

# 44TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION - EMPOWERMENT

BY NOEL PINNOCK

The era of mediocrity and special interest have come to an end with the epoch of integrity and a strong sensitivity to Americans across our country; America is reborn and restored to the very fabrics that have been woven together by our ancestors in years past. This country has always revered the 1776 concept of E Pluribus Unum...that with a salad bowl of different nationalities, ethnicities, religions, languages etc. we can exist together in harmony while working for the common good for all, not simply the majority. This is counterintuitive to the utilitarian perspective.

The 44th Presidential Inauguration means a lot to me in many different ways. It means the genesis of a stronger government who ties to its people is at the forefront of its framework. Government being a divine institution was designed and implemented by God. I can remember the life of Moses who was charged with leading the Israelites out of the bondage of slavery into the promise land that was flowing with milk and honey. This could have been a daunting task if it were not for his father-in-law, Jethro, who advised Moses on the intricacies of government in one of the canonical books, Exodus. This example help mold and shape the way we operate our nation. Conversely, we have witnessed rise and erosion of our government. We have seen a government that has grown callous and insensitive to the very people it was created to protect and serve. We have seen it turn its back on the poor and the needy while standing for the rich and greedy. It has crippled the middle class and made more dependent the lower class. This inauguration will provide us a beacon of HOPE that President-elect Obama has proclaimed throughout his successful bid for the highest office in our land.

The 44th Presidential Inauguration means empowerment with an emphasis on equity and equality. It represents the rebirth of our sovereign

nation tantamount to the mythological Phoenix who returned from its ashes renewed, stronger and better. For decades, we have seen the rise of inequities and equalities at all levels. I strongly believe it started at the top, the White House and trickled down and has infected our school boards, commissioner's courts, homeowner's associations, etc. This is clearly indicative when you review voter turnout statistics in local, state, federal elections. The American people (present company included) has longed for a reason to reignite our passion to serve our country. In memory of President John F. Kennedy's infamous and inaugural, address in 1969. "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man. Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own." - John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America

Four decades later, these words are even more applicable then as they are now.

The 44th Presidential Inauguration means a lot to me but it mostly means that America can truly embrace the differences of its people and classes as well as businesses and industries while providing a straighten pathway to the inalienable road of life, liberty, in the pursuit of happiness we all not only dream of but also deserve. God bless President-elect Barack Obama, Vice President-elect Joe Biden, America and its people as well as the world.