



CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, INC.



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EDUCATE – ENGAGE – CONNECT

Church of the Living God 2012 Conventions Calendar

February 11, 2012 ANNUAL PEARL GRANT DAY

11:00am – Agape Fellowship CLG, Tolland St., East Hartford, CT –Elder Eugene Taylor, Host Pastor –Elder Edith Wilson, National Foreign Mission President

March 15 - 17, 2012 NATIONAL MUSIC CONFERENCE

Convenes at First Church CLG, 70 Whitney St., Hartford, CT 06105, Host Pastor Elder Jesse White, Jr. and Sheraton–Hartford Hotel,100 East River Dr.,East Hartford, CT 06108–Reservations: 860-528-9703 – Sis. Margaret Estelle, National Minister of Music, Bishop Barbara Farmer, Liaison Bishop

May 14 – 17, 2012 52nd NATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION CONVENTION

Convenes at *Crown PLaza Hotel, 23 S. 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Toll free number (877) 270-1412. Reservation \$79.00 @ 11% interest* Elder Edith Wilson, NFM President, Elder Dr. Frances Bultron, NFM Vice President. Sister Trinisa Williams Convention Coordinator

July 25 – July 28, 2012 NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS

**Hilton @ Fort Lauderdale Marina
1881 SE 17th Street Causeway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
Reservation: (954) 527-6727 -**

**Rate: \$89.00 + 6% “Sales Tax
Elder Robin Taylor, National YC
President, Elder Orlando Pannell, NYC
Vice President, Bishop Dr. L.Delores
Ward, Liaison Bishop**

October, 2012 - 83rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Hotel Accommodations TBA - Evening Services at National Tabernacle, 1100 Bethune Dr., Orlando,FL 32819. Bishop Theodore Brown, President General; Bishop Ivy A. Hopkins, Vice President General; Bishop C. L. Harvey, Executive Adm.; Bishop James Sherman, Executive Adm.; Bishop Jesse J. White, President Emeritus; Deacon George Ward, Convention Coordinator

PREVENTING IDENTITY THEFT

1. **Protect Your Personal Information**
 - ✓ Don’t carry your social security card.
 - ✓ If asked to provide it – ask the person what law requires you to give your number and what happens if you refuse.
2. **Protect Your Documents**
 - ✓ Shred your confidential trash with a cross-cut or diamond cut shredder.
 - ✓ Don’t leave outgoing mail with personal information in your mailbox for pick-up.
3. **Be Vigilant Against Tricks**
 - ✓ Never provide personal information to anyone in response to an unsolicited request.

- ✓ Never reply to unsolicited e-mails from unknown senders or their attachments.
- 4. **Protect Your Communications**
- ✓ Make sure you have updated security software on your home computer.
- ✓ Don't conduct sensitive transactions on a computer that is not under your control.
- ✓ If you have wireless internet, make sure it is password protected.
- 5. **Check Your Credit Report**
- ✓ Order your credit report at least three times per year (free).
- ✓ Check financial accounts often and investigate any unusual activity.

If a loved one dies:

- *Send a copy of the death certificate to the three credit reporting agencies.*
- *Notify the Social Security Administration immediately.*
- *Don't mention a woman's maiden name or exact birth date in the obituary.*

Current Threats – “Keep your guard up on sites like Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Scammers are exploiting the trust we have of our connections on these sites to gain access to your accounts and commit fraud.

Fake Notification E-Mails – Look out for fake emails that look like they came from Facebook. These typically include links to phony pages that attempt to steal your login information or prompt you to download malware. Never click on links in suspicious emails. Log-in to a site directly.

Suspicious Posts and Messages – Wall posts or messages that appear to come from a friend asking you to click on a link to check out a new photo or video that doesn't actually exist. The link is typically for a phony login page or a site that will put a virus on your computer to steal your password.

Money Transfer Scams – Messages that appear to come from friends or others claiming to be stranded and asking for money. These messages are typically from scammers. Ask them a question that only they would be able to answer. Or contact the person by phone to verify the situation, even if they say not to call them.

Specific Actions to Avoid

1. **Don't click on a message that seems weird.** If it seems unusual for a friend to write on your Wall and post a link, that friend may have gotten phished.
2. **Don't enter your password through a link.** Just because a page on the Internet looks like Facebook, it doesn't mean it is. It is best to go to the Facebook log-in page through your browser.
3. **Don't use the same password on Facebook that you use in other places on the web.** If you do this, phishers or hackers who gain access to one of your accounts will easily be able to access your others as well, including your bank.
4. **Don't share your password with anyone.** Social sites will never ask for your password through any form of communication.
5. **Don't click on links or open attachments in suspicious emails.** Fake emails can be very convincing, and hackers can spoof the “From:” address so the email looks like it's from a social site. If the email looks weird, don't trust it, and delete it from your inbox.
6. **Don't send money anywhere** unless you have verified the story of someone who says they are your friend or relative.
7. **Don't provide your cell phone number to verify the results of a Facebook game or survey without reading the terms and conditions.** It may result in recurring charges on your cell phone bill.

To Report Internet Fraud: www.ic3.gov

Key Numbers

FBI (202) 324-3000 or your local field office
FTC 1-877-IDTHEFT
Postal Inspection Service 1-877-876-2455
IRS 1-800-829-0433
Social Security Administration 1-800-269-0271

Your Solution Is Not As Big As Your Problem

Problems? If you're going to work with or minister to people, you are going to have problems. Sometimes big problems. Moses was one person in the scripture who had people problems. Millions of them. Everywhere he looked - people problems. How to feed them. How to water their livestock. How to settle their petty problems. How to settle their big problems. Where do the tents go? How about the toilets. Everywhere problems.

Surely with all these problems, the solution must be complex. Big problems should mean big, intricate, thoroughly researched and analyzed solutions - right? Not necessarily. In fact, very often, the solution to one's problem is asymmetric to the problem itself. Big problem, small solution.

When our problem is large or complex, we too often feel that the solution has to be the same. Because of this we usually miss the obvious, simple answer. In Moses' case, it took his shepherd father-in-law's simple mind to figure it out. A shepherd understands that a flock can get too big. When it does, it can begin to overgraze the fields and ruin the good pastures. This simple shepherd was not educated by the most learned teachers of Egypt as Moses was, but he did understand something about having too many sheep in one place. He knew that when you have more sheep in a field than what that field can contain, you have to hire an under-shepherd to take part of the flock to another field. With that elementary laymen's thinking Moses was able to correct very simply, the extremely complex dilemma the nation of Israel had found herself in. Jethro told Moses to break the number of people down into smaller segments and then place leaders over these small segments. How simple.

The biggest problems that your ministry is facing today probably could very well be corrected with a simple solution. Too often however, we go shopping for the big answer: The complex answer. The expensive answer. The time consuming answer. Here's why: We focus on the negative instead of the positive. Seriously, nearly everyone does. Did you know that in the English language, 62 percent of the "emotion" words are negative, vs 38 percent that are positive. A group of psychologists once reviewed over two hundred articles and concluded that for a wide range of human behavior and perception, a general principle holds true: "Bad is stronger than good." Ask yourself, do you remember more of the bad that you hear about others or do you remember more of the good. A vastly larger audience of people remembers the bad instead of the good.

If we are focused on the negative, we seldom see the positive. This is a sad series of events as most often bad is not the only thing that is going on. Very often there is good going on too. Usually, much more good than there is bad. The problem however, is we humans have a tendency to only recognize and focus our energies on the bad. When we do this we fail to recognize what is going on that is right. If we could recognize the right things that are going on, then we may realize that our big problem is not that big at all. In fact, maybe it is dwarfed by the good that is going on.

Moses could only see the small picture of his big problem. He could not see the big picture of his simple solution. Israel had a lot of good going on at that moment. She had a multitude of varied talented people who were easily equipped to assist Moses however he needed. If Moses could have gotten his gaze off of his dilemma long enough to thank God for the good people who were under his leadership, he may have found his solution sooner and possibly without the help of his wife's father. After all, who wants that hanging over their head, "Hey sonny, I fixed your problem for you." Moses was an extremely educated man. You have to know he wanted to figure the biggest problem of his entire ministry out for himself.

There is more to celebrate in what you have than there is to grieve in what you don't have.

When you can identify what is happening that is right you can learn to duplicate that process to bring about change and growth for your church or organization. For instance, let's say that of the ten varied recognized ministries in your church. Seven are doing well and three of them are doing badly. Our general response to this situation is usually to focus our energies on the ministries that are doing badly in the attempt to get them up to par with the ministries that are doing well. In short, we leave off of the ones that are doing good to help the ones that are doing badly.

Why? Have you ever asked yourself, "Maybe that broken down ministry in your church is not the will of God in the first place. Maybe, it should have been dissolved years ago?" In any event, what you are missing is that something fantastic is happening in a few areas of your church that are worth exploring and replicating. If you could find out what those ministries are that are doing well, you may find what will help the struggling ministries of your church. Could an answer to all the bad that is in your church be as simple as finding, identifying and exploiting the good that is happening? What could happen if we spent all the valuable time that we do focusing on and encouraging the good that is happening in our church instead of getting caught up in the mess of all the bad?

Begin to study, survey and dissect the ministries of your church where good positive growth is happening and you will probably find the answers to the problems that plague the ones that are not doing so well. Focus on your church's strengths rather than obsessing over its weaknesses.

Binding Prayer for Protection

(To be prayed before ministering)

Father in heaven, we stand in faith on the authority we have as believers in Jesus Christ, and as co-heirs to His kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, we bind every evil spirit and every evil plan made in this arena. We cancel the enemy's plans and call forth God's plan for this time together. In Jeremiah 29:11 – God's word says that God has plans for us, for good and not for evil and we

claim those plans now. Father, we ask that Your will be done in this time of ministry and study, as it is done in heaven. We give thanks and praise to You.

We bind all interplay, interaction, and communication of evil spirits as they would try to affect us in any way during this time of ministry and study. We claim the protection of the shed blood of Jesus Christ over ourselves, including our eyes, ears, hands and mind as we receive from You today. Thank You for Your protection, Lord. Please prepare our hearts and help us to receive Your Word with understanding and without distraction from the enemy. Please send Your anointing to fill our area and minister to us especially as we study Your Word. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO FASTING

Numerous churches throughout the United States during the beginning of a New Year often set aside a time to encourage member to fast and pray. I'm often asked the question, why fast? Is there a right way and or a wrong way to fast? What does fasting accomplish? Is fasting biblical? Is fasting required of Christians? etc. etc.

Christian fasting is a non-required **discipline** that (a) **alters your diet**, or (b) **eliminates** food and/or drink, (c) for a **biblical purpose** (d) accompanied with **prayer**. **READ Matthew 6:16-18** - Fasting means to abstain from food for a particular cause. From a worldly perspective, fasting is rarely undertaken except to protest something, and then it is almost always to attract attention. From a spiritual perspective, though, fasting is usually a deeply personal experience, a time to set aside food in order to concentrate on seeking God. Whether done to intercede on someone's behalf, to seek a solution to a problem, or to praise God for who He is or for what He has done, Biblical fasting involves prayer and intense supplication before God.

KINDS OF FASTS

Normal fast is going without food for a certain period of time, drinking only liquids (water and/or juice). The duration can be 1-day, 3-days, 1-week, 1-month or 40 days. Extreme care should be taken with longer fasts, which should only be attempted after medical advice from your physician.

Absolute fast, no water or food at all. Should be short. Moses fasted for 40 days; but it is believed that this would kill anyone without supernatural intervention. Please consult the Holy Spirit for His direction.

Partial fast, omitting certain foods on a schedule of limited eating, i.e., only one meal a day, only vegetables, etc.

The John Wesley fast is eating only bread (whole grain) and water.

Rotation fast is eating or omitting certain families of food for a designated time. Some food is eaten every day. The Mayo Clinic Fast is eating only one food group a day, omitting other food groups, used as medical research to determine reaction (allergies to a particular food group).

Supernatural fast.

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? (1) To loose the bands of wickedness, (2) to undo the heavy burdens, and (3) to let the oppressed (physically and spiritually) go free, and that ye (4) break every yoke? (5) Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that is cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? (6) Then shall thy light break forth as the morning; and (7) thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy (8) righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be (9) thy reward.” (Isaiah 58: 6-8, KJV)

WHAT FASTING ACCOMPLISH?

The Apostles Fast

Purpose: “To loose the bands of wickedness” (Isaiah 58:6) - To free oneself from **addictions to sin**.

Verse: “This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:21, KJV)

The Ezra Fast

Purpose: To “undo the heavy burdens” (Isaiah 58:6) - To solve **problems**, inviting the Holy Spirit’s aid in

lifting loads and overcoming barriers that keep ourselves and our loved ones from walking joyfully with the Lord.

Verse: “So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer” (Ezra 8:23).

The Samuel Fast

Purpose: “To let the oppressed (physically and spiritually) go free” (Isaiah 58:6) - To bring **evangelism and revival/soul winning**, to identify with people everywhere enslaved literally or by sin and to pray to be used of God to bring people out of the kingdom or darkness and into God’s marvelous light.

Verse: “So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water and poured it out before the Lord. And there they fasted that day” (1 Samuel 7:6)

The Elijah Fast

Purpose: “To break every yoke” (Isaiah 58:6) – To solve and/or conquering the ***mental and emotional problems*** that would control our lives, and returning the control to the Lord.

Verse: “He (Elijah) went a days journey into the wilderness. He arose and ate and drank ; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights. (1 Kings 19: 4,8).

The Widow’s Fast

Purpose: “To share [our] bread with the hungry” and to care for the poor (Isaiah 58:7) to meet the **humanitarian/physical needs of others**.

Verse: “The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah (1 Kings 17:16, NIV) ALSO “Is it (the fast) to share your bread with the hungry...? (Isaiah 58:7)

The Saint Paul Fast

Purpose: To allow God’s light [to] break forth like the morning” (Isaiah 58:8), bringing clearer perspectives and insight as we make crucial decisions. – **To make life changing decisions**.

Verse: “And he [Saul, or Paul] was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank” (Acts 9:9)

The Daniel Fast

Purpose: So “thine health shall spring forth” (Isaiah 58:8) – to gain a healthier life or for healing. For **physical health or healing.**

Verse: “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank (Daniel 1:8) ALSO “test your servants for ten days, . . . give us vegetables to eat and water to drink (Daniel 1: 12).

The John The Baptist Fast

Purpose: That “your righteousness shall go before you” (Isaiah 58:8) – that our **testimonies and influence** for Jesus will be enhanced before others.

Verse: “He will/shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink (Luke 1:15)

The Esther Fast

Purpose: That “the glory of the Lord” will **protect us from the evil one.** (Isaiah 58:8)

Verse: “Fast for me...[and] my maids and I will fast...[and] I will go to the king...[and] she found favor in his sight. (Esther 4:16; 5:2)

“Gather all the Jews...fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maiden and I will fast likewise.

Finally, there are several excellent benefits to fasting, and God wants you to reap these benefits:

- 1). Fasting keeps you in the presence of God. You fast for a special purpose, and you remain in God’s presence until you feel He has or is going to meet your need.
- 2). Fasting humbles your soul before God. It says that God is the most important thing in all the world to you.
- 3). Fasting teaches you to depend more and more upon God. You are seeking God, and in so doing you are demonstrating your conviction that you are dependent upon God.
- 4). Fasting demonstrates to God (by action) a real seriousness. It shows that the matter being considered is a priority.
- 5). Fasting teaches you to control and discipline your life. You do without food for a greater cause and gain a greater blessing.

6). Fasting keeps you from being enslaved by habit. You lay aside all substances; in so doing, you break the hold of anything that might have you chained.

PURPOSE OF FASTING

To Chasten the Soul - Psalm 69:10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach.

To Humble the Soul - Ezra 8:21 - Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; and my prayer would return to my own heart. (Psalm 35:13)

To Seek the Lord - 2 Chronicles 20:3,4 - And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

To Prepare for Spiritual Warfare - Matthew 17:21 - However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

WHEN TO FAST

- **When facing the Judgment of God** (1 Kings 21:27); Joel 1:14; Joel 2:12; Jonah 3:4,5.
- **During Periods of National Mourning** - 1 Samuel 31:11-13; 2 Samuel 1:12; 2 Samuel 3:35; 1 Chronicles 10:11,12
- **When Communion with Christ Is Broken** - Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:19,20
- **When Concerned for the Welfare of Others** - Psalm 35:13
- **When Challenged by Personal Concerns** - 2 Samuel 12:15-17; 2 Samuel 12:21-23
- **When Facing Danger** – 2 Chronicles 20:2,3; Ezra 8:21-23; Esther 4:15,16
- **When Engaged in Spiritual Warfare** - Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:29
- **When Ordaining Ministers of the Gospel** - Acts 13:2,3; Acts 14:23

2012 MISSION & VISION STATEMENT OF NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS CLG

*Elder Robin Barber-Taylor
President-NYC*

Mission Statement:

The National Youth Congress of the Church of the Living God's mission is to promote and encourage spiritual growth, emotional well-being and educational support for all youth, young adults and their families. Our National Youth Congress convenes once a year in various locations throughout the U.S. Our goal is to provide wholesome fellowship, energetic praise and worship services, workshops and teaching on subjects that are unique to the needs of youth as well as a time to explore and enjoy the wonders of the different states we converge on.

Most importantly, it is our goal to leave an impact on the lives of all attendees that they would return to their several churches and be the agent of change in their communities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the National Youth Congress, C.L.G., is to expand this youth ministry beyond the borders of the United States, to deliver a message of faith and hope for youth and young adults globally, by organizing youth crusades nationally and abroad. We also, desire to reach the youth in the communities we visit through our conferences, with the intention of making an impact by reaching out. The vision is to engage our youth in community service projects such as soup kitchens, children's hospitals, youth centers/shelter, providing an opportunity for our youth and young adults to develop a mind of giving and sharing with those less fortunate.. This experience will allow our youth the privileges to nurture and share the gospel as we endeavor to build the Kingdom of God. We also, intend to expand the educational program of the NYC, financially and spiritually. The vision is to expose our youth to higher education by hosting college fairs and job fairs, leadership training, as well as award sizable scholarships to our dedicated attendees.

YOU and Your FAITH

You Are to Live by FAITH Day by Day, NOT by Feelings and Emotions (Hebrews 10:38; 11:6)

How does a believer live by faith? What does it even mean to live by faith? In the simplest of statements, living by faith is living by God's Word, not by feelings and emotions. You place your faith in God and in His Holy Word, trusting God to look after and take care of you as you walk obediently day by day. (Romans 10:17; 4:20; James 1:6-8)

People with weak, unstable faith waver in their confidence in God's Word, in His provision and power. Like the waves of the sea that are controlled by the wind, they are up-and-down. Their stability is determined by circumstances and by how they feel – their moods and emotions. People who live by faith are not like this. They are steady and stable. Feelings and circumstances have no bearing upon their confidence in God. They are single-minded and stable in all they do. (James 1:8).

Hebrews chapter 11 is the greatest chapter on faith in God's Holy Word. It spells out in great detail how to live by faith. Here is God's manual for living by faith:

- **Living by faith is** approaching God as He dictates: through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:4)
- **Living by faith is** fellowshiping with God all throughout the day – seeking to please Him in all you do. (Heb. 11:5).
- **Living by faith is** heeding God's warning – obeying Him out of holy fear and reverence (11:7).
- **Living by faith is** obeying God even when you cannot see the way. (11:8)
- **Living by faith is** trusting God to guide and provide for you as you walk day by day. (11:9).
- **Living by faith is** keeping your eyes focused on the eternal city of God, the place Christ is preparing for you. (11:10; John 14:2).
- **Living by faith is** believing and acting on God's promises, even when they seem impossible (11:11)
- **Living by faith is** obeying God's Word all throughout life, acknowledging that you are only a stranger and exile on earth. (Heb. 11:13)
- **Living by faith is** living for heaven, not for this earth. (Hebrews 11:14-16)

- **Living by faith is** offering everything you have to God – even your children (Hebrews 11:17).
- **Living by faith is** believing that God will do the miraculous – even raise the dead – to keep His promise (Hebrews 11:18-19).
- **Living by faith is** believing that God will keep His promise, even if it is not in your lifetime (Hebrews 11:20-22).
- **Living by faith is** choosing God over worldly pleasures, prosperity, and power; choosing to suffer the reproach of this world for the reward of knowing God (Hebrews 11:23-27).
- **Living by faith is** obeying God’s instructions and commands, even when they are humanly illogical (Hebrews 11:28-30).
- **Living by faith is** standing with and for the people of God, regardless of the cost (Heb. 11:31).
- **Living by faith is** being faithful in carrying out whatever task God gives you to do, even if your service leads to death. (Hebrews 11:32-38).

These Old Testament believers had one thing in common: they lived by faith. Faith was not merely something they inwardly felt, it was something they outwardly acted upon. They believed God, and they acted and carried on according to God’s Word and what He had promised. They did not just proclaim that they believed God, They proved it by their actions. They lived by faith. They obeyed God, even when the promises were not fulfilled during their earthly lives (v.39).

This is living by faith: living in confident, bold obedience to God’s Word – His call, commands, and promises – regardless of the circumstances and regardless of the consequences.

A Black History Tribute

Black History Month is celebrated annually in the United States in the month of February. Carter G. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week in 1926 because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as the nation reached its bicentennial, the week was expanded into an entire month.

However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history.

History books just started covering black history when the tradition of Black History Month was started. So as you can see, there was a tremendous amount of history made before the first word was ever written. That’s why it’s so important to get involved in black history classes and engage in conversations with older members of the community who remember stories as they unfolded --that the history books don’t cover.

At that point, most representation of blacks in history books was only in reference to the low social position they held, with the exception of George Washington Carver. Many also reference Black History Month as African-American History Month, or African Heritage Month.

Black History Month is also an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions people with African heritage have made and continue to make in such areas as education, sports, medicine, art, culture, public services, economic development, politics and human rights.

BLACK PRESENCE IN THE BIBLE

(Tribute to Black History Month
From a Biblical Perspective)

One place where we as people of color tend to be somewhat ignorant of our history is in our Biblical history. Normally we recognize a few names in the Bible as being Black people. But for the most part, we rarely if ever question our presence in Biblical history. We sometimes act as if we did not exist until our forefathers were snatched from Africa. Our lack of knowledge coupled with improper portrayal of Biblical figures in movies like the Ten Commandments have left many wondering or asking why there are so few people of color in the Bible. Let's examine this question.

Acts 17:24-26 - Here we see that the earth was populated by Noah and his 3 sons.

Genesis 9:18 - 19 - Here we are given the names of Noah's 3 sons.

aphet Japheth- which means bright or fair was the father of the Caucasian and Indo-European races. Moving north from Babel they settled areas like Magog, Gomer and the regions north of the Caspian and Black seas.

She Shem - which means dusky or olive colored became the father of the Semitic (Hebrew) and Arab races. Moving south and west from Babel they settled Biblical Assyria. The descendents of Shem include the Jewish, Persian, Assyrian, Chaldeans, Armenians and Syrians.

Ha Ham -which means dark or black became the father of the Black, Indian and Mongoloid races. Obviously to study Biblical Black history we must focus our attention on Ham and his descendents.

One might ask how one man and the same woman could produce 3 children of such different complexions. "Medical research tells us it is possible to have children that are very different, especially if one or both of the parents is dark-complexioned, but it is impossible for two bright or fair complexioned persons to produce a dark skinned child. So for Noah to have fathered a dark complexioned son, he or his wife, or both he and his wife had to be dark skinned. You may wonder how they could have been Black or dark complexioned. Genesis 2:7 tells us that Adam was made from the dirt. Adam in Hebrew is Adahm, which means red or taken out of red earth. The name Adam also translate man; the prefix hu means color. So we can conclude that Adam made from dirt was a man of color"[Marilyn Hickey].

Back to Noah's sons.

For years we have been told that our complexion was a result of the curse that Noah put on Ham. But that is not what the Bible teaches.

Gen. 9:24 - It was Canaan not Ham who Noah cursed. Now who was Canaan?

Gen 10:6 - Ham who was a man of color had four sons, all of whom were black, and only one of those

sons, Canaan was cursed by Noah. Let's look a little closer at Ham's four sons.

Cush

The descendents of Cush populated Ethiopia, and what is presently northern Sudan (or ancient Nubia). Cushite, Cushi and Ethiopian are all names used for the descendents of Cush. Cush was the father of Nimrod. Look a Genesis 10:8-10. Nimrod was the first man to establish a great empire. He was ruler over Babylon and Akkad(2) in southern Mesopotamia. The original Babylonians were Cushites.

We know of the Ethiopian eunuch and Queen Candace an Ethiopian in Acts 8:27-28. The prophet Zephaniah was a Cushite (Zeph 1:1). Cushite runners were used to deliver messages in 2 Sam 18:19-33 and Jerm. 36:14. According to Num. 12:1 Moses had an Ethiopian wife. The accepted descent of the Queen of Sheba is also that she was Ethiopian (I Kings 10:1, Matt 12:42). Sheba was an Ethiopian city named after Sheba the grandson of Cush (Gen 10:7).

Mizraim - Heb. word for land of Egypt

Mizraim settled the Egyptian territory and was the ancestor of both the Egyptians and **I Chron. 1:11-12** tells us that he was an ancestor of the Philistines.

Gen. 16:1,15, Gen. 21:9-13 - Hagar the Egyptian was mother of Ishmael, son of Abraham. In Gen. 21:13 God promises Abraham that a nation would flow out of Ishmael. Ishmael is noted as the father of the Arab race. Though the bloodline of the Arab race is Semitic through Abraham and Ishmael, the mother of the race was Hagar an Egyptian.

Gen 36:1-3- Esau, grandson of Abraham married Canaanite women, and one of Ishmael's daughters. These women mothered Edomites.

Gen. 41:50-52 - Wycliffe says that Potipherah was an Egyptian priest of the sun god Ra. Joseph married his daughter and had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

These two sons were the Fathers of two of the tribes of Israel who went in to possess the promise land.

We know that the Egyptians were great architects, mathematicians, engineers and physicians. They were excellent at taming horses and are noted for the practice of embalming the dead Gen. 50:2. Joseph had Egyptian servants who were physicians.

So Mizraim fathered the Egyptian and Philistine people, but his descendents also mother two other races, the Arabs and the Edomites.

Phut

Phut and his descendents settled Lybia and were ancestors of the Libyan race. One of the major cities in Libya was Cyrene. We have been told often of Simon of Cyrene, the Black man who helped bear the cross of Jesus. Also the Bible tells us in **Act 13:1-3** of Simeon called Niger and Lucius of Cyrene who were Christian prophets and teachers and who took part in the ordaining of Paul and Barnabas. What that tells me is that as a race our first introduction to Christianity was not here in America, but we were a part of the actual Christian movement and spread of the gospel in Bible days.

Canaan

Canaan settled the land of Canaan and became the ancestor of the Phoenicians, Hittites, Amorites, Gergashites, Hivites, Arkites, and Jebusites. Major cities settled by Canaanites included Sodom and Gomorrah, Gaza, Jericho, Sidon, Giloh which was a Hittite city, and Jerusalem which was also called Salem and Jebus (I Chron 11:4) and was settled by Jebus son of Canaan. Now who do we know from Salem. Melchizedek in **Gen. 14:18**, was the king of Salem. As a type or symbol of Christ who has not beginning and no ending, Melchizedek's lineage is not given. However, the fact that he is King of a black race would suggest that he was black.

2 Sam. 11:1-3 - Bathesheba was the daughter of Eliam and according to **2 Sam 23:34** Eliam was the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite. Gilonites were Hittite descendents of Canaan who settled the City of Giloh. Bathesheba a Hittite woman married Uriah a Hittite man. David took Bathesheba a Hittite woman and produced Solomon who would latter become King of Israel.

Gen 38:1-6 - Judah, another son of Jacob marries Shuah a Canaanite who bears Er, Onan and Shelah. Tamar a Canaanite marries Er. Er died and through trickery Tamar became pregnant by Judah and had twins Pharez and Zereh (**Gen. 38:24-30**).

Josh 2:1, 3:10(Gen. 10:16) - Rahab the harlot was a Canaanite, who found favor in the sight of the children of Israel because she help them to overtake Jericho.

Matt. 1:1-6 - In this section of scripture 4 women are named in the genealogy of Christ between Judah and Solomon. Three of these women, Tamar, Rahab, and Bathesheba, are descendents of Canaan. This is the genealogy of Christ through Joseph. We must also remember that Jesus was not conceived by Joseph, but rather by the Holy Ghost. Thus His (Jesus?) bloodline, which is determined from the father was the blood of God.

Luke 3:31-34 - This is the lineage of Mary mother of Jesus. The line from David flows through Nathan, son also of Bathesheba (**I Chron 3:5**). This should help in understanding the description of the hair and feet of Jesus given in **Rev. 1:13-15**.

We are not told of the wives of some of the other men listed in the lineage of Jesus. We have seen representation from both the Hamitic and Shemitic people. It is quite possible that women of Japhetic ancestry may also be present in the lineage. In fact it is quite natural to think that all people of the world were

represented in Christ who came as a sin sacrifice for all mankind.

A history marred with slavery and oppression; years of erroneous propaganda fed to us through television and movies, and even pictures that have hung and still hang in many of our homes and churches have influenced our view of Black presence in the Bible. We have considered ourselves to have trivial presence and have therefore opened the door for the enemy to say to us through false religions that Christianity is a White man's religion. The slavery and oppression we have faced is only part of our history. We must remember that the Hamites ruled Egypt from 3500 BC to the Persian conquest in 525 BC. They ruled Canaan from 4000 BC to 1200 BC and Mesopotamia from 4000 BC to 2350 BC. In fact over the history of the Hamitic race we have enslaved Japhetic, Semitic and even other Hamitic people.

As a Black people we have a strong Biblical heritage. We have fathered and mothered races. We have been king and queens. We have built beautiful cities and empires. In teaching Moses, we taught the Hebrews the mathematics and sciences. We were represented in the early church days and we were among the masses to hear Peter preach on the Day of Pentecost. We were never an after thought in the mind of God or a cursed race of people. We have been vital contributors to God's plan and by instilling in ourselves and our children to come our Biblical history we come to understand our value to God and humanity.

If we look at the history of man, generally speaking each race has been given about 2000 years to reign: Ham - 4000 BC to 2000 BC; Shem 2000 BC to 300 BC; and Japheth 300 BC to the present. All three races have demonstrated that regardless of whether we are children of Ham, of Shem or of Japheth, we are all incapable of ruling the world. What will happen when

the rule of Japheth is over. Could it be that we then enter into the reign and rule of Jesus. Could we be closer now to Rev. 5:9 then even we as Christians think.

Rev. 21:1-8 - I've tried to show you today that Jesus is a universal God. In Him all the peoples of the world are represented. If the time of mankind's rule on this earth is about to end it would behoove us all to be prepared to enter eternity. God leaves the choice with each man, an eternity with Him as our ruler, or an eternity in the lake of fire. If you don't know Jesus as your personal savior, will you today choose the God of all mankind.

Black History Month Quotations

- Yes we can. Barack Obama, President USA
- Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. Booker T. Washington
- Freedom is never given; it is won. Phillip Randolph
- Be black, shine, aim high. Leontyne Price
- Have a vision. Be demanding. Colin Powell
- God gives nothing to those who keep their arms crossed. African Proverb
- I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear. Rosa Parks
- Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brain power. Barbara Jordan
- The past is a ghost, the future a dream. All we ever have is now. Bill Cosby
- Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise I rise I rise. Maya Angelou "Still I rise".
- Greatness occurs when your children love you, when your critics respect you and when you have peace of mind. Quincy Jones