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## ***Resilient Spirituality***

***- We at the Spirituality  
Network stand with  
#Black Lives Matter.***

Our vision  
statement ***"Awakened  
Lives, Transforming the  
World"***

makes clear our  
commitment.



240 Million Slaves Ago, Quilt by Ms. V. Poitier © 2013

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We stand with those calling for justice and equality. We affirm that, by almost any measure, 400 years is too long to wait to be regarded as fully human. We affirm that along any timeline, 1619 - 1865 - 1965 - 2020, the time has come. We bow our heads and raise our hands in affirming that Black lives most certainly do matter.

In August of 2019, the Spirituality Network hosted an event commemorating the 400th anniversary of Africans in America, the August 1619 trade of more than 20 Africans for

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supplies, in what is now Virginia. That transaction which began here on our shores over 400 years ago would become the American system of race-based slavery.

The event we hosted, with the support of community partners, “**400 Years Africans in America: I Am an Answered Prayer**”, lamented the long walk to freedom and the resilient spirit that has sustained our African American sisters and brothers over the last 400 years. We believe those kidnapped and enslaved Africans must surely have prayed for freedom. A prayer that has echoed down through generations.

As we stood with descendants of enslaved Africans, the beneficiaries of those prayers for freedom, we celebrated and acknowledged that the Spirituality Network must endeavor to work toward healing this almost unspeakable trauma.

We could not have imagined that in less than a year the nation would be in the throes of a global pandemic and a movement for racial justice – one new, the other all too familiar but somehow, different. The pandemic exposed disparities well known to some, and yet has begun to open the eyes and the hearts of many more to the impact of centuries of white privilege. The cry for racial justice, also familiar to many, is reverberating in a way that feels different to us in this moment. Our prayer is that this moment, is a new beginning for us all.

Building on our mission: “**Grounded in the source of all creation, the Spirituality Network seeks to cultivate the awakened life through contemplative living and action,**” we will strive to embody the principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion through all of our programs and activities, and most of all, to be a part of bringing about that answered prayer!