

# PEOPLE'S WORLD

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## From symbol to substance, is a new South coming?

By Jesse Jackson

**I**t is time to move the flag from the capitol grounds." With those words, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley captured the new understanding that came after the brutal murders of nine church members in the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Over the weekend, I attended the emotionally draining funerals held for the slain. The governor attended each, receiving thanks for her commitment.

The blood of martyrs often changes the way we see. That was true after Emmett Till's <http://www.peoplesworld.org/setting-the-record-straight-for-emmett-till/> mutilated 14-year-old body was displayed in an open casket in 1955. It was true in 1963, after the four little girls were blown up <http://www.peoplesworld.org/today-in-labor-history-racists-bomb-birmingham-church-kill-4-children/> in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. It was true after Dr. King was assassinated <http://www.peoplesworld.org/memphis-1968-we-remember/> in Memphis. In South Carolina, the "amazing grace" of the relatives of the victims, directly offering the murderer forgiveness opened the way. The governor's declaration on the flag took the first step. Now states and companies across the South are taking down the Confederate flags and putting them - so long



a symbol of hate - into the museums where it belongs.

Removing the flag is long overdue. But for the crucifixion to turn into a resurrection will require removing the flag agenda, not just the flag, addressing the substance, not just the symbol. South Carolina - like many states of the old Confederacy - has refused to accept federal money to expand Medicaid. This deprives at least 160,000 lower-income workers of affordable health care, and costs

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an estimated 200 lives a year. It deprives the state of \$12 billion in federal money from 2014 to 2020. That costs the state's hospitals and medical facilities dearly. South Carolina could use this moment to accept the money and aid its workers, disproportionately people of color.

**South Carolina has refused to accept federal monies which will expand Medicaid and provide aid to its workers.**

South Carolina is one of the states - aligning once more with many in the old Confederacy - to pass measures restricting the right to vote, particularly an onerous voter ID law, challenged by the NAACP and others as racially discriminatory. The state could express the consciousness by repealing this law.

South Carolina State University, the historically black college in Orangeburg, is imperiled. It remains open, still accredited but on probation due to its financial difficulties. The state has changed its leadership. Now is the time for the state to act boldly to rescue the only historically black college in the state.

As President Obama stated in his memorial address, we've had enough talk about race. Now is time for action. Action that will turn this act of terror into an era of new hope, this expression of the Old South into a reaffirmation of the New South, this crucifixion into a resurrection.

Action now is essential for the old forces of hate and division still exist. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that five predominantly black churches have caught fire over the past week, four

in the South and one in Ohio, apparent targets of arsonists. Only continued action to bring us together can insure that we overcome those who would use terror and fear to drive us apart.

Gov. Haley has shown the way. She didn't wait for opinion polls. She didn't put her finger into the wind to see which way it was blowing. She worried about her state, asking "How are we ever going to pull this back together." And so she acted on the flag, starting a movement that is sweeping the South. Now the governor might show the way once more. Moving to pull the state together by acting on the substance of divisions as well as the symbols. The blood of the martyrs has once more forced us to look anew. Now is the time to act boldly to express this new consciousness.



**Jesse Jackson is an American civil rights activist.**

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## **Minnesota celebrates national love**

**By Camila Valenzuela**

**I**n a historic weekend for the LGBTQ community, Minnesotans dressed in their colorful outfits last weekend and prepared for days filled with love and celebration.

On Friday, June 26, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of marriage equality. "Love Wins" became a national hashtag connecting millions of people from all over the world who supported the big win in the U.S. All over the country people celebrated. This made Pride celebrations into one of the biggest national celebrations of love. Love wins.

The fact that a hashtag can connect us instantly is a wonderful thing, however it also forces you to see that there are still people who do not know how to react to the SCOTUS decision.

For years now religious groups, churches and individual believers, have evolved from the pre-historic concept of loving God and have come to terms with the open heartedness that love is all about all people. We are moved by love; love for our family and friends, for our careers or jobs, the

organizations, churches and groups of which we are a part and, most importantly, for ourselves.

There were bands playing a variety of sounds in different parts of the park. People waited in the middle of the park to take pictures by the #TakePride national sign.

The parade had already commenced when the sun started shining brightly, reflecting and making glass buildings into a colorful array. Quickly the numbers started escalating, and suddenly there was never a gap between bodies. Everyone was together we were one community.

Onlookers chanted, sang and clapped as floats passed by. All kinds of people were part of the parade; I even saw the AFL-CIO and Black Lives Matter were present.

The #TakePride and #LoveWins hashtags were some of the ones used nationally, and they are about more than just uniting us. We are awakened, we are learning, we are changing, and now we expect greatness together.

**Over 150,000 people gathered at Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis to be a part of this incredible win.**

# Rail workers, environmentalists to launch week of protests vs. oil trains

By PAI

**L**AC-MÉGANTIC, Quebec (PAI) - Two years after an oil-laden train crashed, exploded and destroyed downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec-killing 47 people-rail workers and environmentalists will return there to launch a week of protests on that continuing menace.

The Lac-Mégantic commemoration starts a continent-wide movement organized by Railroad Workers United and the Corporate Action Network uniting unionists, greens and advocates for corporate accountability not just in a memorial service to honor the dead but in demands for holding rail firms accountable for safety.

The demonstrators plan to make the point that such oil-laden trains are so dangerous that transporting oil across the continent by train should be severely curtailed, if not ended.

The Lac-Mégantic disaster was one of a string of accidents involving trains-often only manned by one engineer due to railroad company pressure on government regulators-laden with oil. Other oil train disasters, causing leaks, fires, explosions and evacuations, have occurred in the last few months just east of Galena, Ill., in the Dakotas and in West Virginia.

But Lac-Mégantic, on July 6, 2013, was the worst. Their website lists other planned local events, including protests at Union Station in Los Angeles



(July 11) and Union Station in Kansas City (July 12).

Ron Kaminkow, a Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers/ Teamsters member from Reno, Nev., and General Secretary of the Railroad Workers United, is urging rank-and-file rail workers to join the events nationwide against the oil trains.

Those events “will honor their lives, and work to ensure no one else has to experience this devastation. These events are being organized by nearly as many different community activists, environmentalists and neighborhood organizations as there are different events.

“These events need you. The voices of railroad workers matter. This is a chance us to meet and talk to people that a part of the stop oil trains movement, to find common ground, and to build relationships that can become the basis of cross-movement solidarity.”

Jonathan Santerre, who is coordinating the protest in Lac-Mégantic, is also asking people who cannot attend “to take a picture with crossed arms to support Lac-Mégantic people to say no to oil return in the heart of the town that was destroyed by the oil spill of the 6 July 2013, with hashtag #SolidaritéMégantic.”

**An oil-laden train crashed, exploded and destroyed downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec-killing 47 people.**

## Bernie Sanders cheers Greeks for rejecting IMF demands

By John Wojcik

I applaud the people of Greece for saying 'no' to more austerity for the poor, the children, the sick, and the elderly," Democratic Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders declared Sunday after Greek voters rejected International Monetary Fund demands that they accept more austerity.

The Greek people, by a margin of over 60 percent, rejected the IMF's austerity demands. The overwhelming 'no' vote strengthens the hand of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsirpas in his battle with European leaders and finance capitalists over their demands that he says would bring the Greek people to their knees.

Sanders, who made the statements applauding the vote in Greece on his website, called on the people of Europe to support the Greek people.

"In a world of massive wealth and income inequality, Europe must support Greece's efforts to build an economy that creates jobs and income, not more unemployment and suffering," Sanders declared.

Sanders told the Huffington Post earlier in the week that "it is unacceptable that the International Monetary Fund and European politicians have refused to talk with Greece on a sensible plan to improve its economy and pay back its debt."

## Papa viaja a Guayaquil, Ecuador

Prensa Latina

Papa Francisco y Rafael Correa Quito, 6 jul (PL) El papa Francisco viajó hoy desde esta capital a la ciudad costera de Guayaquil para oficiarse su primera misa campal en Ecuador, adonde llegó la víspera como parte de una gira pastoral que incluirá también a Bolivia y Paraguay.

Papa Francisco oficia primer mensaje de paz y amor en Ecuador (PLRadio)

El Papa Francisco promovió encuentro social en Bolivia (PLRadio)

El Sumo Pontífice partió poco antes de las 08:00 hora local desde la Nunciatura Apostólica con destino al aeropuerto internacional Mariscal Sucre, unos 30 kilómetros al noreste de Quito, luego de saludar a centenares de personas que desde horas tempranas de este lunes se concentraron frente a la sede diplomática del Vaticano.

Aunque el Santo Padre hizo el recorrido hasta la terminal aérea en un sencillo automóvil cerrado, muchos ecuatorianos se apostaron a lo largo del trayecto para verlo, e incluso tocarlo, como ocurrió a la salida de la Nunciatura, donde un grupo de feligreses rebasó el perímetro de seguridad y logró llegar hasta el vehículo que transitaba con los cristales bajos.

Antes de la misa campal en el parque guayaquileño de Samanes, donde se espera se reúna más de un millón de personas, el papa Francisco hará una breve visita al santuario de la Divina

Misericordia, en las afueras de esa urbe costera ubicada a unos 400 kilómetros al suroeste de Quito, adonde regresará en horas de la tarde para

reunirse con el presidente Rafael Correa.

La víspera, al recibir aquí al primer papa latinoamericano, Correa le agradeció al jefe de Estado del Vaticano por haber escogido al país suramericano como primera parada de la gira latinoamericana, y le aseguró que hay muchos puntos de coincidencia entre su gobierno y los postulados del Vicario de Cristo en temas como la lucha contra la pobreza, la desigualdad social y el medio ambiente.

La doctrina social de la iglesia indica que el bien común es la razón de ser de la autoridad política, y tenga por seguro que mi tesoro no es el poder, sino el servicio para el país, aseveró el mandatario en su discurso de bienvenida.

A su turno, Francisco le agradeció a su anfitrión la consonancia con su pensamiento, y le expresó sus mejores deseos para el ejercicio de su misión, y que pueda lograr lo que quiere para el bien de su pueblo.

También afirmó que en el Evangelio se pueden encontrar las claves que nos permitan afrontar los desafíos actuales valorando las diferencias, fomentando el diálogo y la participación sin exclusiones.

Para esto, señor Presidente, podrá contar siempre con el compromiso y la colaboración de la Iglesia para servir a este pueblo ecuatoriano que se ha puesto de pie con dignidad, apuntó Francisco, quien instó a poner especial énfasis en las minorías más vulnerables, las cuales, dijo, son la deuda que todavía toda América Latina tiene.