

COMMENTARY

# Peace best Christmas wish anyone could hope for

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

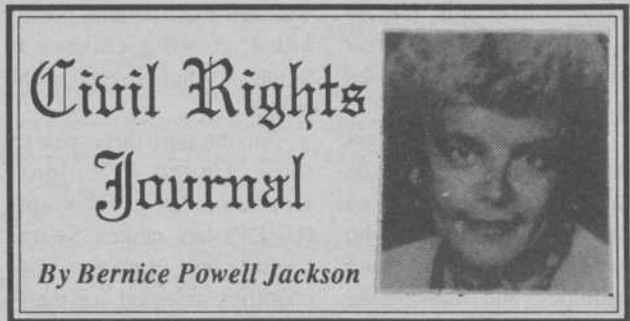
Some years I have written a wish list of what I'd really like for Christmas beyond hitting the lottery or such. This year my list is one item long one word long I wish for peace. Even just one day of peace would feel like my wish was granted.

I've been centering my prayer time over the past two months on peace after spending a few days with some brave and powerful young sisters and brothers. Sisters and brothers dedicated to making peace in our cities. It was the fifth anniversary of what they called the gang summit at that first meeting

in 1993, when gang leaders from around the nation came together to talk and plan and meet and pray for peace in our communities.

This time it was called the National Summit for Peace and Justice because they realize now that the violence of gangs is but one piece in a larger puzzle and that peace is the only viable way for our communities.

And so they came back together again, some of the old faces and some new ones, all dedicated to the belief that there can be, there must be peace in our communities. They came from the east coast, from the midwest, from



the west coast. They came speaking several languages and calling God by several names. They came—African American, Latino/a and native American. They came trusting each other and trusting that the power of good can overcome the power of evil.

And if there was any doubt in their minds about whether this summit was needed it evaporated the night before they arrived in Kansas City when a 10 year old child was killed in that city while playing in her front yard. And so they piled in cars and vans and went to the child's home

and surrounded her family with prayers and love and pleas for peace not retaliation.

I'll never forget that child's mother's eyes that night. I'll never forget the pain which seemed to reach down into her heart and her womb. I'll never forget that child's father's tears, running freely down his cheeks, as he recounted his shortcomings and told of the pressure to seek revenge. I'll never forget the poem recited by a brother from California that night and I'll never forget the prayer circle we formed on that front yard.

And so my journey to my single wish for peace. Peace

so that no more children might die by bullets anywhere in this world.

Peace so that no more children might die in drive-by shootings. Peace so that no more children might die in war. Peace so that no more children might die in ethnic cleansings. Peace so that no more children might be maimed by land mines. Peace so that no more children might die at the hands of their mothers or their fathers. Peace so that the children of the world might laugh and play and smile and run and skip and giggle and live without fear. What a Christmas gift that would be.

## Carl Rowan's Commentary

### Enough already Republicans, Americans against impeachment

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Minutes after the House Judiciary Committee voted the fourth article of impeachment, a wealthy businessman said: "Now the big-money GOP donors can step in and stop the madness. They will watch the stock market fall and see trillions of dollars of potential damage to the economy and say, 'Enough already!'"



CARL ROWAN

If logic were a driving force, the Republicans might indeed see that Wall Street may go nuts if the full House votes to impeach the president. But logic also would have made them back off after their losses in the recent elections. Logic would make them respect the wishes of the people, 60 percent to 70 percent of whom say they do not want Clinton impeached. Logic would make them heed the cries of the nation's governors, who say they are sick and tired of this scandal. Logic might even make Congress note that President Clinton is in the Middle East on a mission that is crucial to American foreign policy, and that he ought to be cut some slack.

One might think that at least 20, even 40, so-called moderates among House Republicans would as a matter of conscience say that however shameful President Clinton's conduct has been, it does not rise to a level that requires removal from office.

But their logic apparently is being overridden by fear. Some are being told

that if they vote against impeachment, they will not be given party money in the year 2000, and that in fact they will find well-financed opposition to them in the primaries.

That is why so many of these so-called moderates have produced some outrageous reasons why they may have to vote for impeachment. They

say that only if President Clinton "comes clean" by stating publicly that he committed perjury will they consider voting against impeachment. That is an absurd demand, because such an admission by the president would not guarantee their support, but it would undercut all the people who have supported him for months.

Clinton says that he will not resign. Thus the chances grow that he will be impeached, and that we shall have to endure a Senate trial and all the economic and other dislocations that that would entail.

Logic says that this would be an exercise in utter futility, because there isn't a ghost of a chance that two-thirds of the Senate would ever vote to oust Clinton.

Some Republicans on the Judiciary Committee even pretend that removing Clinton isn't their goal, and that a vote to impeach is merely a way of expressing their moral outrage. Well, they are exacting a terrible price from the nation in order to exercise that privilege.

In this ugly, brutal political game, win no matter what the cost seems to be the rule.

## Black family unit central to restoring values, communities

*Moon's family federation, principles depict model for unification*

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

What does the future hold for the African-American family? Is there a future? Are we a "tangle of pathology," absent of family values? Are most African-American families falling to racism, poverty, and powerlessness?

What does the future hold for you?

We can't ignore the many pressures compromising the ability of black families to survive and thrive. But in order to survive, we first need to look to God, then to his glorious creation, us.

African-Americans, look to the East.

Although many African-Americans have fallen victim to the white media's vilification of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his Unification Movement, this group may be a force to help strengthen black families.

Moon's Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International supports a network of families around the world, representing every race, religion and culture. The organization is based on the principle that families working together have the capacity to resolve the problems of their societies and the world. According to Moon, "Peaceful families will build a peaceful world."

Although African-Americans have dutifully registered to vote, and in the process, elected more blacks to office than ever in American history, blacks, along with people around the world, still face economic, social and political problems that can never be fully solved by political means alone.

World peace and prosperity depends on people willing to forgive and forget and willing to transcend racial, religious, cultural, and ideological barriers to achieve unity.

Shouldn't blacks and Asians get along better? One of every four people on the planet is Asian, and since 1990 their population in America's 16 southern states and the District of Columbia has grown faster than any other race. Asians in search of economic

## Business Exchange

By William Reed,  
Publisher of Who's Who in  
Black Corporate America.



opportunities are pouring into this country and African-American neighborhoods. And, due to their exclusion by whites and strong sense of family and entrepreneurship, blacks may want to form sound and strong bonds with them.

Although ridiculed for years for marrying hundreds, and now millions, of couples, the marriages performed by Moon have endured while divorce rates among American couples have soared to over 60 percent.

Many blacks are embracing Moon's principles. Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan intends to marry 20,000 couples himself. At "Blessing '98" in New York's Madison Square Garden, Moon brought together 120 million couples worldwide. Among blacks attending were Minister Benjamin F. Muhammad (formerly Ben Chavis when he headed the NAACP); Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia (1964-91); Semakula Kiwanuka, Uganda's Ambassador to the United Nations; Madame Lucienne Patassé, First Lady of the Central African Republic and Erskine Sandiford, former Prime Minister of Barbados.

Black people around the world need strong families so that healing can begin in our cities, nations and communities and we can lay a successful path for future generations to follow. Blacks who want to grow their communities and coalitions may want to engage with the FFWPUI for forums, seminars, workshops and alliance building with other organizations.

William Reed is publisher of Who's Who in Black Corporate America.

## Driving

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Reno has convened a "Traffic Stop Profiling Problem-Solving Group," of law professors (including Prof. Harris), criminal justice experts, police chiefs, and high officials of the Justice Department to discuss the controversy and map out areas of inquiry.

Kenneth Austin, the Urban League's General Counsel, also joined the gathering,

which was held in early December.

The inquiry conducted by the Justice Department will examine the race and alleged traffic infractions of motorists stopped by the police, the rationale for any search made subsequent to a traffic stop, and the contraband recovered in the course of that search.

The study will not identify individual  
*(See Driving, Page 13)*