

# FAITH—ACTION—CHANGE

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## PEOPLE OF FAITH FOR BARACK

### *A history of Americans putting their faith into action to bring about social change.*



- **THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT** -- People of faith were at the helm of this movement that ultimately succeeded in dismantling the institution of slavery in the United States. Led by individuals like A.M.E. Bishop Richard Allen, and Episcopalian priest Absalom Jones as well as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and Unitarian Universalists, believers of all faith backgrounds came together to force the nation to confront the evils of slavery.



- **THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT AND THE SOCIAL GOSPEL** – The ‘Social Gospel’ was the religious wing and conscience of the progressive movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Theologians like Walter Rauschenbusch and activists like Dorothy Day and Mary McLeod Bethune used faith to inspire reforms from the state house to the factory floor.



- **WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE** -- In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the suffrage movement achieved a monumental victory in obtaining the right to vote through the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Lucretia Mott, a significant leader, was an ordained minister and her contemporary Elizabeth Cady Stanton, author of “The Women’s Bible,” saw their efforts driven in large part by their faith.



- **IN A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS** Jane Addams pioneered the settlement home movement with the establishment of Hull House in Chicago to help recently-arrived immigrants and their families survive in America. Her faith inspired her settlement work that was soon replicated around the country.



- **THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** People of faith formed the backbone of this movement to secure equal rights for all Americans. From the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbis Abraham Joshua Heschel and Joachim Prinz faith communities united in their opposition to institutional racism and segregation. Standing arm in arm in Selma, Alabama and around the country, people of faith helped achieve real results in securing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as the Voting Rights Act.

### ***THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES WITH YOU...***

In the same way, Barack Obama is uniting people of faith all across the country to join in this movement for change. Overcoming the challenges we face as Americans – from 46 million without health insurance to the war in Iraq – begins with tapping into the moral foundation of these challenges and bringing Americans together around our common goals.

From his earliest days organizing people of faith on the South Side of Chicago to his recent work at the intersection of faith and politics, no one has brought people of faith together like Barack Obama. We invite you to join the thousands of Americans working with Senator Obama to put their faith into action to change our country.



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