
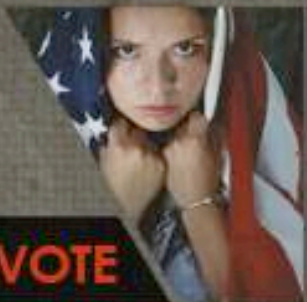


LIVE | FREE

Sabbath

March 14-16, 2014



LET MY PEOPLE **VOTE**



@Lifelines2heal
#Livefree

Text "LIFELINES"
to 69-866 to join the
movement

LIVE FREE SABBATH

MARCH 14-16.2014

PREACH. PRAY. ACT

The faith response to gun violence and mass incarceration

Visit www.lifelinestohealing.org
to register for a toolkit and
receive more information.



Amos 5:21-24 (MSG)

21-24 “I can’t stand your religious meetings.

I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.

I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes,

your public relations and image making.

I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to *me*?

Do you know what I want?

I want justice—oceans of it.

I want fairness—rivers of it.

That’s what I want. That’s *all* I want.

Context – Gun Violence

- The U.S. has over 10,000 gun deaths a year (over 15,000 suicides)
- Since 9/11, more Americans have been killed with guns in the U.S. than all Americans killed in the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined.
- More Americans were killed in Chicago than in Afghanistan in 2012.
- Overwhelming majority of victims are 18-35 year old males of color
- The Children's Defense Fund said...the number of black children killed by gunfire since 1979 is nearly 13 times more than the number of blacks who were lynched in this country between 1882 and 1968.
- Only a tiny fraction of any given community is shooting (less than 1%) and the community wants them stopped!

Context – Mass Incarceration

- 2.2 million Americans are in prison or jail. With less than 5 percent of the world's population but nearly 25 percent of its incarcerated population, the United States imprisons more people than any other nation in the world – largely due to the war on drugs. - The Sentencing Project
- The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world (higher than South African under apartheid)
- More African Americans are incarcerated now than were enslaved in the 1850s
- Latinos are incarcerated at twice the rate of Whites; African Americans at six times the rate of Whites
- It has not always been this way...The incarceration rate has increased 6-fold since 1980 (despite rising and falling crime rates over this period).
- Mass incarceration has exacerbated the cycles of violence, poverty, and despair in our most vulnerable neighborhoods by leaving millions of children parentless, and by denying millions of “returning citizens” access to work, housing, education, and the right to vote once they’ve completed their sentences.

Context – Race

- The realities of Gun Violence and Mass Incarceration have been enabled by a sustained and prolific culture that dehumanizes black and brown lives
- Roughly, a third of all black men nationwide are involved in the criminal justice system, i.e., awaiting trial, in prison or jail, on parole or probation. That same percentage is likely to serve time in prison. How can the black community thrive, even survive, when black men are under the control of the criminal justice system?
- American can not sustain (morally, socially, or economically) this great loss.

Context – The Church

- There are roughly 350,000 congregations in the United States.*
- 40% of all Americans or roughly 118 million people reported that they attended worship the previous week.*
- People of faith believe in the humanity of all people
- PICO has deep roots in 1,200 local faith communities throughout the country

* Source click [here](#).

LIVE | FREE

The LIVE FREE Campaign is committed to:

- Raising awareness about the impact of gun violence and mass incarceration
- Reducing homicides in cities across the United States
- Reducing incarceration rates and restoring compassion for and rights to the formerly incarcerated
- Building healthy and safe communities
- Mobilizing the faith community in service of this cause

The Urgency of Now

President Obama has recently launched the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, a targeted effort to address the challenges of our Sons and Brothers facing tough odds. Our country faces a daily crisis of gun violence and mass incarceration. The loss of life will remain an imminent threat unless communities come together to speak out about the injustice. We are compelled by our faith to proclaim that the value of life among our young men has greatly been diminished. For the next 90 days, we are calling people of faith who have something to say about it!

PREACH. PRAY. ACT.

PREACH.

- Lead your congregation from the pulpit in prayer, reflection and worship on March 14-16, 2014.
- Shape your pulpit messages around scriptures that allow congregants to understand better the theological implications for the injustice that pervades our community and what God is doing about it. Give a call for action that is grounded in a desire to please God and fulfill God's plan for a just world.
- Incorporate themes related to being My Brother's Keeper, with a focus on shared responsibility to address education, healing from trauma related gun violence prevention and/or incarceration.

PRAY.

- Lead your congregation in prayer for our Sons and Brothers, their safety and the blessings of God's grace and mercy for them, their families and their community.
- Agree to have present during the worship and in a very prominent place the photographs (8x10 or larger) of members of their congregation lost to gun violence and incarceration. Imagine these images on easels around the altar or in lobby as folks come in church; and ask members to bring a picture of their Son or Brother that they love who we are committing to pray and work on behalf
- Organize corporate prayer times within your congregation, your denomination and ministerial community. Center your prayers on God's call that we act in support of the values central to our faiths – the values of love, life and community wholeness.
- Pray for law enforcement and legal community that they hold in their hearts God's command to always be just and prudent in their dealings with our young people and the communities where they reside.

ACT.

- Sign our petitions to compel our public officials to change the laws that disenfranchise our citizens. Our goal is to get thousands of signatures on Live Free Sabbath.
- Agree to include an insert in the bulletin (that we provide and you can edit) asking worshippers to join our Live Free text campaign by texting “Lifelines” to 69-866 and encourage folks to live tweet during service and through the week
- Become a LIVE FREE Congregation - Join a regional bootcamp where you can be trained on mentoring, social media, and strategies to support our Sons and Brothers
- Public Marches and Night Walks - Lead your congregation in Nightwalks and other organized efforts to move beyond the sanctuary. Take the message of hope to the streets and build a deeper concern for our youth and the sanctity of life

Policy Reform

Overturning federal and state policy will be key to winning the overall victory. The policies that we are focused on in the near term are :

California: Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Initiative (drug sentence reduction and \$\$\$ for education), CalGrip (more money for gun violence prevention)

Louisiana: Legislative Package including changing Marijuana felony to misdemeanor, Sentencing Reform for non-violent drug offenses, Ban the Box

Ohio: Budget fight leading to reductions in prison spending and more dollars to substance abuse/mental health services

Florida: 2016 Rights Restoration Ballot Initiative. 2014 – 68,000 signatures for local efforts related to Ban the Box, CeaseFire and racial profiling

All States/Cities: Ban the Box, Ceasefire Strategies, School to Prison Pipeline, Restore the Right to Vote

What happens after Sunday?

Tier 1: CHAMPION – Raise Awareness

- Participate in Quarterly Sabbath events: Preach, Pray, Act
- Clergy leader commits to social media awareness outreach
- Register congregation through Lifelines website to ensure support

Tier 2: EDUCATOR – Educate others on Issues

- Tier 1 commitments
- Identify a congregational designee to interface with Live Free/Lifelines
- Participate or host a training / bootcamp in your region
- Clergy Leader commits to attend one national training event

Tier 3: PARTNER - Become a Partner Organization

- Tier 2 commitments
- Partner with PICO federations to provide services for impacted people
- Civic Engagement & Advocacy (i.e. letter writing, call your legislature days, Faithful Obedience)
- Encourage donations via text campaign

Tier 4:- MEMBER - Become a Member Organization

- Tier 3 commitments
- Join local PICO federation as a member organization or launch a new federation where needed

The Urgency of Now

LIVE FREE Boot Camps


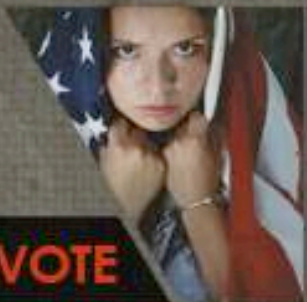
- Denver, CO – March 12
- Tallahassee, FL – March 17-19
- Newark, NJ – March 21-22
- Kansas City, KS – March 24
- Cleveland, OH – March 28-29
- Baton Rouge, LA – March 31-April 1
- Kansas City, MO – April 2
- Fresno, CA - April 4-5
- Youngstown, OH – April 11-12
- Chattanooga, TN – April 18-19
- Columbus, OH – April 25-26
- Oakland, CA – May 2-3
- Los Angeles, CA – May 9-10
- Atlanta, GA – May 16-17

*We will train over 2,500 people to put their faith into action
and LIVE FREE!!!*

The Year of the LORD's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)



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