

POVERTY BUS TOUR OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA..."THOSE LEFT BEHIND"

21st Century Poverty Slaves of the Mississippi Delta

Kentwood, LA (BlackNews.com) - As we witness the inauguration of America's first African-American President, we are still haunted by darkness because this great country was built by the free labor of millions of enslaved African people. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing those slaves. Millions of newly freed African-Americans cried with great joy in that moment they had longed for, a moment they called Freedom.



In February of 1968, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy toured the Mississippi Delta. Other poverty tours have been conducted by such luminaries as President Bill Clinton; Senators Paul Wellstone, Ted Kennedy and John Edwards; and Jesse Jackson. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., certainly knew that the shackles of poverty had a tight grip on the children of those held as slaves.

Does the election of President Barack Obama mean that the shackles of poverty have fallen from the ankles and arms of those who have lived as the slaves of poverty? If America is to become a truly great nation

of which we can be proud, we must bring to the forefront the hidden secrets of our deep rural areas.

On February 20-22, Antoinette Harrell will conduct a bus tour through the Mississippi Delta. She will be joined by U.S. Congressional Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS); Dr. Ron Walters, Director of the African-American Leadership Institute; Dr. Bryon Clay, President of the SCLC-National; Gathering of Hearts Co-Founder Ines Soto-Palmarin; sociologist Rebecca Hensley of Southeastern Louisiana University; students from both Phillip Brook House Association and Southeastern Louisiana University; and others.

The peonage research of Antoinette Harrell, however, tells us that for many thousands of African-Americans, the freedom bell never rang. In fact, the freedom bell didn't ring in sixteen states and twenty-seven counties in Mississippi -- even into the 1970's. Slavery had given birth to a new form of involuntary servitude: peonage. And this new form of slavery trapped not only thousands of African-Americans, but poor Native Americans, poor Latinos, and poor Whites, as well.

Over time, letters were written to five different U.S. Presidents, beseeching them to investigate the practice of peonage. Now, we are calling on President Barack Obama to free those who yet remain behind. Every night, millions in this country still go to bed cold, sick, hungry, and seemingly overlooked by many church leaders and elected officials, whose hearts appear as cold as those of the slave masters in the past.

Ms. Cecil Price Frazier to Celebrate 100th Birthday



Ms. Cecil Price Frazier & family will celebrate her 100th birthday on Satur-

day, February 21st at 12:00 Noon at the VFW in Rusk, Texas. Family and friends are invited to join them in celebrating her landmark birthday.

City of Rusk Police Department

Opening for Patrolman - Now Accepting Applications

Job title: Patrolman

Job location: Rusk, Tx. 75785 U.S.

Job type: Full-Time

Compensation: start \$31, 825 a year; after six months probation \$33,500 a year

Job category: Police

Job description: The Rusk Police Department has an opening for the position of patrolman. We are a Community oriented Police Department that is looking for dependable applicants.

Applicants must be TCLEOSE certified, and are subject to pre-employment screening/testing. The Police Department is looking for highly motivated people who believe in a proactive approach to law enforcement. After probation an employee with full time experience with other agencies will receive step pay for years of service. Officers primarily work 12 hour shifts with some eight hour shifts.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.
318 Main Street - Rusk, Texas 75785



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