

## Struggle in Black Communities

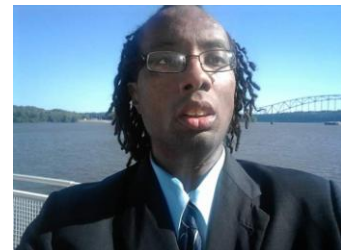


I have been a political advocate and social conservative on economic issues. People should be better with jobs and receiving a paycheck. People do not need to be satisfied getting fixed income from the federal government. Why do you want to be part of the system and receive a government check? When you get SSI and SSDI from the federal government, the income is too low and called broke income.

People cannot enjoy life with spending money while living on SSI and SSDI. SSI and SSDI income are too strict of a budget every month. When people receive SSI and SSDI income, they live with family or homeless shelters. People live on SSI and SSDI are stuck living at homeless shelters because it is hard to save or get an apartment with SSI and SSDI. Federal spending and debt is high because it is too many millennial and African-Americans living on SSI and SSDI income.

### My Personal Story of Well-Being

When I was living on SSI income as main income from the federal government, I was struggling financially on daily basis. When I rent apartments in Detroit, Cleveland and East Iowa, I had financially problems furnishing my own apartment and living on food stamps. When I lived in Dubuque, I had financial problems furnishing the apartment with very little money left over after paying rent, utilities and cable bill. I applied for energy assistance as an Iowa resident. It means I did not have to pay electricity during the winter months. I was living on a struggling and limited budget in Dubuque, so I had to shop for some household items at the local thrift store and visit church every other Saturday that gave away free household items to low-income people. Apartment in Dubuque already came with a good sofa bed for me to sleep on, so I did not have to buy a bed. When I was living in Chicago, I was living in poverty and living financially squeezed on fixed income. I had to borrow money from family every week for extra money. I had to borrow money from family for public transportation to get home. I fell into extreme poverty while I attended DePaul University as an undergraduate student because my financial aid paid half of my tuition based on my financial aid award. I was accepted at DePaul University as a transfer student in December 2010. I started at DePaul University winter 2011 quarter as a Political Science major. I started out as full-time student at Harold Washington College as a Political Science major. I started out using my parents' income on my financial aid until I was eligible to apply for financial aid as an independent. I used to get four hundred (\$400) dollar financial aid refunds when I used my parents' income during the financial aid application process up to 2004. After I applied for financial aid as an independent during financial aid application process, I received nine hundred to one thousand (\$900-1000) refund checks each semester at the City Colleges of Chicago up to fall 2010. I tried to apply for work-study at the



time, but I was not eligible for work-study because my estimated family contribution for my financial aid award was zero. Also, I attended Chicago State University after DePaul University taking classes as a Management major. I used to get three thousand (\$3000) financial aid refunds each semester as a student at Chicago State University. When I moved out of Chicago, my personal financial situation got little bit better. I was still somewhat struggling financially because I was living on low and fixed income in east Iowa.



I was an undergraduate student when I started working at United Parcel Service (UPS) in June 2008. I worked as a part-time package handler in Hodgkin's, Illinois. I worked in the West Primary area of the warehouse as an unloader. I rose up to become a good employee while working at United Parcel Service (UPS) because I used to unload trailer under an hour and scanned

packages weighing seventy pounds or more. Sometimes supervisors chose me to go help other supervisors in other areas of the warehouse get their trailers down at the end of the sort. When I worked at United Parcel Service (UPS), I had to work three different sorts because my school schedule at City Colleges of Chicago always changed each semester. I started out on day shift when I got hired as a part-time package handler because my classes at City Colleges of Chicago-Malcolm X College were in the evening. My work schedule at United Parcel Service (UPS) was 10:00 AM-2:00 PM during summer 2008 semester. My shift at United Parcel Service (UPS) had to change to night because my classes were during day and evening. My work schedule at United Parcel Service (UPS) was 10:00 PM-2:00 AM during fall 2008 semester. My shift at United Parcel Service (UPS) had to change to twilight during the remaining time I worked United Parcel Service (UPS). My work schedule at United Parcel Service (UPS) was 5:00-9:00 PM starting spring 2009 semester my classes at City Colleges of Chicago met in the morning and afternoon. I had to quit the job as part-time package handler because my schedule was too busy. I was serving as an elected officer on student government at Malcolm X College. I was a union employee at United Parcel Service (UPS).

I started my own business and nonprofit organization called Putting America Back to Work Movement in Chicago. My high school Aaron Yates was my Vice President. I was the President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization. The organization was discontinued in February 2014 because it was a grassroots organization with no money. The organization was discontinued because the organization had problems getting grants with tax-exempt status from the State of Illinois and Internal Revenue Service (IRS). I started and opened the doors of my own congregation in September 2014 called Baptist Church of Douglass Park on Westside of Chicago. Congregation transitioned to Detroit with name change to Lord Jesus Christ Community Baptist Church, but church still do homelessness and low-income outreach in Chicago helping homeless people and low-income Americans. I used to manage personal grassroots organization as an undergraduate student on Southside of Chicago called Pastor Hobson Homelessness Initiative helping the homeless and low-income Americans with food,

clothing, and personal care packages. Pastor Hobson Homelessness Initiative expanded to Global Homelessness Initiative in 2014.

## **My Religious Life and Beliefs**

I have become spiritual in 2011 because I needed to have faith and call on God and Holy Spirit. I needed God and Holy Spirit to come into my life to save myself from sin, flesh, temptation and forgive me for my past sins. I needed God to come into my heart and soul to have the fruit of the spirit in my heart forever. First, I attended First Baptist Church of Hammond in Hammond, Indiana in June 2011 to June 2012. I prayed at the altar at the end of every Sunday service with deacons.



Diacons at the church mentored me about how to become spiritual, pray to God, having faith in God and living a life in Christ. I started out becoming a cheerful giver at the church by giving to the Lord. I got baptized at the church on September 4, 2011. I started out attending Sunday school at the church. I did not live in Northwest Indiana, but I traveled to the church every Sunday to attend services and Sunday school. I attended and became member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago later. I stop attending First Baptist Church of Hammond June 2012. I started attending Salem Baptist Church of Chicago in June 2013 when I attended new members orientation and evangelism training in the Membership Development Ministry during new members program.



Reverend James Meeks motivated and inspired me to become an evangelical today, but I believe he used to hate on me when I was a member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago. I learned how to become a cheerful giver and meaning of the fruit of the spirit from his preaching. I became highly-motivated as a member of his congregation. I never met Reverend James Meeks in person because he was not friendly to me and always hated on me while other people on staff were always friendly to me. I learned how to be a disciple from Reverend Meeks preaching. I learned how to worship and be a good steward to God and Holy Spirit from Reverend Meeks preaching. I attended bible study and Sunday services as a member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago. I learned how to take risks while worshipping and serving a good steward to God. I learned about the Tabernacle from Reverend Meeks preaching. I was a volunteer in Homelessness Ministry as member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago to help feed homeless men and women in Roseland area on Southside of Chicago. I was a volunteer and attended Celebrate Recovery program as member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago. I started reading bible more as member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago because Reverend Meeks was a good pastor and teacher of the Holy Spirit. I graduated as new member of Salem Baptist Church of Chicago in June 2014. I stopped attending services at Salem Baptist Church of Chicago in January 2015 because I had financial problems with public transportation getting to church on Sunday. I still prayed to God and believe God provided

me a breakthrough to move out of Chicago to east Iowa. That's why I do not want Reverend Meeks to become overseer of my congregation.

### **My Political Experience and Advocacy**



My political experience and personality started as volunteer for Obama Presidential Campaign in 2008. I became highly-motivated in politics as a volunteer for Obama Presidential Campaign in 2008. I started out as a registered Democrat as a Chicago resident before I became an Independent. I supported Barack Obama to become the first black President of United States of America. I supported Barack Obama for President because our economy was in recession. I supported Barack Obama for President in 2008 because I supported change. I believe in Barack Obama as the change candidate in 2008. I support Barack Obama getting this country out of recession in 2009 with the economic stimulus that done very little for the economy. I supported Barack Obama and Obama administration fair housing policy for affordable housing, but I believe it could have went further to provide more affordable housing with month-to-month rent, hold landlords that act like slumlords accountable, reduce homeless populations at homeless shelters. I opposed the complete Iraq withdrawal strategy because it caused more chaos in Iraq. I supported Barack Obama for President in 2008 because he opposed war in Iraq. I opposed Barack Obama and Obama administration on taxes, defense, homeland security and healthcare. I supported the Paris Climate Accord because I believe in climate and global warming is a threat to our way of life on earth. I support President Obama strategy to capture and kill Osama bin Laden. I voted for Barack Obama for President in 2012. I voted and supported Bernie Sanders in 2016 Democratic Primary because he was the change candidate. I became a Bernie or bust voter after Bernie Sanders did not win Democratic nomination along with other Bernie Sanders supporters in 2016. I supported Bernie Sanders in 2016 because I like his standing on free public college, global warming and climate change, healthcare, ending private prisons and mass incarceration.