

# HELLO PILGRIM REST FAMILY

## PRAYER

- ✓ Bro. and Sis. Meeks' great nephew, Avery Meeks, passed
- ✓ Sis. Patricia Bellvie's mother, Zeophis Lowe, passed
- ✓ Sis. Roberta Nelson
- ✓ Sis. Lois Jones

## BIBLE STUDY // PRAYER - CALL IN

- ✓ Bible Study will resume beginning Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ These studies will be facilitated through ZOOM (Video or Call in)
- ✓ The study is: Being A Disciple of Jesus
- ✓ Study material was sent out

## UPDATES

If you are not receiving weekly updates and Announcements either via phone call, email or text, we do not have your current or correct contact information.

## TOGETHER, YOU CAN REDEEM THE SOUL OF OUR NATION By John Lewis

*Mr. Lewis, the civil rights leader who died on July 17, wrote this essay shortly before his death, to be published upon the day of his funeral. July 30, 2020*

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.

That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.

Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

## **PILGRIM REST PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND GUARDIANS:**

### **First, we reestablished our Church School Classes via Zoom.**

- ✓ Our teachers are providing the same solid, Biblical instruction each week for your children and grandchildren – assisting them in knowing who God is, and encouraging them to receive Jesus as their Savior.
- ✓ To achieve success in building and anchoring these foundations and values,
- ✓ participation in **Church School should not be an option, nor should it be your children/grandchildren's choice to decide to participate.**
- ✓ Just as you mandate them to attend school every day to ensure they are academically equipped for success, there should be a similar mandate for them to participate in Church School every week to ensure they are spiritually equipped for success.

### **Second, since mid-March, schools have been closed due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus).**

- ✓ Unfortunately, and for a variety of reasons, many of our children have missed out on the rigorous continuation of their educational pursuits.
- ✓ As schools are preparing for instruction to begin in the fall, there are many question that parents and grandparents have regarding
  - ◆ how instruction will take place,
  - ◆ the resources (computers, internet service, etc.) needed to access the instruction,
  - ◆ health procedures that are adopted for in-person instruction,
  - ◆ support you need to assist your children for on-line instruction, and many more
- ✓ Therefore, please let me know your thoughts and question regarding when school should begin, how school should begin (in the building or at home), the support and resources you need to assist you children/grandchildren at home, the challenges you are facing trying to work if your children are at home, the specific needs your child/grandchild has and your concerns regarding those needs being met, etc. We want to address your needs and concerns with the Superintendent and School Board, however, we need to know what your needs and concerns are. Everything you share will remain confidential.

**Third, if you have other specific needs or specific prayer requests for your children/grandchildren,** please contact me (414-852-4010 or [pilgrimrestpastorchilds@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimrestpastorchilds@gmail.com)) so we can talk, pray and develop a plan

We love you, Pastor and Thresessa Childs