

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Speaking your truth to power

By Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST & POET



We have heard the phrase, *Speaking Truth to Power*, a lot in recent months.

Although the phrase is not new, you may have wondered what it meant or its origin. The Quakers used the term during the mid 1950s, which was a call for the United

States to stand firm against fascism and other forms of totalitarianism.

Speaking truth to power means believing deeply in what you say and fighting *everyday* to have that heard. It may not be popular, it means *taking a risk*, it means *standing for something*. Such was the case with our brave leaders speaking out for justice during the early Civil Rights era, the student protests and sit-ins and the bus boycotts and the voting rights campaigns. Another example more recently, was the Women's, or Peoples March in Washington D.C., immediately following the Trump inauguration, which sparked other spontaneous protests across our country and the world of people insisting that their voices and their truths be heard and be responded to!

To speak truth to power, means speaking what we believe to be true to someone in authority who might *take it as a criticism or be offended* and who has the power to punish us in some way. One prime example of this, was Jesus, speaking the *ultimate truth to power before* his trial and his crucifixion. More recently, we have seen this scenario

play out many times since the Trump presidency, with the *leader* of our country behaving like a spoiled preschooler who cringes and fights back when *he perceives himself being* criticized or disrespected or disliked.

What would make us afraid or reluctant to speak up or to speak our minds? Fear of authority is one of them (except when confronted by a two year toddler, who in convincing defiance, is speaking in toddler ease, unafraid of the parent in authority!) Fear comes from the power difference between ourselves and the other person. We may feel, real or perceived, that we have less power than them, which causes fear. But, as David Gurteen, of the Knowledge Cafe, states there are many forms of power difference - seniority, gender, education, class articulateness, accent, race, nationality, dress, financial etc.

We all have many opportunities to speak our truths to power, but it is often the *combined* voices or actions which forms the power to overcome injustice, ignorance, inequity and overall inequality to the powers that be. Some people feel safer or more empowered through anonymity. Our vote gives us a powerful voice, which carries a heavy weight, *as does* our letters and calls to 'our elected officials. Our active participation in the NAACP, AARP. And like organizations are powerful and effective tools for social change. Whenever possible, we should seek to be an agent change, a voice for the voiceless, and an army of one. When combined with the strength of others who share the same beliefs, we can defeat any negative powers, when armed with our combined weapons of LOVE!

Black women, have you forgotten how to pray? Part 3

By Minister Gloria G. Lee
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

In years pass your mothers untiringly wrested with God. Your mothers, grandmothers and aunts grappled with Omnipotence. They clung to Him in belief. They followed Him about day and night agonizing pleading and arguing and entreating Him to show up. These women did this until the answer came and the end was gained. Church was not their entertainment with the choir. Church was their refuge and their resolved and the church answered them because God was their sitting among them. Now where is



your church that is full of resolve? Where are the results of your entreatments? Where are the results of your pleading and arguing? Black women have you forgotten how to pray. Where is your fervor where is your flame? Why are you not awash with righteousness before God demanding His action on your behalf? Are your prayers not working because you have been bathing your bodies in sin. James 5:16-18 tells us that Elijah prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit". Are you not praying ceaselessly because your ear is taken by your girlfriend who advises you wrongfully out of her ignorance and disbelief?

Many a time I hear and read in the newspapers over court suits black women launch to obtain child care benefits after abandonment, or divorce by the men they once trusted. I can relate with your pain; but is it all you can do in such a despairing moment? I give you today two strong, successful women to emulate. In 2 Timothy (1:5; 3:14-17), you'll meet Lois and Eunice, Timothy's grandmother and mother respectively, who in their staunch faith and prayerfulness nurtured Timothy to acquire confidence in Christ Lord. It is not by mistake that Timothy's father is not mentioned; it is an inspiration to you as a woman; the strength you have as a mother. You can support yourself with prayer; you have the power and the

hand of a woman who rages against the lives of other men. He will not comfort the body of the sick and dying unless you turn your life around. There is Hope in God. There is Hope when you forgive yourself and sin no more. Celebrate this relationship by changing the way you are living your life. Respect from others only comes after you respect yourself. Admiration only comes after you adorn yourself. Love only comes after you learn to love yourself. And a life fulfilled only comes after you learn to walk with God. Be Determined to Change.

Unless you want to die on your knees allowing someone else to control your destiny you need to stand up, go back to school and commit yourself to protecting your children and raising yourself from poverty and ignorance. There is nothing wrong with falling in love, marrying having children just do not forget your mind. You mind requires nourishment each and every day. So turn off the television set and pick up a book and make it a habit to read at least one book a month. Reading will keep you sharp and abreast of what is occurring in the world and what others think. Speak Positively To Yourself. Open Your Mouth And Speak Your World Into Existence. Constantly remind yourself of God's promises. It is important to your mental and physical health to always be encouraged. One word from God in the form of an answered prayer can change your life forever. Put more into your life by seeking God and putting God's word in your mouth.

By Evangelist Barbara Colbert
SUN COLUMNIST



It's really not unusual to dream about the past. It is, however, not a good thing to dwell, on the past. Yet, *Joel 2:28* tells us that "*your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall have visions.*"

When I was young, I didn't quite understand the meaning of this prophetic word, probably because I myself was a visionary, yet untamed. Now, as I've grown older, I seem to have molded right into those Words. These years, dreams never escape me, and I've come to understand that visions and dreams are God's way of facilitating the work of redemption of mankind. Through dreams, the seasoned veteran shall have the knowledge to navigate and stabilize the passionate energy of the fervent visionary. Visions and dreams: the means to accomplish God's divine Will.

The stifling hot July sun brought with it a spirit of weariness to me. Though I had slept the night, I had not rested, and I needed to understand why. Shaking loose the residue of a night traveling back into the past, I realized how most every night, my dreams never failed to take me on a journey where I sojourn with loved ones that have now departed, or those who were once friends but whose current whereabouts have long escaped my knowledge. In my reveries, the dead are back to life and doing well, and we're all together again with life just as it was before. I often awaken from these dreams in a state of wistfulness, missing what was, and wishing I could have changed some things. But worst of all, my spirit cries out to me,

Angel's Headquarters for God's people

By Rev. Dianna C. Seifuddin, founder
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

God bless the Native Sun. Prayer and scriptures for the months of July, August and September 2020.

Love is the medicine. Always start with the Lord's Prayer three times.

Scripture reading: 1 John 4: 7-21, read one time.

Psalms 121: 1 - 8, read one time. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.

Mark 11: 22 - 25, read three times. Have faith in God.

that God is not pleased with this particular manner of dreaming, and that the adversary will take anything that God meant for good, and turn it around for evil.

I have always been a visionary. God has given the vision, made the way, and ordained the manifestation of it all, useful for His glory. Even still, He reminds me that his Word says that "*young*" men will have visions, and "*old*" men will dream dreams. So be it then. I've had my visions. I shall now transition to dreams. With this revelation, my soul enlightened. I understood that just as my visions had to be honed and fashioned by God for His use and purpose; so must my dreams be reformed, refined, and refashioned for God's use and purpose. Melancholy excursions to the past, only serve to detour from the future. As Jesus once said, "*... let the dead bury the dead.*"

Suddenly, this summer sun wasn't so sweltering. The warmth of God's Word radiated within my heart, releasing me from the weight of nocturnal restlessness. Somehow, deep in my spirit, I am now assured that I shall dream dreams that will reveal wisdom and knowledge. Dreams that I may awaken from and then impart into the spirits of others, as guideposts and stabilizers. While the young shall envision, the old shall guide them along, decent and in order.

So, I raised up from my bed, and as the song says, "*... the summer wind, came blowing in from across the sea.*" God breathed new life into me this morning. It came like a soft windstorm in the light of day, leaving a sparkling trail of dewdrops gleaming with hope and expectation. I now know without a doubt that while dreams unbridled may seek to distract us from the future, God has already proclaimed the inhabitation of our hearts. He will not be removed for He reigns supreme - even in our dreams!!

Isaiah 26: 3 - 4, read. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee; read three times.

Matthew 21: 21-22, Jesus answered and said unto them verily I say unto you, if he have the faith; read one time.

Philippians 4: 4 - 7, after reading this verse write what you want the Lord to do. Make your request known. Brothers and sisters remember the sick and shun-in all over the world.

End with the Lord's Prayer, closing saying three times, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Show your love in the three months to come!



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