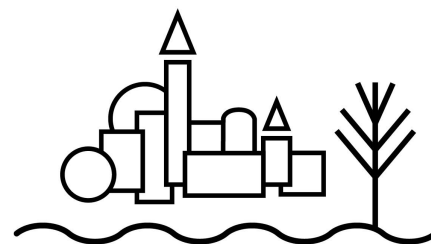


## Connecting with My MENTALLY ILL Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37



Many people are apprehensive or reluctant to be around a person with mental illness, but the truth is most of us have experienced it or have a family member or friend who has suffered with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, paranoia, and/or some mental illness at some point. In fact, one in four people experience mental illness in any one given year (MHC). I have been the neighbor to our mentally ill brother or sister many times in my work as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in a community mental health center. The mental illness may be a serious chronic illness such as schizophrenia, or it may be depression that results from the death of a loved one, divorce, or loss of a job. Anxiety may result from unrelenting stress at work or home. One day at work while I had a client in session, I heard a commotion going on in our crisis office with another client. The female client was very loud, tearful, hitting on the wall, and experiencing delusions. I was unaware of who the client was, but knew the person was very upset and psychotic. When we finished our current session, we went out of my office at the same time the crisis worker was opening the door with the upset female client who happened to be one of my clients. When she saw me, she immediately came to me and hugged me. I hugged her back and spoke with her, and she calmed down. The mentally ill often just need someone who knows them, understands them, and does not judge them to speak calmly to them.

### Reflections

1. Have you been that helping neighbor, or have you been like those who look on, stare or laugh at the person, or even walk away because you fear that person?
2. Have you ever been the “robber” described in the above scripture text, by ‘stripping them’ of their dignity and self-worth or by casting judgment? List ways we unintentionally judge mentally ill. How can we build up rather than strip them of their dignity?
3. We need to be mindful of the needs of our mentally ill neighbors and to turn to them in Christian love. One of the best compliments I received in my counseling was a thank you note I received from one of my clients who told me: “You say you are not a ‘Christian counselor,’ but I can tell you are a Christian and you show it to me in every session.” Do we show we are Christians by our love? How can we show mercy to those who are not like us?
4. Read Romans 15:1-2 for a good plan of action. Also read and discuss John 14:27, 1 Peter 3:8, and Romans 14:13.

### A Call to Action

1. Volunteer at your local mission to get to know one of your chronically mentally ill neighbors.

2. Check with your pastor and session about your church hosting a support group such as NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), or Grief Share for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one, or Divorce Care for those dealing with the grief of divorce.
3. If you know of someone who is dealing with a mental illness or is the caregiver of someone who has a mental illness, make a point to talk with them, to offer to sit with them, provide transportation to and from appointments, or provide a weekly meal. Show your love and support in a practical way.

### **Resources**

1. Mental Health Cooperative [www.mhc-tn.org](http://www.mhc-tn.org) or 1/866-816-0433
2. NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Health; [name.org/ioov](http://name.org/ioov) or NAMI HelpLine 1/800-950-NAMI (6264); [www.namitn.org](http://www.namitn.org)
3. Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network – TSPN; [www.tspn.org](http://www.tspn.org)
4. Crisis Text Line Partnership – [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org) \*\*Depression is a very serious mental illness and may be accompanied by thoughts of death or suicide – Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S. and 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among ages 15 – 24. (MHC)
5. Check with your state and local community to see what is available in your area.

### **Prayer**

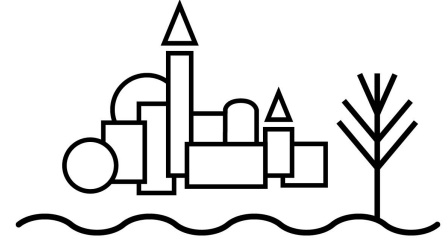
*Jehovah-Rapha, Lord our Healer, We thank you that you sent us your son, Jesus, the great comforter and counselor. “Lord, you are close to the brokenhearted and you save those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18). Open our eyes and our hands to see how we can love, serve, and help our mentally ill neighbor. In Jesus name, Amen*

### **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Author Tracy Clark is an active member and ordained elder in the Dyersburg 1<sup>st</sup> Cumberland Presbyterian Church (TN). She and husband Steve have two adult sons, Ethan and Adam, and daughter-in-law Brandi. She has a Master’s Degree in Social Work and has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in many domains including community mental health, schools, hospital social work, and home health. Because she has a heart for serving, she accepted a call to work in the helping profession when she was still in high school.

*(Update: Tracy's husband Steve, had been dealing with major depression & anxiety over stress from his work for about a year at the time this article was written in February 2017. He was a great Christian witness to many; an elder; a Sunday school teacher; a Gideon, & a wonderful father & husband; however, that did not protect him from the depression and he ended up taking his life on 4/17/17. Tracy now has an even greater passion to bring awareness to the church about our neighbor who is suffering from mental illness. Please remember in prayer Tracy and other families like her dealing with this issue.)*

**Connecting with My Neighbor of A  
DIFFERENT RELIGION  
Luke 10:29-37**



Growing up as a Hindu in Memphis was fine until I reached 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Both of my parents were born and reared in India. My dad came here to attend University of Memphis on a scholarship, and a year later, he brought my mom, my sister, and me (when he could afford it). They had an altar in the home with the gods, and prayed every day. A deep light was lit, as it acted as mediator between God and humans. We even had Sunday school at various peoples' homes until a temple was built (I was already a teenager/young adult by then). I began to question why Hindus performed some of the rituals they did. My mother didn't always have the answers because her mom just did the rituals. I even did my term paper my senior year of high school on Hinduism, so I could learn more.

I think a challenge for me was explaining what Hindu's believed, but the basic idea was that all religions intertwine and that there was not just one way to God. That worked for me for a while, but I wanted something more specific.

My mother always made food for the homeless and went to the soup kitchen because she was service oriented, as many religions and churches are. Growing up I remember singing the bhajans (hymns) but not knowing what they meant. When I was pregnant with my first child, I went to visit the Hindu Temple in Eads, Tennessee to learn more about the religion, rituals, and traditions.

It wasn't until I had all three of my children that I realized they needed a church community of love and fellowship, as did I. I liked Hinduism as it always included all religions and teaches there are multiple pathways to God, not just one. Wherever we had the alters, there was also a cross. Learning that Jesus died on the cross to save us, really speaks to me.

When I was studying to be an occupational therapist, I did a rotation in a small Bible Belt town. One patient that I had to see daily was openly prejudiced against me. As soon as she laid eyes on me, she was condescending and mean. It was my job to help her regain her strength and coordination so she could dress and feed herself again. During that time, I dealt with lots of emotions. The scripture assisted me to continue to show love towards her.

**Reflections**

1. Read Romans 13:10. Have you ever felt uncomfortable in the presence of someone of different ethnicity or religion? Don't assume just because of a person's ethnicity, they are a certain religion. Respect their traditions and beliefs even if theirs is different from yours. Show love to all your neighbors.
2. Read Romans 14:13 and Romans 15:2. These verses also remind us of our responsibility to our neighbors.
3. Why is it important to know people of different cultures and different religions?

Connecting with My Neighbor from Different Religion

4. Discuss the author's statement that the Hindu religion believes there is not just one way to God and also that they display the cross in their worship even though they do not teach that Christ died for each person.

### **A Call to Action**

1. How much do you know about different religions? You may begin by having a study group on the three Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. See if there are classes being offered on world religions at a local community college.
2. Are there people living in your community of a different religion? If so, invite them, one at a time, to speak to your group about their religion. Attempt to get to know someone of a different religion. Your CPWM might choose to attend a synagogue, a mosque, or another place of worship as a group, especially after you study some of their beliefs.

### **Resources**

1. *The Wide, Wide Circle of Divine Love, A Biblical Case for Religious Diversity*, W. Eugene March. West Minister John Knox

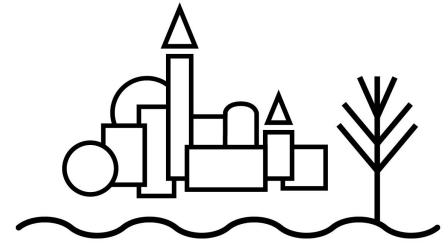
### **Prayer**

*Dear Lord, help us to be mindful of all the people we encounter that may not look like us, have our same background, or act like us. Help us to be loving to all people and to guide them to you if the opportunity arises. Amen.*

### **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Nimisha Clawson has been a member of Germantown Cumberland Presbyterian Church with her three boys for the past five years. She co-teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and her children participate in the youth activities. She works full time in a nursing home as an occupational therapist. Her husband of 19 years is a high school teacher. [Nimishaclawson73@gmail.com](mailto:Nimishaclawson73@gmail.com)

**Connecting with My Neighbor Experiencing  
HOMELESSNESS  
Luke 10:29-37**



I got the call one Sunday morning on the way to church, and with that call, my day's agenda changed completely. I found myself not headed to church as I had planned, but instead I re-routed to east Nashville to help a friend in need. Cecil had been found sleeping outside on a really cold morning, and the best we could tell, he had been there all night. Most likely, he fell asleep after having too much to drink the night before. A mutual friend, who also is forced to live outside due to a lack of affordable housing options, found Cecil and called me for help. Eventually, lots of people worked together to help Cecil get the emergency medical attention he needed that day. Cecil could have died, but luckily people saw Cecil as their 'neighbor' and he received the care and attention he so desperately needed. This story has a relatively happy ending. However, there is one thing that gives me pause about this story. Cecil was found sleeping outside a church that morning. No helpful assistance was offered from that church; they simply made a request that Cecil be removed from the property because "worship was about to start."

**Reflections**

1. Who are the marginalized and outcast "neighbors" of your community and what challenges do they face?
2. Consider "the good, the bad, the ugly, and the beautiful" of your church family or faith community. How might they have responded if faced with a similar situation?
3. How is the church challenged by the complex and ever-changing needs from a community of neighbors with ever-increasing challenges?
4. From this real-life example, where might God have been found or experienced from the perspective of:
  - Cecil as "neighbor"
  - The mutual friend as "neighbor"
  - The church where Cecil was found as "neighbor"

**A Call to Action**

1. Find a way to increase your knowledge concerning people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty in your community and explore ways you can serve those "neighbors."
2. Commit to intentionally and consistently remember these "neighbors" in your prayers each day.

## Resources

1. <http://nationalhomeless.org/references/need-help/>
2. [www.sacredsparksministry.wordpress.com](http://www.sacredsparksministry.wordpress.com)

## Prayer

*Loving God, please help us to reflect the love, mercy, and grace you have for us toward each and every neighbor we encounter. Help us to recognize and respond with love to your sacred spark which burns inside all of creation. Amen.*

## ABOUT THE WRITER:

Rev. Lisa Cook worked in the corporate world for more than 20 years as a Sr. Project Manager for AT&T, before answering the call to ordained ministry. Lisa graduated in 2008 from Bethel University in McKenzie, Tenn., with a B.A. in Business and Organizational Development. She then attended Memphis Theological Seminary earning her Masters of Divinity in 2013. Lisa was ordained by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and called to serve as a street chaplain to those experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty in Nashville, Tenn., in January, 2014.

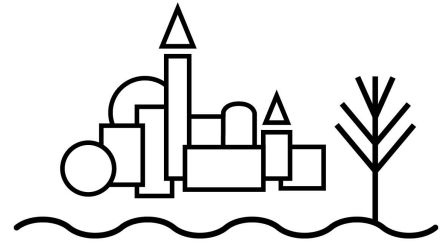
Lisa serves this unique church / community through **Sacred Sparks Ministry**, an outreach of Nashville Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the ministry is to meet men and women experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty where they are, and to offer a ministry of presence, love, service, pastoral care, outreach, and relationships.

## Connecting with My IMMIGRANT Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37

**Immigrant:** noun -

*a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.* (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/immigrant>)



Did you know that the word “Immigrant” originally comes from a Latin word *immigrāre* which means “to move into?” The term itself doesn’t appear in the English language until around 1780-1790 in the United States. In other words, the foundation of the United States created a need in English for a term to describe masses of people migrating from one country to another. What determines a country of origin? Is it where you are born? Where your parents were born? Your DNA? Many people would label my husband as a Colombian, an immigrant, and I am a US citizen. Recently we both did DNA tests to determine our ancestral backgrounds. Not surprisingly, I am nearly 100% European. Johan, among many things, has 47% Native American background that stretches up the entire west coast of the US. Who is the true immigrant now?

In Hebrew, the word “Ger” has been translated into English as stranger, foreigner, and immigrant throughout the Bible. The word “Ger” appears in the Old Testament alone nearly 100 times. Throughout the Old and New Testament, the message of how God wishes that we treat “Ger”, is unmistakably clear regardless of the translation you may favor. In Leviticus 19:33-34 CEV, it states “*Don’t mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*”

The Bible also states very clearly earlier on in Leviticus 19:18 NIV to “*love your neighbor as yourself.*” As Christians following God’s word and life of Jesus, it is only natural that we extend grace and love to our immigrant neighbors. We have all been immigrants at one point or another in our life (or history). We all are here as a result of that same grace and love that was extended to us. God’s mandate for us is to love one another and that message is undoubtedly clear throughout the Bible.

### Reflections

1. Name some people/stories in the Bible where the people were immigrants (someone who moved into a new country). Talk about how they were received or not received by “the local” citizens.
2. Why do you think the Old Testament has so many references to how a foreigner (“immigrant”) is to be treated?
3. What do you think would happen if we treated all immigrants the way the Old Testament mandates?
4. The reference from Leviticus 19:18 is also found in Mark 12:30-31. What was the context in which Jesus said these words? What “neighbor” do you think Jesus was referring to in this statement?

## **A Call to Action**

1. Find ways to connect with immigrants who live near you. What countries are they arriving from and why?
2. Look into what kinds of organizations in your community are working to support immigrants? How can you get involved?
3. Educate yourself on what the immigration process is like and how that may differ depending on country of origin. What does coming here entail and what leads people to become undocumented immigrants?
4. Find ways to share your new knowledge with others. Are there things that have surprised you?

## **Resources**

1. Church Leader's Guide to Immigration, World Relief. A 72-page guide for churches with very detailed ideas - <http://welcomingthe stranger.com/sites/default/files/page/files/ChurchLeaderGuideToImmigration.pdf>
2. Immigration Legal Program Toolbox, Mennonite Central Committee, a resource for church's in their ministry to immigrants - <https://mcc.org/learn/more/immigration-legal-program-toolbox>
3. What Part of Legal Immigration Don't You Understand? A great timeline showing the frustrations and challenges of legal immigration. Print off a copy for each participant and distribute to your group - <http://reason.org/files/a87d1550853898a9b306ef458f116079.pdf>
4. InfoGraphic: Getting in Line: Understanding the U.S. Immigration Process (Council for North American Policy) - <http://thetwoeagles.com/2014/06/infographic-getting-in-line-understanding-the-u-s-immigration-process-council-for-north-american-policy/>

## **Prayer**

*Lord help us to look beyond the labels that we have placed on our immigrant neighbors. Help us love immigrant neighbors and see them as ourselves. Amen*

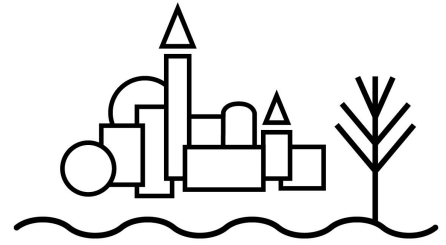
## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Erin Daza Sigler has spent the last 16 years supporting and working with immigrant and cross-cultural ministries. She currently works as a Spanish Legal Interpreter. She and her husband Johan dream of someday helping to support mosaic churches where people from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds can worship and build community together. The Dazas' have two children (with a third on the way) and live in Cordova, Tenn.



## Connecting with My Neighbor in PRISON

Luke 10:29-37



I visited Juan on a Sunday afternoon in the county jail. While waiting my turn, I saw a woman with a teenager and two small children visiting another man. Through a thick window glass, the young inmate advised his teenage son to behave, to follow rules, and to take advantage of educational opportunities.

When it came my turn to visit Juan, he was surprised and almost cried. He pressed his opened hand against the thick glass and I did the same because hugs and handshakes were not allowed. After a 30-minute visit, I left, but I wondered if my feelings of being separated from Juan meant that I was incarcerated with him.

Obviously, an inmate is a person alienated from society. Most inmates come out of jail filled with negativity, resentment, and continual complaints, but every person is someone in need of being called by name, not by number. Every person needs food, dignity, respect, and love. They also need good role models.

### Reflections

1. Read Matt. 25:31-46. How has this story awakened a concern in you for those in prison and for their families?
2. Read Lev. 26:11-13, Matt.5:21-25. How can our Christianity help people, residing in prison or leaving it, keep their dignity?
3. Why might a person feel “imprisoned” with an inmate? Has anyone ever taken part of your burden by ministering to you? Can you take some of another’s pain just by listening to them, by reaching out to them in love?
4. In order to leave jail when he completes his sentence, Juan will need “an address.” An address is a house, a place to eat, to rest, to keep one’s belongings, and to encounter loved ones. As Christians, what initiatives can we bring to create transitional places for individuals in the process of leaving jail when they have no roots, or when they are migrants and persons with granted asylum? (Ex. 22:21, 22, 25, Luke 6:36, Luke 19:8-10)

### A Call to Action

1. A common thread for individuals in jail is suffering and causing suffering for others. They leave jail with the illusion of starting a new life, far from their old ways. How might your church or CP Women’s Ministry help one or more of them to be included in a different model of life that will make them successful?
2. Organize a prison ministry in your church or group. Contact your local county jail and inquire about what needs the inmates have and how you can help. Some prisons and jails will allow groups in for visits, for birthday/Christmas parties, for worship services.

3. If a face-to-face ministry is not something you or your group can do – maybe you can collect up items for care packages – magazines, lip balm, lotion, puzzle, craft supplies, etc. and donate to the local facility.

### **Resources**

1. [www.newdayinchrist.org](http://www.newdayinchrist.org)
2. <http://www.cppministry.com>
3. [www.bop.gov/resources/former\\_inmate\\_resources.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/resources/former_inmate_resources.jsp)
4. <http://www.compassionlink.org>

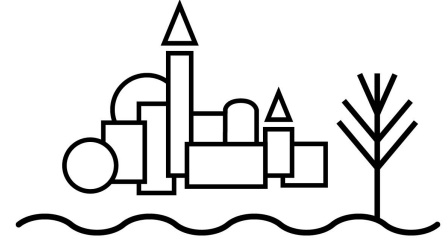
### **Prayer**

*Dear Father of prisoners and non-prisoners, we exalt your son Jesus who was incarcerated to save us. Help us to find wisdom to serve those in jail. Give us resources to open our hearts and our doors for those in need of a place to rest. Amen.*

### **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Rev. Dr. Gloria Villa Diaz has been serving people residing in prisons for almost eight years through New Day in Christ Ministries, which keeps in touch with about 20,000 inmates annually. Some inmates continue to request her “ear” after leaving jail. Gloria makes sure they will be heard and that they will hear the Christian message of love and support. Gloria lives in Houston, Texas with her family. She can be contacted at [gloria@newdayinchrist.org](mailto:gloria@newdayinchrist.org), 713.527.7159, or 2119 Avalon Pl, Houston, TX 77019.

**Connecting with My ABANDONED/  
FOSTER CHILD Neighbor**  
**Luke 10:29-37**



Cori came to us after being kidnapped by her mother and forced into prostitution. She is 16. Aaron, Brinn, Michelle, and Jackson came to us after being found alone in an apartment with no running water, food, or furniture, and drug paraphernalia everywhere. They are 7, 9, 12, and 14. A relative has sexually abused Anne since the age of 4. She is now 12. These are just a few of the stories of children who have walked through the doors of Cumberland Presbyterian Children’s Home (CPCH).

All of their belongings fit into a garbage bag or grocery sack. Most of them are behind in school; far behind. Many have built near impenetrable walls around their hearts due to the traumas they have experienced. They did not ask to be placed into foster care. They did not ask to be abused or neglected. The adults who have hurt them were the people they trusted and loved most. Many of these adults were abused and neglected as children themselves. It’s a vicious cycle, but it can be stopped. This sounds like an overwhelming, impossible task, but a difference can be made one moment at a time. It may be a brand-new teddy bear, a new toothbrush, a new pillow, or new shoes. It might be someone to listen, someone to notice that they love to draw, someone to cook their favorite meal, or just a simple encouraging smile.

With the help of many caring adults, we allow these children to add new chapters to their stories, chapters full of healing and hope. God calls us to look after children whose parents cannot. Anyone can make a difference. Together, we can end the cycle of abuse and neglect, one moment at a time.

*(Note: names have been changed for privacy)*

**Reflections**

1. Read and discuss James 1:27. Do we accept responsibility for these our neighbors?
2. Can you remember a time when someone took a moment with you that helped change your life for the better?
3. What helps end the cycle of abuse and neglect?
4. What does God mean when He says that He “sustains the fatherless”? (Psalm 126: 7b, NIV)
5. What are the signs of abuse and neglect?  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf>

## **A Call to action**

1. Take a moment to make a difference. Adopt, foster, volunteer, donate, and/or advocate!
2. Be a Children's Home Ambassador for CPCH. (Email [cpch@cpch.org](mailto:cpch@cpch.org) for more information)

## **Resources**

1. "Every kid is ONE caring adult away from being a success story." Josh Shipp, former at-risk foster kid turned youth advocate. [www.joshshipp.com](http://www.joshshipp.com)
2. How do you report in your state?  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting/how/>

## **Prayer**

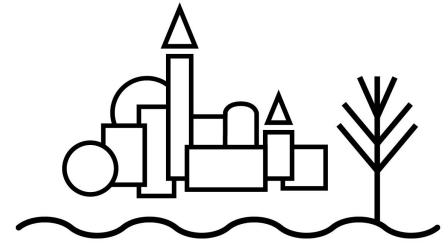
*God of the fatherless, thank you for opening our hearts and minds to each neighbor around us. We know that the easy way out is to look the other way, but Lord, we ask that you show us how to look at our neighbors and see them as you see them. Show us how to give them the help they need and deserve. Lord, please protect your children and give us the resources needed to care for them and show them they are loved and cherished. Please give us the courage to stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves and be the ones who help them change their story. Thank you for being with us in every step of this journey. In your Holy and precious name we pray, Amen.*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Debbie Garrett is the Assistant Vice-president of Development at the Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home. She is originally from Union City, Tenn. and member of Mt. Ararat CP Church in Troy, Tenn. She moved to Denton, Texas in May of 2010 to work at CPCH. If you'd like to talk with her directly about the Children's Home and how to get involved, her email address is [dgarrett@cpch.org](mailto:dgarrett@cpch.org)

## **My Unchurched Neighbor**

### **Luke 10:29-37**



Because I have a heart for reaching our unchurched neighbors, TEA (Teach Empower Accept) women's outreach - GO OUTreach Ministry, was birthed out of the burden the Lord placed on my own heart years ago, to go out and reach our sisters outside the church walls. The first step was to create an environment for reaching our unchurched neighbors, sisters, families. It was decided, after much prayer and research, that we did not have a need for another meeting because churches have enough "meetings" already. In TEA, we go out into local communities to share a free meal weekly with others and extend the hand of friendship in God's love to our unchurched neighbors. TEA welcomes all women, who for whatever reasons, feel uncomfortable walking into a church building. It is our desire to walk with our TEA friends into the church fellowship when they feel ready to take that step. We sit by them in Wednesday night Bible study and/or Sunday morning worship. We allow Christ to touch hearts. TEA welcomes prayer warriors, pastors, and the unchurched to join us in the simple act of fellowship, sharing Christ's love while hearing the Word in a relaxed environment where what is said around the café table, remains at the table without judgment. All questions are treated with respect and are encouraged during our TEA lunch with friends. We have a Facebook group for prayer request/praise report (closed site for privacy reasons), which connects TEA members across the USA to request prayer and to join in lifting others in prayer. We go out with intent and purpose.

### **Reflections/Call to Action**

1. How many people do you meet on a weekly basis that you do not know (gym, school, work, grocery store)? Set a goal for yourself to reach out to someone new and learn something about them. Are you waiting for your lost neighbors to change before you can establish a relationship with them? If so, you are interested in reaching more people like yourself and not the lost. (Matt. 9:12-13)
2. If you have a heart to reach your unchurched neighbors, prayer is the first step. Who will you commit to pray for? Plan with a friend who will join you in prayer as you begin this new journey of outreach. Ask God to give you a compassionate heart for others and to give you the words to speak when the time is right. (Philippians 4:6)
3. The second step is to establish a relationship with them. Invite them to share a meal or a community event. Learn what they like, what is important to them. Cookouts offer great opportunities for unchurched neighbors to see Christianity in action as you give thanks and share your real-life experiences. They want to know if Jesus is real and if the Bible addresses the problems of today: health, finances, family, relationships, community concerns. Our lost neighbors are listening, watching, to see if/how Jesus can make a

difference in the lives of others as well as their own. Jesus walked, talked, ate with, and got to know others. Why did he hang out with sinners? (Mark 2:17).

4. Introduce Bible stories or verses in your conversation. Sharing the story of your own walk with Jesus is easy; you can't mess up telling your own story because—it's your story! (Matthew 28:19)
5. The unchurched do not speak fluent, "Church" and they do not share an understanding of the Christian language or church community yet. What do we mean by speaking "Church?"

## **Resources**

*Send Out*, vol 1, Rev. Keith Mariott @Amazon.com

(This is a resource for anyone interested in reaching lost neighbors. *Send Out*, vol 2 will be available soon. Rev. Keith Mariott is a pastor in Grace Presbytery)

## **Prayer**

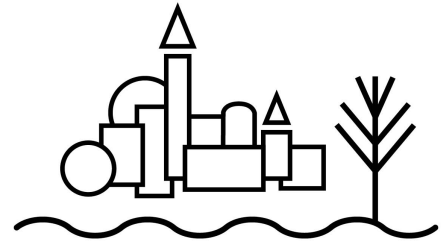
*Lord, your word says that it is good and pleasing in the sight of God who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and man, Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. Give us the hearts to reach the lost. Give us eyes that see all people as you do. Send us where you will have us to go. Give us the words we are to speak as we go out to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Rev. Joy Graham is a devoted wife to her husband of over twenty years, Coy Graham, Jr., loving mother of three grown sons and two teen daughters, grandmother of three perfect grands! Their small home is nestled in the foothills of Alabama. Joy serves as outreach pastor within the highly mobile community of the construction industry, currently on location in Central Florida, serving Crystal River, Inverness, and Bartow, Florida. She is the founder of, GO OUTreach Ministry, TEA (Teach Empower Accept) Women's Outreach of Alabama and Florida serving 179 women. Joy is a strong advocate for the education of special needs students, actively involved in establishing new educational opportunities for special needs students within private Christian schools.

## Connecting with My ADDICTED Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37



My neighbor Jim was a great Christian guy who loved to work; he was never home. He rarely ever took a vacation and when he did the briefcase went with him. Jim worked most nights, weekends, and holidays. Jim was a workaholic. Jim's addiction was a bit different than alcoholism or substance abuse since his habitual behavior was not due to chemical dependency. Jim took pride in his work. He regularly received promotions and bonuses. Everything seemed to be going well until one day everything came crashing down. "I was thirty-eight; I was recovering from surgery for stress related gastrointestinal problems. My life was crumbling under my feet; there was nothing I could do about it. I lost weight, couldn't eat.... I was a chain smoking caffeine drinking work junkie." Like drug addicts and other substance abusers, workaholics are sacrificing their families, their bodies, and their futures on the altar of an addiction to work (Collins 681).

### Reflections: The Story

1. How has this story helped you begin to think about addiction in a different way?
2. What other seemingly good or permissive things or activities can become addictive?
3. Jim, like drug addicts, used his work to escape from his problems. What advice does 1 Peter 5:7 and Psalm 55:22 offer concerning handling our problems?

### Reflections: The Neighbor

1. Addiction, being defined as any thinking or behavior that is habitual, repetitious, and very difficult or impossible to control regardless of the consequences, so is Jim an addict? How might you define addiction?
2. Jim was overwhelmed by life. It seems all he could see was what was directly in front of him. As followers of Christ what is a person to focus on? (Colossians 3:2)

### A Call to Action

1. It is important we realize addiction is a disease; simply stopping the destructive behavior is often not an option. Addicts need help overcoming their burden. As Christians what are we to do with others' burdens? (Galatians 6:2)
2. If you have ever been in relationship with an addict, chances are you have been hurt by their actions. 1 Peter 4:8 gives us some wonderful advice, what is it?
3. Step one from Alcoholics Anonymous is, "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable." How does this step help addicts begin their journey on the road to recovery?
4. What are some practical steps that you could take to help Jim along his journey?

## Resources

1. Alcoholics Anonymous. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. New York: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, 1987. Print.
2. Collins, G. R. *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*. 3rd ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007. Print.
3. Ishee, J. *Spirituality in Recovery: A 12 Step Approach*. Brentwood: John Ishee & Associates, 2005. Print.
4. Rohr, R. *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2011. Print.

## Prayer

*In You, Gracious God, the weak find strength, the fearful find courage, the burdened find a counsellor, the lonely find a friend, and we all find love. For these gifts, we give You praise. Make your will for our lives known to us so that with your help we may encourage others. Amen.*

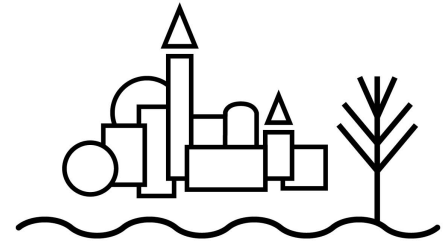
## ABOUT THE WRITER:

Daniel Hopkins is married to his amazing wife Keisha and they have two sons, Hunter and Brody. He is a graduate of Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Kentucky where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Ministry. Daniel graduated from Memphis Theological Seminary with a M.Div in May of 2017. Addiction is something Daniel and his wife both have struggled with in the past. Daniel says of his experience – *“By the grace of God and the support of a strong Christian community, we won the fight against the things that plagued us. Our faith in Christ, love, spiritual healing, and healthy connection with others saved our lives. I hope you find this resource helpful.”*



## Connecting with My Neighbor in CRISIS

Luke 10:29-37



Laura (not her real name), a mother of two preschool children, came to our family literacy program, having only completed eighth grade. Her difficult early life had forced her to take on the adult responsibility of caring for herself and her family with no time or energy left for school. She earned her GED quickly, then went on to get her childcare certification through the local university. We wanted to hire her as a childcare teacher, but taking our job meant her earnings would drive her subsidized rent beyond what she would earn. She was trying to leave her increasingly abusive husband (whom we'll call Bill). She voluntarily worked for us for *no pay* for a year and got a restraining order against Bill. He responded by repeatedly terrorizing the family with a gun, but when he forced the children into his car at gunpoint, the police caught him. His contact with the children was restricted to "supervised visitation," but Laura knew the visits were neither supervised nor safe. I went to Child Services to offer testimony for Laura. I knew Laura was honest to the extreme, i.e. not willing to lie about her income to keep her rent low. Ultimately, Laura was vindicated and her children removed from all visitation requirements with Bill. Laura then met a good man who became the love of her life. They married, added two children to the family, and bought a home of their own. That was "long ago and far away." But Laura and I have remained connected, and she has even helped me in ministry. I am thankful I met my neighbor who has become my friend.

### Reflections

1. Laura had many problems to work through over time. Discuss the *commitment* that being a neighbor can entail when the neighbor lives in our own community.
2. In this brief parable (esp. Luke 10:35), how does Jesus suggest that being a neighbor may entail more than a one-time kindness?
3. In Jesus' parable (and in the case of Laura) the folks who were trained to be helpers "passed by on the other side," leaving the hurting person to fend for themselves. What factors cause us to choose not to help one another? Can prejudice play a part?
4. Read Deuteronomy 10:15-19. What must it mean to "circumcise the foreskin of your hearts?" How can our own wounds help to soften (or "circumcise") our hearts?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:24. How did God humbly reach out to connect with and heal us? How can we, with Jesus, reach out to connect with our neighbors?

## **A Call to Action**

1. Empower your local church: Ask your church session to participate in a community benevolence fund. This can be an ecumenical outreach or an individual church fund to help pay rent, utilities, or other emergency needs for persons in your community.
2. Talk to your local school counselor about the needs they see. You may be able to coordinate a school supply give-away, Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets, food or snack ministry, or help provide needed housewares or furniture.
3. Support *Still Waters Family Ministries*, Rev. Joyce Merritt, Director, or a similar ministry in your area. Consider this list of ways you might help:
  - Housing—do you have space to rent or share?
  - Funding for housing, utilities, emergency needs
  - Volunteers to organize housewares donations
  - Clothing, beds, and furniture for families
  - Cleaning products, paper goods, trash bags, and personal needs for families
  - Gift cards for gasoline assistance so they can travel to meetings and counseling sessions

## **Resources**

1. Sacred Sparks: Rev. Lisa Cook, (Cumberland Presbyterian Church) - [www.sacredsparksministry.wordpress.com](http://www.sacredsparksministry.wordpress.com)
2. Look for the following in your area: Salvation Army and Room in the Inn

## **Prayer**

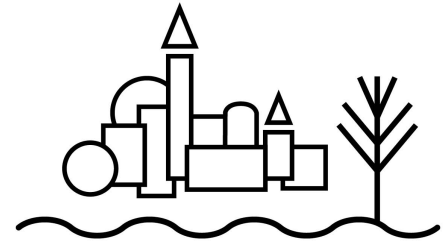
*God, kindle within our hearts today a flame of love for our neighbors in crisis. Give us eyes to see their pain. Give us ears to hear their cries. Give us wisdom to meet their needs. Give us courage to do your will. Amen.*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER**

Rev. Joyce Merritt, graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary, directs Still Waters Family Ministries, a Middle Tennessee CP outreach ministry located in Murfreesboro, Tenn. serving families at risk. Joyce has also been a high school science teacher, a pastor, and founder of Living Vine Outreach Ministry. Joyce and husband Tim have five children and live in Rockvale, Tenn. Contact information to support Still Waters Family Ministries: [Still.waters.cp@gmail.com](mailto:Still.waters.cp@gmail.com), 615.574.3047, 7120 Old Nashville Hwy, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

## Connecting with My TERMINALLY ILL Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37



The husband of 50 years is tired! He has been right by the side of his terminally ill wife, helping her dress in the mornings, making sure the clothes are clean and food is on the table. He keeps the yard in proper shape and gets her to and from doctors' appointments. He is grateful he no longer has to hold down a job while being a full-time caregiver. He is relieved he can keep his wife at home, and shudders to think of her having to go to a nursing home, but realizes that may be necessary if he can no longer keep up this pace. He digs in deep to muster the energy to keep going. Whether gifted or trained, the caregiver must provide support 24/7 as he makes the necessary changes to their home to accommodate her needs.

The caregiver and his wife face her declining health together. She may deal with weight loss, weakness, inability to ambulate, social withdrawal, cognitive impairments, agitation, anxiety, irritability, just to name a few of the changes that come once the doctor has given the terminal prognosis.

Where are the neighbors? The ones who used to come to play cards, to drink sweet tea and catch up on the news in the community. The ones who used to talk over the fence about yard work or tell funny stories about grandchildren. Grief washes over the neighbors. No one wants a loved one to be faced with this reality. Yet, at this critical time, isolation from the faith community becomes a struggle.

### Reflections

1. Read Luke 7:37 -38. We may not know just what to do to help, but showing we care is the key. Discuss this story (Luke 7:36-50) concerning Jesus' response to Simon.
2. Read Luke 10:29-37. What are some simple ways to show surprising and extravagant kindness like the Samaritan did for his wounded neighbor?

### A Call to Action

1. Create a committee to mobilize neighbors to do chores such as
  - Add a ramp
  - Be a sitter
  - Yard work
  - Grocery shop
  - Take meals
  - Take out trash /recycle
  - Shampoo/style hair
  - Manicure/pedicure
  - **Take "church" to their home** – sing hymns, pray, read scripture, share a devotional, celebrate communion
  - **Don't wait** – Ask how you can help

2. Can you think of other ways that might bring joy and blessing to a neighbor who is terminally ill, as well as to the family?
3. Invite a hospice chaplain to meet with your group to help you understand the stages of dying, their needs, as well as needs of the caregivers.

## **Resources**

*Tuesdays with Morrie* – Read the book or watch the movie. Discuss what the author learned and how it changed him. How was he a neighbor to Morrie? Identify the ways that the author blessed Morrie.

## **Prayer**

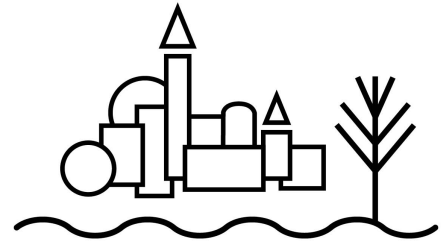
*Holy God, Let us remember those for whom we are responsible. We lift up to you our terminally ill neighbor and their caregivers. May we show to them thoughtfulness, kindness, and love. And if we might be the means by which you answer their prayers, then may you find us neither deaf nor defiant, but eager to fulfill your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Author Rev. Lisa Oliver, graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary, is pastor of Mt. Tabor Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Also, she serves as chaplain for Caris Healthcare. Both are located at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

## Connecting with My SINGLE PARENT Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37



“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13) Such a short phrase with such a powerful message! Life as a single parent is not easy; it seems like all the problems in the world become multiplied times ten; at least that’s how it felt for me. From one day to another I found myself alone in a world meant for two—just me against the world. I had many fears and couldn’t help but wonder, “What am I going to do now? How am I going to provide for my kids? How can I do this by myself?” God was not in the picture at that time. My priorities were work, family, and when I had the time, friends. I didn’t see the harm in those priorities until I lost it all.

My journey has been challenging, but when I felt like everything was lost, God came to my rescue and sent the help I needed. God sent someone to be my neighbor and lead me to Him. I prayed for a miracle and God helped me correct my priorities to God, family, job. He met my needs for a new car, a new job, and a new home. God led me to multiply my income and reduce my debts when I put Him first.

### Reflections

1. Read 2 King 4:1-7. This is a story of the woman who lost her husband and was left alone with two sons, however Elisha came along when this woman needed help the most. I’m sure she asked the same questions I once did, but the story tells us that God used Elisha to guide her. He told her to ask her neighbors for empty vessels, to go to her room and close the doors. She was to fill them with the only thing she had left, a little bit of olive oil. Then God provided oil to fill all the vessels, and enough to sell and pay her debts. She could provide for her family, and her fears were replaced with faith. When have you felt you were at the bottom of the barrel and life was hopeless? Who came to your rescue showing you that God is with us always? How did your story turn out?
2. Timothy was raised by his mother, Eunice and his grandmother, Lois. Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7. What do you think some of challenges were that the two women encountered? What were some of the joys? What are some practical things that you think Eunice and Lois would have appreciated – especially on the hard days? Do you know a modern-day “Eunice and Lois”? What do you think she would appreciate – especially on the hard days?
3. Read Matt. 6:25, 31-33. Take the challenge to worry less and trust God more.

## **A Call to Action**

1. Look around your church or community for the single parent. Ask them how you can lighten their load.
2. In what ways can you be a neighbor to a single parent? Can you entertain the children and give the parent a break? Can you invite them for a meal or take a meal to them as a random act of kindness? What other things can you do to make life easier for your neighbor, the single parent?
3. Are you sometimes judgmental when the single parent cannot keep up with housework, car pools, children's activities, job, yard, and all the things one parent must do for two? Encourage them. In what ways can you affirm them and their children?

## **Prayer**

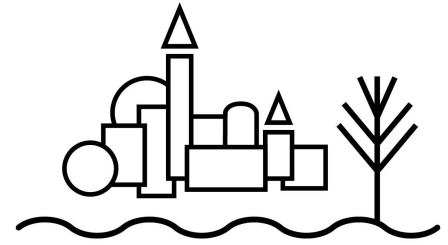
*Thank you Lord for always being with us even when we feel alone. Thank you for sending help when we need it most. We ask you for wisdom to understand your plan for our lives, courage to look for you when our fears surround us, and strength when we feel we can't go on. Help us be a light for our neighbors in need and may they feel your presence always. Teach us to trust you in all things. Amen*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Judith Seva became a single mom in 2012. In 2013, she was looking to God for a miracle and that was the beginning of her relationship with God. In 2014, God opened doors for a position that allowed her to live with her priorities: God, family, and job. In 2015, God opened more doors allowing Judith to attend Bethel University as a candidate for ministry. Judith says, "I now have a better home, a more secure job, and opportunities to serve in my church as an elder and a member of the worship group." Judith is the parent of Mariana (age 10) and Carlos (age 9).

## Connecting with My CROSS-CULTURE Neighbor

### Luke 10:29-37



I accepted a call to a Latino church, not knowing how to serve my cross-culture neighbor. I didn't speak Spanish and knew almost nothing of this culture. All I had was a very intense sense of God's call. Initially, I thought my most significant contribution to my neighbors was using my strong English skills to help with school, legal, and medical problems. Then as I began to love and admire my neighbors, I discovered how isolated they were from mainstream Americans. I was the first such person that many of them had spent time with. Other realizations followed—my neighbors had never been in an American's home, much less enjoyed a friendship with one. Worse still, they believed that they had less value, less worth, than an American. I recognized that nurturing friendships and building bridges between my neighbors and other Americans were very important parts of my ministry. Welcoming my neighbors into my home, offering what I consider the most basic element of hospitality, had a huge positive impact on my relationship with my neighbors. Gradually, they developed the confidence to minister to me and made me their neighbor. They sent delicious dishes home with me, taught me about their culture, and gave me gifts from their home countries. And along the way, I've been blessed to meet some incredible good Samaritans who sacrificially minister to my neighbors—interpreters, doctors, attorneys, teachers, and school administrators.

### Reflections

1. God has shown me that my most important tools for ministry to cross-culture neighbors are love of God and love of others. What tools do you have?
2. What are your greatest fears about connecting with people of a different culture?
3. Read Leviticus 19:33-34. What can you do to love your cross culture neighbors and treat them as if they were native born?
4. Our cross-culture children often have no one at home who can help them with their schoolwork. How could you help these children to succeed?
5. What can your church do to build a bridge to a cross culture church?

### A Call to Action

1. Pray for just immigration laws and policies that will protect our vulnerable cross-culture neighbors.
2. Provide financial support for school supplies and camp registration fees for cross-culture children.
3. Partner with a cross-culture church to learn from and encourage each other.

## **Prayer**

*God of all people, open our eyes to the isolation experienced by our neighbors from other cultures. Show us ways that we can support and build relationships with them based on our common love of you. Amen*

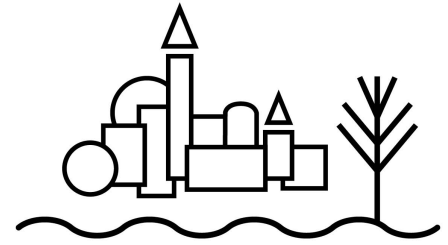
## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Rev. Diann White serves three Latino and two Korean churches in her new role as the Intercultural Ministry Coordinator for West Tennessee Presbytery. She is a graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary and has worked with Latino churches in Memphis for the past five years. She and her husband, John, live in Bartlett, Tennessee with their two labradoodles. If you would like to discuss with Diann ways that you or your church can help build relationships within a cross-culture church, you may contact her at [diannwhite12@yahoo.com](mailto:diannwhite12@yahoo.com).



## Connecting with My Abused Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37



While living as a missionary in Japan, I tasted new foods, heard new words, made new friends, and learned new things every day. Japanese history and traditions permeate modern culture, and I felt privileged to see and experience all that the country and its people had to share.

One evening while enjoying various points of interest with a friend on our way to a museum, I heard intense shouting in the distance. I turned away from my friend, who kept talking about *fugu* (puffer fish) unfazed by the disturbance. A man was screaming into the face of a woman. Her spine was curved and she looked down to the ground, shuffling her feet and crying—unable to move quickly away from this angry and violent man. He shoved her and pulled on her. My friend glanced in their direction then quickly looked away, pulling on my sleeve and urging me to do the same. As they passed, I continued to stare in horror as the man pulled the woman around the corner into an alley. She was calling to him to stop hurting her. I rushed around the corner without a second thought. The man had knocked the woman to the ground and was dragging her along the concrete. I put myself between them and in my very broken Japanese said firmly, “Excuse me. No. Stop please.” I suddenly recognized how dangerous what I was doing might be, but proceeded in faith. I encouraged him to look at me and breathe with me and try to separate himself from his angry actions. I saw him shake his head as he realized that he’d been seen doing something incredibly unkind. He matched his breathing to mine as tears filled his eyes. His wife clutched my legs and sobbed, “*Arigatou gozaimasu!*” thanking me again and again. Only then did my friend come around the corner where he’d been peeking out, watching this scene at a safe distance. We helped the crying woman to her feet, and while I dusted her off, my friend apologized to the man for my interfering! I understood this well enough to say, “Actually, I would like to know what is going on and how we can help.” We learned about this couple’s struggles and helped them resolve the conflict. They walked toward home, both relieved that the tension between them had been dissolved. Of course, we will never know what happened to them later, but my hope is that unplugging from that bad pattern and being seen and cared for may have altered or even counteracted future possible incidents. Later my friend confided by saying, “I would have wondered about her the rest of my life, but would have done nothing.” He explained that in Japanese culture, people’s business is their own, and outsiders must never get involved. “I’m glad we got involved.”

The truth is, this attitude is not exclusive to Japanese culture. Here in America, we often allow people to suffer abuse because we don’t like to feel uncomfortable or don’t understand how someone “could do something like that” or “let someone do that to them.” In our culture, we sometimes feel that violence must be justified: That child being spanked or loudly admonished must have been very disobedient; The cashier being yelled at must have made a horrible mistake; The woman being abused by her partner should just leave... We fail to see how complex situations like these can be, and we fail to see our role in connecting with our abused neighbors.

## Reflections

1. Intimate partner violence can happen in any country, at any age, to anyone. How has abuse touched your life?
2. Have you ever felt called to reach out to someone who was suffering, but did not do so? If so, what do you think prevented you from helping? If not, what did you do? What would you do differently if you had the opportunity today?
3. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 New English Translation (NET Bible). *For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.* With this insight in mind, try to put yourself in the shoes of one who has been or is being abused. Imagine being a child growing up witnessing abuse. Try to empathize with one who uses power and control over another. Did the scripture's meaning change when applied to different neighbors? How can you pray for each of these people?
4. Think of a time when someone reached out to you when you needed it most. What made this connection meaningful? Can you feel empowered to connect with survivors of intimate partner violence in a meaningful way?

## A Call to Action

1. Familiarize yourself with one domestic violence advocacy organization in your area and what services they provide. Do you feel called to volunteer? What supplies do they need that you can donate? Do they have annual fundraisers in which you can participate? What number should someone in your community call if they need help? (Program the number into your phone to have on hand.) Invite someone from the organization to speak to your group.
2. Make a plan of action. What will you do if you ever encounter a loved one or stranger who is in an abusive relationship?

## Prayer

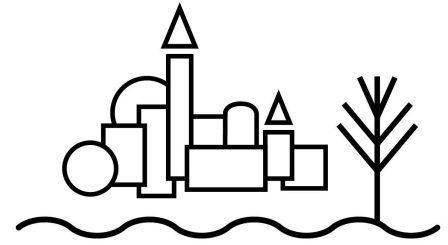
*God, we may not understand the ways in which people hurt one another, but let us not exist in fear. Let us faithfully strive to connect with our abused neighbors, empowering them to heal and experience Your love. Sometimes we feel that the problems of others are too big, too scary, too foreign, and we are too busy, too small, and too unready. Ready our hearts in you. Assure us that doing something is better than doing nothing, and doing anything may be enough. Amen.*

## ABOUT THE WRITER:

RheAnn WhitePeacock, a graduate in Religious Studies from Naropa University and former CP missionary to Yokohama, Japan, now lives in “Utopia,”—New Harmony, Indiana—with her husband Travis and two daughters, Layla and Kibo. (Kibou means “hope” in Japanese.) She and her mother, Pat White, invite you all to visit and plan a retreat through HarmoNEST Spiritual Retreats. You may reach RheAnn at [wrheann@gmail.com](mailto:wrheann@gmail.com).

## Connecting with My Neighbor Who is A Bully

### Luke 10:29-37



One summer when I was a big sister through Big Brother Big Sister program we sent my “little sister” to church camp. Since my husband was the lifeguard I was in and out of the camp most of the week. I didn’t work the camp but I was there if “Lydia” needed me. Lydia was emotionally fragile and this was her first time away from home. The girls in her cabin all knew each other from previous camps. The girls quickly became a clique and were excluding Lydia from their activities. Worse than that they were making hurtful nicknames and making fun of her. Lydia came to me and I intervened explaining to the girls their behavior was bullying.

Bullying comes in many different forms. One form is one we might not even realize we are doing. Social exclusion is one form of bullying. My first time at convention I had trouble finding a table during the luncheon. I asked many different tables if I could sit with them and was told politely no. I had a friend with me as well and this moment has really stuck with her.

An episode of bullying hit close to home and my heart. My husband and I have an adopted son, Benjamin, who is African American and the love of our lives. Brent and I are Caucasian, so I have always known that at some point we would encounter people whose beliefs system does not match ours. I had no idea this would occur before my son turned 3.

One beautiful fall day Benjamin and I were at a local farm playing in a pit filled with kernels of corn. One older boy laid his body in the corn and asked the children around him to cover him in the corn. The children happily obliged including my son. The boys younger sister kept staring at Benjamin. Finally she said, “You can’t play with us”. Benjamin kept dumping kernels of corn on the boy not realizing the girl was talking to him. “Why can’t he play with you?” I asked with dread. “Because he’s..” she began but before she finished her brother, who was covered in corn, took his head and knocked it into her head stopping her from finishing her sentence. He looked at me and said “He can play with us”. The girl said “but he’s” and the brother told her to be quiet. I let my son play there until he was ready to go but my heart was broken for my precious boy and the world he is growing up in.

### Reflections

1. Can you remember a time you felt bullied? How did that make you feel?
2. Have you seen a situation where bullying was occurring? Did you step in? Why or why not?

3. Discuss Matthew 5:43-48. How difficult is it to “love our enemies”? What do you think will happen when we pray for those who persecute you? If you done this, share your story.

### **A Call to Action**

1. When you are at a regional meeting, camp, convention or other large gathering introduce yourself to at least three people you have not meet before.
2. When you are at a church and visitors come in, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. You might even invite them to sit with you during worship.
3. Invite women to your local CP Women’s Ministry meetings that have not been before. Maybe you could offer to pick them up for the meeting so they won’t have to walk in alone.

### **Resources**

1. [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)
2. [www.pacer.org/bullying/resources](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources)
3. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/all>
4. [https://www.aacap.org/.../Bullying\\_Resource\\_Center/Home.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/.../Bullying_Resource_Center/Home.aspx)
5. [www.safekids.com/bullying-cyberbullying-resources](http://www.safekids.com/bullying-cyberbullying-resources)
- 6.

### **Prayer**

*Holy Spirit, please help those people who are being bullied. Send people to help them. Please help the people who are doing the bullying, to get help so that they will not continue to hurt people. Lord, give those being bullied the courage to tell someone. I pray for all of us that if we see someone being bullied we will stand up and stop it. May I become, a protector for all those without protection. In your Holy name we pray, Amen.*

### **ABOUT THE WRITER**

Robin Wills is a School Psychologist with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools in Nashville, TN. She serves children from the ages of 3-15. She attends the Jerusalem CP church where her husband Brent pastors. Robin and Brent have one son Benjamin who is 4.