

Divided: 'This is not a conversation of blame'

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AP Photo/Branden Camp

Parishioners clap during a worship service at the First Baptist Church, a predominantly African-American congregation, in Macon, Ga.

Then, two years ago, the Rev. Scott Dickson, pastor of the white church, and the Rev. James Goolsby, pastor of the black church, met over lunch and an idea took shape: They'd try to find a way the congregations, neighbors for so long, could become friends. They'd try to bridge the stubborn divide of race.

They are taking up this work against a tumultuous backdrop, including the much-publicized deaths of blacks at the hands of law enforcement and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Next month, they will lead joint discussions with church members on racism in the history of the U.S., and also in the history of their congregations.

"This is not a conversation of blame, but of acceptance and moving forward," Goolsby said.

'Segregated hours'

Like many American institutions, houses of worship have largely been separated by race, to the point that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called Sunday mornings "one of the most segregated hours." Recently, several denominations, from the Episcopal Church to the Southern Baptist Convention, have tried to look critically at their past actions going back centuries.

In the early 1800s, in Baptist churches of the South, whites and blacks often worshipped together, but blacks were restricted to galleries or the back of the sanctuary. Eventually, black populations started growing faster in many communities. Whites, made uneasy by the imbalance, responded by splitting up the congregations.

This was apparently the case for First Baptist in Macon, which built a separate church for

blacks in 1845, then finalized the separation two decades later soon after the Civil War ended.

Goolsby and Dickson said their respective churches were enthusiastic about plans to work together, under the auspices of the New Baptist Covenant, an organization formed by former President Jimmy Carter to unite Baptists.

Yet excitement mixed with apprehension, since the effort would inevitably require "some challenging conversations," Dickson said, including a re-examination of the official church history, which had been recorded in mostly benign terms, with almost no recognition of racism.

"We need to go through this kind of conversion experience of confession, of repentance and of reconciliation. We need to have that when it comes to race, not just in the country but within the church," Dickson said.

Show of support

Goolsby recalled that after the massacre last year at the historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, he was outside a store, awaiting his wife, when Dickson called.

"Scott shared how he felt, how he was struggling with what he would share with his

congregation," Goolsby said. Dickson asked how he could show support.

"I said, 'We're already doing it,'" Goolsby said. "The mere fact he thought to call me was huge."

The stakes were even more personal months later, when the white church invited black church members for a youth trip to Orlando.

Goolsby's teenage son was among those invited. But Goolsby had considered Florida a danger ever since Trayvon Martin, an unarmed, black 17-year-old, was fatally shot in Sanford by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer who was later acquitted of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges.

The pastor could not let his son go on the trip. "If you put a hoodie on him," he said, "he looks just like Trayvon."

The concerns of anxious black parents had been much in the news, but the white church members hadn't had to confront the issue directly until Goolsby raised it.

After reassurances from a white chaperone, Goolsby allowed his son and the other young people to participate.

"The fact that that was so

easy to share — we've already made progress," Goolsby said.

'Strength to Love'

Dickson strode into the basement hall of his church with a box under one arm. Inside, were copies of "Strength to Love," a collection of sermons and writings by King. The book was at the center of classes at the white church that Dickson organized in preparation for the joint talks on racism next month.

This class was held on the Sunday in July after the fatal police shootings of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota, and the fatal ambush on white Dallas police officers.

With the stifling humidity of a Georgia summer building outside, Dickson launched into a discussion of King's sermon on the Good Samaritan, about despised groups and showing mercy.

"We have our tribes. We see ourselves over and against others," he said, then asked church members to reflect.

One man said when you reach out to someone from another group, "you're perceived as unpatriotic," or disloyal. A woman said she was upset to see some disrespect of the police. "They rush toward danger when others run," she said.

The next night, the black church hosted the city's Black Lives Matter vigil, marking the tragedies of the preceding week.

Clergy from across the city filled the pulpit. Goolsby and Dickson stood together to speak. Dickson compared racism to "a cancer that roams inside the body of this nation, and yes, even in the body of Christ." Goolsby urged people to maintain hope "in spite of our circumstances," and he added, "We know there will be change."

Then both men said, "Amen."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

False report of gunman at Los Angeles airport causes panic

LOS ANGELES — Reports of a gunman opening fire that turned out to be false caused panicked evacuations at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday night, while flights to and from the airport saw major delays.

A search through terminals brought no evidence of a gunman or shots fired, Los Angeles police spokesman Andy Neiman said. The reports were spurred by loud noises only, and police were still investigating to find the source of them, Neiman said.

Airport officials said that a person wearing a Zorro costume was detained during the incident, but it wasn't yet clear whether the person had any connection to the evacuation.

The incident stirred chaos as hundreds of people rushed from terminals on to sidewalks or the tarmac. And it left a mess with three terminals shut down, roads closed and flights held in the air and on the ground.

All terminals and roads into the airport had been reopened by 11 p.m. PDT, about two hours after the initial reports, officials said. But massive backup faced travelers in their cars and in security lines. Passengers who fled had to be rescreened through security.

Trump plans immigration talk as questions remain

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump says he'll deliver a detailed speech on his proposal to crack down on illegal immigration on Wednesday in Arizona — but it's anyone's guess what he might say.

The announcement came late Sunday in a tweet by the GOP presidential nominee after days of wavering — and at least one canceled speech — on a question central to his campaign: Whether he would, as he said in November, use a "deportation force" to eject the estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. On Sunday, led by vice presidential running mate Mike Pence, Trump's surrogates fanned out across the televised talk shows to reiterate other parts of his proposal but none could answer that question. And they wouldn't say whether it was worrisome that such a consequential proposal remained unclear so close to the Nov. 8 election.

In one case, the chairman of the Republican National Committee refused to speak for the GOP nominee at all.

"I just don't speak for Donald Trump," Reince Priebus said Sunday.

It was a striking look at Trump's leadership of a team he had said would help drive him to victory against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

On Syria, Democrats look to deflect the conversation

WASHINGTON — In his speech at the Republican National Convention, Donald Trump made six references to the conflict in Syria, pointing to the war-ravaged nation as a source of much of the world's turmoil, particularly immigration and extremism.

A week later at the Democratic convention, Hillary Clinton made not one reference to Syria.

The conflict in Syria remains a major conundrum for both President Barack Obama and Clinton, his former secretary of state. With a firm reluctance to enter another U.S. war in the Middle East, the United States has focused its military efforts on fighting the Islamic State group in northern Syria and in Iraq while pursuing so-far failed diplomatic efforts to end the civil war.

Now entering its sixth year, the Syria conflict has killed more than a quarter million people, displaced some 11 million, and has turned the once-cosmopolitan, secular country into a hive of factions with dangerously competing interests.

Perfetto: Owned stores in Montana before returning

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from a business called the Bargain Box in Orlando, Florida, where he said \$1 prices on clothing brought in droves of people who then started browsing other items.

"I think Goodwill has high prices for clothing," he said. "We didn't want to be that way ... We wanted to give people a place where they can come in and buy some clothing at a

reasonable price, and a buck is reasonable."

Originally from Pittsburgh, Perfetto joined the military at age 17, serving two years in the U.S. Navy and another two in the Army. After getting out in 1978, he said, he left the Virginia on a Greyhound bus with \$75 in his pocket to join an old military friend in San Diego.

Prior to thrifting, Perfetto was a special education assistant and substitute teacher in the San

Diego Unified School District. He still substitutes locally.

Deal hunter

He started his career of thrifting in 1987, selling baseball cards. He eventually graduated to buying entire storage lockers, and eventually worked for Kobey's Swap Meet, a large outdoor market in San Diego.

Perfetto would eventually run his own thrift stores in Flor-

ence and Shelby, Montana, near the Canadian border. About four months ago, Perfetto said, he and his girlfriend, feeling landlocked and isolated, decided to move back to Oregon.

"I'm going to be 60 next year," Perfetto said. "I'm not chasing money. I don't want to chase money. I would prefer giving money away to people who need it, or to organizations that need it."

— Edward Stratton

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING												AUGUST 29	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Bachelor in Paradise (N)				Mistresses "Fight or Flight" (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Bachelor in Paradise (N)				Mistresses "Fight or Flight" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	American Ninja Warrior "National Finals Week 1" (N)				Running Wild "Shaquille O'Neal" (N)		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Mom	2 Broke Girls	Mom	The Odd Couple	Scorpion "Hard Knox"		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Mom	2 Broke Girls	Mom	The Odd Couple	Scorpion "Hard Knox"		KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	American Ninja Warrior "National Finals Week 1" (N)				Ind Day at Fort	Running Wild "Shaquille O'Neal" (N)	(35) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(9) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	Supergirl "Blood Bonds"		Supergirl "Childish Things"		KGW News at 10	(35) Two 1/2 Men	(35) King of Hill	
10	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Simon & Garfunkel A once-in-a-lifetime 1981 benefit concert. Nitty Gritty Celebrate the band's musical milestones and hits.				Age Reversed			
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Think You Can Dance "The Next Generation: Top 5 Perform and Elimination" (N)				10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loaves & Fishes
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV			Law & Order: S.V.U. "Desperate"		Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Tortured"
13	KCPQ	(13) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Think You Can Dance "The Next Generation: Top 5 Perform and Elimination" (N)				Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family
20	TBS	(20) American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Full Frontal	Conan (N)	
22	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) MLB Baseball (L)		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) (4:00) ITF Tennis U.S. Open (L)		NFL Live		NFL Live		Baseball Tonight (L)		Jalen & Jacoby (N)	30 for 30 "Rand University"	Jalen & Jacoby	
31	NICK	(31) ALVIN!!!	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Crashletes	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Teen Beach Movie	(2013, Family) Maia Mitchell, Ross Lynch.	(45) Teen Beach Movie 2	(2015, Family) Maia Mitchell, Grace Phipps, Ross Lynch.	(40) Austin & Ally		(05) K.C. Underc.	Live and Maddie	Bunk'd		Stuck in Middle	
34	FAM	(34) (4:30) Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince '09	Daniel Radcliffe.	The Fosters	"Collateral Damage" (N)	Cheer Squad "Stage Fight"		Cheer Squad "Desperate Measures" (N)		The 700 Club			
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) Date Night	(45) ** Date Night	(2010, Comedy) Steve Carell, Mark Wahlberg, Tina Fey.	** The Watch	(2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.		UnREAL		** Perfect Stranger	(2007, Thriller) Bruce Willis, Halle Berry.		
36	LIFE	(36) (5:00) To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Devious Maids		UnREAL		(05) UnREAL			
38	ROOT	(38) (5:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers (L)		Post-game		MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Texas Rangers Site: Globe Life Park -- Arlington, Texas		Post-game				Post-game	
39	F51	(39) UFC Presents	UFC Presents (N)	WPT Poker Alpha8		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself		Fox Sports Live	Best I Heard (N)	Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports
43	SPIKE	(43) Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight		Beyond Scared Straight	"St. Clair, IL"
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	** Step Brothers	(2008, Comedy) John C. Reilly, Will Ferrell.			(15) Step Brothers	(08) Will Ferrell.
45	HIST	(45) American Pickers "Grin and Bear It"	American Pickers "Grin and Bear It"	American Pickers "Captain Quirk"	American Pickers "Captain Quirk"	American Pickers "Woody Wood Picker"	American Pickers "Woody Wood Picker"	American Pickers "This One Stings"		A. Pickers "Another Brick in the Wall"		(05) American Pickers	"Odd Fellas"
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Hot Ride/ Debt Collector"	The First 48 "Hot Ride/ Debt Collector"	The First 48 "Secrets and Lies"	The First 48 "Secrets and Lies"	The First 48 "A Killer's Trail" (N)	The First 48 "A Killer's Trail" (N)	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48 "The Invitation"		(05) The First 48	"Knock Knock"
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Too Close to Home "Dangerously Close"	Too Close to Home "Dangerously Close"	Alabama	Alabama	Too Close to Home "Highway 16" (N)	Too Close to Home "Highway 16" (N)	Too Close to Home "Alabama"		Too Close to Home	"Highway 16"
49	DISC	(49) Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud (N)		Biketacular (N)		(05) Fast N' Loud	
49	NGEO	(49) Wicked Tuna "Not How We Operate"	Live Free or Die "The Tough Get Going"	Live Free or Die "The Tough Get Going"	Castle "A Deadly Game"	Castle "A Deadly Game"	Rizzoli & Isles "Stuffed"	Rizzoli & Isles (N)		Major Crimes "Dead Zone" (N)		Mob Chi	"Last Man Standing" (SF) (N)
51	TNT	(51) (4:00) U.S. Marshals '98	Wesley Snipes.	** Open Range	(2003, Western) Kevin Costner, Annette Bening, Robert Duvall.							(05) Queen "Esta 'Cosa' Que es Nuestra"	
52	USA	(52) NCIS "Smoked"	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw							(05) Queen "Esta 'Cosa' Que es Nuestra"	
53	FOOD	(53) Kids Cook "Plenty of Fish in the Sea"	Kids Cook-Off "Food Fest Showdown"	Kids "Orange You Glad It's Brunch?" (N)	Cake Wars "Where's Waldo" (N)			Chopped "Chill Cook-Off"		Chopped "Every 'wich Way"			
54	HGTV	(54) Love It or List It "Under Construction"	Love It/List It "Mid Century Maternity"	Tiny House, Big	Tiny House, Big	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	HouseHunters (N)	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters
55	FX	(55) Turbo	(2013, Animated) Voices of Paul Giamatti, Maya Rudolph, Ryan Reynolds.	** Kung Fu Panda 2	(2011, Animated) Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan, Jack Black.			** Kung Fu Panda 2	(2011, Animated) Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan, Jack Black.				
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly	Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		On the Record			
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Adventure Capitalists "Desert" (N)	Adventure Capitalists "Lake/ Mountain"		Adventure Capitalists "Desert" (N)		The Profit		Paid Program		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRVA	(63) Housewives "Frenemies of the State"	Real Housewives "Something's Fishy"	Orange County Social (N)		Housewives "Woo Hoo Weekend" (N)		Odd Mom (SF) (N)		Odd Mom Out		WatchWhat	Real Housewives
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Algiers (38)	(45) **** Hold Back the Dawn	(41, Romance) Olivia De Havilland, Paulette Goddard, Charles Boyer.	** Gaslight	(1944, Thriller) Joseph Cotton, Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman.		** The Perfect Storm	(2000, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Diane Lane, George Clooney.			Fanny	(1961, Romance) Leslie Caron.
65	SYFY	(65) Movie	*** Deep Impact	(1998, Action) Morgan Freeman, Robert Duvall, Elijah Wood.		*** The Perfect Storm	(2000, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Diane Lane, George Clooney.						
162	RFD	(162) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Monty's Plant Food"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	

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