



A Mural of Peace and Love

Pictured from left: Tyshawn "Fade" Green, Pastor Kim Dawsey-Richardson, and mural artist Daniel Peters

City of El Cajon Police Officer Michael Murphy found three young men tagging in El Cajon. He looked more closely at what they were doing and their message of peace and BLM, and he chose to see frustrated human beings rather than young vandals. Instead of arresting them, he decided that he would work with them to fix the damage and work on an area where they could post their message. He met with them the next day to

restore the area together. These three young artists (one white, one black and one Hispanic) stated that they were angry about what was going on in the world and were out putting up a message of peace and love, BLM.

From this new relationship between the officer and artists, a new work of art was created on plywood proclaiming the words of Jesus: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

Officer Mike Murphy later posted an update, stating in part the following: "This is the mural they designed and just finished! I am proud to have gotten to know them through this experience. The city is working with the local churches to find it a place to have its message spread. I hope that everyone who reads this story can see that no matter our skin color or the profession we work we remember that we are all human and if we all treat each other with respect and dignity this will be a much better world.

The mural was placed in front of our church and remains there today.

"We live in polarizing times but Jesus includes everyone at the table. Jesus sees human-beings not human-doings, regardless of the good or bad we do. Grace and forgiveness abound. What is the kingdom of God like? Maybe it's like a police officer and graffiti artists becoming friends, sharing stories, creating art for the community, and giving the Church a gift. How might we show up in the world and our spheres of influence as ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation, people of the 2nd-chances-God, people who sow love, not hate?" Pastor Kim Dawsey-Richardson