

## **Kim and Lula Palmer's UUS Talk on 5-31-2020**

**GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. I'm Kim Palmer.** Lula and I have been asked to spend a few minutes sharing some thoughts, feelings, and information about the recent deaths of numerous African Americans, particularly Mr. George Floyd and Mr. Ahmaud Arbery.

Several people have expressed the need for more specific things to do rather than demonstrations and vigils. Lula and I grew up in the South and witnessed much racial injustice.

I have a couple of personal experiences to share:

I like to inspect houses that are under construction. Every new house in our neighborhood – I've been through. Over the past 40 years or so, Lula and I were joggers before her accident. I've probably been through 100 houses under construction as we jogged. {Mr. Arbery had just visited a house under construction before he was murdered}. Have I ever been worried about being confronted by anyone, owner, builder, police? ----- NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT! I'm a White Guy! I have white privilege - I don't have to live in fear.....

My second little experience to share is a 'ski-guys story'. I skied with a group of guys in Colorado for a few years after Lula couldn't go any longer. One guy named Greg sent everyone a cartoon one Christmas that featured Barack and Michelle Obama. To me it certainly appeared to be racist in nature so I decided to write back and question him. What do you think was the first sentence of his response? -----

I'M NOT A RACIST! And as far as I know, he isn't an Overt Racist – he was a nice friendly white guy. I had no evidence of him ever assaulting or hurting anyone.

Lula will now share some thoughts expressed in an article and the ideas are applicable to white people who want to become Anti-Racists. The information we refer to will be available as an email (and on the UUS website) as a short worksheet. - .....Lula.....

### **Begin Lula's talk.**

My remarks are taken from the Reverend Wendy Hudson who is the pastor of the Two Rivers Methodist Church in Charleston S.C. They are taken from her blog about the murder of Mr. Arbery in Georgia in February. She says, "Violence against black people is not new—as Ta-Nahisi Coates said, only the cameras are new... Ask any black or person of color you know—violent, racist experiences are a daily occurrence. And the response of us, white people, is almost always silence."

She quotes the Reverend Martin Luther King from his cell in Birmingham, "I have reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice..."

Rev. Hudson said that many people came to her with feelings of "shock, dismay and outrage." But she says,

## **“Outrage is not enough.**

Outrage without action is simply the white moderate being the greatest stumbling block to true freedom and equity in this country... The most urgent work of our time as white people is to dismantle white supremacy and fully embrace a life of anti-racism.... You may be asking, “So what do I do? Here are a few ways to begin your journey of anti-racism, ways that I work on every day,” says Rev. Hudson.

Here are 3 examples, out of 6, that she proposes (the full article is on the worksheet):

### **1. “Get used to being uncomfortable**

Being uncomfortable is part of the process. You will feel many things – shame, guilt, fear, anxiety, exhaustion, grief. Do not let the discomfort stop your journey. Stay in it. Acknowledge it. You will mess up, insult others, say and do harmful things, and fall short. Take responsibility, offer a clear apology, and keep going.”

### **2. “Educate yourself on white privilege and anti-racism**

As white people, it is our responsibility to educate ourselves on white privilege and anti-racism—not the work of our friends who may be black, indigenous or people of color.”

Listen to podcasts, read books, find online forums for white people wanting to dismantle white supremacy. If you’re a reader, [The New York Times Antiracist Reading List](#) is a great place to start. One podcast that I have learned a lot from is [Seeing White from Scene on Radio](#).

### **3. “Put your money where your mouth is**

Change how and where you spend your money. Commit to spending as much of your money as possible in black, indigenous and people of color owned businesses.” {The Resources website gives many places to donate.}

### **Kim’s Final Comments:**

During our last song, feel free to use the chat function to express any feelings or concerns you have during this racial crisis and brutal murders.

**“OUTRAGE IS NOT ENOUGH!” “I’M NOT A RACIST!” CAN YOU BE AN ANTIRACIST?**