

Church Visit

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PMN205: Introduction to Racial Reconciliation
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What is the name of the church and why did you choose to visit there?

The church that I visited was Resting Place House of Prayer. The reason as to why I visited is because the church is fairly different to the church setting that I am used to. The church is very exuberant when it comes to moving in the supernatural, to extensive creative sets in worship, to prioritizing prayer above all things. The day that I had gone, there was no message given by the head pastor.

What is the mission statement of the church you visited?

The mission statement (or phrase) of Resting Place is "Encounter God." The description of what the church is that they are "a revival center and a house of prayer rooted in the love of God and committed to worldwide transformation. [They] exist to manifest the love of God on the earth through signs, wonders and miracles and to gather people around the presence of God, leading them to their destiny. [Their] focus is to build a resting place for God to encounter His people – a space where believers can come and receive impartation from other apostolic leaders, and an altar where incense rises day and night."

How does the church address racial justice and reconciliation?

One of the ways that Resting Place addresses racial justice and reconciliation is through prayer and intercession for divine guidance on how to tackle a racial issue. They continually provide opportunities for the congregants within the church to pray for those in higher position to combat racial injustice. Also, they are in constant communication with the church as to why it is necessary for us to live in unity with each other, despite their respective races. It is a topic that is always present within the church itself, and they always make themselves open to hear what is going on.

Does addressing social justice issues seem to be part of the church's DNA?

As previously mentioned, addressing social justice issues is a continuous conversation in the life of Resting Place. They are always aware of what is going on, and weekly they will always take their time in order to address the congregation their stance on it, and will take time in effective and powerful prayer in regards to the event. There have been multiple cases in which they would host special services just to pray in regards to events happening around their community and even worldwide.

Was there diversity in the church and if so, how was the power dynamic of the church?

If there is one thing that does not lack in Resting Place is diversity. At the time of visit, I had seen an equal amount of white people to black people, I saw an equal amount of Latino people to Asian people. The diversity is something that is always present at this church, and everytime I go to visit this church, it is something that truly captivates me.

What was the composition of the church's leadership?

However, if there is one thing that does concern me is the composition of the church's leadership. There is one head leader, who is Pastor Ali Ferrel, who is unmarried. As I was raised in the Assemblies of God denomination, I personally think that it is necessary that if there were to be people leading a church, it would have to be a married couple, as that is very common within the AOG denomination. Pastor Ali is the main leader of Resting Place, however, there are different

leaders spread throughout the ministries of the church itself, such as the Worship Team, the school of ministry, the prophetic and prayer team, etc.

Did you get the sense that reconciliation was important to the church?

One of the things that I saw in this church was the sense of unity there was in this church. At the time of my visit, there were people who would go on the altar and intercede for other families who had a loved one who was not yet saved. I would frequently see people of different races operating in the gifts of the Spirit to people of other races within that church as well. Something that Resting Place frequently does is that they offer opportunities for the congregants to do outreach and evangelism in Paterson, NJ, and offer the people they minister to food and clothing.