

May 1, 2022

Clapham Servants Board and Friends,

I am convinced many in churches today are being shaped more by the political news they take in, than by Jesus, through reading the Bible and being illuminated by the Holy Spirit in groups of people.

Case in point, in the span of several days last week, I heard two polemic attacks on how the media is using us for its own profit and political gains. The first, from the political right, came from Newsweek's Deputy Opinion Editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon and her attack on the New York Times for its promoting a progressive "woke" agenda. The second, from the political left, came from New York Times writer Nicholas Confessore's reporting on Tucker Carlson of Fox News writing "Night after night on Fox, Tucker Carlson weaponizes his viewers' fears and grievances to create what may be the most racist show in the history of cable news. ( Both writers from the right and from the left make telling points ! )

The results though, is a toxic politicized world and in such of an environment, how is it possible to take on important issues of the day and see people shaped by Jesus ? In our recent initiatives, our team has hosted the following two events to accomplish this.

- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of us related our impactful October 30, 2021 experience at the Royall House in Medford, MA, to a gathering at the Medway Village Church. We explained how we "witnessed" life from the perspective of the 27 slaves who labored in that wealthy and influential household in the 1750s. This, in turn, generated a deeper empathy for others and created interest in participating in a similar experience. Then on April 3, another group of us related this same experience at the Union Congregational Church in Magnolia. We were met with a similar response. I have concluded, from these and other ministry initiatives on issues of distrust with regards to issues of racial injustice, that people in white evangelical churches are looking for "on ramps" for how to respond meaningfully in ways that reflect the life of Jesus.
- I am excited to announce our upcoming Spiritual Foundation Tour in October. Check out our new brochure. If there is a young adult you know who might be interested in making this trip, please pass this on to them. Click [here](#) to have a look. (Once you print it out, it folds into an attractive brochure.)
- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christine Seibert will team up with Jean and me for "Creation Care III" at the Medway Village Church.



- Ann Seavey, from Rockport, MA, has recently joined the Clapham Servants Board.  
Hurray!

Thank you for standing with us, as we navigate these challenging public square engagements in the name of Jesus.