

## Worship Sharing • SEYM 2011 Gathering

### ***Furthering the Work of John Woolman and Lucretia Mott: Healing, Racism, & Testimonies***

#### THURSDAY

##### Quotes

"You see, then, that it is by our actions that we are put right with God, and not by our faith alone."

- James 2:24

"The difference between doing something and doing nothing is everything."

- Daniel Berrigan (on a Syracuse Cultural Workers' '09 or '10 calendar)

"To change the world, change yourself."

- Wendy and others

"Isn't the problem with racism, in fact, not what it says about Black people but what it says about God? Doesn't racism really imply that God is all powerful - except when it comes to Black people, at which point the God who could draw water from a rock and raise the dead to life is totally powerless to work as fully through a Black person as through a White person?"

- paraphrasing Joan Chittister, originally about sexism (from Pax Christi's Peacemaking Day By Day Vol. 2, February 10th entry, page 17)

##### Queries

Describe a time I have challenged a system (for example: a business? a family? a community? an organization? a school or classroom? a religious institution?) regarding manifestations of its racism? What changed - in myself & in a system - as a result of this challenge? What about my life & history encouraged me to challenge a system?

Describe a time I missed or avoided an opportunity to challenge a system regarding manifestations of its racism? What stopped me? How did these experiences change me and my ways?

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#### FRIDAY

##### Quotes

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- Leviticus 19:18 & Matthew 22:39 (RSV Bible)

"My friends, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance."

- James 2:1

"We must recognize difference until difference no longer makes a difference."

- Johnnetta Betsch Cole  
(from Wendy's memory of an article by JBC)

##### Queries

When was a time I saw myself as different but felt welcome and included? Describe that experience.

When was a time I felt excluded?

How has that experience - of inclusion or exclusion - changed me?

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#### SATURDAY

##### Quotes

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

- Psalm 119:105 (RSV Bible)

"The Buddha's deathbed message to his followers was: 'Be lamps unto yourselves.' There could be no clearer statement of individual responsibility for seeking the Inward Light."

- author unknown

"I've often heard a variant of the statement: 'I, as a Caucasian, am racist because of the dark color of your skin.' I'm glad I have heard this often, because this tells me we don't quite yet believe it - which is a good thing. Because: it is not true. If I'm racist because your skin is dark brown, that implies that if only your skin were not dark brown, then I would not be racist. It implies that I cannot change my belief unless you change the color of your skin from dark brown to pink. The onus or responsibility is on you, not me. It implies that you have to do all the impossible changing (of skin color), & I have to do none of the possible changing (of belief). This does not make sense, but it seems ingrained in us. We need a revolution of belief: from 'I base my racism on your skin color' to 'I base my racism on what's going on in my head & heart.'"

- Wendy

##### Queries

Describe an instance when I felt believed.

Describe an instance when a person of a different skin color than mine taught me an important lesson.

Describe an instance when a child taught me an important lesson.