

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.”

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Field

“12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body...22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect...26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” 1Corinthians 12:12-15, 22-23, 26

Thoughts

A few years ago, LOPPW participated in a celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that focused on justice for victims of sex trafficking, and prevention. During a panel discussion, a member of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee commented on how “13 is the average age for being trafficked,” and challenged everyone to relate: “Where were you when you were 13?” A Catholic sister who worked with men caught buying sex and mandated to attend a special school, talked about how surprised she was when she first heard someone say, “I never thought of a prostitute as a human being before taking this class.” But she would hear similar comments many times.

During my workshop, it felt as though there just wasn’t enough time to say everything about the populations most vulnerable to being trafficked, the disproportionate numbers of LGBTQ youth exploited, and to give examples of how young people of all classes and family backgrounds have been trafficked. What about boys? What about how not all traffickers are men or outside an exploited child’s family. The UP and every county in Wisconsin have been impacted by sex trafficking. The body of Christ is hurting. How do we respond as a beloved community?

To begin, that we are all part of the body of Christ is grace. Paul’s words remind us that we are free from needing to follow cultural influences that diminish parts of Christ’s body. We don’t have to normalize systems that are intertwined with modern day slavery. Attending Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium meetings, I am energized by the work being done in cities and rural areas to shape a more aware and compassionate culture. However, resistance to recognizing forms of exploitation is strong, the backlash real. But it is all worth beloved community. Happy Monday!

p.s. Anti-Trafficking Rally coming up! Click [January 29 - Rally](#) Click [Flyer Registration Form](#)

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy