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Magazine

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A SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIIN.

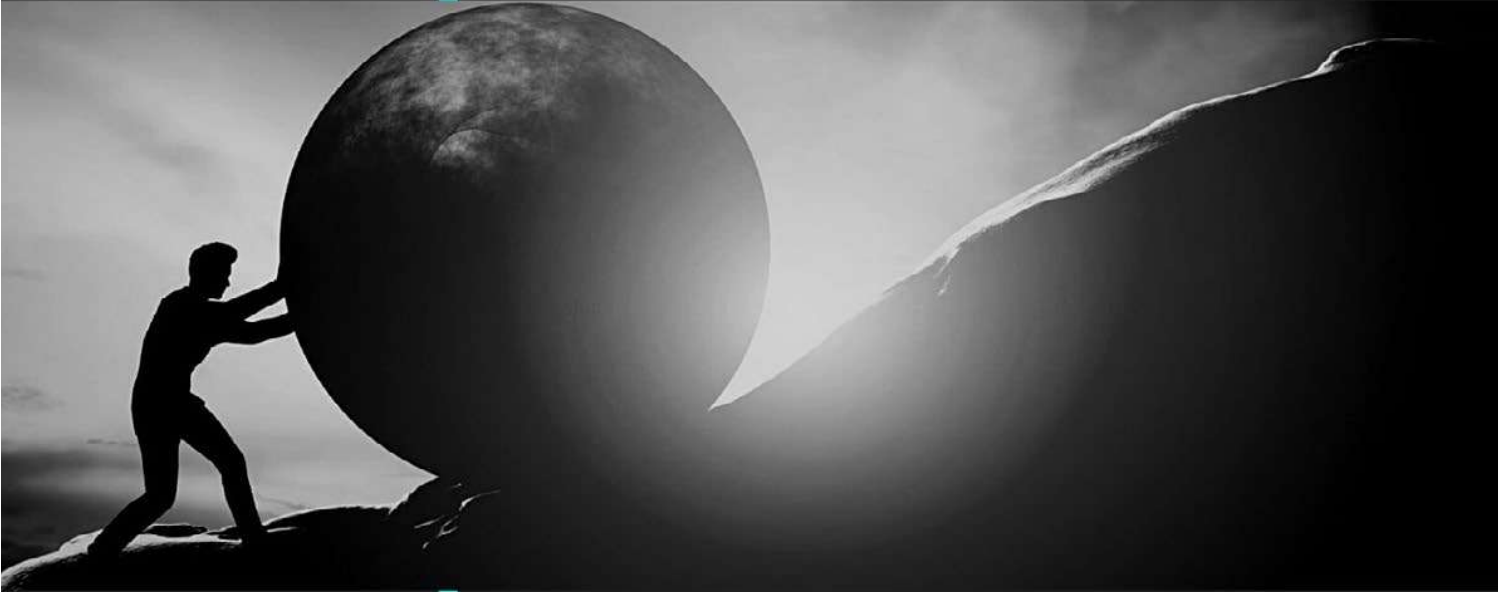
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With the month of February now well past our current calendar we want to take a moment to salute and acknowledge the celebration this past year by several of my colleagues who meet weekly on a platform that we have developed named “The Weekly Clergy Roundtable”. Let me thank Bishop Walter Willie, Dr. Patricia Rickenbacker, Pastor Keith Hayward, Bishop-Designate Helen Seenster, Archbishop Dennis Golphin, Bishop Jeffrey Bowens and Pastor Diane Seaman for their participation and support of this effort. I additionally want to thank Dr. Naima Robinson for her research and support.

In this celebration we identify eight specific periods of Black History that are so worthy of celebration. Interestingly enough we include in the historical review two segments on African History so as not to permit the viewer to assume that Black History begins with slavery in the south. It has often been said that those who do not know their past are destined to repeat it. It is with that in mind that we invite you to take advantage of the special program video that we have produced and are making available to you. We do hope that you enjoy it and will share it with as many people as possible. ●

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THE LEGACY OF BLACK INTELLECTUALS

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIN.

THE LEGACY OF BLACK INTELLECTUALS

It used to be that when one talked about Black Scholarship two names would immediately come to mind. The first of those two would be W. E. B. Dubois, who was the first Black man to acquire a Ph. D. from Harvard University in 1906. The other name that would be mentioned alongside that of Dubois would be Booker T. Washington who is perhaps best known for his “pull yourself up from you bootstraps” ideology that formed the foundation for most of the “normal” and vocational schools that served the Black community.

In the cover story of this issue I take time to sit down with Dr. Naima Robinson, who in my estimation represents the changing face of Black scholarship in America, to discuss not only academic giants but more importantly talk about the future direction of Black scholarship.

While the conversation is somewhat lengthy, I am certain that it provides a perspective that encourages meaningful conversations on the topic by all members of the Black diaspora.

If Dr. Robinson represents the changing face of Black Scholarship permit to take a moment to salute those that have been the leading influences of Black Scholarship in the past and are no longer with us, except for Dr. Ani, in the specific area

of dismantling Eurocentric propaganda when it comes to Ancient Africa, the specialty of Dr. Robinson

DR. YOSEF BEN-JOCHANNAN



Dr. Yosef Alfredo Antonio Ben-Jochannan, also known as Dr. Ben, (1918–2015) was an Ethiopian-Puerto Rican writer, historian and Egyptologist. Ben-Jochannan earned a

Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at the University of Puerto Rico in 1938, and earned his master’s degree in architectural engineering from the University of Havana, Cuba in 1938. He received his doctoral degrees in cultural anthropology and Moorish history from the University of Havana and the University of Barcelona, Spain, respectively.

Ben-Jochannan was the author of 49 books, primarily on ancient Nile Valley civilizations and their impact on Western cultures. One of Dr. Ben’s most thought-provoking works, “African Origins of the Major ‘Western Religions’” (1970), highlights how the roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam originated in Black Africa. He also argues that the

original Jews were from Ethiopia and were Black Africans, while the European Jews later adopted the Jewish faith and its customs.

DR. CHEIKH ANTA DIOP



Senegalese-born Cheikh Anta Diop (1923–1986) received his doctorate degree from the University of Paris and was a brilliant historian, anthropologist, physicist and politician and one of the most prominent

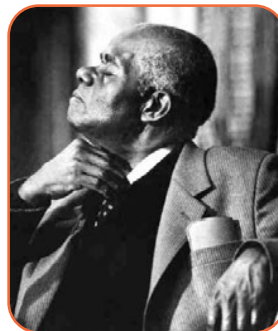
and proficient Black scholars in the history of African civilization.

Contrary to the long-standing European myth of a Caucasian Egypt, Diop’s studies into origins of the human race and precolonial African culture established that ancient Egypt was founded, populated, and ruled by Black Africans; the Egyptian language and culture still exists in modern African languages (including his own Wolof language); and that Black Egypt was responsible for the rise of civilization throughout Africa and the Mediterranean, including Greece and Rome.

Diop also pioneered techniques of scientific research, such as carbon dating as a means of dating artifacts and remains, and the melanin dosage test he used to verify the melanin content

of Egyptian mummies. Forensic investigators later adopted this technique to determine the “racial identity” of badly burned accident victims. Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, is named after him.

DR. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE



Dr. John Henrik Clarke (1915–1998) was a Pan-Africanist writer, historian, professor, and a pioneer in the establishment of Africana studies in professional institutions in academia starting in the late

1960s. He was a professor of African world history, and in 1969 he became the founding chairman of the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College of the City University of New York. He also was the Carter G. Woodson Distinguished Visiting Professor of African History at Cornell University’s Africana Studies and Research Center.

He challenged the mostly white academic historians and attributed their reluctance to acknowledge the historical contributions of Black people as part of the systematic and racist suppression and distortion of African history.

Clarke asserted: “Nothing in Africa had any European influence before 332 B.C. If you have

10, 000 years behind you before you even saw a European, then who gave you the idea that he moved from the ice-age, came all the way into Africa and built a great civilization and disappeared, when he had not built a shoe for himself or a house with a window?”

DR. MARIMBA ANI



Dr. Marimba Ani is an anthropologist and African studies scholar best known for her book “Yurugu,” a comprehensive critique of European thought and culture. She completed her Bachelor

of Arts degree at the University of Chicago, and holds masters and doctorate degrees in anthropology from the Graduate Faculty of the New School University.

In her ground-breaking work, “Yurugu: An Afrikan-Centered Critique of European Cultural Thought and Behavior,” Ani uses an African perspective through the myths of the Dogon people and the language of Swahili to examine the impact of European cultural influence on Black people and the world. She developed a framework that methodically debunked the belief that Western civilization was the best, most constructive society ever built, and instead she pointed out its inherent destructive tendencies.

IVAN VAN SERTIMA



Dr. Ivan Gladstone Van Sertima (1935–2009) was a Guyanese-born associate professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

He was best known for his work “They Came before Columbus,” which provided a pyramid of evidence to support the idea that ancient Africans were master shipbuilders who sailed from Africa to the Americas thousands of years before Spanish explorer Christopher Columbus, and that the Africans traded with the indigenous people, leaving lasting influences on their cultures. In one example, Van Sertima presents evidence that Emperor Abubakari of Mali used these “almadias” or longboats to make a trip to the Americas during the 1300s.

Van Sertima methodically demonstrates that these Blacks were not slaves, but traders and priests who were honored and venerated by the Native Americans who built statues — Olmec heads — in their honor. In the closing of the book, he decried the notion of “discovery” by Columbus.

In 1987, Van Sertima testified before a United States congressional committee to oppose recognition of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ “discovery” of the Americas. He said, “You cannot really conceive of how insulting it is to Native Americans ... to be told they were discovered.”

DR. FRANCES CRESS WELSING



Dr. Frances Cress Welsing (1935–2016) was an African-American psychiatrist practicing in Washington, D.C. She was noted for her books the “Cress Theory of Color Confrontation” and “The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors,” which explore and define the global system of white supremacy.

In “The Isis Papers,” Welsing contradicts the notion that white supremacy was rooted in an idea of genetic superiority. Instead, she presents a psychogenetic theory suggesting whites fear genetic annihilation because their genes are recessive to the majority of the world’s population, which consists of people of color — the most threatening being black. Therefore they established white supremacy to prevent people of color from diluting their genes and subsequently rendering them extinct.

DR. ANTHONY MARTIN



Dr. Anthony Martin (1942–2013) was a Trinidadian-born professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. He was a lecturer and prolific author of scholarly articles about Black history and was considered the world’s foremost authority on Jamaican Black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey. Martin authored, compiled or edited 14 books, his earliest work being “Race First: The Ideological and Organizational

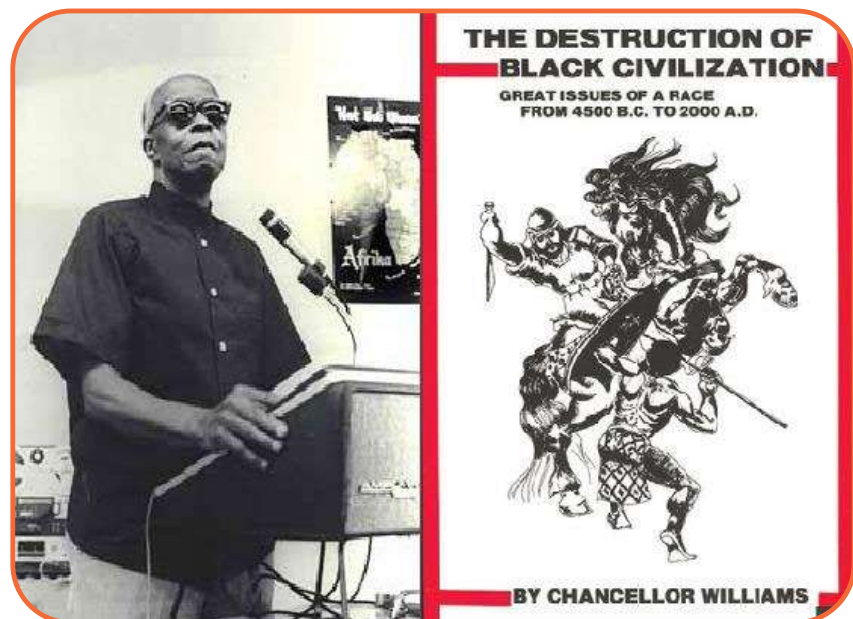
Struggles of Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association” (1976).

In his works on Garvey, Martin used his scholarship to counteract attempts by the mainstream to mischaracterize and deny Garvey’s true legacy as one of the greatest Black leaders of all time.

DR. CHANCELLOR WILLIAMS

Dr. Chancellor Williams (1893–1992) was an African-American sociologist, historian and writer. His best known work is “The Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of a Race from 4500 B.C. to 2000 A.D.,” for which he was awarded honors by the Black Academy of Arts and Letters.

In “Destruction of Black Civilization,” Williams chronicles how high civilization began in Black Africa, contrary to what mainstream historians have espoused to the world. He meticulously lays out the history of Africa in great detail and demonstrates that the continent’s current underdevelopment came after thousands of years of consistent onslaught by Eurasians, and not because Africans made no significant contributions to the world. ●

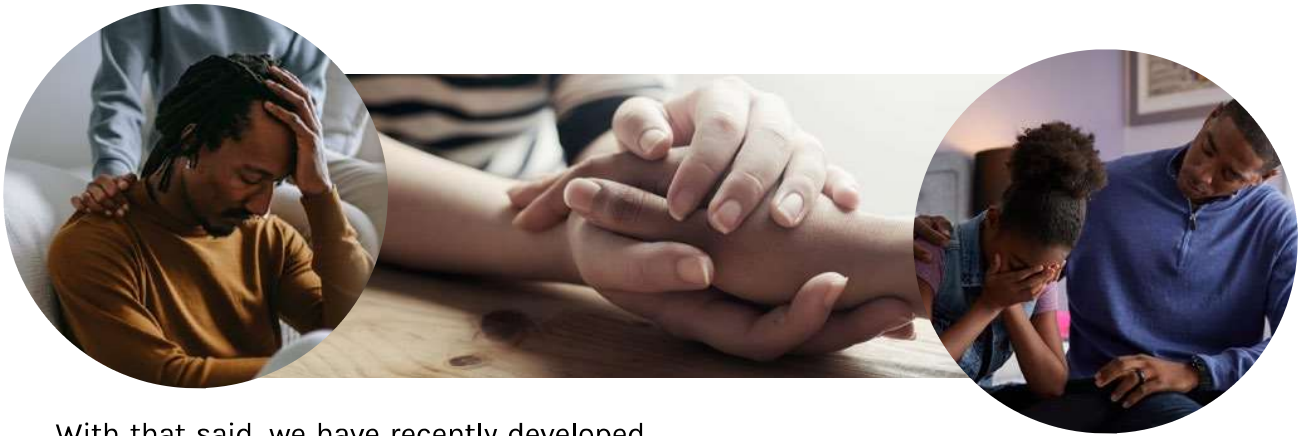


MANAGING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIN.



Over the last two years the Coronavirus has touched just about every family and home that we know. When the virus first appeared the general assumption was that it would last perhaps a few weeks and then disappear like so many threatening pandemics in the past. After all, while the SARS virus wreaked havoc on foreign soil, it was only a few weeks before the American medical community was able to get a handle on the virus and minimize its impact on health of the American public. However, with that being said the death toll in response to Covid-19 has been astounding.



With that said, we have recently developed a six-week series on grief management for those person who find themselves struggling with coping with the death of a loved one. These weekly sessions are sponsored by the Hollywood Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral, The Queens Ministry of New York City and Lewter Life Coaches. The sessions are FREE and are facilitated by Rosalyn Lewter Aaron. So let me take a minute to provide you with a quick overview on what we cover in the sessions.

Grief is a natural response to loss. It's the emotional suffering you feel when something or someone you love is taken away. Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. You may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and profound sadness. The pain of grief can also disrupt your physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to loss—and the more significant the loss, the more intense your grief will be.

Coping with the loss of someone or something you love is one of life's biggest challenges. You may associate grieving with the death of a loved one—which is often the cause of the most intense type of grief—but any loss

Even subtle losses in life can trigger a sense of grief. For example, you might grieve after

moving away from home, graduating from college, or changing jobs.

Whatever your loss, it's personal to you, so don't feel ashamed about how you feel, or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things. If the person, animal, relationship, or situation was significant to you, it's normal to grieve the loss you're experiencing. Whatever the cause of your grief, though, there are healthy ways to cope with the pain that, in time, can ease your sadness and help you come to terms with your loss, find new meaning, and eventually move on with your life.

Grieving is a highly individual experience; there's no right or wrong way to grieve. How you grieve depends on many factors, including your personality and coping style, your life experience, your faith, and how significant the loss was to you.

Inevitably, the grieving process takes time. Healing happens gradually; it can't be forced or hurried—and there is no "normal" timetable for grieving. Some people start to feel better in weeks or months. For others, the grieving process is measured in years. Whatever your grief experience, it's important to be patient with yourself and allow the process to naturally unfold. ●

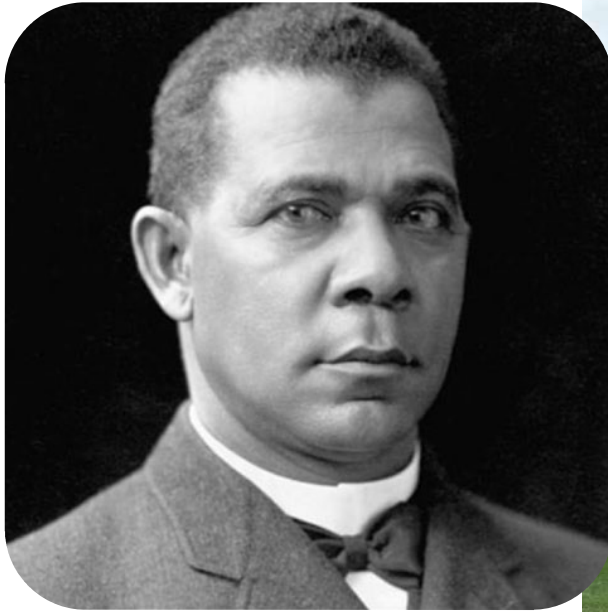
THE CHANGING FACE OF BLACK SCHOLARSHIP

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIN.



There is a long and storied history of Black Scholarship in this country which begins at a time when it was literally against the law to teach people of color to read and write. The thought at the time was that if we could keep the slave population in this country illiterate it would be far easier to control them as opposed to having to deal with them if they were educated. For a very long time those who were fortunate enough to get an education were called “uppity” and special measures were taken to “keep them in their place”. However, despite those efforts there is a rich history of Black scholarship in America.





In this article we talk to Dr. Naima Robinson who discusses the long journey of Black Intellectualism and what the current status of Black Scholarship today. In many ways the face of Black Scholarship has changed significantly in recent years and in the accompanying video you will learn in what areas those changes have taken place.

Dr. Naima Robinson, who in my estimation represents the changing face of Black scholarship in America, discusses Black Intellectuals of the past, but more importantly talks about the future direction of Black scholarship. While the conversation is somewhat lengthy, I am certain that it provides a perspective that encourages meaningful conversations on the topic by all members of the Black diaspora.

Dr. Robinson is a native New Yorker whose educational resume' includes Boston College, the University of New York in Buffalo and Long Island University. She works in the New York



City Public School system but has distinguished herself as a well sought-after historian with a focus on Ancient Africa.

One cannot have a meaningful conversation about Black Scholarship and not include the likes of W. E. B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington, the fathers of Black Education in this country. W. E. B. Dubois was known for forwarding the "Talented Tenth" theory where he argued that the 10% of Blacks who have obtained an education have the responsibility to work for the improvement and elevation of Black people in this country. Dubois was juxtaposed by Booker T. Washington that is remembered for telling Black people to pull



themselves up by their bootstraps. Dubois is largely responsible for the church sponsored school that had the objective of educating clergy and teachers in the Black community while Booker T. Washington helped to establish the land grant colleges, like Florida A and M, North Carolina A and T, whose goal it was to give its students practical skills like farming and other vocational tools.

Historian Manning Marable, who defined the black intellectual tradition as “the critical thought and perspectives of intellectuals of African descent and scholars of black America, and Africa, and the black diaspora,

” argued that it has always been prescriptive. Since the colonial era, black intellectuals have attempted to improve the actual condition of black people by marrying “scholarship and struggle...social analysis and social transformation.”

That commitment to social advocacy has never diluted the seriousness of black intellectual work, however. In Marable’s words, the “common recognition of the broad social purpose of intellectual work did not mean that black scholarship must be... a partisan polemic with no genuine standards of objectivity.” ●

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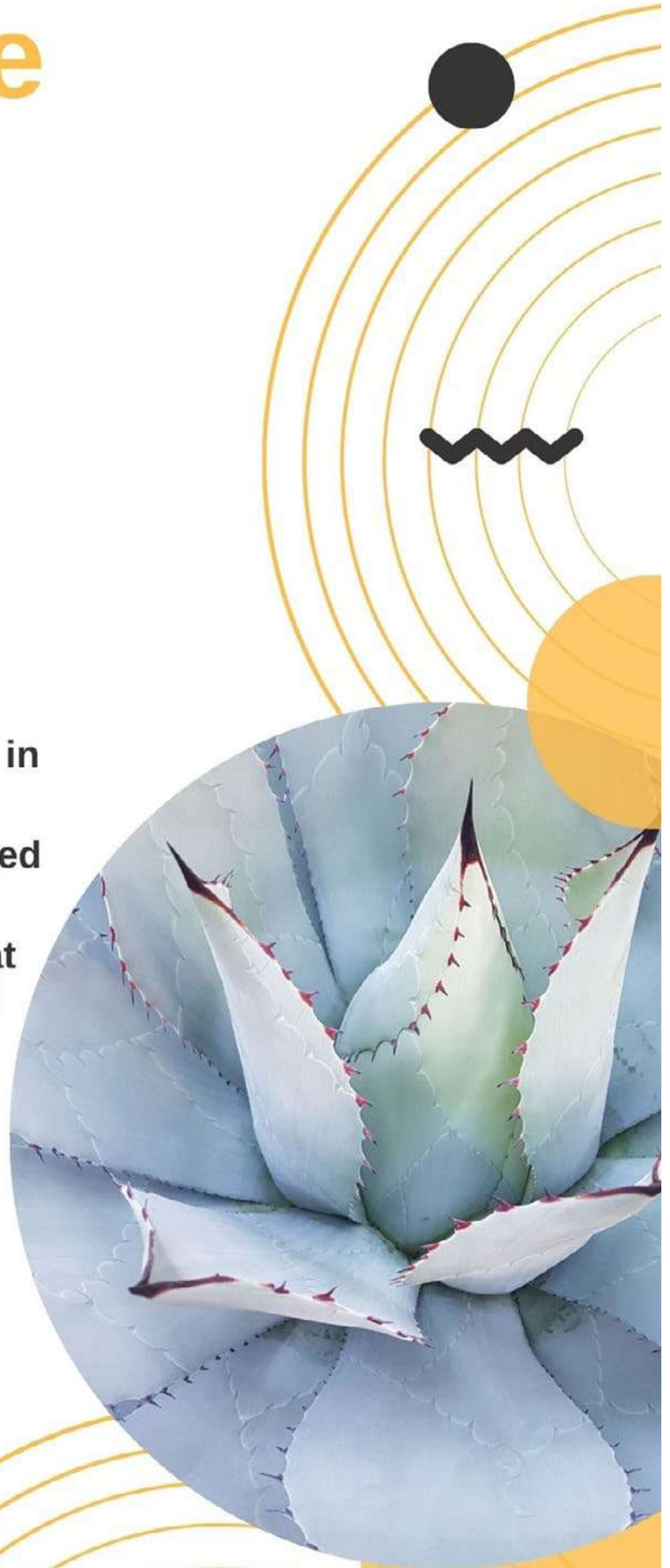
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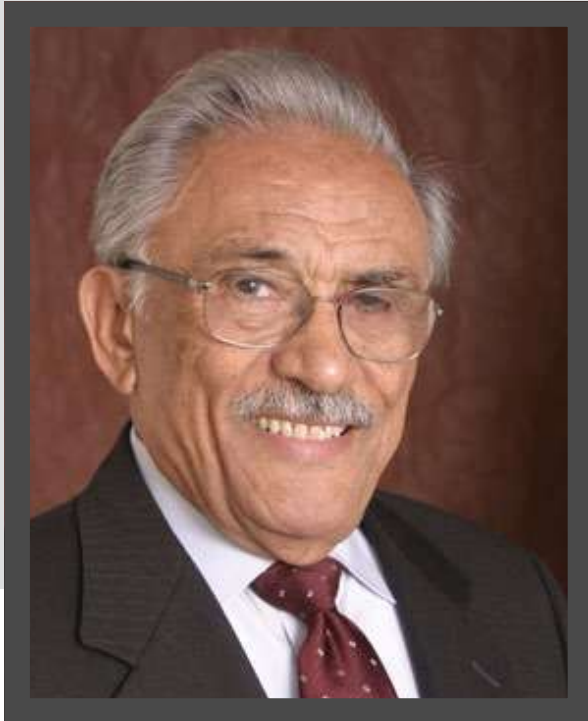
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THE DEATH OF A GIANT, DR. HENRY H. MITCHELL

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIN.



Although he only stood about 5'6, Dr. Henry H. Mitchell was a giant of a man in so many ways. I am one of so many students who had the privilege of being mentored and taught by this unique gift to the body of Christ. One of the things that am most proud of is the "D. Min." title that appears behind my name. The truth is that I would not enjoy such a designation if it had not been for Dr. Henry H. Mitchell. In 1991 I received a personal call from Dr. Mitchell who had just agreed to mentor a group of pastoral scholars at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. He invited me to join him as one of his students and spend the next two and a half years under his tutorage and guidance. This was a very dark period in my life having





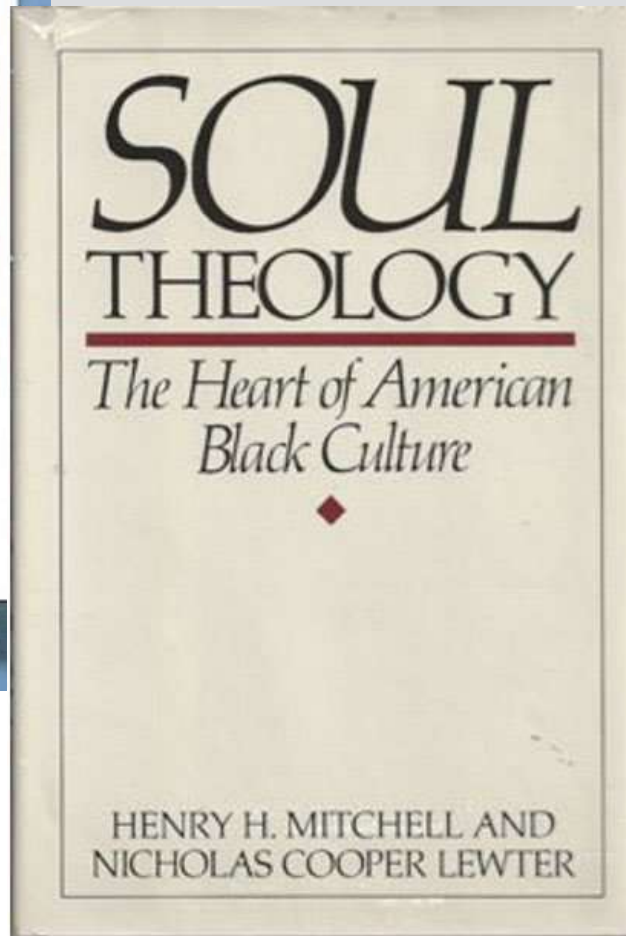
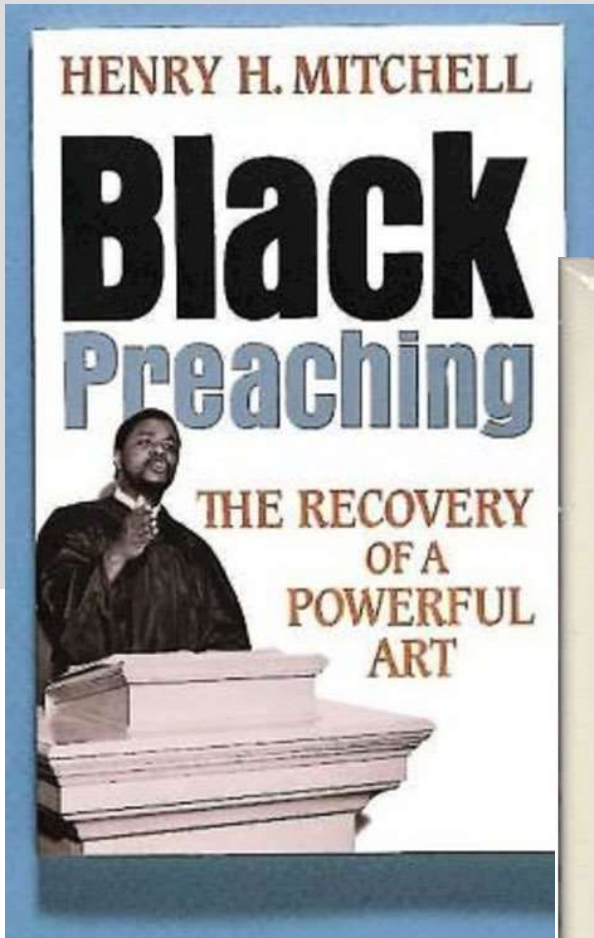
just survived a divorce and in the midst of a church struggle with my congregation at the time.

Dr. Mitchell would not allow me to feel sorry for myself and insisted that I pick myself up and pursue this terminal degree in ministry. I had known Dr. Mitchell since I was a child and have such fond memories of he and his family visiting our home on Long Island back in the early 1960's. In matter of fact, my visit to the 1964 World's Fair, located in Queens, NY, was because of a visit of Dr. Mitchell and his family at the time. So today I pause to pay homage to one of the persons who has had the most influence in my life.

Religious leader and religion professor Reverend Henry Mitchell was born in 1919, in Columbus, Ohio to Orlando and Bertha Mitchell. He received his B.A. degree from Lincoln University and went on to attend Union Theological Seminary, from which he

received his B.D. and M.Div. degrees. After graduation, Mitchell was hired as pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Fresno, California and later moved to the Cavalry Baptist Church in Santa Monica, California. He also earned his Th.D. degree from Claremont School of Theology and his M.A. in linguistics from California State University.

In 1969, Mitchell became the first Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Black Church Studies at the consortium of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Bex Ley Hall, and Crozer Theological Seminary. He also served as professor of religion and Pan African Studies at California State University and academic dean and professor of history and homiletics at Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. In 1988, Mitchell and his wife, the Reverend Doctor Ella Pearson Mitchell, began team-teaching as visiting professors of homiletics at the Interdenominational Theological Center. They became well known for their team-teaching



and preaching style, where they would speak to their audience in dialogue with each other.

Mitchell served as the founding director of the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies and has written a book on the history of the African American church called *Black Church Beginnings: The Long-Hidden Realities of the First Years*. In addition, Mitchell has also written *Black Preaching: The Recovery of a Powerful Art*, a history of African American preaching styles, *Fire in The Well*, a collections

of sermons Mitchell and his wife have given, and *Together For Good: Lessons From Fifty-Five Years of Marriage*, Mitchell and his wife's joint autobiography. He has also co-authored the book *Preaching for Black Self-Esteem*.

Mitchell has been awarded an honorary D.D. degree by the American Baptist Seminary of the West and an honorary L.H.D. degree by Lincoln University. He and his wife are also the recipients of the 2008 Union Theological Seminary Trailblazer Award. ●

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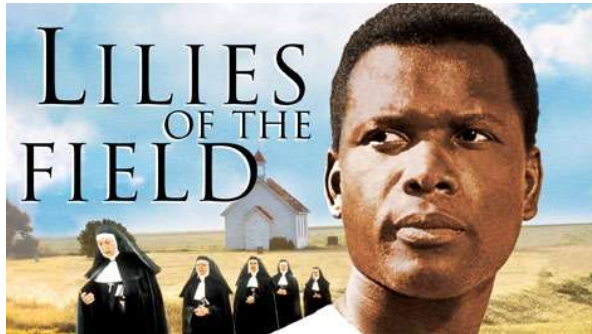
To Sir with Love

A SALUTE TO SIDNEY POITIER

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER

2022 has already been marked with the death of so many well-known personalities. But perhaps one of the more losses of this early year is that of Sidney Poitier. I remember seeing





Sidney Poitier in the late 1950's with his role in films like "No Way Out" starring he and Richard Widmark, "Something of Value" with Rock Hudson, "The Defiant Ones" with Tony Curtis, for which he earned an academy award nomination. Other films of that era included "Blackboard Jungle" with Glenn Ford and "Edge of the City" with John Cassavettes

In the 1960's Sidney Poitier was celebrated as the best actor of 1964 with his performance in "Lillies of the Field". Poitier would close out the decade of the 60's as one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood. In 1967 alone he starred in three films that would garner for him national acclaim, "In the Heat of the Night", "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner" and "To Sir with Love".

While he was particularly suited for the "Blaxploitation" genre of films in the early 1970's Poitier managed to stay busy with films like "Uptown Saturday Night", "A Piece of the

Action" and "Let's Do it Again" all with co-star Bill Cosby. Refusing to be bound by limited roles his 1970's season would also include "Buck and the Preacher" with Harry Belafonte.

In later years Poitier would age gracefully but still maintain a powerful presence on the silver screen with movies like "Little Nikita" and "Shoot to Kill" with Tom Berenger. He would also go on to help establish the popularity of cable channel movies with his portrayal of Nelson Mandela in "Mandela and DeKlerk" starring Michael Cain on HBO and a movie featuring his daughter, Sydney Poitier.

For many Americans the most distinctive features of Sidney Poitier's career was that in all of his films you never saw him play the role of a butler, driver or other domestic. When interviewed, Sidney Poitier said that he was very careful not take any role that would be an embarrassment to himself or his community. Perhaps his acting career is best summed up in a line that he delivers in the movie "Guess Who is Coming to Dinner" where he is having a bit of an argument with his father over his intended marriage to a White fiancé. He says "You think of yourself as a Black man while I just think of myself as a man." By the mid 1960's Sidney Poitier was accepted by America not so much as a Black actor but simply as a great actor. ●

WHAT NOT TO WATCH ON YOUTUBE

BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER, D. MIN.



Allen Parr

By the sound of this article's title you may assume that I am talking about YouTube videos that feature sex, alcohol or some other type of behavior that is easily identified as inconsistent with the Christian message. However, that is not my focus or intent.

When I reference what we should not watch on YouTube I am acknowledging that YouTube has become a powerful tool and instrument that many in the faith community has turned to in order to promote their ministry, especially during this time of the pandemic when we are unable to do so many of the things that we

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typically do in the name of the Lord. However, like with so many other things there is the possibility that the YouTube platform can be mis-used to promote messages and information that is harmful to the body of Christ.

Therefore, what I am talking about are those types of YouTube videos that fall into a particular category and type. Now, let me say at the outset that I am not targeting a particular person or religious organization and it is for that reason that I have decided not to name any particular persons as examples. But I am sure that as you consume this article you will be able

to apply the description that is given and make your own accurate associations with ministries that fall into the discussed categories.

Finally, because I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the person who I am using as a resource for this article, I have decided to give you a special treat by having the details of my descriptions shared with you by Allen Parr. Allen is a tremendous teacher and one that I trust in giving you credible information and content. So, use the link below and learn what kind of videos you should not be watching on Youtube. ●



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