

Black America, What's Beyond The Jubilation

By Dr. Rosie Milligan

There is a time for all things. On November 4th, 2008, when the newscasters announced that Barak Obama was the President Elect of the United States of America—the first African-American President—this was certainly a time for jubilee. Jubilation, yes! It was like a woman, who was told that she was barren, hearing the words, “You are pregnant!”

Waiting for the election outcome to be announced was like waiting for the outcome of a plane crash and you hear the words “They all survived!” What we heard on Tuesday, November 4th, was more than *good news*; it was the **Best News!**

I recall, as a child, how excited my siblings and I would be at Christmas time after receiving and opening our gifts. However, the next day or two following the celebration and excitement, my father, Simon Hunter, would say, “Okay; now put the toys up. It’s time to go chop wood!” Meaning, it was time to go back to work. Well folks, we have cried, shouted, and danced; now it’s time to go back to work. Hope without work is like faith without works—it’s DEAD!

Come on people; roll up your sleeves—we’ve got cotton to pick.

Blacks take lead in the following areas: infant death rate, adolescent morality, and homicidal rate. They also lead in many chronic diseases. Black women lead in the *never to be married* category. Black men lead in the incarceration rate. Black children lead in the category of children who are least likely to be in a two-parent home, and they lag in literacy. Indeed, we have work to do.

Unemployment among Blacks has hit astronomical numbers. The official national rate is 35 in Detroit, the rate is 48%, Baltimore is 48%, Pittsburgh is 49%, in New York City the Black male unemployment is 51% and the national unemployment for Black youth is 89%. Even these statistics are under-reported because of they do not include the long term unemployed who no longer collect unemployment compensation or are so discourage they are not actively searching for work.

Blacks have been infused with a spirit of hope, and they are feeling a sense of validation. We must seize the moment to carve a path that will change the dismal plight of Blacks all over the world—not just those of the United States of America.

Obama's win of the presidential election demonstrates that courage has no *color*. Obama has brought us to the well, but we must draw our own water. So let's get to work!

Obama cannot do the following: (1) make our children read books versus watching television, (2) make our young men pull up their pants and stop sagging, (3) make our sons and daughters stop making music that disrespects themselves and our women, (4) make you or your children stop buying such degrading music, (5) make parents set proper priorities for their family, (6) make you spend your money when possible with black-owned businesses, (7) make you open businesses and dominate those industries in which you frequent regularly, etc.

Here is what we must do: (1) we need an equity ownership in our community, industries, and services that Blacks dominate. We must open those businesses or boycott those that provide the service and force them to partner with us, (2) divide our cities in regions and appoint a mayor for each region. Every church, school, and business within the set region must collaborate to make that region safe and viable. Every church must adopt a school and a foster care home in its community.

We must develop a Council of Elders for each city. We must get involved with senior citizens in planning.

There is much to be done. In my book, *Black America Faces Economic Crisis: Solutions Made Simple*, I have committed to you a reconstruction plan for each of us. Let's do the work. The harvest is plentiful—we need laborers ***NOW!***

Dr Rosie, Publisher, and author of *Black America Faces Economic Crisis: Solutions Made Simple*, email Drrosie@aol.com, telephone (323)750-3592.