

March 23, 2012

Dear President Obama,

It is not that that I have dropped out, or forgotten about you and the country, but this last year has meant a lot of personal adjustment, due the return of my spouse after a seven year separation. And, I might add, it has taken "beaucoup work on both our parts." I don't have a Bible on me right now, but I think I read that God tells us that a man and woman should use the first year for themselves, not other people. All of our problems are not solved, but, we're working on it! (This is the man who said, "I should be a Righteous Man," and at that point, a beam of light shown down from my ceiling, not from the window, but from the ceiling. At that point, I retrieved the marriage papers from my dresser drawer, and sent them in. It has not been easy, but God is making a way!)

Since last I wrote to you, I sent letters to all my friends, family and associates to voice their opinions, by e-mail, to you, since I am not an admirer of the Internet. It would also give them the opportunity to assist you in the planning of our recovery. I don't know how effective my request proved to be, because I was just as quiet with them, as I was with you. But I will try to keep you all abreast of my two cents, in the future.

At LA County, I worked for 2 years in the Homeless Unit: it was a rewarding and difficult assignment, where, not only homelessness, but the problems of homelessness showed themselves, such as Domestic Violence, location of shelters, the location of permanent housing, a person's need for help with utilities and the participation in the GAIN Program. I found myself explaining President Clinton's program, GAIN, which many Participants had overlooked or ignored, and who suffered being cut off aid, since they had not complied, nor found employment. I used my knowledge of helping them find jobs, as much as in finding housing. My shortcoming came in documenting cases on the computer, and as I told you earlier, my forte is not in clerical.

I returned to the GROW program (General Relief Opportunities for Work), which generally helps men and women find jobs, and training. I had enjoyed working here before, but the program seems much more regulatory, following closely the computer regulations, than when I was here before.

I wish that I knew more, in order to be more helpful to you. As I get older and am still working to make a living, I find that I rely on what I knew, and less likely to take on new-fangled things. But it will probably take retirement to return to classes in Art that I so much

March 26, 2012

Dear Clifton,

Thinking that I could better serve my GROW Participants by returning to GROW, rather than Homeless Case Manager, I came back to GROW. It has been an adjustment so far, because so much has changed, and not all for the good. But, since it has been less than 2 weeks that I am back, I'll try to give it a little time, before I decide what to do.

I'm not able to make copies, like I was used to, which accounts for not being able to send resources around, that was my custom.

But I am sending you some flyers that I have hanging on the wall. And, I hope that you share them with Mr. Brown. In particular is the flyer that the State is discounting traffic tickets before January 1, 2009. For some in the community, this will be a God send. Others can benefit from expungement of criminal records. Others have to do with training.

I miss over there, already, but I am so happy that You and Mr. Brown are working so hard to pull our people up. Thank you.

Always keeping the Faith.

Althais J. Aka

(323) 357-3113

July 24, 2012

Dear President Obama,

Thank you so much for your letter of last week. It showed me that you have great interest in getting the support and contribution of those who believe in you and want to assist in the struggle for our future.

The financial struggle that my husband and I have been dealing with is for real. We had all of the expense of dental work, car, insurance, bills and clothes that I have already talked about in my last few letters, but besides all that, we have even had to cut out the cable, internet and phone. Imagine that! My sister has helped me, as much as she could, but other requests have been simply turned down, or not responded to. To top it off, we unfortunately got a Speedy Cash loan, which completely threw us off. We had to change our bank debit card to be able to eat.

Man, doesn't life turn around in an instant, when we make ill-informed decisions. Even in my homeless days, some years back, I was in better shape than I am now. But, God has a way of putting us through it, in order to have us learn what is right, and appreciate more, when times are harder or better, for that matter.

I tried to see if I could E-mail you from work, but I couldn't; and since nothing is forthcoming from home, I am hoping to contact you by letter and fax, as was my custom.

It is more difficult to keep up with you, with no TV. But, my husband has found a way to make our TV work sometimes. Know that I am behind you, 100%. I have been able to keep up with the Colorado tragedy. Does there exist an element of craziness in this country, or what?

To try to change the negative element of my letter, I must call on God, and continue to uplift the Spirit, I have written another poem, entitled, Dear God. Give my love to Michelle, the Girls and Bo.

Always keeping the Faith

Through Christ, Jesus,