

Transform Magazine

August 2020
Volume 3 Issue 8



"Are We Thinking Consciously"

Why is my liberty controlled by another mans conscience?
1 Corinthians 10:29



*Conscience, I say not thine own, but of the
other: for why is my liberty judged of another
man's conscience? 1 Corinthians 10:29*



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Publisher/Chief Editor

Transformation

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II
inform@thetransformu.com

Feature Editors /Writers

Department Editors/Writers

Ella Alexander, Editor - New York, NY
ella.vlfm@gmail.com

Eunice A. Christian, Editor - Brooklyn, NY
eunicec434@msn.com

Stacie Daniels - Columbus, OH
stalato@gmail.com

Judith Allwood - Jacksonville, FL
judith_allwood@hotmail.com

Diane Harvell, Editor - Philadelphia, PA
Dharvell215@gmail.com

Tony Martin - Detroit, MI
tonymartin@tds.net

Jessie Griffin– Boardman, OH
jesse@thekingdomreign.com

Min. Donna Jones– Atlanta, GA
Healings Chats Ministries
478-954-2454

Neva Brooks– St. Louis, MO
ministerneva@gmail.com

Horace Brooks - Anderson, IN
hvbook@aol.com

Advisory Board

Dr. Melvin L. Howard, Sr.
Warren, Ohio
Elder Calvin A. Scott
Hampton Roads, VA

If you are interest in submitting an article to the magazine, please submit your article and contact information to a editor for consideration.

Thank you for your interest!

A Tribute to a Life of Honor and Integrity,!

As we move forward in life let us not forget the tireless efforts and sacrifices for change in our nation and world. The dedication to this cause as seen in the life of John R. Lewis who boldly walked out his purpose in front us that we too might be inspired to live out our truths and faith in God. For he truly trusted in the Lord the with all his heart and mind, His results speak loudly to the power of God and serves as a witness for all that we can do all things. Thank You for a life well lived!

Last Words

"While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity."

John Lewis



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Are We Thinking Consciously?

Why Is My Liberty Controlled by Another Man's Conscious?

I Corinthians 10:29

By Elder Diane Harvell

Culturally, we are all different, yet in other ways we are the same. For instance, in China, Hong Kong, and Vietnam, to eat a rattlesnake is considered eating cuisine and that it is healthy eating. Yet in many places of the United States, to eat a snake is repulsive, and believed a snake should be killed. That is a distinct difference in culture. Yet, all over the world, no matter our cultural differences or where our geographical regions are, we all acknowledge the birth of Jesus Christ. Some refer to his birth as Christmas others only acknowledge his existence. For instance, in a non-Christian culture such as in Thailand, where more than 90 percent of the people are Buddhist, Christmas is not a national holiday, but decorations can be out by Christmas time, "Santa" is very popular, and people exchange gifts on December 25th. This fact has always been miraculous to me. How can we all live so differently, yet Jesus is the one common denominator that bring us all together in one way or another?

More than two billion people in more than 160 countries consider Christmas to be the most important holiday of the year. And about a third of people in the United States view Christmas as a cultural holiday rather than a religious one.

Although I am not a Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, nor am I a Muslim but I love the fact that regardless of who we are and what we believe, at some point during our calendar year, we all at the same time share harmony together because of one common denominator, Jesus Christ!

And so, I share my argument. Who am I to judge another man's culture? What he believes? Whom he serves or what he eats, or condemn the color of his skin? Although I may not agree with or understand a person's belief's, traditions, or race, my ultimate desire is to live peaceably with all men. **Romans 12:18-"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."**

When we use our liberty to judge another man for any of these reasons, we are not cognizant that God created all things. **Colossians 1:16-"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-all things were created through him and for him."** God created the flowers to bring beauty to the earth and pleasure to us.

times it is more beautiful to see them all put together as a bouquet or arrangement rather than as a single plant or being.

In my opinion, this is where our consciousness has fallen asleep. To be cognizant is to be mindful, sensible, aware alert and awake. In today's world many of us have lost compassion, sympathy, kindness and understanding for others. Many different groups of people are out for themselves and their own agendas. We have lost the reason and understanding why we are different and why we have been created.

We were created to show "off" God's handiwork just as God did in the beginning within His magnificent creations. So, within our gifts, within our talents and within our cultures whether in the country of Dubai or in the state of Louisiana, with God's love, we were to procreate upon the earth, thus multiplying God's image EVERYWHERE as His creation of man. The bible says in **Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them"** and it also says in **Genesis 1:31-"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."**....

Are we really thinking clearly? Are we truly mindful of others? Do we truly share the image of God and have harmony between ourselves other than during what man has deemed to be *Christmas* on December 25th?

Are men using their liberty to control our consciousness? And are we using our liberty to control other men's conscious? Think about it!

Why are we in the year 2020 and racism is still a "thing?" We are contradicting God's character and we are mutilating His image (ourselves) with our biases.

I believe the peace and unity we feel and share during that certain time of year whether we call it Christmas or not, is felt all around the world at the same time just as it was felt during the birth of Christ. And that harmony was to be reproduced all over the world continually.

So today in the month of July, in the year of 2020, in the midst of abundant chaos, many preconceptions, partialities, bigotries and intolerances, just as it was during the birth of Jesus Christ, because at that time, the very first tax law had been put into effect all over the world by Cyrenius, yet the angels of God still declared "**fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**" **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward (all) men!"**-**Luke 2:10 & 14.**

I also believe, in God's own time, and when we the people of God finally learn to live on one accord, the angels will declare again, "**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward (all) men!**" Peace to All and May God Bless You!

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There is an ANOINING for the EARLY RISER

See Them. Let Them See You

Reignite your passion for justice for all

By Eunice A. Christian
August 3, 2020

Romans 5:6-11 ~ ⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV) ~ ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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Stay Encouraged

INTRODUCTION

I hope this month's article will encourage you to focus upon issues that matter most in your life. This month, I have presented an array of topics. Some topics may be expected; some not. I pray its contents resonates with you to take action—and that you are continuously guided by the Holy Spirit before, during, and after doing so. The sentiments shared are intended to reignite your passion to serve and appreciate someone close or afar off. If you are not doing so already, make an extra effort to shine a ray of hope in the life of someone you hold dear, or for a cause that affects social change at a distance. Also, pray to have your passion and gifts stirred up to help and heal. If nothing else, may you have an increased appreciation for life and the love of God.

A brief pause: Before you read any further, I would like to take this moment to share that my prayers goes out to those seeking healing and comfort; especially, for the many who have recently lost loved ones during this year.

Unprecedented Challenge

Needless to share, we are faced with an unprecedented challenge. I consider our current situation unprecedented because the U.S. is faced with at least seven (7) major domestic challenges synchronously: 1) The Black Lives Matter and global protests driven by the unjustified killings of Black people by law enforcers; 2) the Coronavirus-19 pandemic (COVID-19) that has swept the nation, in particular, people of color and who are low income; 3) an economic downfall resulting in increased homelessness and loss of small businesses; 4) demands for the defunding of police in order to support under represented communities of color; 5) the outrage demonstrated by those who hold onto the spirit of the Confederate flag; 6) outside infiltrators of the Black Lives Matter marches who are not going to stand for change—even if it means overtly exposing their hatred to the world; and 7) a quarantine imposed by the international community on the U.S. due to massive COVID-19 outbreaks statewide.

We Will Not Forget

As we are aware, the death of Mr. George Floyd took place in front of horrified onlookers in the state of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The heinous act by a person sworn to serve and protect incited the nation and the global community into emotions of pain, disbelief, and outrage. The phrase *8 minutes and 46 seconds* is symbolic to one of the most heinous acts against a human being in a civilized country in recent history. The sad and disturbing fact is that this was not the first of this type of assault, nor the last time such an incident occurred. A few months prior to the murder of Mr. Floyd, another Black man suffered the same fate; he died asking for medication. He died December 4, 2019. Most, if not all, involved have been charged. The family did not want the video disclosed; however, it was eventually released by the authorities. In this case, due justice was being served.

There has been a stream of new reports on past incidents flowing into the media stream because there are those who are finally realizing that it is not expedient to remain silent. If it had not been for the untimely death of Mr. Floyd, many of the injustices that are now being exposed may not have been revealed. Mr. Floyd's death occurred in front of a horrified group of witnesses. His sacrifice was enormous. He died, but not in vain. The outrage expressed by the Black community, as well as by other races and cultures, demand change in the manner of police reform. One such demand was a call to defund the police so that funding could help create better communities in which these law enforcers serve. Defunding is not a request to abolish the police, at least not by the masses, as some have claimed. Another demand is the removal of all statues that have been erected on public and state properties of men who perpetuated racism in America. Some called this a breach of freedom of expression. The masses agree that statues of slave masters or insensitive sculptures of people of color in disparaging forms in this day and age should be removed. *Should all statues of these figures be destroyed? No; place them in someone's museum. Glorifying my ancestors' oppressors by allowing these statues to remain in public should be an embarrassment to all. Yet again—there are those who hold with dear life onto the Confederate flag. Let me share what the Confederate flag represents—and why there is no place for it.*

While multitudes assemble against racism and inequality, in recent months, horrifying events began to emerge. It was recorded that collectively three Black men and a Black woman were found hung—yes, hung—in the states of California, New York, and Texas. The authorities and law enforcement have treated these deaths as suicides. *Three to four Black people found hung from a tree—considered a suicide?* I repeat: *Four Black people were found hung in these united states within the last several months.* Due to this and other horrifying acts of depraved indifference against Black people, the Black Lives Matter movement, and others movements for justice and equality,

began to build momentum. On the other hand, there are multitudes who hold fast onto the spirit of Confederacy, and appear to be willing to do whatever it takes to make sure change does not come—even at the expense of their own livelihood.

U.S. On Pause

While conflicts continue between groups who demand justice and those who would deny justice, the global community started to grow in numbers against the U.S. The international community placed the U.S. on *pause*. Over 30 countries to date are banning U.S. travelers from entering their borders. As this is happening, our country, the U.S., still does not have a unified plan, process, strategy, or mandate to combat the spread of this dreadful coronavirus, nor does the U.S. have a solidified plan for those in dire need of financial assistance. Political alliances would rather appease 1%'ers than spread the wealth. Multitudes are being displaced due to lack of income thereby increasing the homelessness population across the nation; some fear as much as 45% by the end of 2020. Many U.S. citizens are frightened; they do not know what to do or what to expect next—all of this while dealing with the threat of exposure to COVID-19. Then there is the heartbreaking issue of those who died or are dying—family, close friends, and associates who have not been allowed to receive visitors while in hospice care—nor who had received a respectful burial in the presence of those they left behind.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE STINNEY, JR.

Today, August 6, 2020, I came across an article remembering a 14-year old child named George Stinney, Jr. I am familiar with this young child's story—it makes me tremble knowing the evils our Black people have endured and continue to endure. This innocent, precious, and beautiful child was falsely accused of killing two white girls around his age; their bodies found near the home of the Stinney Family. As it has been reported, many years later, George Stinney, Jr. was exonerated; authorities finally releasing evidence that it was a police cover up. As those who are familiar with this horrific case know, he did not receive due justice. George Stinney, Jr. was executed. At the tender age of 14, George Stinney, Jr. became the youngest person to be executed in the United States of America on June 16, 1944. He was kept from his parents at least 80 days in prison before he was executed. His family was threatened and ran out of their community. George Stinney, Jr. was held in solitary confinement 80 miles from his city. He had no lawyer. It is claimed that the only object he had was a Holy Bible. He was electrocuted with 5,380 volts in his head. This was done to a beautiful child, in this country, and the masses wonder why we protest. If you believe you should not care or stand up to the injustices that plague our country.... May God help us all.

Call To Action

In the voice of the Late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to White clergy who were in opposition to his nonviolent movement:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly (excerpt from the Letter from the Birmingham Jail; Apr. 1963).

We are combatting social ills and human rights violations at epic levels. Unrest and turbulence has risen in the guise of political figureheads claiming to be on the side of justice and the American way. Justice and equity for all has taken a back seat to self interests. Overt acts of bigotry, racism, sexism, financial setbacks, corporate greed, anxiety, and despair are at levels this generation has never experienced before. *This is not the world we want to leave to our children—to our youths.* This is not meant to be a gloom and doom message—but a *call to action*. We need to do more than pray; we need to take action against the atrocities that are plaguing the powerless and disenfranchised—and that includes voting political officer holders out of office who do not support what is just and what is right for all people of color.

Redeem the Soul of America

As many of us are aware, within the span of 12 months, we have lost some of the most prolific civil rights activists that our country—arguably this world—has ever known. In July 2020, we lost two on the same day—July 17, 2020: Minister Cordy Tindell Vivian, also respectfully known as C.T. Vivian; and Hon. John Robert Lewis. Another activist for civil rights, Ms. Mimi Jones, also transitioned on July 26, 2020; and last year, Hon. Elijah Cummings on October 17, 2019. This is by no means an exclusive list during the past 12 months. These pillars of the civil rights movement have had a profound impact upon the pursuit of human rights that will be felt forever—and these are only a very few. As expressed, while we are aware of the plight of the Late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Hon. John Robert Lewis, Minister C.T. Vivian, and Ms. Mimi Jones, we should be reminded that there are countless others who fought nobly for people of all races—by all races—so that we could live together in harmony and with due and appropriate equity. People of various races and cultures have fought a good fight together in ways adversaries of the cause could not or will not comprehend or accept. Furthermore, nonviolent protests as a strategy cuts those in the heart due to their hatred of others. Those who oppose another's freedom and liberty will fight to the core; even if it hurts them more. This is the sad and ugly state of affairs our country faces today.

Much Has Changed, Much Remains the Same

It is tragic that many of the same issues of injustices that plagued the U.S. centuries and decades ago are still prominent today. *If it had not been for one sacrifice too many—Mr. George Floyd, who lost his life in such a heinous manner—we as a people under God may not have been so engaged.* The degenerative and depraved indifference that caused this man's death holds such an ugly place in American history; and yet, because the world witness this act of cruelty, many have risen to the cause for social justice and equality like never before. As in the spirit of the Late Fannie Lou Hamer, another civil rights icon, *We are sick and tired of being sick and tired.*

John 15:18-25 ~ ¹⁸ If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me [Jesus] before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Good Trouble. Necessary Trouble

As we celebrate what good we have accomplished since Year 2020 began, let us also know that we cannot afford to become complacent. There are multitudes of *good people* who demonstrate good actions, but that does not necessarily equate to the premise that these *good people* are proactive against societal and economic ills and atrocities that plague others. For sure, not all of us are meant to take certain positions such as engaging in physical protests and marches. However, my desire is to share this so that we can keep our minds and hearts on what we can do to bring goodness, hope, and compassion to others. To be frank, any message I share to others, I take it in first, so I do not ask others to do something I am led to do, but will not. If I have doubts, I pray for an answer; a more solidified sense of direction. I take the position that *I rather suffer for the cause of Christ, than for the cause of Christ to suffer, but the Lord does not want me (us) to suffer; He wants us to do His will.* So, if it is expedient, I learn to stand still until I am convicted to move.

Matthew 6:33-34 ~ ³³But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Vote!

We should get into good trouble, necessary trouble (Hon. John R. Lewis). This and countless other statements from civil rights activists are call to action declarations. Mr. Lewis also stated, *If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it.* Knowing that Mr. Lewis and countless other men and women have kept the faith and have stayed the course so that you and I may have a right to equal rights, should stir our very being towards action that much more—*even during this very difficult and unprecedented period.* So, here is another call to action—*vote!*

How many of you can claim that your life is a protest? So many of us have been fighting injustices for decades. I am sure there are multitudes who may read this can attest to this sentiment. We should not allow those who would deny people of color due process in the justice system. When racism raises its ugly head, we should smack it back down—in other words, we should not allow racism to be tolerated with impunity. You may wonder what this has to do with a message on spiritual wellness. It has a great deal to do with it because multitudes of peaceful protests, and yes, some that were not so peaceful due to the opposition's desire to use force, have been founded upon the strength of the loving God's Spirit imbedded deep within the heart of those He loves. He blesses those He wills with the courage to want more for not only themselves, but for generations to come. We should want and work towards a better world than we possess now. If it had not been for the Lord who is on our side; if it had not been for His unmerited right-on-time grace, faith, and mercy, we would not have made it this far. In order to go farther, we must have faith to believe that even if this world does not get better on our time, our Lord and our God got us and those to come who seek Him in Spirit and in Truth. To know and love God is to have faith in Him (Romans 1:17).

Matthew 25:31-46 (Jesus presents a parable) ~

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

In Remembrance of Those Untold or Shadowed

In remembrance of those who demonstrated untold or shadowed acts of heroism, the next time you hear someone say that their vote does not or will not matter, share the story of those who came before us and were ostracized, maimed, and killed so that we may have right to this democratic process as free people—*regardless as to what is going on currently*. Speak to our youths; ensure that they have registered or will registered in time so that they may take part in the upcoming elections. *Marching is significant, but we are required to do more. We must get out and vote*. In respect to those who came before us and for what the power of the vote represents, we should not take the vote for granted. Multitudes have paid, and are paying, a high price for this right, and those who desire to deny us equitable justice know this, too. That is why there is so much discussion about the potential of fraud in these upcoming elections. We have to come out in great numbers so as to not give doubt about the outcome.

Heroism and Greatness Are In Your Midst

To be frank, the word *hero* is being thrown around so much—*everyone is a hero!* [To side step a bit (you don't have to agree—it's o.k.): *Having personal encounters with someone, especially a stranger in need, just to share their personal and confidential information to the world via social networks is such a turnoff. Don't put someone on full blast so you can have your 15 minutes of fame via a viral video. Not everyone wants or desires their personal challenges on multimedia news. Undercover cameras under the table taking unauthorized videos is low in more ways than one. If you need to put yourself and others on full blast, just know and acknowledge that you have received your reward.*]

If you look at TV—everyone is considered a hero for doing what is or should be considered the norm. To share, I am not referring to first responders. God bless those who stood and are still standing in the face of this heart wrenching fight against COVID-19. Also, may The Most High continue to bless those who, like soldiers in a war against a ferocious foe—an invisible-to-the-naked-eye foe—COVID-19, who are doing their best to do what is right to conquer this virus. As it pertains to everyone else, *everyone needs encouragement; everyone needs support. However, doing good outside one's inner circle should not be considered heroic, it should be considered the norm—it should be considered the right thing to do*. God knows people of color have done things that one would, could, or should consider heroic, but have considered such acts as part of the territory. *How about this:* Heroism is spearheading the Freedom Trail where courageous individuals fled slavery driven plantations, and not only fled for their lives, but when they found a place of refuge, were willing to return back to the bowels of hate in order to bring others to freedom as well. Heroism is seeing someone take a stand for the common good for themselves and for others while facing legal authorities, vicious dogs, powerful water hoses, angry mobs with guns and sticks, and whatever else that could be used to hinder, maim, and kill. Heroism looks like people of various races, colors, cultures who ban together to oppose what is wrong—knowing that it could cause them to be an outcast amongst their own.

Heroism is demonstrated in children who defied their parents, ran out of their homes early in the morning or extremely late at night to take part in peaceful protest marches that they know will expose them to a lineup of police brutality and fierce opposition—which included beatings, water hosing, vicious dogs, angry mobs, billy clubs, and dangerous projectiles on public streets so that they can one day have the right to vote. Heroism is knowing that your home may be bombed, set on fire, or vandalized because you are in an affluent neighborhood and you are not wanted, but remain because that is your God-given right; and not only your right, but for the rights of any other citizen regardless as to the color of their skin. Being a hero is taking a stand against wickedness in high

places, knowing that it can cost you your livelihood and life. Yet, for the betterment of yourself and others—you stand because Jesus, who is this world's Hero—took a stand first. Not only did He stand, He hung His head and died so that we may have life and life more abundantly here on earth and in heaven above.

Greatness In You

Greatness is your daddy who gave or gives you love, protection, work ethics, inspiration, and adult talks, so that when another comes into your life, you won't think it's a big deal, but the norm—you know what I'm saying! Greatness is your loving mommy who worked or continues to work morning, noon, and night, whether at home or at work, or both, just to make sure that there is or was food on the table, or that you could get an extra gift during special occasions. Greatness is your grandma who taught you how to pray, and blessed you with the power of the Holy Word. Greatness is your grandpa who knew or knows how to build things with his hands—things you wished you could do this day. Greatness comes in all shapes and forms. Appreciate the greatness that God has blessed you to have in your midst.

See Them. Let Them See You

I am about to make a turn with the tone of my message; it is about to become a bit softer and lighter (*At least that is what I am attempting.*) I know this may not be as my previous articles—This one may be considered to be all over the place—*don't agree with me! LOL!* I want to give you food for thought, as well as another call to action. *My challenge to you is this:*

Look into the eyes of your loved ones. *See them.*

Have you ever touched the hair of an elderly family member? Are you certain that you know his or her eye color? (So you thought his or her eyes were brown, but their eyes have a tint of grey or green...hum!) Did you know whether any of your loved ones are bilingual or multilingual...or played an instrument...sung, danced, wrote stories and poetry? Are you aware of any family or loved one who served in the military—male and female? To the contrary, do you find yourself shutting down conversations when someone wants to talk about what they experienced in their past? Do you realize you may be shutting down more than a conversation...you are shutting down someone's heart? Have you realized that you could be shutting down a wealth of information, wisdom, and knowledge that if they left this earth, you will never ever be able to learn or retrieve again? You may think these are strange questions—they are not. Many of our elderly do not receive interaction from loved ones, and they live in the same household. Some of our elderly live with their grandchildren who never touched their hair or face. Many elderly feel left out and shut out. So no, these questions are not strange—questions such as these is a way to determine whether you are humanly—and not only electronically—connected to those in your midst.

Proverbs 27:10 (KJV) ~ ¹⁰ Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity; for better is a neighbor that is near, than a brother far off.

A part of greatness is knowing where your loved ones came from because you are from the loins of greatness—whether biologically or spiritually. We know some of the greatest parents ever are the ones God created by joining together. *If you do not have loved ones or family that are near, still know you are greatness! You can be the start of a line of greatness where you are at by sharing love and compassion to someone who may be going through what you are going through—or have gone through.* So knowing this, have a genuine heart to ask, and not because you are curious about *gettinginfoonmypeepsandneighbors.com* (btw: I made this site up). Appreciate those in your midst; get to know who is in your midst. Learn more about your loved ones or those who are closest to you—whether by webinar or telecommunications if not best in person; ongoing texting can be so tedious. Learn more about your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents...cousins, nieces,

nephews.... *How about a friendly neighbor who may desire to share his or her story—of course, use wisdom and discretion—we are unfortunately still in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

I bet there is bound to be a number of you who do not know where certain family members met or where they got married, etc. I bet there has to be some of you who never quite thought about how family members came to the U.S. (*You mean Aunt Bessie and Uncle Jake were on a plane! Who were the athletes in the family, and what did they play? (You mean Aunt Bessie and Uncle Jake have trophies—they knew how to play tennis, race, ride horses, dance...!)*)

Do something challenging during this period of time that enlarges your horizon and your information and knowledge. *Study the Constitution, dagnabbit (o.k., I just dated myself with that phrase), if that will excite you!* If in isolation or quarantine, take the time to study something that you have always wanted to study. If you are reading my article, you most likely have access to the internet. There are organizations online that allow one to explore various interests. *Why not paint, draw, or write! Even if you do not have applications that are required, explore tutorials online that can help you get a head start until you do.* There is meetup.com (btw: this time this site is legit.). *Whatever you do, keep your mind flowing with information and knowledge that will cheer you up...and please...no catfishing! Yikes!*

Human interconnectivity is so important, especially these days. It is more than just a passing gesture; it is caring, it is loving, it is empathetic—and *it should be genuine.* *Note:* For those who are suffering from boredom or anxiety, please take heed if you get an unction that any of my suggestions are not for you. This is not a broad brush for everyone. My main objective is to get those who desire inspiration up and running in a grander way so as to not feel alone, in despair, or depressed. *Knowledge applied appropriately is wisdom.* So take heed to the power and unction of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Advocate, when engaging. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your guide in all matters. If nothing else you get from my article, appreciate the scriptures contained herein. *So, can we agree? Yes...we do! Amen.*

1 John 4:20-21 ~ ²⁰ If someone says, *I love God*, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

Praying With Purpose

Many aspects of daily living may be challenged now, but if we hold on, change is coming; change has to come—*positive change.* We need to do more than hope for the best, we need to collectively do our best according to the gifts bestowed upon us by The Most High. We need to be on the good side of this change. It may not come when desired for us all—*those whose shoulders we stand on knew that all too well on an exponential level*—they were met with fierce opposition via way of police brutality, cursing politicians, spitting and verbally abusive and ill-willed residents, fire bombings, and what should be considered inconceivable—torture and hangings. Irrespective of these threats, with the love and grace of God, we must not grow weary, nor give up. We must stay the course and remain vigilant. We must stay encouraged.

Most people who are hating on you, they are not worried about where you are. They're worried about where you're going.

~ Hon. Elijah Cummings

Many are gifted, but not all use their gifts for the higher good. In light of this fact, we should also know this to be true: *The character and stamina of a person is determined not by when things are running smoothly, but when matters seem to be out of control.* We can and will overcome by the grace of God who is able to bring sweet relief with His divine intervention. *Let us praise Him in advance for the victory! Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered!* (Psalm 68:1). By faith, we

can combat the wiles of the adversary by acknowledging Jesus the Christ, Son of the Living God, as the head of our lives and the Master of our fate. *Can someone be instrumental in the fight against social ills and not be saved?* Of course; however, it is written:

Mark 8:36-38 ~ ³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me [Jesus] and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Is God concerned about how we treat one another? Of course. Being spiritually minded does not equate to being socially ineffective. The Word of God explicitly expresses how we should be concerned about others for the higher good.

The Lord sacrificed Himself so that we may be spiritually free from the law of sin and eternal death (Romans Chapter 8); thereby blessing us with the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Advocate (John 14:16-18). While here on earth, in His name, we have the ability to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we thought we could achieve through Him (Ephesians 3:20-21). We should hold steadfast and immovable to our faith in God, knowing man is a vessel to be used by Him. It is written that God gave man a free will, but it is God who reigns supreme, and that by the Blood of the Lamb Jesus, we shall gain the victory. So let those who are in the Lord be reminded that there is hope for us all, including those who have yet to receive Him in Spirit and in Truth, while we are still here on earth; while the blood is still running warm in our veins.

Let us keep in the forefront of our minds and hearts that The Most High God and our Lord are the keepers of our soul. We should also be mindful that we are the sheep of His pasture, and that we are His to do as He wills. So, let us step out day by day in this world with the blessed hope and assurance that our Redeemer lives and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Furthermore, we should acknowledge and walk on the premise that for us to fight a good fight of faith while here on earth, we need Him, and that we cannot prevail without Him. Therefore, let us pray that we are and remain on the right side of God in all of our ways.

Joshua 24:15 ~ ¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

While We Still Have Time

While the blood is running warm in your veins, *and while the blood is running warm in their veins*, learn to forgive someone who has hurt you—or *if necessary learn to forget as The Most High also forgets our transgressions—and be healed*. This suggestion does not mean to set yourself up to get hurt again, or just as important—for YOU to hurt someone again. It means to gently close some of the gaps in life that keeps you from focusing and doing your best.

Psalms 51:10-12 ~ ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Being forgiving is more for you than the other person; perhaps forgiving someone else and letting him or her know may be just as much; of course, depending upon the situation. This we should agree upon: *Holding onto grudges will never lead to healing*. During this COVID-19 pandemic, give yourself the satisfaction of having a clean heart and a renewed spirit. If you are alive, as I shared earlier, it is a gift that many no longer have, *so let go and let God heal you. Past performances does not necessarily predict future outcomes—have you ever heard that statement before?* Whatever decision you make, let it be YOUR decision, but lean on The Everlasting Arm for guidance. Seek the power and unction of the Holy Spirit. Know the difference between suffering for

the cause of Christ, and suffering without just cause. Also, be mindful to embrace not only who you are, but whose you are. I pray that you have received Jesus The Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and just as important, His Holy Spirit. If so, you are chosen. You are a child of The Most High God. *Now, see yourself.* See your potential for greatness—it is in you—it's *in there!* *It is important that you know and see yourself first before you look to see the potential in others.*

Romans 8:14-17 ~ ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, *Abba, Father.* ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

This Final Call To Action

I would like to close with this final call to action that relates to fighting a war against a foe that is invisible to the naked eye; a foe which has a presence that can be felt when those around us fall ill because we do not know what will happen next; it is the war against Coronavirus 19. First and foremost, with one accord, we should never hesitate to acknowledge how precious life is. Furthermore, if I am able to write this article, and you are able to read this article, as of August 3, 2020, we are able to do what over 32,725 individuals in New York City cannot do; what over 160,190,000 in the U.S. cannot do; and what over 702,000,000 individuals cannot do worldwide because they were affected with this dreadful virus and lost their battle to survive (*Worldometer.com*). Yet, there are still multitudes today in our country, and most likely worldwide, who refuse to take this matter seriously. There are still those who refuse to wear a mask, who refuse to practice social distancing when in risky situations, and who refuse to take other precautionary measures to protect themselves and another's life. Sadly, there are some who thought they were safe and *out of the woods*. There are many individuals who practiced social distancing, and thought they took all of the appropriate measures, but started back to their new norm too soon. For too many, even while doing what is right, it still resulted in COVID-19 exposure. In spite of all of this known information and data, there are still alarming numbers of individuals who still desire to downplay this pandemic and still perpetuate the notion that it is a hoax—*until it strikes them close to home*. If you are reading this, you are doing good. However, we have been warned: If the U.S. does not do what is required and right to combat this deadly virus, a resurgence will occur again soon.

Please be careful. Wear a mask. Sanitize your hands.
Practice social distancing. Be and stay safe. Stay well.

* * *

I would like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to those who are experiencing grief and hardship during this COVID-19 pandemic. As I pray for my family, friends, and those I encounter, I pray for you, too.

May God's grace and mercies keep you; and that the joy of the Lord and the love of God which surpasses all understanding strengthen and encourage you always.

May God continue to bless and uplift all those who seek His Face, and may the Spirit of the Living God bless the works of those across the nations who serve to make this world a better place.

Eunice A. Christian

Content Writer; Missionary

Stay Encouraged

We cannot truly fathom how great our Lord and God is, but what we can identify with is our Lord and our God's mercies towards us. Knowing that there are recorded accounts of how Jesus

walked this earth—and knowing how He lived and died for us—should cause us to serve Him with an abundance of gratitude and humility. We know that we could never repay Him for what He has done, and continues to do for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit—we know this—but the way we can honor Him is to love and obey Him.

We should, therefore, be willing to spread the gospel so that the Holy Word may be received by all who will believe—and for those who truly believe, may we rejoice together, and be continually encouraged in knowing that we have a glorious expected end in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:14-16 ¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

* * *

There is no greater gift than the power of God's redemption.

So, if you've have not done so already, give your heart to Jesus while you still have time.

Have a transformed mind, look to Jesus.

Be blessed and be a blessing. ❤️

*Unless otherwise indicated, all biblical references are from the New Kings James Version (NKJV) - Public Domain.

Scriptures representing Jesus are in bold.

Simple Commandments

Mark 12: 28-31

28And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

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Abolishing the Attitude Of Entitlement

Acknowledge our lack of Knowledge and Accountability

Coming To The Table Of Understanding

"Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."

I have a dream that one day this Nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

When we allow freedom to ring-when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, Free at last, Great God almighty, We are free at last."

With this faith we will be to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. *Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" speech.*

Eliminating Hatred

Stereotype

Equality for All

Removing Bias

Zoom Conference

Like and follow us on our Facebook page and learn about our scheduled open discussion meetings. View our various informational post and share your comments.

Recognizing The Strength Of This Nation Is Within Our Diversity

One Unified Voice
Do away with known and unknown Injustice
Diversity is a Must
Educate on Diferrence to remove Fears

Rebuilding Trust
Ending Racism
Creating a Spirit of Cooperation
Learning to completely listen as well as speak

"In all our getting let's get an Understanding"

Coming To The Table Of Understanding

"In all our getting let's get an Understanding"

Reference Information can be found here.
Coming To The Table of Understanding
Facebook page
Recognizing The Strength Of This Nation Is Within Our Diversity



Coming to the Table of Understanding.

C.A. Dangerfield II

In light of all the events that have been taking place around the world, God has allowed illumination on key things we must fix. This is a period of purging in order to get that which is infected within our society to be healed. Honestly, the Band-Aid approach that had been applied we truly know has not and will not work going

In doing so we have to come together and openly communicate about the things that we know are totally incorrect. We must unite for the common cause of understanding the effects of past actions that have us in the current state of being which is at a stalemate. No advancement and no decline, we must present the board where we all begin at a place of equality and move forward from there with the same advantages.

God has allowed Transform You and VLF Inspired Magazine to come together and sponsor one of many conversations around the country and the world dealing with race relations. We felt it important to have this dialog to erase so many stereotypes, understand what is the overall cultural misunderstandings due to misinformation, correct the history, speak about a future that will allow this nation to live up to the true strength that could be realized if we understand that it lies within our diversity and unite to bring that truth forward.

We know that honest conversation is what it is going to take to fix over 400 years of change and growth that has been happening as time progresses forward. When we have to stretch our understanding to include others that are not within our immediate circle it becomes difficult especially when one has held the advantage over another and doesn't truly identify with the impact of the harm which has been inflicted. However, when things are brought to our attention, we cannot turn a blind eye or deaf ear to the situation. It has been exposed to be fixed so we can make a better place to live for future generations. Who also now operate through a different lens until they are taught to foster those outdated behaviors. Because they have an understanding from within that these views and values are not acceptable for the future. So, they have already rejected them, and demand change is going forward.

We are having the necessary conversations to understand the scars felt by one generation as well as the continued struggles of another generation. We are identifying and removing the hurdles and impasses that secretly and openly creates oppression and has the potential to harm all races, cultures, and genders. We must abolish classism on every front because it sustains critical bias and a greater lack of understanding of conditions in life that is thrust upon so many in our society. Giving many a blinded eye mentality simply because they are not directly impacted by the behavior. Yet we have a rising generation who has identified the issues head-on and truly desires that it be settled, and the agenda not be forced to continue going forward. They understand racial, cultural, and gender bias along with an entitlement mentality is damaging and destructive and could lead to a society that will destroy themselves from within. It is imperative that this nation takes off the messy diapers and put on some grown-up garments and move forward into the right paths for the next generation. It is a shame when the children have more sense than the adults.

visit our Facebook page "Coming to the Table of Understanding" for announcements for future conversations that you can be a part of so that your input can be heard as we set the path forward for greater unity for future generations. "In all thy getting get an understanding." Pray for and with us as we move forward in this assignment from God that we may Transform our Minds coming to the place where we can "prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God".



Baby Dedication Keepsakes

Designs created to express your unique style!



Minister: Do you commit before God and I witnesses that you will do all that is within your power to maintain your home where Malory will be cared and loved, and do you continue to rearing this child and honor God with all her heart?
 Parents: We do.
 Charge: Bishop Carlton L Williams

Minister: Do you commit before God and I witnesses that you will do all that is within your power to maintain your home where Malory will be cared and loved, and do you continue to rearing this child and honor God with all her heart?
 Parents: We do.
 Charge: Bishop Carlton L Williams



Baby Dedication for Malory
 Scripture: Psalms 127:1-5
 Minister Shermel Epps
 1 Samuel 1:27-28
 Mother Patti Grant
 Statement of Intent: Bishop Carlton L Williams

God established the home as one of the most vital institutions on earth. God said to Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." Since that time, God has blessed man and woman with the wonder of birth.
 We can take our role of faith and practice for this service this morning from God's Word, the Bible! We find several accounts in the Bible of children being dedicated to God. Samuel was dedicated to God in 1 Samuel 1:26-28. Jesus was dedicated to God in Luke 2:22-23.
 So we come today, not only to ask God's special blessing on this life, but also to challenge and encourage the Mother and God Parents to love and care for Malory and give her every opportunity to live the kind of life that God wants her to live.

So in this act of dedication, I ask these questions:
 Minister: Do you, Tonya Norman and God Parents present Malory to God?
 Parents: We do.
 Minister: Do you stand before us and before God today seeking to be Godly examples? Parents: We do.

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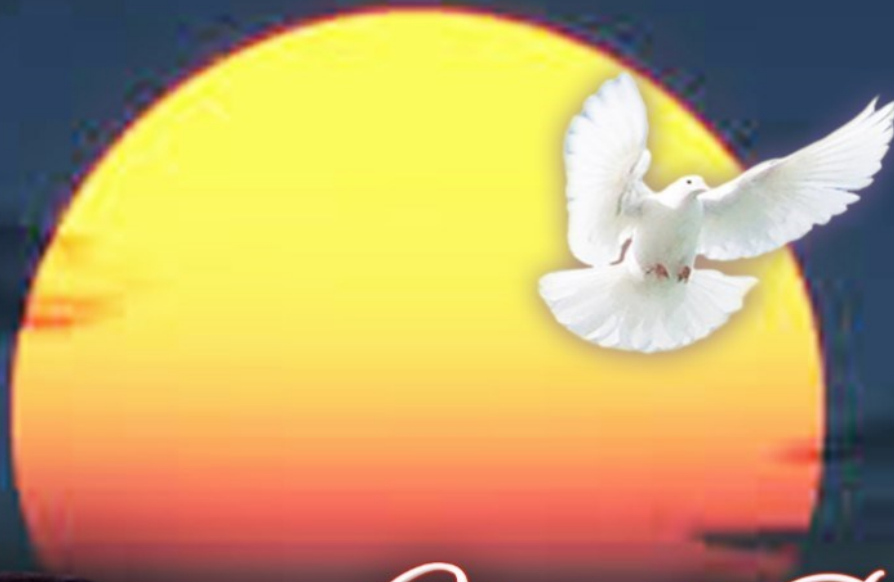
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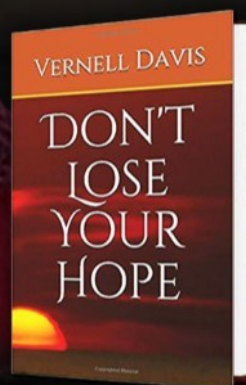




Vernell Davis

Vernell Davis attended University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, National University in La Jolla, California, The King's College, and Andersonville Theological Seminary earning a BS degree in Education, Master of Educational Administration, and a Doctorate in Christian Education.

She is the author of six books, Mothers' of Destiny, FaithBook, The Epicenter, The Solitary Confinement Factor, The Dichotomous Church: Lord Teach Us to Pray, and the recently released Don't Lose Your Hope.



A Revivalist and workshop facilitator. She has served as Church Administrator an Interim Pastor of Praise Fellowship church in Mishawaka, Indiana. An Education Consultant and current President of Mothers' of Destiny Ministries.

DON'T LOSE YOUR HOPE

In *Don't Lose Your Hope*, Vernell Davis presents spiritual strategies for overcoming feelings of defeat and despair; confronting obstacles and disappointment. This powerful book provides words of comfort that can transform you to experience a healthy level of hope when confronting discouragement and hopelessness. She encourages readers to incorporate prayer, trust in God amid rejecting feelings of defeat and insecurity. Vernell embraces the concept of the confident assurance of what is hoped for is intertwined with faith. This emotional read will evoke tears, smiles, and motivations to deepen your commitment to healthy physical and spiritual health.

Holy Spirit Influence

Minister Donna Jones

Have we unknowingly given our liberty to chains? Have we stopped pursuing the land flowing with milk and honey for the ease of our 'comfort zones'? Have we resigned ourselves to bondage because the cost of freedom is too high? Has our mindset become one that at least in Egypt there is food and no unknown challenges?

Did we pray, seek God's Word, fight for freedom, educate ourselves of human rights only to get to the promised land to find that maintenance was too strenuous?

Did we see that there was so much more here, but we were tired of being stretched? Are we looking at who is hindering us from getting to third base (governments, politicians, presidents, kings, authoritarians, viruses)? When we really need to go back to the batting cage to see where we really started to mess up. The batting cage will take us right back to our own backyard to see where we didn't give it our best or train hard enough. We looked at others and tried to mimic them. We do not need to discourage ourselves, but we are to stop blaming others.

For whatever way, we feel we are being led around by corrupt leadership, we must first be honest enough to say that we haven't led ourselves well.

Question:

Who do you feel is the main person stealing your liberty right now?

Question:

Have you discussed this with God lately, if so to what extent?

The point here is that praying about our lives has become the most old fashioned, powerless, and least effective move to make. Power, money, education, and self-motivation all are good in their rightful place, but they were never meant to take the place of seeking God (Matthew 6:33).

If God isn't first, then all is out of order.

There are still many today that feel someone is messing up their lives, but if in a dream God said stop what you're doing to fight for your rights for three days, fast and pray, intercede for this person, and watch your fight become better than ever. Most would feel that they had eaten the wrong food and that it wasn't God speaking. Why? Because the sheep had forgotten the voice of the His Shepherd, (John 10). Or maybe some would know his voice but ignore it because listening to God wasn't on their calendar.

What is leading you is a distraction to what really is important, your heart.

So yes, let's fight for freedom and learn all we can and apply it, but go to the One who knows it all.

If you were going to live in Japan successfully for 20 years you would consult an interpreter well. In this world, we need an intercessor or an advocate the Bible tells us in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us-lean into Him.

Dear Lord, we come back to the basics. We need you.

Oh Lord, we need Thee

Every hour we need Thee

Oh, bless us now kind Savior, we come to Thee

I need Thee. Oh Lord, I need Thee.

THE QUESTION IS

Do you recognize and understand the signs of the times?

**In all thy getting, get an understanding.
Study the Word of God!**

Acknowledge, Be Conscious, and Grow

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

It is out of obedience that I share these things with you that you may first be able to acknowledge and then that you would gain knowledge and obtain an understanding and show forth true humility within your newfound wisdom.

We as a people have been in error for so long that we have been distracted by so many things that have taken us away from the will of God. We do attempt to do something right which has afforded us some grace and mercy. However, within the bigger picture, we continue down some of the same paths that have put major distances between us and God putting us within a state of a reprobate mind. Which in turn leads down a pathway towards destruction. Stop and think about that statement for a minute and allow your spirit to absorb that statement.

We have carried on with some traditions which do not line up with the plan of God, yet we continue to push these agendas as if they are correct but they continue to manifest the same unpleasant outcomes that have to bring mankind back to our senses. God's word will not come back void. For every cause there is an effect, for every action, there is a reaction. God's word provides us with the history of these things so that we can avoid errors. Not so that we can manipulate outcomes with strife and oppression. It is when we see these errors and become complacent rather than turning from the wicked ways, we face the judgment of God and not his Grace. Finger-pointing is not the solution when we each have a responsibility to speak out when we know an action is wrong. We all are held accountable individually and collectively.

It is better for us to be in His perfect will rather than His permissive will. We error with the mindset of thinking that just because we call ourselves Christians that we can be exempt or pardoned for our actions, however, that is where we have allowed ourselves to be deceived and our excuses for our actions have truly clouded our vision. When in fact we are supposed to be lights within this world-leading mankind back to God. When in fact we have done the total opposite. I say that because when speaking to others regarding a relationship with God through Christ the first response is the Church is filled with a bunch of hypocrisy. So, the focus is not on Jesus Christ but on His followers, who are not representing Him in the best light. We must clean up our overall act.

This is my observation we are within a season of purging exposing all the things that have taken us as a nation out of complete fellowship with God because we have failed to comply honestly and completely with the Word of God operating in gray areas and being complacent to the truth. As if we are 100% within His will when we are truly way less than half. Taking up banners against various effects within our environment and never truly dealing with the core cause which are behaviors that are contrary to the Word of God which is the key principle factor. So now the eventual fall out for everything is presented here being exposed to us daily. Every day we deny it something else rises that needs to be corrected. We cannot keep deflecting away from what we know is wrong. The cost is too high for disobedience and if we are paying attention, we know this to be true. Immoral behavior, bias, and racism, oppression of so many kinds that are knowingly carried out, yet we are silent.

There are so many examples and places within the Word of God that speak out against this behavior but yet we continue to turn a blind eye and deaf ear. I use the term we because when we see something and say nothing, we are a part of the problem because we fail to respond and push towards the solution for the needed change. That makes us all as guilty as the perpetrators. We see it in every facet of our life in politics, society, and even within the household of faith. Which in some cases is not reflective of the true characteristics of God our Father and Creator. Political views have nothing to do with God's truths because they are skewed and distorted on many angles and have manipulated on so many fronts. When we are truthful none truly stand solely on the principles of God. If it were so, then our current situation and circumstances would not be a factor in our land. We have caused these present conditions because of our behavior towards one another; until we recognize this fact we will continue to self-destruct.

We desperately lack in the area of humility and greater in the area of understanding the errors of our persistence to have unlimited freedom even to the detriment of others. Arrogance and entitlement will be the ultimate downfall unless we abandon this mindset as a nation. Some would disagree because of political affiliation giving credence to feel entitled or superior towards others. As I mentioned earlier God is not governed by our politics and that sort of arrogance leads to judgment and even wrath. If you disagree check the history throughout the Word of God which demonstrates the true outcome should we be opened to understanding how God deals with obedience and disobedience. It is imperative that we not dismiss this understanding.

A major issue that we seem to dismiss as not being factual is this constant push to divide and not to unite. This agenda is so destructive, and no one wins. But this natural tactic is a spiritual tactic which man seems to be more or less oblivious to

and makes it of less importance until it gets to the obvious viewpoint then we deem it destructive and nine times out of ten the damage has already been done. The void which is created could have been eliminated earlier before it ever amassed to so great of an issue. We tend to become desensitized by the subtle approaches to which things are launched at us which at times have a devastating impact overall which makes it extremely hard for recovery. To the point of losing the essence of what would have been in place. So now even that has been aborted or delayed.

But even with the current events that have taken place, I see a shift toward the things that are right. The coin has flipped and the movement for change is present, we just need to completely cross the threshold. Despite continued resistance to acknowledging and correcting that which is very apparent. Going beyond individual gains to seeing and understanding things from a broader perspective and a greater benefit where everyone has been considered. Then we meet the mandate prescribed within the Word of God. We are not supposed to operate in the place of oppression or exclusion to the point of harming another. That would be showing that we are operating from a place of having a respect of persons mindset (James 2:9). Which will take us out of favor with God because we are demonstrating some form of bias by making other's feel that we feel we are in a place of entitlement and are justified by our actions towards them. This may not be one's intent, but it will surely be another's outcome. So, it is vital that we view things from an aerial view enabling us to see all vantage points equally. Equally weighing out the possible impact from our decision making sure to provide a more harmonious outcome rather than in some cases a chain reaction of negative events. When we learn to count the cost in which it does not traumatically impact our relationship with God. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and not lean to our own understanding but acknowledge Him and He shall direct our paths." It is when we truly acknowledge Him, we begin to understand the purpose of our creation. If we would never go in unto Him our fulfillment in life will go lacking.

By studying the Word of God, we gain the knowledge to navigate through life and to fulfill the reason for our individual creation into this world. Studying the Word of God allows us to formulate a relationship with God that He may gain glory through our lives as we demonstrate His will throughout the earth. We can be that ambassador for change by being that true example for others to see and have an actual harvest for the Kingdom of God.

As we refrain from conforming to the world systems that consistently demonstrate their inability to remain consistent with the principles and the will of God. The areas in which God desires for us to be consistent in, we have walked it back by putting less emphasis on it until recently because with the current conditions within our land

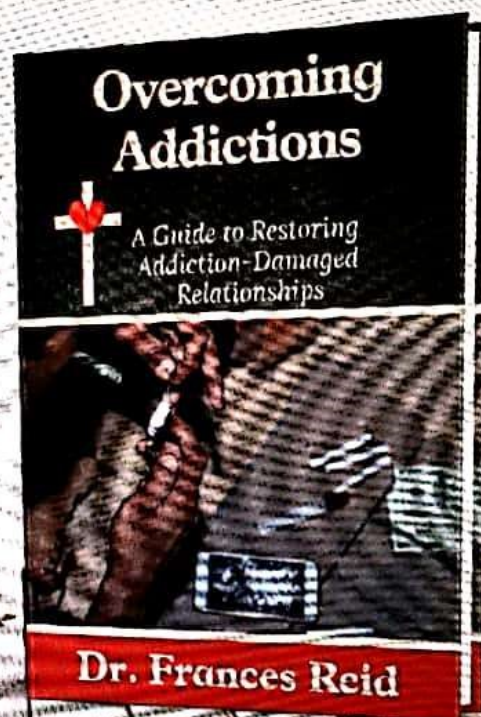
we all have had a taste of the greater hardship. Reality is the great teacher to those who are in need of life lessons. We are supposed to care for the widows, orphans and the downtrodden. But to be honest we hoard and overconsume with no regards for others, speaks of our heart. This shows just how self-centered we can be with a lack of empathy.

The scriptures have diagnosed our condition and prescribed a remedy for our healing. It is completely up to us to accept the report and apply a remedy which means we have put pride aside and now foster humility and obedience in order to receive that promised deliverance. Cause and effect is in play with everything we do, and it is generated by one's obedience or disobedience. As I have stated before we are all accountable individually and collectively.

Take the time completely, stop and do an honest self-reflection of yourself and when you attempt to desire to cast blame look deeper and see that we sometimes make decisions in order to obtain acceptance from others but that puts us at odds with the will of God. Which relationship is more important God or man? We have to remember that we cannot allow ourselves to be easily influenced by others' actions or opinions, the cost is too high. Be consistent in your communications with God and fortify this relationship it is imperative that it remains strong at all costs. For God is our creator and the author and finisher of our fate. So, in closing trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to your own understanding, in ALL thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Continue in the obedience and blessings of the Lord.

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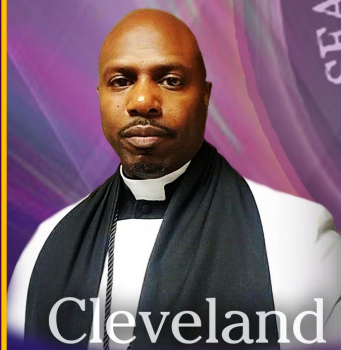
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Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Holy Convocation Week August 18th - 22nd, 2020

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LIVE
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Services



Cleveland

Supt. David McKenzie
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Citadel of Faith COGIC
Cleveland, OH

Cleveland, Elyria, Toledo Areas



Canton

Admin. Asst. Ace Gillems
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Pentecostal Temple COGIC
Canton, OH

Canton, Akron, Barberton Areas



Mansfield

Supt. Henry Bradley
Thursday, August 20, 2020
The New Community Temple
Mansfield, OH

Mansfield, Marion Areas



Columbus

Admin. Asst. Jerry Revish
Friday, August 21, 2020
Unity Temple COGIC
Columbus, OH

Columbus, Cincinnati Areas

Service begins 7 p.m. nightly unless otherwise noted

"A Taste of Convocation On Location" Cleveland

Mother Mattie Mayes,
Supervisor Women's Department
Women's Day
Thursday, August 20, 2020
10 a.m.
Williams Temple COGIC
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Bishop David L. Herron, Sr., Prelate
Ohio Central East Jurisdiction
Official Day
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Latoya Brewington, Sr. Pastor
Rhema Word Christian Center
Wilson, NC
Preaching August 10th 7p.m.

Bishop Calton L. Williams
Host Pastor
Roanoke Family Community Church
Roanoke Rapids, NC



NURTURING OPPRESSED WOMEN

AROUND THE WORLD MINISTRY

N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES

(NURTURING OPPRESSED WOMAN AROUND THE WORLD)

Elder Diane Harvell, Founder, est. April 2020

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. V.12-Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. V.13-And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

The N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES first began as the N.O.W. MINISTRY. However, as the Lord began to broaden my territory, He enlarged it to the N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES. After breaking through some very binding and difficult situations in my own life, the Lord introduced me to new people, new avenues and new ventures for life. Through the divine call of The Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, and after I was finally free of my own "oppressions," the transition from oppression to nurturing became very easy.

That is what N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES is about. To help encourage and care for the development of women everywhere, who have been crippled by past or present circumstances of life find their God-given purpose so that they too can help someone else. Thus, multiplying the love of God upon the earth.

Future goals for N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES are to offer childcare resources to life coaching, counseling, and temporary housing for those in need.

This is my passion, this is my purpose. Therefore, let us bring glory to the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Nurturing Oppressed Women Around the World! (N.O.W.A.T. MINISTRIES).

**Because of His Love,
Elder Diane Harvell**



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Your Thoughts

Chaplain Ella J. Alexander

There are plenty of scriptures regarding the way we think, but have it ever dawned on you how often you process thoughts? Have you ever considered the thoughts that you process? It is said that a person could process anywhere between 2,500 and 3,500 thoughts per hour. That's a high number, but out of that number how many thoughts are good, evil, harmful, wearisome, etc. We are told in the word of God about our thoughts. Let's go to Proverbs 23:7 which states, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." There are times we think about things that are beneficial to us. Those thoughts would push us to perform an action. However, there are thoughts that are harmful to us that will bound us and keep us from being able to move.

In our daily life, especially during the time we are currently living in, we are faced with many things. Some things we fight to change not realizing that only God can change what is impossible for man. Situations arise and will cause many to have a change of heart. Some nice people became evil doers and many evil doers became worse. When we began to witness a high scale of evil activity many began to think. They think of what should be done. The punishment, laws that need to be put into place. They think of unity while others think of division and chaos. Can we recognize our thoughts when they turn from righteousness to wickedness? If we think such things a time will come that will manifest the very heart of man.

Inside the Bible, it brings us to a clear understanding that the very Word of God is able to wash us, cleanse our thoughts. If we are going to have our thoughts cleansed and washed we must have the word in us. We must have something positive to think on. When our desires begin to change, then our very heart will change for the better.



Elder Diane Harwell
Founder



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Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is
taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:11

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"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible;
but with God all things are." Matthew 19:26

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The Cure to our present Conditions

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

The Cure to our present conditions is one way and one way only. We are required to face our individual and collective Truths. Acknowledge them and then repent from the errors of our ways, then correct that which has caused hardship and oppression towards others. Then and only then will we see a change from our present conditions. Continuing down the same path we are on will only cause our current conditions to worsen. We are not in a position to ignore what is presently in front of us God has given us the opportunity not only to see but clearly identify the generational evils that have continually been allowed to exist but their time for change has arrived and judgment has fallen on this present generation to completely right this wrong without compromise.

Our political views (Democrat, Republican, and Independent) have nothing to do with the sovereignty of God. How do I know? It's simple "Our ways are not His ways but acknowledge Him in all ways and He shall direct your path. I truly believe on some occasions politicians lose sight of this and draw from a mindset of having the authority of a god which in turn leads them down a pathway to destruction. Simply because they have lost the ability to remain humble before God.

Any authority granted by God should be accepted and operated in a place of humility unto Him. Being boastful is utterly dangerous as well as thinking that all people, in general, are so naive that they would accept one's harsh treatment of others. To continue to fall in and toe the line just because you have a popular name, this is a misconception to one's own power and authority. News Flash! There is only one name above all names and that is the name of Jesus. Failure to understand that when you have been given the opportunity to lead, your actions reflect and transcend down to the people you lead. So, the decisions that one makes has to be of a clearly conscious nature simply because of this outreaching effect that could turn catastrophic for everyone in the long run.

God has already provided the diagnosis and the remedy for a much needed and desired change, but each one of us is responsible for applying the required fulfillment of God's prescription in order to gain the necessary healing. Our transgression has delivered over 160,000 deaths within this nation, not caused by war, in such a short amount of time. But to most, it doesn't seem to phase them because they are defiant and feel they have the right to do as they wish even if it endangers others.

If you desire to be healed, then this is the diagnosis and the prescription all we have to do is apply it. 2 Chronicle 7:13-16

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and

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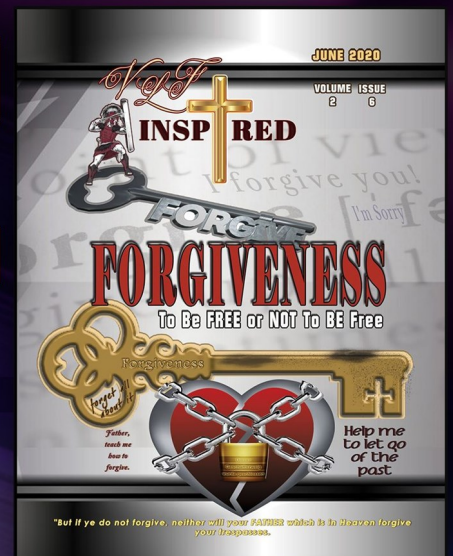
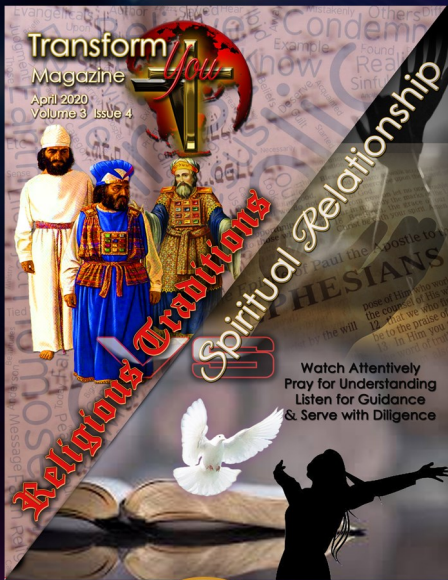
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Eyes Wide Open

Dr. C. A. Dangerfield II

During this season we have to be reflective, respectful, concerning for others, and most importantly accountable for our own actions. We cannot afford to get caught unaware or napping so to speak to our reality. We also must realize that there are two realms in operation to which we exist at the same time that generate outcomes effected on both sides by any given event. Therefore we must not be naive in this understanding because it is very much so real. If the truth be told we spend time within both consciously.

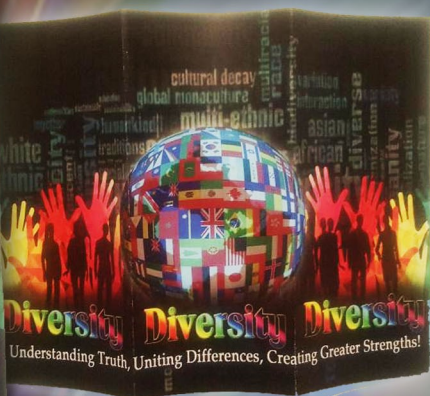
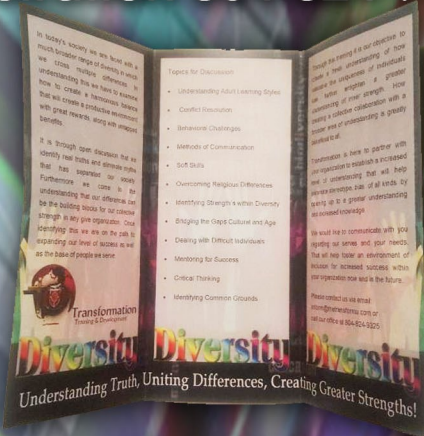
Manifesting a correct understanding goes a long way in forecasting apparent outcomes and having the ability to offset potential danger which could lead to devastation. We have to stay present at the moment in order to see it through. Noting the signs as they appear to take the proper or correct turns as

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