

National Black Church Initiative

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The National Black Church Initiative Calls on the Nation to Heal its Racial Divide in the Name of Almighty God

There has been too much bloodshed

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, is calling on White, Blacks, Latinos and Asians, gay and straight to come together in our common belief of God and love and mercy. We want everyone to just take a step back, take a deep breath, evaluate their own prejudice and ask God for forgiveness. The Black Church will take leadership on this issue in opening our hearts and our minds to begin the healing process.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “I am deeply saddened for what has occurred over the past two days in this country. The brutal killings of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling at the hands of the police and the killing of five Dallas police officers and injury of seven. This type of violence must stop and it will stop because the Black Church will demand it to be stopped on both sides. Those who hate, we open our arms as a Church community to give you the love of Christ and to do what we can to eliminate hate in their lives. The Black Church will not hate back, we will love even stronger and our light will shine even brighter as we go forth to make a community that was envisioned by Martin King, the beloved community.”

Our country right now needs a sense of direction and leadership from the White House to the Black Church to the White Church to the Latino Church to the Gay Church. We cannot continue in this vein and call ourselves civil. The National Black Church Initiative wants to commend the

Conference of National Black Churches and the work they have done around racial healing. NBCI will be reaching out to them to loan our support of 34,000 churches to being the healing process of our nation. We will be reaching out to all communities involved. We can ill afford to allow this tragedy to spiral out of control. Martin King says that violence can only beget violence.

“The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

The Black Church has a history of love and a history of being a light in very dark places. Nothing can illustrate this best than what happened in Charleston a year ago when a very young disturbed race anger teenaged white boy, walked into the church, sat silently among the congregation among those who studied the word of God and at the end of that process took out his gun and murdered everybody and the response of the angels of Mother Bethel Emmanuel AME Church was that they would not return that hatred that he had in his heart back on him. As Ari Mboya put it so eloquently, “I cannot hate you because you hate me, people like me, or are generally hateful toward people that are different from you. My human sense may tell me to and my anger or sadness may make me want to respond to you in such a way, but I will not hate you for we cannot conquer hate through hate. It does not matter what you believe in, but hate will never overcome hate - only love can.

I write this as I think about Dylan Roof, the man suspected of shooting and killing nine people at the Historic African American Church in Charleston. Three people survived the shooting. Dylan told one of the survivors that 'her life was spared' so that she can tell people what happened. Dylan spent about an hour at a Wednesday night prayer meeting before he started the shooting. There were only fourteen people in the room: the shooter, the nine that were killed and three that survived. It is a sad day for the America as another young person, only 21 years of age, commits such a crime.”

ABOUT NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI’s purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are

governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.