

Lord, We Turn to You

*A Reflection on the Beauty and Strength of Black People
Sunday, February 11, 2018*

The author writes, in your Word: “I am Black but comely – beautiful” (Song of Solomon 1:5). So Lord, why is it still so hard for the world to see my beauty and my worth in 2018?

Our children are dying every day because of the color of their skin. They die a little intellectually whenever a teacher or leader expects less of them in the classroom or belittles and insults them by flying Confederate Flags in their learning space. They die a little spiritually when they are not told the truth about who they are and where they are in Holy Scripture or when the Church takes a negative stand on the issue of Black Lives Matter. And they are dying – more of them than we can count – at the hands of law enforcement that see them and their blackness as a threat!

Lord, we are tired, overwhelmed and unimpressed by all that is happening in the world right now and we need to know that you are still there for us. Our families and communities are stressed to the brink. What are we to do?

And you answered: “Turn to YOU in our trouble...knowing that you will lead and guide us” to a righteous outcome.

This week in Black History, we remember more Black people of beauty:

Imhotep – the Egyptian architect, physician and statesman, born in the 27th Century before the time of Christ. He built the first step pyramid, served as Chief Minister and physician to Djoser – the second king of Egypt’s Third Dynasty. Imhotep’s accomplishments as a surgeon preceded the work of the Greek Hippocrates (known as the Father of Medicine) and Pythagoras (known as the Father of Math) by more than 2000 years;

Benjamin Banneker – a free African American who was a self taught draftsman, astronomer and surveyor who completed the survey for the original borders of the District of Columbia;

Sally Hemings – the 16 year old enslaved woman with whom Thomas Jefferson maintained a long-term relationship and had four children; and

Arthur Ashe – tennis legend who won 66 titles, including the U S Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open. He remains the only Black man to win those titles. He contracted the HIV virus through a blood transfusion and lost his battle to AIDS on February 6, 1993