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April 25, 2024

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**How a Small Art Studio in Utah Can Lead Out in Helping Abandon Attitudes and
Actions of Prejudice in the US Through Developing an Art Movement
Promoting Greater Peace, Love, and Unity.**

By

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Doctor of Ministry

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Abstract

How a Small Art Studio in Utah Can Lead Out in Helping Abandon Attitudes and Actions of Prejudice in the US Through Developing an Art Movement Promoting Greater Peace, Love, and Unity.

By Timothy S. Paulson

A small art studio in Utah (Paulson Creativity Studio, LLC) is working to become a force in helping to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice. Though progress has been made since the days of chattel slavery, the antebellum South, and Jim Crow laws, much remains to be done because racial inequality, police brutality, oppression, and contemporary situations filled with racist violence continue. Attitudes and actions of prejudice are significant causes of systemic racism, and this work advances a solution through building greater peace, love, and unity to help people abandon them. A new art movement called "Totalityism" is developing by merging art with Christ-centered theology as a catalyst for social impact. Like Martin Luther King Jr., who actively combined theology with social change in his time as a minister, Totalityism is based on art and theology enjoying enriching vitality when they interact and become a force for social impact. Artists from the past, including Romare Bearden, Sam Doyle, Norman Rockwell and others, utilized their art to bring attention to social issues and to advocate change, which, along with the lives and teachings of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Russell M. Nelson, inform this project. Resources engaged to help answer the problem of race prejudice began with the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize given by Morehouse College to President Russell M. Nelson. Timothy Paulson has created several paintings as part of a new ministry innovation with the theoretical insight that merging art and theology with a Christ focus moves people emotionally and triggers attention to help stimulate social change. The conclusion shares that which has been learned from this project, the progress made to date, and the future of the work of helping to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice.

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Promoting Greater Peace, Love, and Unity.**

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Part 1. Introduction:

In April of 2023, Morehouse College in Atlanta awarded its inaugural Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize to Russell M. Nelson, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, helping to inspire this project to solve the problem of racism as a plague permeating society. This evil scourge is a barrier to peace, love, and unity among God’s children, an unfortunate multilayered system in our culture.¹ Racism is complex and nuanced, and helping to uproot it promises to be complicated.² This project is about helping to solve the problem by creating a catalyst for the abandonment of attitudes and actions of prejudice, which is what Russell M. Nelson has called for and on which this project centers.

My working definition of prejudice is “a feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race.”³ I sometimes use prejudice and racism synonymously in this project because by directly helping to eliminate prejudice, an impact in rooting out racism in the US can be made. My use of the term “rooting out racism” refers to identifying the causes of prejudice and racism and helping eliminate them.

Though progress has been made since the days of chattel slavery, the antebellum South, and Jim Crow laws, much remains to be done because racial inequality, police brutality, oppression, and contemporary situations filled with racist violence continue. Racial disparity exists in institutions across society, sometimes in increasing ways.⁴ Attitudes and actions of

¹ Joy DeGruy, *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s legacy of enduring Injury & Healing* (Joy DeGruy Publications, 2017), 11.

² Melissa Wei-Tsing Inoué, “Rooting out Racism,” (Provo: J. Reuben Clark Law School, 2021): 1, <https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/clarkmemorandum/69>.

³ The Britannica Dictionary, n.d. “Prejudice.” Accessed October 23, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/prejudice#:~:text=definition%20of%20PREJUDICE-,1,%5Bnoncount%5D>.

⁴ Robin DeAngelo, *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2018), 23.

prejudice are significant causes of systemic racism, but I advance a solution through building greater peace, love, and unity to help people abandon them.

This work is informed by Martin Luther King Jr.'s beliefs and teachings regarding the harm done by "the appalling silence of the good people," as well as the biblical verse in James 4:17 (KJV): "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."⁵ For me to remain silent could be considered upholding racism, which is unacceptable to me. This work seeks to challenge and stretch people to understand their beliefs as well as those of others and to work in harmony to unite people.⁶ President Russell M. Nelson said to the church, "Let us lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice," a message that went straight to my heart and is at the core of this work.⁷

Research Question:

The research question for this project is how a small art studio in Utah can lead out in helping abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US through developing an art movement promoting greater peace, love, and unity. Art movements can be defined as a style of art with a specific objective and philosophy followed by a group of artists during a specific period.⁸ The art movement I am developing is called "Totalityism" and, from an objective and

⁵ Martin Luther King Jr., "Some Things We Must Do," address delivered at the second annual Institute on Nonviolence and Social Change, Holt Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, December 5, 1957, Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University, kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/some-things-we-must-do-address-delivered-second-annual-institute-nonviolence.

⁶ Esau McCaulley, *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2020), 7.

⁷The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Let God Prevail," accessed November 1, 2023, <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2020/10/46nelson?lang=eng>.

⁸ Vernon Hyde Minor, *Art History's History* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2001), 128.

philosophical perspective, it merges art with Christ-centered theology for social impact. From a stylistic perspective, the art is deliberately created boldly, with the artist attacking the canvas with thick paint without fear or hesitation, creating a textured surface illustrative of attacking attitudes and actions of prejudice without fear or hesitation. The movement will further develop as other artists join me over time with their art and energy. Artists from the past, including Romare Bearden, Sam Doyle, and Norman Rockwell, utilized their art to bring attention to social issues and to advocate change, which, along with the lives and teachings of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Russell M. Nelson, inspire me and inform this project.

I focus this work on increasing peace, love, and unity for sound reasons. Regarding peace, it is noteworthy that Gandhi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times, Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, and Russell M. Nelson was awarded the inaugural Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize in 2023. Love is essential to this work because the two great commandments Jesus gave center on loving God and your neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39), with love being a significant source for change. The focus on unity comes from the belief that not being separate but together is necessary for change. Peace, love, and unity are individually essential and synergistically more effective, with the newly developing art movement incorporating all three. Through my small art studio in Utah, *Paulson Creativity Studio, LLC*, I am producing paintings and am working to become an influence by merging art and theology as a catalyst for social impact.⁹

The art studio, along with Totality Ministries (the ministry context that promotes its mission), were founded and are directed by me. Leo Tolstoy, the Russian author who was

⁹ Earle J. Coleman, *Creativity and Spirituality: Bonds between Art and Religion* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), 45.

nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times and who influenced both Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. toward non-violent resistance, advanced the belief that the true value of art is to promote solidarity, brotherly love, or spiritual union.¹⁰ As a second-generation artist with a lifetime of observing the influence art has on people, my approach is in agreement with Tolstoy as my art helps advance peace, love, and unity. Totality Ministries is not a church but is a ministering context defined as “learning of and attending to others’ needs, doing the Lord’s work, representing Jesus Christ, and acting as His agents to watch over, lift, and strengthen those around us.”¹¹ This work is specifically about representing Jesus Christ in doing the Lord’s work in lifting and strengthening the oppressed and marginalized by helping to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US.

Poignant visions and insights of civil rights leaders have helped to inform this work. For example, Martin Luther King, Jr. said:

I say to you today, my friends, even though we face difficulties today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’¹²

This work is about people taking action to help see Dr. King’s dream come to fruition with a focus on God being most essential to its success as I find Him in both art and theology.

Thesis statement:

My small art studio in Utah, with the help of Totality Ministries as the ministry context

¹⁰ Ibid., 4.

¹¹ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “Ministering.” Accessed September 16, 2023. www.ministering.lds.org.

¹² Martin Luther King, Jr., *I Have a Dream* (New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2012), 12.

driving the message, can be a force in helping to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice and help root out racism in the US through the developing art movement that involves paintings with social impact and messages of Christ from the Bible to draw attention to articles and podcast episodes that encourage people to help with this work.

Roadmap for this paper:

This paper begins by discussing resources I engaged in helping answer the problem of race prejudice, starting with the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize given by Morehouse College to President Russell M. Nelson, with the work of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela integrated throughout. The paper proceeds to discuss my developing art movement, considered the ministry practice of merging art and theology with a focus on Christ for social impact. The paper continues by discussing how Totality Ministries is the ministry context helping to advance Totalityism and speaks of six paintings I created that are part of the new ministry innovation (photos of all six paintings are shown in the Appendix).¹³ The paper presents the theoretical insight that merging art and theology with a Christ focus moves people emotionally and triggers attention and stimulates social change, the ministry practice that incorporates the new theological idea. The paper concludes with a review of what has been learned from this project, the progress made to date, and the future of the work.

Part 2. Resources engaged to answer the problem:

A significant resource to answer the problem is my more than thirty years of experience in the marketing field, which I have drawn upon to conceive, name, and create the developing art movement that brings attention to solutions to the problem. The idea of starting an art movement

¹³ Appendix, figs. 4, 10, 14, 18, 24, 28.

was inspired in part by my study of the work and writings of an African American artist named Romare Bearden (1911-1988). As part of my research, I visited the Brigham Young University Museum of Art in 2022 to see a temporary exhibit of Bearden's work, which I have followed up with by studying his work and writings. In 1963, Bearden helped initiate a black artists' collective he called "Spiral," a group that formed with 15 artists in New York as a response to the March on Washington led by Martin Luther King, Jr.¹⁴ The Spiral artists ranged from Abstract Expressionists to social protest painters who came together to discuss the role of the artists in the civil rights movement and fight for social justice. They selected the Archimedean spiral as a symbol for the group because "it moves outward and embraces all directions, yet constantly upward," symbolic of what the group was about.¹⁵ In 2010, the Birmingham Museum of Art held an exhibition featuring the work of Spiral artists and wrote in the exhibition magazine the following;

The artists in the group were moved to gather to discuss their own engagement in the struggle for civil rights, and each resolved the question of engagement in a different way... its formation allowed for a shared response to the enormous energy and courage that marked the struggle for civil rights in the early 1960s.¹⁶

Bearden and the others used their art as a force for civil rights, which has helped inspire me to strive to do the same today. Like Bearden responding to the struggle by starting Spiral, I have

¹⁴ Romare Bearden and Harry Henderson, *A History of African-American Artists* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1993), 400-403.

¹⁵ British Broadcasting Corporation, accessed November 16, 2023 from <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20220318-the-ancient-enigma-that-still-resonates-today>.

¹⁶ Birmingham Museum of Art, accessed November 20, 2023 from <https://www.artsbma.org/exhibition/spiral-perspectives-on-an-african-american-art-collective>.

responded by developing Totalityism. Bearden invited other artists into Spiral, which is what I intend to do to help develop the new art movement.

Resources engaged to answer the problem include the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize given by Morehouse College to President Russell M. Nelson because it provides insights into the work of the civil rights leaders for which the award is named. I have studied books written by and about Gandhi, King, Mandela, and President Nelson to discover how they helped create peace, love, and unity. I have studied art history to discern how to develop an art movement as a catalyst for bringing attention to efforts and means to solve the problem. I have had meaningful discussions with black pastors to better understand prejudice and racism and their suggestions on how to root it out. I have created paintings specifically to help develop the art movement. I discovered Mandela's "Freedom Statement" for South Africa and Dr. King's "Ten Commandments Card" for his volunteers, both of which helped inspire me to write the new "Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge," which is just part of the beginning of my advancing and measuring the impact of this work (discussed below).

The Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize:

The awarding of the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize by Morehouse College to Russell M. Nelson, the then 98-year-old prophet and president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the church I am proud to be a member of), must have seemed odd to some because Morehouse College is an Historically Black College (HBCU), while President Nelson is white and leads a church with, as do many Christian churches, some history of racism.¹⁷ Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Jr. (the founding Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College) noted that President Nelson has reached out to all races, moving "outside

¹⁷ Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1976), 4-5.

the box” to make inroads and to create peace between all races.¹⁸ Because the problem I am striving to solve involves generating more peace, discovering how President Nelson has done it effectively enough to be awarded a Peace Prize is instructive.

Russell M. Nelson:

To learn more about the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize, I traveled to Morehouse College in Atlanta and visited the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel where the Peace Prize ceremony occurred. A Morehouse College announcement says that the prize is awarded to “a person who promotes peace and positive social transformation through nonviolent means.” The announcement adds, “The individuals use their global leadership to affirm peace, justice, diversity, and pluralism.” The board selected President Nelson for his global efforts in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice against any group of God’s children through nonviolent ways.¹⁹ Upon presenting the award to President Nelson, Rev. Dr. Carter said;

As an internationally recognized medical scientist, revered president, prophet, seer, and revelator for the 17-million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you have continued the legacy of Joseph Smith, founder of the Latter-day Saints movement and the first nationally recognized religious leader in the United States to advocate for the freedom of enslaved Africans by affirming racial and ethnic equality and running for the American presidency on a political platform of compensation emancipation.²⁰

¹⁸ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints newsroom, “The Prophet Receives Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize,” accessed November 16, 2023, from <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/the-prophet-receives-gandhi-king-mandela-peace-prize>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

While it must be difficult for African American believers to look at the history of Christianity and not be bothered because of Christian churches' mistreatment of black people, Dr. Carter complimented President Nelson for working tirelessly to build bridges of understanding rather than creating walls of segregation.²¹ After visiting Morehouse College and learning more about the peace prize, I was inspired to study how Gandhi, King, and Mandela made significant impacts on creating peace while working to change attitudes and actions of prejudice.

The research for this work included a study of what President Nelson has said and done to help create change. In addition to inviting the church to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice, he presented a landmark talk titled "Peacemakers Needed" at the church's April 2023 General Conference. In the talk, he said;

I've stated before, and repeat today, that racism, sexism, and a host of other-isms are universally and tragically limiting in the way we regard and treat each other. Any abuse or prejudice toward another because of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, culture, or any other identifiers is offensive to our maker and defies the first and second great commandments that we should love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. We firmly believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.²²

In light of President Nelson's messages to the church and Dr. Carter's referring to President Nelson as a prophet, the following quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. is apropos: "May the problem of race in America soon make hearts to burn so that prophets will rise

²¹ *Reading While Black*, 135.

²² The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, accessed November 16, 2023 from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2023/04/47nelson?lang=eng>.

up saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord.’”²³ President Nelson has risen up to say that God is offended by prejudice and adds, “The Creator calls on all to abandon attitudes of prejudice against any group of God’s children. Any of us who has prejudice toward another race needs to repent!”²⁴

In the wake of George Floyd’s murder in 2020, President Nelson co-authored a joint op-ed with the Reverend Amos C. Brown, Derrick Johnson, and Leon Russell, leaders of the NAACP. Together, they called for government, business, and educational leaders to review processes, laws, and organizational attitudes regarding racism and root them out once and for all.²⁵ Rev. Dr. Carter told President Nelson that people need to do what he did, to go “outside the box” and do something unexpected. President Nelson helped facilitate nearly \$10M donated to the NAACP, including money to black universities for scholarships.²⁶ In his book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, civil rights leader James Cone wrote about how American religious leaders have fallen short in the problem of race. Cone said a serious failure of religious leaders is to not engage in America’s greatest moral issue, with white theologians often ignoring the problem of race, and that it is unfortunate they have not written or spoken about it with urgency nor

²³ *The Arc*, 159.

²⁴ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints newsroom, accessed November 16, 2023, from <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/president-nelson-shares-social-post-encouraging-understanding-and-civility>.

²⁵ Russell M. Nelson, Derrick Johnson, Leon Russell, and Amos C. Brown, “Locking Arms for Racial Harmony in America: What the NAACP and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Are Doing Together,” Religion, Medium.com, June 8, 2020, medium.com/@Ch_JesusChrist/locking-arms-for-racial-harmony-in-america-2f62180abf37.

²⁶ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints newsroom. “The Prophet Receives Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize,” accessed November 16, 2023, from <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/the-prophet-receives-gandhi-king-mandela-peace-prize>.

regarded it as critical.²⁷ However, President Nelson stands out by not ignoring the problem of race but by speaking of it with urgency while regarding it as critical.

Inspired by President Nelson's words and actions, my small art studio in Utah is doing what may be considered the unexpected by striving to develop a new art movement. I have created paintings, written articles, and recorded podcast episodes specifically for this project. Comments on social media have followed when I post about the paintings, articles, and podcast episodes (examples included in the Appendix).²⁸ In articles and podcast episodes, I talk of Christ and how it is through Him we can see change.²⁹ I have mentioned Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela, along with President Nelson's clarion call to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice by becoming peacemakers; again, my response to lead out is done through the ministry context of Totality Ministries.³⁰

Martin Luther King, Jr.:

The Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize led me to a deep study of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work, including his being awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the civil rights movement and commitment to achieving racial justice through nonviolent action. In his acceptance speech, Dr. King discussed ways to

²⁷ *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, 51.

²⁸ Appendix, fig. 22, 27, 42-43.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 3.

³⁰ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Russell M. Nelson, "Peacemakers Needed," accessed June 16, 2023 from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2023/04/47nelson?lang=eng>.

overcome the evils of racial injustice, poverty, and war.³¹ He delivered numerous other speeches and wrote about racism and its impact on society. For example, he said, "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."³² I was strongly influenced when discovering that volunteers who assisted Dr. King were required to sign a commitment card, which included the following language: "I hereby pledge myself – my person and body – to the non-violent movement. Therefore, I will keep the following ten commandments," after which ten statements were listed.³³ Dr. King's commitment card helped inspire me to write the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge that I invite people to sign as a beginning of a solution to prejudice, discussed below.

Gandhi:

Study of the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize led to my learning more about Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the Indian independence movement against British rule who was an unwavering advocate for social justice, equality, and nonviolent resistance. He spoke out against racism and discrimination, particularly regarding colonialism and the struggle for Indian independence. After reading Gandhi's autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, I more fully appreciate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s high praise, in which he said that more than anyone else, Gandhi had caught the spirit of Jesus Christ

³¹ The Nobel Peace Prize, "King Acceptance Speech," accessed on November 14, 2023, <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/acceptance-speech>.

³² Ibid.

³³ James Melvin Washington, ed., *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches Martin Luther King, Jr.* (New York: Harper One, 1986), 537.

and lived it more completely in his life, even though Gandhi was not Christian.³⁴ As previously mentioned, Gandhi was influenced by an intensive study of Leo Tolstoy's books, including *The Gospels in Brief* and *What to Do?*, which helped him realize the boundless possibilities of universal love, also integral to this work.³⁵ Martin Luther King, Jr. often said, "Christ gave us the goals, and Mahatma Gandhi provided the tactics."³⁶ A study of Gandhi's writings and life have added to the framing of and advancement of this work, especially his tireless efforts and willingness to suffer whatever and however he needed in order to advance the cause.

Nelson Mandela:

The Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize also led me to study of the life of Nelson Mandela. Mandela, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, was a significant figure in the fight against apartheid and for equality, later becoming the President of South Africa.³⁷ He spoke broadly about racism and its effects and emphasized the need for unity, understanding, and reconciliation among all people. He famously said, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."³⁸ This work merges art and theology to help people learn to love. In his autobiography, Mandela

³⁴ *Color of Christ*, 213.

³⁵ *Experiments*, 140.

³⁶ *Strength to love*, ix.

³⁷ *Long Walk*, 597.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 609.

wrote of a “Freedom Charter” he penned in 1955, a document “advancing the aspirational principles of freedom and democracy for South Africa that became a beacon for the liberation struggle.” The Freedom Charter extols the abolition of racial discrimination and the achievement of equal rights for all.³⁹ Mandela’s Freedom Charter and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Commitment Card helped inspire me to write the following Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.

The Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge:

Again, this project centers on the question of how my small art studio in Utah can help lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US through a developing art movement as a catalyst to increase peace, love, and unity. Hence, I encourage individuals to sign The Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge as a commitment to help; it is located online at www.Totalityism.com, where it can be signed electronically.

The Pledge reads as follows:

I pledge to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the United States by:

1. **Taking a Stand:** I will strive to do even better in lovingly speaking out against prejudice when I encounter it while promoting peace, love, and unity.
2. **Peace:** I will strive to do even better in seeking ways to be a peacemaker, including resolving conflicts peacefully.
3. **Love:** I will strive to do even better in loving God and my neighbor and helping to create an environment where love flourishes.

³⁹ Ibid., 161-163.

4. **Unity:** I will strive to do even better in fostering unity by being inclusive and appreciating diversity and working to bridge divides.
5. **Encourage Others:** I will strive to invite others to join to spread the message of peace, love, and unity and working together to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the United States.

I wrote the Pledge as a beginning for people to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice; it is just the start of my effort to help in this work. To date, the Pledge has yet to gain a great deal of traction, but it is the first step of many innovations and actions I will take. Presently, one of the purposes for me creating a painting is to write and lead people to articles and podcast episodes where they are introduced to the Pledge and encouraged to sign it. In order to sign the Pledge, people are required to add their email address, which shows their commitment and allows me to keep in contact to encourage them to honor their pledge. Additionally, on the www.Totalityism.com website is a section for people to write and share a story of how they and others have created peace, love, and unity.⁴⁰ This involvement helps encourage signers to honor their Pledge.

Since introducing the Pledge in November 2023, scores of people have signed it.⁴¹ Signing the Pledge equates with addressing prejudice because it encourages people to strive to use their voices to challenge prejudices, strive to do better in key areas, educate others, and invite others to do the same. To avoid having the signing of the Pledge devolve into people signing and not doing anything more, their email address is required so I can continue to communicate to encourage their ongoing commitment and action. Though the Pledge does not yet have the

⁴⁰ Appendix, fig. 2.

⁴¹ Ibid., fig. 43.

thousand or more signers I had hoped for by now, it will remain and continue because I expect through my persistence and ongoing marketing efforts, it will eventually spread and enter discussions in various forums as a way people can make a commitment and take action. I have been in the marketing field long enough to know that a relatively slow start does not preclude something like the Pledge eventually catching on and gaining significance. Again, the Pledge is just the beginning of my efforts and will integrate with significant future innovations I will introduce in advancing this important work.

Research and Education:

I understand that working to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice and racism is deeply complex and nuanced. My education and experience grow as I continue to devote study to becoming more informed. My research has resulted in understanding the history of race prejudice and racism, its impact, and the experiences of marginalized groups. I am fortunate to be in the Doctor of Ministry program at Emory University with several black pastors and others who have extensive experience on the subject and have freely shared insights with me. I have read scores of books, studied documentaries, visited a Jewish synagogue as well as black churches (including the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the church once pastored by Martin Luther King, Jr.), visited an HBCU, and listened to stories and experiences of those impacted by racism.⁴² The result of the research is that I see how my work as an artist can be a catalyst for bringing attention to the problem of prejudice with unique solutions.

Research for this project has included diversifying my formal education to include a range of voices and perspectives. After attending the conservative Liberty University to earn two master's degrees, I have attended the more liberal and ecumenical Emory University's Candler

⁴² Ibid., fig. 37.

School of Theology for a doctorate. The result is that I have enjoyed an increased understanding and growth, which has helped prompt me to paint paintings specifically for this project (information about the paintings follows).

Finally, my education has included a study of art history, including learning of art movements over time, with many personal visits to art museums. The study of art history brought to light the Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky's (1866-1944) suggestion that when art is not flourishing, religion languishes and that art and religion enjoy the greatest vitality when they interact.⁴³ I note that Kandinsky's comment regarding art and religion interacting is in harmony with my work of merging art and theology for social change.

Black Pastors:

I am aware that because I am white, there are racial dynamics I am blind to.⁴⁴ The study for this work has illuminated ways of pursuing change through having authentic relationships with people different than me.⁴⁵ Hence, I approached several black pastor friends of mine with the question, "How can we root out racism in the US?" I posed the question to Rev. Fred Robinson, a Baptist pastor; Rev. Mary Mitchell, a United Methodist pastor; Rev. Noel Simms, a Pentecostal pastor; Rev. Keithlyn Warner, an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) pastor; and Rev. Elliott Robinson, an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) assistant pastor.

I have come to more clearly understand that the question of how to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice and root out racism in the US is not easily answerable. Rev.

⁴³ *Art History*, xix.

⁴⁴ *White Fragility*, 14.

⁴⁵ Jemar Tisby, *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2021), 5.

Elliott Robinson suggested that to do so, we should start with honest consideration of the following questions⁴⁶:

- Are people willing to acknowledge the existence of racism and systems that function in highly racist manners? Are they willing to dismantle those systems and replace them with systems based on love, equity, equality, fairness, and justice?
- Do they believe everyone is made in the Image of God? Do they treat everyone they encounter as if they are made in God's Image? If not, why not?
- Do they believe being racist or prejudiced hinders someone's relationship with God? If so, to what extent? Is it enough of a hindrance to impact eternal life?

Discussions with each pastor brought the following suggestions for helping to root out racism in the US:

- It will come when white people love justice more than privilege, when white people teach their children about justice above privilege.
- It will come in part through "Liberation theology," when people do what the Bible says through deconstructing it with liberation theology in mind.
- It can happen when there is a redistribution of wealth.
- The Bible talks about the heart and rooting out racism will happen with an increase of love and peace, gifts of the Spirit; racism is not a gift of the Spirit, but love is.

Rev. Mary Mitchell suggested the following is needed to help solve the problem⁴⁷:

- Continue to bring awareness to address the problem.
- Stop pretending racism does not exist because we had a black president.

⁴⁶ Appendix fig. 35.

⁴⁷ Ibid., fig. 34.

- Individuals need to speak up and speak out when racist acts or conversations occur in their midst.
- Remove the systems that are in place where discrimination and racism are embedded.

Discussions with these black pastors helped me to understand that racial progress occurs from the sustained efforts of people who are dedicated to fighting racism in all its forms.⁴⁸ After considering what I should do with the answers received from the pastors, I painted a large 4’x5’ painting of the Statue of Liberty at dusk titled *Yearning to Breathe Free* to share the answers through an article I wrote and a podcast episode I recorded about the painting (the painting is described below).

Part 3. How the problem was answered with innovation designed to address the problem;

The resources engaged to answer the problem:

The developing new Art Movement – Totalityism:

A twentieth-century philosopher named Anada Kentish Muthu Coomaraswamy made major contributions to the philosophy of art and religion and was outspoken in his opposition to racism while being a strong advocate for Indian independence, helping to provide a frame for this project. He did so by promoting Indian art in London and, like me, he believed in the comparative method as he analyzed texts and symbols across cultures and time periods. He said, “Art is religion, religion art, not related, but the same.”⁴⁹ Coomaraswamy’s quote evokes the Kandinsky quote mentioned earlier regarding art and religion interacting and beautifully informs the developing art movement. Reminiscent of Gandhi inventing the new word “Satyagraha” to designate India’s struggle against British rule in India, Totalityism is a new word signifying the

⁴⁸ *Fight Racism*, 3.

⁴⁹ *Creativity*, xiv.

developing art movement.⁵⁰ The term Totalityism comes from Totality, as in the total eclipse of the sun, an ideal image to represent unity, peace, and love because at Totality, the sun and moon are in complete unity; peace falls over the land as nature goes still; love is represented as the burning corona dramatically appears. As Romare Bearden chose the Archimedean spiral as the symbol for Spiral, I have chosen Totality as the symbol of Totalityism.

While Martin Luther King Jr. actively began combining theology with social change in his time as a minister, Totalityism is based on the belief that art and theology enjoy enriching vitality when they interact and can become a force for social change.⁵¹ Totalityism and its message appear in articles at www.Medium.com, in podcast episodes at www.TotalityismPodcast.com, and on the website at www.Totalityism.com.

The process of Totalityism:

I refer to Totalityism as a new ministry practice which is advanced chiefly online through the ministry context of Totality Ministries. It helps answer the question posed in this work and consists of the following process:

1. I paint a new painting or identify one of my previously completed paintings. (Over time, I will invite other artists to join to help develop the art movement with their art and influence.)
2. Each painting is identified as one that advances a message about Christ and helps to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice through peace, love, and unity – the paintings have meaning beyond being static pieces of art.
3. The paintings draw attention to articles I write about the paintings that include biblical references, and vice versa.

⁵⁰ *Experiments*, 284.

⁵¹ *Strength to Love*, ix.

4. I record podcast episodes to help advance the messages in the articles, presently including the invitation to sign of The Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge (other initiatives will be added in the future).

5. My online art gallery (www.PaulsonArtShow.com) also helps promote Totalityism and its purposes.

Using art to help promote the abandoning of attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US:

It has been said that when a person comes to love art and “to be moved by it in a deep and inexplicable way, something magical has happened.”⁵² I have viewed the work of Da Vinci and Rembrandt in the National Gallery in London, Van Gogh’s sunflowers in the Art Institute of Chicago, paintings by Jackson Pollock in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City, and much more great art around the world. Interestingly, it was the rather crude folk art of Sam Doyle, a self-taught black artist, that inspired me most. Like when I viewed Romare Bearden’s art mentioned earlier, something almost magical happened when I viewed Doyle’s work in a show at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Sam Doyle:

Doyle was born on St. Helens Island, SC, in 1906. He was an artist with few resources who used what he had available to paint on, such as discarded corrugated metal sheets and boards. When I first saw Doyle’s paintings in the LACMA, they seemed simple and almost naive, but they captivated me. Many of his paintings have layers of meaning and social commentary, which helped inspire me to create paintings with social commentary. Doyle illustrated racial progress in his home area by painting portraits to honor black people. For example, when a black person became the first to practice a profession on the island, such as the

⁵² *Art History*, 26.

first black doctor, midwife, driver, laundryman, barber, policeman, postman, and embalmer, Doyle painted their portrait. He painted religious subjects and portraits of Martin Luther King, Jr., Ray Charles, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, and others to show racial progress in the US. Today, Doyle's work appears in major museums, including the High Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.⁵³ Inspired by Doyle, I have painted portraits of Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King, Jr. to celebrate the contributions they have made in social justice and again, to help advance this work. Through viewing Doyle's art, my imagination was fired with possibilities of my art being more than a painting hanging on a wall, but as a catalyst for making social impact.

Because a work of art can arouse feelings of intensity, my paintings bring attention to the problem and solutions discussed in this work.⁵⁴ The art is intended to include meaning beyond the surface like Romare Bearden and Sam Doyle's art does, that starts and continues conversations and discussions on ways to advance social justice. This is why when I create a new painting, I write an article and record a podcast episode about it to bring awareness and start discussions online via written responses to posts I make about my art, articles, and podcast episodes.⁵⁵ One example is a post I made on Facebook that featured a painting I did with portraits of Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela titled *Peace, Love, and Unity*, along with a link to an article I wrote about it. The article led to my introducing the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge with an invitation for people to sign it (the painting, article, and podcast episode art are shown in the

⁵³ National Gallery of Art, "Sam Doyle." Accessed November 20, 2023. <https://www.nga.gov/features/exhibitions/outliers-and-american-vanguard-artist-biographies/sam-doyle.html>

⁵⁴ *Art History*, 37.

⁵⁵ Appendix, fig 42-43.

Appendix).⁵⁶ As a result, people commented on the post, scores clicked on the article, and some signed the Pledge.

I have advanced the idea that art and theology go hand in hand as theology inspires art, and art can communicate the numinous. For Paul Tillich (1886-1965), one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century, art without explicitly religious subjects can still be religious. He suggested that everything in human culture has a religious dimension as long as it points to the holy.⁵⁷ A manifestation of Tillich's thought is a painting in the new art movement titled *Rise from the Dust*, a \$7-yard sale painting that I bought and transformed into a colorful abstract painting now priced at \$1,000,000. My decades of marketing experience led to pricing the painting at an exorbitant amount to bring attention to the painting and its message. People hear and read about a \$7-yard sale painting that was transformed into a million-dollar piece of art, and it accomplishes the task of drawing attention to this work. The painting will likely never sell at the high price, but it is illustrative of how my marketing experience is helping to solve the problem. Tillich's comment that art without explicitly religious subjects can still be religious comes to light as I have written articles and recorded podcast episodes that include "shadows of Christ," such as in *Rise from the Dust*. What is meant by shadows of Christ, consistent with Tillich's thought, is that though not directly depicted in the painting, Christ can indirectly be found in it as a shadow is to a tree. Shadows can appear in various ways, such as the indirect addressing of social justice issues in Sam Doyle's paintings and the title *Rise from the Dust* itself being a shadow of Christ rising in the resurrection.

⁵⁶ Ibid., fig. 18-21.

⁵⁷ Earle J. Coleman, *Creativity and Spirituality: Bonds between Art and Religion* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), 15-16.

The Art of Totalityism:

Art is potent because it can transcribe or bear meaning.⁵⁸ Utilizing art to help bring glory to God by helping to abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US certainly makes this work potent.⁵⁹ Art history reveals many art movements, periods, and styles over the centuries, such as *Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Impressionism, Cubism, Expressionism, and Harlem Renaissance*, among others.⁶⁰ Again, Totalityism's style of art is painting boldly, attacking the canvas with thick paint without fear or hesitation, creating texture on the surface, with the underlying objective and philosophy of attacking attitudes and actions of prejudice. Though presently in its developing stage, as other artists aligned with the objective, philosophy, and style of this work join with me, Totalityism can become a mature art movement.

Binding together multiple things, in this case, art and theology and social impact, can reveal and uncover the invisible (like poetry is "a speaking picture" and painting is "a silent poem").⁶¹ As discussed, I have created paintings that are illustrative of and integral to the art movement and are a part of the innovation advanced in this work. Following are details about paintings that are part of the innovation of a new art movement.

Rise from the Dust is a painting that is part of the innovation:

Rise from the Dust is the \$1 million painting previously mentioned. The story of the painting begins with my purchasing a dusty, bland monochrome painting from a yard sale for \$7 and transforming it with the "drip" painting technique popularized by Jackson Pollock (1912-

⁵⁸ *Art History*, 100.

⁵⁹ *Creativity*, 64.

⁶⁰ *Art History*, 128, 137-38.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, 11.

1956) into a dramatic and colorful piece of art. Rising from the dust is what Jesus did through his resurrection and what He figuratively helps us do in so many ways today. The *Rise from the Dust* painting helps inspire those whose “backs are against the wall” to rise and live as God intends for them to live as equals, each a child of God.⁶² People can rise to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice. This painting, along with an article I wrote and a podcast episode I recorded, help answer the question at the center of this project.⁶³

Yearning to Breathe Free is a painting that is part of the innovation:

A 4’x5’ painting, the work depicts the sun setting, with a red sky and a darkened image of the Statue of Liberty. I titled the painting *Yearning to Breathe Free* (words that appear on the plaque at the base of the Statue of Liberty), and it is about liberty, freedom, equality, love, peace, and unity. I wrote an article titled “This Statue of Liberty Painting is Creating Change” and recorded a podcast episode of the same title to discuss the black pastors’ answers to how to root out racism, mentioned earlier, and to promote the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.⁶⁴ The painting and its title help to teach, correct, and train in the righteousness of abandoning attitudes and acts of prejudice as it hearkens back to the murder of George Floyd who said, “I can’t breathe” over twenty times, and Eric Garner’s death from police choking after saying “I can’t breathe” eleven times.⁶⁵ The painting is about yearning for peace, love, and unity and helps answer the question of how my small art studio in Utah can help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the US.

⁶² *Disinherited*, 3.

⁶³ Appendix, Fig. 14-17.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, fig. 10-13.

⁶⁵ *Post Traumatic*, 91.

Out of the Box is a painting that is part of the innovation:

A 5'x5' painting I created titled *Out of the Box* also helps advance the movement.⁶⁶ Though *Out of the Box* is not painted in a new style (it too is done in Pollock's drip style), it transcends the style by what it represents. Too many people are stuck in a figurative box regarding social change in the US, and they need to break out of the box. The *Out of the Box* painting has layers of paint as well as meaning, including that removing boundaries allows for more significant growth and expression.

In the painting is a red box with an explosion of black paint emanating from it. Inside the box is the movement of various colors of paint, representative of some good happening "inside the box." Beyond that, the painting represents that much more can happen outside the box when boundaries are removed. For example, inside the box represents progress made in civil rights up to now, but the explosion outside the box represents that much more can be done. Put another way, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of "the fierce urgency of now," and the explosion of paint outside the box represents taking urgent action for change.⁶⁷ The painting also suggests unity with the coming together of several colors to make a dramatic, unified piece of art.

The painting, an article I wrote, and a podcast episode I recorded about it along with its message, are reminiscent of the remark Rev. Dr. Carter made to President Nelson at the awarding of the Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize, that people need to do what President Nelson did, to go "outside the box and do something unexpected."⁶⁸ As with others previously mentioned, this painting helps answer the question at the core of this work.

⁶⁶ Ibid., Fig. 28-32.

⁶⁷ *Strength to Love*, xi.

⁶⁸ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints newsroom, "The Prophet Receives Gandhi-King-Mandela Peace Prize, accessed November 16, 2023. <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article>.

Peace, Love, and Unity is a painting that is part of the innovation:

Because the Peace Prize given to President Nelson by Morehouse College is named for Gandhi, King, and Mandela, I created a painting featuring these three men titled *Peace, Love, and Unity*.⁶⁹ With various colors synergistically uniting, the painting suggests that unity must include the people we like and agree with as well as those we do not, and that we do not get to choose who we are one with, it includes everyone.⁷⁰ In the middle of the various colors in the painting appear portraits of Gandhi, King, and Mandela.

The theology in the painting comes in part from the three figures being men of faith, though of different religious beliefs. Gandhi was Hindu, King was Baptist, and Mandela was Methodist.⁷¹ They each moved freely in ecumenical circles because they had a common mission to bring freedom and equality to all, as Jesus Christ provides spiritual freedom and equality through his atoning sacrifice and death on the cross.

The painting is one I refer to as a “dangerous painting,” meaning polemical art, defined as expressing a controversial opinion about someone or something and may lead to persecution. The painting led me to write an article titled “Why is This Such a Dangerous Painting?” with a podcast episode of the same title.⁷² I do not categorize all the paintings I have created as dangerous, but when I write and podcast about them relative to abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice, they enter that arena. In marketing, creating controversy can be advantageous, in this case, helping draw attention to my small art studio advancing social change.

⁶⁹ Appendix, fig. 18.

⁷⁰ *Anchored*, 119.

⁷¹ *Long Walk*, 434.

⁷² Appendix, fig. 18-21.

The Problem We All Live With is a painting that is part of the innovation:

I painted a copy of Norman Rockwell's 1964 painting, *The Problem We All Live With*. Rockwell's painting depicts six-year-old Ruby Bridges, who, against much hate and bigotry, was the first black child to integrate into a white school in Louisiana in 1960. I am inspired by Rockwell, a beloved artist who had previously painted happy scenes such as Santa Claus, Thanksgiving, prayer, family, and the golden rule, who took a turn and, like Romare Bearden and Sam Doyle, used his art as a force for social justice. My copy of the painting helps advance this work because I wrote an article and recorded a podcast episode about the painting wherein I promoted the signing of the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.⁷³

Harnessing Love is a painting that is part of the innovation:

My painting titled *Harnessing Love* features the image of a total solar eclipse. The naming of this painting comes from a quote by Teilhard de Chardin, an 18th and 19th- century French Jesuit priest, paleontologist, and author: "In a coming day, after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And, on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."⁷⁴ Because a significant part of this work is to illumine the power of love to help solve the problem, de Chardin's quote inspired the naming of the painting which represents unity (between the sun and the moon during Totality), peace (a peaceful quiet falls over the earth during Totality), and love (represented by the fire of the corona in Totality). I add the following to the end of de Charden's quote: "...and finally abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice and root out racism," suggesting it will take the harnessing for God the energies of love, to solve the problem of prejudice and

⁷³ Ibid., fig. 4-9.

⁷⁴ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Toward the Future* (New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1973), 86-87.

racism. An article and podcast episode based on the painting were created to promote signing the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.⁷⁵

Dangerous paintings:

In his book *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, author Frank A. Thomas helps preachers (and indirectly me as an artist) respond to and be proactive in trying times through preaching dangerous sermons. This means “preaching with risk, taking chances in challenging, provoking, and even offending the congregation, in reclaiming the moral imagination of the nation.”⁷⁶

The following quote from Thomas is illuminating: “When you say and do such things in a spirit of peace-making, nonviolent Christian love, attempt to solve inequities of the poor; and bridge race relations, you are likely to be persecuted, if not outright killed.”⁷⁷ I have ventured into dangerous territory by challenging racism because there exists a cultural norm today that we do not challenge racism, and we can be socially penalized for doing so.⁷⁸ A question could be asked of me, “Why take the risk?” I certainly do not put myself in the category of Martin Luther King, Jr. or any other civil rights leader who has been persecuted. Yet, I have felt changes in attitudes and relationships among some of my friends online and offline, who do not appreciate my speaking of prejudice nor agree with my view of racism being the problem it is today. I have not been threatened, nor have I been ridiculed. Yet, I have begun to understand resistance to social change that I had not understood before, including the surprising reluctance by many to

⁷⁵ Appendix, fig. 24-27.

⁷⁶ Frank A. Thomas, *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2018), 3.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, xix-xx.

⁷⁸ *Fragility*, 50.

simply sign the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge, reflected in the number who have signed it to date. I expect to eventually become a significant voice and a leader in the fight against prejudice and racism, and I expect resistance.

In his “Beyond Vietnam” speech, Martin Luther King Jr. said, “There comes a time when silence is betrayal.”⁷⁹ For me, not painting dangerous paintings and not advancing civil rights is betrayal. If I and other artists in the developing art movement fail to paint so-called dangerous paintings and advance dangerous messages, I feel we are not fulfilling the mission God has for us. God may not make our lives easier as we advance dangerous messages, but I have begun to see that He makes Himself known more clearly through it. The work has brought me into community with like-minded people I love. I feel that Gandhi, King, and Mandela would concur that the artists who help develop the art movement have not become artists just to paint pictures that hang on walls for people to admire, but that ours is a calling that includes being artists who paint to illuminate the problem of, and solutions for, prejudice. As a thought leader in art and theology, I have a responsibility to seek God’s help to assist in leading out in this work.

Meaningful feedback from those who experienced the innovation:

I have written and posted over 50 articles on the blog site at www.Medium.com over the past six years, and because of my marketing efforts, there have been over 60,000 total views to the articles.⁸⁰ It is my six articles, created specifically for this project, that invite readers to go to www.Totalityism.com to sign The Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge. Experience has taught me that my articles gain traction over time, so I expect many more signatures to the Pledge to come. Signing the Pledge is not meant to be a casual activity but a commitment to help make a change.

⁷⁹ Ibid., xx.

⁸⁰ Appendix, fig. 36.

Hence, I keep in touch with signers via emails to establish ongoing relationships and to encourage them to live the Pledge and share their experiences. As relationships are created, tracking the difference the Pledge and future initiatives I introduce make in the lives of the signers will be ongoing.

Conclusion:

This paper has shown how my small art studio in Utah is helping to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice in the United States through a developing art movement as a catalyst to increase peace, love, and unity. Efforts made to date are just the beginning of this work and will evolve and improve with experience. A poem often cited by civil rights leader Howard Thurman titled “The Call of the Sea” reflects my feelings regarding this project and its future:

I am tired of sailing my little boat

Far inside the harbor bar -

I want to go out where the big ships float

Out on the deep where the great ones are.⁸¹

I have learned much from the civil rights greats who have gone before us, the trailblazers who have prepared the way to go “out on the deep where the great ones are.” As those who join with me progress toward achieving our stated purpose, it will not only help change the world but also change us because the journey of racial justice is transformative.⁸² The developing art movement serves as the vehicle I created and advance through the ministry context of Totality Ministries to help capture attention, start conversations, and involve others to help in the work.

⁸¹ *Anchored*, 17.

⁸² *Fight*, 7.

By attempting to lead out as President Russell M. Nelson requested, I have made discoveries, including that while some are supportive of this work, others are silent, defensive, and uncomfortable talking about race because they feel it is a taboo subject. A recent study shows evidence that racism continues to be expressed by white people, even among younger people who profess to be progressive.⁸³ However, many people want to see prejudices and racism eradicated, so the mission resonates. I also learned that some people are dubious of me attempting to do the seemingly impossible, with some wondering if this work is a gimmick. However, the art, articles I have written, and the podcast episodes I have recorded have brought substance and credibility to the work, and it is slowly gaining momentum in attention and signatures to the Pledge.⁸⁴ Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said in March 1965, “We are on the move now.”⁸⁵ Similarly, Totalityism is slowly but surely on the move now.

How we can assess the impact of these efforts:

As mentioned, the number of people signing the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge initially helps assess the impact of this work. Though to date representing a minor impact, I continue to seek to increase peace, love, and unity through a Christ-focused merging of art and theology as a force for change.

Some prospective reflections on future work:

In 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community” which was his final manuscript.⁸⁶ In response to the question of where we go from

⁸³ *Fragility*, 48.

⁸⁴ Appendix, fig. 40.

⁸⁵ *Arc*, 239.

⁸⁶ Martin Luther King, Jr., *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2010.

here, the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge is just the start of the work I will do. I plan to write books, be involved in seminars and events, and lead out in creating new influential art and encouraging other artists to join to make Totalityism a full-fledged art movement for social impact. Future work will include collaborations with art museums and other organizations to bring awareness and create more meaningful conversations. Dr. King wrote, “He recognizes that social change will not come overnight, yet he works as though it is an imminent possibility.”⁸⁷ I intend this to describe me, and others involved, for this is God’s work, and I am striving to be His hands and feet in accomplishing it. By getting involved in the struggle for change, I understand God’s presence better and feel God’s nearness and sustaining strength more clearly.⁸⁸

Summary remarks:

It has been said that if an artwork does not change the artist, there is no real mutuality between the two.⁸⁹ The artwork I created for this project and the study has changed me because it is a deeply compelling and transformative work. As Martin Luther King referred to the freedom crusade he led during the 1950s and ‘60s as “a spiritual movement” and as a “spiritual explosion,” this work is a spiritual movement that I hope will become a spiritual explosion.⁹⁰ I have seen photos of white people marching with Dr. King in the 1960s and have wondered if I would have marched with him had I been there. In answer, I have marched in multiple MLK Day rallies and marches in Salt Lake City, but it is just a small thing.⁹¹ I hope that what I am doing

⁸⁷ *Strength*, 18.

⁸⁸ *Fight*, 204.

⁸⁹ *Creativity*, 51.

⁹⁰ *Arc*, 203-204.

⁹¹ Appendix, figs. 38-39.

today regarding ending prejudice is what I would have been doing back in the 1960s. Focusing not on what I hope will happen but on actions I and others can take to make change happen is impactful. Instead of waiting for others to take bold actions and risk ridicule and heartache, I strive to take bold action with its inherent risks. In Dr. King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize speech, he said: "Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace...I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."⁹² President Russell M. Nelson suggested that we should do whatever we can in our spheres of influence to preserve the dignity and respect every son and daughter of God deserves, which is what I intend as a significant part of my life's work.⁹³ I am taking action and urging others to do so as well; we are not bystanders; we are not just waiting for something good to happen, we strive to make good things happen. This project is just the beginning of a more extensive and more important work that will continue for years.

⁹² The Nobel Peace Prize. "King Acceptance Speech." Accessed November 14, 2023. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/acceptance-speech>.

⁹³ Church News, <https://www.thechurchnews.com/2020/10/4/23217103/general-conference-october-2020-sunday-morning-session-president-nelson-race-prejudice-equality>.

Appendix

Final Project of Timothy Paulson

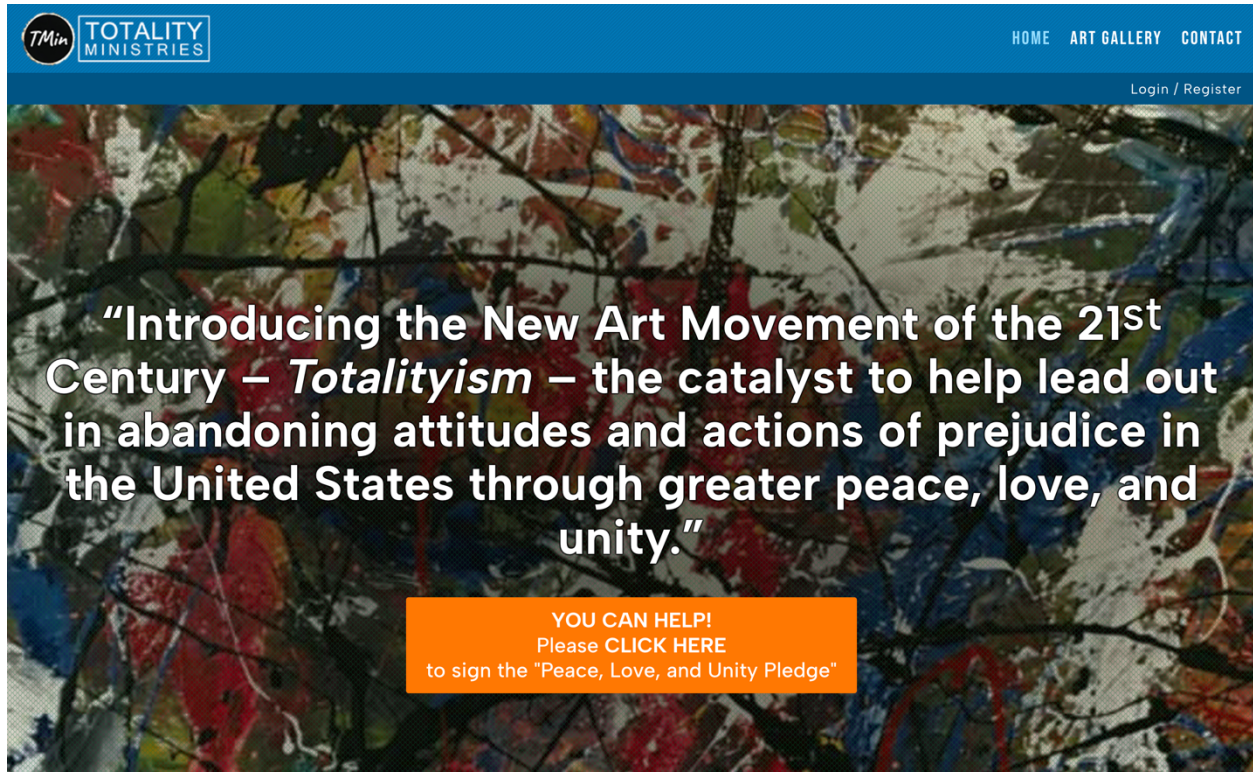


Fig. 1. The www.Totalityism.com website where the *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge* appears.

THE PEACE, LOVE, & UNITY PLEDGE

I pledge to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the United States by:

1. **Taking a Stand:** I will strive to do even better in lovingly speaking out against prejudice when I encounter it while promoting peace, love, and unity.
2. **Peace:** I will strive to do even better in seeking ways to be a peacemaker, including resolving conflicts peacefully.
3. **Love:** I will strive to do even better in loving God and my neighbor and helping to create an environment where love flourishes.
4. **Unity:** I will strive to do even better in fostering unity by being inclusive and appreciating diversity and working to bridge divides.
5. **Encourage Others:** I will strive to invite others to join to spread the message of peace, love, and unity and working together to help abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice in the United States.

SIGN THE PLEDGE by writing YOUR NAME below:

Your name and this list are completely confidential and will never be published. Your privacy is assured. Thank you.

<input type="text" value="*Full Name"/>	<input type="text" value="*Email"/>	<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>
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We will occasionally send you updates on the progress of "The PEACE, LOVE, & UNITY PLEDGE"

Fig. 2. The *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge* and where people can sign digitally at www.Totalityism.com.

The image is a promotional graphic for the 'Totalityism Podcast'. It features a close-up of a professional condenser microphone with a silver mesh grille, mounted on a black boom arm. The background is a blurred mix of blue and orange tones. Text is overlaid on the right side of the image. At the top right, it says 'Featuring Timothy Paulson, the artist and originator of "the New Art Movement of the 21st Century"'. Below that, a quote reads: '"Merging Art & Theology as a catalyst to help root out racism in the U.S."'. The main title 'TOTALITYISM PODCAST' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom right, a tagline states: 'the podcast that creates peace, love, and unity through the new art movement - "Totalityism"'.

Featuring Timothy Paulson,
the artist and originator of
"the New Art Movement of
the 21st Century"

"Merging Art &
Theology as a
catalyst to help
root out racism
in the U.S."

**TOTALITYISM
PODCAST**


the podcast that creates
peace, love, and unity
through the new art
movement - "Totalityism"

Fig. 3. The Totalityism Podcast is found at www.TotalyismPodcast.com.




Fig. 4. *The Problem We All Live With* painting.

Timothy's Post ✕

 **Timothy Paulson** ⋮
December 4 at 2:28 PM · 🌐



Here's my newest painting (it's a copy of Norman Rockwell's "The Problem We All Live With") and an article that explains how this image helped change the world (and how you can help, too!)






i



MEDIUM.COM

"The Brave 6-year-old Girl in this Painting Helped Change the World."
"Norman Rockwell painted the American dream better than anyone."—Steven Spielberg

  Faye Jones, Jim Paulson and 41 others 15 comments

 Like  Comment  Share

Most relevant ▾


 **Myrna Harker**
Love this. 

2w Love Reply

Fig. 5. The Facebook post announcing the article about *The Problem We All Live With* painting.

Timothy Paulson • You
Founder and Director @ Non-profit organization | Creator of a New ...
1w • 🌐

Here's my newest painting (copy of Norman Rockwell's "The Problem We All Live With" and an article that explains how this image helped change the world.



"The Brave 6-year-old Girl in this Painting Helped Change the World."
link.medium.com

👍❤️ Rod Lee and 2 others 2 comments

Reactions




Fig. 6. The LinkedIn post announcing *The Problem We All Live With* article.

“The Brave 6-year-old Girl in this Painting Helped Change the World.”

“Norman Rockwell painted the American dream better than anyone.” — Steven Spielberg



Timothy Paulson
5 min read · Dec 4



51

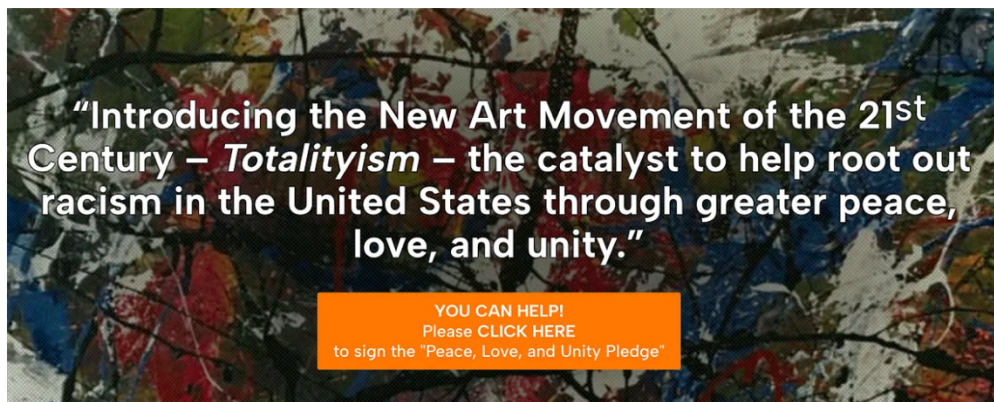


Fig. 7. The article at www.Medium.com about *The Problem We All Live With* painting and message.

Here's how you can help:

Please go to www.Totalityism.com to add your name to “The Pledge.”

You'll see the following when you go to www.Totalityism.com:



Just click on the orange button, and it'll lead to the pledge, and you can sign it there.

Fig. 8. The section of the *Problem We All Live With* article that invites readers to click to sign the *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge*.

DEC. 22, 2023

Episode 15: "The Brave 6-year-old Girl in this Painting Helped Change the World."

Tweet Share Share



I painted a copy of an iconic image titled "The Problem We All Live With" by Norman Rockwell. You can see my copy here in the episode listing – and at . You've surely seen it — Norman Rockwell's iconic painting of Ruby Bridges, the...

Episode #15 "The Brave 6-year-old Girl in this Painting Helped Change the World." TOTALITYISM PODCAST

"Totalityism" with Timothy Paulson FOLLOW SHARE

Episode 15: "The Brave 6-year-old Girl in thi

0:00 8:45 1x

Fig. 9. The Podcast episode featuring *The Problem We All Live With*.



Fig. 10. The Statue of Liberty painting titled *Yearning to Breathe Free*.

“This Statue of Liberty Painting is Creating Social Change”

It's titled “Yearning to breathe free” for a very important reason.



Timothy Paulson

Published in Spirituality Beliefs · 6 min read · 1 hour ago




48



Fig. 11. The article at www.Medium.com about *Yearning to Breathe Free*.

 **Timothy Paulson**
1h · Medium · 

This Statue of Liberty painting I painted is creating change by drawing attention to this article, a podcast episode of the same title, and promoting the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge I wrote that I hope you'll sign.



LINK.MEDIUM.COM 




"This Statue of Liberty Painting is Creating Social Change"
It's titled "Yearning to breathe free" for a very important reason.


 Timothy Paulson

Fig. 12. The Facebook post about the www.Medium.com article about *Yearning to Breathe Free*.

DEC. 29, 2023








Episode 17: "This Statue of Liberty Painting is Creating Social Change"

 Tweet  Share  Share



Episode #17
"This Statue of Liberty Painting is Creating Social Change"
TOTALITYISM PODCAST
Featuring Timothy Paulson and the new Art Movement of the 21st Century - "Totalityism"

This Statue of Liberty painting, titled "Living to Breathe Free," painted by Timothy Paulson, is creating social change by drawing attention to the Totalityism art movement Paulson created by merging art and theology to help abandon attitudes and...

**"Totalityism" with Timothy Paulson** FOLLOW SHARE  
Episode 17: "This Statue of Liberty Painting
0:00  9:28   1x 



 Listen on **Apple Podcasts**  Listen on **Google Podcasts**

Fig. 13. The podcast episode for *Yearning to Breathe Free*.



Fig. 14. The \$1 million *Rise from the Dust* painting.

“An Avid Art Lover Who Wants to Help Change the World Will Buy this Painting — for \$1,000,000...”



Timothy Paulson

7 min read · Oct 31



115



“...and as a result will help advance ‘The New Art Movement of the 21st Century’ with its mission to help root out racism through greater peace, love, and unity.”



“Rise from the Dust” (36"x48") — by Timothy Paulson

Fig. 15. The article about the *Rise from the Dust* painting.

Here's how you can help change the world...

“...Lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice.” -Russell M. Nelson

You and I could let others do the work and stand idly by, watching while they take action. *Or — you and I can do something to help bring it to fruition. That is what I have chosen to do...*

...and there are two ways you can help make a difference.

TM **TOTALITY**
MINISTRIES

HOME ART GALLERY CONTACT

Login / Register

Thank you for signing
the PEACE, LOVE, &
UNITY PLEDGE!

By doing so, you're helping to root out
racism in the United States through
promoting greater peace, love, & unity.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE PLEDGE

You can sign “the Pledge” at www.Totalityism.com

Again, I have created the simple “Peace, Love & Unity Pledge” that I ask you to please sign.


Fig. 16. The call to sign the *Peace, Love, & Unity Pledge* in the article.

Totalityism: "The New Art Movement of t... Home Episodes ▾ About Reviews ▾ Contact Q Follow

NOV. 3, 2023

Episode 13: "An Avid Art Lover Who Wants to Help Change the World Will Buy this Former \$7 Yard Sale Painting — for \$1,000,000..."

Tweet Share Share



EPISODE #13
"An Avid Art Lover Who Wants to Help Change the World Will Buy this Former Yard Sale Painting — for \$1,000,000..."
"TOTALITYISM" PODCAST
Featuring Timothy Paulson & the New Art Movement of the 21st Century: "Totalityism"

"An Avid Art Lover Who Wants to Help Change the World Will Buy this Painting — for \$1,000,000 and as a result, will help advance 'The New Art Movement of the 21st Century' with its mission to help root out racism through..."

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Fig. 17. The podcast episode featuring *Rise from the Dust*.





Fig. 18. The *Peace, Love, and Unity* painting.




 **Timothy Paulson**
November 2 · 🌐



I painted this "DANGEROUS" painting of Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela. What makes it so dangerous? Take a quick look (it's a short article). 😊




MEDIUM.COM
"Why is this considered such a 'Dangerous Painting?'"
 Here's what you should know about this "dangerous" painting.

  Faye Jones, Steve Jordan and 4 others 2 comments

 Like  Comment  Share

 **Rathna Ramakrishnan**
Signed! Love this! 🙏🎉
6w **Love** Reply 

 **Timothy Paulson**
Rathna Ramakrishnan Thanks so much, Rathna!
6w Like Reply







 Write a comment...     

Fig. 19. The Facebook post that announced the *Peace, Love, and Unity* painting and the article.

“Why is this considered such a ‘Dangerous Painting?’”

Here’s what you should know about this “dangerous” painting.



Timothy Paulson

Published in Spirituality Beliefs · 7 min read · Nov 2



72



Fig. 20. The article on the *Dangerous Painting* at www.Medium.com.

DEC. 21, 2023

Episode 14: Why is this Painting of Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela Considered Such a Dangerous Painting?"

Tweet Share Share



Episode #14

“Why is this painting of Gandhi, MLK, and Mandela so Dangerous?”

**“TOTALITYISM”
PODCAST**

Featuring Timothy Paulson, the artist and originator of “The New Art Movement of the 21st Century”

A painting I did of Gandhi, King, and Mandela looks innocent enough. Why do you suppose it’s so dangerous? (The painting appears in the podcast episode artwork and at .) As it turns out, the painting represents a message that some...

Episode #14 "Totalityism" with Timothy Paulson FOLLOW SHARE

Episode 14: Why is this Painting of Gandhi, I

0:00 11:56 1X

Fig. 21. The podcast episode about the *Peace, Love, & Unity* painting and the Pledge.



Fig. 22. Comments on a Facebook post that invited people to sign the *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge*.

“Would you please sign this ‘Peace, Love & Unity Pledge’ to help root out racism in the United States?”

It'll take just two minutes to sign the pledge and help to immediately make a difference.



Timothy Paulson

2 min read · Nov 6



50



THE PEACE, LOVE, & UNITY PLEDGE

I pledge to help root out racism in the United States by:

- 1. Taking a Stand:** I will strive to do better in lovingly speaking out against racism when I encounter it while promoting peace, love, and unity.
- 2. Peace:** I will strive to do better in seeking ways to be a peacemaker, including resolving conflicts peacefully.
- 3. Love:** I will strive to do better in loving God and my neighbor and helping to create an environment where love flourishes.
- 4. Unity:** I will strive to do better in fostering unity by being inclusive and appreciating diversity and working to bridge divides.
- 5. Encourage Others:** I will strive to invite others to join to spread the message of peace, love, and unity and working together to help root out racism in the United States.

Fig. 23. The www.Medium.com article inviting people to sign the *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge*.



Fig. 24. The *Harnessing Love* painting.

“Here’s How You Can Harness the Energies of Love — and Help Change the World.”

If you want to make a bigger impact in 2024, this will be one of the most important articles you’ll read all year.



Timothy Paulson

Published in Spirituality Beliefs · 5 min read · 1 hour ago



50




Fig. 25. The article at www.Medium.com based on the *Harnessing Love* painting, and to promote the *Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge*.

DEC. 28, 2023

Episode 16: "Here's How You Can Harness the Energies of Love—and Help Change the World."

Tweet Share Share



Episode #16

"Here's How You Can Harness the Energies of Love – and Help Change the World."

TOTALITYISM PODCAST

Featuring Timothy Paulson and the new Art Movement of the 21st Century-Totalityism


If want to make a bigger impact in 2024, this will be one of the most important podcast episodes you'll listen to all year. I painted the picture of Totality shown in the podcast announcement and titled it "Harnessing Love" in...

Episode #16 "Totalityism" with Timothy Paulson FOLLOW SHARE

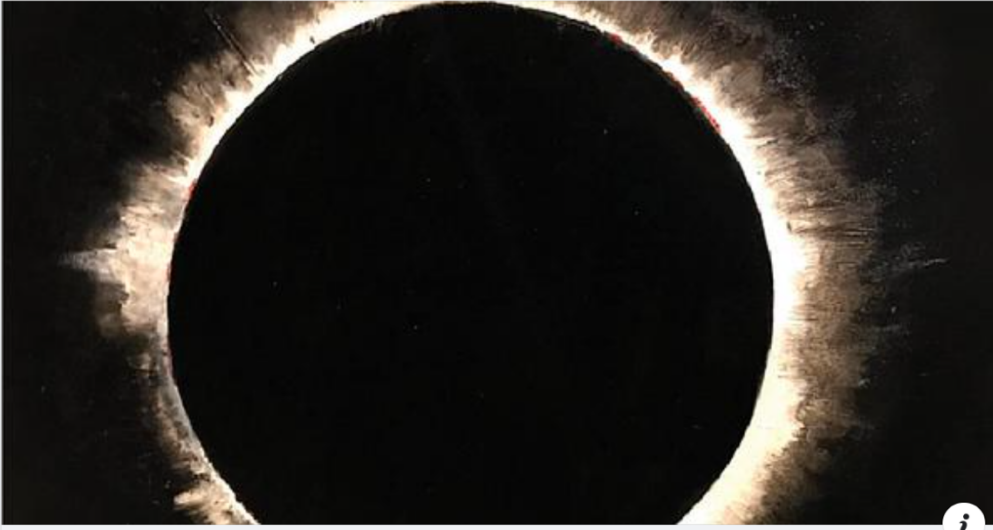
Episode 16: "Here's How You Can Harness 1

0:00 8:57 15 30 1x

Fig. 26. The podcast episode about the *Harnessing Love* painting and the Pledge on www.TotalityismPodcast.com.



Timothy Paulson 1d · Medium · 




My brand-new article features my "Totality" painting and discusses how YOU can "harness the energies of love, and help change the world!" (It's a short article 😊)




[LINK.MEDIUM.COM](https://link.medium.com)


"Here's How You Can Harness the Energies of Love—and Help Change the World."


  June Sterling, Debbie Reed and 26 others 13 comments

 Like  Comment  Share

View more comments

 **April Sugarman-Smith**
What a wonderful article. I love, love, love this painting! Will you please make prints of it so I can buy one and support your art?

19h Love Reply 

 **Timothy Paulson**
April Sugarman-Smith Thanks, April! It's so nice to hear from you! I was thinking of your dad just last week. I miss him.
You're very kind! I'm glad you enjoyed the article and that you love the painting. I presently don't have plans for prints of t... [See more](#)




Fig. 27. The Facebook post made to promote the www.Medium.com article.



Fig. 28. The *Out of the Box* painting.



Fig. 29. A close-up on the box in the *Out of the Box* painting.

“How this Jackson Pollock style ‘Drip’ Painting is Helping to Root out Racism.”

The painting transcends style by what it represents.



Timothy Paulson · Following

6 min read · Just now



50




“Out of the Box” (60”x60”) by Timothy Paulson (pictured in 2011)

Fig. 30. The article featuring the *Out of the Box* painting.

 **Timothy Paulson**
20m · Medium · 🌐

Here's my new article featuring the "Out of the Box" painting I did in the "drip" style of Jackson Pollock. The explosion outside the box in the painting represents the social impact we can help make in 2024! (The article takes just 6 minutes to read). 😊



LINK.MEDIUM.COM


"How this Jackson Pollock style 'Drip' Painting is Helping to Root out Racism."
The painting transcends style by what it represents.

Fig. 31. The post on Facebook to promote the *Out of the Box* article.

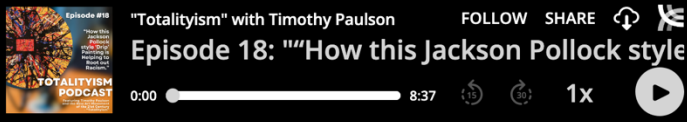
JAN. 2, 2024

Episode 18: "How this Jackson Pollock style 'Drip' Painting is Helping to Root out Racism."

Tweet Share Share



The 5'x5' painting titled *Out of the Box* (done in the "drip" style of Jackson Pollock) is helping to bring attention to a new art movement I'm developing called Totalityism. (The painting can be seen at). The art movement is different...



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RECENT EPISODES

Episode 18: "How this Jackson Pollock style 'Drip' Painting is Helping to Root out Racism."

Fig. 32. The podcast episode recording using the *Out of the Box* painting to drive signatures to the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.

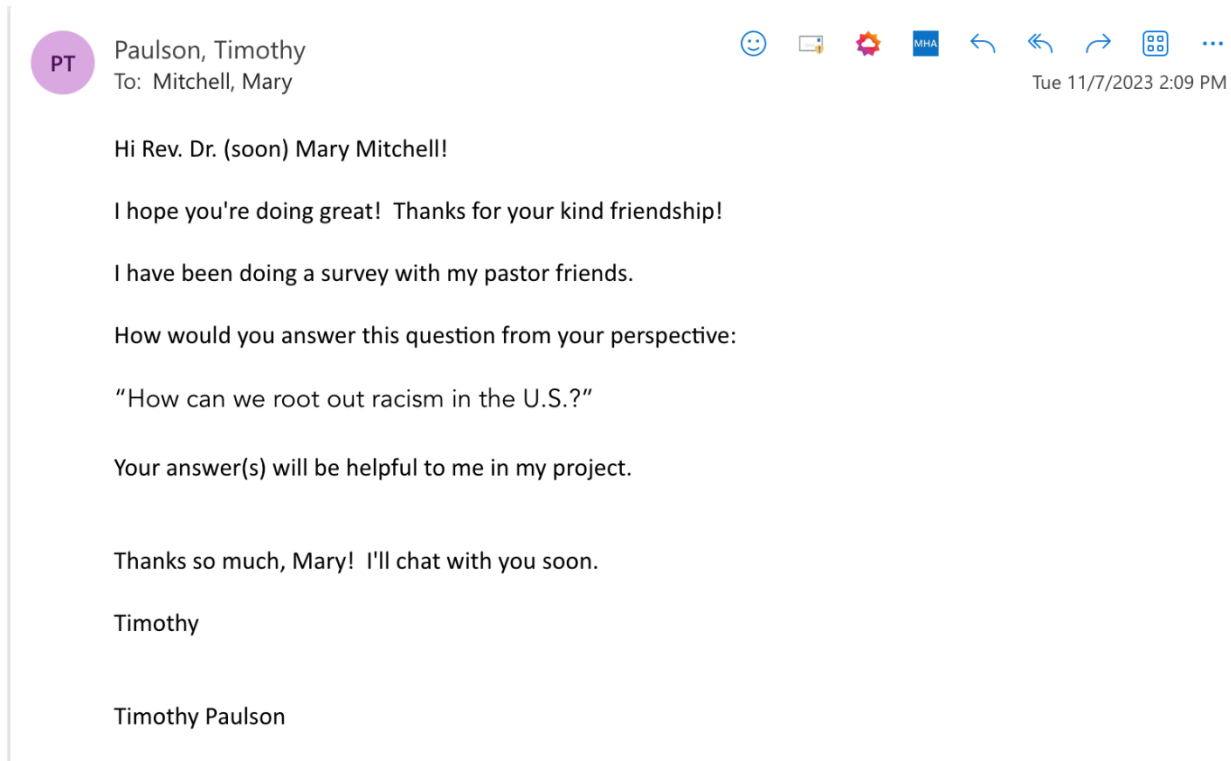


Fig. 33. The Email to two black pastor friends with the question, "How can we root out racism?"



Mitchell, Mary
To: Paulson, Timothy

    
Sun 11/12/2023 12:45 PM

Hello my friend, I am just catching up on my emails. I hope this is helpful.

1. Continue to bring awareness to address the problem
2. Stop pretending racism does not exist because we had a black president
3. Individuals need to speak up and speak out when racist acts or conversations occur in their midst.
4. Remove the systems that are in place where discrimination and racism is imbedded

Fig. 34. Rev. Mary Mitchell's response.

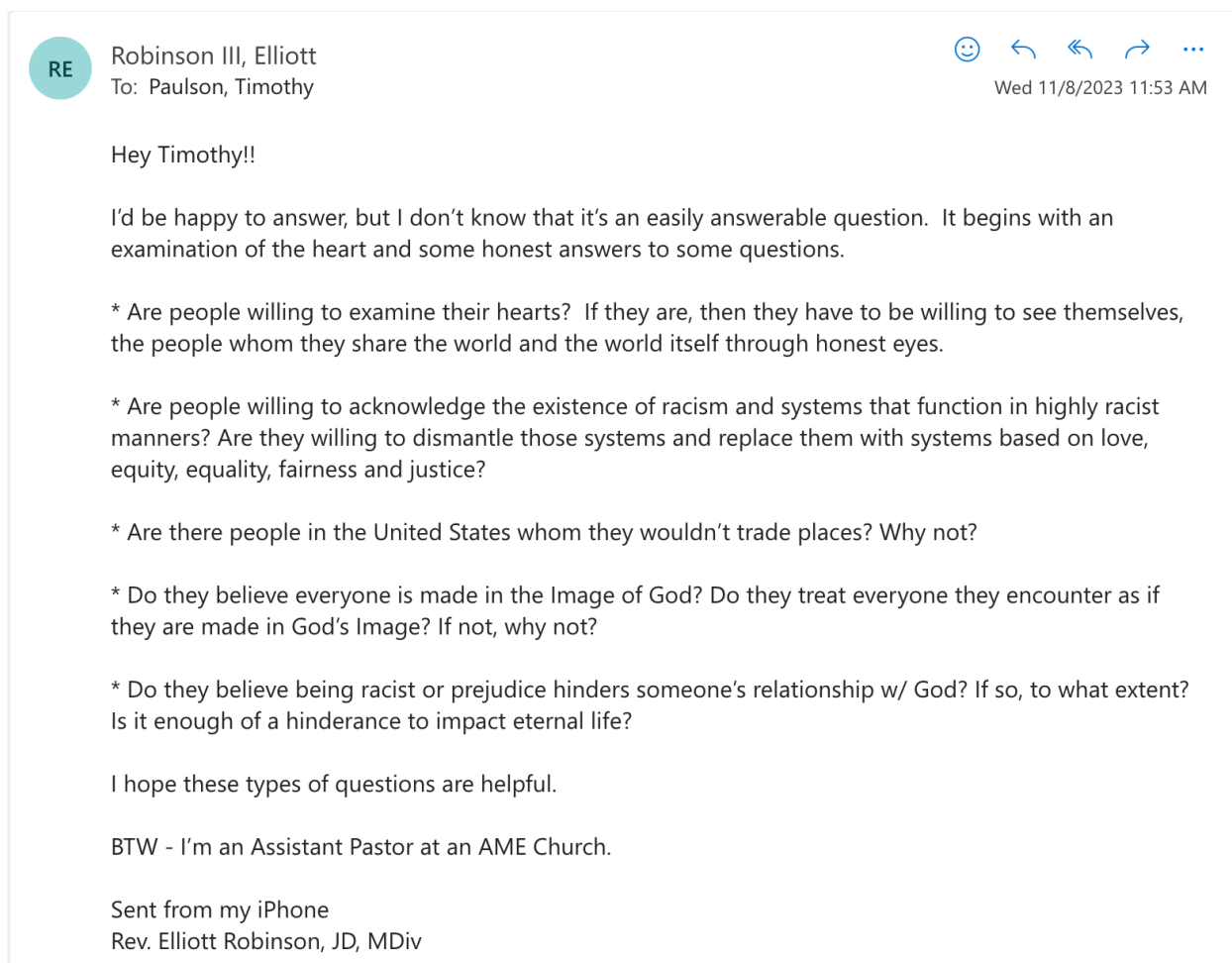


Fig. 35. Rev. Elliott Robinson's response.

If you want to achieve greatness, stop asking for permi...	11.4K
9 min read · May 30, 2018 · View story	
Why a portrait of YOU should be in a prestigious Art M...	157
7 min read · May 24, 2018 · View story	
A Hidden Secret in a STOLEN \$82,000 Painting Reveal...	7.6K
8 min read · May 16, 2018 · View story	
The #1 “Greatest” Lesson I Ever Learned from Muham...	2.6K
9 min read · May 10, 2018 · View story	
3 Big Successes That Looked Like a Failure 1/2 Way Th...	809
10 min read · May 3, 2018 · View story	
<hr/>	
How The Beatles Can Help You Beat Insecurity	573
6 min read · Apr 28, 2018 · View story	
How a \$7 Yard Sale Painting Became a \$1,000,000 Pie...	5.9K
8 min read · Apr 24, 2018 · View story	
A 3-part “Success Recipe” I Discovered From a 3-foot ...	341
★ · 12 min read · Apr 18, 2018 · View story	
The Surprising Math of 11X Business Growth	2.9K
9 min read · Apr 6, 2018 · View story	

Fig. 36. The chart above shows statistics for a few of the more than 50 stories I have written on www.Medium.com. This chart includes just nine of my earlier stories written in 2018 and shows that the number of total views for each article ranges from 157 to 11,400. In total, my articles written over the years have had over 60,000 views. New stories I write generally get just a few views at first, but over time grow in number. The articles I have written about the paintings featured in this project have started out slow, but I expect the number of views, and ultimately signers of the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge, to grow over time.



Fig. 37. I attended Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on August 13, 2023.



Fig. 38. I marched in the MLK Day rally and march in Salt Lake City on January 15, 2022, and on January 15, 2024.

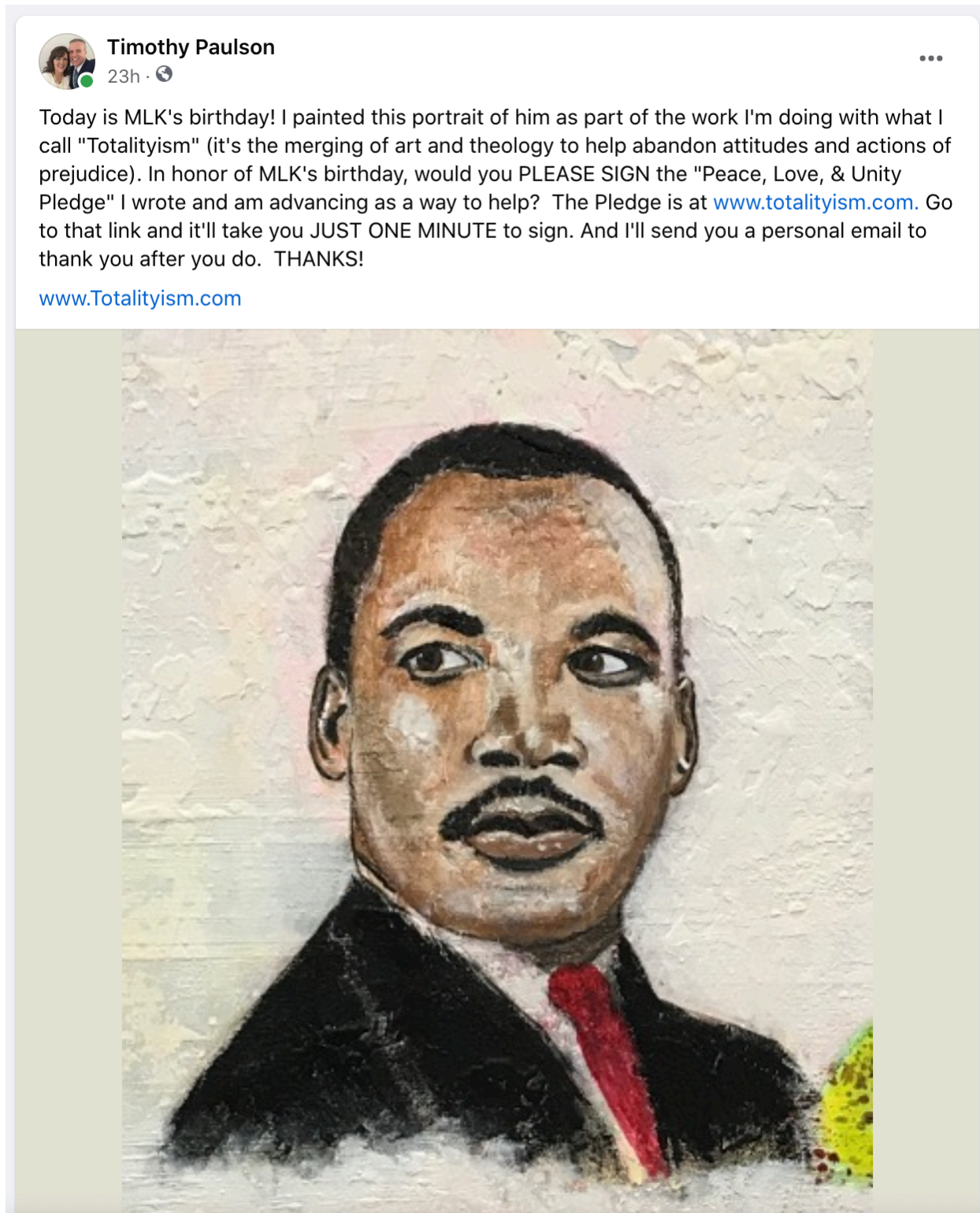







Fig. 39. A post I made on Facebook and LinkedIn on MLK Day, 2024. This post caused the most signatures to the Pledge than any other I have made.





Fig. 40. A Facebook post I made the day after the MLK Day march, to promote the Peace, Love, and Unity Pledge.

 **Lori Holmes**
9h ·   

Just another reason to love my friend [Timothy Paulson](#). I have always admired his devotion to his family, religion, artistic and personal growth but his unwavering desire to make the world a better place for us all leaves me in awe and inspired to keep doing my part, too! ❤️❤️❤️.
[#Totalityism](#). [#ThisIsWhatJesusWouldDo](#) [#PeaceLoveKindnessJoyHappiness](#)



 **Timothy Paulson**
2d · 

Today is MLK's birthday! I painted this portrait of him as part of the work I'm doing with what I call "Totalitivism" (it's the merging of art and theology to he... [See more](#)

Fig 41. This Facebook post was shared by an old friend who is African American and an educator with influence, who signed the Pledge. Her comments in this post show that the message and the Peace, Love, & Unity Pledge is gaining traction. This is an example of how Totalityism is stimulated healthy conversations about helping to create change.

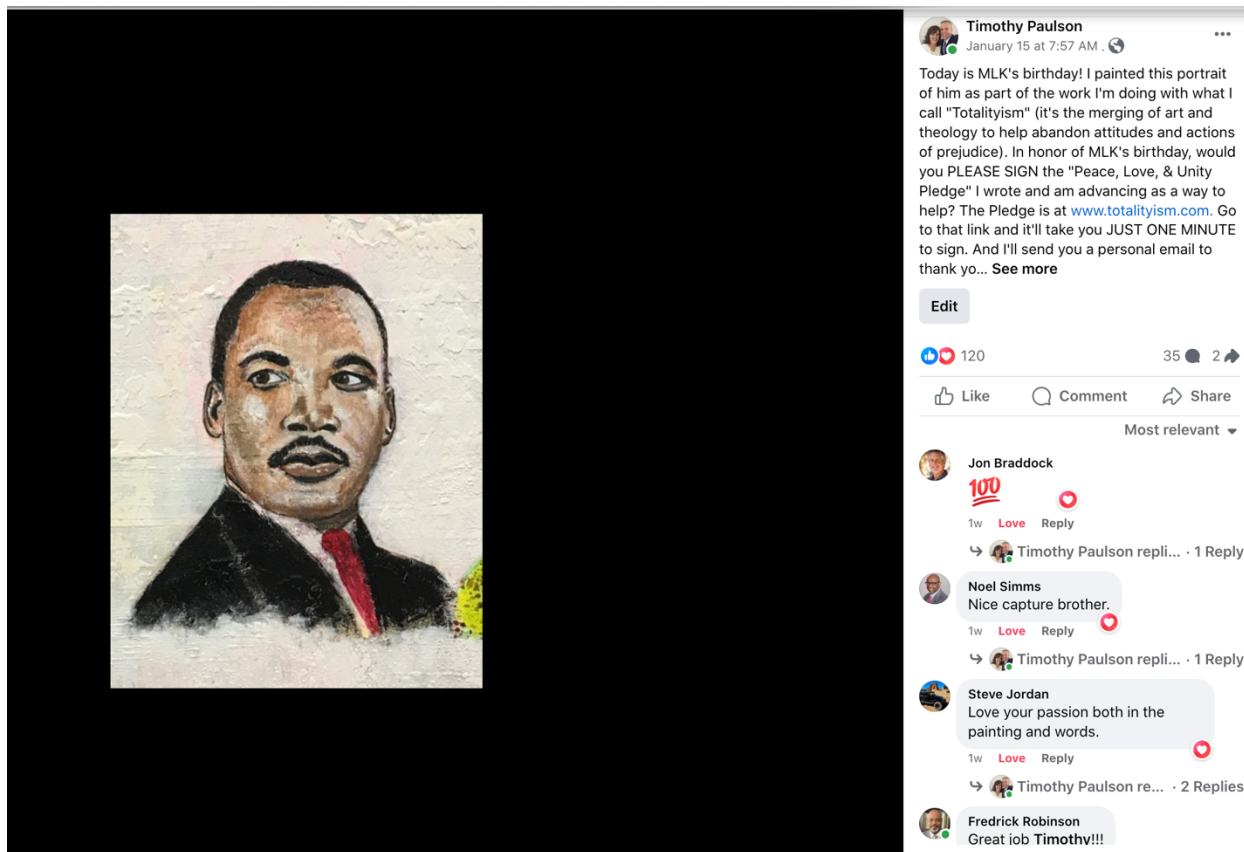


Fig. 42. This is an example of how the post I made on MLK Day started conversations with 120 likes, 35 comments, and two shares online.

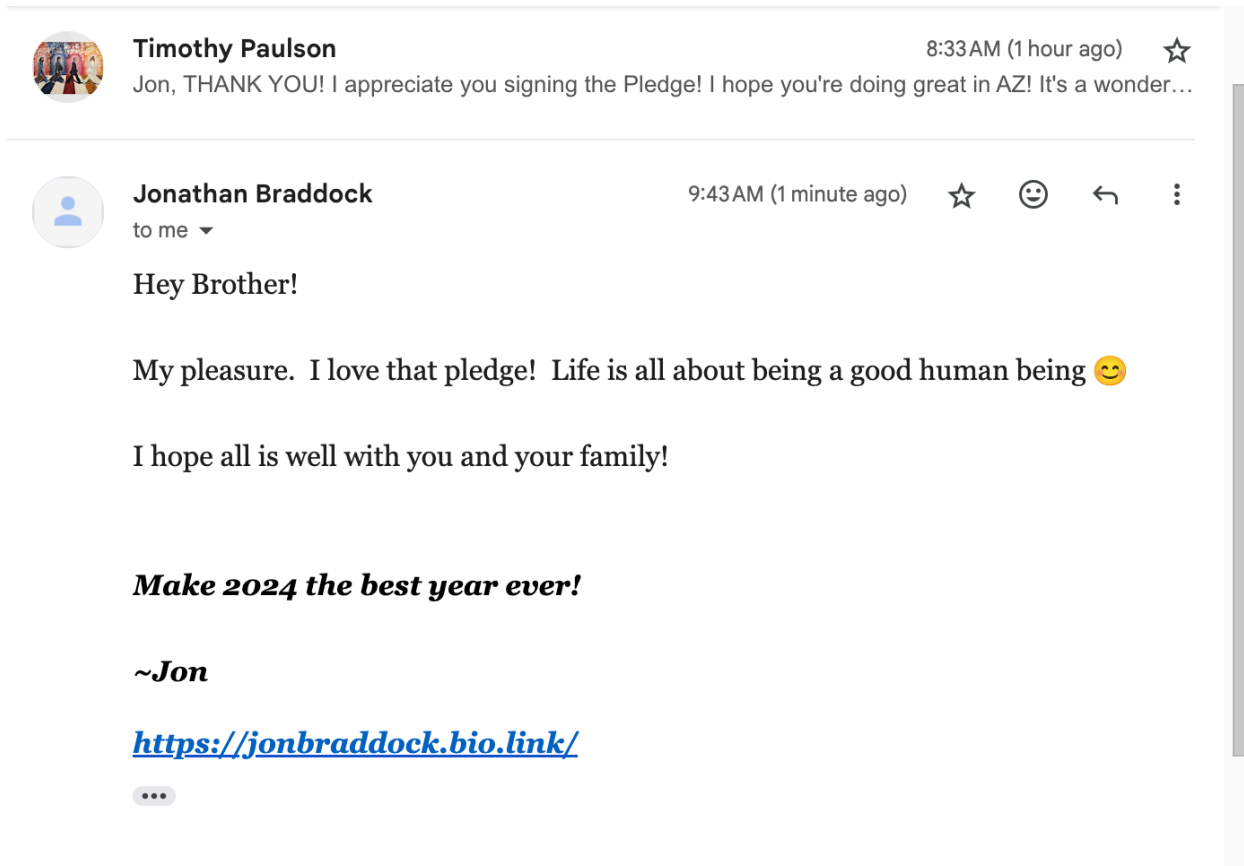


Fig. 43. This is an example of emails I receive from people I thank for signing the Pledge.

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