

Black Racism Awareness Week

“Build Relationships and Win”
September 13-19, 2020

A County-wide Awareness and Action Campaign

B-RAW Digital Tool Kit

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Build Relationships And Win: A 7Day Call to Action
September 13- 19, 2020

PRE-EVENT: Please view these videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cRt3-RRf1U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dipGt0ZriDo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK9hzmVkJmw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nzu4b2sA_H0

DAY 1- Participate in a Day of Prayer and Repentance for personal/national racism.

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on your personal beliefs. Write out a prayer against bigotry and racism. Write any areas the Spirit lays on your heart that need additional prayer and repentance.

DAY 2- Call every black (white) person in your cell phone just to check on them see how they are doing. Choose just one of those individuals to have an honest conversation about race.

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on this experience: How did you feel? Do you have any black (white) people in your contact list on your phone? Also reflect on your conversation with the one person: What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about the other person?

DAY 3- Call a black (white) person and invite them to be your partner to watch and discuss a video. You can watch together or separate, but agree upon a time to discuss.

Here's the link: Youtube Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nm0PeMU7z2A>

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on this video: Write a letter to Jesus about this video share with Him: What you learned? Tell him how you may have "edited out" black people and culture or felt "edited" as a black person. Where have you be silent? What is your hunger level? Finish by asking yourself: What do I believe Jesus feels about this?

DAY 4- Read the article found here: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/culturally-speaking/201608/connecting-forging-real-relationships-people-color>

Today be intentional to form a relationship with at least one black (white) person. Do something kind for a black (white) person today. Pay it forward.

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on this article: How will you earn the trust of a black (white) person? Do you care if a black(white) person trusts you? Reflect on how you showed the Love of Christ to a black(white) person today. Listen for the heart of God on this.

DAY 5- Invite a black (white) person to watch and discuss a video with you. Watch this Youtube Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqCP49yorBs>

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on this video: Write a letter to Jesus about this video share with Him: What you learned? What you agree with? What you disagree with? Finish by asking yourself: What do I believe Jesus is calling me to do?

DAY6- Today experience and appreciate the worship and service of a black (white) congregation. Links provided

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal reflect on this activity: Write a letter to Jesus sharing What was your first thought when you read today's challenge? What prejudice thoughts came to mind. What is the same about the other race's worship, style, doctrine? What is different? What can you appreciate? A link to a helpful article on that is provided for today.

Article Link: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/culturally-speaking/201608/exploring-our-own-stereotypes-and-biases>

For White People: Check out this link for a Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM8jQHE5AAk>

Tune into FM 104.1 (Praise DC) and AM 600 (Heaven 600)

Check out these links for Sermons by Minority Ministers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz_tjn8eXKA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6zz-MD7ohU>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_y3n0G15D6g

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj-lm6nI9PQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ekrieca8XuI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF4fBB2vuVs>

For Black People: Check out this link for a Song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV_2H9xD0

Tune into FM 95.1 (Shine FM) and AM 860

Check out these links for Sermons by Majority Ministers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra_5AtJZWmA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_vMHIFOu6w

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDTX6hopBCE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCexUQ97_sw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-jpc1pU-w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7FWe9ZkMo4>

DAY 7- Participate in a County-wide Prayer Walk. Gather your family and walk around your neighborhood praying for your community, our county, and our nation. Wear Black and Red. Request a Black Racism Awareness Week bracelet to show solidarity while supplies last.

In your B-RAW Prayer Journal, reflect on this week. What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you? What did you learn about yourself? What was difficult?

Click here for a great resource on **Prayer Walking**:

https://www.ccclive.org/uploads/1/8/0/5/18059081/prayer_walk_booklet.pdf

Black Racism Awareness Week: B-RAW WHAT'S NEXT?

Ready to Keep the Momentum Going?

Be Salt Be Light- Read Matthew 5: 1-16

Love Your Neighbor- Read Luke 10:25-37

Ask questions, don't judge Blackness- Read Proverbs 4:7

Cry out against racism- Read Galatians 2:11-14

Keep our community in prayer- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4

- Host a multiracial, multiethnic worship service (During COVID use Zoom, or Parking Lot invite your Brothers and Sisters in Christ who do not look like you- if safe follow with a potluck to taste and celebrate cultural differences)
- Complete a Behavior Change Contract
- Watch for the "Black Lives Lifted" Community Engagement Initiative

MEN- See that young black man? Stop introduce yourself. See if he is a father. Be a mentor to him. Get to know him: ask about his dreams and vision for life, ask about his challenges. Are you a business owner? Does he need a job? If so, invite him to job shadow you, offer him work.

WOMEN- See that young black girl? Stop introduce yourself. Ask if she is a Mom. Become a mentor to her. Get to know her: ask about her dreams and vision for life, ask about her challenges. Are you a business owner? Does she need a job? If so, invite her to job shadow you and offer her work.

Black Racism Awareness Week: B-RAW Prayer Journal

“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”.
Matthew 17:21

Black Racism Awareness Week: B-RAW

Fasting Guide

Dear Friend,

As I took in events immediately following the death of George Floyd my heart broke. It broke for the brokenness in our country. As images of protests filled the morning, afternoon, evening, and late-night news, I was stirred from complacency. In that moment, I understood the outrage though I cannot condone the methods. I was immediately reminded of the Story of Mordecai and Esther. Of interest to me are the events recorded in Chapter 4 of the Book of Esther.

“When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and **went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.** ²But he went only as far as the king’s gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. **In every province** to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.”

Esther 4:1-3

In this text, Mordecai was distraught by the king’s decree (“dath” meaning law). Mordecai has just learned that a national law had been established to destroy a specific people: the minority in the Persian provinces.

As I meditated on this passage of Scripture, there was an eerie resemblance to the outrage and sorrow Americans are expressing in the streets of America over the fact that a judicial system has systematically criminalized minority communities in America. Black people have been killed by a white majority in America for decades only to end with the law protecting and freeing the murderers. In essence, by using law, black minorities are legally killed in this nation. The outcry in America has been brewing since Slave whipping, Lynching, Emmett Till, KKK terrorism, Bull Connor’s fire hoses and police dogs, to Trayvon, Michael Breonna, Ahmaud, and George. The excuse has remained the same...the black man was a criminal who deserved to die. Haman pitched the same lie to Xerxes. Haman insisted that the Jews were a threat to law and order. So, like Mordecai and everyone all over Shushan, Americans have taken to the street; even in the midst of a pandemic. However, in America, I see one missing ingredient: The Spiritual Component. And thus this week-long Call to Action to THE CHURCH. The sons and daughters of God to manifest His glory in this earth. To lead the way to healing and victory.

Fasting and Prayer are powerful tools and weapons given to believers. When His disciples could not find victory over a stubborn spirit, Jesus tells them: “Howbeit **this kind goeth not out** but by prayer and fasting....” Matthew 17:21

So let’s reach into our tool belt and gather our arsenal and together bring down the Stronghold of Racism and every spirit that supports its agenda in this nation. May I remind you that Ephesians 6 tells us “We wrestle not against flesh blood, but against principalities, and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places”. As long as our targets are red and blue, black and white, and donkeys and elephants...we will all be defeated. Let’s turn our righteous indignation toward an appropriate enemy: the enemy of your soul and mine.

Now is the Time. The future of our nation depends on us. Remember 2 Chronicle 7:14? The Church has the responsibility. As you participate in the Fast, keep it private, but commit in your heart to join us in humbling ourselves before God to repent that even though laws have changed in this nation (Emancipation Proclamation-1863) (Civil Rights Act of 1964) the sin of Racism still remains unchanged in hearts. Can’t you see the enemy tacking on every aspect of his ungodly agenda to distract from bring the races together.

Shalom

What is a Fast?

Biblical fasting is giving up specific foods and drink for a specified number of days. A fast can be a full fast or a partial fast. There are many ways to do a partial fast. For the Black Racism Awareness Week, we are asking you to participate in a partial juice fast that lasts until 3pm. So, from 12 midnight until 3pm each day of B-RAW drink only 100% fruit or vegetable juices, but eat no solid foods until after 3pm.

If you are new to fasting, try giving up one specific food item like fast food or fried foods or drinks like soda or coffee and gradual move to the no solid foods for the set time. You may even try giving one meal each day instead. Pray, let the Lord lead you. God will honor your sacrifice. The idea is sacrifice, but attainable.

For individuals with health concerns: Remember to speak to your doctor about your plan to fast

Here's a great fasting guide that was used in 2014 that can help you learn more about fasting:

https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/1927/prayer_fasting5.pdf

Why Should I Fast?

In response to the national and county-wide unrest, let us draw our hearts closer to God

For our time together, we offer the following guide but you must allow the Holy Spirit to lead your heart on how to pray.

Day 1- Consecration and Repentance

Day 2- Salvations in homes, neighborhoods, and country

Day 3- Pastors and Churches

Day 4- Law Givers and Decision Makers

Day 5- Healing of families, our communities, our nation

Day 6- Vision

Day 7- Revival

Click this link for the types of fast. Read the full chapter to get the context of why these individuals fasted:

Types of Fasts- <https://www.gfc.cc/mt-content/uploads/2018/01/10-different-types-of-fasts-in-the-bible.pdf>

How Do I Fast?

Before your fast begins.

-Prepare your mind by praying and talking to the Lord. Decide which kind of partial fast you will do if you cannot do the juice fast; make a verbal commitment to the Lord. Get an accountability partner.

-Prepare your body by slowly reducing what you eat a few days before the fast; then refrain from eat solids on Sept 13 until 3pm or which ever fast guidelines you and the Lord have established.

What if I forget and eat?

No problem, pick-up when you remember or begin again the next day

Fasting Tips:

- Increase your devotion time
- Spend time reading the Bible and praying
- Listen to worship music
- Reduce or give up television, social media, or other recreation to spend time praying and reading

Black Racism Awareness Week: B-RAW Behavior Change

Consider the stages of change (precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, maintenance) and evaluate your readiness to make a behavior change.

Thinking about it or Preparing to change? Ready?

Step 1: The behavior I will change in order to build a relationship with someone of a different race is:

the benefits of this change are: _____

Step 2: Long-Term Goal: Long-term goals are those set for six months to a year or more. These goals should be SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and have set time for completion).

Step 3: Short-Term Goals: Short-term goals are those I want to achieve in less than six months. These goals will help me reach my long-term goal and should be SMART.

Step 4: Obstacles to my change. (things I am currently doing or situations that contribute to this behavior or make it harder to change):

- a.
- b.
- c.

Step 5: Here are three strategies I will use to overcome these obstacles:

- a.
- b.
- c.

Step 6: Resources I will use to help me change this behavior:

- a. A friend/partner/relative: _____
- b. A school-based resource: _____
- c. A community-based resource: _____
- d. A book or reputable website: _____

Step 7: How I will use make use of these resources: _____

Step 8: When I make this change I will reward myself with: _____

Contract for Behavior Change

I _____ pledge to meet the following goal: _____ .

My friend, who has signed this contract below, agrees to support me in the following ways:

- 1.
- 2.

We will meet on _____ (date), to discuss my behavior change progress and to confirm support for my behavior change efforts.

Your Signature

Date

Signature of Supporting Friend

Date

Final Thoughts

BLACK MEN and WOMEN- Embrace and celebrate your Blackness. Consider these words from 1968:

“ We, a group of black Methodists in America, are deeply disturbed about the crisis of racism in America. We are equally concerned about the failure of a number of black people, including black Methodists, to respond appropriately to the roots and forces of racism and the current Black Revolution. We, as black Methodists, must first respond in a state of confession because it is only as we confront ourselves that we are able to deal with the evils and forces which seek to deny our humanity. We confess our failure to be reconciled with ourselves as black men. We have too often denied our blackness (hair texture, color, and other God-given physical characteristics) rather than embrace it in all its black beauty. We confess that we have not always been relevant in service and ministry to our black brothers, and in so doing we have alienated ourselves from many of them. We confess that we have not always been honest with ourselves and with our white brothers. We have not encountered them with truth but often with deception. We have not said in bold language and forceful action that “you have used ‘white power’ in and outside of the church to keep us in a subordinate position”. We have failed to tell our white brothers “like it is”! Instead, we have told our white brothers what we thought they would like to hear. We confess that we have not become significantly involved in the Black Revolution because, for the most part, white men have defined it as “bad”; for the other part, we have been too comfortable in our “little world”, and too pleased with our lot as second-class citizens and second-class members of The Methodist Church. We confess that we have accepted too long the philosophy of racism. This has created a relationship in which white people have always defined the “terms” and, in fact, defined when and how black people would exist. We confess that we have accepted a “false kind of integration” in which all power remained in the hands of white men...” – Black Methodists, 1968

Today, I add: We confess that we have allowed white Christianity to define Christianity for us, we have accepted that dancing and expressive worship is emotionalism, and traces of African paganism, even though King David is found in Scripture expressing his praise and when confronted, his reply entails these words “I will be even more undignified than this”(2 Samuel 6:22). We have accepted white paganism but spurned any hint of African influence in Christianity thus rejecting ourselves. We have accepted a Christianized version of Christmas and Easter along with their symbolism. Though called to walk in the light have allowed our children to celebrate death every year by reenacting Samhain rituals at Halloween; yet accepted rebuke from our white brothers and sisters at any attempts to “Christianize” any aspects of our culture (music, dress, loud speaking, etc.) though not inherently evil or pagan in roots. We have invited white preachers into our pulpits and not spoken out against the lack of invitation of our black preachers into white pulpits. We have allowed white churches to hold resources to distribute aid into our communities and not once asked why we as black faith leaders do not receive aide to minister in our own communities as was the Biblical practice of Christian charity. We reinforced the idea that white worship is the gold standard as we have allowed white Christian friends to question our worship and ways or as we attempted to explain or warn them before they attend one of our services; all the while receiving numerous invitations to their events but never seeing them support many of ours. We have wondered if these “Christians” believe they still need to evangelize us from some heretical or substandard form of Christianity allowing them to define orthodoxy without confronting the colonization in Christianity. This we confess and repent.

Click Here to take our Community Needs Survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK75WNH>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

<https://reconciliationministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/EndRacismSunday-AMELitany-PrayersofConfessionForgiveness.pdf>

Repentance by Edward Anton-

<https://www.amazon.com/Repentance-Cosmic-Shift-Mind-Heart/dp/157782198X>

The Repentance Study Guide:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/538fcf5e4b06dffdfc00b8e/t/59b5d197c534a510382b8645/1505087904449/Repentance+Complete+Resource+Guide.pdf>

The nonviolent resister must often express his protest through noncooperation or boycotts, but noncooperation and boycotts are not ends themselves; they are merely means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The end is redemption and reconciliation. The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness.

~ The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., 1957

DISCLAIMER: We have provided links and resources, but all views expressed may or may not be those of all partners, but we have attempted to provide a viable Biblical Social Justice Community Response (This is to launch us into the ministry of reconciliation: Watch for more in coming weeks)

“Learn to do right, seek justice, defend the oppressed” Isaiah 1:17