



TRUE LIGHT

Baptist Church

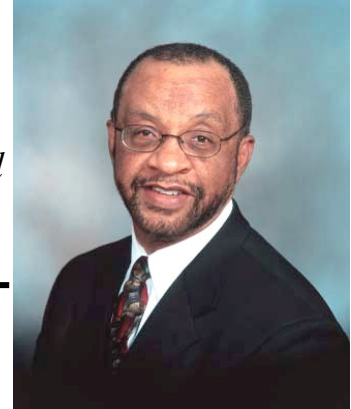
FEBRUARY 2012



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH"

"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."(Acts 8:36, 37)



This is the longest passage in the New Testament that explicitly and uncompromisingly deals with black Africa in relation to the Holy Land. As the events in this passage unfold, we find a member of the royal court returning from Jerusalem. He has been to Jerusalem to worship suggesting that he may have been an Ethiopian Jew. He may have been what many would call a god-fearer or a gentile proselyte. One who, though not a Jew, revered the tradition of Judaism. Presumably, if he were a Jew, he would understand the Isaiah 53 text that he is reading. Philip the evangelist, as guided by the Holy Spirit, encounters him and provides a fresh Christian interpretation that evidently is enthusiastically accepted. Philip's witness of Jesus leads to baptism, but only after the Ethiopian has challenged Philip with a provocative question: *"What is to prevent me from being baptized?"*

This passage is the first in-depth recorded instance of someone of color, a black person, being converted to the faith in Jesus Christ. To understand our biblical identity as Christians we must understand that we as a people are rooted in biblical history. Without a doubt we have a place along side all peoples, nations, and races in coming to Christ. This passage is significant in that it is believed that through the conversion and continued witness of this man, this Ethiopian eunuch, the teachings of Christ came to Ethiopia. God made a special effort to bring Philip in the life of the Ethiopian eunuch that he might be saved and be instrumental in others of Ethiopia hearing the gospel. God had to overcome some obstacles for the eunuch to believe.

He Was Seen Of God In A Most Unlikely Place (Acts 8:26-28). Sometimes God opens a door of opportunity to minister in the most unlikely places. Gaza is about 50 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The road to Gaza led through rangeland, the kind of country where Abraham and Isaac pastured their flocks. The term "desert" does not mean sandy waste like the Sahara; it means deserted, uninhabited. One has to wonder what Philip thought in his mind that he might find in such a place.

Knowing where the order came from, Philip obeyed promptly. He arose and went. In the desert, Philip

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was to meet a man of Ethiopia. This Ethiopia was not the same as the country we now call by that name. Its boundaries are not described exactly, but it included the upper Nile Valley south of Egypt. Some students conclude that its population was made up of people of color and included Africans from the South, Egyptians from the North, and Arabians from the East.

God may want to use you as he did Philip today. God may direct you speak into someone's life. It may not be a place that you will find convenient to share your faith. It may be in an awkward place, but your testimony may save someone's life.

The Meaning Of The Scripture Was Not Clear (Acts 8:29-31). We know why Philip was sent to this desert place. This chariot carried the man whom God was sending His preacher to meet. The Ethiopian was reading aloud, and Philip recognized the words of Isaiah. Philip's question *Do you understand what you are reading?* was well designed to open the way for his preaching. The man was wise enough to realize that he did not understand the prophecy, and wise enough to rejoice in the prospect of finding some help with it. He invited Philip to join him in the chariot. What Philip found was a man who was seeking something, diligently, sincerely, earnestly, not self-satisfied, reaching out for something more than he had ever known before, and yet a man not understanding what it all meant.

The man of Ethiopia asked a question that puzzled all the scholars of Israel. Obviously, the prophet was speaking of someone—but whom? Was it about Isaiah *himself*? He was despised, rejected, and persecuted, perhaps killed; but how could it be said that we are healed by Isaiah's stripes? (Isaiah 53:5). How could it be said that Isaiah would justify many (Isaiah 53:11)? If Isaiah was singing of some other man, the same questions remain unanswered.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him (vs. 35). Philip may have led his hearer through the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah step by step. He may have emphasized especially *"with his stripes we are healed"* and other statements of redemption. He may have cited other prophets too, such as those of David that Peter had used on Pentecost (Acts 2:25-36). As Peter had done, Philip made a convincing case: Jesus is the Christ foretold by the prophets of God.

As modern day prophets of God the task of those of us who preach. The task of those of us who teach, the task of every informed believer is to help others make sense of spiritual things. What we read and hear of the word of God,

especially what we read and hear concerning Christ, we need to understand.

We cannot profit by the scriptures unless we in some measure understand them. The purpose for coming to worship, and Bible study is to seek a deeper understanding in your relationship with God. We seek and want to know what life is all about. We seek and want to know the meaning of suffering and of the tragedy and the failure of mankind. We seek and want to do something toward the prevention of any such catastrophe again. Thank God, what is necessary to salvation is easy to be understood.

He Was Not Sure What To Do To Be Saved (Acts 8:36-38). Obviously, Philip's preaching of Jesus had included information about baptism. The eunuch asked, *See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?* Philip responded to the eunuch question regarding baptism *If you believe with all your heart, you may.* That is, if you believe this doctrine that I have preached to you concerning Jesus, if you receive the record God has given concerning him, and believe that it is true. Those who would believe must believe with all their heart, *for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.* You must believe not with the head only, by an agreement to gospel truths in intellectual understanding; but with the heart, by consent of the will. This is the principle peculiar doctrine of Christianity, and whosoever believe this with all their hearts, and confess it, they are to be baptized.



So he commanded the chariot to stand still. Here we see an indication that the Ethiopian traveler had someone else driving the horses. One does not give a command to a chariot itself. It seems probable that the driver held the horses while Philip and the Ethiopian left the chariot. No doubt the two took off their outer robes, at least. Luke does not give details, but gives the essential facts. The two men waded into the water, and Philip baptized the man of Ethiopia.

“When they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.” Apparently, the preacher simply vanished. “The eunuch saw him no more.” The traveler must have been greatly puzzled, but *“he went on his way rejoicing.”* He had good reasons for joy. He now understood that puzzling prophecy. Much more than that, he was forgiven, cleansed, redeemed. He was a new man, born again as a child of God. Philip’s preaching led the Ethiopian to faith in Christ. The man’s response was the natural one of an honest seeker: he heard the gospel message, understood what God had commanded him to do, and then eagerly obeyed. We do well to follow the Ethiopians example when we come to a new understanding of what God expects of us.



ETHIOPIAN FLAG



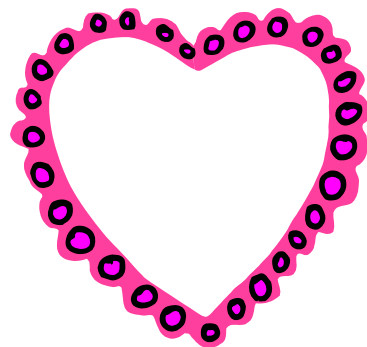
Valentine Divine

When Jesus Christ decided to
Give us a Valentine,
He followed His Father’s orders-
The task God did assign.

He gave Himself, His life, His
all,
For this special Valentine,
Knowing He would change the
world;
Real love He’d redefine.

It’s sacrifice we need to give
To a beloved Valentine;
When we do that, we get a
glimpse
Of the holy and divine.

Oh Lord, please help us be like
you,
With every Valentine.
When we love each other as
You did,
It’s then that we’re really Thine.



True Light Baptist Church Presents....
Black History Month 2012
Theme: Testimonies of the Struggle

1st Sunday

February 5, 2012

Special Video 8&11 a.m. services

2nd Sunday

February 12, 2012

Special Video 8&11 a.m. services

3rd Sunday

February 19, 2012

Ole Church Sunday

Dinner after 11 a.m. service

4th Sunday

February 26, 2012

African Attire Sunday

I have a Dream Speech



True Light Baptist Church Presents:



Children's Teacher Training Workshop



"Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind.
The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious,
to have one idea spark another." -- *Marva Collins*



True Light's Christian Education Ministry
Will be offering a
Children's Teacher Training Workshop.

If you are currently teaching children in
Sunday School, Bible Study, AWANA, or Children's Church,
or have a desire to teach young minds,

THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

9:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

14333 Bolling Drive
Denver, CO 80239
(303) 375-0754



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 17, 2012

7:00 p.m. in the EnLIGHTend Café

Sweetheart Dinner

Come enjoy an evening of fun in the name
of love!

We will have a menu with your choice of:

- ◆ Beef Brisket or Rosemary Chicken Breast
served with
 - ◆ Tossed Green Salad
 - ◆ Garlic Mashed Potatoes
 - ◆ Green Beans
 - ◆ Rolls
 - ◆ Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, Water
- ◆ Cheese Cake or Chocolate Pound Cake

*Sponsored by the
Minister's Wives*

Cost: \$15.00
per person

Please stop by the table in the foyer to
purchase your ticket.

True Light Baptist Church
14333 Bolling Drive, Denver, CO
80239
(303) 375-0754



Chocolate Covered Strawberries



Ingredients

- 16 ounces milk chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- 1 pound fresh strawberries

Directions

- ⇒ Insert toothpicks into the tops of the strawberries.
- ⇒ In a double boiler, melt the chocolate and shortening, stirring occasionally until smooth. Holding them by the toothpicks, dip the strawberries into the chocolate mixture.
- ⇒ Turn the strawberries upside down and insert the toothpick into Styrofoam for the chocolate to cool.

Church Calendar Highlights



KEEP CONNECTED!

Active members of True Light who are sick, shut-in, elderly, or others who are physically unable to attend church may request a CD or DVD of the Pastor's sermons. Please contact a member of your Family Ministry Team or the office for further details.

FEBRUARY 2012

February 8 (WED) AWANNA Valentines Party

February 14 (TUE) Valentines Day



February 17 (FRI) Youth Movie Night

February 19(SUN) Sunday School Open House

February 19 (SUN) Ole' Church Sunday
Sunday Dinner

February 26 (Sun) African Attire Sunday

MARCH 2012

March 2 (FRI) Congregation Movie Night

March 9 (FRI) Praise Dancing Event

March 11(SUN) Church Anniversary
Day Light Savings Begins

March 14(WED) AWANA– Mini-Mart (Food)

March 17(SAT) Men's Chorus Sing– off



After Hours Prayer Line

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)

After Hours Prayer Line Phone Number

(303) 375-0754 Ext: 109

- ◆ Call for prayer and leave a recorded message. Our Intercessory Prayer Team regularly monitors this line.
- ◆ If you leave contact information, a member of the Intercessory Prayer Team will call and pray with you.
- ◆ Your Intercessory Prayer Team wants to pray with you and for you.



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