

WE PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Dear God, we pray today for our children. We do not want to rehearse the contours and details of the troubles which this world has for them. We do, however, think it necessary to rehearse the story of your gifts in the lives of women and men who worked against great odds to make a difference in this world. We thank you for women and men who opened their minds to invention, discovery, and social change. We thank you for women and men who opened their hearts to your spirit of novelty, creativity, and courage.

So, we pray for our children who are subjects of their own future and who have the power and potential to turn a climate of hate into an atmosphere of mutual respect and corporate love and justice.

We brood over their tender lives in light of the long line of history makers, change agents, movers and shakers—some scientists, some inventors, some writers, some politicians, some teachers, but all examples of what you can do again through young lives exposed to the spirit of your excellent will for a new earth and a new heaven.

Prayers over Trouble Waters

Let the spirit of Alex Haley and Toni Morrison live again in the gifts and potentials of Jamal and Jacki and Samera and LaDonya and Mya.

Let the courage and fortitude of Fannie Lou Hamer and Andrew Young find a home in the hearts of Shanel and Simeon and Zaria and Jackson and Marquis and Carlwell.

Let the genius and brilliance of Katherine Johnson and George Washington Carver be active in the studies and research of Makala and Malachi and Melody and Marshawn and Mia and Clair.

Let the dreams of Langston Huges and Martin Luther King, Jr. find new voice in the lives of Tamara and Donyell and Princess and Monet and Ashley.

Let the freedom songs of Bernice Reagan Johnson be revised and sung with confidence in children's choirs and youth choirs in churches that are justice centered.

Let the model preaching of Reverend Joseph Lowery and Reverend Prathia Hall be studied and exemplified in the spoken words of Kingston and Lisa and LaDarius and Xavier and Selah and Clayton.

Let the hard work and dedication and consistency of public service in the lives of John Wiley Price, Kathlyn Gilliam and Yvonne Ewell be incarnated in the aspirations of Constance and Michael and Micah and Jamilla and Jerrion and Joycelyn and Hilton.

Let the no-nonsense logic and follow-through of teachers like Dr. Milton King Curry, Jr. and Dr. Melvin J. Banks and Dr. Thelma Thompson and Mrs. Dorothy Holloman be prized by high school and college students like Andrea and Bandera and Carmichael and Denzel and Ephraim and Thomas.

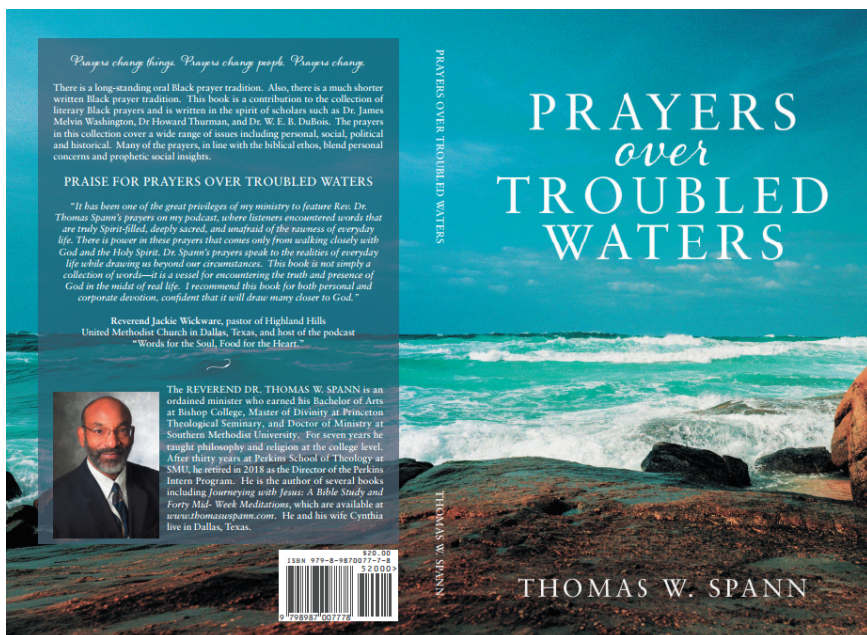
Let the social justice fighting spirit of Bishop William Barber and Reverend Liz Theoharis and Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett find a habitation in the thoughts and prayers and ambitions and

deeds of Carlton and Consuela and Frazier and Garrett and Graylon and Victoria.

Let commitment to human rights like that of Bishop Desmond Tutu and commitments to civil rights like that of Justice Thurgood Marshall and commitment to social justice like that of Mr. Bryan Stevenson and Judge Constance Baker Motley be the guide of young people who want to see a better world—young people like Renee and Reese and Raynard and Rebecca and Reba.

We commit the hopes and dreams of young people to you, O God. We know that they will succeed at some things; fail at others; make mistakes along the way; will get up and try again. Let them not settle for less than their God-given best.

Create in them a heart for learning. Renew in them a love for family. Remind them daily that your faithfulness endures forever, and that they can trust you to be their teacher, guide, counselor, and ever-present help. Amen.



Prayers Over Troubled Waters