



The Albany Movement

By Trustee Keith A. Parker

Day 32
March 30, 2023

Read Romans 8:28

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Critical Race Facts!

Although the Civil Rights Act of 1875 and Supreme Court rulings banned racial discrimination in jury selection, local officials barred African Americans from serving on juries. African Americans “virtually disappeared from the Southern jury box by 1900, even in counties where they constituted an overwhelming majority of the local population, which reinforced the impunity under which lynching flourished. The fairness of the judicial system was wholly compromised for African American, and the courts operated as tools of their subjugation.

Today’s Prayer Concerns:

Lord, we thank You for the many people and organizations that you have placed in our lives to make us whole. Thank You for the movements that we have been able to observe, and participate in. Help us to forever work in and through movements that enables us to be the person and people that you have called us to be for such a time as this. In Jesus name, amen.

The Albany Movement was the first mass movement in the modern Civil Rights Era. It began in the fall of 1961 and ended in the summer of 1962. Its goal was the desegregation of an entire community. It resulted in the jailing of more than 1,000 Black Americans in Albany, and surrounding counties.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was drawn into the movement in December of 1961, when hundreds of Black protesters, including himself, were arrested in one week. Eight months later, Dr. King left Albany admitting that he had failed to accomplish the movement’s goals.

Even though the Albany movement may not have met its goals, it laid the blueprints for other movements, like Selma, Birmingham, Montgomery and the March on Washington. I applaud the people of Albany especially the young people who had the courage to stand up for themselves!

Now I see our young standing up again! Their standing up in the Black Lives Matters Movement. Amanda Gorman is our new Maya Angelou. Quotes by Amanda include: “There is always light, if only you are brave enough to see it;” “The only approval you need is your own;” and “For while we have eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.”

We can never forget our history. If we do, we will be doomed to Repeat Our Past!

Questions to Ponder

- What’s the difference between an activity, event and a movement?
- What movement have you been actively involved in?
- What was the long-term impact on the movement?
- How have you grown from your involvement in the movement?

