

THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE FORMATION



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BOOK REVIEW

Reading the Bible from the Margins by Miguel A. De La Torre. This book explains and provides examples of how the Bible is read by the “center,” meaning the European American culture, and how it is read by the “margins,” meaning other people groups who are not part of the dominant culture of the US. It is an easy read written in the style of a sermon.

August 15-25, 2022, thirteen pilgrims went on a 10-day trip led by Rev. Dr. Drew Hill of Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia. The goal was to learn more about the Civil Rights Era of the 1950s-1960s. Below is a list of sites visited and their main significance. They are in order of chronology of the historical event, not in the order of the visit. For more information about this and other sites on the U. S. Civil Rights Trail, see the website www.civilrightstrail.com



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

Dec 5, 1955 to Dec 20, 1956

Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, AL - The campaign lasted from the day after Rosa Parks was arrested for her refusal to surrender her seat to a white person. The federal ruling *Browder v. Gayle* took effect, and led to a US Supreme Court decision that declared the Alabama and Montgomery laws that segregated buses were unconstitutional

February 1, 1960

F. W. Woolworth Building, Greensboro, NC – site of the first lunch counter sit-ins by four young male students from what is now called North Carolina A&T State University. This inspired others to do more non-violent sit-ins to desegregate places of business.

National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA – Visitors can sit at a replica of the Woolworth lunch counter, put on a head set and experience the language screamed at those A&T students, who did not fight back physically.

May 14, 1961

Freedom Riders National Monument, Anniston, AL – site of where freedom riders, both black and white, were riding on an interstate Greyhound bus to support a recent US Supreme Court ruling that desegregated the buses yet protestors bombed the bus and attacked the riders.

June 12, 1963

Medgar Evers Home, Museum, Jackson, MS – he was assassinated outside of his home, in the driveway. Evers was named as the NAACP's first field secretary for Mississippi. In this position, he helped organize boycotts and set up new local chapters of the NAACP. He was involved with James Meredith's efforts to enroll in the University of Mississippi in the early 1960s.

September 15, 1963

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL – site of church bombing that killed four little girls as they were in the basement putting on their choir robes – this church had been the meeting-place for civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and Fred Shuttlesworth, for organizing and educating marchers. Because of numerous bombings in Birmingham, it earned the nickname "Bombingham."

August- September 1955

Tallahatchie County Courthouse, Sumner, MS – location of the trial of the murder of Emmett Till. The original glass-topped casket that held Till's body in an open casket funeral is on display in the African American History and Culture, Washington D.C. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act, an American law which makes lynching a federal hate crime, was signed into law on March 29, 2022 by President Joe Biden.

March 7-21, 1965

Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, AL – site of three attempts to cross the bridge for a march from Selma to Montgomery, AL in support of voter rights. This mobilized Congress to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act, signed by then President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965.

April 4, 1968

Mason Temple United Church of Christ, Memphis, TN – where Martin Luther King, Jr gave his last speech. Lorraine Motel - National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN – where MLK Jr was assassinated. Across the street is the boarding house where the assassin rented a room and made the shot that ended the life of MLK Jr.

Founded April 26, 2018

National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Montgomery, AL – informally known as the National Lynching Memorial. Legacy Museum, Montgomery, AL – this museum leads the visitor from slavery to racial oppression in not a comforting way but a realistic telling of the continually evolving ways of controlling black people. These two sites are not to be missed.



National Museum for Peace and Justice, informally known as the "Lynching Memorial." t



Fred Shuttlesworth (top pic) – his bombed out home at the right of his church (bottom pic).

COLLABORATING ENTITIES

- Justice Revival (justicerevival.org)
- Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington (reformedinstitute.org)
- Cornelius Corps (corneliuscorps.org)

JUSTICE FORMATION FELLOWSHIP PARTICIPANTS

- First Baptist of Herndon, Herndon
- McLean Baptist Church, Mclean
- Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington
- Mount Vernon Baptist, Arlington
- Parkwood Baptist Church, Annandale

Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation

6 Courses – each course 3 Semester Hours (SH) = total 18 SH

- B1305 - Tools-Based Bible Study
- EH3205 – In Search of Biblical Justice: A multi-focal perspective
- MF4301 - Spiritual Formation
- MF4333 – Justice, Church and Society
- MF4335 – Critical Engagement with Biblical Justice
- MF4339 - Justice Formation Externship

UPCOMING EVENTS

IJF Advisory Group Meeting

- November 21
Meets 3rd Mon of month
November - May
- 2:00-3:00 PM
- Location: Virtual

2023 Conference: In Search of Biblical Justice

- June 9-10, 2023
- Location: TBA
- Theme: Connecting Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Biblical Justice: The Last Frontier

For the full list of events please visit our [calendar](#).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



The **John Leland Center for Theological Studies** is a seminary of Baptist tradition that welcomes students/teachers of all church denominations. Leland's purpose is to serve in the Kingdom of God through accessible, accredited theological education. It equips its students to become transformational leaders in the global ministry of Jesus Christ.



The **Washington Theological Consortium** is a community of theological schools/partners from diverse traditions that pursue ecumenical dialogue, interfaith understanding, and educational collaboration to better equip clergy/laity for ministry in a diverse society.



The **Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (MACBF)** serves member churches in the region that includes Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, South Central Pennsylvania, and West Virginia with resources and support.

The Institute for **Justice Formation**



You can visit the Institute for Justice Formation at our website at www.ijf-leland.org/
For more information about the Institute for Justice Formation contact:
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JUSTICE FORMATION FELLOWSHIP

Justice Formation Fellowship is a group of churches who unite together for the transformative work of justice in our world, rooted in a commitment to love our neighbor and the recognition of God's image in humanity. We believe the Bible reveals that our God loves and delights in Justice. More profoundly, we believe Scripture makes it clear that God requires his chosen to do justice.

The image of God in humanity manifests as the love and pursuit of the justice God loves. In light of this truth, we believe the church, the body of Christ, is called to proclaim the message and practice the ministry of reconciling humanity to God and all peoples with each other. We see the Institute for Justice Formation as an essential movement in the academic institutions of the church that can, through an informed understanding of God's self-revelation, lead our fellowship of churches to become a justice-seeking congregation.

Unreservedly, we stand with the Institute for Justice Formation, pledging our support, prayers, and commitment to the work of warring against injustice. We stand with each other as we seek to build a fellowship of justice-seeking congregations through worship, education, and advocacy.

We invite you to join us as we dismantle structures, denounce systems, and discontinue silently sanctioning norms and biases that separate us from God and move, intentionally, towards being the church Jesus built and equipped for victory, under the auspices of the Holy Spirit.

For more information about this Fellowship contact one of the following participating pastors:

- Dr. Drew Hill, Senior Pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, VA
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- Rev Sean Roberds, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Herndon, Herndon, VA.
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