Today, I finished reading a book chronicling the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln by Meacham, Jon, *AND THERE WAS LIGHT.* As I lay the book down, I realized that I must pick up the pen and attempt to put into words the fervent emotions its reading evoked. I found it troublesome and visionary – the narrated historical events, social interactions, and moral dilemmas described therein transcended time and became illusionary of contemporary events. It also, to me, was transparent that the agents of history and the agents of current events exhibited extreme similarities. However, the message was clarion “…the capacity of conscience to shape events.” The environment in which many of us have been raised, educated, matured, and found our place in this society and culture we call the United States of America - is being turned upside down and inside out!

The Civil War had multiple causes and concerns; however, the primary goal, the guiding light, and the presevering objective was to save the Union. Lincoln was not an overly popular President – he “snuck” into Washington, under the cover of darkness, the night before his first inauguration. Although he did not act as quickly as some would have preferred in his presidency – his direction was always forward, always toward the goal, always, first and foremost – PRESERVE THE UNION.

His opposition meant to destroy the Union by secession to maintain an aristocracy built upon the suppression of human rights and servitude. “Now we are engaged … testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.” These words, forever etched into history, alarmingly, speak with the same certitude, rectitude, and urgency today as they did when spoken by Lincoln at Gettysburg, PA on November 19, 1863.

Only the uninformed and the foolhardy fail to learn from history. To look into the past allows glimpsing into the future. We are, once again, engaged in a great civil strife – a National Election – that most certainly will have profound implications that will affect the future of this nation, and possibly of all of humanity. The battle is at the ballot box! The goal is to preserve the Union. Our government is not perfect – we are not perfect! But, we need to be responsible to the generations yet to come.

I close as I opened - 