



The Woke Express

**BIG BETHEL SOCIAL
ACTION COMMISSION**

APRIL 2024

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Good morning Woke Nation,

This month, in light of the impending election, I thought it fitting to share a daily devotion I read recently. I believe it sets the tone for the next eight months quite well.

Scripture: Proverbs 14:15

“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.”

Inspirational Message:

In our information-saturated world, we are bombarded with new ideas, theories, and philosophies every day. If we don't take the time to weigh the merits of these ideas, we will get swept away by the lies. But when we walk in wisdom, God gives us the discernment to weigh ideas against His truth, so that we may make our steps intentional and not be led astray.

Prayer:

Lord, every day, I find myself surrounded by noise. So many voices clamor for my ear. Help me to hear You above all others and give me the wisdom to assess the information around me. Ground my knowledge in the truth of Your word so that my steps may be sure. In Jesus' name, amen.

My prayer is that this lesson resonates with you in a way that compels you to want to actively participate in fact finding and verifying the information you see, hear and read. Check to ensure the candidates messaging matches the actions you have observed over the past several years. There is only one truth and if you seek it, you will find it.

Humbly Submitted,

Editor-in-Chief

April Health Awareness

National Minority Health Month: This is an effort to build awareness about the disproportionate burden of premature death and illness in minority populations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health are encouraging simple and creative steps to improve physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

National Autism Awareness Month: The National Autism Society provide information and resources for communities to be more aware of and involved in autism and promoting its acceptance.

Alcohol Awareness Month: The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence organize this campaign to discuss the stigma around alcohol and substance abuse.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month: The International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) provide press releases and toolkits. Find the IFFGD on social media to become part of the conversation.

National Cancer Control Month: The five goals and programs of National Cancer Control Month are cancer prevention, early detection, improving treatments, increasing survival rates, and improving quality of life.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services support the campaign and use it to enable communities and families to take positive action.

National Occupational Therapy Month: Also called OT Month, this campaign recognizes the work of all occupational therapists. The American Occupational Therapy Association provide information, advocacy, and much more.

National Parkinson's Awareness Month: The Parkinson's Foundation has a calendar focusing on this special month, with everything from virtual sing-alongs to global activism.

Oral Cancer Awareness Month: The Oral Cancer Foundation (OCF) host Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week to promote free screenings and offer educational talks and awareness programs.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month: The National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinate this campaign to reinforce the need for more awareness and prevention around sexual assault. Organizations such as the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network have educational resources and support ideas.

STI Awareness Month: The importance of sexually transmitted infection testing and education is highlighted in April. The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program have lots of great ideas and advice.

Stress Awareness Month: The Health Resource Network sponsor this campaign to highlight causes of and cures for modern-day stress. Rethink.org has a wealth of information and a donation facility.

Testicular Cancer Awareness Month: This website has plenty of information around the campaign and the work being done regarding testicular cancer. The Testicular Cancer Society is also a good source of information, offering advice on how to perform self-examinations.

Women's Eye Health and Safety Month: Prevent Blindness designated April as Women's Eye Health and Safety Month. This is a campaign to educate women about the steps they need to take to help stop vision loss.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Atlanta, Georgia, has made strides in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts, but the extent to which it's widespread can vary across different sectors and communities within the city. Here are some factors to consider:

- 1. Corporate Sector:** Many corporations based in Atlanta prioritize DEI initiatives, recognizing the importance of creating inclusive workplaces. Companies such as Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, and Home Depot have implemented various programs and policies to promote diversity and inclusion.
- 2. Nonprofit Organizations:** Atlanta is home to numerous nonprofit organizations focused on promoting DEI in various areas, including education, healthcare, and social justice. These organizations play a significant role in advocating for marginalized communities and driving change.
- 3. Government Initiatives:** The city government of Atlanta has also taken steps to address DEI issues, such as implementing inclusive hiring practices and supporting minority-owned businesses through procurement programs.
- 4. Community Engagement:** Grassroots movements and community organizations in Atlanta actively work to address systemic inequalities and promote DEI at the local level. These efforts often involve advocacy, education, and community-building activities.
- 5. Challenges and Opportunities:** Despite progress, Atlanta, like many cities, still faces challenges related to DEI, including disparities in access to opportunities, education, and healthcare. Ongoing efforts are needed to address these issues and create a more equitable society.

Overall, while DEI efforts are present in Atlanta and have made significant strides in various sectors, there is always room for improvement, and continuous efforts are essential to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are truly widespread and ingrained in the city's fabric.

Like in many places, Atlanta may have pockets of opposition to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, though they might not be as overt as in some other regions. Opposition to DEI efforts can stem from various factors:

- 1. Ideological Differences:** Some individuals or groups may oppose DEI initiatives due to ideological differences, believing that efforts to promote diversity and inclusion are unnecessary or even harmful.
- 2. Misconceptions and Stereotypes:** Opposition to DEI initiatives can also arise from misconceptions or stereotypes about marginalized groups and their perceived advantages or disadvantages.
- 3. Fear of Change:** Resistance to change is a common human response, and some people may oppose DEI efforts because they fear that it will disrupt the status quo or negatively impact their own interests.
- 4. Political Views:** In a politically diverse city like Atlanta, there may be differing opinions on the role of government and institutions in promoting DEI, leading to opposition from certain political factions.
- 5. Cultural and Historical Factors:** Atlanta, like many Southern cities, has a complex history shaped by issues such as race and segregation. Some individuals or groups may oppose DEI initiatives due to deeply ingrained cultural or historical attitudes.
- 6. Economic Concerns:** In some cases, opposition to DEI initiatives may stem from economic concerns, such as perceived threats to job opportunities or business interests.

It's important to note that opposition to DEI initiatives doesn't necessarily mean widespread or organized resistance. Many individuals and organizations in Atlanta actively support DEI efforts, and there are ongoing conversations and efforts to address any opposition through dialogue, education, and advocacy for the benefits of diversity and inclusion.





Georgia State Legislatures

The stance of the Georgia State Senate on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives can vary among individual senators and political parties. While some senators may actively support and advocate for DEI efforts, others may have differing views or priorities. Here are some factors to consider:

- 1. Party Affiliation:** The political party in power in the Georgia State Senate can influence the support for DEI initiatives. Democratic senators are generally more likely to prioritize DEI efforts, while Republican senators may have differing perspectives on the role of government in promoting diversity and inclusion. **Community Engagement:** Public opinion and community advocacy can also influence the stance of senators on DEI initiatives. Senators may be more inclined to support DEI efforts if there is strong grassroots support or if they perceive it as important to their constituents.
- 2. Historical Context:** The historical and cultural context of Georgia, including its legacy of racial segregation and civil rights activism, can shape attitudes and policies regarding DEI initiatives in the state Senate.

In Georgia, while there may be differing opinions on the appropriateness or effectiveness of specific DEI initiatives, there has not been widespread legislative action to prohibit or restrict DEI efforts at the state level. However, it's essential to stay informed about any developments or changes in legislation that may impact DEI initiatives in the state.

Big Bethel Social Action Supported the



A Day of Nationally Coordinated Simultaneous Direct Action in 31+ state capitals.

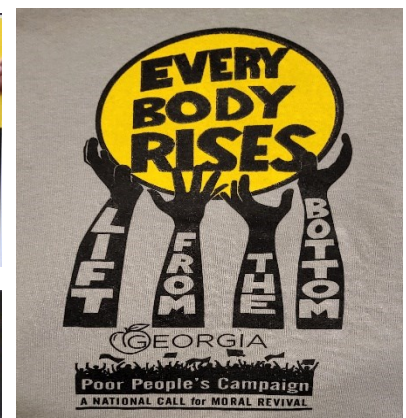
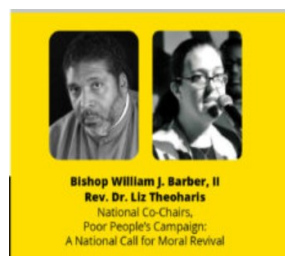
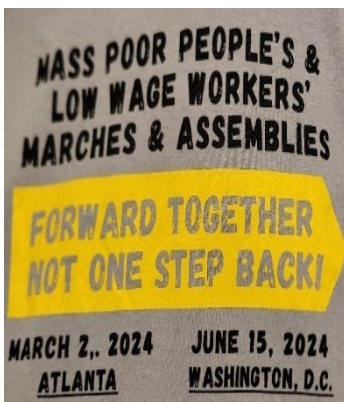
Saturday, March 3, 2024 @ The Georgia State Capital

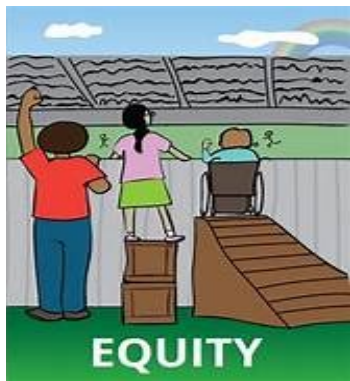
Join us in Building a 3rd Reconstruction by demanding:

- abolishing poverty as the 4th leading cause of death in the US
- a living wage (\$15+)
- full voting rights
- no more voter suppression
- worker's rights & labor rights
- healthcare for all
- affordable, adequate housing
- and end to gun violence, profit & proliferation
- clean air & water
- environmental justice
- fully-funded public education
- just immigration laws
- an end to systemic racism, white supremacy, & the extremist political agenda

There are more than 135 million poor and low-wage people in the nation, rising back towards 140 million in 2019 because of ending Covid relief.

We are building a Third Reconstruction by demanding a public policy agenda that fosters life, not death.





Equity Not Reparations (Part 4) - The Hidden Power of Democracy

By Keith Burnett

In the previous parts of this writing, we came up with the how and the why to obtain our earned equity. Making a case was not hard, one only needs to look at the history of forgiveness for past wrongs by this government. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 gave surviving Japanese Americans reparations and a formal apology by President Reagan.

Native American reparations were belated payment for unjustly seized land in 1946 and the United States paid around 1.4 billion dollars.

Tuskegee Experiment reparations were compensation for Medical Brutality. After a class-action lawsuit against The United States, the men were awarded \$10 million, and the United States promised to provide healthcare and burial services for the men. Eventually, the state of Alabama ended up awarding healthcare and other services to the men's spouses and descendants, too. So, it is not too far-fetched for the US to have the willingness to right past wrongs.

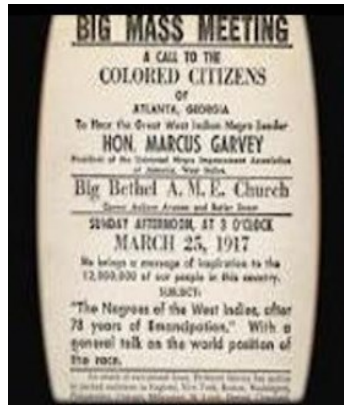
There are many who believe that we as a race are not deserving of reparations. Their main reason is that they feel Slavery, the causes, the travesty of it was not their responsibility. The powers that be of that time were the catalyst of the North Atlantic slave trade. They made a choice in which they participated. This article isn't about the reason why, it's about the solution. Legislation both locally and federally is a good place to start. Many brothers and sisters have been led to believe that the current political atmosphere does not work in their favor. They're right in many respects but the only reason it does not work is because many do not participate.

If Black people were to leverage their economic power into political clout like other cultures, we would be able to influence legislation that would not only benefit our community but our country as a whole. Our only goal wouldn't be to just seek reparations but also worker's rights and a better educational system that would allow us to compete against other nations. This two-party system in my opinion is only as effective as the people who participate in it. To approach the current "anti-woke" culture we deal with, we need to be strategic and disciplined. In part 5, we will have a brief civics lesson. Until then, **Stay Woke.**





Photo Highlights from The Inaugural Atlanta Marcus Garvey Lecture Event **at Big Bethel on March 25, 2024**



HAPPY EASTER



Word Find Answer Key

How Did You Do?

G	R	A	C	E		Y	R	A	V	L	A	C			B
								E							L
		Y	R	A	M			A		S				O	E
								S		A			O		N
	P		C	H	R	I	S	T		C	D				T
		O						E		R					
E			N					R		I		M			S
G				T		R	O	B	E	F		A			U
G	C				I					I		U			N
S		R				U				C		N			R
			O				S			E		D			I
				S				P		S		Y			S
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	L	A	M	B						L		H			
		L				C	A	N	D	Y		A		S	
	A											T			A
P														E	
			R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	

Ashes	Christ	Grace	Maundy	Resurrection
Blood	Cross	Lamb	Palm	Robe
Calvary	Easter	Lent	Peeps	Sacrifice
Candy	Eggs	Mary	Pontius Pilate	Sunrise

2024 General Primary / Nonpartisan Election Election Dates to Remember



Registration deadline – April 22nd @ 11:59 p.m. EST

Early Voting – April 29th – May 17th

Mandatory Saturday Voting - May 4th AND May 11th

Optional Sunday Voting - May 5th and/or May 12th

Absentee Ballot Request – Now through Friday, May 10th

Absentee Ballot Return deadline – Tuesday, May 21st @ 7:00 p.m. EST

Primary In-person Voting – Tuesday, May 21st

Runoff (if needed)

Early Voting for Runoff for General Primary / Nonpartisan / Federal Offices - As soon as possible, but no later than June 10th – June 14th

Runoff Absentee Ballot Request Deadline – Friday, June 7th

In-person Runoff Voting – Tuesday, June 18th

OUR VOTES MATTER!!!!

Secretary of State Website (My Voter Page):

<https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

The screenshot shows the MVP My Voter Page website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for SOS Office, Business, Charities, Elections (highlighted), Securities, Licensing, and Search. Below the navigation bar is a banner with the text "Welcome to My Voter Page" and a background image of people at a voting station. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a registration form with fields for First Initial, Last Name, County, and Date of Birth, and a SUBMIT button. The right column contains a list of services available through the MVP Log In, such as checking voter registration status, mail-in application status, and poll location.

From this site, Voters can access/update critical voter information:

Voter Registration

Confirm Voter status (maintained by local county office)

- Change/Update Voter Information
- Polling location Information (directions, hours, precinct cards, etc.)
- **Absentee Ballot Information**
- Early Voting Information
- Sample Ballots
- Elected Officials Information
- Much More!

Voter Tips/Reminders

1. Be sure your state issued ID matches your voter registration name

Acceptable forms of identification if you do not have a Georgia Driver's License or State Identification Card Number

Identification with your photograph:

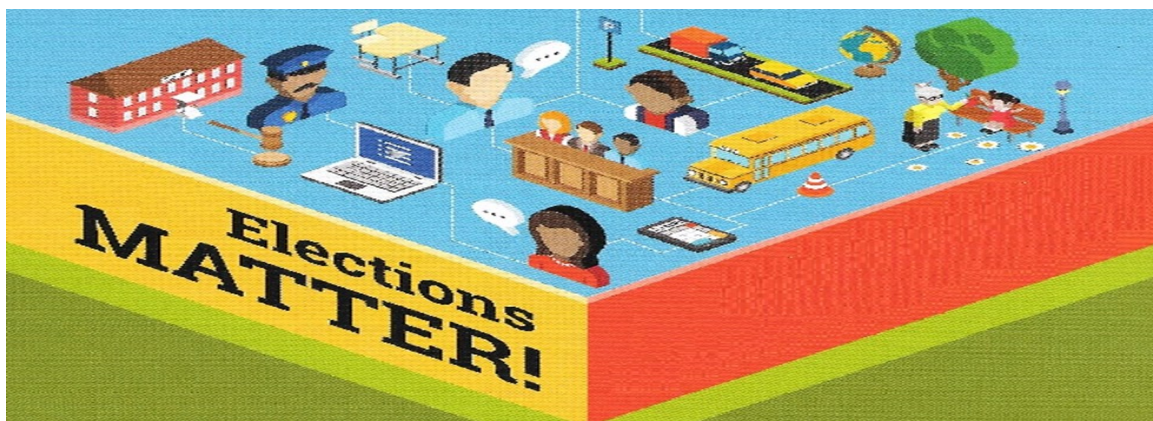
- United States Passport
- Georgia voter identification card
- Other valid identification card issued by a branch, department, agency, or entity of the State of Georgia, any other state, or the United States authorized by law to issue personal identification
- United States military identification card
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government, Georgia state government, or Georgia county, municipality, board, authority, or any other entity of the state of Georgia
- Tribal identification card

Documents that show your name and address:

Current utility bill ~ Bank statement ~ Paycheck
Government check ~ Other government document

2. Review the sample ballot (if applicable) on the Secretary of State website
3. Take advantage of Early Voting and Absentee Ballots
4. 4. If your right to vote is challenged, you have a right to request a **"Provisional"** ballot.

*****PLEDGE TO GET THREE (3) NEW VOTERS REGISTERED*****



OUR VOTES MATTER!!!!