



# *The Woke Express*

**BIG BETHEL SOCIAL  
ACTION COMMISSION**

*AUGUST 2024*

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Grand Rising Woke Nation,

We just experienced a historic moment in history. This is the first time that any sitting President has withdrew from a campaign for re-election after winning the Primary. The decision wasn't necessarily one of choice, but rather due to the call of others within the party for President Biden to withdraw.

Although President Biden has been acknowledged as one of the most effective presidents since Franklin D. Roosevelt, his accomplishments unfortunately did not resonate with the voting constituency. This coupled with his performance during the first debate left many concerned that the Democrats would lose the white house.

After several weeks on resistance and introspection, Joe Biden selflessly withdrew from the race. This is a sad moment for some, and a time of rejoicing for others. No matter how you perceive it, there is something to be learned from his action.

The political climate of today has become very cynical in that people expect that all politicians have a selfish motive. That may be true in most cases. The power and resolve of the President of the United States must not waiver. Our Presidents take an oath to uphold the Constitution and to place country above party or personal ambition. Joe Biden exemplifies this commitment and although his record certainly deserved a second term, he acquiesced for the good of our country.

The endorsement of Kamala Harris was organically the obvious choice for a replacement on the campaign trail as the Biden-Harris ticket has a track record of accomplishments and many more goals left to achieve on their 2020 agenda. With the wars, economic recovery, etc. it is a no brainer that Biden would pass the torch of his legacy to his Vice President.

Nation, we are in perilous times and the fight for freedom and the protection of democracy has never been so consequential. I know we have heard the battle cry for the "Soul of our Nation" before but this is different. The viscous attacks and rhetoric being levied from the far-right candidates are extreme enough to push us into a race or civil war if we aren't careful.

We all need to be vigilant as we move through the remaining 100 or so days left until the election. Don't get caught up in the propaganda and definitely don't get pulled into radical discussions regarding the competency (or lack thereof) of a female candidate. Focus on the policies of each candidate and may the best man or woman win.

Humbly,

Editor in Chief

# **August Health Awareness**

## **National Breastfeeding Month**

The United States Breastfeeding Committee support this event so that people can pledge their support, share experiences, and campaign to illustrate the benefits of breastfeeding.

There are many websites discussing this issue, including La Leche League International.

## **National Immunization Awareness Month**

This is an annual observance to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. This campaign aims to provide facts to support the benefits of vaccination.

## **Children's Eye Health and Safety Month**

This campaign helps educate caregivers and children on their eye health and safety.

## **Gastroparesis Awareness Month**

Gastroparesis, also known as delayed gastric emptying, is a chronic condition affecting the stomach muscles.

 Save the Date

Enjoy  
**MUSIC** under the **STARS**

Featured  
Artists:

Amayè Love  
and  
Derrick John

WHEN:

**Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> | 7PM**

Doors open @ 6:30 RAIN or SHINE

WHERE:

**Big Bethel Amphitheatre**

196 Auburn Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Advanced Admission: \$17 thru AUG 9<sup>th</sup>

**ADMISSION \$20**

Tickets available on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



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

**FREE PARKING For Ticket holders !!**



Music Under The Stars

## Dead Roots, Dead Trees

Colossians 2:7 (CEV)

*Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful.*

One of my favorite theme songs in the Big Bethel's renowned play, "Heaven Bound" is the song, "I Shall not Be moved"...to me, the important message in the you are the words, "Like a tree planted by the water..." The implication is that trees with roots that are watered are strong. They are healthy; they are grounded. That is why when a wind comes by, these roots do not allow their trees to fall. When heavy rains come, their trees do not tilt over and die. But, when the roots are no longer watered, they weaken, and when they weaken, so do the trees.

### *We are the Trees*

In the vineyard, we are God's trees. We are God's workers. God looks to us to keep the church alive. We have the obligation, too, to keep our community alive. We do that by "watering" our roots.

How do we water our roots? I believe Paul gave us the answer in his letter to the church at Colossae. We plant our faith in our foundation, Christ Jesus! Another famous him tells us, "The church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is His new creation by water and the word!" By planting our faith in Jesus and not in the world, we can withstand whatever the world sends our way. This includes social ills, political crises, economic hardship and personal challenges. As a people, we must use our faith to maintain ourselves as powerful "trees" that protect and guard the truth.

Our work on behalf of marginalized populations, our fight to resist voter apathy and oppression, our future hopes to elect the first Black woman as President of these United States and our commitment to equal rights, are all made viable when we keep our roots watered and strong.

If we allow our roots to wither and die, then we die. Dead roots—dead trees; dead trees—dead communities; dead trees—dead voter turnout; dead trees—a dead White House; dead trees—dead schools and classrooms; dead trees—a dead people. Will we live or will we die?

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

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## “DEI” Hire?

*The term DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) is used to describe policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals. It encompasses people of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientation.*

There is a new presidential candidate at the top of the Democratic Party’s ticket for the November 2024 election. **She** is *Vice President Kamala Harris*.

When Joe Biden was campaigning for the 2020 Presidency, he promised that he would make government more reflective of the many cultures that are a part of America. He was fully committed to was diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). In delivering on this promise, President Biden appointed Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Indians, women, LGBTQ, young, etc. throughout his administration. We have our first African-American women Supreme Court Justice thanks to him.

If you would have asked a Republican months ago, DEI would have meant “**Didn’t Earn It**”. Unfortunately, now that a Black-Asian woman has been raised up as the challenger to Donald J. Trump, the meaning has taken on a more sinister meaning.

Several news outlets have aired comments from the far right referring to Vice President Harris as “Dumb as a Rock”, “crazy”, “nuts”, “unqualified”, “miserable cat lady” and “One hundred percent she is a DEI hire”, etc. The most disturbing, however, is the reporting that a Fox News panelist (Brian Kilmeade) criticized her for speaking in Indianapolis, IN to the “colored sorority” Zeta Phi Beta.



One can only wonder if the new meaning is tied to the whole “Make America Great Again” campaign. It’s the “Again” for me. Do they mean, the period in which **we** were

enslaved? When **we** were in the fields (aka the “black jobs” that the immigrants are taking)? Or when **we** were being sprayed with fire hoses in the name of democracy and/or freedom? I can’t say their intent for sure, but I know for certain **that we don’t want to go back** to any of these periods “again”.

Since DEI is such a threat to those on the right, I can only assume that we might be in trouble if the wrong candidate takes the white house. Let’s come together and stand proud to have a qualified, capable female candidate in the race for the highest seat in the land. We shouldn’t cast a vote based on race or gender, but rather on the ability to defend our democracy, uphold the constitution and most importantly, moral fortitude.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!!**

**Be Aware: Project 2025, if implemented, will remove DEI programs from the Federal government.**



BIG BETHEL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



# VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE★

Let Your Voice  
Be **Heard**  
Because your vote  
matters

*You Can't Vote  
If You Don't  
Register!!*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024  
AT BIG BETHEL PARKING LOT  
On Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
10AM - 4PM**

**Games, Music, Giveaways,  
Food & Drinks  
Used Eyeglass Collection**



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or

[www.bbsac.org](http://www.bbsac.org)

# DUE DILIGENCE

By Keith Burnett

No, migrants do not receive \$2,200 each month from the federal government | AP News

<https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-illegal-2200-payment-government-821946727757>

**John 8:32 (KJV)**

**Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free".**

No one likes to hear the truth anymore. The "this makes everyone uncomfortable" narrative has everyone walking on egg shells. People will say anything just to elicit a certain response. Today's political climate has divided our beautiful country along the lines of truth vs dishonesty. The days of respecting authority and the rule of law seem to be a memory. There are forces that want to weaken the effects of democracy with attacks on facts and the truth.

The reason I wrote this article is because many times I've heard my colleagues use the talking point that "the United States pays immigrants". This is rhetoric that is being spewed by one of the political parties in an effort to hold on to its power and take back the country. Not true, it's a whole lot of Malarkey. The moment I heard this, I went to the Associated Press (AP) and Politico to fact check. Both of these reliable sources dispelled this lie.

Relying on lies and half-truths will be the undoing of our democratic principles, making way for an authoritarian type rule. No one in their right mind should desire this. We owe it to mankind as leaders of the free world to combat the lies and overcome them with facts and truth.

**Stay Woke.**




# ***Updated website is live!***

★ \*\*Introducing Our New Social Action  
Committee Website!\*\*★



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website, dedicated to fostering community engagement and driving positive social change. Explore our initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events. Join us in making a difference!

 Visit us at: [www.bbsac.org](http://www.bbsac.org)

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