



# POWER LUNCH

Volume II – Issue 2

The Power Lunch Newsletter An Exousia Ministry

February 2004



## LANDMARKS

*And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt. Exodus 13:9*

Since the creation of Black History Week by Howard University professor Carter G. Woodson, the celebration of the contributions of Africans throughout the Diaspora has been ever expanding. Not only has it grown from a week to a month-long observance, but also the purpose and meaning has evolved over the years. Of course, with any growth there must be growing pains, and I would argue that we are currently in an awkward adolescent period when everything seems uncoordinated and ill-fitting. As we seek to find our way through this tumultuous period, it is important that we continue to nurture the tradition of Black History Month now more than ever.

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**Rev. Matthew L. Watley**  
Power Lunch Founder

## POWER LUNCH CELEBRATES AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT

### GOD IS LOVE

By Will Bailey

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

February is the month that most of us celebrate **love**. People usually give candy, roses and cards that represent the world's way of expressing **love**. My wife, Shellie and I decided to express our **love** for each other by honoring God with our relationship, thus showing our **love** for Him.



Shellie and Will Bailey

Prior to our marriage in 2003, Shellie and I were blessed to have a relationship that taught us many things about **love** and **life**. We traveled, attended sporting events and went to dinner and movies together, just as most couples do. But the source that truly defined our relationship was our commitment to **love** and honor God, first. We decided that if we were going to be together, we were going to honor God with our relationship. In fact, one of our first dates was in Church.

After choosing to put God in and over our relationship, our quality of **life** improved greatly. We can honestly say that the closer we got to God, the closer we got to each other. **Love** became easy. After all, God's name is interchangeable with **love**. It was His **love** that gave us **life**.

Being a part of the Power Lunch ministry is a way that we honor and express our **love** for God. Sowing our time, talent, and treasure in a service in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, in the middle of busy downtown DC, in the middle of a movie theater, is a way to advance His kingdom. The founder of the Power Lunch ministry, Rev. Watley had a vision, generated by God's **love** for us. This ministry gives us one more opportunity in **life** to honor Christ. I am grateful to Rev. Watley for acting on the vision God gave him. In this month of February, examine the place God has in your **life**. Seek to worship Him and learn to enjoy his greatest gift, **LOVE**.

*Will and Shellie Bailey minister as Power Lunch Leadership Team members.*

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

God Is Love  
By Will Bailey

LANDMARKS  
By Rev. Matthew L. Watley

Black History Month Celebration  
February 25, 2004

Upcoming Opportunities  
Partnering ■ Volunteerism

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Power Lunch will celebrate African-American achievement throughout history in a special worship service on February 25, 2004. Come and celebrate God's faithfulness to people of African descent and their contributions to the fabric of this country and abroad. Invite your co-workers, family and friends as Rev. Watley chronicles the path of those that have gone before us and our part in the journey and work that continues to lie ahead.

For More Information on Power Lunch and other Exousia ministries, please visit us at [www.powerlunchonline.com](http://www.powerlunchonline.com).

The bible tells us in Proverbs 22:28, "Do not remove the ancient landmark that your ancestors set up." This is significant because landmarks give us the ability to locate ourselves in the midst of unfamiliar territory. They signify our ability either to find our way back home, or they give us bearing for where we are headed. The writer of Proverbs reminds us that our forebearers have provided landmarks, which still serve a purpose and vital function in reaching our destiny. In a world full of cultural and political changes, we look to the landmarks of our ancestors for guidance and direction. Actually, the shifts in our social and cultural fabric have made Black History Month more relevant for all aspects of our society.

Turn on the television, read the newspaper, or even go to any shopping mall and one will see the curious confluence of culture that occurs throughout our nation and world. Hip-Hop music and culture literally have grown to the level of Global Movement of at least the same size as the anti-apartheid movement, civil and human rights struggles, and even the reach of communism at its height. From Asia to Indiana, and from London, to Los Angeles, what started out as the music and style of African-American youth in New York City have now become big business and the language of a generation.

Now white suburban audiences are the number one consumers of hip hop music, and rap artists no longer simply peddle records, but clothes, cars, and soft drinks. And if the imagery and impact of Hip-Hop were all overwhelmingly positive, then we could champion it as a great unifying force of all people. Unfortunately, Hip-Hop continues to define itself with violence, sexual exploitation, and gross materialism. If you have a son or daughter in their teenage years no matter their race, or social location, it is quite likely that they have secret desires to be gangsters, pimps, or filthy rich at any cost. These vices disguised as virtues are still painted in black face.

Which is why I say black history month ain't just for black folks anymore. We all need to be reminded that being black has precious little to do with clothes and cars, but is the story of a people who have suffered through immeasurable hardship and oppression refusing to give in to their oppressors or give up on their God. We must begin to differentiate between cultural climate and the standards and landmarks of history. Chris Rock crystallizes this position when he points out Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and John Kennedy were assassinated while contrasting the deaths of Biggie Smalls and Tupac saying, "Them two niggaz got shot."

Ironically, even as Rock makes a statement about how this generation defines its heroes not based on moral measures, he also uses a word that has a degrading history, which continues to resurface and cause confusion.

## WE NEED LANDMARKS

We need landmarks. When Prince George's County is the richest Black county in America and yet one of the worst at educating its children, we need landmarks. When Washington, DC's solution to end school violence is to beef up security rather than re-directing its resources to diffuse the climate of violence spurred on by poverty and lack of social netting, we need landmarks. When we are more concerned about Michael and Janet Jackson than we are about an unjustified war, we need landmarks. We need to be reminded that the same God that brought our ancestors through slavery and segregation can deliver this current generation from self-destruction. I want to challenge you to ask the Lord to give you the spirit of a landmark, the courage of Harriet Tubman, the intellect of W.E.B. Dubois, the commitment of Denmark Vessey, and the faith of Fannie Lou Hamer.

**Monthly Meditation:** Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. *Proverbs 22:28*

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Fruit that Abounds to Your Account - Partnering with Power Lunch**

Prayerfully seek the Lord about the commitment level He is leading you to pursue this year in your giving at Power Lunch to build His kingdom and take a step in faith during upcoming partnership opportunities.

### **Stir Up the Gift - Volunteerism**

It's a new year with great opportunities to find your place in the kingdom of God. Whatever your gift or availability there is a place at Power Lunch for you. Sign up at the Table or contact Emily Brown at [ebrown@powerlunchonline.com](mailto:ebrown@powerlunchonline.com).

Power Lunch is held every Wednesday at Union Station-AMC Movie Theater 50 Massachusetts Ave, NE Wash, DC 20002 11:45am - 12:45pm