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Cc: EX-SakerUSA@yahogroups.com
Sent: Thu, Jul 1, 2010 9:21 am
Subject: [EX-SakerUSA] **YOU GET "PEOPLE"??**

"MAKE AH CALL YOU BACK, YAAH"!!

Tell the truth and shame the devil: how many times, in this lightning speed-paced, Cell phone, iPod, BlackBerry, TV age we live in, have you said those words to someone who called you, – sometimes BEFORE they even got a chance to tell you WHY they were calling? And by the way, how many times have you actually even made good on a "CALL YOU RIGHT BACK" promise the same day, week, month or even year?

If this had been winter time, sometime ah for try lie but na Hurricane Season dis wit plenty LIGHTNING so I can't afford to risk being struck. I have to admit that I am not only guilty of not calling back, but also of ignoring calls, with the "noble intention" of calling the person back later, and e dey go 5 and a half years now, and ah neva still call!!

Except everyone reading this is a Member In Good Standing of the "LIE DOG CLUB", there must be at least one person in the same "kenja" (or basket) as I am. The fact is that, most often, it is NOT that we dislike, (much less HATE), the person whose calls we use our caller IDs to "dodge". In fact, if they, (or someone else), asked us if we CARED about them, we would respond with a very emphatic "YES" but ... Somehow we just don't realize that we really do fall short when we stop at our "good intentions" instead of concretizing and transforming them into actual GOOD ACTS. I may have said this before, but I don't see any harm in saying it again: Our Bible would be at least one major book short if the Apostles, (after Jesus' Ascension), had limited themselves to just plans and intentions, no matter how LOFTY those intentions might have been! It is because they actually went out and fulfilled the Commission their Master gave them that we have this wonderful New Testament Book called THE ACTS (not "the awesome intentions") OF THE APOSTLES!

Let me explain wusaï ah comm'ot with this line of thought dis morning time. With no FIFA World Cup Game to tempt me to "hurry-hurry" over my usual morning scripture reading, I took my sweet time reading **JOHN 5**. It tells the story of the disabled man whom Jesus healed at the Pool of Bethesda. I am sure the story is just as familiar to you as it was to me but, what a difference "a little more focus and concentration" makes, especially when it is all backed up with some underlining or highlighting! I'll "recap" the story, for those for whom it just doesn't ring a bell:

There was this pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda, where multitudes of sick people – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed, etc. congregated because

"an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had."

Now, here comes JESUS. He sees this dude who had been disabled for **38** good years sitting there helplessly! Sango Yesu asks the man this really "strange" question: **"Do you want to be made well?"** Hah-ah???!!

If na me, my "sass mot" response is likely to have been one lo-o-ng suck teet(h) sigh first, then I would have gone on to ask: "Na which kind question dat, Oga? Ah no want healing before me

and mah makandi dey warm sun like dis? You check your own sey ah shiddon under dis hot sun so dey wait na Obama or weti?! Ah beg, pass go your own”!

Thank God, the man sensed he was talking to NO ORDINARY MORTAL and understood, (perceived really), that it would take an open, sincere and unequivocal “bettah no dey” acknowledgement of his NEED for healing to be “made whole”, and did NOT take that tone! Instead, he gives this really SAD explanation-type answer to Jesus’ question:

“Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

For me, de long and short of de whole pathetic matta na sey, **DE MAN NO BE GET E “PEOPLE”**; and that is really heart-breaking! FOR THARTY-EIGHT YEARS, MASSA??!!

Guess what?! My SBC-instilled **COMPARE & CONTRAST** genes kicked in so ah leff mah highlighter for dat page run go back one book to **LUKE 5**! That’s where the story of another paralytic is recorded. Here’s how things “went down” in this other dude’s case:

“Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

CHAI!!!! What a CONTRAST!

- Whereas **Jesus had to walk up and offer His help to** the JOHN 5 invalid sitting all alone by the pool having had NO ONE throughout his 38 year long infirmity to “take excuse” from work and get him into the pool for healing, the LUKE 5 paralytic **was brought to Jesus’ feet** by his “people”.
- These “people” were not just any kind of “up-up” friends oh! They certainly went to GREAT LENGTHS to help their friend. Though this Luke passage doesn’t say exactly how many men were involved, John Mark’s version of the same story as recorded in Mark 2 mentions the number 4! Already, the mere fact that there was more than one person involved gives me reason to believe that the whole “mission” had to be planned in advance, and was not a spur of the moment thing. The 4 had to have “a meeting of the minds” and unity of purpose, then all plan a rendez-vous agreeable to all, and finally “report for duty” and execute!
- These men encountered obstacles (some explicitly mentioned and others we can implicitly conjecture), but they did not let any of that discourage or hinder them from seeing their mission through to its very end. Just think about this:
 - . Moto no be dey dat time so they must have had to do a reasonable amount of “baba-ing” of their friend on the way there. (Mind you, na for Capernaum (as in “Middle East”) dem be dey and de heat for dey surely pass de one wey dey wait we for Houston!)
 - . They got to the house where Jesus was and there was a CROWD. At this juncture, I think I would have said “mah own don correct so”, thrown in the towel and headed home. Not this bunch! They huddled together, did some quick thinking, shouted out 2 or 3 **“BROOOO JAY!! HAYs!**, carried their friend up the steps (that were customarily built along the side of Middle Eastern homes in those days to access the roof) and then proceeded to dig out the mud and straw mix that made up the roof – obviously with their bare hands! (What I would surely like to know is weti dem be talk for de Landlord

or de homeowner regarding the GAPING HOLE - as in "by force SUN ROOF" they created, not to talk of all de duhty wey e be surely fall on top people their head for inside de house as the mud and straw were removed and the dude was lowered and dropped right for middle parlor!!!

- MOST STRIKING and TOUCHING to me however, are the words of verse 20! When Jesus saw **THEIR** FAITH, (not even the faith of de sickman e seff-seff oh!), He forgave the man his sins, asked him to pick up his mat and go home! Bottom line: Na for e friend deir back wey de man well! What a deserving "KONDOH" and endorsement of the faith of those friends!

I have never questioned the soundness of "investing" in people, or debated the benefits that flow from "HAVING PEOPLE", and after reading and reflecting on these 2 passages, I am certainly NOT inclined to do so. Instead, I think my time would be more profitably spent not just THANKING TAT'IWONDE for the "PEOPLE" I do have, (a whole host of them provided by Him to me courtesy of this unique sisterhood), but imploring Him to endow me with the qualities it does take to **BE** someone else's "PEOPLE"!