

## Is It My Problem?

At this time when we are surrounded by daily examples of prejudice and hate, it is easy to put up walls and close your eyes to injustice when you are not the victim. It is easy to 'let it pass' or just not see an act of discrimination, racism or prejudice for what it is. After all, it's not 'our problem' . . . or is it?



Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, a 22-year-old man scrawled vitriolic graffiti on the walls of the Moorhead Fargo Islamic Center in Minnesota and caused some other property damage to the facility. He said it was a joke. . . No one is laughing. The vandalism was discovered at 5:20 a.m. Sunday. As soon as the crime scene was processed, on Monday 400 residents and politicians from 3 neighboring towns showed up to clean up the mess and show their support for the Muslim community. They brought their tools; and some brought food. People took turns scrubbing and fixing. In two hours, the work was done. A local Walmart employee provided evidence of a spray paint purchase along with a description of the customer and his vehicle which helped police identify the suspect. "We stand with Moorhead's Islamic community. Hatred is not welcome in Moorhead," said the Moorhead city manager. (New York Dailey News)

Sometimes we need reminders that loving your neighbor is not a lost art!

Lord, forgive us when we turn a blind eye to hatred and crudity, especially in our own back yard. Remind us that the only way to stop hate is to speak out and say no to it with our peaceful words and actions. Applauding a good neighbor is not enough. Help us to be a good neighbor.

### This week, remember in prayer:

- **People who live with the ugliness of racism**, bigotry, or prejudice. That we have not learned the lessons Jesus taught about how to treat each other, or the lessons from our past about the dehumanizing nature of fear & the all-consuming & destructive power of hate, is demonstrated every day. The viciousness of hate crimes is part of this deplorable ugliness. Pray for those who live with the reality of racism & with those who do not understand or acknowledge that they play a role in continuing it.
- **People dealing with COVID-19**. Remember all whose lives have been touched by COVID, here & around the world; especially places like India where the healthcare system is being overwhelmed. There is an **urgent prayer request** from the Brethren Global Mission staff: remember the **church in India**, which has lost members & beloved leaders of the church to the COVID-19 surge. The pandemic is not over yet for anyone.
- **Children's Disaster Services** (CDS) has a team working with children along the US/Mexico border in Texas. The team has been averaging 40 to 45 children per day in the CDS center. Remember the CDS workers, the children & their families.
- **The people of Haiti**. Political unrest, kidnapping for ransom & human rights abuses are rampant there. Even so, since February more than 1,400 people seeking asylum here, have been deported back to Haiti. Most are families; hundreds are infants & minors. There is real reason to be concerned for their safety.

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