



AMAZING GRACE MINISTRIES OF PBC, INC

4300 S Jog Road, Greenacres FL 33454
Unit 541586
AmazingGraceMinistriesPBC@gmail.com

Monday, October 21, 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

With a broken heart and a disoriented and distraught soul, I come to address the shameless and shocking drama of a people in agony, dispersed, persecuted, and exposed to so many misfortunes.

As former President of the Republic, Me Ertha Pascal Trouillot, once said, "The national soul is weakening." There is no need to elaborate on the roots of disappointments and failures killing the Haitian dream daily. Haitians at home live at the height of hardship and disgrace. The weight of our pain and anguish is felt even beyond our borders. The diaspora is – to say the least – vilified and persecuted. Our refugees are left to their own devices, not knowing which way to turn. They are constantly chased out of the Dominican Republic, mistreated and tormented in Latin America, ostracized and rejected in Europe, and singled out and trampled upon in the United States.

The recent massacres in Pont Sondé and Arcahaie, all-out assaults across the country, the normalization of syncretism, wickedness, and occult practices, the specter of mass and inhuman deportation raised by both the Dominican Republic and the Republican Party's presidential candidate, the tergiversation of a disinterested international community, the subhuman living conditions in Haiti, the demagoguery and wanderings of a failed political sector, the terrible failure of a repugnant elite incapable of innovating, as well as runaway inflation, chronic hunger, daily terror... At this point, all of this should challenge our conscience as religious leaders.

Worse, the de facto executive is now in open conflict. Distrust, delay tactics, and power struggles hinder good governance or even efforts to restore the state's authority.

There is no denying that the church has a crucial role to play. To remain silent would be a gross dereliction of duty and a blatant betrayal of our mission. As God's fellow workers (1 Corinthians 3:9) ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), we must understand the urgency of the moment and God's anointing "to proclaim good news to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to the prisoners, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn" (Isaiah 61:1-2).

Making God's voice and justice heard is imperative at this critical juncture. The victims need to understand that the Lord sympathizes with their pain and that he "will judge the righteous and the wicked" (Ecclesiastes 3:17) and that "the Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed" (Ps 103:6). For even the Christian, faced with so much evil and hardship, wonders – deep inside – where is this mighty God we preach? And why is this journey through the wilderness so long?

Let us then raise our voices for them to hear God! Like Pope John Paul II in 1983, who denounced—in person—excesses of power, grotesque injustices, malice, abject poverty, hunger, and fear; like the Youth Council of 1985 in Jérémie, that defied the dictatorship, challenged a system of exploitation and terror to raise its voice in favor of human dignity, the church today must pull itself together to pursue spiritual renewal so that Haiti can rise from its ashes.



AMAZING GRACE MINISTRIES OF PBC, INC

4300 S Jog Road, Greenacres FL 33454
Unit 541586
AmazingGraceMinistriesPBC@gmail.com

Since last year, I have been making this urgent call on behalf of Amazing Grace Ministries without much success. Unfortunately, the Protestant sector – in this post-denominational age – is hindered by a lack of defined orthodoxy, the onslaught of postmodernity, trivialities of everyday life, and thinly veiled animosities, by our indifference, the ambivalence of our convictions and aspirations, and a detrimental lack of leadership. We are lost in a labyrinth and are seen like other failed leaders of our society without vision. Without plan. Without credibility. And less inclined to innovate.

Yet, it is evident that we can no longer function as usual. We can no longer ignore this genocide of the Haitian people and this degeneration of Haitian society. We must respond to the moment's urgency and take the serpent by its tail (Exodus 4:4) for the miracle of the five loaves and the two fishes (Luke 9:12-17).

But in doing so, we must be careful of political misadventures. The panacea does not lie in the church's active involvement in politics nor its indifference to the suffering of our people. Politics is not our vocation, but indifference is also not a viable option for the Christian called to be salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16, Esther 4:14). Therefore, engaging the Protestant sector in electoral competitions would be ill-advised and detrimental to our vocation, notwithstanding the right of Christian citizens to compete for the elective functions of their choice.

Because the foundations are destroyed, I hereby propose the convening of Protestant synods to attempt to restore the moral authority of the church and help our society contemplate the face of God: this God who "hates the wicked and him who delights in violence" . . . ; this God who shall "rain snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest" to be "the portion of their cup" (Psalm 11:5-6). It is urgent to engage in serious deliberations beyond our chapels for a broad consensus on the challenges we face. Soon, Amazing Grace Ministries will present the details of such a proposition.

I sincerely hope that groups, associations, federations, leagues, denominations, and faiths – from all persuasions - would consent to such an initiative. Let us illustrate magnanimity and self-transcendence through frank, open, and serious discussions for a free, strong, prosperous Haiti.

In Christ,

Dr. Ralph Cheriza, President

561-252-3735

<https://www.amazinggracepbc.org/>