



Education is the key to progress

AHMAD SEIFULLAH

Article Last Updated: 12/29/2007 02:21:04 AM EST

Dec 23, 2007 — “Education makes a people easy to lead but difficult to drive, easy to govern but impossible to enslave.” - Henry Brougham

I am writing not from a leadership position in the African-American community, but it is more academic and intellectual inquiry, my 60-plus years within this community and my own spiritual journey that shapes this column.

Also, it is important to share that the ideas expressed by me (as a Community Columnist) now and before, are not solely my own but represent a confluence of others and mine through many years of critical thinking, discussions, debates and critiques.

There cannot be a serious discussion on leadership, responsibilities, rights, religion, organization, family, work, etc. without first discussing *education* ! There are many texts written on education. However, my purpose is to emphasize the importance of education to the “group” intellect and to functional competency of a community.

Contrary to popular opinion, education's primary role is not simply to increase one's personal access to greater wealth or to make one feel better by adding initials at the end of a surname. Its role is to increase a society's access to greater productivity and fairness for its citizenry. Education is the social equalizer critical to the attainment and endurance of effective democracy and a sound social system protected from the injustices and underutilization caused by illiteracy and prejudice.

It is through education “foremost” that the African-American community, society or any society truly progresses.

I was in attendance for the unveiling of Metro-York recommendations for York City/County. The potential for success lies within our understanding of what is meant by one community. One community doesn't mean that we are all the same physically. It means that we have the same pattern of behavior and the same interest for our neighborhood, city, ourselves, etc. My hope is that the African-American community in York will organize itself to help lead in this timely endeavor recommended by Metro-York.

Why? Because this is the best time in our York history to build our African-American community identity. The best time to stop leaving our community life to others, instead of us establishing our own life and identity, because human life is community life. We all have to manage ourselves as our own best interest. This is the time for strong argument for social reform

Advertisement

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



and reforming of our thinking as African-Americans in all areas - intellectually, politically, economically and religiously. I sincerely wish Metro-York success and ask that they continue to reach out to all members of York City/County.

This community column represents the closing writing for the year. Being a columnist has taught me, shaped me, humbled me and strengthened my heart/soul to be more grateful. The year has also been a time of deep revelation.

What I discovered was that of all worldly possessions, few are more precious than a grateful heart. Faith has two halves. The first is patience. The second is gratitude. Gratefulness is a fount from which flows one of this world's greatest pleasures: Happiness. When the heart is grateful, it is also happy.

As we approach this year's end, please take a moment to assess your own level of gratitude. How grateful are you to G-d for your life, food, clothes, etc.? Special acknowledgement to all who have taken the time to read my comments and have talked to me about how you've felt. I have listened to all of you and hope that in some small measure you have listened to me.

Thank you Dr. Harris, Dr. Rawls, Tom Norris, Clarence Allen, Ann Breland, Sandy Walker, Sandy Thompson, Ryan Sattler, Dr. Ramage, the Rev. Joan Maruskin, John Finlayson, Samantha Dorm, Wanda Dorm, Helen Rorbaugh, Attorneys Katherman, Briggs, Greenberg, Mike Jefferson, Lisa Albright, Gary Calhoun, Bill Graff, Dittie

Atwater, Sherry Washington, Bill Swartz and many more in the African-American community of York. Especially my wife Pam, the Sexton-Keenhill family and my Muslim brothers/sisters.

May G-d bless all with the spirit of charity in your heart and the spirit of service. A-Salaamu-Alaikum (Peace be unto you).

Ahmad Seifullah lives in York.

Advertisement