

Black History Month—February



Arrangements:

- Have display set up showing some of the prominent people
- Have display of time line
(<http://blackhistorycanada.ca/timeline.php?id=1600>)
- Invite a speaker who has knowledge of Black History

Resource: www.blackhistorycanada.ca

Introduction:

When was the last time you felt that your freedom was infringed upon? Was it when you were a teenage under the control of your parents? Was it when you wanted to speed but the speed limit and the sight of a police officer dictated otherwise? Was it when you may have had an encounter with the law?

February is Black History month in Canada and for the people of African origin the lack of freedom greatly signifies more than any of the things I've just mentioned.

Black History in Canada Quiz

<http://blackhistorycanada.ca/Quiz.pdf>

People Profiles: <http://blackhistorycanada.ca/profiles.php?themeid=20&id=2>

Song: *In Christ there is no east or west* John Oxenham

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 10-22

Devotional:

One of the biggest challenges Jesus faced during His ministry was the barriers established due to some people thinking that they were superior to the other. As Jesus spoke the message of God's love and the restoration of relationship with God, there were those who rejected His message, and rejected Him, because he called for them to break down the barriers of hostility towards others.

In Luke 10: 25-37, we find the parable of the Good Samaritan. This parable is spoken in response to Jesus' interaction with an expert of the law who sought to test Jesus. The man, knowing the law, said that to inherit eternal life a person must do two things: Love God above all and love others as yourself (Luke 10:27); these two things go hand in hand, they cannot be separated. The parable of the Good Samaritan challenges the man regarding his obedience to this law—did he truly love God if he did not love others, especially those towards whom barriers had been established; further, is he willing to break down the barriers to show the extent of His love for God.

In Ephesians 2: 10-22, Paul reminds us that all of us are God's creation; and by means of Christ's crucifixion all people have equal access to God who by the Spirit can indwell in each person.

The challenge presented to the expert in the law is also presented to each of us. Think about what may divide you from others; think about our own personal barriers we may have established. We are all challenged by Jesus to love God and to love others as we love ourselves.

Song: *Let Freedom Ring*
 (Youtube—Gaither Vocal Band)

