

The Struggle for Civil Rights

Royal Homecoming 2016

**Presented by: Community of Royal, Inc.
Collaborator: Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc.**

(Men are asks to meet in the foyer when announcements are called for. Men will take a sign, line up – 2x2; enter through the sanctuary doors in front of the fellowship hall; Leaders down the center aisle and others will Segway off in pairs of two to the right and left aisles.)

(The Lead men are Minister Barron, Cliff Hughes, Maitland Keiler and Levi Solomon)

(From the hallway while doors are closed- Levi will read the following)

Levi: Good Morning. We give honor and thanks to God for all Royal Church Pastors, especially to Pastor Henry Goldsmith, First Lady Goldsmith and Lady Hannah here at New Life Center Ministries for continuing to host our Community's Annual Homecoming Service and granted us time to share some of Royal's history and heritage.

Today, we honor the struggles for Civil Rights; our involvement - then and now. According to the New York Times; in the 1950's, African Americans turned to non-violent protest to challenge the discrimination and oppression they had so long suffered. Tens of thousands risked their lives in peaceful boycotts, sit-ins and marches that were often met with violence.

The question is what did we do then and what are willing to do now?

From the Montgomery Bus Boycott to the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Then ... to the Travon Martin, Michael Brown and the killings at Orlando's Pulse Club, Now.

The question is what did we do then and what are willing to do now?

(music starts; keep at background music levels)

Men, are you with me? Yeah

Men, are you with me? Yeah

Then, let us go with power, in peace and with the grace of God.

(Doors open- Minister Barron starts I Have A Dream and lead men into sanctuary. Music still low until all men are on in place.)

(Once on stage- Mr. Mait will read, the following:)

I was a young man in my 30s at that time. Here in Royal, some of us had TVs; we watched and we prayed. We prayed for our brothers and sisters safety and their success because we had our own struggles right here in Royal in Sumter County.

We may not have had a bus to boycott but we had a separate section to sit in when we went to the movies; we had separate water fountains; we couldn't pull up to any gas station and buy gas- some stations wouldn't sell to us. Your money was green but your hands were black.

I thank God for bringing us through.

(Once Mr. Mait finish; Cliff will start:)

In the 50's & 60's, there was a great movement for social justice led, mostly, by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At that time, there were many acts of injustice and our people pulled together. Today, we're seeing acts of injustice in Orlando, our back door. There's a need for us to pull together for the safety and protection of our community. For example, We, Community of Royal, Inc., in collaboration with Young Performing Artists, Inc., are placing application for a National Historic Designation for our beloved community. The State agrees that Royal should have this designation and has agreed to support our application. This designation will protect our community existence for decades to come.

But there's more we can do to help protect our community. Let us unite to create a stronger front centered in God's love and make our community a safer place. We need to do like they did in the olden days; look out for our neighbors.

Earlier, the question was what did we do then and what are willing to do now?

(music starts; keep at background music levels; Cliff will state the following)

Men, are you with me? Yeah

Men, are you with me? Yeah

Then, let's go with power, in peace and with the grace of God.

(Minister Barron starts I've been to the Mountain Top and lead men out of sanctuary. The music still playing low until all men have exit). The End.

(Once on stage- Mr. Maitland will read, the following:)

In the 50s & 60s, I was a young man in my 30s & 40s during the Civil Rights struggle. Here in Royal, some of us had TVs; we watched and we prayed. We prayed for our brothers and sisters, for their safety and their success. But, we had our own struggles right here in Royal in Sumter County.

We didn't have a bus to boycott but we had a separate section to sit in when we went to the movies; we had separate water fountains; we couldn't pull up to any gas station and buy gas- some stations wouldn't sell to us. Your money was green but your hands were black.

I thank God for bringing us through.