



Pray for Minneapolis

It's been 2 weeks since George Floyd was killed by 4 police officers in our city.

When we said "yes" to God and accepted The Navigators' invitation to love and lead students at the University of Minnesota, we were pretty naive to the impact that life in the city would have on our family. The calling to the campus was clear, but I don't think we were very aware at that point of the significance of God also calling us to the city. The city was just the place we moved in order to reach the campus.



Over the last 3 years however, God's been leading our family on a significant journey of growth and discovery. God's been expanding our hearts for our city and all the peoples living in it (most particularly our friends of color). We've grown increasingly aware of the many facets of beauty and brokenness that make up our city. We've learned more about the city's history, systems, and issues that impact the lives of our friends and neighbors. And we've grown increasingly aware of the stewardship we've been given by God as a white family with privilege, to engage and participate in God's redemptive work in our city. God's call to the people of Israel in Jeremiah 29:7 has been resonating with our hearts: *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Cultural development training from The Navigators, joining a church community that is committed to a multicultural vision of the kingdom, having our kids attend a diverse school, and living in a predominantly Black area of Minneapolis have all been significant contributors in God's educational path that is shaping us.

So when we, along with the rest of the world, watched the video of George Floyd's life being snuffed out by 4 police officers in OUR city, we felt all the waves of anger, despair, pain, and powerlessness, unusual to us, but a day-to-day reality for so many people of color in our city.

The 2 weeks that have followed have dramatically impacted the landscape of our world here in the city. You've all surely seen the resulting pain, desperation, and anger boiling over into riots, destruction, and pouring out across social media and news airwaves, but here on the ground in Minneapolis we've been involved with other followers of Jesus in peaceful protests, neighborhood protection, cleanup and food distribution, student and staff processing sessions, emergency prayer meetings and dozens of challenging and encouraging conversations that are deepening relationships with neighbors, students, and friends. God is here, working among us, making His presence known to all. This is a time for followers of Jesus to engage, and we're encouraged by the way we're seeing so many students, staff, alumni, and churches joining in to demonstrate the power of the Gospel in the midst of our hurting, brokenness, and injustice in our city. PLEASE keep praying! Thank you for standing with us!

Much Love,

Trevor, Cassie, Jaden, Josie, Maia, and Tobey