WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?

Although the following event took place in October of last year, some of you might not have been aware of its happening. It was too late to include it in our September through December newsletter, so we felt it would be remiss of us not to include it as part of our updates at this time. Pastor Ryan Boes of Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church along with Bill Vander Roest and Phil Palmbos were very welcomed guests at D.A.A.M., Inc. October 29, 2017. We were excited about their coming and were looking forward to hearing what the Lord had placed on Pastor Ryan’s heart to share with us that Sunday. We would soon realize that God had sent us a challenge and a blessing all wrapped up together in a single question, What Does God Require?, with a clear-cut answer in a single verse, Micha 6:8.

Question: “Have you forgotten what God called you to do?” Answer: “Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God.” Pastor Ryan reached far below the surface of simply talking about walking with God and escorted us through a “belly-of-the-whale” type experience that challenged us to practice what it really means to “walk” with God, “active things that belong under our feet.”

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As a result of extreme weather in Detroit on February 10th, the love luncheon was rescheduled to February 17th. Our usual cuisine, soup and salad, was a hit with the ladies as we had fellowship with one another. In addition to our guest speaker, we also had open time. Open time was a time granted for women to share their personal testimonies.

Our guest speaker, Mary Cleveland Evans, blessed us with a message of love. If I had to give it a title I would probably call it “Tagged by God for a Purpose.” Remember the kids game, Tag, “You’re it?” Well, that was it – all of it. If you got tagged, you were IT, and it just continued over and over again. Nobody knew why! That is not the case when God tags you.

Mary Evans message of love was clear; God doesn’t tag you without a reason. When God tags you and you’re IT, God expects you to share that love. You’re IT; share the love.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

The black history program had to be rescheduled also – not because of weather, but because of uncontrollable circumstances. The program was held on February 25th instead of the 18th. Then, on the day of the program we encountered some technical difficulties and a commitment or two that couldn’t be kept. However, God provided us with a “ram in the bush.” We actually resorted to using an 11” tablet to watch a film clip of Martin Luther King’s speech, I Have A Dream, in commemoration of virtually 50 years since his assassination. We can rightly say, “The small screen brought us closer together.”

In all sincerity, we were blessed and God was glorified. In addition to the film clip of the MLK speech, we celebrated with singing, recitals, dramatic readings, personal reflections and testimony.

DONATIONS

All donations given to the Mission for the advancement of the ministry are tax-deductible and appreciated very much. Checks should be made payable to Detroit’s Afro-American Mission, Inc. and mailed to 1019 Clay Street, Detroit, MI 48211. Please indicate if your donation is to be used for a specific need, or it will be used where needed most at the time we receive it. Tax receipts are mailed by the end of January unless requested sooner.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ida Eatmon is in need of assistance with having a ramp built at her home. She has dialysis treatments three days a week; she cannot get transportation services to transport her because of needing to use a wheelchair but not having a ramp to do so.

Charles Williamson complete healing from second bone infection -- left heel.

Milton Sample fell and hurt his back; he is being treated by a chiropractor five to six days per week. His condition has improved slightly.

Garnet Cheeks is in great pain and undergoing physical therapy in hopes of avoiding a potentially dangerous surgery. One of four screws from a previous surgery that was expected to stabilize his back became unstable and broke a bone in his back.

Rebecca Curry has shown some improvement and is back to work -- continue to pray for her condition.

Continue to pray for Jeanette Sharpe, William Brown, Lou Dora Brown, Lois Sample (uncontrolled HBP, undiagnosed back and hip pain, abnormal heart rhythms).
A skating party during mid-winter break turned out to be a great fundraiser. It was well-attended with parents and kids ranging in age from 3 years old and up. More parents than usual brought their kids to the fundraiser on February 22nd because of the break; some came without tickets and paid at the door. We truly enjoyed skating, listening to gospel music and engaging in fellowship with one another. The event raised $600. Praise be to God!

It seems that it’s good to plan family-friendly events during school breaks. We did it again—a skating party, this time with just one day left before the kids would be returning to school from spring break. It was the night of April 5th and the families came out again for a fun-filled evening. Like the skating party during the mid-winter break, this event was well-attended and raised $700 for camp!

Despite the rainy weather on April 14th, it did not stop the ladies from attending the "Women’s Tea" held at Rosedale Park Baptist Church in Detroit. Lunch and a name-your-own-price sale of vintage Coach purses were part of the event. ALL proceeds from the sale went toward the scholarship for sending children to camp. More than $500 were raised from that event.

What Does God Require? - Continued

In the words of pastor Ryan, "Do justice; don’t just talk about it! If you just talk about it, justice will never come. See to it that people are treated with the respect they deserve. Love—hessed! Hesed is steadfast lovingkindness, never failing, unending, abounding love of God. Love is constantly pursuing mercy; love God with all your heart, soul and strength. In our walk of faith, we must realize we’re walking with God. We walk humbly because it is God who leads; we walk the way we walk because we have been saved by grace. Walk with your heads held high not because of pride but because of walking with God."

Thank you, Pastor Ryan, for etching upon our hearts "the active things that belong under our feet: Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God!"
# Detroit's Afro-American Mission, Inc.

Maud Robinson …… General Superintendent  
Iuta Robinson …… Assistant Superintendent

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