

Proclaiming a Resurrection Faith for a Crucified People

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brainchild of Rev. Fauntroy, the Roundtable has not only adopted the concept, but has also launched an effort to raise a minimum of \$300 from each of its participating national organizations by Good Friday, April 10, 1998. Roundtable leaders hope that these start-up funds will enable them to access the new technologies that will enable them to deliver the names of five voter registration prospects to any willing worker, anywhere in the nation.

You can become one of the first Gideon Soldiers on record by filling out and returning to the Roundtable office the Gideon Army Enlistment Card provided at the bottom of this page.

Proclaiming a Resurrection Faith for a Crucified People

The theme on which African American churchmen and churchwomen are asked to launch the Easter Season drive is one that takes not of the fact that our people are being "Crucified" by assaults on public policies like Affirmative Action that have improved the quality of life for millions of our people. We are being crucified by drug trafficking in our neighborhoods, and our children are being crucified by the neglect of public school education. We believe that strong voter participation on our part in targeted races this year will produce a "resurrection" of our faith that we can and shall overcome! The theme that Roundtable leaders have chosen for their non-partisan voter registration, voter education and GOTV drive this year is, therefore: "Proclaiming a Resurrection for a Crucified People." "Hot Button" Issues

This theme seemed appropriate because, sensing that African American voters this year are in a fighting mood, Dr. Ron Walters, noted professor of Political Science; Dr. Yvonne Scruggs, executive director of the Black Leadership Forum; and Roundtable President Walter Fauntroy came up with three so-called "Hot Button" issues that they believe will make the task of rallying African American citizens to vote next Fall much easier. They believe that African American people are ready to defend themselves against the abandonment of Affirmative Action, such as happened with California's Proposition 209 which has prompted the closing of so many doors of opportunity to African American youth of today that were opened by our activism in the 1960s and '70s. They believe, and Roundtable/AOIP leaders adopted the

view, of African American neighborhoods as places for the illegal trafficking of crack, cocaine and other drugs that are literally destroying the lives of so many of our people.

Over the next two months, the leaders also plan to come to closure on a specific list of public policy measures that African Americans in about 14 categories of American life want to see passed in the first session of the 106th Congress. Our African American labor organizations have already come up with their highest priority item: the defeat of so-called "Pay Roll Protection Acts" that are designed to destroy union organizing. Our African American international affairs organizations have come together to designate the passage of the Africa Trade Bill as that which should be our highest priority item in the field of foreign policy in the next Congress. We are looking forward to our health professional organizations, our business organizations, our education and criminal justice organizations also presenting us with what they consider to be the public policy items that should be at the top of our list for positive change by both Democrats and Republicans whose elec-

tions we choose to seal with our votes in November.

Those priority items should certainly bind African Americans together in an across-the-board collaborative effort to get-out-the-black-vote this year, for each of us, at every level, with have a specific stake in the outcome of these elections.

Convening Our Black Leadership Family in a Minimum of 28 Targeted Congressional Districts

Our political scientists have identified at least 28 congressional districts where African American voters have the potential for being the margin of victory or defeat for those seeking election to the U.S. Congress on Nov. 3, 1998. Many of our organizations are now scouring their membership rolls to provide the Roundtable with the names of their activists in as many of the 121 cities and towns covered by those targeted congressional districts as they have members.

During the months of April and May, roundtable meetings of activists from all of our national organizations are now being scheduled in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina and New Jersey. In New Jersey, Councilman

and State Representative Don Tucker will be working with NAACP leaders to convene their meeting. In North Carolina, Dr. Lavonia Allison will be doing the same. In Texas, Dr. Caesar Clark and Dr. S.C. Nash, president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Dallas, will be working with NAACP leaders to convene the family of leaders there. In Georgia, the legendary Rev. Hosea William will be working with NAACP leaders in the Peach State to convene our activists around this coordinated and concentrated effort. And in Alabama, the Rev. E. Randel T. Osburn of SCLC will be working with NAACP chapters there to convene meetings at which, together, they plan the work and then work their plan to turn out record numbers of African American voters at the polls in the districts targeted.

NAACP Agrees to Convene Local Roundtable Meetings

If you have noticed that the NAACP has been mentioned often in the previous paragraph, it is because a wonderful thing happened at the Annual Board Meeting of the NAACP in New York City

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GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Too long persons have been hung-up on Eater's empty tomb. Jesus Christ is never found inside any tomb.

The proof of His resurrection is not found in the proof of an empty tomb.

An empty tomb can always be explained away: "his friends came during the night and removed him," they said. Who can dis prove that?

"A soldier was bribed," some might say, and one cannot really unodge that theory.

The validity of Easter - the fact of resurrection - rests not on the emptiness of the tomb, but on the fullness of Mary Magdalene's testimony: "I have seen the Lord!" There's proof of resurrection. That's the fact of Easter!

The reality of Easter is found not even in the words of the angel, "He is not here!" but in the words of Mary Magdalene: "I have seen the Lord!"



I Have Seen The Lord

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