



OUR HISTORY IS RICH

- Lorita Kelsey Childress

Our history is rich like a finely woven tapestry each thread made stronger by the thread before. The ties that bind us make our history unique. We are a race of people who have endured generations after generations of hatred, injustices, heartache, and pain yet we have survived it all. We are a strong people who have persevered and triumphed through all adversities for we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We are a diverse people who come in many shapes, sizes, and beautiful colors. Our history is rich.

From the slave ships in chains traveling through the Middle Passage to the Underground Railroad to the steps of the White House, our history is rich.

From Sojourner Truth to Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Madame C. J. Walker, the Tuskegee Airmen, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X to Barack Obama, our history is rich.

From Jim Crow to Civil Rights to the Black Panthers, to the Watts Riots, and the Jena Six, our history is rich.

From Muddy Waters to Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Caesar, Leontyne Price, Patti Labelle, The Clark Sisters, to Beyonce, our history is rich.

From W. E.B. Dubois to Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Powell, Barbara Jordan, Shirley Chisholm, Clarence Thomas, to Johnnie Cochran, our history is rich.

From Lena Horne to Ozzie Davis and Ruby Dee to Denzel Washington and Tyler Perry, our history is rich.

From Joe Lewis to Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, Lisa Leslie, Serena and Venus Williams, to Tiger Woods, our history is rich.

From Baptist, First AME, Methodist, Presbyterian, to Church of God in Christ, our history is rich.

Our history has shaped us and defined our place in America's history. Some would ask how we made it and the answer is very simple. Our history is rich but our faith is even greater. Our spirituality, our belief in a greater power has sustained us and has made us a people who can survive the test of times. Perhaps our ancestors kept Hebrews 11:1 in their spirit: *Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Let us not forget that we have history because first there was HIStory. Let us not forget that we serve an awesome God. Let us not forget that He was born in a manger and He paid the price on Calvary.

Our ancestors prayed through unimaginable tribulations and taught their children, and their children taught their children to utter the name of Jesus in times of trouble and triumph. Our ancestors knew when they were weak He was strong.

When they cried out, He wiped every tear from their eyes. When they could not walk, He carried them. When they prayed, He answered their prayers and supplied all of their needs. Throughout history, God has been with us every step of the way and He will continue to be with us, and generations to come, because we have more work to do. Let us not forget from where we come from, for our history is rich. *KM*