock Campaign started as a way to amplify the message and the prayers of the people. Using globally synchronized online events and live webcasts from Standing Rock, the online community became actively engaged. Indigenous youth and independent news led the social media blitz that galvanized millions across the planet.

On November 21, right before Thanksgiving, the peaceful protestors faced tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons in sub-freezing weather yet they still remained peaceful in their stand. The first globally synchronized prayer and webcast happened on November 26 with 40,000 plus people participating in over 60 countries around the world.




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SPEED
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45
NEXT
1
MILES
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“I formerly worked with the fire department and I always considered us as fire fighters to be people that are the helpers, who save people. Looking across that razor wire and seeing my fellow fire fighters spraying innocent people who are praying and causing intentional hypothermia… Even now it still brings tears because I don’t understand how anyone put in the role of helping people can be so cruel. What I’m grateful for is it that it helped me to understand racism and white privilege in a way that I could never understand unless I had actually experienced it. I am deeply grateful for that. “ -Victory Lonnquist, Standing Rock Medic
Global Wopida Audio Brodacast




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On December 2 there was an interfaith prayer with clergy from around the world including Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Dr. Cornel West, Hawaiian State Representative Tulsi Gabbard and others.

Shortly after the Interfaith Prayer, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that an easement would not be granted for the pipeline. The Water Protectors celebrated what appeared to be a great victory, but Energy Transfer Partners announced that it would continue working on the pipeline regardless of government orders. Was this a miracle produced from collective prayer, or a political distraction? Water Protectors remained vigilant and prayerful regardless of the outcome. This is the essence of the Dakota word ***Wopida*** to be grateful at all times.








DEFEND
THE
SACRED


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“It’s hard to summarize in just a few words because it’s a feeling, it’s a fulfillment, it’s a dream, it’s a historic, never-before-done gathering of people, it’s an often scary, it’s celebratory when we get a bit of hope as we did with the denial of the easement today.”
-Faith Spotted Eagle, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast



“When we strive to make our lives, every thought, word and action, a living Wopida, we are given a great spiritual gift. For whenever our soul and the inmost chambers of our heart are

filled with thanksgiving and gratitude it also naturally becomes filled with compassion, love, understanding, forgiveness, joy, happiness and oneness. When our lives are centered in this State of Consciousness, there is no room left for the experience of fear, hate, prejudice, revenge, jealousy, loneliness and disunity. There is no room for anything that separates ourselves and our oneness with our Beloved Creator, our Human Family and all Life, seen and unseen." – Hereditary Chief, Phil Lane Jr.









Chief Phil Lane, Ihanktowan Dakota, called for a Global Wopida ceremony, in support of Standing Rock, to begin on December 10, which is United Nations Human Rights Day. The webcasts from both previous garnered over 40,000 people listening and almost 300,000 have listened to the recordings online. United Religions Initiative Director, Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Jon Ramer of the Charter for Compassion, Hawaiian Teacher, Pua Case, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, and others shared their words of wisdom, many of which are quoted in this book.

"What is your gift? What is your talent? What is your spirit telling you?" -Cody Hall, Red Warrior Camp



Sharing a common fire is one thing that has always united the Sioux people. Keeping of the peta waken (sacred fire) was an important activity. On marches, coals from the previous council fire were carefully preserved and used to rekindle the council fire at the new campsite. –Oceti Sakowin Camp



At the start of the actions at Standing Rock, a council fire was lit, as is tradition for native ceremonies. Oceti Sakowan means the seven council fires, and is the proper name for the people commonly known as the Sioux. This sacred fire in the center is where all the prayers are offered, and stories are told by the warmth of the evening glow.


WATER
LIFE
MNI WICONI
WATER IS LIFE


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“It was so beautiful to see so many people of so many different faiths, different tribes, different skin colors, different creeds all coming together unified. I have never seen anything like that in my life and I’ve been a part of many amazing movements. I am so grateful for that!” -Victory Lonnquist, Standing Rock Medic
Global Wopida Audio Brodacast



“The most inspiring thing is that people have been given a memory. Back in the old days we’d have these winter counts and there would be one event that would stand out for the whole year and it would be recorded on that winter count. There is no doubt that Oceti Sakowin and the camps that have evolved here would be on that winter count for this year. We are continuing to be amazed with everything that is happening. This past weekend was a sacred moment in time.” -Faith Spotted Eagle, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast



“Our culture has been so colonized that we don’t live as a village anymore. We come home and try to fill the void with television, or Facebook or whatever it is and it doesn’t make up for that loneliness that I think our DNA longs for which is to live in a village. That’s who we are as humans. We are pack people. Standing Rock gave us that opportunity once again.” -Victory Lonnquist, Standing Rock Medic, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast





There are many stories and prophecies of the 7th Generation, of Rainbow People, and of an 8th Council Fire, that all speak of a great unity of people coming together across cultures and faiths to bring healing to Mother Earth. Though the stories vary, there is a growing sentiment that we are now living in a time of prophecy.

From the sacred fire at Standing Rock torches have been lit and youth runners are bringing this fire in all directions. The growing unity and solidarity with Standing Rock has brought strength to people everywhere who are standing up to protect the sacred. The spreading of this great “spiritual fire” is very symbolic and powerful for the people.




PURPLE HEART
COMBAT WOUNDED
WWII
VETERAN
KOREA
VETERAN
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ORHE`PECHA`S
W/
STANDING ROCK

They would retrace their steps to find the wisdom that was left by the side of the trail long ago. Their steps would take them to the elders, who they would ask to guide them on their journey. If the New People remain strong in their quest, the sacred drum will again sound its voice. There will be an awakening of the people, and the sacred fire will again be lit. At this time, the light-skinned race will be given a choice between two roads. One road is the road of greed and technology without wisdom or respect for life. This road represents a rush to destruction. The other road is spirituality, a slower path that includes respect for all living things. If we choose the spiritual path, we can light yet another fire, an Eight Fire, and begin an extended period of Peace and healthy growth.
– Grandfather William Commanda, Algonquin Elder and Spiritual Leader, from the Prophecy of the Seven Fires of the Anishnabe





After seeing the violent abuse of unarmed, peaceful water protectors by law enforcement, former Army Lt. Wesley Clark Jr. made a call to veterans across the country to deploy to Standing Rock. Nearly 4,000 veterans came from across the country. Upon arrival, they were asked to join the prayer rather than escalate the tensions. In the following days there was a beautiful Forgiveness Ceremony between vets and native elders. A better future is built on healing the wounds of the past.



“Many of us, me particularly, are from the units that have hurt you over the many years. We came. We fought you. We took your land. We signed treaties that we broke. We stole minerals from your sacred hills. We blasted the faces of our presidents onto your sacred mountain. Then we took still more land and then we took your children and … we tried to eliminate your language that God gave you, and the Creator gave you. We didn’t respect you, we polluted your Earth, we’ve hurt you in so many ways but we’ve come to say that we are sorry. We are at your service and we beg for your forgiveness.” -former Army Lt. Wesley Clark Jr.





“It was really a time where everyone could unify in pain, healing, and envisioning the future. We danced together, cried together, cooked together, we took care of the camp. I was so totally amazed by the presence of those veterans.” -Faith Spotted Eagle,
Global Wopida Audio Brodacast

The Global Wopida that started on Dec 10 will stretch for many months and include the larger movement to protect and honor sacred sites everywhere. Reciprocity, as embodied in the principle of wopida is central to community and to living a beautiful life. Giving thanks, living with honor for the web of connections that surround us, sharing, and the offering of gifts, are aspects of indigenous wisdom that the whole world can learn from.

“There is an overwhelming sense at Standing Rock that it’s not about us, it’s not about me it’s not about you. It’s about the water, it’s about what is sacred, it’s about spirit, it’s about prayer.” -Victory Lonnquist, Standing Rock Medic, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast

Wopida is a Lakota word that describes this exchange of energy between humans, but also between humans and other living things, including the land and the water. For example, when you drink water, you offer thanks for the life it gives you. This is living life in a prayerful way, and it is this spirit that has called us together to protect the source of life. This goes for Standing Rock, and other places all over the world, where people are standing together to resist the desecration of what is truly sacred.





"In this Sacred Process of Personal and Community Illumination, we will, in unprecedented, unified, prayerful and peaceful action, ignite Global Fires of Thanksgiving and Compassion that recognize and connect the "Standing Rocks" everywhere around our beloved Mother Earth. This Global Fire, will spark countless others, burning away the veils of illusion, manifesting the Oneness of the Human Family and the power of True Spiritual Realization. With it will come the elimination of all prejudice, and rebirth our inner understanding that we are each called to love and care for all our precious relatives on sacred Mother Earth!

Today, on the day of a great full moon (1-12-17), the Oceti Sakowin Sacred Fire at Standing Rock was Ceremonially extinguished today. The Spiritual Leaders and the Ithanchans present, will now travel to each of the Camp Circles of the Seven Council Fires, and spiritually reunite the Oceti Sakowin. Their first stop will be to the Ihanktonwan Oyate.

The first Inaugural Global Wopida Run: Sharing the Spirit of Standing Rock and Building a Global Fire begins on February 4, 2017. This Ceremonial Process, led by the 7th Generation, will begin the Sacred Journeys to recognize and connect "Standing Rocks" everywhere around our beloved Mother Earth!" -Chief Phil Lane Jr.



“We call for international day of prayer for peace and non violence. All nations all faiths, one prayer. Mother Earth is sick and has a fever. We have to stand and help the young people and all people because it has to be an energy shift that we have to create through prayer. We have to realize that Standing Rock is everyhwere in the whole world. Many Blessings to you.” Chief Arvol Looking Horse Global Wopida Audio Brodacast



“I’m just thankful on this beautiful day despite all the violence. I have continued to be thankful for the lives of the three women who have been hurt. One was bit by one of the security dogs. The second one, Sophia who was hurt on the bridge. I am thankful and give Wopida for her life for that girl standing strong for our people I pray for her healing. Thirdly the little girl who lost her eye that was injured by the bullet. We are thankful that they are alive, they are definitely warrior women. I am thankful that this has happened in my lifetime with my grandson, to be able to share this historic time. This has never happened with so many native people on Turtle Island and the allies who have come to stand with us.” -Faith Spotted Eagle, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast

From the Sacred Fire, torches were lit, and the Seventh Generation Runners began to bring the fire in the four directions. With the youth leading, the elders supporting Ms. Bobbi Jean Three Legs and others are making sure the magic of Standing Rock continues to spread. Along with the Global Wopida, the Compassion Torch reminds us to take action, full of heart, with love for all that is sacred in this world.

"Capitalism feeds on unlimited growth, it's like this monster that's always hungry and thirsty and devouring the earth. That's what our message is here: We have to live in balance; otherwise we're going to perish." -Tom Goldtooth, Washington Post



“The ancestors always knew we would be for this place and these ways we hold dear. I’m grateful that this is the time and we are in it. We understand as we move forward in this journey to safeguard, protect, and find peace in our hearts, led by our ancestral voices and spiritual guidance. We are in this together from mountains to oceans for the lands and the waters from Mauna Kea to Standing Rock, in between and beyond. We are nations and peoples, we are not alone, we are not defeated, we trust and believe we are in this together and together we rise.” Pua Case, Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner and Kumu Hula, Global Wopida Audio Brodacast



“Where the Cannonball River joins the Missouri River, at the site of our camp today to stop the Dakota Access pipeline, there used to be a whirlpool that created large, spherical sandstone formations. The river’s true name is Inyan Wakangapi Wakpa, River that Makes the Sacred Stones, and we have named the site of our resistance on my family’s land the Sacred Stone Camp. The stones are not created anymore, ever since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged the mouth of the Cannonball River and flooded the area in the late 1950s as they finished the Oahe dam. They killed a portion of our sacred river.

I was a young girl when the floods came and desecrated our burial sites and Sundance grounds. Our people are in that water.
This river holds the story of my entire life.” -Ladonna Brave Bull Allard, Yes Magazine



“I am very proud and honored to be a descendant of Sitting Bull and to carry out his legacy. We talk about the seven generations, we talk about how we are their dreams come true.

Sitting Bull, Black Elk, our ancestors spoke about how all the generations, all the people, humankind would come together one day and that was our leader who predicted these things. They predicted the black snake that would come and it was called upon us to lead this fight of protecting Unci Maka, our Grandmother



Earth, and to protect our Mni Wiconi we call water of life. No matter the color, race, sex, religion, anything like that, we come together as a team. This is a movement about humankind, about nature, peace, and prayer" -Brenda White Bull, Indigenous Rising Media

Standing Rock is not over. In fact, this movement is now world-



wide. We have the blessing of elders, the enthusiasm of the youth, the strength of our ancestors, and the tools to create a more beautiful future. What will you do with these things to make a better world? Live the Prayer, Wopida!