



The Orangeburg Massacre

(Be Ware: Be Aware)

By Sister Denise L. Graves

Day 37
April 5, 2023

Read Acts 7:57-58

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Critical Race Facts:

Decades of racial terror in the American South reflected and reinforced a view that African American were dangerous criminals who posed a threat to innocent white citizens. Although the constitution's presumption of innocence is a bedrock principle of American criminal justice, African Americans were assigned a presumption of guilt.

Lynching racialized criminality, African Americans were assigned a presumption of guilt.

Today's Prayer:

Lord, thank You for those who sacrificed pain to give us progress; lynchings to give us life; death to make the dream a reality. Help us to pay it forward to the next generation. In Jesus Name, **amen.**

A major attack during the Vietnam War caused an atrocity to be virtually disregarded in the news. On February 5, 1968, a group of students from South Carolina State and Claflin Universities (Orangeburg, South Carolina) approached the owner of the All-Star Triangle Bowling Lanes to object to his segregation rules. On February 8, 1968, this innocent complaint ended up in the intentional, callous, vicious, and needless deaths of three young Black students, the wounding of 28 other students, and one police officer. This atrocity became known as ***The Orangeburg Massacre***.

As a child, I very seldom ventured outside of my neighborhood. My world revolved around going to school, playing with friends, being with family, and going to church with my grandparents. I did very little reading and watched even less—the news. I was very detached from important issues in the world.

Eventually, I grew to realize the importance of reading, education and being aware of current events. We cannot allow our cultural and Spiritual history to be erased. They must remain alive! It has been said: *“those who don't know their history, are doomed to repeat it”* (Edmund Burke).

Today, history is repeating itself with the resurgence of voting right restriction; senseless murders of those who live in Black and brown communities, harassing police brutality (the Klan in changed uniform); the erasing of our history, and the ongoing economic inequality; educational inequity; medical disparity; the list goes on.

The LORD said, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6 KJV)*

Sources: WWW: History.com – Orangeburg Massacre, Updated 2.7.2022 and You Tube – The Forgotten South Carolina Israelite Massacre, 2.14.2017

Questions to Ponder

1. What massacre do you remember most?
2. What stands out for you?
3. What have you learned from that massacre?

