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The Minister's Message

For now there are faith, hope and love, but of these three, the greatest is love. (1 Cor.13:13)

Namaskar. In this month of February we celebrate and exercise our faculty of Love. I see you now as God sees you, with eyes of love. It does not matter who you are, or what you have ever done, know that God loves you with a holy, unconditional love.

There is a song that we sing, "The Love of God is a Grand Love" and it is. And what is even more wonderful, is that it is a free spiritual gift given to us by God. God is the gift and God is the giver for God is Love.

You may be surprised to find out that love is not an emotion. However, it is often confused with emotional behavior because it is expressed in your consciousness through your feeling nature.

Love is an important spiritual tool that must be used in developing and balancing your feeling nature (feminine aspect) with your thinking nature (male aspect). If these are not balanced, you will be either too emotional or too intellectual.

(True) Love is not accompanied by turbulence and stress.

(True) Love is never jealous, boastful, proud or rude.

(True) Love does not keep a record of wrongs that others do.

(True) Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting.

(True) Love never fails. (Read: 1 Cor. 13: 4-8 Contemporary English Version)

Affirm daily: God is Love. I am Love.

How can you tell when you are experiencing true love?

The best way to tell is to ask of yourself, "Do I have any conditions on my love towards this person? Do they have to be of a certain race, color, class or condition to be loved by me? Must they behave in a certain way, or do what I say before I can bestow my love on them?" If the answer is "no", then you are experiencing unconditional love, which is agape or the love of God.

This type of love gives you the ability to know your oneness with all things, all men and all life. Then you can truly keep the new commandment that Jesus gave when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 14:34)

I love you, I bless you and I behold the Christ in you.

Be wonderful, because you are already one with God. Accept it.

And so it is.

By: Rev. Joyce Anderson

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2005

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us all be grateful to those who were martyred to make it possible for some of the things that many people take for granted.

Yes, there is still a lot to be done.

Onward we march into the 21st century with the tools to accomplish our goals. Never waiver for a moment. Our forefathers hopes and dreams must be kept alive and manifested.

Unity is Strength; Divided we fall.

LOVE healeth everything, therefore, let us love one another. It does not matter what part of the world you are from. Once you are black there is only one common goal to achieve. Rrespect each other, work together, walk hand in hand to make this world a better place to live.

Let us celibrate our heritage with pride.

FOCUS! NEVER, EVER LOSE

FAITH.

By: Phyllis Holder

FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

*The disciple is: **JOHN***

*The spiritual idea is: **LOVE***

*The color is: **PINK***

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God Is Not a Man

A well known Cardinal once said that "God is a man" but the disciple John who of all the disciples was closest to Jesus quotes the words of Jesus in John 4:24 "God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth."

It is a fact that throughout the Bible the masculine gender is used in reference to God and I, as well as most people, also refer to God in terms of "He", "Him", "Father", not because God is a man, but because the masculine gender or the pronoun "One" is preferably used as a matter of choice when writing or speaking of a person or persons in general especially when there is not a given name.

God has been called Father, Jah, Abba, Allah, Yahweh, I AM, Aloha, God, to mention a few and in many instances referred to as Lord; all of which are representative of the masculine gender, but no where does it state that "God is a man". Speaking of God, Job in Chapter 9:32 states "For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him and we should come together in judgment". Throughout the bible God has been referred to as having numerous qualities or attributes all of which are present in both male and female.

At the time the bible was written (and it was written by man) women were not given any significant recognition and even though many of them served and are mentioned in the allegorical, historical and Wisdom Literature stories of the bible, their main function at that time was that of wife and mother.

In today's society of "Liberated Women" I guess it is only natural for some men to be on the defensive if not at times offensive, and as I express my views and those of the bible (all quotations taken from King James Bible Standard Version) I expressed them not from the view of the "Liberated Women" per se (although I do share in some of their ideologies) but from the view of a woman who understands that True Liberation is of God. "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free." (John 8:32)

By: Rev. Merle Hypolite

A HAPPY HOME RECIPE

*1 cup of Friendship
4 cups of Love
2 cups of Loyalty
3 cups of Forgiveness and Kindness
5 spoons of Hope
2 spoons of Tenderness
4 quarts of Faith
1 barrel of Laughter*

Take Love and Loyalty, Mix them thoroughly with Faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Add friendship and hope. Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter. Bake it with Sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.

By: Rev. Merle Hypolite

There Is a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem

Our Reverend Johnnie Coleman has coined the phrase "It Works If You Work It". I am here to tell you that it really works if you work it. We are all excited about the class we are taking right now titled "There is a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem" In his book titled the same, Dr. Wayne Dyer shows us that there is an omnipresent spiritual force right at our fingertips that can solve all our seeming problems. Dr. Dyer helps us to lay the material world and its problems aside for a while and tap into and awaken to the self within. The first part of the book he introduces us to Patanjali, a wise Yogi mystic whose teachings and practices showed him that there is a spiritual force everywhere. The second half of the book is organized around the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. In this prayer there are suggestions to help the reader put spiritual problem solving into practice, as we put our collective energies towards what we are for, instead of what we are against.

By: Muriel Barry

*The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

Where there is hatredlet me sow love.

Where there is injurypardon

Where there is doubtfaith

Where there is darkness.....light

Where there is sadness.....joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand.

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

SAVE THESE DATES!

February is Anniversary Month. Please start telling your friends and family in preparation of the sale of tickets for our anniversary luncheon which will take place on Sunday, March 6, 2005.

The Men Expressing Christ will be sponsoring their annual theater play titled "A Song for You" which is an insightful, multimedia dramatic production with music about the life of the extraordinary artist, Ms. Lena Horne, during the Civil Rights era. This play will be at the Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn on Sunday, March 20, 2005 at 4:00 P.M. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. See Mr. Freddie L. West for your tickets.