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Scene and Heard: Hope, help for this generation and the next Cindy Hodnett, Sep 16, 2017



Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum & Dr. Marc Lamont Hill!

“**Dr. Marc Lamont Hill**” in sponsorship with “**Imprints Cares**” joined Dr. **Beverly Tatum** for a discussion about race at Calvary Moravian Church on Sept. 9” as part of a VIP event and panel discussion “... for the annual Bookmarks festival. Hill, host of BET News, political contributor for CNN, professor at Temple University and award-winning journalist, and Tatum, a renowned authority on racial identity and resegregation in America and author of “Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race,” spoke to a packed sanctuary for the event, following” the VIP “meet-and-greet hosted by Imprints Cares.

An early childhood education nonprofit with a mission of helping families break the cycle of poverty, Imprints Cares supports children through education and health services. **Nikki Byers**, Imprints executive director, **Cindy McManus**” greeted VIP guests. “The discussions today are a backdrop to the work we do with families,” Byers said.

The Imprints Cares VIP book signing and “meet-and-greet” with Hill and Tatum “was a precursor to the panel discussion. And Hill provided insight into some of the issues he addressed in his book, “Nobody.” “We have to unlearn this idea, the narrative that some people are worth more than others,” he said. “That type of thinking shouldn’t shape the outcome of anyone’s life, but it does and we have to work to change that.”

Onstage, Tatum and Hill presented two viewpoints about race relations. “My book was originally published in 1997, 20 years ago, and when I told friends that I was going to do a 20th anniversary update, they asked me, ‘Oh, are the black kids still sitting together,’” Tatum said. “I would say that schools are more segregated today than they were 20 or 30 years ago.” “I knew a world where the idea of a black president seemed impossible and I was in the Fox newsroom that night when everybody was sad except for me and three janitors,” Hill said, prompting sympathetic laughter from the audience. “...I guess I am a prisoner of hope. We’re here in a church, where people believe Jesus died, but his death didn’t have the last word ... the response to injustices and the emergence of a new generation of freedom fighters give me hope.”

