



Tuesday, January 1, 2019

My dear Africans:

As "Chance has never yet satisfied the hopes of a suffering people", we cannot sit and wait for miracles. We have to strike the iron for our liberty. Africa and her people are relying upon us. While everybody cannot do everything, each one of us can do something. As every African is a member of the UNIA♦ACL, there are two types of members: Active and Inactive. I implore you to re-activate your citizenship in the UNIA. Please be aware that the very first building Mr. Garvey ever purchased in the US at 120 West 138th Street in Harlem, NY was purchased through membership dues. This building could hold 6,000 participants at any time. It is safe to say that on an uneventful meeting Mr. Garvey could attract no less than 3,000 participants.

For all things common to man that man has done, man can do. We can no longer sit idle and hope. The die is cast. "The world has made being Black a crime; I hope to make it a virtue." As per Mr. Garvey, "After a people have established successfully a firm industrial foundation, they naturally turn to politics and society, but not first to society and politics, because the two latter cannot exist without the former." The lesson must be (self-reliance) economics. This is exactly why we created the FACA♦ROC. The ROC must be the rock of the rebuilding of our empire. I ask that we invest and support the ROC as well as re-activating your UNIA citizenship.

You can rest assure that I will work tirelessly to uplift this noble race and I promise that "All I have I will give to you."

One God, One Aim, One Destiny.
Long live Marcus Garvey.
Happy New Year 2019.

With best wishes
your obedient servant

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan
President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association
1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



Wednesday, March 20, 2019

My dear Africans:

We have just returned from a two-week working visit back to Africa, specifically, Ghana and Liberia. In Ghana, we participated in the 62nd anniversary of her Independence on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. All praise and respect go out to Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the proud Africans from Ghana. I am always reminded that the flag of Ghana has a Black Star ★ right in the middle of the second of three (Red, Gold, Green) stripes, obviously paying homage to The Black Star Line Steamship Corporation that Marcus Garvey established approximately 100 years ago in June 1919.

I had the opportunity to hold discussions and meetings on the vitality of Garveyism in Africa with a group of travelers from the United States and it was uplifting. So much that several of them are expected to travel back to Africa with the UNIA in August. Let me add that this is just the beginning. As we travel back and forth to Africa, we are being reconnected to our home. And this fits in well with Mr. Garvey's vision. You see, Mr. Garvey did not bring us back to Africa; he brought Africa back to us. Mr. Garvey exposed us to our roots. Mr. Garvey made us believe in ourselves. In effect, Mr. Garvey sold the Black man to himself.

After visiting Ghana, we continued to Liberia. Ever since I read the holy book – **The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey** - I was certain that I would visit and eventually live in Liberia. And thus far, everything is falling in place. We have the opportunity to effect real change in Liberia and by extension, Africa.

Every other group is in Africa attempting to create wealth for themselves. If all of those others see fit to invest and maneuver themselves to exploit Africa to make profit, we certainly should invest to uplift our brothers and sisters. However, before we can do that, we have to put our personal finances in order. We cannot help others if we are struggling financially ourselves. We Africans in the United States are the richest Africans on the planet, yet we have nothing to show for it in the collective. Look at Southeast Queens where the richest Africans in the United States live. Where are our banks? Where are our supermarkets? Where are our hospitals? Where are our schools? We do not see them; therefore, we have to create them. Fortunately, we created the **ROC - Restaurant Owners Corp** - the supermarket for the community where all of the dry goods, fish, meats, produce and vegetables that we need are sold and distributed.

The vision is to prepare Africa for the supply of these foods. Moreover, let us not forget that as the Caribbean is in this hemisphere and the southern USA is right here, we will also bring products from those areas to create the economic self-reliant model that we need.

With best wishes

Your obedient servant

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan

President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association

1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



Wednesday, May 1, 2019

My dear Africans:

In many places on the planet, May 1st is celebrated as International Workers Day. This is when workers are recognized and celebrated upon. Any work that is done is important. Whether you work at the FACA♦ROC or you own your own establishment, or work from the home, it is still considered work. However, there is nothing more rewarding than when one works to build his own nation. Moreover, when I say that, I mean our Black nation. Nationhood is the only means by which modern civilization can completely protect itself. Did not our founder - Marcus Mosiah Garvey - state that Nationhood is the highest ideal of all peoples? If we have learned nothing, please learn this: Whatever you want in life, you must make up your mind to do it for yourself. No one can do for you what you can do for yourself. This is the mantra of the UNIA. The two requirements of UNIA membership are Racial Uplift and Self-Reliance. Those two principles necessarily lead to nationhood.

Our Black nation is nowhere else but in Africa. However, before we can assist our sisters and brothers on the continent, we have to be in a secure financial position and have to pool our resources together. As we have a friendly government in Liberia, we must strike the iron while it is hot.

One of the UNIA holy days of obligation is the transitioning of Hon. Marcus Garvey into ancestorship, which is June 10th, which falls on a Monday. In New York, our public celebration is on Sunday, June 2nd at Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem, NY starting at 3PM. It is mandatory attendance, as we **must each bring five family members and friends.**

As we are preparing for our August trip back to (Ghana and Liberia) Africa, I am reminded that the annual Marcus Garvey Festival will be held on Sunday, August 4th at Rosedale Soccer Field starting at 10 AM in Rosedale, NY and it is mandatory attendance.

Finally, I leave you with an image from the UNIA January 2019 trip to Africa. One Love.



With best wishes

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan

President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association

1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



July 7, 2019

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Our founder, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, was born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica on August 17, 1887 and traveled through Central America from 1910 to 1912 and through Europe from 1912 to 1914. While returning to Jamaica sometime after June 28, 1914, and after observing that we Black people were universally oppressed in all parts of the world, Mr. Garvey rhetorically asked, "Where is the Black man's government? Where is his king and kingdom? Where is his president, his country, and his ambassador, his army, his navy, his men of big affaires? I could not find them, and then I declared I will help make them." Hence, Mr. Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League on July 20, 1914 soon after arriving back home in Jamaica. Mr. Garvey went about the task of converting the disabilities of race into a positive tool of liberation with a thorough aggressiveness. "No man can convince me contrary to my belief," he declared, "because my belief is founded upon a hard and horrible experience, not a personal experience, but a racial experience. **The world has made being Black a crime, and I have felt it in common with men who suffer like me, and instead of making it a crime I hope to make it a virtue.**" With that, the consciousness of his followers was saturated with this new doctrine. Black dolls were manufactured for Black children; his newspaper proclaimed itself the *Negro World*. After founding the Black Star Line and Negro Factories Corporation, he acquired hotels, restaurants, factories, universities, printing plants, publishing companies, transoceanic steamship lines, to name a few. Indeed, practically every aspect of the organization was designed to bolster our self-esteem and to foster pride in ourselves. His economic ventures in the US amounted to an attempt toward a nucleus of a self-sustaining and therefore self-employed Black race in America. Mr. Garvey understood that racial uplift and self-reliance are the cornerstones of an independent nation. Thus, his gaze looked more longingly toward Africa as the salvation of the Black man. Accordingly, the UNIA had established civil services, health care services, regiments, etc., all as foundational springboards necessary to the construction of the new continental African nation and homeland. Therefore, Liberia had to be the remedy; Liberia was founded as a resettlement project for formerly enslaved Africans. Now we have an opportunity to live history. **It is my pleasure to announce that the 62nd International Convention is in Africa in Liberia** starting August 15th 2019 in Monrovia. See you in Liberia. Right before traveling to Africa, we will be celebrating the 2nd Annual Marcus Garvey Festival on Sunday, August 4th in Queens, NY.

Michael R. Duncan

President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association
1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



THE CONVENTION HAS DONE ITS WORK FUTURE
SUCCESSSES NOW REST WITH MEMBERSHIP

September 30, 2019

Fellow African Men and Women:

I greet you in the name of our founder, Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Your delegates to the Great Liberia Convention have now returned to you bringing with them the information and inspiration received at one of the greatest conventions ever held by any race. They are bringing back to you the spirit of the new African revived and intensified by the helpful contact with kindred spirits, entrusted to the great task of putting over the **African Redemption Program**.

The Program that seeks to emancipate Africans worldwide must go through. The Program that seeks to redeem Africa must succeed, and we, as members of the Universal Negro Improvement Association [UNIA] have pledged ourselves to see the Program through. We have pledged ourselves to convey the measures of hope of the UNIA to the millions who have not yet heard the cry of the bleeding of Africa. We are determined that this work must go on, that there must be a free and redeemed Africa, that there must be an emancipated race, whether it be in Africa, or the United States, or the Caribbean. And it all starts with the homeland - **Africa** - for those at home and those abroad. We shall continue to shape the plans by which we shall convert the world to the righteousness of our cause.

AFRICANS AND MONEY NEEDED

We need now men & women and money. Out of this convention we are sending earnest men and women; men and women who truly believe in the aims and objectives of our Association. However, we want the financial backing, the financial support, of every African to put this Program through. This is the year for us to make sacrifices to carry forward this great cause. We want every African man, woman and child to do his and her bit for the realization of this ideal for the race. Each member of the race must realize that, even though we have laid out a platform, which will mean protection for Africans everywhere, we can only do it when we receive the whole-hearted financial support of Africans everywhere. You can support the organization morally and financially. Speak on this to every African you meet. Send your funds to our headquarters @ FACA ROC 132-05 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11434 whatever money you can afford, and get your friends and acquaintances to do likewise, so that, with the money at our disposal, we can finance the Program which will bring about the accomplishment of our ideals. It is no use holding back. Watching and waiting will not help. However, falling in line now to do your bit will help us to put over the Program. We have waited for more than 400 years in this North America, and we have remained dormant in Africa for over 600 years, but the time has really come for all of us Africans at home, and Africans abroad, to throw in our energy, our

wealth and our resources and make this organization with the flag of the **Red**, the **Black** and the **Green** carry us to Victory.

With best wishes
Your obedient servant

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan
President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association
1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



NO ONE IS COMING TO OUR RESCUE BUT OURSELVES

November 18, 2019

Fellow African Men and Women:

Recently, I attended the inauguration of the Queen Mother Samad Division 455 in Kingston, Jamaica. And I must say it was a tremendous success. Our people are very excited and believe that a better day is coming. At this point in Jamaica's development (or lack thereof), Garvey and Garveyism is exactly what is needed. In fact, there is no place on the planet that Garvey and Garveyism is not needed. As Mr. Garvey asked himself, "Where is the Black man's government?" If right now the powers that be decided to reinstitute chattel slavery, which force or government can protect us? The answer is the same as it was over hundred years ago: NONE.

The brothers and sisters in Jamaica whole heartedly welcomed and are motivated by our message of practicing one faith, that of confidence in ourselves, with One God, One Aim, One Destiny. We should never let any religious denominations nor any varying political ideology divide us. While in Jamaica, we discussed the high crime rate and the solution. We are fully confident that Garvey and Garveyism is the solution. First of all, if we as a people realized the greatness from which we came (we Africans are the first architects, mathematicians, physicians, accountants, agriculturalists, artists, pyramid builders, etc.) we would be less inclined to turn the guns on our own people. Secondly, the thing to do is get organized; if we keep ourselves separated, we will NOT create any self-reliant independent, economic programs, which will lead to our continued exploitation. Therefore, we must organize ourselves not only for prosperity, but also for necessity and the continuation of our species. Thirdly, as the government in Jamaica is unable (and/or unwilling) to provide gainful employment to the brethren and sisters, we must do that for ourselves. The inability for a livelihood does lead to crime. This is where the UNIA is the solution. We already created the ROC in Southeast Queens, NY and are establishing businesses and farms in Jamaica and Liberia. All of these programs are created for the singular purpose of uplifting and rebuilding our people. And finally, the high crime, whether it be in Jamaica, Baltimore, South Africa or any other locale where we African people live, is part of the Black on Black violence, which is the psychodynamics of Black self-annihilation in the service of white domination. This is functional from the enemy's point of view; they convince us to do their job of eliminating us. This is for political reasons. It is to control our people and develop a pattern of auto-destructive behavior. Moreover, of course, we then become our own worst enemies. Again, Garvey and Garveyism is the solution. The UNIA is a social, friendly, humanitarian, charitable, educational, institutional, constructive and expansive society, and is organized for the general uplift of Black people of the world. We pledge to do all in our power to conserve the rights of our noble race and to respect the rights of all men and women. Since ancient Kemet, the only

program that has ever worked for our people that brought steadfastness, discipline, self-reliance and the belief in us has been the UNIA.

With best wishes
Your obedient servant

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan
President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association
1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920



January 3, 2020

ALL I HAVE I WILL GIVE TO YOU

Fellow African Men and Women:

On February 10, 1925, Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey wrote the famous *First Message to the Negroes of the World from Atlanta Prison* to encourage and rally the UNIA. As Mr. Garvey was convinced that the US government would find any excuse to end his life while incarcerated in their prison system, he had to encourage the UNIA to continue the fight. In the letter, Mr. Garvey writes, "All I have I have given to you. I have sacrificed my home and my loving wife for you. I entrust her to your charge, to protect and defend her in my absence. She is the bravest little woman I know. She has suffered and sacrificed with me for you; therefore, please do not desert her in this dismal hour, when she stands alone. I have left her penniless and helpless to face the world, because I gave all, but her courage is great, and I know she will hold up for you and me."

One hundred twenty-one years earlier, the greatest general our people have ever produced since being departed from Africa, General Jean Jacques Dessalines, declared on Sunday, January 1, 1804 in Gonaives, Haiti: "I have watched, fought, sometimes alone, and, If I have been fortunate to deliver in your hands the sacred trust that you had under my care, remember that it is up to you now to conserve it. Before you consolidate it by laws, which assure your individual liberty, your leaders, which I assemble here, and myself, we owe you the last proof of our devotion.

Generals, and you, leaders, reunited here near me for the well-being of our country, the day has come, this day that must make eternal our glory, our independence. If there could exist amongst you a half-hearted, may he distance himself and tremble to pronounce the oath that must unite us.

Let us swear to the entire universe, to posterity, to ourselves, to renounce forever to France, and to die rather than to live under its domination. To fight until the last crotchet rest for the independence of our country!

And you, people for too long misfortuned, witness to the oath that we are pronouncing, remind yourself that it is on your perseverance and your courage that I depended on when I threw myself in this career for liberty in order to fight against despotism and tyranny against which you struggled since fourteen years. Remember that I sacrificed everything to jump to your defense; family, children, fortune, and now I am only rich in your liberty."

General Jean Jacques Dessalines and Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey have given all that they had to us. We can do no less. As we celebrate the 216th Anniversary of the Haitian independence, we say Mèsi Papa Desalin. We owe a great debt to our Ayiti brothers and sisters for making us believe that we can defeat our oppressors. Haiti is the only case in recorded history where a

formerly enslaved people rose up against their oppressors and militarily defeated them to then form an independent nation in 1804. Let us start 2020 in the same vein that led Mr. Garvey to hold the First International Convention of Black Peoples of the World in August 1920 that lasted 31 days. Please join the **UNIA** and shop at **THE ROC**.

With best wishes
Your obedient servant

Michael R. Duncan

Michael R. Duncan
President General, Universal Negro Improvement Association
1609-11 Cecil B. Moore Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • (718) 906-8920