

From The Desk of the Moderator
Reverend Joe A. Jackson

September 27, 2016

Dear Bear Creek,

Despite what some of the public are now learning about racism, hatred and bigotry, this is not new to those who have experienced these acts of cruelty, injustice, inequality and suffering. It was sown into the fabric of America a long time ago and perpetuated by unjust laws and the dismantling of equal rights for all people.

First of all, this is a learned evil and WE must unlearn it by teaching our children to live Christ-centered lives that bring unity in the community, we must set the daily example of Christ's loving by uniting together and not just praying, but practicing what God's good and perfect will is for our lives. We, along with others in our communities, must openly and honestly dialogue about our differences, strengths and commonalities, while respecting the differences between our beliefs. We need to change unjust laws, rules and policies that hinder and oppress people because of their race, color, religion or nationality. We are responsible to continue ushering in the Kingdom of God and we are to hold each other accountable for making the godly transformation a reality in our churches and communities.

Our children and communities need to see us involved in the electoral process by voting, speaking or corresponding with our elected officials about these and others concerns and hold them accountable, while working together with them to try and make the changes. These kinds of acts will build bridges of brotherhood and sisterhood that strengthen US for today with the hopes of leading to a better future.

Secondly, I ask every pastor and church to pray continually and believe along with me for a healing and revealing of God's discerning will so that we can unravel the demonic garment of division, distrust, hate, racism and evil, that has covered our eyes to the beauty, worth and value of each other. In doing so, we can stitch a divine Christ-like garment that propagates and provides a rich destiny of warmth, safety, equality, harmony, love, justice and an eternal hope that makes dreams reality.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from Dr. Martin L. King, Jr, "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

In the Grip of His Grace,

Joe A. Jackson

Joe A. Jackson, MDiv.
Moderator