

WE HAVE A DREAM: A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM

OCTOBER, 2020 - Hitler Wanted to Model His Horror After Us?

We began with prayer.

We discussed the terms: racism, white supremacy, structural/systemic racism, institutional, cultural and personal racism. Covering power and wealth, policies, practices and race, we discussed redlining, the electoral college, land and home ownership, and how Nazi Germany modeled eradication of the Jewish people after how the United States kept black people marginalized.

Access to resources and decision makers, and the ability to influence others and define reality spoke to who had power. We saw that power plus prejudice equaled oppression. Germany gave restitution to holocaust survivors while the U.S. restitution went to owners of former enslaved people. The default in our country was always the white standard. Historically and contemporarily individuals in charge assumed white superiority.

Laws freed enslaved people but on what were they to live? The dominant culture defined reality and shaped all aspects of society, including its history, culture, politics, economics and entire social fabric to advantage white people and oppress people of color. The idea that one group is better than another and controls the other was embedded in the institutions of society, the laws, legal systems, police practices, educational systems, etc. Therefore, we are complicit.

The group discussed the complexity, identifying many forms of racism. For next month we asked people to read, White Too Long and research Mother Mary Lange. We began a bibliography.

We ended with prayer.