



Personal Perspectives From South Africa

**PATRICKS T.E.A.M. SOUTH AFRICA
UNION BIBLE INSTITUTE**

*Marjory and David Patrick are currently serving as
Missionaries in South Africa*

January 20, 2009 America made headline news around the world

Here in Pietermaritzburg-KwaZulu Natal,
South Africa the headline read...

"A FRIEND OF EACH NATION"- OBAMA

Our morning began with friends, alumni and acquaintances congratulating us by early phone calls and sms/text messages from various parts of the country. Indeed President Obama received global standing ovations.

What were we doing here on inauguration day? (Besides wearing a gifted Obama t-shirt which are not available for sale here) We continued preparation for the opening of the new 2009 school year here on the UBI- Union Bible Institute campus where we help administrate and lecture. We also prepared for teaching courses this year on another campus, ESSA - The Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa.

Early in the evening we met with our community ward group group condensing the time so as not to miss the live viewing of the inauguration airing at 7pm our time. How fitting the lesson we taught that evening of a female patriarch, Ruth whose God orchestrated relationships and events positioning her to reach her God given destiny. In the two-room dwelling of 74 year old, Mama Ngubane 20-30 gathered for prayer for the challenges we face in this ward. The children (Abantwana Basembali) of Mbali gave testimonies of thanks to our U.S. supporters who purchased their album we sold while State-side enabling them to have new socks and school supplies for this new school year.

"Tell us how you feel as an African-American on

this momentous occasion" was the overwhelming question we were asked all day. 'Those who are not a part of the dream remain part of our worst nightmares', was one of our replies.

We know the challenges Obama faces as one of the world's greatest super powers leader, are great. Some say a man with a mission....impossible. But, oh what hope in a moment ignited the world. Nelson Mandela noted very few historical events inspired people like the 1994 demise of South Africa's Apartheid and the U.S. 44th presidential inauguration of Barack Obama.

Our city's mayor, Ms. Zanele Hlatshwayo (who in my opinion is one of the world's most influential female city leaders), was privileged to attend the inauguration. At the same time, while in the U.S., she was strengthening relations with Atlanta as a sister city of Pietermaritzburg. Here, unlike Kenya where they slaughtered goats and bulls to feast in Obama's honor, forgetting for the moment woes of food crisis threatening 10 million people with starvation and memories of ethnic clashes that killed over 1,500 people just a year ago following election disputes. Oh there were parties here too but not the same extent as Kenya. It was just a small moment to say 'in your face' to bygone racial scars. Here they also argued whether Obama should be called Black or Colored.

There were, however, no disputes that he is a man who unites and blesses the ties between both blacks and whites. There are few disputes that he will not just be an American president but a person who will spread justice around the world. We join millions who are praying for President Obama and for God to bless America but also add that America would bless the heart of God in word and deed 'garanteeing' His blessing!



THINKING

By Dr. Zawdie K. Abiade

Dr. Zawdie K. Abiade is a Family Therapist and Management/Diversity Consultant.. If you have questions for Dr. Abiade, send to zkabiade@aol.com

Management, Capitalism, and Black Folk

In order to understand oneself most, an individual will need to be exposed to another very opposite of them. That is to say, a true pacifist is measured can only at odds in relation to a violent person. The capacity to love can only be truly weighed over against hate.

Historical research will show evidence of an agnostic, in the person of Max Weber, doing extensive work integrating Christian values in management. Offering a very brief summation of Weber's work, Bruno Dyck and David Schroeder discuss two forms of management which they describe as Conventional and Radical Management.¹

Conventional management, which some refer to as *main-stream* is grounded in maximizing productivity, efficiency, and profitability. Radical management, which some refer to as multi-stream is grounded in the physical, social, ecological, emotional, spiritual and intellectual well being of those in management or leadership.

Weber wrote that conventional management, which is basic to capitalism will lead to unintentional consequences which is strongly implied in his writing, "technical and economic conditions...determine the lives of all the individuals who are born into this mechanism, not only those directly concerned with economic acquisition,

with irresistible force..."²

What Weber has shared with us is that capitalism is out of balance when the bottom line is profit at the expense of the people. Radical Management when exercised properly is capitalism at its best because the bottom line includes the importance of people and moral integrity which is found in religion or faith.

Though Weber was an agnostic, he was instrumental in reminding Christians that without the undergirding of faith in our practice, we will always return to our current financial crisis that is present in American. What does this have to do with Black folk? When Black people lose our sense of community and allow the bottom line to overshadow our commitment to family and community, we will always come out of the bottom economically and as a community.

Think about it.

(1) Bruno Dyck and David Schroeder, "Management, Theology, and Moral Points of View: Toward and Alternative to the Conventional Materialist-Individualist Ideal-Type Management," *Journal of Management Studies* 42 (2005): 705-735.

(2) Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Transl. T. Parson (New York: Scriber's, 1958), 181.

African Dreams: Our 28 Days in Senegal and Sierra Leone

by Zarinah El-Amin Naeem

On December 5, 2008 my husband and I, along with our two year old son, departed for Dakar, Senegal West Africa. It was the beginning of a beautiful (and challenging) 28 day trip that took us from the sandy roads of Senegal, to the lush green "Lion Mountains" of Sierra Leone. Our goals were simple: to visit Dr. Viola Vaughn, Director of 10,000 Girls, a burgeoning Girls Entrepreneurial program in Kaolack, Senegal, and to re-access the living conditions in Sierra Leone (the country featured in the film Blood Diamonds).

Now we've all seen the pictures of "starving African children" and while they exist, that was

not the only Africa that greeted me. Throughout the region I witnessed such levels of community and sharing that I was inspired to be a better neighbor here in Kalamazoo. I met with families who despite hard times, were willing to open their doors to a stranger and offer the little bit of food they had. I traveled to beautiful cities like Touba, home to one of the largest masjids in Africa - and a place where no hunger exists. I prayed in spiritual centers like Kaolack, where the sounds of dhikr (remembrance of God) can be heard throughout the day and night.

In Sierra Leone, we visited the LIFE Orphan-

age (www.lifeusa.org), where children I had met 4 years prior, greeted us with big hugs and song. With the community elders I discussed such issues as the looming food crisis and the type of agricultural projects we could implement to insure the children are fed well. In Freetown, I watched the sparkle in a school girl's eye as she shared with us her life goals at our organized DREAM party - her opportunity to articulate the passion of her dreams for the first time.

This is the Africa I experienced. This is the Africa I love. May we all take time to go beyond the images we see on the Discovery Chan-

nel in order to experience the beauty and knowledge that Africa has for so long shared with our universe. If you would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me at Zarinah@nyah.net. I would love to hear from you!

Zarinah El-Amin Naeem is the author of Jihad of the Soul: Single Muslims Negotiating Religion, Identity and Desire. She is also the founder of The Niyah Company which specializes in intercultural workshops as well as family events. Locally, she is the community outreach coordinator for RACE: Are we so different?, a family exhibit coming to Kalamazoo Valley Museum Fall 2010. Visit her online at www.niyah.net or email her at Zarinah@nyah.net

Racism ... Let's do more than just talk about it!

RIYMAA is one of many events designed to engage youth in this community-wide preparation for the upcoming Race Exhibit: *Race, Are We So Different*, which will be on display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum for four months during 2010.

Looking through the eyes of history, science and lived experience, the RACE Project explains differences among people and reveals the

reality - and unreality - of race. The story of race is complex and may challenge how we think about race and human variation, about the differences and similarities among people. Learn more: visit the website. www.understandingrace.org.

Worldwide Family Media Productions and Western Michigan University take this opportu-

nity to reach out to the diverse youth of this region and stimulate broad-based, productive community dialogue on issues of race, diversity, tolerance, and social justice through the free Race Initiative Youth Media Arts Academy. (RIYMAA)

During the six sessions, RIYMAA participants will explore some of these differences through various forms of Media Art. The mini-

documentaries produced by these youth will be presented in various locations, to the community in 2009 and also as partner displays during the time of the Race Exhibit in 2010.

This program is supported by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Career Fair 2009 open to public as well as WMU students, alumni

KALAMAZOO--Western Michigan University's 31st annual Career Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 5, in the Bernhard Center on the main campus in Kalamazoo.

The event is free for job seekers and open to the public, but tailored for WMU students and alumni. Advance registration is not required. Job seekers planning to attend should dress professionally and bring several copies of a current resume.

Organized by WMU's Career and Student Employment Services, Career Fair 2009 is ex-

pected to attract more than 2,000 job candidates. Some 120 organizations representing a variety of organizations and industries have registered to participate in the event.

One-third of the participating employers will be recruiting all students, regardless of their major fields of study. Numerous job recruiters will return Friday, Feb. 6, to conduct first-round interviews with selected candidates.

Among the employment sectors that will be well represented during the fair is the federal government. "With many projected retirements in the government over the next 10 years, sev-

eral federal agencies are hiring," notes Ewa (pronounced EH-vah) Urban, Career Fair chair.

Welcoming and assisting the participating employers will be University volunteers from Drive Safe Kalamazoo and the Chemistry Graduate Student Association, National Society of Black Engineers, PRO-Public Relations Organization, Sales and Business Marketing Association, and WMU football team. Enterprise Rent-a-Car will provide transportation for employers from lots #10 and #102 on East Campus to the Bernhard Center.

Employers interested in participating in Ca-

reer Fair 2009 may register online at www.wmich.edu/career. That site's "Calendar of Events" section provides additional details about this year's preparatory events. Its "Career Fairs" section provides additional details about Career Fair 2009, including the employers that will be participating, as well as general information about how to prepare for such events.

Questions may be directed to Ewa Urban at ewa.l.urban@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2745 or to LaSonda Wells, event coordinator, at cses-events@wmich.edu or (269) 387-2745.



Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site
<http://www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.htm>

Applications must be submitted online by deadline; application procedures are included with each posting.

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