

Communities for Immunity: Stories about COVID The Peale, Baltimore | 2022

Mama Linda Goss (00:07): My soul is singing, well, oh, well, well. It's storytelling time. (Bells ringing). Gather around my people. Well, well. Gather around my people. Well, well. Gather around my people. Well, well, well, well, well. (Bells ringing)

Mama Linda Goss (00:39): It's storytelling time. Well, well, it's storytelling time, well, well. It's storytelling time. Well, well, well, well, well, and indeed it's storytelling time. So friends gather around and listen to the stories.

Mama Linda Goss (01:00): The welcome table of peace. (Singing) Let's come together side by side, my people side by side, my people side by side. Let's come together side by side, come on and pull together now. Let's come together side by side, my people side by side, my people side by side. Let's come together side by side, come on and pull together now.

Mama Linda Goss (01:33): The rainforest was in turmoil. Chaos confusion was everywhere. King lion and queen lioness were very, very concerned. They called a meeting of their advisors, the giraffe, the eagle, and the turtle came forward to discuss the matter. The eagles suggested that a meeting be called inviting all the animals together and the big clearing in the middle of the forest.

Mama Linda Goss (02:05): And there, he would ask them a very important question. The king, the queen and the advisors agreed to eagle's idea. The bird were summon and sent as messengers flying throughout the forest, inviting all to come to the meeting. The almost came, but before the meeting began leopard growled at hyena. The monkey threw a banana at the zebra and zebra kicked the wildebeest. The animals began fussing at one another together king line and queen lioness roared at the crowd. ROAR! Silence, silence, order orders that the king, the queen then said, one of our advisors, the Eagle has a question to ask you the Eagle flew before the group greetings my friends. The question I have for each of you is which one of you is willing to stop, stop doing. The one thing that you know is bringing harm to someone else, the animals mumbled and grumbled among themselves. The cheetah said the panther needs to leave me alone. The panther said the jackal needs leave me alone. The jackal said, and you eagle, you need to leave me alone. The animals laughed at the eagle. Who does that eagle think he is? The animals begin arguing again.

Mama Linda Goss (03:40): King lion said, that's enough. That was not the question. The Eagle asked you spoke to queen who among you is willing to give up something that is hurting. That is harming someone else. All you could hear was the sound of silence. Go back home, shouted the king, this meeting is adjourned said, the queen. Turmoil, chaos, confusion, continue to reign in the forest. The next day, king lion and queen lioness called another meeting with their advisors, the giraffe, the eagle and the turtle came. The giraffe suggested that a large round wooden table be made and put in the clearing in the middle of the forest and invite the head of each animal nation together. There would be no heads at this table said the giraffe because it would round, but no disrespect to you. King lion, no disrespect to you. Queen lions. We know you are in charge, but the animals might feel more comfortable sitting at a round table. The king, the queen and the advisors agreed to giraffe's idea. Bird messengers were sent out again to the word about the meeting at the round table, the king and the Queen's carpenters made a beautiful

large round table. And when the day of the meeting came, the king, the queen and the advisors arrived early. They waited and they waited and they waited. No one came instead mumbling and grumbling.

Mama Linda Goss (05:38): The animals just argued and Fu all throughout the rainforest. And so the king, the queen and the advisors went back home. Now, during that night, some of the animals even tore up the table. The next morning, the king and the queen were very frustrated, but they realized that they couldn't give up. And so they called another meeting of their advisors, the giraffe, the Eagle, and the turtle came forward. And the king said, oh, I thank you so much advisors for your service. Oh, yes, said the queen. But surely there has to be a breakthrough. I have an idea said turtle. Perhaps we could ask each animal family to give a piece of something special, something that they have, something that they have made, something of value, something that they could bring to the clearing and the middle of the forest. And together, we all could make a mosaic table and the turtle began to sing peace by piece, side by side, we can make a welcome table.

Mama Linda Goss (06:59): Love, peace, peace by peace side by side, we can make a welcome table of peace, king lion and queen lions and the advisors like turtle's idea. The bird messages flew around again, announcing the idea. The animals were excited and delighted out the mosaic table. And so on the day of the meeting, the animals arrived early one by one side by side piece by piece, they brought wonderful treasures, special things that they had made or collected beautiful objects for the mosaic table. They brought cowrie shells, rocks, nuts, seeds, glass beads, carvings masks, pottery, Ember, gold diamonds, emeralds, and Eva rubies. Some of the animals helped make the table. Some of the animals brought food to eat and juice to drink. Some of the animals played drums and some San and some danced. Once the table was completed, everyone was in awe, in awe of the magnificent objects in awe of how the objects, even though different had come together to create a spectacular, fantastic work of art.

Mama Linda Goss (08:22): All the animals gathered around the table. King lion and queen lioness called the meeting to order the queen introduced the advisors, let us applaud the advisors for sharing their ideas, the giraffe, the Eagle, and the turtle and it turtle who had the idea to create the mosaic table. Please, sister turtle. Please share with us your song again. Peace by peace side by side, we can make a welcome table of peace, peace by peace side by side, we can make a welcome table of peace. The animals joined in singing the song at the table. During the meeting, the animals agreed to show respect and listen to one another. Everyone shared their stories. They told stories of hardships stories about their ambitions. And finally, the turmoil, the chaos and the confusion stopped.

Mama Linda Goss (09:33): Now, this happened many thousands of years ago. This happened in the days when the animals talked and walked the earth. The way we do now, legend has it that somewhere in the world, in a rainforest and the middle of a clearing, the mosaic welcome table of peace. Is there waiting, waiting for someone who come do you think it will be found? One day let's come together side by side. Let's come together side by side. Let's come together side by side, my people side by side, my people side by side. Let's come together, side by side, come on and pull together now. Come on and pull together now.