



# POWER LUNCH

FEBRUARY 2008

*Bringing Worship to the Workplace*

## Are We There Yet?

By Renee Prioleau

You remember don't you...? Riding in the car with family in the days of our youth on our way to see family and close friends, and the question voiced from among us would be "are we there yet"? Even a family movie was recently released with the same title! This particular experience represents what we can call a "Journey". A journey can be defined as traveling from one place to another usually taking a long time or passage and progress from one stage to another. As we take the time to celebrate our African American heritage during this month, we must also consider and reflect upon our experience from the shores of Africa to the United States and abroad and evaluate the reality of our present success and failure as a people in order maximize the moment to achieve a triumphant journey, that we may fulfill the dream of our ancestors, leaders, and the godly generation before us. I wonder how Dr. Martin Luther King, whose birthday and legacy was honored last month, would evaluate our journey as a people at the present time...? In his final speech, he testified of a divine vision... 'that we as a people, we will get to the Promised Land.' I believe the "Promised Land" is both a natural and spiritual place in its context.

We must examine the state of our African American community at the present time in order to evaluate our real progress and create the impetus to move much further in the history of time. What will our legacy be if we settle

*Continued on Page 2*

## What It Means To Be An African American

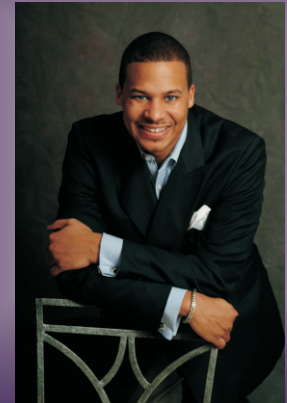
By Connie Henson

I am so proud to be an African American woman. When I was growing up, I have to confess, that I had a deep seated desire to be white. Those feelings stemmed from the fact that white girls had long, straight hair and pretty colored eyes, while my hair was thick and hard to manage and my eyes were brown. Everything associated with being white was looked upon as right. Their mothers were stay at home moms who were there when they got home from school or were able to volunteer at the school, while my mom was a single-parent, working mother; my brother and I were latch key kids; their parents stayed together, while my parents were divorced.

In the 1970's when black pride became a way of life, I began to embrace my blackness. The afro hairstyle was in, black films were becoming increasingly popular, and even white people at that time were beginning to embrace our rich culture. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a household name in life and has been since his death. As a light-skinned, African American female growing up in the inner city of Washington, DC, it

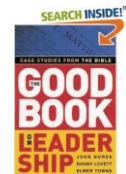
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### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

**Are We There Yet?**  
 By Renee Prioleau

**What It Means To Be An African American**  
 By Connie Henson

*Continued from Page 1 Are We There Yet?*

for material success in segments of our community, yet decline in standards of moral character and lifestyle. We prefer the "club" over "church", until we experience devastating circumstances in our lives which force us to then look for God. We excel in the workplace, yet many are satisfied with being the token or "selling out" to maintain the status quo of the position. Only to discover later that society will remind you who you really are at any given moment. Our families are failing to train and teach this generation of children giving them a strong sense of self esteem, love, and the value of education, cooperation and community. While we focus on our greatest achievements we are now experiencing in the world at this time, we still are compelled to seriously look at the state of affairs in the entire African American community.

Each Wednesday we journey from our places of employment and business to Power Lunch to be refreshed, revived, and receive the revelation of God's word for instruction about godly living, purpose and pursuit, and the mission of right relationship with God and humanity. It is also an opportunity to review our journey with the Lord to ensure that we have a solid foundation and the path we travel in this world is established by God's word and will. This is a precious experience in the presence of God to be shaped and molded by God to be the African American people God has called us to be. The saints of old said it like this, "we have come this far by faith leaning on the Lord, trusting in His Holy name, He never failed us yet..." We also know that "faith without works is dead", therefore let us be a people of word and deed. Therefore, we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phillipians 3.14)

*Continued from Page 1 What It Means To Be An African American*

came with a lot of challenges because I was looked upon differently because of the complexion of my skin. This type of behavior caused me to develop low self-esteem and low self worth. It took many years for me to reverse that way of thinking in my life. I carried those thoughts into adulthood and into my relationships.

I have learned through the years to love my African American culture; to acknowledge the contributions of our race; to celebrate the success and building of this nation that we call home. I have also learned that the world as we know it would not exist without the contributions of African American scientists and inventors.

What makes me even more proud is the fact that I gave birth to two beautiful, intelligent and talented African American girls. They make me proud because they are carrying on our rich heritage and surpassing even my expectations. I see so much of myself in them. I teach them to be proud of their heritage and to embrace it and to love themselves and others unconditionally.

When I think of how diverse; how beautiful; and how smart I am today, I marvel at God's handiwork because I know that I did not always feel this way about myself. I can look at myself in the mirror and see someone worth while who deserves to be loved and can love in return. I consider it to be an honor to be an African American woman who is strong and determined to succeed and to raise strong and successful women. I have come from a long line of strong, confident and beautiful women with such diversity. I have been challenged to move forward and to pass down that richness and awesomeness and that, to me, is huge. However, it is a role that I gladly accept.

## Power Lunch News

### February Monthly Focus Black History Month

### Announcements

Power Lunch is now in seven cities. Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD, Dallas, TX, Columbia, SC, Columbus, OH and Suitland, MD.

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### Become a PL Volunteer!

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### Write for the Newsletter!

Are you gifted in the area of writing? Why not submit to The Power Lunch Newsletter. We are accepting articles & Testimonies to include in upcoming editions. The articles & Testimonies must be Bible based and must focus on applying Biblical principles in the workplace. Submit all articles to: [newsletter@powerlunchonline.com](mailto:newsletter@powerlunchonline.com) Submit today!

*Stay tuned for the March edition of The Power Lunch Newsletter!*