

National Black Church Initiative

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THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH STATEMENT ON HOPE AND ASSURANCE FOR CHRISTIANS AND NON- CHRISTIANS THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL OF THIS ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WILL NOT ALLOW US TO BE OVERCOME WITH HOPELESSNESS AND DISPAIR

This is not the time to give up hope

We believe that the God through the Lord Jesus Christ is calling ministers of the Gospel to assure his people of God's dominion over the heavens and the earth and over this economic crisis. Those who believe have nothing to fear. God will take care of all of us. Those who do not believe and are not connected to a church, God through Christ Jesus is calling you to Him and be assured of God's eternal love for you.

Our message of divine hope and assurance is being delivered through revelation from God to His clergy for all the people.

God's message of hope and assurance is for believers and non-believers alike. As religious leaders, we strongly urge those who do not have a faith tradition nor believe-- to begin to reconsider their status and to seek God through Christ with all your heart, mind and soul. ***This is an excellent moment to try-- again.***

Economic methods employed thus far to correct this economic crisis have failed. Loaning taxpayers' hard earned money to failed businesses like AIG has not worked. Letting businesses fail and believing that the economy will correct the market and absorb it has also failed as well-- like Lehman Brothers. Central banks around the world and their monetary policies have not produced the desired effect of stimulating and creating the necessary confidence and stability in the economy systems either.

The assurance from the US Congress, the President and leading financial and economic experts have failed to give hope to the American public, as well as other world economies. ***A strong belief in God is the missing ingredient.***

Therefore, as religious leaders we unequivocally remind the American public and those around the world that their true hope and assurance is found in God through Christ Jesus- His eternal love for all people.

We believe that those who are in armed conflict with one another whether it be in the Congo, Darfur, the Middle East, Iraq, Afghanistan, must begin to negotiate a just and lasting peace immediately. We believe that those who have manipulated the American people and the market must cease their evil, illegal and immoral practices and repent from stealing from their neighbors. Greed is immoral and reprehensible. Taking advantage of the poor will only expose you to God's wrath and not His love. ***God sides especially with the poor.***

Therefore, we urge men and women of faith and those who care about society to keep your family together. You should use this time for prayer and meditation. This is not the time to divorce your spouse and break up your family. This is not the time to neglect or abuse your spouse or your children nor stop your support of them. This is not the time to stop paying your bills- pay all of them to the best of your ability. God will help you. ***This is not the time to give up hope and contemplate suicide.*** This is not the time to abuse legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. But rather, this is the time to take an inventory of your ethical and spiritual life. We urge you as religious leaders to believe in God or start a conversation with Him to stop drinking, stop smoking, stop worrying, stop over eating and stop abusing drugs. ***This is the time to have faith and hope in God, in Christ, in your country, in your family and your fellow citizens.***

We pray for the success of the rescue plan. We pray for all of our political leaders, the President, the Congress and all the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. We pray for the success of the Department of Treasury, the Federal Reserve and the men and women on Wall Street to play by the rule that all will recognize that they are there by the grace of God and their jobs is to serve the many and not the few.

All faith communities offer you grace and hope in His eternal love for all people. Your faith community will provide you with food and shelter for you and your family. We will help you keep your home. We will offer you prayer and counseling. We will help you find a job to take better care of your family and will stand by you and your family during these difficult and trying times. We will assistance you if we can with your bills. We will continue to pray for the success of your family, your children, this community, our nation and especially for those who play by the rules and loves God.

In conclusion, NBCI and the wider faith community will not shrink from its responsibility and will provide the necessary leadership to carry out the manifestation of God's presence in these difficult economic times. Please call us if you have any concerns and we will help lead you in the right direction.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Most Rev. Anthony Evans

The Rev. Mark McCleary