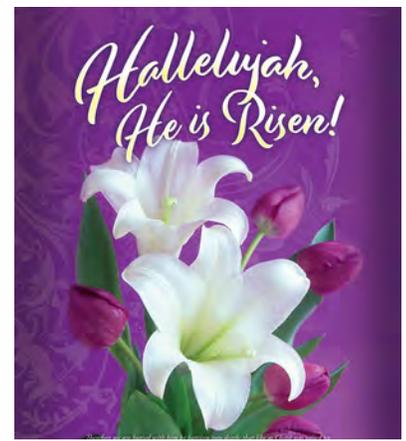


THE LIGHT

2022 Theme

“Light For This Present Darkness”

Psalm 119:105



Easter Sunday
April 17, 2022—10am

THE VOICE FROM THE VILLAGE “HOPE REIGNS ETERNAL”

Dr. Eric H. Jones, Founder/Senior Pastor

Volume 14, Issue 1
March 20, 2022

**Koinonia Celebrating
BLACK HISTORY
365 days a year**

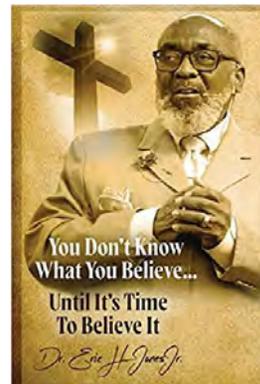


With the crisis of today faith can struggle and hope can be challenged. Yesterday you were who you are today. Today you are still the person you were yesterday. Tomorrow you will probably still be the same person. There’s so little hope for change without a change agent. Well, there is hope for those who have a mundane life, but the change will require you to make a choice. Regardless of why your life is the way it is today, where it goes from here is primarily up

to you. We can wake up tomorrow to another mundane day, or we can ask the Lord to help us make some changes, both inside and out. Hope is faith in the immutable promise that miracles prevail when the darkness tries to win-out with cries of despair. Hope is a gift from God that helps us yearn and live a life that believes and moves with the pledge of a better tomorrow. Hope is a strange thing. It will give you confidence in the bleakest of times. But hope is not any good unless you have your hope in someone that will not let you down. There are a lot of things that we hope for, and a lot of things that we wish for. The hope I am talking about is the

hope that we have as believers. This hope has its foundation in what Jesus did for us on the Cross, and what He will do when He takes us out of this world. When you have this kind of hope, you can face anything.

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Special Points of Interest:

- TESTify
- Why Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson?
- Kids and Money
- Maintain a Healthy Body

T.E.S.T.I.F.Y

By Gisla Bush

“There is No Testimony Without a Test”



THE TEST: When things are not working according to the plan that you believe God has set, do you change course? Some years ago, my mother called me frazzled about receiving a water bill that was more than \$500.00. She believed that someone had siphoned the water, so she took the necessary safeguards and had locks installed on the hose bibs. To make an already bad situation worse, the next month's water bill was more than \$1,000.00. My parents contacted the city who investigated the cause for the abnormally high bill and discovered that there was a leak on the premises. I contacted the homeowner's insurance company to report the loss, and they advised me to call a leak detection company. So, I made the necessary arrangements, and the representative searched and found the location of the leak, which was under the concrete slab in the bathroom area. I prepared the claim and faxed it to the insurance company who scheduled an adjuster to assess the damage. Since it was during the summer, I thought I might as well kill two birds with one stone and

visit my family while meeting the adjuster. I estimated that I could have things restored to working conditions within a short period of time. When the adjuster arrived and completed the inspection, he told us the extent of the damage. It was worse than we thought. Not only was there water damage, but also mold that would require mold remediation. Two bathrooms would need to be gutted and walls to the bedroom and the family room would need to be repaired. Things were not going according to plan. The mold remediation procedure and remodeling would take unanticipated time to complete. Then, my parents received a letter from the insurance company stating that they were sending another claim's adjuster to re-inspect the first adjuster's report. I not only had to be the "foreman" on the job but now fight the insurance company to make them pay the claim. The internal war between my two thoughts began to battle.

The summer was over and the insurance claim had not been resolved. We had begun the demolition work and the house was in shambles. I could not leave my parents in this state. My anxious mind began to run amuck. *How much longer would this take? I had work back home to do. How much more patient will my husband be? How much time did I have left before he called it quits? Would I have to make a choice between obeying my husband and honoring my parents?* Ephesians 6:2, 5:22. I was not thinking about casting my cares on God, but rather how I might be known as the deserter. After all I had a good reputation among my siblings, parents and husband and I desired to keep it. Proverbs 22:1. Then voices from the outside started to come. For an already restless mind, those comments among others added insult to injury.

THE TESTIMONY: Like Nehemiah in the Bible who was given a commission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, once he was there, he was faced with resistance, fears, and intimidation. However, he recognized the scheme of his enemy when they tried to deter his mission. In fact, Nehemiah told them, "I'm doing a great work and I can't come down." Nehemiah 6:2-3. In the midst of the trial, he prayed to God to give him strength. Nehemiah 6:8. Just like it was for Nehemiah, the enemy was whispering in my ear trying to scare me off and trick me to abandon the work. The scripture says, "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8.

TESTIFY, continued on page 7



Views From the Catbird Seat

Join Alvin C. Romer for commentary about life and faith in the African-American Diaspora.



The Prepositional Grammar for Faith

By Deacon Alvin C. Romer



As long as I've been a scribe of words, and especially plying my trade as an Editor, I always endeavored to invent ways of making grammar interesting - even the sleepy lesson on prepositions. Get ready for them here! Long before I learned it in grade school, I understood that those very prepositions were not the parts of speech doing all the action (those were the verbs), nor the part of speech naming the people, places, and things (those were the nouns). Instead, prepositions were the part of speech indicating relationship or positioning; words such as *In*, *Beside*, *Under*, *Between* and *Behind*. I'm sure as you read this essay you're asking yourself why, and you're wondering where I am going with it? Don't worry it IS a Biblical analogy, still. As such, it makes me wonder: *How much of our life with God can be understood according to those prepositions?* It's perhaps a strange thing to suggest that the study of grammar could help us make sense of the prose and poetry of faith. But as I've come to discover in my Christian walk, it's an understanding of the little words that make the biggest difference in life. One of the little words in particular is *'with'*. God has longed

to be *with* His people and to care *for* His table *with* them. To receive the gift of salvation is to receive its Giver, taking Him up on His eternal offer of company...and not to forget the proverbial *"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the ages."* Suffice it to say, there are all kinds of prepositions indicating how we are positionally related to God. Though if I'm honest, I know that *with* is the most difficult preposition for me in my life with God. I, at times, forget that spiritual power and peace derive first and foremost from the *'with God'* initiative. A better representation is found in **John 17:13**. Are there other significant prepositions to prep us for relevance in their usage?

If you answered that in the affirmative you're on the right track. As a new believer early in my life, *from* was the preposition that dominated my understanding of the Christian life. As a 17-year-old, getting ready to enter Morehouse College as a freshman on meeting the resurrection of Christ, I understood - at least in part - the nature of God's unexpected grace. I was saved *from* the shame and sentence of sin as well as *from* the wrath of God. In order to succeed, I knew I had to toe the line. As an adolescent running the streets, *from* was just the beginning. I needed a new lease on life. God intervened and saved me *from* myself, but saved (if not prepared) me for His good purposes. I'm now in tune to the *'with God'* description that is less about what we take *from* God, or do *for* God and much more about the friendship we enjoy *with* Him - the type of friendship purposed from the beginning.

Of course, there are other prepositions that allude to biblical lore. Most notably how being *for* God's purpose in living a righteous life, and applying worth *for* the benefaction of those less fortunate. There should be no limitations in being *for* any good purpose defining your faith. I admit how important the growth factor is in ascertaining measures of accountability. One has to be wise enough, faithful enough, strong enough to do all the good to which we aspire. *For* is a necessary word of kingdom aspiration, and still needed a more complete grammar of faith - one that should capture the wider scope of the gospel's good news prerequisite. After you've read this piece, here's hoping you take into consideration the prepositions of life and how to attract them to your daily lives. God is always looking to bring people into the circle of His own purposes for us to follow as we learn, practice and improve. All He has delivered us *from* and *for* has been for a singular reason: to be *with* us!

In Our Humble Opinion

Kids and Money

By Ian & Donna Clarke

I hope we all can agree that teaching kids about money is an important duty, and, if I may say, “The younger the better.” Unfortunately, we weren’t consistent in teaching finances to our three children when they were younger. It’s a much harder task doing it now that they are adults. Let us share with you a few ideas you can use to teach your kids about money.



Communication - Don’t be afraid to talk about money. Teach its importance. Money gives options: where to live, vacation, ability to help others.

Finance - Teach the difference between assets and liabilities.

Assets bring money into the bank account and liabilities take money out of the bank account. Assets (business, real estate) generate cash flow. Liabilities (latest fashion, going out every weekend, car payment) prevents cash flow. We’re not saying don’t enjoy your money just watch your spending – don’t spend money to look or live a certain way when you are struggling financially.

Budget - Show how to manage money. Have your children sit with you as you pay your bills. Prepare a grocery list together and include the dollar amount allotted for groceries. Have the kids grocery shop with you using the list and dollar amount allotted –

be sure and stick to the budget. If you go over budget, discuss what will be put back from the shopping list.

Research – There are many ways to earn money. Money can be earned by trading time for money – job or by taking back the time by building systems to generate money and have money work for you. This can be done by creating a business, purchasing assets with positive cash flow – real estate, or an online system that provides automation—write a book, teach a skill for others to purchase online. Have them understand that they have the freedom of not being stuck in one way to make money. They can have multiple streams of income. (We digress. If one only chooses a job to earn money, this may limit his or her money-making potential – be creative – do something outside of a job to make money).

Discipline - Help them develop productive habits/routines. Start with them making their bed every morning, set a time for studying, watching tv, playing outside etc. It’s not doing it once but doing it over a long period of time – consistency is the key.

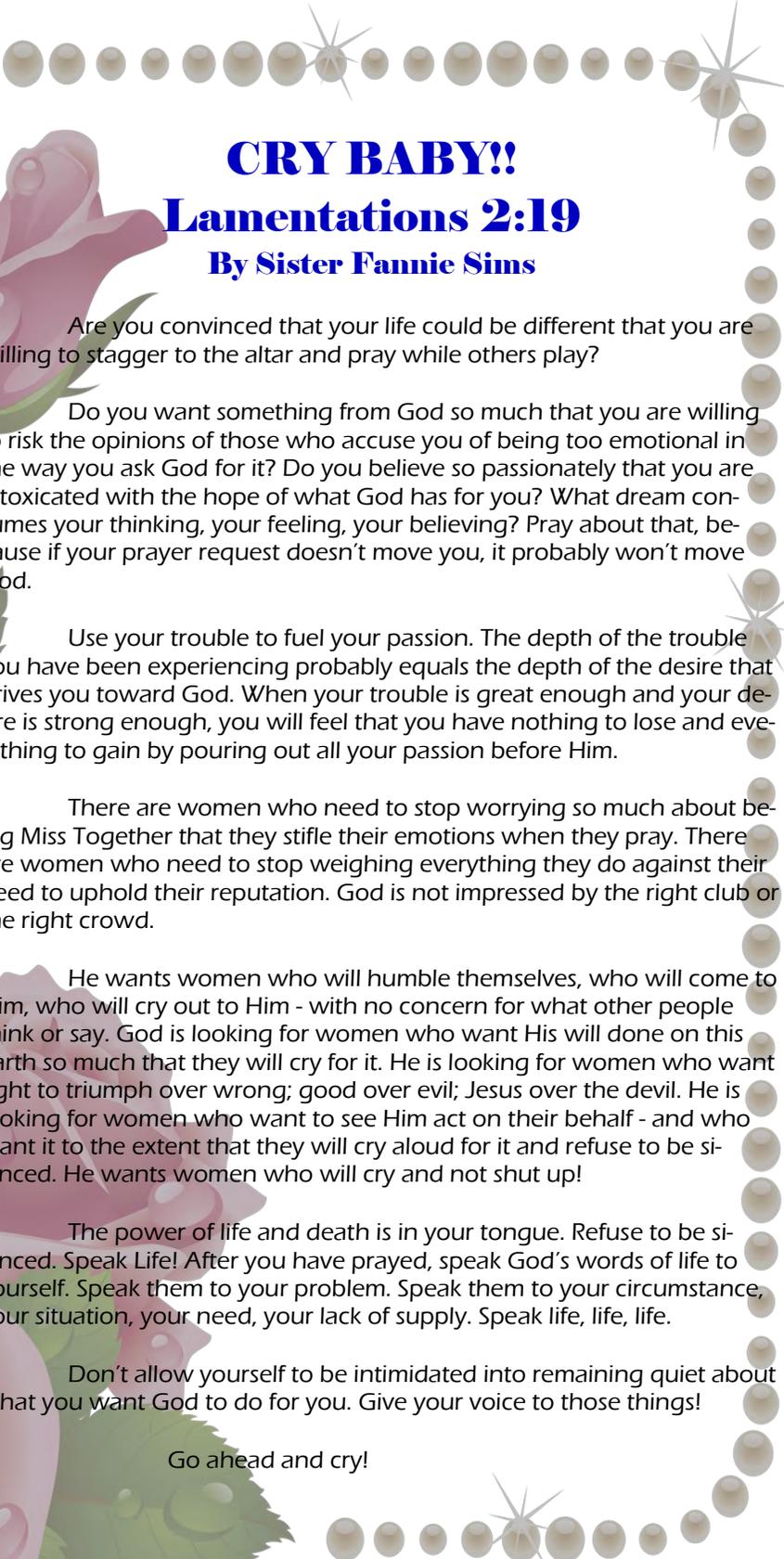
Self-Reliance - Teach them to earn their own money and not depend solely on yours. There should be no sense of entitlement. No one owes them anything. If they want it, go for it. We believe they will be less likely to squander money that they worked for. What they get from you is a bonus.

Patience - In building their wealth (whatever that amount is for them) they must have patience. To reach goals take determination, discipline, and patience. Work hard, delay indulgence (liabilities), the reward will come. Be patient for the big picture.

Create/think of other ways to teach your kids about money. In our humble opinion, money is a servant, and we are its master. Teaching money management early to children will set them up for a life of financial freedom that will be passed on for future generations (LEGACY).

Learn, execute, share the knowledge.





CRY BABY!!

Lamentations 2:19

By Sister Fannie Sims

Are you convinced that your life could be different that you are willing to stagger to the altar and pray while others play?

Do you want something from God so much that you are willing to risk the opinions of those who accuse you of being too emotional in the way you ask God for it? Do you believe so passionately that you are intoxicated with the hope of what God has for you? What dream consumes your thinking, your feeling, your believing? Pray about that, because if your prayer request doesn't move you, it probably won't move God.

Use your trouble to fuel your passion. The depth of the trouble you have been experiencing probably equals the depth of the desire that drives you toward God. When your trouble is great enough and your desire is strong enough, you will feel that you have nothing to lose and everything to gain by pouring out all your passion before Him.

There are women who need to stop worrying so much about being Miss Together that they stifle their emotions when they pray. There are women who need to stop weighing everything they do against their need to uphold their reputation. God is not impressed by the right club or the right crowd.

He wants women who will humble themselves, who will come to Him, who will cry out to Him - with no concern for what other people think or say. God is looking for women who want His will done on this earth so much that they will cry for it. He is looking for women who want right to triumph over wrong; good over evil; Jesus over the devil. He is looking for women who want to see Him act on their behalf - and who want it to the extent that they will cry aloud for it and refuse to be silenced. He wants women who will cry and not shut up!

The power of life and death is in your tongue. Refuse to be silenced. Speak Life! After you have prayed, speak God's words of life to yourself. Speak them to your problem. Speak them to your circumstance, your situation, your need, your lack of supply. Speak life, life, life.

Don't allow yourself to be intimidated into remaining quiet about what you want God to do for you. Give your voice to those things!

Go ahead and cry!

Why Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson will make a difference?



President Biden **announced Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as his Supreme Court nominee to replace Justice Stephen Breyer.** In 2022, 160 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, we are on the verge of having our first Black female Associate Justice. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is extraordinarily accomplished and should be on any president's list of highly qualified, exemplary High Court candidates, not because of her gender or race, but because of her resume and her qualifications.

Judge Brown Jackson currently serves as a judge on the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. This follows her eight years of experience as a trial court judge in the U.S. District Court in D.C., years of work in private practice, and 15 years as a public defender. She

graduated from Harvard Law School where she served as an editor for the Harvard Law Review, clerked for three judges (one of whom was Justice Stephen Breyer), and was Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. As is befitting of a U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brown Jackson has issued notable rulings in a substantively and legalistically broad range of cases.

Yet many will wonder whether her potential seating on the Supreme Court will have any immediate impact in a court with an existing conservative majority. While her potential confirmation may not alter the balance of opinion on the U.S. Supreme Court in the short term, her professional experience, particularly as a judge with a significant background as a public defender, and her personal experience as a Black woman in the United States will shape how she approaches cases before the court and how both majority and minority opinions will be framed and argued. And these consequences of her very presence will likely alter the parameters of public policy in the United States. Beyond the symbolic and political importance of ensuring that the High Court includes a Black woman, the consequences for the parameters of public policy in the first half of the 21st century are likely to be profound.

A Justice Brown Jackson will know what it is like to grow up in a community whose value and values have been considered subordinate to "mainstream" values. She will know what it is like to be entangled in a criminal justice system that at every turn, from racial profiling to unvalidated theories of "**excited delirium,**" to jury selection and in some places, the use of non-unanimous juries means to indigent and/or people of color who have been subject to unrelenting racism and do not have the resources to engage in legal maneuvering to clear their names. She will know **how hard Black women work** to keep families afloat, and that Black and Brown people in the United States **continually have to prove their value.** Those insights will influence the nuances of her legal theories and the ways in which her colleagues on the High Court engage with those theories whether she is in the majority or minority.

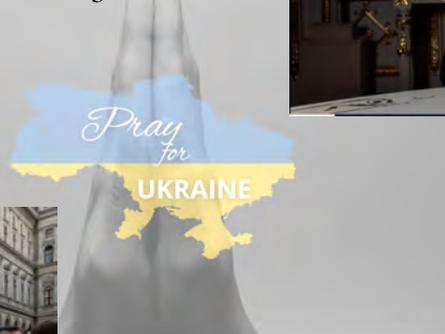
Author: Camille Busette
Senior Fellow – Economic Studies,
Governance Studies, Brookings Metro
Director – Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

“With every new promise of aid and prayer for safe keeping, Ukraine and its leader seemed to transcend their roles as victims of aggression. They became examples of the kind of fortitude that all of us hope we can muster when called. There is no faking that kind of courage and no way to tell whether we have it, until the time we need it most.”

Author: Simon Shuster - Europe Reporter, Time Magazine



**Matthew 24:6 - 8
King James Version**

- ⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
- ⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
- ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.



Truism - an undoubted or self-evident truth

“BE TOLERANT WITH OTHERS AND STRICT WITH YOURSELVES.”

~ **MARCUS AURELIUS**

TESTIFY, *continued from page 2*

But it was my choice to either yield to the flesh or submit to the Spirit. So, I continued with the work. Without my saying anything, my husband requested an alternative work schedule that would allow him to be off every Friday to drive to Tampa to be with his family and aid in the work on my parents’ house. After much effort, the insurance company paid the claim, which contributed to a **total** renovation of the house. My family, especially my husband, was celebrated for the sacrifice that was made to present my parents with the house they had only dreamed about. We were able to return home after 6 months more blessed than when we left.

FOOD FOR FAITH: God’s plans are bigger and better than you can imagine but are accompanied with many problems. Nehemiah’s life exemplifies how to overcome opposition from outsiders as well as internal turmoil. He exhibited a steadfast determination to complete the work God gave him. If you see the call to the end, you and others will know that the work was ordained by God and you will be blessed by it. Stay on the boat no matter what. Acts 27.



**THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER
KOINONIA WORSHIP CENTER & VILLAGE**

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HEALTHY IS AS HEALTHY DOES

Health Tips and Advice by Sara M. Snell

Maintaining a Healthy Body

There are a lot of factors involved in maintaining a healthy body. Good health can decrease your risk of developing certain conditions, such as; heart disease, stroke, some cancers, and injuries.

Here's a path to improve your health:

Eat healthy. Making healthy food choices can prevent or treat some conditions as heart disease, stroke, diabetes. Lose weight if you need to, and lower your cholesterol, as well.

Get regular exercise. It can also prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and colon cancer. It can help treat depression, osteoporosis, and high blood pressure. Being overweight can also lead to weight-related injuries. A common problem is arthritis in the weight bearing joints, such as the knees, hips, and spine. People who exercise also get injuries less often. Routine exercise can make you feel better and keep your weight under control. Remember any amount of exercise is better than none at all.

Don't smoke or use tobacco. They are harmful habits and can cause heart disease, mouth, throat, and/or lung cancer, emphysema, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Avoid harmful use of alcohol. There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. Consuming alcohol can lead to health problems such as mental and behavioral disorders, including dependence, liver cirrhosis, some cancers and heart diseases, as well as injuries resulting from violence and road clashes and collisions.

Things to Consider

In addition to the factors listed in this article, you should make time for whole body health. Visit your doctor for regular checkups. This includes your primary, your dentist, eye doctor and other specialists. Preventive care can detect disease or prevent illness before they start. This also include screenings, such as mammograms. Men can get breast cancer, too. See your health care provider if you think something is wrong. Keep your immunizations up to date, get enough sleep. Wear proper protection at home, work, school, outside, and now during this pandemic era. Stay safe - now and always. Finally, do not give in to negative moods.

Remember...

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.