

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY/BLACK HISTORY: A CULTURAL AWARENESS EXPERIENCE

by: Dr. Loretta C. Johnson - February 7, 2020

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A BASIC INTRODUCTION:

Predicated upon this year's sub-theme theme, "February: A Season of LOVE Manifested!," **LOVE** is the "INTEGRAL" that guides one's input into this topic, etc. [in other words 1) what one thinks; 2) what one says; 3) what one does – then, eventually - the output (*Appreciation, Positive Reaction, Positive Application* of what was learned as a result of the cultural awareness of persons who are members of his/her neighborhood, community, school, church, etc.)]. During the year LMMI would like its participants to become more conscious of persons "different" from himself/herself. The "**LOVE**" talked of in the February Theme will "become this INTEGRAL!"

For LMMI, "African American/Black History: A Cultural Awareness Experience" will officially begin in January – with the Study of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – and others – throughout the year!

*** Pre-readings to this Topic – from the website: www.lcj-lmami.org/services - are these correlating web-posts:**

- 1) September 16 , 2019 : "YOU ARE MORE THAN MY FRIEND, YOU ARE MY BROTHER; YOU ARE MY SISTER!"**
- 2) #6 - "FEBRUARY: A SEASON OF LOVE MANIFESTED" (with Scriptures regarding GOD's AGAPE LOVE" via Bible Study Guides [BSG] for March – December.**

[**NOTE:** Hopefully, you have begun your "...Black History" Studies/Research. Additions can begin **TODAY**; afterwards set your own topics, dates, lengths of presentation, etc.].

OBJECTIVE:

*To develop an awareness and appreciation of/for persons “different from oneself” - realizing this can be done/MANIFESTED through having the **LOVE of GOD** within his/her heart! Especially/Heavily, involve children, teens, and youth in these Activities, Projects, Events, etc.*

BACKGROUND:

Because of its unending volumes of information – most untold, unheard of, etc., LMMI finds it essential that **ALL** persons know the history, accomplishments, contributions, etc. of a people brought to America from Africa without choice (Why?; How?; Purpose?; For what?; Results – THEN? NOW?).

LMMI does not want to “study African American History/Black History...” only in the month of February – rather, preferring it to begin with the study of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January, **THEN**, addressing the topic throughout the year.

(NOTE: Positive Awareness/Recognition/Contributions of other ethnic groups may be done, as well. Instead of “African American History/Black History,” the topic would reflect the culture of the particular ethnic group being recognized)

SOME SUGGESTIONS ARE HEREWITH, LISTED; THERE ARE MULTITUDES MORE.

You are invited to list others, preferably, with your own creative expressions of deliverance.

YOUR TASK:

Develop non-traditional strategies, etc. for implementing the wording in this Document's INTRODUCTION and OBJECTIVE, resulting in a **POSITIVE OUTCOME**.

If you care to – and – if possible, postal mail your copyrighted "WORK" to

Dr. Loretta C. Johnson – P.O. Box 1284 – Hampton, VA 23661. OR e-mail me: ministry.lmmi@gmail.com

SUGGESTION ONE: *"UNSUNG" and "OTHER HEROES"*

**"UNSUNG HEROES"* are those persons who have done outstanding feats, but no one knows it, or "haven't paid attention to this 'low-key' person." Look in your family, neighborhood, community, church, school, etc. - for persons who have had an impact upon others in some manner. Choose a "*deserving person*" whom you think should be recognized for his/her DEED and/or LEGACY.

"OTHER HEROES" would refer to "Lesser Known Persons" and/or "Well-known Persons" ("FIRSTS," Pioneers, Inventors, etc. – living or deceased - with accommodating information, as above.

#1 – The Project: Begin recognitions with the eldest adult(s) from **YOUR OWN** family and/or church/neighborhood/community/organization – who have made noteworthy contributions/achievements/accomplishments - in any area - of which many persons are unaware (but should be made aware).

#2 - Organizers: (as Millennials, etc.)

A) Formulate Committees; include specific assignments needed.

B) Locate "Unsung and Other Heroes."

#3 – Procedures/Specifics:

A. . Research:

- 1) His/her life/Legacy, including his/her family life; his/her hardships/struggles; education; influencers; writings/inventions; achievements/accomplishments; contributions to the lives of others, etc.
- 2) What other information would you want others to know regarding this person?

[NOTE: Items 3 – 5 can be participatory projects for other HEROES; choose set-up]

- 3) What applications from this person's Life/Legacy can you make to Your own life? [can be a participatory project].
- 4) What is your "Take-Away" from this research?
- 5) How will you present your findings to others?

B) Gather information/visuals, etc. about each "HERO:"

Advertisements, then Presentations through:
Church bulletins; Books; special programs; hard/soft
media [protecting confidentiality, etc.]; Church Services;
Community Events, Interviews; Honorariums/gifts/cards, etc.

**C) Organize/Do the specific details, including deciding when/
where/how recognitions will be done; family/friends \
attendees; program participants; invited guests; other
attendees; etc..**

#4 – Implement your Project or Program.

How will this be done?

How often will it be done?

#5 – Evaluate your Project or Program.

NOTE: African American History/Black History does not have to culminate at the end of February – nor does it have to occur only during one month of the year.

**SUGGESTION TWO: READING and RESEARCH of Unsung,
Lesser-Known and/or Well-known African Americans/Blacks**

- a) via 1) Person; 2) Her/His Life; 3) What she/he invented, etc.;
- 4) Investments etc.;
- b) via accomplishments through research, writings, etc.;
- c) via Interest, etc.;
- d) via her/his Legacy, etc.;
- e) Other.

MANNER OF PRESENTATION:

- 1) Speakers?
- 2) Visuals?
- 3) “Artistic” Creativity?
- 4) Videos; audio tapes; CDs/DVDs, Movies, etc.?
- 5) Monologues; Theatre; Activities; Games, etc.?
- 6) Hard/Soft Media, etc.?
- 7) Various means of Technology, etc.?

- 6) Some form of
 - a) Theatre presentation, as plays, etc.?
 - b) Musical presentations – vocal, instrumental?
 - c) Artistic creativity – photos, sculptures, etc.?
 - d) Table/Room display, with “shadow boxes.”
books pictures, etc.; visual boards, etc.?
- 7) Foods [tastings; displays, etc.]?
- 8) Ethnic – History, Language, Dress; Performances?
- 9) Field Trips, Museums, Etc.
- 10) Other?

CULMINATION:

- 1) Special Program, with invited guest?;
- 2) Tours/Field Trip?
- 3) Visit to Museums, Theatres, etc.?
- 4) Restaurant - Special Meal?
- 5) Church Service/Program, etc.?
- 6) Etc. ?

SUGGESTION THREE: Cultural Awareness of Other Ethnic Groups .

SUGGESTION FOUR: Invite "HERO" to "A SPECIAL TREAT."

Invite others to join you.

SUGGESTION FIVE: Treat "HERO" [with one/persons of his/her choice] on an overnight trip to a place she/he would like to visit.

SUGGESTION SIX: On Youth Sundays??, recognize "HERO"

Do one or more of the following:

- 1) Conduct "INTERVIEW" [using information collected from "RESEARCH." Advertise via hard and soft media; family, community,
- 2) Invite special persons for "TRIBUTES:"
- 3) Distribute "PROGRAMMES" to attendees [See "RESEARCH"]
- 4) Present Certificate and/or Gift to "HERO."
- 5) Do write-ups for Church Bulletins; Mail-outs; Newspapers, Radio, Announcements, etc.
- 6) Etc.

SUGGESTION SEVEN: Participate in “...**LOCAL CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES,**” as

- 1) **“A BACK-TO-SCHOOL...” OR “STAY IN SCHOOL INITIATIVE”**
- 2) **“TAKE TIME FOR KIDS (TEENS AND YOUTH, TOO!)”**
- 3) **“FOCUS ON CHILDREN, TEENS, AND YOUTH”**

*May **GOD** SPECIALLY Bless you in either of these endeavors!*