

A Time of Patience, Courage and Faith



The advent of a new age is dawning as the year of 2014 comes to a close. We witness turbulent changes all around us. There is turbulence in nature such as dramatic climactic changes and weather occurrences. There is turbulence in our relationships with each other. There are turbulent diseases such as Ebola, hiv-aids, and cancer striking us down. There is turbulence in our government and its seeming immobility to improve our lives. There is turbulence in our churches as we struggle to address the needs of all. The picture appears bleak in a world of failing economies, loss of jobs, hunger, renewed racism, continuing forms of discrimination, and unending war, terrorism and extremism.

However, we must be patient and continue to celebrate that God will not abandon us. We must not, therefore, abandon each other.

Kwanzaa offers us an opportunity to take courage, renew our focus with faith, and remain committed to work for a change. The seven principles of Kwanzaa can serve as a foundation for our focus for change:

UMOJA (Unity), KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination), UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility), UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics), NIA (Purpose), KUUMBA (Creativity), and IMANI (Faith).

*With patience, courage, and faith we believe our joy comes in the morning.
We pray to see a ray of morning joy in the New Year 2015!*

The Kinara of the Soul

The Kinara is a seven-place candle holder that represents the original stalk form which all African people sprang. It also represents reason and social structure. In Kwanzaa for Life it represents the spirit of life.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

UMOJA (Unity)

Jesus, we will work to refocus on unity among us instead of division. May we rise above beliefs of superiority and inferiority because all you created is good.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

KWANZAA FOR LIFE 2014

December 26, 2014 - January 1, 2015



KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)

Jesus, we will work to understand who we are and whose we are. May we rise to the occasion to be happy as we are, not as someone else determines us to be.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)

Jesus, we will work to build a consciousness that cares about our communities. May we remember to do our share to safeguard each other's dignity and lighten each other's burdens.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics)

Jesus, we will work to use our resources wisely. May we share our time, talents, and treasure with each other and may we support businesses which uphold who we are and uphold our communities instead of those which degrade us.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

KWANZAA FOR LIFE 2014

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NIA (Purpose)

Jesus, we will work to recall what you expect from us. May we face the adversities of our time with a renewed sense of purpose rooted in the greatness of who we were for generations rather than in the shallowness we have become.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

KUUMBA (Creativity)

Jesus, we will work to open our minds and souls to your creative Holy Spirit. May we be infused with your sevenfold gifts so we can uplift ourselves and all those in our communities.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

IMANI (Faith)

Jesus, we will work to move on from negativity and despair to courage and faith. May we keep our eyes on the prize and rise above the hopelessness around us so we may uphold all for your name's sake.

RESPONSE: Jesus, please be patient with us because with courage and faith we shall move on!

KWANZAA FOR LIFE 2014

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During Kwanzaa for Life

(December 26, 2014 to January 1, 2015)

let us also offer the following prayers:

The Lord's Prayer

The Marian Prayer (Hail Mary)

Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation...)

Kwanzaa for Life Prayer



O Star of Wonder, Star of Life,
as we celebrate Kwanzaa and
the African American Heritage,
we give you thanks and praise
for the journey of another year
past and another year to come.

In Your divine mercy, grant us
the grace to cherish this life and walk in your light.
With your guidance may we uphold the dignity
of and respect for life from the moment it begins to
its natural end in Your presence. We ask these things
in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Kwanzaa For Life 2014

prepared by James Paul Newson, Jr.

Kwanzaa was founded 48 years ago

by Dr. Maulana Karenga