

February 27, 2009

Dear Bishop and First Lady,

I started this letter last yesterday while at work, by hand, so I'm typing it this morning. The last letter that I sent to you with the letter to Obama is the last letter that I've written. I appreciated receiving the "Woman to Woman" letter from First Lady, but I have not felt like writing in some time. Despite my request for a transfer, it has not taken place yet. The County has a policy that if sexual harassment has taken place, then the offender is automatically fired. And, not wanting ^{to} cause such a fate for my supervisor, I wrote an affidavit, stating that I was suffering emotional and medical problems on the job. The Deputy Director and Director knew my verbally expressed reasons for my request for transfer, but they seemed happy that the supervisor would not be fired. But then, someone high in Personnel wanted my medical records before the transfer: that's is what we are waiting for now.

Since 1966, with the exception of time spent in the Congo and D.C, I have worked in South Central, and have really loved doing it. The transfer will put me in another district, but work needs to be done there, too, so I'll adjust. On the other hand, I wish I could afford to rest, or even to retire. Born in 1942, I kind of feel that I need for more than a day off.

Remember when I told you about the 14 years for Tee? Well, whatever way they sentence, it comes out to 7 ½ years, of which he has served 6. He is also trying to appeal the original court action to the U.S. Federal Court. So, we'll see which occurs first.

Our President must own a vitamin regime, or own the factory -- I have never seen such energy and determination of any President I have known in life. Since most of the activity is around the budget and the war, I can be of no help right now. I do hope that those who have such expertise, will support and give their plans. I have sent to Obama the letters I had written to Villaraigosa, regarding my experiences in the community, educational and social programs, but all this budget is foreign to me.

There is a Nigerian Church that I've been attending some Sundays; Some Africans that I know generally don't come, even to Church on time. My Evangelist friend called to tell me that Church started at 10am -- I was the only one there, on time. Even the Evangelist, who was preaching that day, arrived after 11am. This is a centuries-long problem, but I plan to work with them, not only on punctuality, but also how to make a plan for their small congregation and what ministries they want

March 15, 2009

To: Mrs. Queen Jones, DD & Mrs. Buzo, DDD

From: Althais J. Aka, GSW

**Re: The Stimulus – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,
Meeting held by Maxine Waters, Saturday, March 14, 2009 at
Southwest College, Los Angeles, California**

Last Friday, I asked Mrs. Buzo if I could visit Maxine Waters EPC, to talk with Mr. Andre Charles, regarding the classes, especially the Construction Program for LAUSD, in regards to our GROW Participants. He was not there, in fact few classes are held there on Fridays, but I noticed a flyer, indicating that Congresswoman Maxine Waters would be speaking about Obama's Stimulus Program, the following day at SW College. I am providing a summary of my notes, but also, a copy of the Stimulus Report, provided at the Town Hall Meeting, in case I have omitted important information.

I did not catch some of the names of the panel presenters, but Bill Taylor, from LA County, Steve Bradford from Gardena, Michael Dolphin, a Mr. Irish, speaking on summer jobs, Jack Daniels, the head of SW College, a very knowledgeable woman from a Neighborhood Stabilization Program, to name a few. The Town Hall Meeting was held in The Little Theater and, roughly about 75-100 people were in attendance.

Congresswoman Waters spoke of the economy being down, causing a loss of 12.5 million jobs, 650,000 in the last two months, and the foreclosure meltdown and President Obama's Plan to stimulate the economy. There is a plan to create "Shovel-Ready" jobs, with 3.5 to 4 million jobs being created. Jack Daniels, from SW College, addressed the new construction at the college, itself, and the increased number of students at Southwest College.

Employment insurance benefits will be increased by \$25 a week, Food Stamps will be increased 13.6%, SSI increase is \$250 a month, Pell Grants to increase, Income Tax-more back, First-time Home buyers get \$8,000 off the purchase price in 2009, (First-time home owner described as not owning a home in three years and having no other property), Foreclosure Prevention Measures, Health Care coverage will be increased, job training programs, and a State measure to minimize teacher layoff. Under COBRA, 60% of Healthcare plan is paid, if you get laid off.

Bill Taylor, LA County, stated that \$150,000 was being added to CalWorks. \$1.6 million to Medicaid, \$80 a month increase in FS for family of four (\$720,000, overall), and 75,000 people on GR. There will be an increase to maintain medical benefits and IHSS care in homes. There will be a \$2 billion expenditure to put medical records on an Electronic system.

Unemployment insurance will go up \$25, as I said, starting 2/09 through 12/09. Inquiries can be made at 1 (800) 300-5616.

Irish and Michael Dolphin spoke about unemployment being at 232,000 in LA. \$35,000,000 has been funded to put people back to work, at the 18 WorkSource Centers and the 13 OneSource centers for youth. The number is 1 (800) for-a-job. Technical and education training will be given. There will be a one-time homeless benefit (?) and 10,000 jobs created in the private and County sector.

Jack Daniels spoke on the Summer Youth Program, with a plan for 2000 in classes to study skills, among them, Green solar, heating, A/C and healthcare classes. They plan to partner with employers and have a Coordinator of Youth for College program.

Besides the Housing Stabilization Program, mentioned earlier, the guidelines are to create new homeowners and to lengthen the time to pay for homes. People who have their property taxes, still assessed at the higher value were encouraged to have their homes reappraised for current market value. There is a \$4,900 new car credit on new vehicles, \$2,400 tax free deduction for unemployment insurance.

There were several questions about the Expo Park Metro proposal: one was about the train being designed above street level, for a cheaper amount, than those being designed for underground level in other parts of the city. There was also a question about Blacks not being hired for the jobs. Maxine Waters stated that we cannot protest until we have passed the drug test to get the job.

President Obama will be in Los Angeles on Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

MAXINE WATERS

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
CHAIRWOMAN

JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION,
BORDER SECURITY AND CLAIMS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

March 14, 2009

Dear Constituent,

I want to welcome you to my Town Hall on H.R. 1: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "*The Stimulus*": What it Means to You, Your Family, and Our Community.

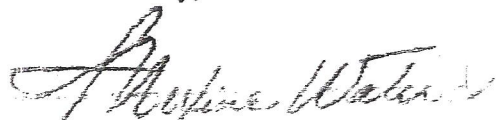
That act, commonly known as "the Stimulus" or "Economic Stimulus Package", which I voted for and was signed into law by President Barack Obama during his first month in office, will put people back to work, stimulate our economy, and invest in our long-term growth through education and clean energy. This \$787 billion federal infusion will create and save 396,000 jobs in California and provide immediate tax relief to 95% of working families. Seventy-four percent of these funds will be invested in the next 18 months. The Recovery Act makes substantial investments in jobs training and education. It also looks forward to a green economy which will spur new jobs in information technology, healthcare, alternative energy, and electrical generation.

The Recovery Act also provides assistance to those who are suffering during the current economic downturn. The new law provides a 65% federal subsidy for health insurance premiums for jobless workers. It increases PELL grants, grants to public schools, Section 8 housing vouchers, weatherization assistance, housing energy retrofits, and food stamps for families. It also provides needed funds to prevent homelessness and to stabilize neighborhoods stricken with home foreclosures.

I will be working closely with local leaders throughout the 35th Congressional District to help facilitate their "shovel-ready" transportation projects and to make sure that localities understand the programs that are available in this historic law.

I am confident that this package will make our economy stronger. I believe in the dynamism of the American economy and the character of the American people. As Americans, we have always come together in the face of challenges and we will once again under the bold leadership of President Obama.

Sincerely,



PLEASE REPLY TO:
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LOS ANGELES, CA 90001
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FAX: (323) 757-9501

WESTCHESTER OFFICE
6033 WEST CENTURY BOULEVARD
SUITE 807
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045
PHONE: (310) 642-4848
FAX: (310) 642-9160

April 25, 2009

Dear President Obama,

When posting job flyers in the General Relief lobby, in South Central DPSS office, I explain one flyer at a time, what each is about, and the requirements, and whether it is for ex-felons, HSD and driver's license, etc. I have noticed that the job racks would go unnoticed, if I did not bring their attention to them. It seems that if someone does not take the time to show he/she is interested and presents something positive for the GR Participants, before they respond to the job/training announcements.

I ask if they have been keeping up with your presidency and schedule. I tell them that you are working, day and night, and that I heard that during the two years of the campaign that you returned at 9 pm and wrote your speech for the next day until 3 am. I ask myself, "Am I doing enough myself, since this President is running himself, ragged, for us?"

And, President Obama, I have started telling the Lobby that my friend got a job at Parks and Rec., after drinking 2 gallons of water a day, for 2 days each, plus food, and then taking Herbal Cleanse an hour before the urine test. The only thing I do say, is that I had met a couple of people, over the years, that had lost a finger to an electric saw, when under the influence.

I have seen on TV several of your supporters, who continue to show the support of your campaign; everyone must continue the PR, (you know how fickle the perceptions of the media and those who watch it), and we must continue to do the grass roots efforts, that improve the lives of our poor.

Please give my love to Michelle, the girls and the dog; see, I know all your business!

Always keeping the Faith
Through Christ, Jesus,

Althais J.Aka
4261 1/4 Leimert Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90008

July 12, 2009

Mr. Benjamin Jealous c/o Scott Melton
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
4805 Mt. Hope Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215-3206

Dear Mr. Jealous:

I was honored by your request for me to become a *Chairman Circle*' Member. My late response reflects the time it took for me to address your request. As I have written to Julian Bond, I am financially unable to contribute the amount asked for. All I can give are my thoughts and ideas, which I will be happy to do, and have done since my letters started in 1993. And, I believe that the sharing of our visions is the most important aspects for the solving of our problems.

Affixed to the television last week, as most of us were, at the amazement of the death of Michael Jackson, I could not turn my eyes away, but was struck by his philanthropy and popularity around the world. The vision of Michael, and his concern for the betterment of the world needs replicating among us all.

I have been considering what programs could be developed to make life in our communities better. There is a real need for programs for newly released inmates and their families, to bring a new and different psychology and priorities into their existence.

Crystal Stairs is an agency that provides childcare for the Department of Public Social Services. The agency wrote up a card with 101 Ways to Praise Your Child, which addressed the problem of negative communication with our children, by simply encouraging positive expressions to them. Self-criticism and self-doubt are not foreign to me, even though I had a fairly decent upbringing and education. Just imagine if my family had not been strong, had been affected by the drug culture, where the needs of the family were low on the totem pole, compared to the addiction to drugs.

In other words, there is a need for programs that uplift our psychology and the revelation of our gifts and talents, so that we may move forward. Unless that initial step is taken, we'll be walking in quick sand. Perhaps, the funds can come in the Second Stimulus, but we have to have a plan first.

Always keeping the Faith
Through Christ Jesus,

Althais J. Aka

July 12, 2009

Dear Bishop and First Lady,

I hope this short note finds you both well and in Good Spirits. I'm doing ok but I have not felt like writing. Last Sunday I ordered the "Grace" series, but I have not received it yet: they said it would take 10 days, so I'm not worried about receiving it soon. It almost seems that we who have received the Spirit will have to go back to square one, and say again, as you are doing right now with "Grace." Remember, when I talked about the seeming repetition of the same thing, over and over again (almost the same thing), I guess that Jesus wanted to make sure that we will finally get it right. That is why, when I look at your older tape series, they seem so modern and relevant, because you have said it all before—and thank God for that!

Enclosed you will find a letter to the President/CEO, Benjamin Jealous, who wants me to become a Chairman's Circle, which I'd be happy to do, except that the NAACP wants a \$1,000 contribution to join and each year thereafter. I'd be willing to continue sending my letters to Julian, or Jealous, but money is not my middle name, at this point in time.

Also, I'll send this letter tomorrow, to include the Crystal Stairs' form that I mentioned in his letter, will be sent from work.

Well, I have to pickup a few things from the store, and the employment section of the paper, which is next to pitiful.

Please take good care of yourselves and your family, and know that GOD is smiling down on you! Also, please keep Obama in your prayers—he's got the toughest job in the world!

Always keeping the Faith
Through Christ, Jesus,

Althais

August 8, 2009

Dear Bishop and First Lady,

I hope that the Partner's Conference, that will be over, by the time you receive this letter, turned out the way that you prayed for. I know I would have been blessed if I had been able to attend. It must have been quite an experience to return home!

There are two reasons why I am writing this letter. For one, my '92 Mazda is on its last "leg-tire" and I will have to buy a new car and increased car insurance soon. I think they call it a "clunker." In addition, Tee is expecting that he will be eligible to get out early, decided by the Federal Courts, and we have to start thinking in terms of the two of us, in the regards to our income. In an attempt to determine what we'll be working with, we have decided to eliminate all costs, except for the necessities, until we can see daylight again.

You know that I am a proud Potter's House Partner, and as soon as we know how we are doing, we will return to making our contribution. Whatever the finances turn out to be, I will continue to add my two cents in letterform. (It might be an omen, but the computer went down, and I had to wait an hour to finally get finished typing this letter).

Please stay well, and know that my warm thoughts are always with you two and your family.

Always keeping the Faith
Through Christ, Jesus,

Cc New Birth Ministries
Save Africa's Children
JMPerkins Foundation
NAACP & LDF
Habitat for Humanity
LA Mission
Salvation Army
St. Joseph's Indian School
UNCF
NABSIO
MLK Commemorative
Special Olympics
Nat'l Urban League
African American Cultural Center

Althais J. Aka

September 10, 2009

To: Mr. James Harris, Community Coalition

From: Althais J. Aka, DPSS, GROW Case Manager

Re: Meeting of September 8, 2009

First, I'd like to thank you for meeting with me to discuss our ideas to make our community better.

I have been reading my notes of our recent meeting, and wanted to share with you the topics we discussed regarding our vision for the community, and how we can go about achieving it. You described your vision for the community as a peaceful place, where we had access to quality services, quality education, a good health system and a thriving business community.

I added that we need a strengthening of families and their individuals, as mentioned in the Crystal Stairs' card, 101 Ways to Praise Kids. We definitely have to improve our means of encouraging one another's strengths, (often the use of praise can focus the offender to pursue his/her assets and eliminate the negative on his/her own). (Negative talk, such as "Playing the Dozens," needs cleaning up, even 106 and Park has cleaned up the Dozens competition, eliminating curse words, etc., but still the insults remain. Since we know how hurtful words and attitude can be, we must use encouraging words, whenever possible. After all, we are the "King's Kids").

As much as possible, verbal interaction has to be made with our people, whether it is on a one on one basis or with small or larger groups. From personal experience, We just don't respond to the written word. (I must give it to Cesar Chavez and the organization of Latino communication—you can tell something to one person and by the next morning everyone has received the word).

We must encourage parents to take part in their children's education by reviewing homework and attending their children's classrooms, hopefully, as often as possible, and consulting with the Principal, to assist the teachers, on a regular basis.

We have to disseminate increased knowledge about the Community—what it was like in more prosperous days, documentaries of the history, historic buildings, when the Dunbar Hotel was in its hay day, the musicians that played and serenaded the hot spots, the renowned leaders, artists, architects and educators that contributed to Los Angeles, etc.

October 28, 2009

Dear Bishop and First Lady,

It has been a while since I have felt like writing—just not able. I received your last correspondence regarding “depression,” which I have known a great deal about in the past. I have been a little lethargic, not doing sometimes things I should, but this does not add up to the big “D,” as I have definitely witnessed in times gone by. I can see that we are heading in Jesus’ direction, and the clouds seem insignificant, compared to the Light that we can see. So, basically, I am in good spirits, dodging the small arrows that are sometimes thrown my way.

My biggest concern is the separation from Tee—we talk almost every night and I am continuously impressed by his growth and wisdom in his calls and his letters. I believe that my landlord, whom I have never liked, let the police into my apartment last month, while I was at work; all of the copies of letters that were in my living room, are missing. They took the letters about postponing the donations to you and the others organizations; and the police called the next night, asking if I would donate to their fund. Of course, I said “no,” and before I could state that I was stopping all donations, he hung up. Also missing from my bedroom were all the letters from Tee that I had received and placed in a large manila envelope. Thank God that Tee writes only beautiful and poetic letters, no plots or intrigues. And, if I tell anyone about the incident, they think that I am crazy, so I did not say anything, except to my neighbor, Betty.

I’ll be so glad when Tee comes home, and we two can begin to live our lives together. I guess I am glad that I have been a “loner” all these years; otherwise, I could not have made it, if I ever had had to depend on people. Now, it will be a gift from God to finally have a wise and handsome husband, with him knowing me, and me, him.

How did the investigation of the explosion go? Bishop, you seem to have regained your composure, as compared to my observation of you at the Manpower Conference 2009 and the short DVD that you sent to Partners. God is a Wonderful Healer!

My love and affection to both you, Serita and the family, in Jesus’ name,

Althais

P.S. My birthday was this month. October 6. born 1942. Time passes so fast! I sent

December 31, 2009

Dear Bishop and First Lady,

I hope that there is no misunderstanding regarding my silence. By this time, you both should know that when I don't have anything new to say, I don't say anything. It is unusual, I know, because most people like to keep the conversation going, long after they have said all that they had to say. If some new revelation is given to me, I'll shout it in my letters to you.

Actually, I feel badly that Tee and I decided to postpone donations. I have been giving to worthy causes for years, and it definitely makes the giver feel as if he is contributing to the resolution of a problem. Since I stopped the donations, a few months ago, there is always something that has come up, that made me wonder how I had ever been able to give to a cause, in the first place.

Tee will be needing major dental work that I must save for, and I'm still paying for a dental bridge that I had a few months ago.

I appreciate the continued Partner Letters that come each month; it still makes me feel a part of the Potter's House. I know, with both of your busy schedules with the Father's Work, that you all may not be able to write me directly, but I would appreciate a "note," from time to time.

How is the restoration of the house coming? I am eternally grateful to God that no one was hurt. He is such a great God!

Well, I have fallen silent again, but "silence doesn't mean, "through with you." It is just the way I am.

Stay well and know that Jesus is watching over!

Always keeping the Faith
Through Christ Jesus,

Althais