



The Reverend Jessie Jackson

By Sister Barbara Thompson

Day 35
April 3, 2023

Read Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Critical Race Fact!

The presence of federal troops in the South during the Reconstruction era acted as a penetrable dam holding back some of the violence, political suppression, and racist rhetoric employed by those intent on restoring white supremacist rule. The premature withdrawal unleashed a pent-up wave of violence that easily topped the few remaining protective structures and left Black people cemented in an inferior economic, social, and political position. Southern state government set to work altering their constitutions to disenfranchise Black citizens and codify segregation. At the 1890 Mississippi Constitutional Convention, where all but one of the delegates were white, the intentional purging of Black people from the roll of eligible voters was a top priority.

Today’s Prayer:

Lord, thank you for guiding our lives even when we were too young to know it. Now that we are old enough to know it, please guide our steps day by day. In Jesus name, amen.

God has a purpose and a plan for every person. He is always working in your life, and He does not waste a second of our life from the beginning to the end. Reverend Jesse Jackson, a Civil Rights Activist, was born in Greenville, South Carolina, which is also my birthplace. We were in walking distance to the Jackson’s home.

As a very young girl, I was not aware that God was placing me in places that would help shape my life and cause me to make decisions for the betterment of my life as I grew older. I remember my mother would send my sisters and me to Mrs. Helen Jackson’s beauty shop (Mrs. Jackson was also the mother of Jessie Jackson). While there, I remember hearing the words “Civil Rights,” “Injustice,” “Rights,” and “Fairness,” constantly in Mrs. Jackson’s beauty shop.

As time went on, I noticed posters about Jesse Jackson, a Civil Rights Activist and founder of Operation P.U.S.H., being placed on the walls inside the beauty shop, until there were no spaces left. She would always talk about her son, Jesse Jackson. She would tell the ladies, or whoever came into the beauty shop, how her son was making a difference for civil rights for Blacks, and he was marching with Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. She would always make sure everyone who entered her shop left with a P.U.S.H. button. Mrs. Jackson would share the information of how her son, Jesse, wanted to help make a change in our city, Greenville, S.C., and other cities throughout the country. I have never forgotten that experience. This is a small snippet of my life, however, God used this to make a difference in my life in so many ways.

Questions to Ponder

1. Name a civil rights figure that you have a connection with.
2. How has that connection inspired you?
3. How have you shared your connection with others?
4. How has that connection challenged you to work in the area civil rights for all people?

