

Family Matters

May 31, 2010
Volume 3, Issue 4

Official Newsletter of the Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion
www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com



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Team Leader's Corner

Bettie Gillyard Griggs

Timing and Clarity

It seems that it was only yesterday that "Save the Date" postcards were mailed, announcing the dates for the 2010 family reunion. Now here we are, only 2 months away from the opening ceremony of the 4th GJM family reunion. I am so excited!

Someone asked me recently, "Why are we now having family reunions. What about all those years, when we didn't have one?" I was sensitive to his concern, and remembered **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**, and said to him, "everything has its time and its season. Now we've grown to understand and appreciate the importance of coming together as a family and honoring our ancestors and our heritage." I hope that I left him

with a clearer understanding, and that our family reunions will now take on meaning and purpose for him.

This issue of Family Matters offers another glimpse of the exciting weekend of fellowship that we have planned. Now that we've gotten the word out with mailings, monthly email updates and facebook connections, this seems like the perfect time to emphasize and clarify details. On page 2, in Reunion Details, concerns regarding everything from, what do I wear to where do I go, are addressed.

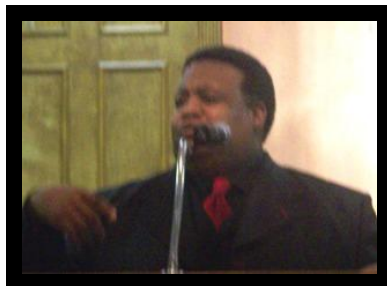
Have you given any thought to what this year's reunion theme, New Vines from Strong Roots, means to you? Pastor Jerius Marshall, featured in our Family Spotlight (see below), will speak on that theme at our Black and White Banquet.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 12, 2010 - Reunion Planning Team Meeting
- ◆ July 6, 2010 - Reunion Fees Due
- ◆ August 6 -8, 2010 Family Reunion Days

Family Spotlight



This month the spotlight shines on the Reverend **Jerius Lamont Marshall**. Jerius was born in Shreveport LA to Inez Davis Marshall and the late Percy V. Marshall. He is the oldest of three (3) children, and was baptized at the tender age of 10 years old. At a very early age he dedicated his life to serving God. Growing up in the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, he actively participated in the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry. He served as

assistant to Pastor Murphy L. Hunt and served as the Youth Pastor for many years. Jerius has attended and been very active in the 13th District Missionary Baptist Association of Shreveport, where he earned many credits in Christian Education. In the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, he has attended and earned certificates in the Pastor's Alternative Classes. In the National Baptist Convention, USA, he continued in the Pastor's Alternative Classes. Jerius was educated in the Caddo Parish School System and attended Louisiana Baptist University and Bossier Community College. Jerius L. Marshall accepted and confessed his call to the ministry in May of 1996, and in September of that same year, he preached his 1st sermon.

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Shirley Kline Gillyard

A mind is a terrible thing to waste—a phrase we have heard for years. But an education or a chance at a good education is also a terrible thing to waste.

From the time we were able to comprehend, education has been the “be all and end all” for generations.

It has been inbred in us from our ancestors, and now we try to pass it on to our generation. The family structure significantly affects children’s academic and social development.

From the knee and up ---we have heard that a good education can open many doors. Family structure has a significant influence on children’s educational performance and affects all levels of educational performance, from preschool to college, and beyond.

The family is there to mold and shape the child during the formative years: behavior, attitude, self-worth, self esteem and values.

Following the Emancipation Proclamation, education became a driving force for black Americans. Our families instilled in us that we MUST obtain a good education, to have

an equal footing with others and be capable of keeping abreast of everyday challenges. It is a Must! To make this a reality, they supported such schools as Grambling, Southern, Wiley, Spelman and many others. We can proudly say they were instrumental in our educational endeavors.

We must tip our hats to individuals like Booker T. Washington, Ralph W.E. Jones, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Barack Obama on whose shoulders we firmly stand. They stood/stand for family values and led the charge in the field of education.

Have we made it to the mountaintop? I say to all, we have only crossed the river. The ocean of success still lies ahead.

Education is an ongoing process. When you stop learning, you are dead.

Be all you can be, get all you can get; then share with your family.

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Reunion Details

Kick off for the Family Reunion is Friday, August 6, 2010

Where: All events take place at the Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, except for our Sunday Worship Service.

Reunion theme: “New Vines From Strong Roots.”

Reunion colors: Red and Gray
Throughout the reunion, attendees are encouraged to wear red or gray; *except for our Saturday night, BLACK and WHITE BANQUET. Please wear Black or White attire.*

Friday, Aug 6, 2010 (6 P.M. - 10 P.M.)

Health Fair, Registration, Soul Food Buffet, Opening Ceremony
Surprises and great fun and fellowship!
Attire: Casual

Saturday, August 7, 2010

Pool Party (10:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.)
Pentathlon games, spade, domino, Wii games and other activities and games around the pool and in our indoor activities room, lunch
Attire: Pool attire with family reunion T-shirt

Black and White Banquet
(7 P.M. - 12 A.M.)
Dinner, Family Talent Show, Educational Scholarship presented
Attire: Black and White (Dressy, Semi-Formal, Formal)

Sunday, August 8, 2010 (11:00 A.M.)

Worship Service, Sunshine Baptist Church, 2214 Hwy 509, Mansfield, LA
Attire: Church Appropriate

Registration Fees are due by
July 6, 2010

Checks or money orders payable to
Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney
Family Reunion
Mail to Inez Marshall
7204 Classic Circle,
Shreveport, LA 71108

Adults - 18 -74 yrs - \$85.00
Children - 6 -17 yrs - \$35.00
Children - under 6 yrs - \$10.00
Family Seniors - 75yrs + - \$20.00

Refer to www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com for updates or call
Bettie at (310) 926-4979 or
Inez at (318) 458-6072

Do you know your family health heritage-the risks that have been handed down to you? If your doctor asked for your family's health history, would you be able to give it?

Sankofa is an Akan word that means, "We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today." You may know that you got your thin hair from your grandmother and your dimples from your dad. These aren't the only things you may have inherited from your family. Many medical conditions, including heart disease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes, alcoholism

and Alzheimer's disease have also been shown to be passed down through families.

Family Health Heritage is a record of our ancestors and relatives. It is a legacy for our children.

Many of the factors that determine our health (or illnesses) were inherited from our ancestors. Creating a family health heritage history can be beneficial in providing an assessment of our medical history.

Researching and documenting family health heritage can also assist in interpreting patterns of health, illness and genetic traits of our ancestors.

Understanding our risk for developing diseases is an important reason to learn more about family health history. By knowing our risk factors, we can make informed decisions about prevention. One of our hopes is that our family reunions and our health fairs will not only encourage our family to build mutually beneficial family histories but also that family members will recognize the value of maintaining and controlling their own medical records.

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Family Spotlight

On August 6, 2000, he was installed as Pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in Mansfield, LA.

Jerius L. (J. J.) Marshall has been married to Latonya W. Marshall for 17 years. They are the parents of two (2) sons, Jarius Lamar and Jared Lawrence and one (1) daughter Whitney Aliece. He has two sisters, Pamela Vanessa Marshall-Walker and Paula Vanesse Marshall.

His maternal grandmother is the late Mrs. Leola Gilyard-Davis.

His grandmother's brother is Otis Gilyard. His grandmother's sisters are Mrs. Lula Gilyard-Dixon, the late Mrs. Viola Gilyard-Foster, the late Ms. Della Gilyard, Mrs. Lottie Gilyard-Brown, and Mrs. Georgia Gilyard-Taylor.

Pastor Jerius Marshall, another shining spirit in our family!

Family Happenings

Retirements

April 29, 2010 - Kevin Dumas
Retirement Ceremony, U.S. Navy

Graduations

May 8, 2010- Dominique Gillyard
Loyola University, New Orleans
Masters in Nursing

May 8, 2010 -Debra Hall-Cannon
Southern University, Shreveport
AS-Surgical Technology

May 20, 2010 - KaNeisha Gillyard
Southwood High School, Shreveport, LA
Schools -Salutatorian

May 20, 2010 - DeCarius Gillyard,
Southwood High School

May 22, 2010-L'Anthony Davis
C.E. Byrd High School

May 22, 2010 - Travion Mahoney
Captain Shreve High School

May 22, 2010- Jarius Lamar Marshall
Captain Shreve High School

In MEMORIUM

Robert Foster -
January 31, 2010



Congratulations 2010 graduates

Please remember that information for this column must be submitted for publication to gjmfamilyreunion@gmail.com

The next edition of Family Matters will be available August 6, 2010

Family Historian
bettiegillyard@aol.com

**Family Reunions
Mission:**

To focus on the things that shape us rather than the circumstances that divide us; to strengthen and preserve family as God orders our steps. We value God's Plan, Family, Tradition, and Service.

We're on the Web!
gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

Join our Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney
Family Reunion Group on
Facebook

Family and Education

We can lose a lot, but what you have learned is yours for life.

Education and family go hand-in-hand. If we want better-educated children, we need parents to take an active role.

Parents do not leave the education of your children to the educators alone. Have a hands-on approach to education and walk your child/children through the doors of EDUCATION.

Team Leader's Corner

With so much talk about education and the stakeholders involved in educating our children, we asked Shirley Gillyard to share her views on Family and Education (see page 2).

Our Health Care Contributors, Dorothy Obee and Ida Oatis have done an excellent job in bringing to us health concerns which affect our family. This month in Healthy Living, the Family History Team took on the task and

Enjoy the journey!

Shirley Kline Gillyard is a member of the GJM family history team and a retired elementary school teacher.

For comments regarding her commentary
Email: gjmfamilyreunion@gmail.com, or
bradshirgillyard@att.net

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explains the importance of Family Health Heritage (page 3).

What a month of celebration May has been for the family. Congratulations to all our 2010 graduates, and to all our DADs, Happy Father's Day!

Remember, Everything Has Its Time.

Enjoy Your Blessings,

Bettie



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