

# POET'S CORNER

## After God-Man's Sacrifice

By Martin J. O'Malley, Jr.

I am Jesus Christ...  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Persecuted, scourged,  
Crowned with thorns, crucified,  
died,  
On a Cross on Calvary...

Today the Church and  
The Media present me  
As European,...  
And not as the Black and Brown  
African person I was...

We were African-  
Mediterranean men...  
Not Europeans...  
Not fair ... We were Black and Brown...  
We were God's Own Africans...

# "RASTI D"

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eral VCR's and other stereo equipment... I called him to the stage and gave him a balloon. I told him, "Come up here and give Rasti a hug mon." Did you know that you are beautiful "mon?" He came up to the stage and he held me a long time. His teacher later commented about how surprised they were to see him respond like that. They could not do anything with him at the school," he lamented.

"I tell everybody that I would

like to be the "Oprah Winfrey" of kids. I would like to be the "Arsenio Hall" or the "Les Brown" of kids. That's what I'd like to be. Its going to take positive Black men being positive role models to change the negative image that people have of our people. People like you and Dr. Al Gourrier and Ray Willis. Dr. Gourrier is so positive and that's what it's going to take to change Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, Los Angeles or Washington, D.C. Positive Black men are going to change

it!"

"Rasti" has been invited to perform in Washington D.C. and is planning on possibly returning to Las Vegas in May of this year as part of a Multi-Cultural Extravaganza.

One only has to talk to the students and faculty of the local elementary schools that were fortunate enough to view Joiner's

performances to know that his shows are captivating and will continue to spread throughout the country.

In his educational videos Joiner said that he likes to get the students involved. "Rasti D" The Black History Clown Mon," and his host of other characters, will be pleasing numerous audiences for many years to come.

## "The Challenge"

(City of Las Vegas-Corporate Challenge Poem)  
By Derick Wickliffe - Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

With the rising of the sun-  
a relay of runners jog eagerly  
down a paved road,  
While a burning torch is exchanged  
from hand to hand-  
sweat and months of hard training,  
foreshadow the competitive stories  
that will begin to unfold.

And beyond the sunset,  
visions of athletes faces stand  
tall and bold.  
While they give all that they  
have to give.  
As they strive for the gold.

It's not all about winning.  
It's about accepting the challenge,  
making friends, and having fun.  
And when the last pain and strain  
has faded-  
like the setting of the sun.  
The closing ceremonies of the games,  
will end without a burning flame,  
and the challenge for this year,  
will be done.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

# HAM: THE FATHER OF BLACK/AFRICAN PEOPLES

By Gwen Walker

Ham was the middle child of Noah's three sons, "Shem, Ham, and Japheth" (Genesis 5:32; 6:10; 7:13; 9:18, 22; 10:1, 6, 20; 1 Chronicles 1:4, 8). The name "Ham" means hot or heat, and by application means "Black."

Ham was the only son of Noah after whom a country/nation was named. Concerning neither Shem nor Japheth was there a biblical people who could claim either as their namesake. The name "Ham" is patronymic of his descendants, meaning it is a name received from a paternal ancestor. With reference to the people of Ham, the son of Noah, "Ham" is found several other times in the scripture: (1 Chronicles 4:40; Psalm 78:51; 105:23; 105:27, 106:22).

"Ham" has also another biblical meaning. Besides Egypt, "Ham" is also a place located in the land of Canaan. This usage is found in Genesis 14:5 and also in Chronicles 4:40. Ham in Canaan was located in Transjordan (east of the Jordan) and served as the home of a people called the Zuzim. It was in this territory that the Elamite King, Chedorlaomet, and the kings with him, defeated the people of Zuzim.

1 Chronicles 4:40 is most enlightening. This verse indicates that the people of Ham positively affected their environment to the extent that their land was rich, good pasture land; it was very broad, quiet, and peaceful... for the former inhabitants there belonged to Ham.

The descendants of Simeon came to live in this Hamitic territory when the Isrealite nation came to conquer and settle Canaan land.

Ancient Black people took care of their community.

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GWEN WALKER

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