

Divinely Blessed & Restored

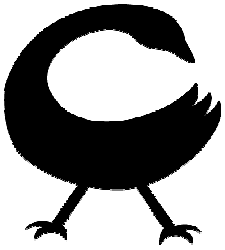


Submitted By: Rev Doris B. Ryans

“The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.” Proverbs 11:25 MSG

As I contemplated upon this month's article, I thought about the services this past month at our church which focused upon “Black History Month” and the celebration of our heritage and the Inaugural Speech by our new President, Barack Obama, that challenges us to a personal commitment to change and involvement within our community. I thought of a concept I had the pleasure of introducing to our congregation during Black History Month, “*Sankofa*”. “*Sankofa*” is a concept within the African and African American community that calls the community to *go back and fetch what you forgot*” or, “to return to the past in order to go forward”. While this concept began within the African and African American community, it now transcends across the world as the concept speaks to the heart of us all, regardless of ethnicity.

My prayer is that as you read the transcript of my presentation that you will allow this concept to take root within your spirit. I remind you of the words of John Wesley an 18th century Theologian; “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” This is a servant's creed.” Amen.



Sankofa

Sankofa is a word from the Akan (ah – con) language of Ghana that translates in English to: “go back and take” (Sanko- go back, fa- take). The word Sankofa has come to represent a concept within the African and African American Community that calls the community to “*go back and fetch what you forgot*” or, “to return to the past in order to go forward”.

Visually and symbolically "Sankofa" is represented as a bird that flies forward while continually looking backward with an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth, to the past.

The concept of Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, bring it into the present in order to make use of the knowledge, the lessons learned, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

Today I encourage us to search our past for the lessons and wisdom to make a better future, as we address the social issues that threaten the mental, emotional, and physical health, safety, and well being of all people. If we look at the past of our people, what is some of the wisdom we can bring into our present in order to progress toward a better tomorrow?

- Give God his rightful place in our lives – FIRST
- Reject behaviors that endanger and degrade self and community
- Stop the spread of behaviors that work to divide us
- Restore our families, become a community of intact families where single parent households are the exception and not the norm!
- Empower ourselves financially, learn that everything we want – we do not need, neither do our children
- Practice love, one for another – Stop the violence!

I believe that if we embrace these principles, we will restore our communities back to wholeness. If each of us commit each day this month to practice one of these principles in our life, we can start a movement of change within our communities. *Sankofa!* Let us Go back and get what we have lost!

Transcript By Rev. Doris B. Ryans and Presented by Trustee Lydia Barlow-Jamison February 1, 2009

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

Divinely Blessed & Restored

P.O. Box 31-1405
Detroit, MI 48231
Ph: 313-566-0944
Fx: 313-566-0945

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doris B. Ryans – President
(Executive Director)

Joyce D. Williams – Vice President
Asst. Executive Director

Zenell B. Brown – Secretary
Legal & Grants

Colleen V. Ealy- Treasurer
Site & Program Coordination

Internet Website:
www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org

Jason Coleman – Webmaster



COFFEE, TEA & THEE ® CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB

Meet and Discuss: Lord, I Need To Pray With Power! by Quin Sherrer and
Ruthanne Garlock & How To Pray by Ronnie W.Floyd

March 5, 2009 – April 30, 2009

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagement

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

Sunday, April 5, 2009 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and
upcoming events!!**