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“Guaranteed Prosperity”

Two weeks ago, we commented on the [“Declining Significance of Protests”](#) and noted the continued transformative power of sit-down strikes. Last week, we contemplated [“Our 2023 Future”](#) and the need to consider Reparations in a full bodied context—including calling for land as an integral component of Reparations.

This week, we integrate the two commentaries to unburden Black America from all the “talk” about Reparations and to describe a direct path to Reparations and to the prosperity that will be realized.

Yes, it is the beginning of a new year and there is much talk about prosperity. Moreover, many Black Americans, who are Christians, live under a “Prosperity Gospel.” The biblical scriptures most often cited in connection with Prosperity Gospel are: *Deuteronomy* 28:13, “...the head, and not the tail...;” *Luke* 6:38, “...pressed down, shaken together, and running over...;” *Ephesians* 3:20, “...exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...;” and *Third John* 1:2, “...thou mayest prosper and be in health...”

At the same time, we are all familiar with the colloquialisms: “God helps those who help themselves,” and “Faith without works is dead.” In other words, there is a direct path to prosperity for Black Americans if we do the

work and create the conditions under which prosperity can be born.

Unfortunately, much of Black America has been corralled into a position of “**Conditioned Acceptance.**” Many of us accept our second-class position and condition in America, and do not have an attitude of “by any means necessary.” This is the “generational curse” that haunts us.

So, how do we birth prosperity? It is very simple, but calls for **courage, faith, unity, and work.**

The **courage** can be found through the study of ourstory in America and the undeniable factual truths that we are due, and are worthy of, Reparations. If you believe in biblical prophecy and equate the *Old Testament* Hebrews with Black Americans, then read *Genesis* 15:13-14: “...Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions.” This “prophecy,” along with historical facts, should incite our courage to act.

Faith (Imani) is required to execute the following required actions that will produce the aforementioned “great possessions:”

- Plan and implement a sit-down strike within the letter of the law during the most important portion of the American economic year—the fourth calendar quarter. ALL Black Americans should commit to this sit-down strike, which will help slow down the US economy and bring business/economic and governmental leaders to the table to negotiate the “great possessions” that are due to Black Americans.¹
- Vigorously engage in saving during the first nine months of the year to purchase or finance goods and services that are to be consumed during the fourth quarter: Water, food, housing, electric power, heat energy, and transportation. Those who cannot save sufficiently during the first nine months of the year to meet fourth quarter needs should save enough for a minimum of a one-or-two-month strike. Black religious, charitable, and fraternal organizations and institutions should use the nine months to prepare to assist those who fall into need during the fourth quarter.
- Also, during the first nine months of the year, Black Americans (led by national organizations and institutions, especially the Black Church) should communicate and collaborate to determine the “specific demands” that will be set before business/economic and governmental leaders when we are called to the negotiating table.
- When the fourth quarter arrives, we should remain at home in our areas of influence (communities)—venturing out only when urgent needs arise. We should postpone all events and activities that are

unessential. We should treat the quarter as a mourning period to commemorate the deaths of our “Conditioned Acceptance” and of the “generational curse.”

Unity (Umoja) is central to the success of this fourth quarter sit-down strike. It is critical to our being able to rely on each other to endure the fourth quarter without having to succumb to the work life that is modern-day slavery in America.

Work (Ujima) is what we will do during the first nine months of the year with the fourth quarter sit-down strike in mind. Also, we will work after the fourth quarter sit-down strike to achieve the goals established during the first nine months to generate our guaranteed prosperity. When the fourth quarter sit-down strike and the related negotiations are completed, the resources required to produce prosperity should be in hand.

This is a direct path to guaranteed prosperity. If one fourth quarter sit-down strike is insufficient to yield Reparations, then let two, three, four, or more sit-down strikes unfold—continuing until our aims are achieved. If not sit-down strikes, then let others bring a more viable and realizable proposal. And if well-known Black American organizational and institutional leadership fails to lead the effort, then let a Black grassroots movement lead the way.

Now is the time to act before sit-down strikes become passé because workers are replaced with automation, robots, and artificial intelligence. Either we step up now or forever

¹ The 1935 National Labor Relations Act (especially Section 7 of the Act) provides a wide breadth of rights to conduct labor strikes. According to [Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations](#), there were 385 labor actions during 2022. Probably the three largest and highest profile labor

actions in 2022 involved a threatened nationwide strike by rail industry workers and strikes by educators of the University of California system and nurses in Minnesota. These actions attracted considerable attention and resulted in significant gains for labor.

hold our peace. However, if we execute this strategic sit-down strike effective, then we

can rest assured that we will obtain prosperity. It is guaranteed!

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