Delivering Our Promise to Black Males

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While none of us is perfect or free from anti-social behaviors, some of our black boys are confronted with a tragedy of occurrences that land them either in jail or dead! Many are confronted with a spirit of low self-worth or a sense of arrogance that is often negative or destructive. Being a high school dropout or failing academically is commonplace for many black boys, with drug deaths/acts of violence their expected reality.

Scholars have written, practitioners are engaged, and do-gooders invest energy in working with black males to help them overcome social pressures and self-inflicting wounds. The question to be asked: Is there anything that can be done to stop the trajectory of hopelessness, terror, and dispiritedness in the lives of our black boys?

I offer the following strategies to help and to assist black boys in realizing that they are a part of America and deserve the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**Mentoring:** In addition to pairing black boys with mentors, let’s pair black fathers with mentors; fathers need the support and modeling.

**Sunday Schools:** Every Sunday School needs to be redesigned to focus on literacy and comprehension. Keep in mind that the scriptures are laden with literary concepts and opportunities for discussion; this will bring the community and school together.

**End the academic excuses:** Parents and the community must hold black boys accountable for their learning; value is placed on sports and the church; we must expect the same for academics. When success is not achieved in schools, failure awaits in the streets!

**Modeling by Relatives:** Engage with members of families; be the model and support for our little cousins; that little boy at the family reunion, he needs you; develop mentoring programs with your family; start in your own village.

While the above practices may not be a recipe for curing what ills black boys, it surely can provide relief for many of them. We cannot give up! We must avail ourselves to as many positive practices as possible. I wonder if saving black boys is an option. Is it?

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