

Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Climate Stewardship and Justice

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, September 16, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

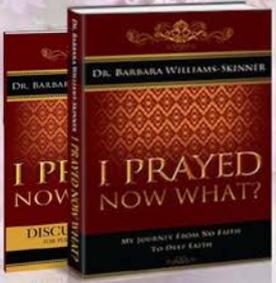
O Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your mighty power and outstretched arm. You created a world of exquisite, indescribable beauty, and fashioned us as humans in your image and likeness. The image of God consists of knowledge, reason, and righteousness, and expresses itself in creative human stewardship and dominion over the earth. Even more, you commanded us to care for the wondrous world you magnificently created. You blessed the first humans and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it." You charged them, and now us, to care for it in ways that advance your heavenly kingdom on the earth so that all living things survive and thrive.

Forgive us today, O God, for squandering the accountability and moral authority you extended to us by polluting your earth to such a hazardous level that all human, plant, and animal life are now imperiled. Forgive us for putting human profit above climate care and proper stewardship of the earth by making an idol of fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases unsafely warming the earth. Help us to understand that climate change's damaging social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations. Wake us up, O Lord, to see that the fires now setting California, Oregon, Washington states ablaze, burning 4 million acres, killing 34 persons, and reducing thousands of homes to embers are a sign of a dangerously warming earth.

We pray right now for leaders of the western states uniting and seeking emergency solutions to the historic fires. We pray for every person who lost their home, those mourning loss of life, and for those who were homeless before the fires now made even more destitute. Help us, Lord to use the wisdom you generously shower on us to listen to the scientists and urgently seek new, responsible alternatives for fueling human life and industry. Help us each as to do our part to care for the earth. In your mighty and precious name, we pray. Lord God, AMEN!

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer to Put On the Full Armor of God

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, September 1, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

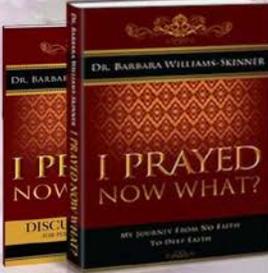
Almighty God, Creator of all that lives, we bow before you in the heaviness of heart over the wretched state of our great nation. Hate, racial slurs, and shouts of praise go out daily from the Peoples' House to White vigilantes, state-sanctioned killer cops, White supremacists, and White people weaponizing police against Black people without reason. We are in a life and death struggle for the very soul of America and the endurance of our fragile democracy. God, you are strong, and you want your people to be strong. So, we who fight for a nation big enough for all your children now put on the full armor of God so we will be able to stand up to every evil and cunning attack by those captured in a dizzying spirit of hate and bigotry.

Shore up our hearts, minds, and spirits, right now, O God, for we are up against far more than we can handle on our own. Just laws and public policies ensuring freedom are on the books. But we, Black Americans and our allies are up against the deadly notion that Black citizens have no right to be in an America built up by the blood, toil and tears of our ancestors. We are up against hateful actions to reverse longstanding fair housing measures and instill fear in White suburbanites that Black people are the enemy against whom they have every right to take up arms to protect life and property, even as the suburbs grows more diverse.

Today, we "put on the armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10) beginning with the power of love over hate. Today, we clothe ourselves with the armor of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. And, today, we arm ourselves with your word, and the indispensable power of prayer, even as we utilize the weapon of our vote for leaders committed to a fair and just nation for all your people. This is our solemn petition to a prayer-answering God. In your mighty and matchless name, we pray, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Free, Fair, and Safe Elections

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, August 19, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

Awesome and Almighty God, your word calls us to “be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution,” so we thank you for the precious institution for voting in our American democracy. We praise you for moving our nation to ensure the ballot for women 100 years ago, and for Black Americans 55 years ago.

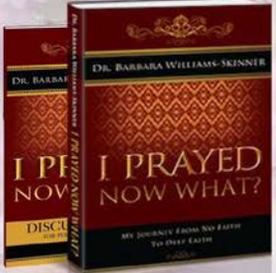
By your power and might, you raised trailblazers like Fannie Lou Hamer and John Lewis, whose life sacrifices helped secure our citizenship right to vote our convictions and values. We thank you, O Creator God, for breathing life into every human and shaping each one in your divine image and likeness. But now O God, your heavenly image is under severe assault by wicked leaders using devious and deceptive schemes to deny the sacred power of the vote for vulnerable voters.

With the deadly COVID-19 plague still draining the life, livelihood, and hope out of your people---too many citizens of color and the poor---we appeal to you, the God of our weary years, and silent tears. We plead with you, O Lord, to sustain us that we do not give up, give in, or give out against the rising tide of racially motivated plots to reverse over five decades of civil and human rights progress in our nation.

Remind us in our weariness that no devil in hell or evil power on earth can withstand your unshakable and immovable power and might. With only a few months before America’s national election, wake us up to prophet Elisha’s prayer, “O God open my servant’s eyes to see there are more with us than against us.” Strengthen us to move past our soundless fears to use every possible means to vote in November whether virtually by mail or safely at the polls for the good of all your people, and for our precious, yet fragile democracy. In your matchless and mighty name, we pray, Lord Jesus, AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for High Character Leaders

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, August 13, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

Loving and Merciful God, you created a model for transformational leadership through the earthly life of Jesus, rooted in care for the despised, the lowly, and the forgotten.

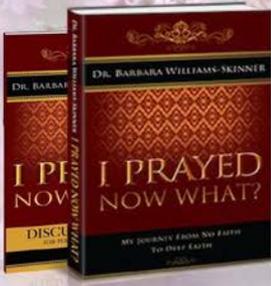
In our nation, with power in the hands of self-seeking, self-promoting, and self-indulging leaders, we pray today, O God, for you to show yourself strong on behalf of the voiceless, the widows, the fatherless, and immigrants of color, blocked at our shores. We pray against indifference by those in power to children in zip codes targeted for neglect, to the elderly forgotten in nursing homes, and to prisoners of color left mercilessly in COVID-19 "hot spots" while white prisoners with connections in high places go free.

King Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs 21:13 reminds us that "Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need." Proverbs 29:2 instructs us that "When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked are in power, they groan." For years, loving God, we have witnessed with sadness and disgust, the high cost of unethical leaders, trampling daily on core values that made our nation strong---kindness, mercy, justice in courts, care for the vulnerable, and respect for the law.

O Lord hear our plea to raise up compassionate leaders rooted in righteousness, who identify with the oppressed, and those victimized by structural racism. Listen to our cry for leaders of godly character and high emotional intelligence who are committed to lifting those at the bottom to the standard of decency and dignity worthy of a just nation. Almighty God, you are the supplier of every need, the healer of every hurt, and restorer of lives too long devalued. We declare and decree that leaders will come forth whom you instruct, who calibrate their moral compass to your holy word over politics and personal gain, and for men and women in authority who seek after your own heart. We pray this prayer in your matchless, mighty, and magnificent, Lord God. Amen.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Facing Mounting Hardships

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, August 5, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

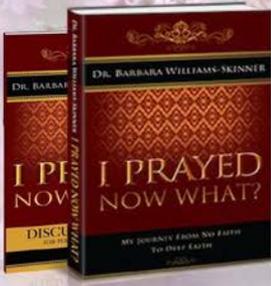
Compassionate and Merciful God, whose unfailing love knows no bounds, we come to you today on behalf of those suffering hardships through no fault of their own. Loving God, 37 million of your children today are unemployed, 4.8 million are infected, 157,000 dead from the devastating coronavirus and from government inaction, indifference, and inattentiveness to the cries of those suffering indescribable hardships and unimaginable suffering. We petition you, as well, on behalf of the millions reporting their households lack food, are behind in their rent, and are now facing eviction in the world's wealthiest nation.

Lord, the decision to provide a life-line of emergency jobless funds is now before lawmakers who have the power to immediately address these significant hardships. Merciful Maker of heaven and earth, you hold the hearts of the rulers and decision-makers in the palm of your hand. Bend down O Lord and hear. Reach down, O Righteous Savior, on behalf of those made vulnerable by an invisible, life-shattering virus, exposing historic health inequities that cause Black and Brown people to get sicker and die quicker than anyone else. Act quickly, loving God, on behalf of first responders and essential workers daily in harm's way.

Lord, on their behalf of children soon returning to school, we pray your hedge of protection over their lives and the lives of teachers and family members alike from COVID-19. Today, we who are called by your name, stand in the gap and cast their burdens and the burdens of all who face financial and health challenges on you, for your promise to sustain them. We pray for all who mourn today as deaths from the pandemic mount nationwide daily touching people of every background, for your promise to comfort them. Give hear to their cries; be the provision for their needs, be joy in their sorrows, and the opener of doors shut to the supply of help they need, for you are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. In your strong and powerful name, we pray, Lord God. AMEN

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Peace in Life's Storm

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, July 29, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

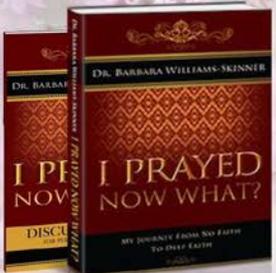
O Lord, my God, Caretaker of my soul, Sustainer of all who live, I love you my strength my rock of safety, and my refuge in life's storms. You promise to keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on you. When I think about the blessing of sheltering safely in place for six months, sustained by the Giver of every good and perfect gift, with a healthy body, food on my table, my rent paid, and my family safe, I find a degree of continual peace and undying gratitude in this present COVID-19 storm.

Still, O God, my heart is disturbed, my mind restless, and my spirit troubled by the 5 million people who have lost health insurance, over 4 million infected by a coronavirus, thousands of businesses closed, 50 million fellow citizens out of work, and many now mourning over 150,000 dead from the virus. My tears are unending for disproportionate infections and deaths of Black people victimized due to systemic health disparities. Like the prophet Ezekiel, on their behalf, I am standing in the gap claiming your promise to be peace in their storm, joy in their sorrow, supply to their need, and help in their time of trouble.

And, God, while I'm talking to you, may I also throw in my deep-seated concern for millionaire and billionaire leaders who have already raked in their share of our nation's treasury, now begrudging millions of struggling, jobless, and desperate citizens emergency stimulus care to sustain them during the pandemic? The heart of the ruler is in your hand. So, I appeal to you Almighty God, to turn stony hearts into hearts of compassion, that millions of distressed Americans might find a small measure of peace in this present storm caused by an invisible, but deadly enemy. O Lord hear, not because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy, and your promise to answer those who call on you in faith. In your Holy and Righteous Name, I pray Lord, God. AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for John Lewis's Life and Legacy

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, July 20, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

God of our weary years. God of our silent tears. We humble our hearts before you in a spirit of gratitude for the amazing life and powerful legacy of Congressman John Lewis. Lord, we have no words to thank you for his nearly sixty years of anointed, and prophetic public witness for justice and righteousness, as he now, in the words of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, 'dances with the angels'.

We praise you, O Merciful God, for protecting John Lewis's life 55 years ago, when at the age of 23, he led 600 peaceful marchers from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama protesting the denial to Black Americans of the sacred, citizenship right to vote. Thank you. Lord Jesus, for shielding him despite life-threatening blows to his head on that Bloody Sunday, so that he might model for decades the unconditional love of God shed abroad in his heart to drive out hate.

We praise you, Dear God, for John Lewis's "good trouble," and "necessary trouble," of laying down his life seeking to change a nation that values some lives more than other lives, in disobedience to your divine image in every person. Our national and world community are forever indebted to a true servant leader for laying down his life to end America's systemic racism and poverty against people of color and poor whites.

Help us now, O God, to do more than memorializing his well-lived life, or quoting his many inspiring messages. May we act with equal passion as our John Lewis acted in the face of structural inequities – "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." In your mighty, matchless, and marvelous name, we pray, Lord God, AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

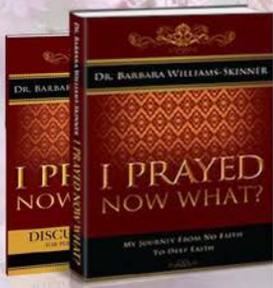
I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.

Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Healing Our Nation of Violence

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, July 13, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

O Lord, our GOD, your name is excellent, and your ways are past human understanding. Thank you for lovingly making a perfect and majestically beautiful world and creating every human person in your divine image, and dignity. But now O God, sin in the human heart has unleashed an unimaginable tsunami of violence. Instead of peace, kinship, love, and hope, our nation is overwhelmed by gun-violence; gender-based assaults and sexual violence even on innocent children; countless police and white supremacists killing unarmed Black people; as the violence of poverty and systemic racism pollutes the land.

Lord, even the death angel of COVID-19, that has killed nearly 140,000 Americans, including a disproportionate number of Black and Brown people have not abated the avalanche of violence and have compounded unbelievable human suffering.

Not even the beautiful sight of a steady stream of nonviolent multiracial young protestors seeking just policing could drown out the stench of senseless violence.

In times like these, O Merciful God, we cry out in the spirit of the prophet Amos: "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream:"

- On Black people, seeking new bonds of respect and care for one another!
- On women and children seeking to be honored and protected, not violated!
- On Black Americans looking to live in full equality, in a land free of systemic racism!
- On police to begin protecting Black people the same way they protect White people.
- On White Americans to cease all hate-filled racial terror against Black people!
- On those caught in poverty, for the dignity of a living wage and sustenance.

Incline your ear to hear our prayers, O Merciful God, and rain down your healing power over our communities and our nation.

We, who are called by your name, do humble ourselves, pray, and seek your face, that you might hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land. In your powerful name we pray, Lord God. Amen

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

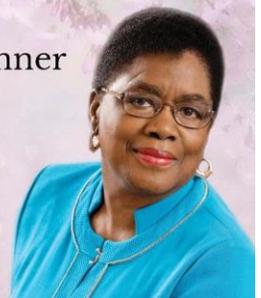
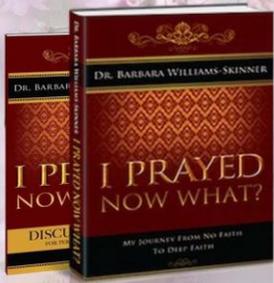
I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.

Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Social and Racial Justice

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, July 6, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

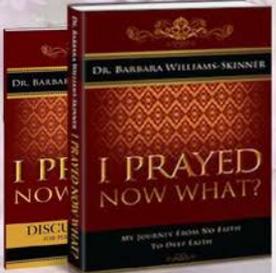
God of our weary years and silent tears, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand so that no one can withstand you. We, your children of color – African Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, and Asians American—come boldly to your throne of grace, to seek the power to resist and crush evil forces of racial bigotry and systemic injustice that have long stained our nation.

We have been magnificently created in your image and deserve to be treated with all the dignity and divinity in which you lovingly fashioned us. Instead, we have suffered the weighty power of systemic racism driven by greed for our land or our free labor used to build wealth and influence by those in power. In exchange, Lord God, we have received contempt and white supremacy-contrived measures, shaped into laws, policies, and practices that, for centuries, have crushed and dehumanized our people. Two hundred forty-four years after America's Independence, these laws are still manifest in systematic disparities in health, housing, wealth, criminal justice, banking, education, and other areas of life that impact people of color.

Lord, you do not show partiality and love all your children so much that you sent the Redeemer into our world to forgive sins and grant us the blessing of eternal life. Yet, human courts issuing unjust laws continue to fail us and sustain injustice. So, we appeal to you, the Chief Justice of the high courts of heaven, to rule from heaven so that earth must respond to the social and racial justice that freedom and equality now demand. Thank you, God, for answering the fervent prayers of our ancestors, and our prayers, by responding to the marching feet of multigenerational and multi-racial protesters demanding a re-constituted America where “we the people” includes your children of every hue and background. In your powerful and precious name, we pray, Lord God. AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Divine Favor

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, June 29, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

Loving God, robed in majesty, armed with strength, from everlasting to everlasting, I bow before you this day in a spirit of praise. Thank you for calling me to bear witness in my life and work to your incomparable power and awesome might that favors those who obey your commands.

I praise you today for all the times in my life that looked like defeat, devastation and disaster had the best of me. Those were the times when my health, my finances, and my family were severely threatened until you stepped in, and showered me with your divine favor and kindness. You set me high above my circumstances, made me the head and not the tail, above and not beneath, and when my enemies came at me one way you scattered them seven ways, for I follow your commands. Thank you for forgiving me when I fail, O Lord, and setting me on my feet again.

God, I am so grateful that the world cannot give or take away your divine favor over my life. The global pandemic daily destroys lives at levels that shatter the imagination. It is shutting down long-established businesses, prolonging human isolation, and throwing many hardworking Americans into Depression-era levels unemployment, hunger, and poverty. In times like these, I cling to the solid rock of your divine protection, For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—my faith. If it had not been for the Lord on my side, I would have perished a long time ago.

Because my heart is ever grateful that you look upon me with such kindness and favor, I am forever committed to standing in the gap and showing kindness to others who are struggling around me until you change their circumstances. In your mighty and powerful name, I pray,

Lord God, AMEN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Strength to Love

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, June 22, 2020

BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

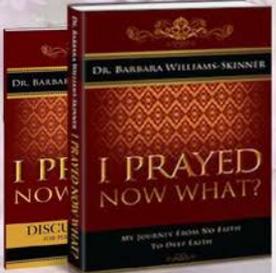
Loving God of all creation, clothed in splendor and majesty, how beautiful is the world you created for our habitation, reflecting the magnificence and power that is yours alone. In our sin-filled hearts and souls, we, your creation, earnestly desire to love as you love. Truthfully, we cannot even begin to grasp or even attain God-like capacity to love unconditionally, accept absolutely, or receive into our hearts completely all your children. Sadly, even our family and friendship ties are too often gift-wrapped in quid pro quo, conditions, and transactions.

Almighty God, we need your strength to love in our world wrought with human against human pain, suffering, exploitation, hatred, violence, and alienation. Your greatest commandment - 'to love you and every neighbor as we love ourselves' - is a daily indictment in a nation morphed into tribal separation by color, class, culture, generation, gender, and politics. God, forgive me for shutting up my love as in a bottle, dribbled out on those I judge worthy to receive it whether among family, workplace associates, those who happen my way, or in the broader world. Remind me that you love me so much that you have protected, blessed, healed, restored, sustained, favored, and provided for me through countless crises, and yes, you have also saved my sin-filled soul, while pouring out your love on me every day.

Merciful God, your word haunts me daily, "for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?" Help me now to draw on your strength that is made perfect in my weakness. Give me your strength to love, not only those who love me back but also those who may be indifferent or even hostile to my wellbeing, that I might help turn the stench of this world's hate into the flowering essence of your divine love. In your magnificent and mighty name, I pray, Lord God. AMEN

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Healing Our Nation

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, June 18, 2020, barbarawilliams-skinner.com

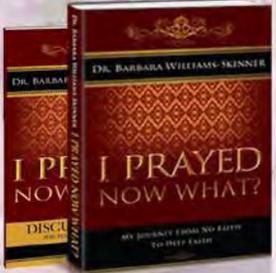
“O Lord of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are Creator. Sustainer. Maker. Ruler. Provider, and Merciful Protector. You are so powerful and mighty that one can stand against you!

For all of our earthly power, resources, intellect, and innovative capacity O God, we are powerless against the many challenges now facing our nation. We are greatly overwhelmed by the deepening and growing racial divide rooted in our nation’s shameful reality that African Americans are free by law, but neither equal nor accorded the same dignity and humanity, accorded to white Americans. We bind the spirit of fear now gripping our nation, in the wake of persistent police killings of unarmed Black men, and some women. Since your strength is made perfect in our weakness, we ask you to show yourself strong on behalf of African Americans, who built, sacrificed for, and loved a nation not ready to love them back. We are reminded by your word, to not grow weary in doing well, so help us, Lord, to stay on the battlefield until the promise of justice for all becomes the practice of justice in our land.

Hear our prayer, Merciful God, as we bow before for you, asking you to rain down your healing power over America. Even as we plead for healing our land, we thank you for hordes of young people of all races refusing to accept systemic racism, poverty, and injustice as the inheritance current generations want to hand down to them. We praise you for their courage and persistent nonviolent protests against long standing inequities, causing business and government entities to entertain real change at every level. We are the people, O God, who are called by your name; so, we humble ourselves, pray, and seek your face, that you might hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land. In your mighty, and powerful name we pray, Lord God. Amen.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer for Difference-Makers In Our Lives: Remembering Tom Skinner

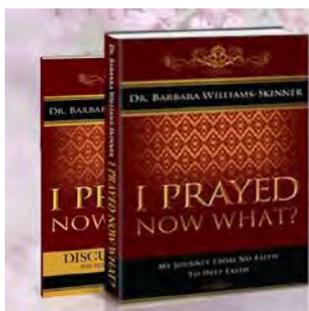
Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, June 6, 2020, barbarawilliams-skinner.com

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, we praise you for your mighty power acts of power, and excellent greatness. Thank you for giving us leaders of excellent greatness in times past, who gave you first place in their lives and used their talent to better our world. We praise you for raising up Tom Skinner 78 years ago from humble beginnings, to become one of the most influential voices of the 20th century, even as we reflect on the many difference-makers in our lives.

With grateful hearts, we are reminded of your amazing grace in Tom Skinner's own story of transformation from Harlem, New York gang life, to the life of one of the most powerful and passionate global messengers of Jesus's sacrificial death and redeeming love. Lord, we praise you for empowering him, for over 30 years, to take the message of Christ's love to every continent in the world and to more than 70 different countries. His anointed message spanned every age and cultural group as he spoke to children and young people with the same clarity that he spoke to mature adults. He spoke to white Americans with the same passion and intensity that he spoke to African Americans and Latino Americans.

You alone, Lord God, inspired Tom Skinner to advance the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, where there is no violence, racial bigotry, or poverty. You alone, O Righteous God, raised up this global bridge builder and anointed messenger of reconciliation who dedicated his life breaking down walls dividing age, economic status, race, and religion.

In our plague-filled world today, afflicted by the virus of racial and systemic injustice, help us Lord, to reflect in our lives the lessons of those who profoundly impacted and inspired us. Empower us to seize this fleeting moment with our national conscience heightened by a spiral of police killings of unarmed Black American men and women. Move on our hearts right now that we might redouble our efforts as bridgebuilders, agents of God's love, and advocates for justice, like the many amazing difference-makers in our lives. In the mighty and matchless name of the Lord, God Almighty. Amen.



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.

Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

A Prayer of Mourning and Reimagined Justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Abrey, and Breonna Taylor

JUNE 1, 2020

Prayer by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

NCNW National Chaplain and President of Skinner Leadership Institute

barbarawilliams-skinner.com

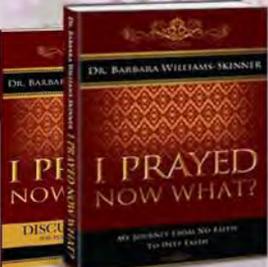
O Lord Our God, we bow before you, our Merciful Comforter, Consoler and Protector, in deep sorrow, weeping, wailing, and mourning the modern day public lynching of George Floyd, 46 year old African American father of two daughters, handcuffed, lying face down on a Minneapolis city street during an arrest, as Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer, callously kept his knee on Floyd's neck for almost 9 minutes snuffing out his cries of "I can't breathe" with the camera rolling.

We cry out to you Almighty God, with unending flood of tears and broken hearts for Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, jogging in his Georgia neighborhood; chased, shot down and killed by two white men, a father and son---not charged for 76 days

And, Loving, Merciful and Righteous God, we come to you in righteous indignation, intense anger, and unspeakable pain over the killing of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African-American woman, an emergency room technician, by Louisville, Kentucky policemen while sleeping in her bed.

These heartless deaths, like that of Emmett Till, 66 years ago; that of Rodney King over 30 years ago; and countless unarmed black people, were all killed by America's original sin---systemic racism that is a stench in your nostrils, O Righteous God. We cry out to you, Lord, God, over the lack of concern for Black lives and stand squarely on your promise in Romans 12:19 – "Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord." We thank you for the multi-generational and multi-racial allies pleading our case before you and the authorities across the land.

God, we implore you now, be merciful to us --- step up and step in as only you can with your strong arms and cause those in leadership to stop calling for peace until they have worked to dismantle systemic injustice that snuffed out the lives of these and others of your precious children. Help us Lord, not to return to a post-pandemic "normal" mired in inequality and injustice. Guide us instead to frame a new normal of freedom and equality that affirms in the hard days ahead, that until Black lives matter --- then no lives will truly matter – for all your children matter to you. In your matchless name we pray. AMEN



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer
NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com



Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

Prayer for Healing, Help, and Hope, During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner | March 27, 2020

O Lord Our God, whose ways are perfect; whose love is unconditional, and whose supply of everything needed for healing, help, and hope never, ever runs dry, we, bow our hearts, minds, bodies and spirit before you. In this new age of the deadly coronavirus pandemic that has brought America and much of the world to a literal halt, help us to look to the hills from which comes our help, knowing that our help comes from you the Maker of heaven and earth

With much of our nation now in quarantine help us to not let the physical distancing required to protect our health become human disconnection. Though we are required to be apart, help us to discover new ways, even virtual ways, to be together as a human community.

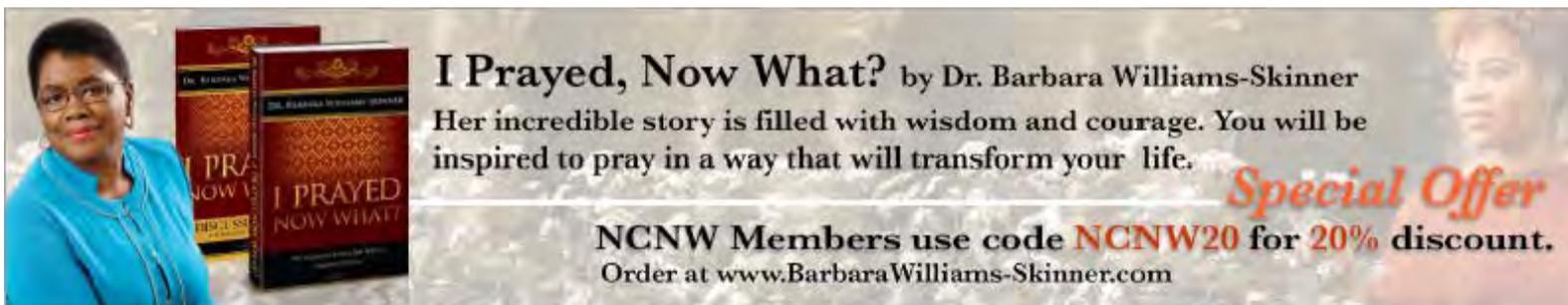
We praise you today O Lord for our wonderful leader, Dr. Cole and Director, Janis Mathis the Sister to Sister bond of National Council of Negro Women that binds us all. Let not fear, O Lord, not become our new way of life, for your word teaches that perfect love casts out fear.

Let not self-care not blind us from the need to care for the sickest and most vulnerable among us-the elderly especially those in nursing homes, the poor, those in already crowded prisons, in the true spirit of the Matthew 25. Let not ugly words, dear God, blame this virus on China instigate more racist attacks that have broken out against Asian people.

God of all Comfort, we implore you to comfort the hundreds who mourn the loss of loved ones to COVID-19, and provide real help for the millions displaced by an historic closure of nearly all businesses; Because Proverbs 21:1 reminds us that "the hearts of ruler is in the hand of the Lord," we call on you God to rule and reign in the hearts of congressional and executive branch leaders deliberating on measures to put money in the hands of Americans made more desperate by an enemy that would overwhelm the worlds vastest armies.

We pray to you, O Lord, the Great Physician, for health care workers frantically pleading for essential medical supplies while their own lives are at risk. We pray for families mourning those lost thru the virus; and those make desperate by the pandemic. We pray to You, O God, who promised to supply every need, for tests to be rapidly produced so those afflicted may be tested and provided care

We pray to you, O Lord, Giver of every good great gifts, for the gift of governors and mayors stepping up and providing strong leadership and creative solutions to the health, wellness, and safety of those they lead.



I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer
NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for **20%** discount.
Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

Nurturing the Spirit CORNER

Lord, Protect Me From the Pandemic

May 18, 2020

Prayer by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

NCNW National Chaplain and President of Skinner Leadership Institute

barbarawilliams-skinner.com

Almighty and awesome God, Creator of heaven and earth, thank You for Your unchanging love, your mighty acts of power and your healing virtue. Today, O God, with millions of your children afflicted and thousands dying from the invisible but devastating plague – COVID-19 - I pray your healing power over my body, that I not be afflicted by this virus.

Thank you, God for your promise that Jesus, Himself, bore my sins in his own body on the tree that I might die to sin and live to righteousness so that by his wounds, I have been healed.

By faith I claim your promise that I will prosper and be in good health even as my soul prospers. In the midst of all my distractions, anxieties, and stress about the impact of the pandemic on my life, my health, financial and the lives of those I love, help me to stop and recall words of the Psalmist, “let all that I am praise the Lord with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let that I am praise the Lord.”

Move me, O God, to turn off the continual daily stream of 24/7 bad news, leadership scandals, and political power-plays, that I might remember all the good things you do for me. And, help me God, to stop from my daily striving, quiet my heart, mind and spirit long enough, to thank you for forgiving all my sins, healing all my diseases, redeeming me from death, and crowing me with love and tender mercies. Amen!

Scripture References: 1 Peter 2.24; 3 John 2, Psalm 103.1-3 (New Living Translation)

I Prayed, Now What? by Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner

Her incredible story is filled with wisdom and courage. You will be inspired to pray in a way that will transform your life.

Special Offer

NCNW Members use code **NCNW20** for a **20%** discount.

Order at www.BarbaraWilliams-Skinner.com

