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Know Names

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Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

Know Names

Andrea Burden

I don't know every victim's name
Can't remember what they did or didn't do to get killed
I didn't protest
I even wondered why he just didn't do this
Or he should've knew better
It is just a few bad seeds
At the end of the day there are no routine stops
Right
Might, but, dang
Again
The chagrin
He just ahh-resting on the man's neck
Is his hand in his pocket
And look at that other one just looking around like nothing's happening
Or had happened
He's dead
I hadn't heard anybody call for Mama like that since I yelled it terrified as a kid
Then
After a long moment of awe and desperation
I was empty
And
Disappointed
Lost
At a loss
Timid at the idea of getting pulled over someday
But more than that I have a son now and a wife that loves both of us
Who checks to see if I have ID and my phone every time I leave home for a walk
I don't want to be desensitized
I want to feel
If it bleeds it leads newscasts has numbed my psyche
As "there was a murder" is met with the same energy as an interesting gif on Facebook
Sometimes I don't remember all their names
But I pray that their deaths aren't in vain
I pray that I'm still a man determined to evoke change
Can I do that if I'm not getting a gun made and going to the range
Am I weak for praying for the days
Of peace, Love, and mutual respect

Harmony and God's Intervention

If faith without works is dead, then Lord what's my intervention

The invention of a program to attend to the mental health needs of the police and the communities they serve

The nerve of me to go in there and insinuate that they have a problem

But they do

Yeah the men and women in blue

It just seems that universally they're at a loss for a consensus right thing to do when the suspect is Black

It's a fact that there are too many different measures, protocols

Pleasures

When it comes to apprehending a man like me

I don't remember half of their names