

Reaching out strengthens community after of police violence and shootings

Jonathan and Yoshiko Halsey

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Unificationists Jonathan and Yoshiko Halsey of Irving, TX have been actively reaching out to their community in the aftermath of the recent police violence and the Dallas shootings.

For several months, the couple has set aside time every Saturday to walk around and knock on doors in their extended neighborhood in order to foster relationships with their neighbors and cultivate a familial community spirit. They feel a renewed calling to this activity in light of the recent escalation in violence and its undoubted impact on both their local and the national community.

Jonathan commented on their outings, “The goal is to touch the hearts of the people, as encouraged by Chief Brown and President Obama at the slain police officers’ memorial on July 12 in Dallas. To do that one must first break down the barriers of suspicion and fear, not only within one’s self but in the people one meets.

“Here’s how we did it. First, I reduced my own fear of meeting strangers by bringing my wife with me. This reduced my neighbors’ suspicion and fear, enhanced my credibility, gave me moral support and a semblance of protection. Besides, two heads are better than one. Being Japanese, my wife speaks very little English, but boy, she can sure smile.

“Second, I further reduced my fear and increased my confidence, considerably, by making a gift to give each household who answered their door.” Jonathan and Yoshiko give out handmade cottonwood bark holders to everyone they meet, which can support a pen, paper, or just about anything that fits the one-inch hole Jonathan drills into the center of each piece he has cut and sanded down. The gift bears a list of

12 quotes from the American founding fathers, invoking the hopeful and virtuous heritage on which America stands.

Jonathan, though retired, continues to work as both an artist and a curate of the American Museum of God, which he founded in his home in 2013. The museum is designed primarily “to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth through a better understanding of God’s nature, His principles of creation, and His providence for mankind,” something which Jonathan feels couldn’t be more needed at this volatile and divided time.



“This museum could help the Dallas Police immensely. Just think: kids could get a visual and tactile perspective of God that they can’t get at church or at a secular museum. All my displays of ‘found object’ artwork and the artifacts themselves convey the three universally accepted attributes of God: truth, beauty, and goodness.

“Consider a piece of common quartz that can be found in any pile of gravel. Quartz is one of the best arguments for the existence of God. Quartz emits an electromagnetic pulse so regular and exact that it’s used to calibrate watches and clocks. So like God, quartz is absolute and unchanging.

“Now just imagine if I had a huge warehouse to house all my ‘found objects’ and a few tools and hardware to turn them into art. I could take kids off the streets for a few hours, teach them about creation and its Godly causes, then let them try and create a unique piece of art themselves. The sky’s the limit.”

Jonathan and Yoshiko also plan to invite city council members to tour the Museum of God and win their hearts to the idea of supporting local youth and strengthening the community of Irving together.