Where There Is Hatred  (Article from our Director)

You’ve probably seen scenes from movies or TV programs when you’ve heard someone utter the words, “I hate you!” I don’t remember ever making that pronouncement, but it probably was from fear of retribution that I didn’t say it! Parents and their children can also be affected. I was not a witness to the actual incident, but I learned that a preschooler who, when the child didn’t get what was wanted, said to the mother, “I hate you!” There was a quick apology, but my sense is the mom was hurt by the child’s penetrating words. I suspect that most all of us have experienced similar moments in our lives.

Words of disdain and hate are not only expressions addressed to individuals, and, of course, there are lots of ways other than words that people express hatred. The term hate crime is relatively new, I think, in our country, but no doubt crimes of hatred have been committed throughout history. A hate crime seems to occur when an action is taken against an individual or group of a race or social class. Most often it’s someone who is vulnerable or weak and cannot defend themselves. The most common examples would be mistreatment of Black and Jews in our history, and the extremes is when lives are taken as in the Jewish concentration camps of WWII and in the lynching and torture of African Americans while in slavery and proceeding into modern times. What is the genesis of hate?
In recent weeks I’ve been reading a work by an African American author, Howard Thurman, who has written on this topic, and I want to share some of his thoughts in his chapter on Hate from *Jesus and the Disinherited*. He describes a series of movements or stages in which hate is given life and power. There needs to be the right conditions for hate to be nurtured and grow. Some of us may not be surprised at his assertion that, when there is contact without fellowship, a spirit of indifference toward another can begin to surface.

Hate is not seasonal, nor is it confined to specific societal conditions. Thurman notes that during times of war hatred can become acceptable, even respectable, though he points out in such times it is seen in his words as a “masquerade under the guise of patriotism.” He opines that hatred cannot be defined; it can only be described. He notes four movements in its development. First, hatred begins when there is “contact without fellowship”, that is, without warmth and genuineness. Secondly, in contacts without fellowship, it is unsympathetic and without healing. There is no true engagement with the other. To be clear Thurman asserts, “I can sympathize only when I see myself in another’s place.” Further, an unsympathetic understanding tends to express itself in the active functions of ill will. "Ill will, when dramatized in a human being, becomes hatred walking on the earth."

Yes, hatred is walking the earth and can be heard in a cacophony of voices and a parade of faces. Otherwise respectable faces spew forth hate into the air. The corona virus is not the only virus that is searching the globe seeking a willing host. Like the corona virus, hatred can also destroy and kill the soul of a person, if not the body. Many of you are aware of the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. It begins, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hate, let me sow love.” Time and again we see Jesus embodying God’s love in the face of disdain and hatred, finally the love demonstrated, enacted on the Cross.

In these turbulent times where chaos reigns, is found not only in our most revered institutions and its leaders; the hearts of each of us are often troubled because of the chaos in our own souls. Margaret Meade once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” As members of Christ’s Body, the Church, we are called to sow God’s love. It is we who can be the leaven in the lump that, through the grace of love, forgiveness and mercy; can restore peace and reconciliation. This is the remedy where countless people with troubled and anxious souls in our nation and around the world can find solace and renewal. Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Rev. Dan Krutz

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**Congratulations to Rev. Joel Hicks**

In center of picture is LIC Board Member, Pastor Joel Hicks, newly ordained minister in the ELCA

Pictured Left to Right are: Pastor Harold Christensen, (past pastor of Saint Stephen); Pastor Stan Larson (of Holy Trinity, Shreveport); Pastor Joel Hicks; Pastor Kris Totzke, (Bishop’s Associate); Bishop Eric Gronberg, (Bishop of the Northern Texas Northern Louisiana Synod ELCA). Photo courtesy of Mr. Phil Wendelin.

We offer congratulations to Rev. Joel Hicks, on his ordination of 10/9/20, celebrated at Saint Stephen Lutheran Church in Shreveport. He had hoped to be ordained back in June, but this was delayed due to COVID-19.
Rev. Hicks has been serving as a Board Designate to the LIC representing Bishop Erick Gronberg, since February of 2018. Prior to that, he had been attending LIC meetings as a Delegate, beginning in 2016.

*Our thanks to Mr. Phil Wendelin for sharing this update and photo with us! Mr. Wendelin is a member of the LIC Commission on Racial Healing and Reconciliation.*

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**In Sympathy**

Please be in prayer for Rev. Lindy Broderick (LIC Board Member at Large) and her family on the death of Lindy’s mother, Janice Anne (Jan) Broderick, who passed away peacefully on Monday, October 5, 2020 after a short illness. Lindy asks we specifically pray for her Dad as he learns how to be in this world without her Mom. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the family will hold a private memorial at a later date.

*Rev. Lindy Broderick has been serving the LIC as a Board Member at Large since March of 2016 and involved with the LIC since 2009.*

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**The Mustard Seed Series**

SECRETARY BEN CARSON launches the ‘**MUSTARD SEED SERIES**’ through HUD: *Faith-Based Virtual Workshops to help the poor obtain housing*

**September 30, 2020, WASHINGTON** - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson today launched a series of virtual workshops for faith congregations entitled, “The Mustard Seed Series”. The virtual events will feature faith organizations that have successfully created affordable housing, reduced homelessness, or used innovative housing models to serve individuals in need. The meetings will serve as a forum for other faith organizations to learn about the experiences of these communities and to replicate the successes they have experienced.

The inaugural event focused on the partnership between the Grove Community Church and Mayor Rusty Bailey’s administration in Riverside, California. Secretary Carson visited the church property in Riverside earlier in the year and saw the homes for low-income families built on the church property. The development was made possible by collaboration between the city and the church. Supportive services are provided to families who live in the on-site homes through the commitment of the congregation. The goal of the model is self-sufficiency for the families, so they can move to their own homes one day and more vulnerable populations can be served through the facility.

*“We cannot alleviate poverty through the efforts of the federal government alone,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “There are so many faith-based organizations serving vulnerable communities successfully, and we want to share these successes with other faith-based organizations who are already so dedicated to a*
posture of service. Our goal with the ‘Mustard Seed Series’ is to pair congregations interested in launching a housing outreach program with congregations already operating one so they can mentor each other and share best practices.”

“The collaboration between the City of Riverside and The Grove Community Church shows that church and state can work together to solve a societal problem,” said Andy Gibeault, who serves as the Associate Pastor at the Grove Community Church. “The City of Riverside is blessed to have been able to partner with The Grove Community Church to create The Grove Village,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “This joint effort created new housing for our neighbors without homes while respecting and protecting the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood. We are excited to share with the nation what can be accomplished when a local government and a faith-based community work together on an issue of vital concern to both.”

For more information about the Mustard Seed Series or to RSVP for an event, please email FaithInitiatives@hud.gov. You can also connect with HUD on social media and follow Secretary Carson on Twitter and Facebook or sign up for news alerts on HUD's Email List.

November - Pray for Persecuted Christians

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – Sunday Nov. 1, 2020, and throughout the month of November

Join Christians around the world in a global prayer meeting for our persecuted brothers and sisters who boldly witness for Christ at any cost. Voice of the Martyrs’ 2020 IDOP short film, Janette: Central African Republic, is a dramatic portrayal of how persecuted Christians in the Central African Republic have been displaced from their homes and villages by civil war and Islamist violence. But these courageous believers have also forgiven their persecutors and held fast to their faith in Christ. You and your church will be inspired to pray for and support Christians like Janette who have lost everything because of their Christian faith.

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Christians (IDOP) is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians worldwide. Its primary focus is the work of intercessory prayer and citizen action on behalf of persecuted communities of the Christian faith. We also encourage prayer for the souls of the oppressors, the nations that promote persecution, and those who ignore it. The IDOP began in 1996 through the efforts of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) in cooperation with a variety of denominations and faith-based organizations. From a core group of approximately 7,000 churches, the IDOP has grown to be the largest prayer day event of its kind in the world. The IDOP is a rallying point for Christians and others to stand behind those who suffer for their faith by providing prayer support and appropriate advocacy.

You are invited to join in prayer on November 1st and throughout the month of November.
For more info., go to: https://www.persecution.com

The Night of Broken Glass

The night of November 9-10, 2020 marks the 82nd anniversary of Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken Glass. The year was 1938, and thousands of Jews and Jewish businesses and temples were brutally attacked, murdered, and destroyed by the Nazi SAs and rioters across Germany and Austria while local authorities did nothing to intervene. It was another step toward the terrible holocaust that killed six million Jews – including one and one-
half million children. There were also many non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust. We remember the lives lost, and others who sacrificed in valiant efforts to save as many as possible.

Offering thanks to our recent contributors – we couldn't make it without you all!

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we depend upon partners to supplement the needs. Our thanks to the below contributors:

Contributions received from September 30, 2020 through October 27, 2020:

*During the above listed time period, the only contributions we have received were from our member Judicatories - which we greatly depend upon – thank you!*

In late November, we plan to mail out a 'Friends of the LIC' request to help more with LIC's operational needs. We hope that you will be watching for your notice in the mail!

Thank you all!

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at [http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm](http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm).

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**Board Meeting Dates to Calendar**

**Fall Board meeting dates:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Sept. 20-21, Houma, LA CHANGED to September 27-28, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Sept. 19-20, Alexandria, LA</td>
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**Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

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<th>Assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>March 1-2, Lake Charles, LA – 51st Annual Assembly <em>(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>March 14-15, Baton Rouge, LA – 52nd Annual Assembly</td>
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“To live the faith we hold in common”

*President: The Most Rev. Douglas Deshotel; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton; Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*