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September 6, 2018

Kingdom Values

by Rev. Dr. Sue Collier, Lincoln First Presbyterian

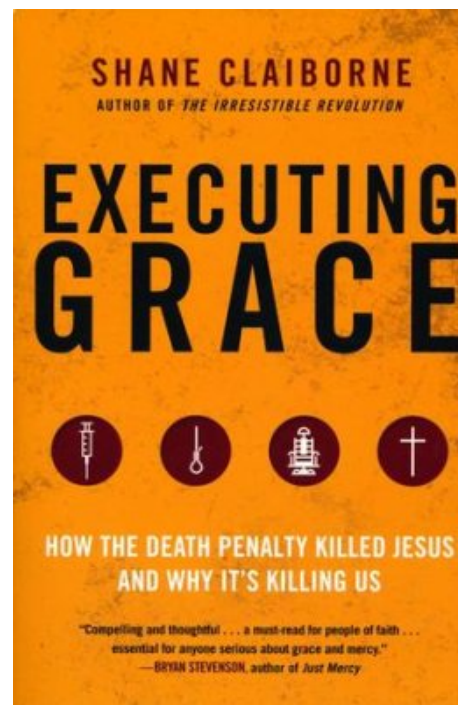
It rained on Tuesday as Carey Dean Moore was put to death. I believe God cried just as much then, as when Carey killed Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Can Ness Jr.

I've been thinking about what it means to love someone such as Carey Moore. I realized as I reflected on that, that loving someone who has done the kinds of things Carey did, recognizing them as human beings and children of God, affirming their call to live the full and joyful lives God desires for all of us (even in prison), showing mercy and compassion to them, is an investment in the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is full of grace, mercy, and compassion. When we focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution, forgiveness rather than vengeance, grace rather than justice, we begin to see hints of the kind of world Jesus died to make possible—the kingdom of God that we pray for every week, where the wolf lays down with the lamb, and no one harms or destroys anyone in all God's holy realm.

The work of bringing the kingdom closer to completion is the day to day work of how we treat each other. The way we talk about people. The way we live our lives in relationship with others. Are we living in a way that builds up the kingdom, or tears it down? That honors the God-given humanity in each other, or that denies it?

Good Reads



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Is the death penalty an appropriate form of punishment for manslaughter and heinous crimes, or should we consider other options? Taking a second look at instances from Scripture, the debate over punitive and restorative justice, as well as listening to moving testimonials, Claiborne pleads for us to stop all executions.

Book of Proposed Amendments

Before we get too self-righteous about Carey Dean Moore or the death penalty, let us all ask ourselves: what are we doing to bring near the kingdom we pray for, day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute?

The world we all hope for isn't going to come about because someone was executed for his crimes. It will come about because people of faith make a choice to live by those kingdom values especially now, in the messiness of life.

The **2018 Book of Proposed Amendments** is now available [HERE](#). Homestead Presbytery will vote on these amendments at the February 16, 2019 meeting. This Book is no longer available in print, so please download the document in preparation for the meeting.

What happened at the 223rd GA?

REAC

The assembly approved a name change for the *Advocacy Committee for Racial ethnic Concerns*. At the committee's request, it will now be known as the **Racial Equity Advocacy Committee**, using the acronym REAC. The assembly also instructed the six PC(USA) agencies to begin using the term "people of color" instead of "racial ethnic people" - with the former a term that's much more widely in use.

Go on, Laugh a little



Keep Thinking...

The Presbyterian Church in 1959 affirmed that
"we are called to seek the redemption of evil does, not their death."

In 1978 we affirmed that
"Capital punishment is an expression of vengeance which contradicts the justice of God on the cross."

Calvin Crest Celebrates 60th Anniversary!

Wow! What a day of Celebrating 60 years of God's Goodness at Calvin Crest. Over 400 families, individuals and groups spent time running, playing, jumping, swimming, hiking, eating and fellowshiping. Thank you to the many people who volunteered, donated, came, prayed or supported Calvin Crest in some way. And, thank you to the many, many people who have been so generous with their time, talents and treasure over the past 60 years. There are big things in store at Calvin Crest. See you soon.

Blessings!
Craig Huffman
Executive Director
Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center



