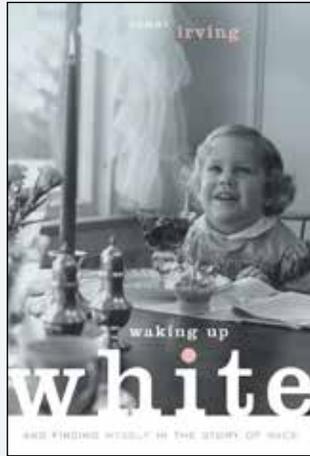


In *Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, Debby Irving shares a personal journey uncovering distorted ideas of race and racism against the backdrop of her own identity as a white woman raised in Winchester, Massachusetts. Attending a college course on Racial and Cultural Identity, Irving awakens to the realization that her identity interferes with her attempts to understand racism. As a result, she shifts her focus to learn about her own socializations of growing up white in America. The author discusses how, when, and why cultural experiences are unique, nurtured, and embedded in each of us.

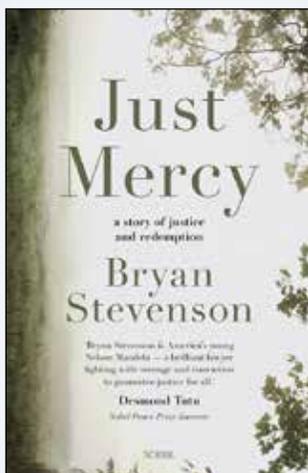


At the end of each chapter, Irving provides questions and additional insight to introduce the reader to their own stories of race and racism. The author is transparent and clear, helping the reader understand personal cultural socializations and honestly face the reality of racism and race as a social construct.

This book is highly recommended for leaders, laity, and groups intentionally seeking to cross cultural boundaries and willing to learn and engage with the prompts and exercises in the book.

Rev. Daynette Snead is President of DIASPRA, Associate Pastor of First Chin, New Bern, Chairs the Racial Justice Ministry Team of CBFNC, and a Doctor of Ministry Cohort at Gardner-Webb University.

Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly; this is what the Lord requires of each of us as Micah 6:8 so eloquently instructs. We are challenged and encouraged through CBFNC's year of Mercy and Justice to strive to live in ways that reflect the love of God and the ways of Jesus Christ. We don't have



to look far past the front page of the newspaper to see the systemic and long-term effects of racism and poverty in our own backyard.

Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer whose work focuses on Death Row inmates, shares some of his experiences in his memoir, *Just Mercy*. This book forces readers to become acquainted with the United States Justice System through Stevenson's narrative which describes serving alongside marginalized clients in the throes of the cycle of poverty.

Just Mercy introduces readers to the relationship between poverty, race, and the justice system through the story of the legal case of Walter McMillian, a black man sentenced to Death Row in the 1980s. Through

Stevenson's advocacy and persistence, he was proven innocent and won his release.

As we continue to live life through the lens of Justice and Mercy, we must carefully remove the scales from our eyes that keep us from seeing every person as a beloved child of God. The shackles of racism, hatred, and discrimination can only be released through the redeeming and reconciling power of inclusion, love, and advocacy.

Jaime Fitzgerald is a recent Gardner-Webb University MDiv. grad, Youth Minister at First, Tryon, and CBSF intern in western North Carolina.

Written by Psychologist Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* invites the reader to engage in conversations about race. She writes, "Talking about racism is an essential part of facing racism and changing it. But it is not the only part."

In her introduction, Dr. Tatum communicates her intent to write a non-academic book that provides a definition of terms, acknowledges the complexity of identity, offers an understanding of the Black/White context,

and challenges the reader to work toward breaking the cycle

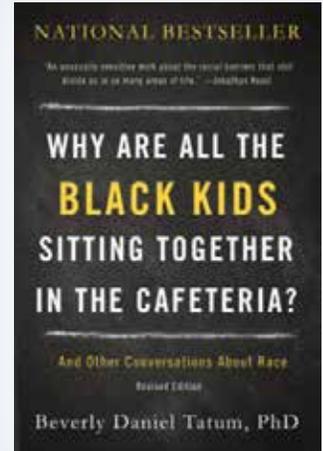
of racism. Breaking the cycle also includes moving beyond Black/White issues to invite conversations with people who are Latino, American-Indian (or Native-American), and Asian-Pacific.

While acknowledging that racism is not a thing of the past, Dr. Tatum devotes a chapter to defining terms like prejudice, White privilege, and

racial identity. Specific examples illustrate that information which is assumed, omitted, or distorted contributes to misinformation that feeds racism. Dr. Tatum challenges people of all color to move from active or passive racism to active anti-racism.

Of course, special attention is given to the illustration that is the title of the book. Specifically, Dr. Tatum describes entering a middle-school or high-school cafeterias and noting the segregation of races at the tables in the room. Additional facts provide an understanding of when "segregation in the cafeteria" occurs (as young people enter puberty and during struggles with personal identity). It is also important to note that "segregation in the cafeteria" is not only a symptom of young people and in schools. This type of racism occurs in the teacher's lounge, at church, in civic clubs, and in corporate dining rooms. While published in 1997, the book is relevant today and definitely challenging for twenty-first-century living.

Ka'thy Gore Chappell, former CBFNC Leadership Development Coordinator, is Executive Director of BWIM NC.



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