



November 12, 2016

Blessings to all,

“Up you mighty race! You can accomplish what you will!” This was Marcus Garvey’s oft spoken call to action during the 1920’s as he successfully organized the Black world during a time far more bitter than today. Garvey’s words of truth were just recounted here in Panama, at the Carib News Annual Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference, by his son, Dr. Julius Garvey. They were a salve and reminder so needed—like this gathering, bringing us together, said Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, and being able to detox and breathe again.

The hood has been pulled off of America—“whitelash,” CNN commentator Van Jones calls it. Reports of hateful, hurtful intimidation, primarily of Black and Latino people, are on the rise. And most disturbing, the Southern Poverty Law Center reports that the most common incidents of harassment are occurring in K-12 schools. Did we believe that our fight for freedom and advancement was won? That anyone occupying the Oval Office would ensure our progress? This is our work to do. And armed with the privileges that our foreparents fought and died for, we will protect our children, elevate our people. Generations before ours navigated the rough side of the mountain. Like them, we have to organize, strategize, stand strong together. Like them, we will win!

So take courage and give yourself what you need to get strong in body, mind and spirit—so we will link arms and aims in harmony, with clarity and sure strategy, as we continue this centuries-long battle for justice in this hemisphere that our ancestors’ unpaid labor built. We survived the Middle Passage, the loss of family, centuries of enslavement, rape, lynching, torture beyond the telling, Jim Crow, segregation, marginalization, over-incarceration. We are the people who refused to die. We were born for this fight. We were born to win it—in the now time! We have it all when we stand in inter-generational unity and support our brilliant young people carrying the baton. In unity, we have wisdom, the lessons of our history, connectivity. We only need the will, the plan and the passion. Along with the commitment to be each other’s keeper. Foremost, we must organize and work together—the difficult determinant for us, given the truth of our history, a truth that is never told and that our young must know. Trust, family, all that was dear and familiar to us was destroyed—all but our faith and tenacity. CARES is reclaiming Black wealth: our children, lifting up our history, repairing the village, renewing the spirit of our people. The Divine Hand is shaking us, awakening us to the truth of what we forget: Nobody loves us but us. We have to chart our own course. No others will or should direct our way forward.

Recruiting Mentors To Save A Generation



This is a moment for personal assessment: Weep if tears need to flow. Rest if you are weary. Change your mind and habits if restoring health is an issue. Get your relationships and your money straight. No more spending on nonsense, empowering the very entities that take our money and run.

This is a moment for planning and collective action: Deepen your commitment to CARES—help us help our children who are suffering the effects of poverty: hunger, homelessness, unrelenting violence, neglect. Join and pay dues to our civil rights organizations, and work with them in your community and with us at the national level, easing our organizations, faith institutions, fraternities and sororities out of silos toward collaboration, so we will present a strong, united economic and political front to be reckoned with, that cannot be denied. Support our fragile HBCUs; if you didn't attend one, pick one and donate what you can. Subscribe to the Congressional Black Caucus Newsletter, and open your home and wallet to help elect candidates who stand strong for us, whisking out of office those who don't.

We carry the light of the Holy Spirit. We were born to love, sent from beyond at this time to help heal hearts in a world made dangerous by ignorance and greed. Call upon our ancestral spirits for guidance and strength. Channel your inner Marcus, Martin and Malcolm; the might of Fannie Lou Hamer and Mary McLeod Bethune. This is a time of challenge and change and awakening. Organizing our efforts, egos behind us, working for the benefit of our people—despite our differences—we will create a transformed community and win justice for Black children suffering on our watch.

Prepare to fight and win! We can accomplish what's not been done since the winning Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1954, if like then, we stand strong together and with our allies, execute the plan and sustain it!

In Unity and Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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