

What Are You Searching For?^{(c) 2009}

Matthew 2:1-12

By Minister Elaine Y. Sanford

In the text that we just read, the wise men (who were astrologers); were also Gentiles – not Jews. But, they came into Jerusalem looking for HOPE in the form of a baby that was “born King of the Jews.” [It is interesting that they were meeting with a king...(King Herod), but Herod was not “The King” that they were searching for.

In many ways, people today are very similar to these ancient day wise men – they are searching for something that they cannot seem to find.

In the recent election, the United States of America made history when a majority of Americans – black and white – pulled the lever in a voting booth and elected the first African American to be President of this country.

Many people saw the hand of God in this action... because, we can't understand how a nation that “destroyed the hope of millions of slaves and black people”... has apparently evolved to a point that it can elect a black man to its highest office?

For many, Barack O'Bama has become the HOPE that black people have been searching for all of their lives.

People have said such things as:

“I cried like a baby when the pronounced him the winner!”

“I never thought that I would live to see the day that racist America vote to elect a black man to go to the “White House.”

Or,

“Do ya'll realize that a black woman will have control and the “say-so” in America's House, and, she's not a maid, a cook, or a mammy?

Yes; African Americans are holding their breath that President-elect O'Bama will bring Black People the Hope that Dr. Martin Luther King died for. They are hoping that Mr. O'Bama will remember the promises that he made on the campaign trail... to help the forgotten poor on the bottom wrungs of society; to help those who continue to experience discrimination in employment, housing and the distribution of social services...

Yes. Black People are looking to Mr. O'Bama for the Hope they've been searching for in so many of their leaders who have come to the forefront over the years.

It is their hope that Mr. O'Bama can do something that will “mitigate or begin to erase” some of the more than 200 years of injustice, humiliation, degradation, and pain that Black People have suffered at the hands of the forefathers who NOW have elected a Black President.

But, Mr. O’Bama is also the “Hope” of others who elected him. The Hispanic, Latino and other non-resident peoples are hoping that Mr. O’Bama will be a “friendlier President” to the stranger who is in this land.

America has welcomed some immigrants while slamming the door in the face of others. America has embraced Mexicans and Latinos to come in and to pick the crops at sub-standard wages, but the door is slammed shut when these same people try to become tax-paying citizens. Some say that there are already too many “undocumented workers”... or illegal aliens in this country; yet, America invited them here to do work that no one else is willing to do.

So, the families of the “foreigner” are holding out Hope that Mr. O’Bama will help to ease the laws and to look more favorably on the foreigner who lives and works within our shores. **But, America would not have elected Mr. O’Bama if people did not believe that he would be a President for all of the people.** The people who voted for Mr. O’Bama want to see an end to the two wars that are draining the nation’s finances; they want the Housing Crisis to be over; a revival of the stock market. They want unemployment numbers to drop; Can Mr. O’Bama force corporations to bring the jobs back to America? They want gasoline prices to stabilize; crime to be reduced. They want American to be respected again by the nations of the world.

Yes. America elected Mr. O’Bama because many people are holding out Hope that he will make life better for them; that we will indeed be “better off” than we have been over the last 8 years.

Where have we heard this story before? Do you recall what happened when the Egyptians began to think that there were too many Jews living in their country back during the days of Moses? Eventually, they enslaved the Jews and treated them harshly... forcing them to work for the majority population all the days of their lives.

So, Mr. O’ Bama holds the HOPE for those who come to America, but are considered to be strangers in this land.

Then, Mr. O’Bama holds the HOPE for those who are worried about the nosedive that our economy is taking. Wall Street is suffering; the stock market is on a roller coaster, unemployment has hit a record 6-percent, we are still involved in two wars; which we are spending billions of dollars to pay for; we’ve suffered a mortgage meltdown where noone can buy or sell a house; people are being evicted because they can’t make the house payments, folks are losing their jobs...the country has a “Trillion Dollar” deficit... and it appears that America is in a hopeless state....

So, we elect Mr. O’Bama hoping that he can bring stability;
Hoping that he can figure out how to stabilize Wall Street
Hoping that he will bring down unemployment;
That he can somehow figure out how to help people to – once again – be able to buy homes;

Hoping that he can reduce the Trillion dollar deficit....

Hoping that once again, America, will be seen as the ‘Land of Prosperity’...where freedom can truly exist for all who come to its shores.
But, all of this seems to be a Tall Order for a mere human being....

I would suggest that Mr. O’Bama is just a man....
And, that is under the “misinformed” notion that HE or SHE is in control!!!

The Truth is that only God is in control! And, Only God can fix what is broken in America....
The country has gotten into the dilemma that it is in because, we have forgotten that God is in control!!!

Shirley Caesar had a song that said: Whatever the question, God is the Answer
The world circumstances have not caught God off guard... because God never slumbers...
and he never sleeps.

So the answer to America’s problem is to turn back to God...
And, the answer to YOUR problem is to turn back to God...
What Are you Searching for?

The songwriter said; Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Blood and Righteous ness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus Name
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground in sinking sand....
Whatever you are going through... it is no surprise to God – Let’s turn to
1 Corinthians 10:13

Whatever you are going through - God is sufficient... Let’s turn to
2 Corinthians 12:7-9
Ephesians 3;20
Whatever you are going through, you can depend on God – Let’s turn to
Psalms 146:5-6
Proverbs 3; 5-6

Just remember that God specializes in things... that seem impossible.
And, He can do what no other power in earth or on this earth can do...
Simply put your trust in the one who has the power to change your circumstances...
Stop trusting in the one who can kill the body;
But, Put your trust in the one who can destroy both body and soul...
What Are you Searching for? Jesus is standing and waiting for you...
Your Search can be over today...