

August 8, 2014

Dear President Obama,

Knowing it has been a reply long overdue, I apologize. I've been sending good thoughts your way, in these crucial and perilous times—I think the Bible calls them—"The End Days." As far as I can remember, these are the most up and down, in and out times that I have ever experienced. Not in any way a testament of yours or my efforts to bring hope and light to God's billions of children, but to the struggles necessary to change our miserable circumstances to those that will be pleasing to God. You have only done what is beneficial, but you have met so much opposition from so many sides, wanting to continue business, as usual.

Frankly, the circumstances in the Middle East and with Russia and the Ukraine are beyond my understanding. I see on TV the destruction to life and land, not for a moment to dismiss the killing of so many people, which weighs on all of our hearts. I am definitely not for war, but until all people evaluate the destructive nature, and potential of war's horrors will we be forced to try and resolve the problems that separate us. Some have been in wealth and control so long, that they conclude that they must fight to the bitter end to maintain their position in this world. This is just the type of thinking that God has waged war against.

I'm including with this letter the thoughts of Martin Luther King, Jr., as expressed on a calendar that I received last year. I hadn't realized how succinct he was in expressing a whole body of material in a few words. I wish he were here to be with us at this time, but, in the meantime, I hope that those who have our best interest at heart, will convey them to you. All that weight on one person is not in yours or our best interest, and I admire your attempts and successes to change the country and the world for all of our betterment.

Last January, my husband and I moved to another apartment; that meant a lot of time and effort in moving, and it is still not what we both want. We have found that if we make more effort to determine what we really need and how best to go about it, we would have been happier, and it might have been less pressure from the change of it all. I have not set up the computer at home yet, and my job only wants me to do my job description, and not help try to solve the problems of the world, while I am here. One would think that the "Women's History Month, 2013," Proclamation that you sent to me at the County, would have been celebrated, but they reprimanded me for doing my business on County time. Go figure!

As I conveyed to Bishop Jakes, some years ago, I learned a song which went, "Sur la route dure, qui monta, qui monta, sur la route dure haute, écoutez le vent qui chanta, sur la route dure, haute." I've almost forgotten my French completely, but, it translates to "On the hard road of life that gets harder and harder, and climbs, and climbs, " listen to the *WIND* that sings!"

When I first learned it, some 30-40 years ago, I did not understand it completely. I didn't know it would be so relevant in this present time. But, I have come to know that everything is not in our hands, but in God's, who really makes all of the right decisions, and we happen to be only observers of all of the obstacles and joys that will set us FREE! That doesn't mean that we not try to do our best to do His work, but it takes much of the pressure off of us, who strive to do God's will. Thank you so much for attempting to turn all the myriad of circumstances around. And we will find that it is not just an attempt, but a reality of the struggles that can lead us only closer to God's will. We, who believe in Him, will be rewarded.

Please give my love to Michelle and the Girls, and Bo (and Friend!), and let them know that all of us are blessed by your being our First Family and for your intelligence and effort you all have sacrificed for us.

Always keeping the Faith.

Through Christ, Jesus,

Althais J. Aka

Please bear with me; I just had to get a little rest and do some thinking of my own! At this time we are back in business!

December 12, 2014

Dear President Obama,

I thought you were speaking directly to me, about not voting in the November election. Actually, I usually vote by mail, but because of a lack of stamps, I had decided to vote on Election Day. As it turned out, I took off from work that day because I had a dental appointment, for a root canal; and since the car was in the shop, and I have been taking the bus to and from work, and to the dentist, which lasted longer than I had anticipated, I regrettably missed this election. Los Angeles is so spread out that traveling by bus is very time consuming; the car is the most efficient way to go, time wise. Please accept my apology.

It has been very difficult working as a GROW Case Manager these days. So many changes, all at once, is making it almost unbearable, but one has to just stick in there to do the most one can, to help the Participants. As it always seems to be the case, GCM's vary so much in their dedication and abilities to help assist Participants, in not only getting a job, but also in all the other problems that most Participants have, i.e., poverty and the mentality and direction that go with it, poor education and training, inadequate housing, and sometimes the lack of interest among those who can help, but don't.

But, having worked most of my life in South Central L.A., in one capacity or another, I continuously see the beauty of its residents, who are quite industrious and hard working on their own, and who can appreciate and rally round those who have their best interest at heart. South Central is "crazy about" Maxine Waters, for example. She was there in 1992, when we had the L.A. Riot, she has a school, right across the street from the DPSS County Building, and was there almost every Saturday, when they were trying to close Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital a few years ago. South Central residents rallied around her, and I have never heard a negative word about her. Although I am probably older than Ms. Waters, I hope that I can be like her, when I grow up! I have been watching the news about the various killings of Black men in Ferguson and New York, and Cleveland by law enforcement; and it has been painful to see. I think that I have sent the letter to you that I wrote to Maxine Waters some years ago, but I'll try to locate it again to be included with this letter to you. I search for Bible verses when anything happens that is overwhelming. And, it always helps.

As messy and confusing as things seem to be, I must tell you that even Lincoln had fewer problems to deal with than you. So, that puts you as our best President ever! Do you think that President Lincoln could have dealt with the millions of variables better? I think not!



I'll leave whoever is referred to, unmentioned by name, but those who have opposed your attempts to improve America, to be left to their own negative devises. I was born during the "Big One, " 1942, as Archie Bunker used to put it, but, for Whites in this country, it was the greatest time, since so many of them prospered in education, jobs and housing at that time. Now they want to hold on to all of their advances, forgetting that it takes a burst of planning and implementation of productive ways of improving life for all those, Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, and the many other groups in this country. For some reason, they think that they can hold on to power and control, despite the fact that other people live here, too.

We hear a lot about the wars and bombings in the Middle East and elsewhere, but I often wonder how the destruction would compare with WWII. And, it seems never ending! We have great unrest in this country, but can you imagine how hard it must be to even think about how much destruction exists in the Middle East, only a part of which is visible on the nightly news? And now, even the killing of 130 students at the school in Pakistan is hard to imagine. When you were elected President the first time, there was a universal PEACE felt around the world, and a Hopefulness that everyone felt.

What will it take to bring that hope back? I see glimpses in individual stories about people and groups working to bring positive change all over the world, bringing others to understand what God's Kingdom is like, and for those of us who embrace the positive changes that are taking place, we see the possibilities. I have seen on TV that you have travelled many times to Los Angeles, and have spent time with Hollywood actors and directors. Is it translating into more positive movies, a better understanding of the plight of mankind and of our possibilities?

When I was a child in Dallas, my brother, sister and I would go to the movies every Saturday. When Frankenstein and Bela Lagosi (sp?) movies would play, I would anticipate what horror was about to happen, and turn my back to the screen, kneeling in the chair, so that my eyes were facing the back of the chair. Years later, when I saw "The Exorcist," I found myself looking in the opposite direction when the horror was too great for me to even watch. I do think that people, all over the world, have let too much horror into their heads, not realizing that it really is affecting us. I hope that in your time with the filmmakers, attempts are made to show the beauty of living, and not so much horror.

I'm going to send you, also, my last letter to you, since I think I have caught all of the typos, and misspellings. (I just hate to send letters that have language problems in them). I