



Vernon Park Church of God

February 2019

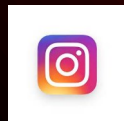
Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

Black History Month Edition

Blacks in the Bible



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Vernon Park Church of God

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Greetings Family,

I trust that as you travel through one incredible season after another, you keep in mind that your participation in these times will one day be part of history. History is defined as the study of past events, particularly in human affairs. The month of February is deemed Black History Month in our nation. It's a month when some of the many contributions of African Americans are publicly acknowledged and celebrated in our land.

While we celebrate the legacy of Africans in America, I believe it's also important for us to recognize and celebrate the presence of African people in Scripture. Too often we've surrendered the stories of our forefathers and mothers to other cultures just because we haven't studied or simply read the text for ourselves. It is a fact that the Bible is an often-overlooked source of spirituality, pride, and historical information for people of African descent. Africa is mentioned more than any other landmass in the Bible. While this fact doesn't make one group better than the other, it does speak to the truth of God's presence and purpose in the affairs of Africa and its descendants.

The history of many nationalities and nations that appear in the Bible proves that God does see color. I pray that the whole "color blind" argument that comes up, especially during February, will be eliminated from the national conversation this year.

There's a great opportunity for The Body of Christ to recognize that God has a purpose and a plan for all nations. African Americans like other people groups are a nation in a nation. While we stand proud as a united nation, we must always remember and celebrate our homeland as well. Remember that together we stand and divided we fall. Let's do all we can to continue to create history that shows our faith and purpose.

My Pen is Positioned,

Pastor J



PASTOR OF POSSIBILITIES®



Vernon Park Church of God

Announcement

Celebrate Our Heritage



Mahalia Jackson

The Staples Singers



Melba Moore



Sam Cooke

"Worship through Music"

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Vernon Park Church of God

1975 E. Joe Orr Road

Lynwood, Illinois

10:30am-12:00pm

Facilitators:

Dr. Edward Eddy & Bro. Kevin Harris



Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

February 3, 2019, Joshua 6:10-20 "The Walls Came Down"

Lead: Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

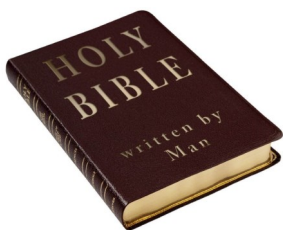
Cong: Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding.

Lead: So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times.

Cong: The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.

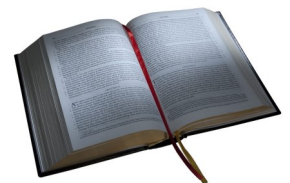
Lead: But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

Together: When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.



Life Enrichment Institute
Sunday School
now open

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



In the McKay-Henry Education Wing



Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

February 10, 2019, Psalm 91 “Dwelling With the Most High”

Lead: Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

Cong: He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

Lead: A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

Cong: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Lead: You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

Together: He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”



Scholarship and Education Ministry’s



2018 Dollars for Scholars Campaign

Will begin Sunday, February 3rd



The donation containers are located on the Watchmen Table in the foyer.



Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

February 17, 2019, Matthew 6:25-34 “Don’t Worry about Tomorrow”

Lead: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Cong: Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Lead: Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Cong: So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Lead: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Together: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



Wednesday Bible Study March 11th - April 19th

Details will be available soon!



Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

February 24, 2019, James 1:2-12, "Blessed Is the One Who Perseveres"

Lead: Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Cong: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Lead: But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Cong: That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.

Lead: But the rich should take pride in their humiliation - since they will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

Together: Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.



OFFICES ON THE BALLOT



February 26, 2019 Municipal Election (and April 2, 2019 Run-Off Elections, as needed)

Sample ballots for the February 26, 2019 election will be available at chicagoelections.com/info starting in early February. To Be Elected* Mayor, City of Chicago; City Clerk, City of Chicago; City Treasurer, City of Chicago; Alderman (one in each of the city's 50 wards)

EARLY VOTING: In-Person Early Voting & Registration

**Before Feb. 11 è ONLY at the Loop Super Site, 175 W. Washington St.
Any Chicago voter may use the Loop Super Site.**



Feb. 11 – Feb. 25 è EARLY VOTING IN 50 WARD SITES & Loop Super Site



For more info visit www.chicagoelections.com



Vernon Park Church of God

Blacks in the Bible

Reverend Dr. Alvin Lewis

Psalm 68:31 states that "Ethiopia will hasten to stretch out its hands to God." Zephaniah 3:9-10 says that "from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, my suppliants, my scattered ones, shall bring my offering." The Bible in Exodus 12:37-38 says that when Moses led the Israelites "the children of Israel journeyed ... about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. And a mixed multitude went up also with them." The Egyptians were themselves a mixed breed, for in their own paintings they portrayed themselves as being reddish brown, yellow, and black. From examination of predynastic Egyptian skulls, it has been estimated that at least one third of the Egyptian population was clearly black. The Egyptians are descended from Noah's middle son, Ham. Egypt was called the "land of Ham" according to Psalm 105:23. His name in Hebrew is Cham which means both "black" and "Egypt." The oldest son of Ham is Cush which is even today used as a Hebrew expression meaning a Black African.

There are many more evidences of African people in the Old Testament. The descendants of Ham, son of Noah, were Cush (Ethiopia) the Sudan, Mizraim (Egypt), Phut (Libya) and Canaan (Palestine/Israel). The Phoenicians were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham. Cush is the term that the Greeks would later transpose as "Aithiops" or Ethiopia, meaning literally "burnt face people." Nimrod was the son of Cush and grandson of Ham. Moses himself was an African-Asiatic and he married an Ethiopian woman according to Numbers 12:1-10. The Queen of Sheba was a Black African. Acts 8 identifies her as Candace, queen of the Ethiopians or Nubians. There are also many other examples in the New Testament that we could cite if we had the space. So even though Black History Month focuses on our American experience, we must look back to the earliest record of mankind, the Bible, to learn about our history and heritage as Black people.

This information is excerpted from the Original African Heritage Bible published in 1993 by the James C. Winston Publishing Company.



Vernon Park Church of God

Announcements

2019 Consecration
March 11th to April 19th
A YEAR OF MATURITY

DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!



Wedding Anniversaries

Darren & Qutester Mapp-Rushing - 7 years, February 18th

Frank & Monica Miller - 7 years, February 25th

John & Shirley Hill - 50 years, February 28th





Vernon Park Church of God



For Your Health Heart Healthy Tips

From your Health and Wellness Ministry

A healthy heart is the foundation for cardiovascular fitness.

- Achieving heart healthy milestones at early stages of life will help keep your heart fit.
- From at least the years of 30's to 60's and beyond, it is important to know your family history of cardiovascular diseases.
- This history can include heart attacks, hypertension, strokes, and even diabetes which damage blood vessels.
- Become familiar with your "**numbers**" such as blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels.

Determine routine screenings with your doctor to obtain and become familiar with this data.

Research has shown that the number one thing that people are concerned about when it comes to a healthy heart is diet.

Some simple guidelines are:

- Eat a diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and fiber. Fiber helps lower blood cholesterol.
- Eat plant based or moderate amounts of animal protein sources.
- Limit saturated fat, trans-fats, and cholesterol. It is recommended that only 30% of daily calories should come from fat.
- Limit salt intake.
- Eat moderate size portions.

Besides eating a healthy diet, risk factors for heart disease can be kept at a minimum by the following:

- Get adequate restful sleep.
- Stop or don't smoke.
- Keep alcohol to a minimum or abstain.
- Avoid a sedentary lifestyle by including stress reducing exercise each day.



Vernon Park Church of God

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: February 3, 2019

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: February 10, 2019

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: February 17, 2019

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: February 24, 2019



Vernon Park Church of God Special Events Committee

Sis. Sarah Barber, Special Events Chairman

Sis. Jackie Morris, Co-Chairman

Sis. Cheryl Nelson, Co-Chairman

Sis. LaVeda Scurlock, Co-Chairman

Bro. Rick Nelson, Co-Chairman (Media)

Rev. Jerald January, Sr., Senior Pastor

Black History is Me!

Join our Vernon Park Family as we celebrate

"Our Becoming"

(Genesis 2:10-15 – *Africa is the cradle of Mankind*)
during Black History Month on
Sunday, February 24, 2019.

Purchase your shirt today
to wear throughout the day of this special event.

Adult Shirts (sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, and XXXXL) \$15 each

Youth Shirts (sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL) \$10 each

Deadline for ordering
Sunday
February 10, 2019



Order forms available and payments taken at the
Special Events Committee Table in the foyer.