

Inauguration Address

When I first had the vision in my mind that I was going to run for President of the Killeen Branch NAACP, I was told by some that I was too young, it wasn't my time; others were naysayers and some were just downright haters. But when you ask God for confirmation, He'll definitely validate it if it's within His will. And, I received this confirmation on Sunday, July 18th during Sunday school- the lesson, 'Chosen and Called'. You see, I'm not standing here today, as the President of the Killeen Branch NAACP because of status, a title, or the name; it's because it is God's will, for what God has for me it is for me. And, as my Pastor said to me, you never know who God is going to use to carry out His plan.

Thank you, to those of you who believed in me, voted for me and put your confidence in me.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, affectionately known as the NAACP, is the oldest civil rights organization, started back in 1909 by a multiracial group of activists who answered "The Call". But, as the years go by and time passes us by, we soon have forgotten what this organization stands for, is for and fights for. We have forgotten the roots that are so deeply planted in mother-earth. The seed was sown way back in the day, watered for a little while, then left to fend for itself. It's grown a bit, but, my, just think if it had been nurtured, taught and received a helping hand, regardless of its color, race or ethnicity; received some motivation/encouragement, or even educated on what it means to be 'my brother or sister's keeper'.

Well, today is a new day. Today, we are going Back to the Root of Things; we are going to 'Wake Up, Everybody, from all walks of life,

all precincts, all political parties, government agencies, the police department, our school systems, medical facilities, sororities and fraternities, and all churches, regardless of denomination and those persons/organizations in between. It's time out for our group, our city, our people; this mind-set is what is destroying our country to this day. I think back listening to Mr. Carlyle Walton, CEO of Metroplex, at a prayer breakfast for the exchange club. He talked about this poem and how he keeps it in his drawer at work, for days when he forgets where he came from. The poem, The Cold Within by James Patrick Kinney:

Six humans trapped by happenstance
In dark and bitter cold
Each one possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs,
The first woman held hers back.
For on the faces around the fire,
She noticed one was black.

The next man looking cross the way,
Saw one not of his church,
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes,
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use,
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store.

And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from sight,
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group
Did naught except for gain
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game.

The logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from ---THE COLD WITHIN.

These 6 individuals from different backgrounds, different walks of life, different stories, like us sitting here now, would be alive today had they had more love and peace for one another in their hearts.

Which is why today, at this moment, we must make a commitment to work together, collectively, unified with more Indians than Chiefs, more yeasayers and those who are a part of the solution and not the problem; those who are going to use more positive energy doing rather than complaining.

As the new leader of this local unit's oldest civil rights organizations, the team is awoke and ready to work, for no weapon formed against us shall prosper.

Our goals for 2011 will be to focus on the four E's: Education, Empowerment, becoming economically independent and exercising our rights

- Education- focusing not just on the student, but engaging and informing the parents/guardians as well
- Empowerment- no more excuses; it's time to break the generation curse by instilling can and erase can't; instill we will and erase we won't, for we are more than conquerors, having the choice to tap in to that American dream.
- Economically independent- helping those from senior citizens to single moms/dads to struggling two person working homes to be able to support themselves financially by living by the Jones' and not like the Jones'
- Exercising our rights- getting our community to realize they have a voice and a vote, but they must exercise their right. For in the famous words of Mr. Edmond Jones "you don't vote, you can't complain".

In closing, the National NAACP has the theme, 'One Nation, One Dream'. Dr. King had a dream; you've heard about the dream... that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."; well, it's time for us to Wake Up! Time to make the dream into reality. Wake Up, Everybody; wake up! No more sleeping in bed.

If you're tired of sleeping and ready to wake up, stand and join me.

Song: WAKE UP EVERYBODY