

June 3, 2020



The Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc. echoes the call from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in response to the tragic killings of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, George Floyd in Minnesota and all other events that show how racism is destroying the quality of life for so many people. We embrace the response of the North Pacific Union to the unthinkable death of George Floyd. Our

nation is a nation of diversity – immigrants from many countries came to find a better, safer way of life. Unfortunately, many have found that the “Promised Land” has been less than hospitable. As citizens of this country and as citizens of the Kingdom of God, we have an obligation to care for others around us.

As Christians, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we are called to proclaim a message of hope and wholeness, the hope and wholeness that we find in Jesus Christ. When Jesus walked this earth 2,000 years ago, He did not serve only one people. His miracles were not reserved just for the nation in which He lived. He built up people, He did not distinguish among rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. These characteristics He passed on to His followers. One of the seven deacons chosen after Jesus’ death and resurrection, Philip, answered the questions of the Ethiopian and baptized him. Jesus did not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender or wealth (or lack of wealth). He was here to represent His Father to His creation.

Our nation has been built on the principles of equality for all. It has been a growing process. Society changes, and we can continue to change. Hopefully for the better. Our Declaration of Independence shares that we all have been given by our Creator “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” As Americans, the essential rights of human dignity, self-worth, and freedom are required to live and thrive in our local communities.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, it is our call to not just proclaim the hope and wholeness that we find in Jesus, it is our call to live the hope and wholeness. Jesus provided an example for us. We can speak out against hatred and injustice. We can be a safe place for those who are marginalized, those who are betrayed, those whose voices cannot be heard. We can be their voice, we can encourage their voice.

As you interact with those in your communities, we ask you to prayerfully consider your actions, your words. Speak out against hatred and injustice, just as Jesus did; call out the behavior, not the person. Walk the talk, talk the walk – lead by example in how you treat others; treat all people fairly and equally. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States is the most ethnically-diverse Christian faith. Our voices together in love and the compassion of Jesus can help heal our broken communities.