

January 15, 2017

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

## The Pit

Today would have been the eighty-eighth birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and is the 49 anniversary of his assassination. As we look back over the years we have come a long way. As we look forward we have a long way to go bring justice, equality, and peace. With the help of God, "justice will roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24) God wants us to demonstrate a compassionate concern for the rights of the poor, the marginalized, the disposed, and disenfranchised, a concern that would **roll on like an ever-flowing river... like a never-failing stream** that did not run dry. God wants our daily lives to be that of integrity and goodness. The struggle is continuous.

In the movie "Hidden Figures" the pit was the "West Area Computing Unit" on the other side of the NASA campus in the dank basement in a back room cramped together African American women digging through mounds of math equations. The movie depicts the story of three women who defied all odds and rose out of that pit to become the human computer, an aeronautical engineer, and a supervisor who programmed the IBM mainframe nicknamed "the beast." Whatever your "pit" is you can rise above it and become what God created you to be. Your circumstances do not have to confine you and keep you from being all that God called you to be. Your pit may or may not be a literal hole in the ground. The pit becomes that place and space when you realize you need God's deliverance and salvation. You recognize you cannot do this alone.

In our text, the psalmist testifies to God's deliverance and encourages the people to put their faith and trust in God. He waited patiently on the Lord and the Lord turned to him and heard his cry. The Lord lifted him out of the slimy pit, the muck and miry clay and placed his feet on solid ground. He had a new song and dance about the goodness and greatness of God. Whatever pit life finds you in, God is willing and able to deliver you. God can and will promote you from the pit to Supervisor of programming the new IBM "the beast" mainframe computer, to them asking for your mathematical calculations for re-entry into the earth's atmosphere, and will have the judge rule you can attend an all-white school at night to get your engineering degree. There is nothing too hard for God. God is able and willing to deliver you!

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## Prayer

God of our weary years and silent tears. God who has brought us thus far on the journey. We give you praise and honor. You have been with us through it all and we have experienced your goodness, mercy, and grace on this journey. We trust that you will continue to lead us to victory. There are times when we have gotten weary and wanted to give up and give in and then, just then You stepped in. Thank you God for holding us up, for being the light in the pit, for strengthening us. We are going to hold out for Your justice, peace, righteousness, and equality. We are going to stay on the battlefield and we will not sell out to the highest bidder. We will keep our eye on the prize and trust You. Lift up your heads, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King? It's the Lord strong and mighty in battle. This we pray in the name and power of Jesus Christ our Lord and savior.

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