
PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month

Stamped From The Beginning *The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*

ISBN# 978-1-56858-463-8

Scripture Readings:
Salvation for the Family (NIV)

Week of February 4

Acts 16:31; 1 Corinthians 7:14

Week of February 11

Isaiah 59:21; 65:23

Week of February 18

Jeremiah 30:20; 31:16-17

Week of February 25

Isaiah 44:3-5; 49:25; 54:13-14

Our Quilt-story

(Many Members, One Body)

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk(new) cloth on an old garment; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and the tear becomes worse.”

Mark 2:21 (AMP)

Quilts are a sacred marker in African American history and in the lives of African American people. While the general population appreciates their warmth, comfort and eye-catching array of colors, patterns, textures and styles, quilts are - the *storytellers*, the *keepers* - to the seasons, events, family genealogies, childhood memories, legacies, eras and personalities that history books have forever failed to share with the world about African Americans, slavery, the Civil Rights Movement and so much more.

I am so glad there were (*and still are*) women of color who – through their gifts of vision, crafts, and social awareness – found a way to *bridge over* the economic, social, political, and inhumane injustices both suffered and fought against by African Americans *to the* victories and further challenges we have still yet to overcome. I am in awe of the minds, hearts and spirits of grand-mama, mama, auntie, daughter, and the community of women who gathered to encourage and support each other during some of the worst times of our people. Through their prayers and fellowship, they found a way to record the actuality of events and emotions of our history and pass it on for future generations to not only learn about, but to experience by the means of multitudinous expressions they intricately measured, cut, placed, and hand sewed together - piece

by piece. Their assemblage of scraps of cloths along with other varying notions suffused a compelling influence of the torment, hatred, bloodshed, heartbeat, hope, faith, sacrifice, love, unity and pride of the African American experience.

Throughout the month of February 2018, the Albany Museum of Art is presenting a most phenomenal display of quilts made by the hearts and hands of gifted visionary crafters. One visionary in particular – *Miss Yvonne Wells* – shares eight breathtaking quilts in an exhibition called *From Heart to Hand: African American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts*. I implore everyone reading this niche to visit the museum for yourself and witness what your heart will come to understand in a most profound way of our people's journey through the eras of time.

Without giving away too much of this wonderful experience, I will share with you my delight in making the acquaintance of *Mr. & Mrs. Higginbothams*. This friendly and dignified couple greeted me upon my entrance to the exhibition. I knew I'd be right at home with them because of their good manners – a homegrown quality of character ingrained in our culture. Wearing their Sunday Best attire, I could not help but to linger and reflect upon the memories I have of relatives who looked forward to going to church on Sunday morning dressed in their finest for the Lord! Church would go on for so long sometimes, but that afternoon dinner never disappointed! The fellowship oftentimes followed us home for some wholesome laughter and play intertwined with adult discussions on the future and the hope of our people.

I agree that sewing old cloth and new cloth together still is not the best thing to do. The new will pull away from the old, creating a bigger tear or division than what initially was. But when old is put together with its own - sewn with threads of seasoned spirits, prophesied projections, and scriptural obedience – it glorifies a Mighty God with a quilt-story of His people and the journey He has brought us through thus far as we live, love, and serve the Creator of all humankind for the sake of His Purpose, His Kingdom – forever – *in Jesus' Name, Amen.*

