

Pastor's Column – Summer 2020

The history book heading for our time will read “Season of Pandemic and Racial Unrest.” Lord willing, there will be no third immense social upheaval added to this title. My thoughts lead to what our celebration of Independence Day 2020 will look like.

Clifton Clarke, the noted black theologian, wrote, “Though all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), God has acted to unify all things and all people in Christ (Eph. 1:9-3:10), who died for our sins to deliver sinners from this present evil age (Gal. 1:4). Racism is part of this evil age. By faith in Christ, Jesus’s blood and resurrection reconcile a diversity of humans into one transformed and ethnically and racially diverse Christian community (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 5:9).” (*Christianity Today*, August 2017)

Saint Peter wrote to the churches, “*But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.*” (1 Peter 2:9-10 MSG)

His message was confirmed in John’s report of the angel choir he heard in heaven: *And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”* (Revelation 5:9 NASB)

My concern is not political commentary but is the seemingly impossible transformation accomplished by God and the presence of Christ’s Kingdom among all of humanity. We are somewhere around 7.8 billion souls, soon headed for the nine billion mark. To the question, what percentage of the world population is Caucasian or white? – there have been various answers. In 2018 Quora research group published a figure of 16%. Asian (mostly Chinese) is the greatest people group at 55%. The balance of the world is comprised of African, Central/ South American and Middle Eastern peoples. These are rough estimates compiled from the census figures of the nations of the world (quora.com). Should the most numerous people have the most power in world affairs? More to the point, should a people of less than one quarter of the world population hold 99% of the power and wealth? Just asking.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church, “*...I, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*” (Ephesians 1:15-18)

My prayer is that we will be part of creating the historical heading “Healing Effects of the Church in Society” as we follow Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit in these unsettled times.

Holy and loving God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – move upon our anxious and lost world with Your great love and compassion. May many see and experience Your grace at such a crucial moment in world history. Make us agents of Your Kingdom in these times.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Margot