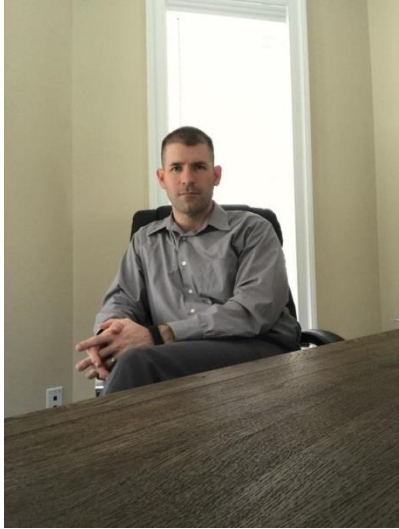



***Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* by Dr. Catherine Meeks**

<p>Book Study Guest Discussion Leaders for</p> <p>Chapter 5 & 6</p> <p>Live: 10/29 @ 2-3 PM</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Online: 11/1 @ 7:30-8:30 PM</p>	 <p>The Rev. Dr. Joshua Bowen</p>	 <p>Megan Lewis</p>
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*For 6 weeks in October and November leaders from the community will guide both a live and online book discussion on “**Living into God’s Dream: Dismantling Racism in America**,” a collection of essays edited by Dr. Catherine Meeks. Each guest leader(s) will post a reflection on a chapter(s). Note: The book chapters are not being discussed in order.*

Reflections

Reflection on Chapter 5

By The Rev. Dr. Joshua Bowen

Diary of a Spoiled White Guy, by Don Mosley

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” Mark Twain. Although this chapter struggles to fit perfectly within the stated purpose of the volume, its (perhaps unintentional) illustration of Twain’s observation about the importance of travel and cultural exposure makes it valuable for our discussion.

The chapter takes us through the life of Don Mosley, a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s in both Malaysia and Korea. The majority of his adult life centered on serving others, particularly the poor and marginalized, both in around the world and in America. He eventually lived and

served at Koinonia Farm with Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, and worked closely with President Jimmy Carter in an effort to bring support to impoverished communities. Don Mosley sought to model his life after an idea vocalized by Tom Boone: “Don, people act their way into new ways of thinking far more than they think their way into new ways of acting.” Mosley’s travels afforded him the opportunity to “act his way into new ways of thinking,” dealing that fatal blow to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.

Brief Biography of Joshua Bowen

Joshua was born in Annapolis, Maryland and grew up in Calvert County. He served ten years in the United States Air Force, where he completed a BS in Religion from Liberty University and a ThM in Old Testament Studies from Capital Bible Seminary. After serving as Associate Pastor of Valley Bible Church in Stephens City, Virginia, he attended The Johns Hopkins University, graduating with a PhD in Assyriology with a minor in Hebrew Bible in 2017.

Reflection on Chapter 6

By Megan Lewis

Diane D’Souza uses a selection of well-chosen examples of communities working to heal themselves from the trauma of racism to illustrate, it seems to me, the paramount importance of all people (be they Euro-American, Afro-American, or other) working together to build Beloved Community. She does an excellent job of acknowledging but not dwelling on her own experience as a Euro-American (read: white) woman in order to let the stories of others illustrate her point.

The first section, ‘A Journey toward Wholeness’, recounts D’Souza’s own encounters with the racism of other people experienced as a result of her marriage to an Indian man, and her identity as a mother of ‘brown’ children (in the poorly-chosen words of her own father). These experiences, and a challenging conversation with an Afro-American acquaintance, led D’Souza to examine her own prejudices and assumptions about what she, as a ‘White’, should be doing to combat racism – an examination that I know I too could benefit from.

The second section, ‘Mobilizing around Structural Racism’, describes the creation of a community-led health program designed to educate students (of both European and African descent) in the structural inequalities of health care in Boston. The third section, ‘Revisiting Uncomfortable Parts of Our History’, recounts efforts by Boston communities to heal trauma held by citizens over issues of desegregation in the 1970s. The fourth section, ‘Energizing Deeper Engagement’, chronicles the efforts of Afro-Americans to enable the widespread viewing and dissemination of the movie *Selma* for middle- and high-school [students](#).

Two themes run through the entire chapter:

1. The importance of community-led action, rooted within a specific place to address real trauma and injustice.
2. The importance of Euro-Americans working to dismantle racism *in White spaces*, and not waiting for Afro-Americans to take the lead and fix the problem.

This was a fascinating chapter for me to read, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on it!

Brief Biography of Megan Lewis

Megan Lewis, a British native, moved to the USA in 2011 to pursue a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins and is now in the 6th year of her doctorate, specializing in Assyriology. Megan is fascinated by the study of the ancient (pre-Biblical) world, and has completed a B.A and two M.Phil. degrees in the field, though she promises the Ph.D. will be her final foray into formal education.

She recently moved to Lusby from Baltimore with her husband, Dr. Joshua Bowen, and their two daughters, Paige (10) and Piper (4), and is expecting her first biological child in February 2017.