

Let Your Light Shine - Ignited for Justice

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 (ESV)

This year has brought to the forefront the cries for racial justice and the longstanding racial stress among the Black and Brown communities in our country. The introduction in the [UMW Racial Justice Fact Sheet](#) states the following:

While racial discrimination has in theory been outlawed in the United States, in practice racism remains a persistent reality in every level of society. Political, economic, and social institutions, the church among them, still discriminate. The damage of centuries of exploitation has not been erased. Indeed, today in the United States, people of color must confront discrimination in housing, pay, education and other areas. People of color also continue to face disproportionate levels of policing and incarceration. Racist policies and practices still determine, to a great extent, how whole communities will advance or be prevented from thriving.

From the extensive reading and research I have done in preparation for the District Mission u presentation - *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* – two major concepts I’d like all UMW members to pray and think about are educating yourself on racial injustice and learning to have compassion for those who are broken.

Please take time to read the UMW’s [Charter for Racial Justice](#), study it, and have a Circle meeting about it. Take time to read the Social Action books on the UMW reading list, especially “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson and “Pushout – The Criminalization of Black Girls in School” by Monique W. Morris. PRAY about this topic and ask God to show you how he wants you to get involved and respond to the cries of our fellow Americans.

A recent UMW webinar I watched was hosted by Tonja Honsey, “Mothers, Mass Incarceration and Movement Work.” Honsey is a revolutionary mother, a truth teller, a survivor of incarceration and a community healer. Through her lived experiences, she advocates for the change that is needed to restore our communities from the trauma of mass incarceration. Her final words of advice to the 200 participants on the Zoom meeting were to “get to know your neighbors.” She stressed we’ve become sheltered in our technology-filled lives. She emphasized that we no longer walk around and get to know our neighbors or our community members; to learn their stories; and to learn if they need our help and God’s help.

Bryan Stevenson speaks at the end of his book about brokenness. That all of us are broken. He states, "But simply punishing the broken – walking away from them or hiding them from sight – only ensures that they remain broken and we do, too. " He continues, "I began thinking about what would happen if we all just acknowledged our brokenness, if we owned up to our weaknesses, our deficits, our biases, our fears. Maybe if we did, we wouldn't want to kill the broken among us who have killed others. Maybe we would look harder for solutions to caring for the disabled, the abused, the neglected, and the traumatized. "

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Blessings,
Beth Stockwell
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