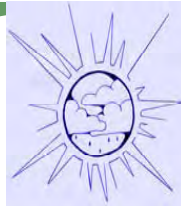


Prepare
for
Rain



A Publication of ~ Solid Rock Church of God

Can God Call You Faithful?

We cannot be considered faithful unless we walk in a spirit of gratefulness to the Almighty God; the two must go hand in hand. Are we enduring Christians? Can we be faithful through life's ups and downs and over an extended period of time? There are some important areas of our lives in which we are called to be faithful:

- We ought to be faithful in our service to God and our fellow-man.
- Demonstrate heart-felt faithfulness in your relationships. Rise up and build up each other in your marriages.



Rev. Dr. Whitfield D. Blenman
Senior Pastor

- We must make faithfulness in our worship a priority.
- Be faithful even though you have not yet seen the outcome of your prayers. Remember that waiting time is not wasted time.

- While you are waiting, be faithful in your rejoicing; the victory comes as we praise.

We have within us the ability to be faithful, because the God within us is faithful. It is imperative that we continually endeavor to be the kinds of people that God can count on.

Love and Prayers,
Your Pastor

As We Worship



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The Reason why we Sing

I am not one of those students. You know the ones; they raise their hand to answer every question, and enthusiastically do all the extra, unnecessary, non-required schoolwork, just in case. Me, I think “just in case of what?” And I focus my efforts on doing the required assignments as best as I can. Well the other day I broke my own rule. I completed an optional assignment for the first time in my “student career.” I kept questioning my sanity as I typed away, but really the topic intrigued me, and in fact was about me. So I figured I had to respond. But it was the start of something—well I was about to exaggerate—it wasn’t really that BIG.

The professor asked us to respond to the question: “Why is religion so important to African American people?” I won’t bore you with the details of my lengthy, heart-felt response, but I did mention slavery, the Old Negro Spirituals, hope, and the Black church. Unexpectedly (and some might say unfortunately), the professor responded directly to me by asking me (not the class!) where did this notion of God originate. Did the Negro slaves bring their beliefs with them?

I was not about to major on the minor. You see, for me it matters not **who** first taught our people about God. What is important is that innate within all of us as humans, is an awareness; a void and yearning to return to and serve our Creator. We see it so clearly today. There is a searching for truth, and many try to fill that God-created void within by over-use and abuse of things that do not, and cannot satisfy.

When our people first heard about God, something just clicked; they recognized the truth. There was a Spirit connection. Things made sense now: the trees, the sky, the animals all testified to this God they always knew was there, but now they were officially introduced to Him (see Psalm 19:1). So as the slaves sang while they labored in the blazing sun, it was this deep, spiritual knowing that this God was the real deal, which allowed them to cope and hope. Later, during the civil rights movement, they kept on singing even as they marched in protest. Even our preachers like the late Dr. Martin Luther King, and our Pastor Whitfield Blenman have a special rhythm and song to their speech.

Often, on any given Sunday in many a Black church, the organist will play music as the preacher builds to a crescendo, and the preaching takes on that song-like pattern.

We must keep on singing. Now I love Lionel Richie’s songs (yes, I know I just dated myself), but singing his songs give me a temporary good feeling. But when I sing about Jesus/my Father I am filled to the point of overflow. And these songs keep me and our people going—for a lifetime, and through generations.

By Sis. Cheryl Clarke



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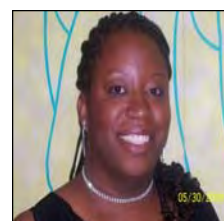
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Black History Trivia Questions

1. What was the first American Colony to abolish slavery
2. What was the first black newspaper
3. What event sparked the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People?
4. This Havre de Grace native was raised in Canada, but returned to the U.S. to become one of the Marine Corps first black enlistees during WWII. He later played for the Negro League's Baltimore Elite Giants and in his later years was a tennis instructor at many Baltimore Clubs.
5. The aftermath of the revolt led by this slave in 1831 led to a strengthening of the "Black Codes," which forbade slaves from gathering in groups larger than five, learning to read or write, owning property, or testifying in court.
6. This black Air Force materials researcher invented and patented new lubricants used in highflying aircraft and NASA space missions.
7. This engineer inventor patented an oiling device, which allowed machines to remain in motion while being lubricated. His device revolutionized the machine industry.
8. In 1976, this West Point grad becomes the first African-American to command the 82nd Airborne Division. He was also the first African American in the U.S. Army to achieve the rank of Four Star General.
9. Born in 1885, this Baltimore County physician and entrepreneur owned the Baltimore Homestead Grays, Edgewater Beach and numerous other businesses prior to WWII.
10. These men were the first two African-American cadets at West Point.
11. The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 destroyed what prosperous black community? What other name has been used to describe this community?
12. This Arbutus native is the first African-American Speaker Pro Tem of the Maryland House of Delegates.
13. This Turner Station native completed his second mission in space in January 2001.
14. Who was the first child of African parents born in England's American colonies?
15. What was the name of the first slave ship built in the English colonies?
16. What African American male developed the theory of the talent tenth.
17. When was the importation of slaves outlawed in the U.S.?
18. What dispute led to the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

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*(A special reward will be given to the first Solid Rock member who accurately completes these trivia questions by Wednesday, March 31, 2010; please submit your responses to Sis. Cheryl Clarke at [cgc4evahischild@aol.com](mailto:cgc4evahischild@aol.com)).*

*~ Sorry, ministry leaders and their immediate families are exempt from participation.~*

# *A Marriage Moment* by Sis. Rachel Nelson

## *Do You Really Love Your Spouse?*

Do you really love your spouse? Take a look at this scripture and see how you measure up. Don't just skim over the words but let each word speak to you. Love is patient and is kind; is not arrogant or rude, it does not insist on its own way; it is not resentful. Love does not bring up past failures, but chooses to forgive (1Corinthians 13:1-4). Do you feel conviction upon reading these words? If you do, it is not the end of the world but it is an indication that the love you have for your spouse could use some work.

Why is it so easy to lash out at your husband when you are upset? Do you cut your wife off when she speaks? Do you make your spouse feel like the least important person in your life? Are you constantly bringing up past mistakes? Do you always have to be right? Is it your way or the highway? Many times we are filled with resentment and hostility because we do not forgive. We claim we forgive, we kiss and make up, but we don't truly let go of things. Constant communication is the key. Couples should discuss everything from A to Z, even the unpleasant things. If you

are upset, you should choose to calm down and wait for an appropriate time when there are no distractions to discuss your issues. Don't allow too much time to pass before having the conversation because resentment can build up and turn into bitterness. Bitterness can turn into many evil things if left unchecked and as children of God we should not let the sun go down on our wrath.

Don't compare your spouse to anyone else. Be grateful for the spouse God gave you and encourage him or her to be the best they can be. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence and as somebody told me, "their grass needs mowing too." As Christians, we have made our commitment to Christ and all of our relationships should reflect that commitment. No one can do it on their own. We each come to the marriage with a different set of issues and experiences and we must work at it daily to make it last.

Taking one's marriage for granted is one of the worst things one can do. Suppose your spouse was no

longer there for some reason, would some of these little things we argue about even matter? Half of the time most people can't even remember what they were upset about. Don't allow the enemy to cheat you out of the most rewarding relationship on earth. Stay true to God, ask for his help, and learn to love your spouse— the Bible way.



*"I DO!"*

# Youth Impact Page

## just one

have you ever tasted yellow or blue  
or felt the aroma of fresh cooked food  
or smelt the sounds of spring  
or heard the hairs on your skin rise  
or saw the taste of rain?

have you ever ran across a ceiling  
or swam across the trees  
or flew under the ocean  
or jumped onto the breeze?

have you ever lived?  
have you ever died?

one word can change the course of a  
sentence  
one sentence can change the course of  
a life  
one life can change the course of a na-  
tion

only one God can direct every course,  
every time..

By AnnMarie Henry

## *Youth Accomplishments* *Congratulations to the following members of* *Solid Rock "Youth" Department* *who achieved Honor Roll* *recognition this past* *semester*

### A Honor Roll

Ricardo Payne  
Mark Nelson II  
Melody Clarke

### A/B Honor Roll

Jada Murray  
Anajae Weste  
Denzel Aberdeen  
Erica Payne  
Krystal Henry  
Howanna Henry  
Joshua Browne  
Mitchell Nelson  
Deyonce Briggs

### Honorable Mention

Kimberlle Gordon

## Up & Coming at Solid Rock

4/2 - Good Friday Night Service ~ 7:00 pm  
4/2- Easter Egg Hunt ▪ 5pm ~ 6:30 pm  
4/3 - Men's meeting/Workday ~ 10:00 am  
4/3 - Women's Ministry Tea Party & Fashion  
Show @ 4pm  
4/4 - Baptism ~ Easter Sunday Morning ▪ 9:30 am  
An Easter Drama Presentation of :  
REDEEMED! ~ 11:00 am  
TBA - Men's ministry BBQ

## Solid Rock Welcomes

### Jan ~ Mar New Members

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Barthelmy & Anjiro Gabriel      | Whitney Martin   |
| Victor Thompson                 | Carol Burnside   |
| Derrick Morrison                | Desiree Phillips |
| Urla King                       | Daphne Michel    |
| Sheila Hall                     | Valerie Marquez  |
| Lorna Layne                     | Jean Lherisson   |
| Errol, Althea & Arris Whittaker |                  |

# Toastmasters: The Culmination at Solid Rock



## Marriage Enrichment's Valentine's Day Event



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