



# *The Woke Express*

**BIG BETHEL SOCIAL  
ACTION COMMISSION**

**July 2024**



Grand Rising Woke Family,

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “D-Day”, the storming of Normandy Beach in France during WWII was celebrated last month. Unfortunately, since History and Civics are not being taught in most schools anymore, the newer generations don’t have the same appreciation for the sacrifices we have made as a country to help sustain democracy throughout the world. Led by our Troops, many lives were lost for the freedom of citizens everywhere. That is why a victory in Ukraine is so important. Luckily nowadays we don’t have to sacrifice as many of our troops, we provide more financial assistance.

Losing our freedom and democracy would be a great loss for all of us. Being led by an Authoritarian/Dictator would most assuredly take several generations to reverse. A “Gestapo” style use of the military to persecute political opponents and the press puts us at greater risk of an attack from our political adversaries around the world, especially if they have been provided with America’s top secrets/sensitive security intel.

Dismantling of fair elections, the Dept. of Justice, the Judicial system (and who knows what’s next), indicates that we are moving towards no longer accepting and/or respecting the “rule of law”. As more and more of the Constitutional Amendments are abandoned, so are our unalienable rights. This cannot be carried out by the President of the United States without the help of the Senate and Congress. We currently have a Congress full of bad actors who are publicly advocating that they intent to do their part to get rid of the rule of law and many other Constitutional Amendments (i.e., 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, etc.). Ever heard of the **Project 2025 playbook**? It’s a 900+ page document that outlines how the GOP plans to use the next four years to continue dismantling our fragile democracy. Don’t sleep this document folks, it is harrowing! **Stay woke /wake up and check it out!**

Our vote is the best assurance that our next leader will do what’s necessary to defend AND protect our democracy. The down ballot races are just as important and they will decide the majority and leaders of both houses. Those of you like me, who were spooked by the recent debate, must also come to realize that **OLD and moral beats Less OLD and corrupt ANY DAY!!**

This month we are going to start providing side by side comparisons between the top two candidates for the highest job in the land. Take this information under advisement but also be sure to do your own research so you are prepared to make the best decision for you AND your community. A selfish vote usually means that the vote that would have helped the community most wasn’t cast so them, and you lose out. Just some food for thought.

Regards,

Editor-in-Chief

# July Health Awareness

## **Cord Blood Awareness**

Cord blood refers to the blood collected from the umbilical cord and placenta when a healthy baby is born. It is a vital resource for stem cells and has medical applications.

## **International Group B Strep Throat Awareness**

The Group B Strep International organization help promote this awareness month and are a key driver of this month-long campaign.

*How to get involved:* Campaigns are active across social media platforms.

## **Juvenile Arthritis Awareness**

This campaign aims to raise awareness of the fact that children can have arthritis, even though the condition is often associated with older adults.

## **National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention**

This event educates the public and healthcare providers on craniofacial conditions and how to access treatment and support.

June, 2024

The Honorable Nikema Williams  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Williams,

We write to you as faith leaders from various backgrounds and traditions across the state of Georgia to thank you for bringing climate and clean energy investments from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)\* home to Georgia's 5th Congressional District. **We ask that you continue to publicly defend and celebrate these critical investments protecting Sacred Earth!**

The IRA is already delivering on reducing climate pollution and cleaning up our air, kickstarting Georgia's clean energy economy, addressing climate injustice, and strengthening our communities. For example, our houses of worship across Georgia are taking advantage of clean energy tax credits from the IRA to install solar panels, furthering clean energy deployment in the community and providing welcome energy savings. We urge you to work with your colleagues in the Georgia Congressional Delegation, both chambers of Congress, and across the administration to protect and build on the climate progress we've achieved.

The climate crisis is here and Georgians are vulnerable. Climate-fueled extreme heat and intensified flooding are harming our environment, our health, and our economy. **We need our leaders in Congress to act with the urgency the climate crisis demands to ensure a livable planet for all.**

Thank you for your leadership and for fighting for Georgia and for our communities.

**Note: This seat was formerly held by the honorable John Lewis**

*\*The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is an initiative from the Biden Administration. Some of its goals are to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, lower prescription drug prices (i.e., Insulin \$35) for some, investing in our economy, manufacturing and deficit reduction.*



# Guilty 34 Times: Will We Be Guilty, Too?

I was sitting in my living room when I heard the first count of the verdict: *Guilty*. The second count: *Guilty* – as I listened to counts 3-34 hearing “Guilty” on each one, I screamed, “*praise God!*” I began to feel an enormous relief, thinking *finally*, we see accountability. Then I realized, that this was not the end for us; it was simply the beginning of the next stage. A guilty verdict does not victory win. We have to fight all the harder as anger, hate and revenge will be the order of the day for those who embrace corruption and greed. Instead of the incidents of violence curbing, we may very well see an escalation. What can we do? We can respond with a definitive call to action: Let’s not be guilty of complacency.

It is far too easy to think things are over, when we have one victory. We must recognize that we are at a crossroads where in order to save our people, our democracy and even our church, we must respond with fortitude and resistance.

Our People: Why are we in danger? As voters, our rights are being threatened from state to state. Wherever there is a thinker or politician or policy maker who believes in suppressing the vote in order to maintain power, the people will suffer. Therefore, we must vote like we have never done before. We must vote *all the way down the ballot*, to be sure that we put people on our school boards, our city councils and county commissions and in our state legislative bodies who are godly, justice-minded and fearless in their fight for a righteous community.

A True Democracy: The democratic way of life is certainly under threats every day, from the Supreme Court to the local voter registration office where people persistently embrace exclusion and discrimination. These individuals refuse to recuse themselves, even when it is obvious, they are biased. Whether it is storming the US Capitol or hanging the US flag upside down, these acts of hatred demonstrate a deterioration that has completely saturated our society. In addition to speaking out and actively resisting attempts to end democracy for all persons, we should become more active in recruiting, identifying and electing voices to represent us in the halls of Congress and other legislative bodies.

Our Beloved Church: Yes, the church is not exempt. Christian nationalism is still an issue that we cannot ignore. It is still something that we must speak out against, define in every segment of the faith community, and call it as we see it when it is in our own pulpits. False teachings under the cloak of Christianity threaten the very fiber of who we are in the Black church. We cannot go back to the days when we allowed the misinterpretation and miseducation of God's Word to keep us bowed before those who enslaved us.

## ***The Most Important Verdict***

It is absolutely astonishing how one individual has been the influencer in each of these issues. It is amazing how one individual, who is now a convicted felon and yet running for President of the United States, is a causal factor in the destruction that we face now in our country. What this says to me is the guilty verdict from the trial in New York should spur us on to a verdict of *not guilty* in this entire country. We will be found *not guilty* of laziness; we will be found *not guilty* of fear; we will be found *not guilty* of complacency, and with God's help, we will win.

*The Reverend Monica C. Jones, PhD is director of Christian Education Ministries*

# PROJECT 2025



## The GOP (Republican) Leadership Manifesto - Table of Contents (pt. 1)

### Section 1: Taking the Reins of Government

White House Office

Executive Office of the President of the United States

Central Personnel Agencies: Managing the Bureaucracy

### Section 2: The Common Defense

Department of Defense

Department of Homeland Security

Department of State

Intelligence Community

Media Agencies

U.S. Agency for Global Media

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Agency for International Development

These are just a few of the areas that the conservative GOP plan to attack if they regain the presidency in November. We will provide additional topics in the months to come. To read the entire 900+ page document you can visit:

<https://www.project2025.org/policy/>

## **Equity Not Reparations: Black Man, it is your time to shine**

In the previous articles we talked of sacrifice and betrayal. The black American has been on the wrong end of the playing field for decades, we've been heroes in foreign wars but was never given our due because we had to come back to a country that never meant to embrace us from the start. There have been several instances of thriving Black communities being violently destroyed or disrupted throughout history in the United States. Here are some notable examples:

1. **Tulsa Race Massacre (1921):** The prosperous Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, known as "Black Wall Street," was attacked and burned down by white mobs, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 300 people and the displacement of thousands of Black residents.
2. **Rosewood Massacre (1923):** The predominantly Black town of Rosewood, Florida, was destroyed by racist mobs, leading to the deaths of at least eight people and the displacement of the entire Black population.
3. **Wilmington Insurrection (1898):** In Wilmington, North Carolina, a white supremacist coup resulted in the violent overthrow of the legitimately elected biracial government, the destruction of Black-owned businesses, and the forced exile of many Black residents from the city.
4. **Elaine Race Riot (1919):** In Elaine, Arkansas, a sharecroppers' union meeting of Black farmers was disrupted by white mobs, leading to the deaths of an estimated 200 Black people and the arrest and prosecution of dozens more.
5. **Opelousas Massacre (1868):** In Opelousas, Louisiana, a prosperous Black community was attacked by white mobs, resulting in the deaths of at least 35 Black people and the destruction of many homes and businesses.
6. **Colfax Massacre (1873):** In Colfax, Louisiana, a group of white supremacists attacked and killed between 62 and 153 Black people, effectively destroying the local Black community.

These events were often motivated by racism, fear of Black economic and political advancement, and a desire to maintain white supremacy. They resulted in significant loss of life, property, and the disruption of thriving Black communities.

Black man these are the instances that we should not forget when we vote. We need to realize black man that One of the presidential candidates has been endorsed by a convicted sex offender.

**Black man!** Where is our moral compass today? When did we become for sale spiritually?

If we use our past as a precursor for our future then we will realize that when it comes to empowerment it is up to us. Our leadership role needs to be front and center going Forward, and as we work toward the Equity we deserve. The framers of the Constitution which in my opinion is the bedrock of democracy. Some of the farmers were slaveholders and I don't even think that they realized that this experiment would benefit everyone who was willing to participate. This participation would empower the American negro and instill fear in the Southern way of life which prompted him to create Jim Crow.

Jim Crow is what taught us to navigate a system in a country that was never meant for us. The fact is we know who our enemies are and our allies. Our worst enemy is self. To overcome this great injustice, it is in my opinion we must make certain sacrifices to not only preserve democracy but the human race for that matter. We as God fearing people have to see the writing on the wall! Our country is becoming more polarizing and the willingness for the masses to believe a known lie over facts is the new norm right out of the Joseph Goebbels playbook. Those who speak in terms of creating new Christian society actions differ from those of us who aspire to be Christlike.

#### **Matthew 24:24**

*“For false Christs, and false prophets, will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”*

The time has come that we Black men embrace our moral obligations entrusted to us by our predecessors. **“Thinking.”** People that should be our approach going forward doing our due diligence in regards to preserving our culture **which was created for us by us.** Our willingness to sit on the sidelines have allowed our women to lead which has led to their empowerment. They understand the residual effects of living in a democracy as opposed to living in a dictatorship. For us to achieve our goals I've created a set of guidelines we should incorporate into our orbit.

1. Embrace our culture as a bridge to embracing other cultures. Diversity and unity create a common goal of making our country better in spite of those who continue to divide.
2. Stop saying “it takes a village” Prove it! Continue to lead, stand on morals and have a willingness to be that guiding light for our future. (The Children)



3. Think outside the box. Leverage the political process, our votes and our buying power to our advantage.
4. Create coalitions with our allies. There is strength in numbers.
5. Learn the lobbying system both federally and locally. We have the same power to influence government policies, we just don't use this form of empowerment.
6. We must control and manage our communities, how our children are educated should be our responsibility.
7. Counter the lies with the truth. Respect the rule of law. Keeping in mind there is a large contingent in this country that doesn't respect the rule when it does not favor them.
8. Going low when being the adult in the room does not work. The day of being society's door mat is over.
9. Living in the past and blaming one's woes on another is weak leadership. Accountability is strength. Do not live in the past but never forget it either.
10. Our women and children are our treasures, never forget that they look to us for guidance and protection.

### **In Summary:**

We black men must realize regardless of the causes we are here and there is a Supreme reason we keep overcoming the ups and downs of the proverbial pitfalls. Governments are only as effective as the citizenry. Infrastructure, affordable housing, and healthcare for all are reasonable requests to both local and federal governments. The common misnomer is that we as black people don't trust governments or the rule of law.

But in that same orbit black folks and immigrants are portrayed as wards of the state. These are fallacies the media never debunks or us for that matter. Fact is we are less than 15% of America's total population while only 23% of the Blacks depend on the welfare system while the other 77% earn a living. That's just one of many facts I can debunk with the truth. Point is we as a race spend a lot of energy being distracted and defending ourselves when what we really need to be doing is creating a better life and communities that will take our race into the next generation. These reparations we seek as a form of equity will be the catalyst for creating generational wealth, schools that would be designed to teach our children curriculums that will rival any nation. We must compete and win. The last and final article will focus on the cause and effect of The Atlantic Slave trade to the present.

**Stay Woke.**

# Our Voices

## Are Here to Stay!

You have **THREE** ways to make your voice heard in November!



### VOTE EARLY

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15  
THROUGH FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Find early vote locations in your county on your Georgia My Voter Page



### VOTE BY MAIL

Request your ballot **AUGUST 19  
THROUGH OCTOBER 25**

Return your ballot before 7 p.m. on Election Day, **NOVEMBER 5**



### VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
Polls are open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



**DID YOU KNOW?** The 2020 election was determined by an average of only 60 votes in counties like yours. That's it. Your vote and your county are that powerful.



Questions? Call or text the Election Protection Hotline: **1-866-OUR-VOTE** or visit **VOTE-365.org**



Don't forget to bring your government-issued ID to vote! For a list of valid IDs, visit [voteridlers.org/states/georgia/](http://voteridlers.org/states/georgia/)

For voter ID assistance or questions, contact VoterIDlers at **866-ID-2-VOTE**

# Why...

## VOTE?

### Because if I don't...

My 10 Articles of Declaration

- My rights will continue to be stolen as women, men as a people...
- My Social Security, Disability Benefits (SSI) may disappear...
- My Medicaid, Medicare and Obama Care (ACA) may disappear...
- My student loans will never be forgiven...
- My freedom of speech, my voice and my right to assemble and protest will be stolen...
- My protection from discrimination will continue to be stolen...
- My children's, grandchildren's and great grandchildren's future will be stolen...
- My history will continue to be whitewashed stolen and rewritten...
- My life will be worth less free on the street than locked up in prison...
- My ancestors will have died in vain...

# BBAMEC Family

We are creating a Big Bethel  
Yellow Pages Listing for our  
Church Members



The screenshot shows a yellow header with the YellowPages logo and search fields for 'Business name or type' and 'Town or province', with a 'Find' button. Below the header, the title 'Big Bethel Yellow Pages Form' is displayed. The main text reads: 'To have your company listed and available to our membership please fill out the following information' followed by '7 Questions'. At the bottom of the form area is a yellow button labeled 'START →'.



If you have a business that  
You would like BBAMEC Members  
To know about, Please  
**CLICK ON AND FILL OUT THIS FORM**

Or go to

<https://form.jotform.com/241573046706153>





Save the Date

Enjoy

MUSIC

under the

STARS

Featured Artists:

Amayè Love and Derrick John

WHEN:

Saturday, August 10th | 7PM

Doors open @ 6:30 RAIN or SHINE

WHERE:

Big Bethel Amphitheatre

196 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Advanced Admission: \$17 thru AUG 9th

ADMISSION \$20

Tickets available on Eventbrite.com



A Big Bethel AMEC Social Action Commission Event  
Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., Senior Pastor



Music Under The Stars

FREE PARKING For Ticket holders !!