

# **“We Need to Notice.” For Our World**

**From the May 2025 e-Peace Update**  
[www.MattiesPeaceFoundation.org](http://www.MattiesPeaceFoundation.org)



*Mattie Stepanek, noticing life during a nature stroll - Summer 1999.*

***We need to notice.  
Just notice.  
Notice for a moment...  
Before the future slips away  
Into ashes and dust of humility.***

Excerpt 2 of 6 from *For Our World*  
by Mattie J. T. Stepanek (9/11/2001)

As we continue exploring Mattie’s **“For Our World”** poem – penned on September 11, 2001 – this month our theme is on the important matter of pausing, with silence, to **“notice.”**

In this timeless and universal message of hope and peace, Mattie’s first asks us to **“stop”** and to **“be silent”** – not to cease seeking peace or advocating for others, but to give pause and space for reflection before more people are hurt or more blessings are lost.

Mattie’s third call to action is for us to **“notice”** – not to judge or alienate or condemn, but for a moment of realization **“before the future slips away into ashes and dust of humility.”**

## **Noticing matters.**

To **notice** involves more than a glance or an acceptance of age-old stereotypes or opinions; noticing includes a fact of observing and paying purposeful attention to something – or someone.

When we give pause to words and deeds, we are given an opportunity to notice – and to deliberate on truths.

- We can be warned of potential harm and unnecessary damage.
- We can grow in understanding about environments and emotions - and people.
- We can embrace humility as a strength – recognizing our own weaknesses and respecting the value of others.
- We can prepare for challenges with chosen attitudes and actions rooted in acceptance and respect – even amid differences and disagreements.

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At the age of 3 years, Mattie was already reminding us about the important matter of noticing things and people:

*"Look out of your window and you will see beautiful things. You will see trucks and cars, and flowers and plants...and people. People are such beautiful things. When we see the beauty of people, then we can truly see beyond the window and pain."*

And at age 13, he reminded us about how pausing to *really notice* something can help us with making decisions that are good for us, and also for others:


*"What really matters is choosing what really matters – not merely being aware or knowing about or considering attentively. What really matters is choosing what really matters with a clear and gentle heart – in all matters."*

This month, let us notice. Let us be open to pausing, with quietness, so that our eyes and minds and hearts can notice what we need to notice to better understand our diverse world, so that we can cultivate peace.

It is not always easy to be open to new insights and realizations about ourselves, or about others, or about our world – but it is always worthy.

**Let us pause, to notice -  
and reflect on, respond to, and reach out with this message of hope.**

- Below is Mattie's **"For Our World" peace passage** in entirety, and links to his voice sharing the message.
- **Please read or listen to the poem -** on your own, or in community with your family, friends, and colleagues.
- Then please consider this month's **"Reflect-Respond-ReachOut"** suggestions (also below).



**For Our World**  
by Mattie J.T. Stepanek  
September 11, 2001

We need to stop.  
Just stop.  
Stop for a moment...  
Before anybody  
Says or does anything  
That may hurt anyone else.

We need to be silent.  
Just silent.  
Silent for a moment...  
Before we forever lose  
The blessing of songs  
That grow in our hearts.

We need to notice.  
Just notice.  
Notice for a moment...  
Before the future slips away  
Into ashes and dust of humility.

Stop, be silent, and notice...  
In so many ways, we are the same.  
Our differences are unique treasures.  
We have, we are, a mosaic of gifts  
To nurture, to offer, to accept.

We need to be.  
Just be.  
Be for a moment...  
Kind and gentle,  
Innocent and trusting,  
Like children and lambs,  
Never judging or vengeful  
Like the judging and vengeful.

And now, let us pray,  
Differently, yet together,  
Before there is no earth, no life,  
No chance for peace.

**In Just Peace: A Message of Hope (AMP 2006)**

[Click here for an  
audio/visual version of  
Mattie reading  
For Our World](#)

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## Reflect

To notice involves more than a glance; it is a fact of observing with open eyes, mind, and heart.

Mattie reminds us of the importance of noticing:

*"When we see the beauty of [things] and people, then we can truly see beyond the window and pain."*

What interrupts us "noticing" our own flaws or weaknesses? the value of diversity? insightful decision-making?

***"We need to notice. Just notice.  
Notice for a moment...  
Before the future slips away  
into ashes and dust of humility."***

Excerpt 3 of 6 from *For Our World*  
by Mattie J.T. Stepanek (9/11/2001)  
in *Just Peace: A Message of Hope* (AMP 2006)



## Respond

**When we notice and understand environments, emotions, ourselves, others - we can be warned of unnecessary damages and prepare to face challenges with respect.**

How can I purposefully open my eyes and mind to notice things I have *assumed* (rather than *observed*), in ways that support a shift in attitudes and habits?



## Reach Out

**It's not always easy to be open to new insights and realizations about ourselves, others, our world - but it is always worthy.**

Choose to pause and learn more about an issue or community or age-old assumption that may involve judgement of yourself or others. Share new realizations with family, friends, and colleagues.

**We welcome your shared thoughts** - about the poem, about this month's RRR suggestions, about compassion and peace for our world.

Please e-mail us:

[INFO@MattiesPeaceFoundation.org](mailto:INFO@MattiesPeaceFoundation.org)

Peace matters, and so do you.

Jeni Stepanek, PhD ("Mama Peace")

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