

LIVING IT OUT

SESSION 15 THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Kin_dom Without Walls

Imagine a place
Where mercy resides,
Love forms each heart,
Compassion lived out with grit and determination.
A place where lavish signs
Mark each path barrier free.

Imagine a place
Where skin tones are celebrated
Like the hues of tulips in springtime.
Where languages inspire
With symphonies of diversity.
Where Respect schools us
In custom and history
And every conversation
Begins with a bow of reverence.

Imagine a place where each person wears glasses,
Clarity of vision for all.
Recognizing each one, everything
Made in the image of God.

Imagine a place
Where carrots and pasta
Doctor's skills and medications
Are not chained behind barbed wire -
Food, shelter, health care available for all.

Imagine a place where
Every key of oppression
Was melted down to form public art
Huge fish, doves, lions and lambs
On which children could play.

Imagine a place where
People no longer kept watch
Through the front window
To determine whether the welcome mat
Would remain on the porch.

Such is the work
The journey
The destination
In the kin_dom of God.

As you spend time in reflection, take the time to write two lists: 1) the ways and places you have witnessed or been a part of any wall being dismantled and 2) any barrier around the globe that you believe needs to be dismantled.

In his book *Conspiracy of Goodness*, Donald Messer tells of a young Quaker missionary who contracted typhus and died suddenly. All cemeteries at that time were Catholic and unavailable for burials of people of other beliefs. The only option was to bury this beloved missionary outside the cemetery. The following day when people visited the grave, they discovered the fence had been moved to include the missionary's grave!

Spend some quiet time in prayer. Ask God how you can be a fence mover.

Messer, Donald E., *Conspiracy of Goodness*, (Nashville, Tennessee, Abingdon Press, 1992), p. 127.

– Cynthia Langston Kirk

