

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group March 2013

In Luke 10:29, Jesus is asked '...**who is my neighbour?**'. In response, Jesus tells the parable we refer to as the 'Good Samaritan'. A Jewish man was attacked by robbers and left for dead. A priest passed by and ignored him. A Levite (someone who worked in the temple) also passed by and ignored him. Only a Samaritan, someone despised and snubbed by the Jews, had compassion on him. He cleaned and dressed his wounds, took him to an inn, took care of him and paid his food and accommodation bill. Help came for this man from an unexpected source.

The portrayal of the Samaritan in such a positive light would have been quite a shock to Jesus' audience at the time; so also the portrayal of the priest and Levite as selfish and uncaring, especially towards one of their own. This is quite a challenging story.

The Samaritan reached across socio-political divides to do what he knew was right. He did not allow himself to be deterred by the thought that if the shoe was on the other foot and he was lying injured on the ground, this person may not have helped him because of his prejudice. He graciously let go of an opportunity to gloat over the Jewish man's misfortune.

When we allow prejudice, pre-conceived notions and stereotypes to colour our view of a person or a people, we inevitably miss out on the opportunity to be blessed and enriched by their many strengths, their experiences, their knowledge, their wisdom, their kindness, their warmth, their strength of character... their love.

May we learn to see beyond skin and culture when dealing with others and, when opportunities arise for us to be a 'Good Samaritan', may we not turn and walk away.

Contributed by Angela Ifonlaja, Assistant Pastor, RCCG Place of Victory for All Nations

This month we give thanks for...

- People who have come to Northern Ireland and enriched the land with their culture and experiences.
- The opportunity to learn from the successes of nations that have made significant progress in their movement for peace and unity amongst their people
- The host community in Northern Ireland who has been open and welcoming to newcomers

We pray for...

- Churches that are working to foster integration between people from various backgrounds
- All of us, that we would learn to see beyond skin when dealing with people from backgrounds that are different to our own
- Events being held on the 21st March to recognise International Day Against Racism