

## The Pastor's Page

The Passion Week of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday are all in the rearview mirror of our minds. Yet the Spirit of the season must linger on. We face on the national level a mindset in the Administration that has approved the assassination of an American born Muslim cleric who it is believed orchestrated acts of terrorism. Beloved, everybody deserves their day in court, isn't that the foundation America's jurisprudence? Our country is waging unnecessary, immoral war in two areas of the world and taking needed resources in the trillions out of our communities. Something is wrong with that according to our Judeo-Christian traditions. The government is openly talking about killing and not capturing people which is against what we just celebrated during the Holy season.

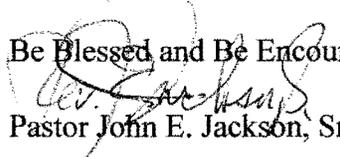
The right wing ultra conservative so-called Christian crowd is venting vitriolic hate at a Black man occupying the oval office. The Republican senate or the "Party of NO" have blocked unemployment benefits for thousands of Americans and threaten to do it across the board all because of the Color of the President's skin. The State of Indiana's Attorney General has signed on to a frivolous law suit against the administration over needed healthcare changes. The city of Gary (like every other city where Africans are in the majority) is suffering from the White Male entitlement syndrome where white businesses take their ball and go home because they don't like a level playing field.

As a Church we offer a ministry that is not a cookie cutter, church tea, Pastor's anniversary, focused congregation. That is not popular. We face an economic challenge during a time of conspicuous consumption in this country by corporate robber barons. Yet we are commanded to take the lemons of life and make lemonade. We are mandated by the master to do ministry because where God gives a vision he also gives the provision.

***"If we ever needed the Lord before we sho' do need him now,"*** are the lyrics to the classic by "Take Six." We need Christians who are not ashamed of their African identity to identify with our children and young adults in reading tutorials, math tutorials and mentoring ministries. We need African Christians to be ever vigilant in evangelism by offering to serve in feeding programs, clothing programs, Prison ministry and HIV/Aids ministries. We need Black believers who take pride in being Biblically literate and culturally competent in the Legacy left by our African Christ. We need Black folks who love the Lord to share that love as an example of God's inclusiveness to all God's people. We need faith walkers who will not trust sight or their "Lying eyes" when it comes to relationships with others in the body of Christ to create Communities of Communion like in the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles Chapters 2-4!

Beloved, God has called us to this task for such a time as this. The only way to make a difference is pick up your faith from the shelf of spectating and pontificating and get involved by investing your TIME, TALENTS And TREASURES. Be the sermon you would like to see so that when you look in the mirror you will see a sermon you can identify with.

Be Blessed and Be Encouraged!

  
Pastor John E. Jackson, Sr.