

# Good News By Vic Dove The Cause

*“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Jesus Christ has forgiven you.”*  
*Ephesians 4:32*

In 1918 a traumatic event was about to take place in the piney woods of Mississippi. A lynching! Laurence Jones, a black teacher and preacher was about to be lynched. Why, you may be asking? Well the simple answer is hate and bitterness...but the real answer was his Cause.

Laurence Jones had graduated from the University of Iowa in 1907. His sterling character, his scholarship, and his musical ability had made him popular with both the students and faculty. Upon graduation he turned down numerous job opportunities because he was on fire with a vision. Jones had read the story of Booker T. Washington’s life and was inspired to devote his own life to educating the poverty stricken, illiterate members

of his own race.

So, Laurence chose to move to the deep southeastern region of the United States. A spot 25 miles south of Jackson Mississippi where he pawned his watch for \$1.65...and then started a school in the open piney woods of Mississippi using a stump for a desk.

Well, at this time our nation was involved in World War 1 which mainly involved us against the Germans. A rumor had spread through Central Mississippi that the Germans were arousing the Black folks and inciting them to rebellion. Well, Laurence Jones was accused of helping to arouse his race to insurrection, because he was heard preaching to his congregation, “Life is a battle in which every Black person must gird up his armor and fight to survive and succeed.” Using this rhetoric, along with the educating of the Black folks was enough to make Laurence Jones a prime target of a lynch mob.

The excited members of the mob came to the church with burning torches in their hands, put a rope around Laurence’s neck and dragged him for a mile up the road and stood him on a heap of kindling wood. At just this

time someone in the crowd shouted,” let’s let him speak before he hangs”.

Laurence gathered himself together, thanking God for giving him a chance to tell the mob that all he was doing was educating his people how to read and write... so they could be good farmers, good cooks and good mechanics. He told of how white men had given him land, cattle, lumber and pigs and in addition, money, to carry on his educational work.

Laurence’s speech softened the noisy mob, and an old Confederate veteran in the crowd said...”I believe this boy is telling the truth.” By then the crowd was completely silent and as the rope was removed from his neck Laurence was asked, ”Do you have any hate toward those who drug you down the road?”...his reply

“My Cause gives me no time to quarrel no time for regrets, and no man can force me to stoop low enough to hate him.”

Shoulder to Shoulder,  
Bro. Vic

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