

BLACK HISTORY FACTS

To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist/ editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. Each year, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month.

328,239,523 As of 2019, the estimated population of black residents in the United States, including those of more than one race. They made up 12.7 of the total U.S. population.

45.7% Percentage of Arkansas's population that was black. Blacks also made up 31.2% in Louisiana; 3% in New Mexico; 23% in Oklahoma, and 11.8% in Texas.

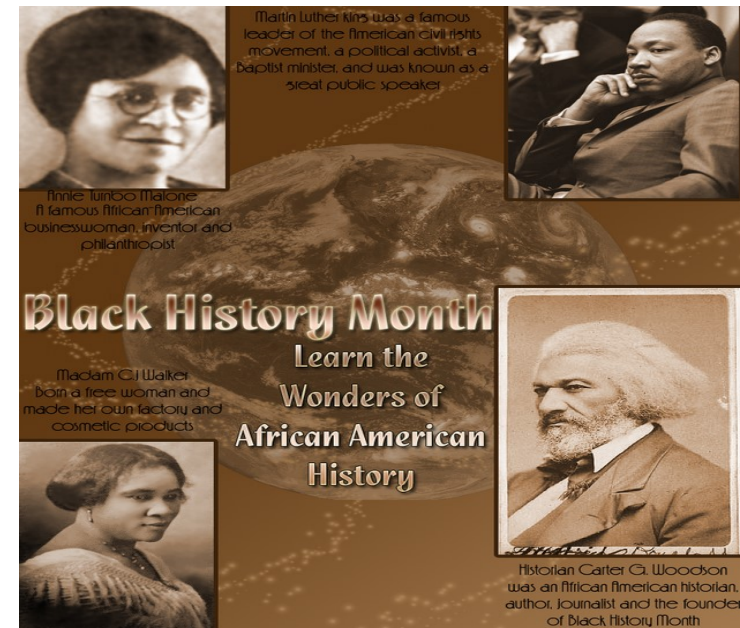
88% - Among blacks 25 and older, the proportion who had at least a high school diploma.

32%- - were black married couples.

23% grandparents were responsible for the care of the grandchildren.



Family Ministries Musings



SWRC Family Ministries Department
Pastor W. S. Lee, M.Div, D. Min
&
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Directors

BLACK FAMILY PLEDGE
By Dr. Maya Angelou

During Black History month are you sharing with your family **your** family history? Children need to know where they come from—that includes spiritual history. Deuteronomy 6: 7 (NIV) “*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*” This means we must stop allowing our children to disappear into technology: TV, computer, video games, text messages and have real conversation that are face-to-face with them.

The response may be that we just don’t have enough time to tell our children about our history. Well, if you have done a time budget as a part of your New Year’s resolutions, you might find that you have the time but you have used it for other things. The priority of the Christian African-American family **should** be to launch children. *The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart.* {4T 304.3}

What is the legacy that you will provide to your children, both temporal and spiritual? Will they know **your** God as One Who is harsh, unforgiving, always waiting for you to break the rules so that He can punish, or a loving, caring compassionate Savior Who is anxious to forgive when asked? Will your story of how you came to know Christ be part of your family story, or have you created what you have on your own? What will your children say in both word and deed? You **do** have the potential to shape the future and you can even determine how it will be written.

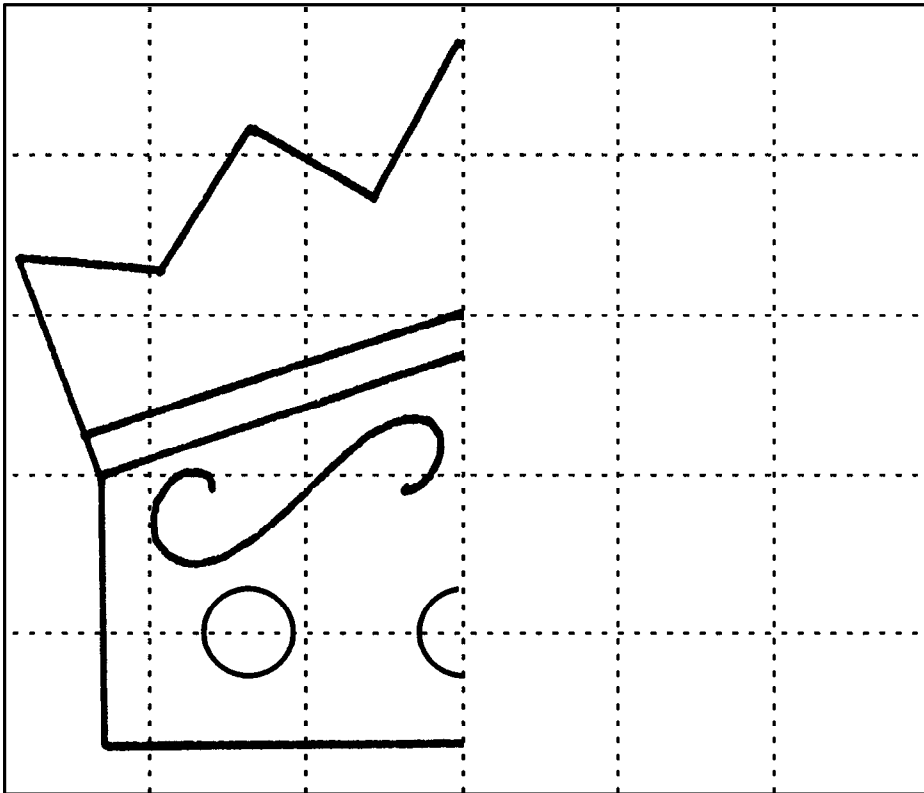
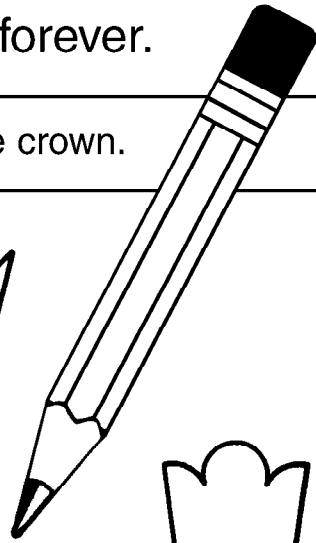
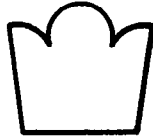
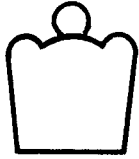
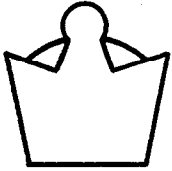


Because we have forgotten our ancestors our children no longer give us honor.
Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared, kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.
Because we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children can not pray.
Because the long wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.
Because we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering, our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor understand.
Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates, and holds us up to the mirror of the world, shouting, Regard the loveless.
Therefore, we pledge to bind ourselves again to one another;
To embrace our lowliest,
To keep company with our loneliest,
To educate our illiterate,
To feed our starving,
To clothe our ragged,
To do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters. We are our brothers and sisters.
In honor of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation,

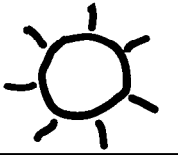
We make this pledge.

God's prize will last forever.

Finish the drawing of the crown.

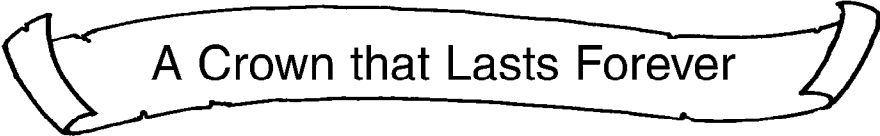


Children's Worship Bulletin™



Ages 3-6

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

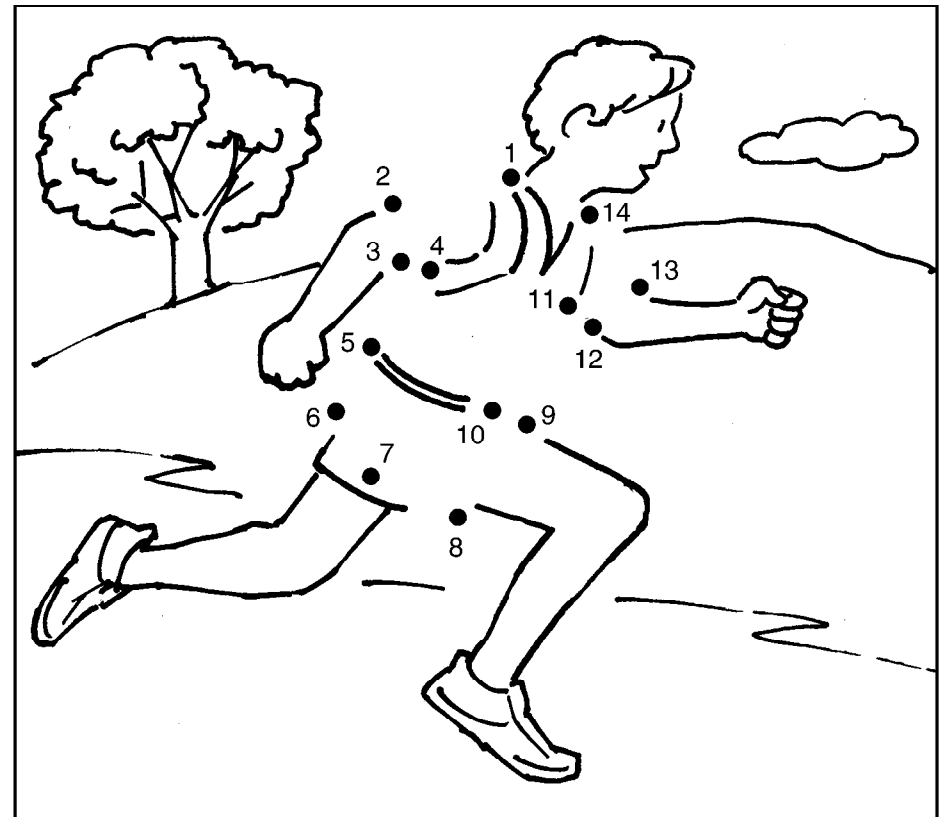


A Crown that Lasts Forever

A runner races to get a prize.

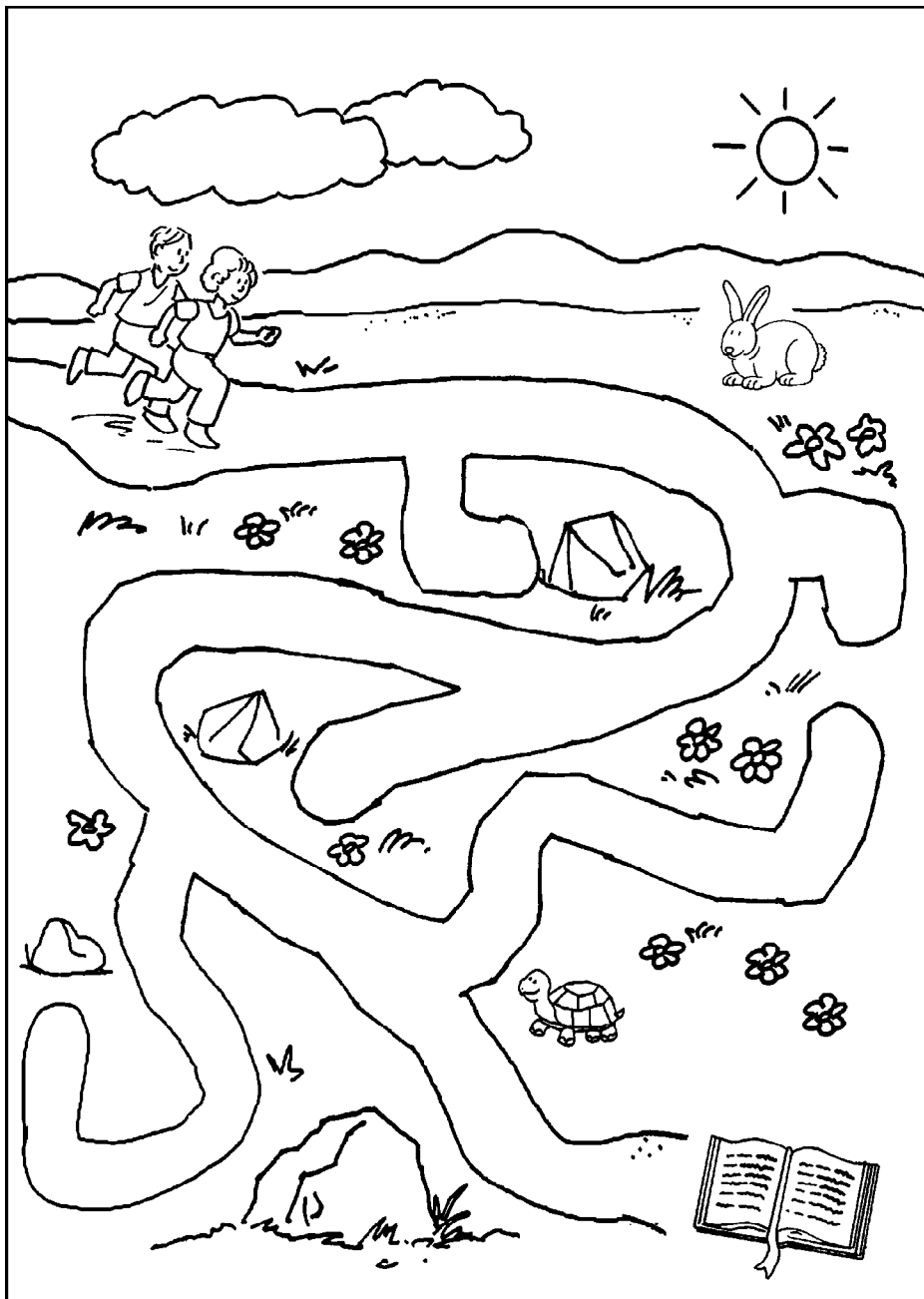
Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



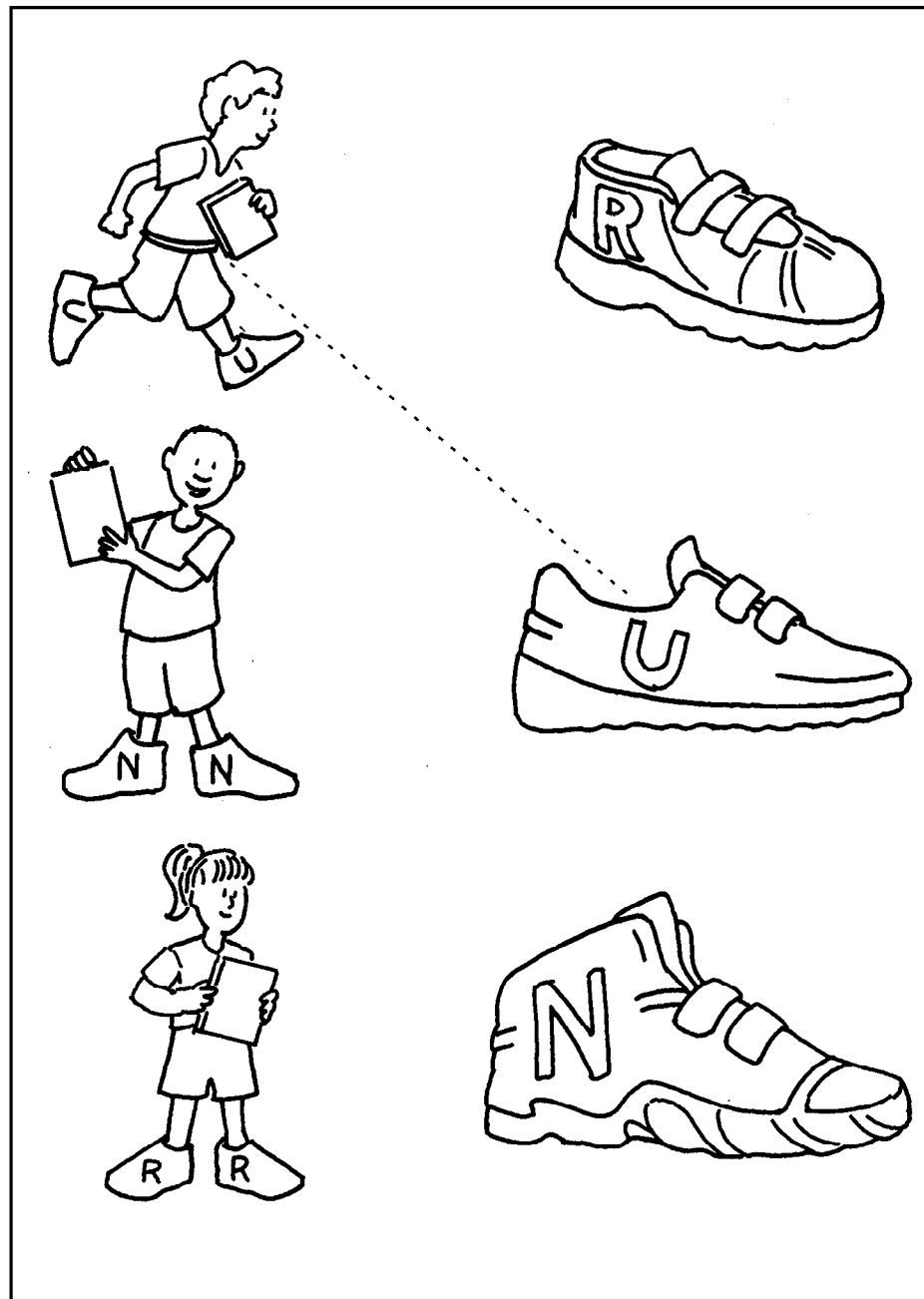
Let's run in God's race.

Help the runners get to the kingdom.



God wants all to get His prize, so ...

Match the runners to their shoe.





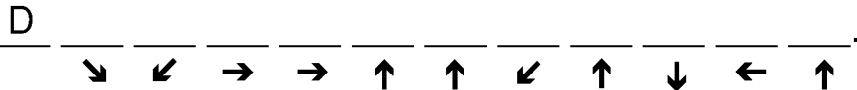
Paul wanted to be successful in completing life's race.

Starting at the letter "D", travel in the direction shown by arrows to find the remaining letters.



D	F	L
E	I	A
S	Q	U

Paul disciplined himself so that, after he had preached to others, he himself would not be



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7-12

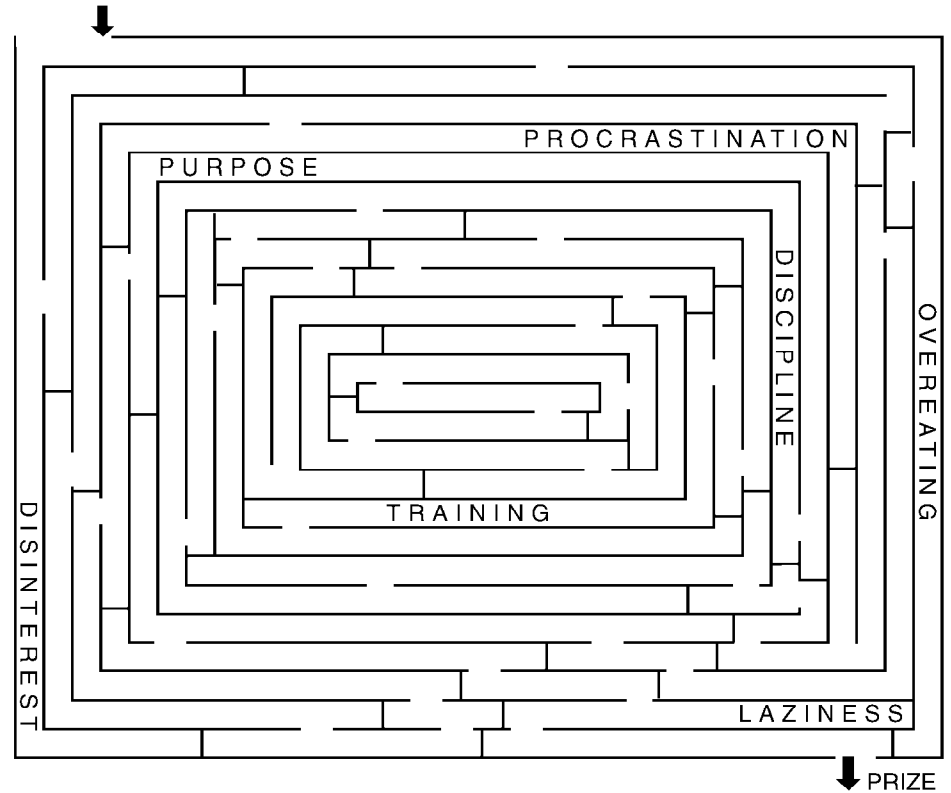
1 Corinthians 9:24-27

A Crown that Lasts Forever



Paul compared the Christian life to a race. Those who want to win a race must pay attention to what they are doing.

Follow the path of things that will help win the race.



Athletes and Christians both work toward a prize.

Write the letter that is in the gem column and the number row.
Example: ★4 is the letter W

1	A	C	D	E	G
2	H	I	L	M	N
3	O	P	R	S	T
4	U	V	W	Y	Z

★4 ★1 ★3 ★2 ★3 ★4 ★2 ★1

★2 ★2 ★4 ★1 ★2 ★2 ★1

★3 ★3 ★2 ★4 ★1 ★4 ★2 ★2 ★2 ★2 ★2 ★1

★4 ★1 ★4

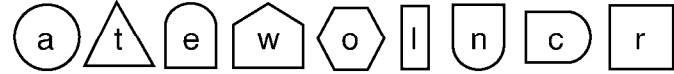
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★3 ★3 ★3 ★1 ★1 ★1 ★2 ★4 ★1 ★1 ★2

★1 ★3 ★1 ★3 ★2 ★1 ★2 ★1 ★3 ★3 ★4 ★2

The prize for the Christian is better than the prize for an athlete.

Fill each shape with the correct letter.



□ u U U U □ s □ □ mp □ □ □

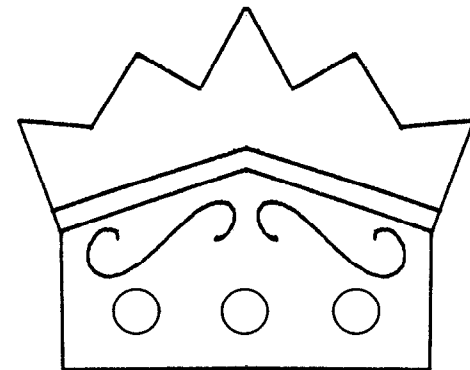
f □ □ □ □ □ □ □ U △ h □ △

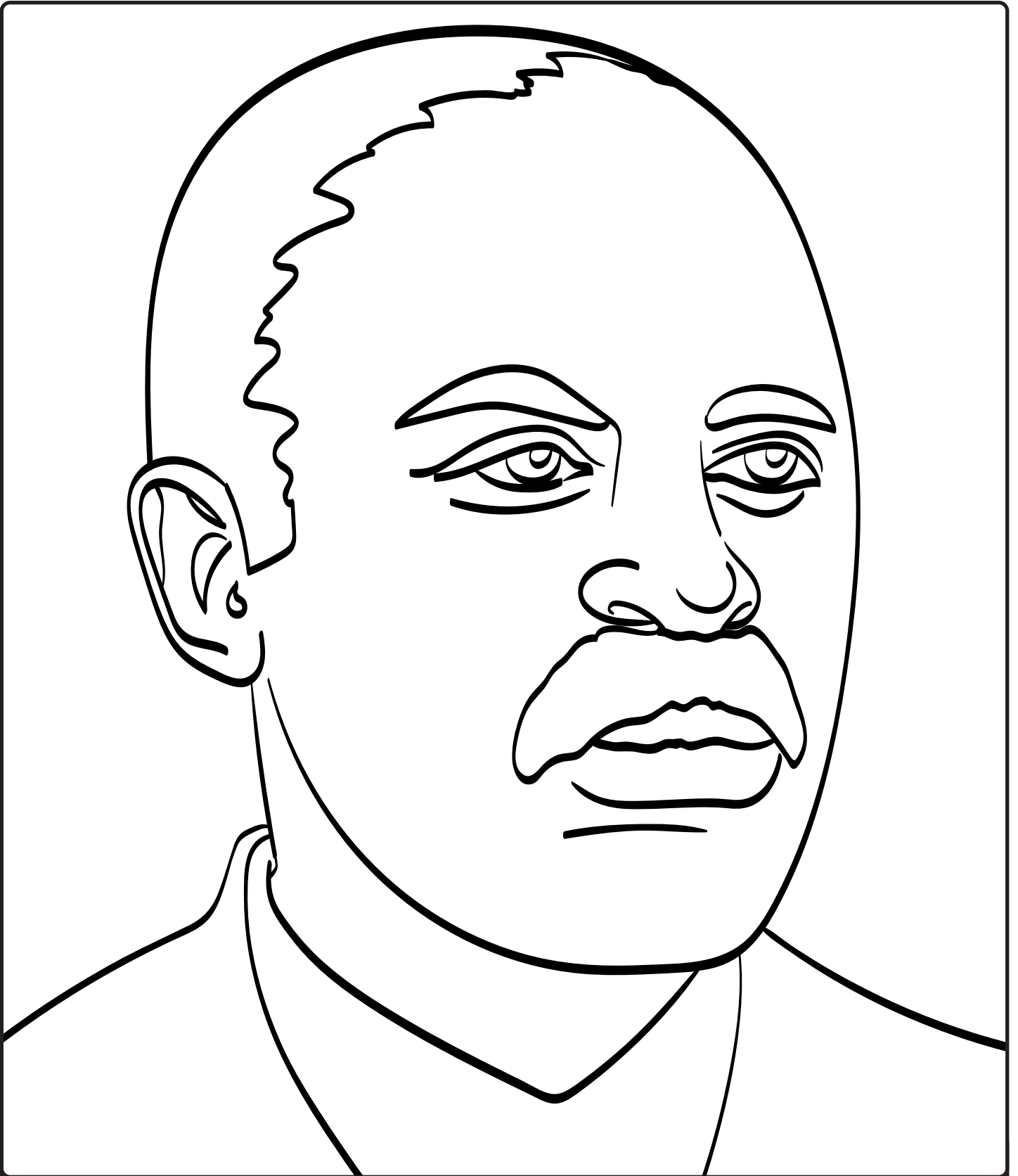
□ i □ □ □ □ □ △ □ □ s △ ; bu △

□ □ d □ i △ △ □ g □ △ □

□ □ □ □ U △ h □ △ □ i □ □

□ □ s △ f □ □ v □ □ .





Lacey Kirk Williams

**Lacey Kirk Williams and
S. Mattie Fisher:
Serving the Lord and Man
from Olivet Church**
Victoria McAfee

*[May] God give us a thirst for Him, and power
to find Him that He might unite our hearts
and hands in the service of God and man.*

The Rev. Dr. Lacey Kirk Williams was loved, honored, and admired for his devotion to Christ and His Church. He and S. Mattie Fisher had a major impact on thousands of African Americans who migrated north during the early 1900s.

Williams was born July 11, 1871, in a cabin near Eufaula, Alabama, to former slaves Levi Shorter and Elizabeth Hill. When Lacey was six years old, Levi changed the family name to Williams and moved the family to Burleson County, Texas. At age 16, Lacey earned his teaching certificate in Waco, Texas. He returned to Burleson County where he taught school and married Georgia Lewis.

Soon after Williams made a profession of faith and was baptized, he was ordained and became pastor at Thankful Baptist Church in Pitt Bridge, Texas, a church his parents had founded.

Williams gained education so he could adequately teach God's people. In 1902, he enrolled at Bishop College, in Marshall, Texas. While still a student, he pastored Bethesda Church. In 1913, he received a B.A. degree from Arkansas Baptist College and then an honorary D.D. degree from Selma University in Alabama in 1914.

Between 1916 and 1919, thousands of people of color migrated from the South to the North in search of jobs. Many settled on the south side of Chicago, swelling the African-American population in that area from 44,000 to an estimated 109,000.

In 1916, Williams left Texas to pastor Olivet Baptist Church in south Chicago. Church membership rose to over 4,000 in Williams's first five years as pastor, due in part to his eloquent preaching, excellent leadership skills, and the outreach ministries of the church.

"Olivet" became a byword for help among those who planned to migrate north. The church received hundreds of letters addressed to "Oliver," "Ovlivet," or just Olivet for help with bus or train passes. Church members met people at the railroad and bus stations to direct families to Olivet's ministries which included a day nursery, home for working girls, and a bus to bring children and the elderly to worship.

Olivet soon outgrew its facilities. In 1918, after the white First Baptist Church moved, Olivet bought the historic building at 31st Street and South Park Avenue. One Sunday in September, the entire congregation marched

from the old church building to the new one singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Helping Williams was S. Mattie Fisher, daughter of Olivet's late pastor. Fisher was one of the first African Americans trained as a social worker. She and Mrs. Jessie Mapp helped Olivet "grow from a church to a religious center." They canvassed the neighborhood around the new building and surveyed the needs of over 5,000 area households. Olivet used the information to make over 62,000 home visits to the sick, elderly, shut-ins, and needy.

Those connections helped create a kindergarten and children's church so children could "enjoy religious worship from [their] viewpoint." The women organized a young women's group and a Mother's Circle. Mrs. Mapp taught a weekly Life of Christ class to young married women. She also led a Mother's Circle where the Bible, home economics, sewing and mending, and how to have a healthy home were taught. There women had the opportunity to discuss problems resulting from overcrowded neighborhoods and to support each other.

Olivet continued to grow. Membership reached about 12,000 while the Sunday school had 3,100 pupils each week. The church was said to be both the world's largest African-American and Protestant congregation. Williams led a staff of over 30 workers including two associate pastors and three or four ministerial students from the University of Chicago Divinity School. The church had 860 volunteer officers in charge of 55 departments.

Olivet was well known both nationally and internationally. In 1928, Williams was appointed vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and received the national Harmon Foundation prize for distinguished religious service.

In 1940, Williams and another minister were tragically killed in a plane crash while on the way to a political rally in Flint, Michigan. He will be remembered as one of the most celebrated pastor/preachers to ever stand in the pulpit. Together, Williams and Fisher reached out to thousands of African-American migrants.

Williams is remembered for his ability to move an audience, the shiny glow in his eyes, his analytical mind, and his sharp gift of exposition. Here is an excerpt from one of his sermons, preached on the first Sunday of the New Year, 1926, to encourage the Olivet congregation, taken from the book *Preaching with Sacred Fire* by Martha Simmons:

"Christ prayed for your safety. This should invite and deepen your faith and dependence upon God. It should check your haste, confusion, and restlessness and make you satisfied with His daily provisions and providence. This should lead you to know that you are not a creature of chance or fate but the child of God and the heir of a pleasing heritage. If He permits or sends hardships, He will give upholding, enduring grace. Paul loathed his handicaps and prayed for their removal, but God's answer was, 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' This is the thing that kindles and maintains hope and leads to victory. Surely we have here no uncertain way or doubtful results. For through Him we are conquerors, yea, more than conquerors."