



Gatekeepers

African American Outreach

January 2006

- Give Hope
- History of the Black Church
- Answer the Call Luncheon
- **1st qtr:** Black History Month Resource: An Adventures in Odyssey episode, "The American Revelation"

Calling Pastors Together

Answer the Call, a complimentary lunch for pastors and spouses, designed to refresh you from the everyday issues you face and help you and your spouse network and fellowship with other local pastors.

Are you connected with a ministerial association, local group of clergy or desire to get connected? Consider hosting a luncheon in your area. Please contact us for additional information.

Upcoming:

Memphis, Tenn. - Feb. 23, 2006

Gatekeeper in Action

In Ala., gathering clothes and shopping to help get gulf coast evacuees back on their feet.



Our vision is to impact and influence the African American family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically reaching out to the African American pastor, the church and the community with more intentional efforts.

Contact Us

Ask for Kim or Alex ...
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Give Hope

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah in the southern kingdom of Judah heard the

announcement that King Uzziah was dead. The king was the 11th in succession and the most popular since David. He was a godly man and the end of an era was a reality. The king reigned for 52 years and made a tremendous impact in Isaiah's life.

In his sorrows, the prophet visited the temple hoping to alleviate some of the pain associated with death and grief. Perhaps he simply desired to spend sometime alone with God. In the temple, the prophet was transformed and cleansed from his unrighteousness. He was ready to proclaim the love of God for His people.

As a soldier in the army of God, he was willing to go and serve where the King of Kings sent him. The power of God had permeated his heart and soul and prepared him to serve until He, like Uzziah, would complete this most important assignment.

Isaiah accepted his commission and responsibility to share a message which would not be received by the masses. The message would fall on deaf ears; and the hearts of the citizens would grow dull. Eyes would not want to see the inevitable sign of repentance; their hearts would be closed to understanding. The prophet cried out in desperation, as the Psalmist did before him, "Lord, how long?" The Lord answered with a vivid picture of chaos and destruction. "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant and the houses are without a man ..."

Through it all, the prophet heard a divine voice of hope in the midst of despair and desolation. The judgment of the people was balanced by the Holy One of Israel in the form of a tree stump. A remnant by the grace of God would come forth from the stump and reestablish a better relationship with the God of Israel.

History of the Black Church

Rooted and established in love, the black church historically has given voice to its people and hope to the community as a cornerstone for the African American. The black church is an integral part of black culture and provides a foundation for generations that have depended on it amidst trials and celebration.

* **AME** – 1787 - African Methodist Episcopal: "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother"

AMEZ – 1796 - African Methodist Episcopal Zion: "Freedom Church"

CME – 1870 - Christian Methodist Episcopal: born as a result of the movement from slavery to freedom

COGIC – 1896 - Church of God: renamed in 1897 as Church of God in Christ (COGIC)

NBC – 1886 - National Baptist Convention, USA Inc., nation's oldest and largest African American religious convention

NBCA – 1886 - National Baptist Convention America: the second largest association of black Baptists in the United States

PNB – 1957 - Progressive National Baptist
Motto: Fellowship, Progress, Service, Peace

****NMBC** – 1988 - National Missionary Baptist Convention

****FGBCF** – 1994 - Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship: "Change a Generation"

* In the book, *The Black Church in the African American Experience*, the authors, Lincoln and Mamiva, described seven major historic black denominations as comprising "the black church" to independent, historic and totally black-controlled denominations.

** Since the publication of the book, two new denominations have emerged. Not all black churches were listed due to space constraints.