

Women's History Month

During the month of March, many churches, schools, public and private organizations will take time to recognize, applaud and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by women in the building and establishment of this great Nation.

The 2011 theme for Women's History Month is: "Our History is Our Strength". The theme addresses the courage, tenacity and support of women whose names may never make a history book but their works and sacrifices will always be an integral part of our history.

In the following article below written by Molly Murphy Mac Gregor, Executive Director and co founder National Women's History Project highlights the events and timelines that ultimately resulted in the establishment of Women's History Month. (see www.nwhp.org/whmhistory.php)

Mobilizing a Movement

In 1979, Molly Murphy Macgregor, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by noted historian, Gerda Lerner and attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When the participants learned about the success of the Sonoma County's Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations, communities, and school districts. They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National Women's History Week."

Presidential and Congressional Support

The first steps toward success came in February 1980 when President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week. In the same year, Representative Barbara Mikulski, who at the time was in the House of Representatives, and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week 1981. This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the achievements of American women.

A National Lobbying Effort

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials for all of their public schools. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

Each year, the dates of National Women's History Week, (the week of March 8th) changed and every year a new lobbying effort was needed. Yearly, a national effort that included thousands of individuals and hundreds of educational and women's organizations was spearheaded by the National Women's History Project.

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

The ICEA Pays Tribute to Dr. Lulu Jackson

Women's History Month is a great opportunity for all of us as Christian Educators to highlight and teach our children of the unsung women who served untiringly in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW) organization. In commemoration of Women's History Month, the ICEA was inspired by the above article to

highlight the life and legacy of a great woman of God, Dr. Lulu Jackson.

Dr. Lulu Jackson, Pastor and Founder of the Pentecostal Assembly Church, Waterbury, CT, born October 17, 1907, in Cobs, GA, to Martha Laney Sapp and Isaiah Harris.

At the age of 10, Dr. Jackson moved to New Jersey. At the age of 21 she was baptized in Jesus name and filled with the Holy Ghost the same night at the Emmanuel Church of Christ in Newark, NJ.

In 1937 the Lord sent Dr. Jackson to Waterbury, Ct to establish a Jesus name church. The church started in a rented store front. Many times she paid rent from her personal funds and performed the duties of a janitor. She had a vision of a church for the Lord. In 1950 came the next major move. A lot was purchased on Bishop Street and tent services were held until the building was completed in 1951. Between the years of 1951 and 1954 and again in 1965 Dr. Jackson and the congregation could be heard over W.A.T.R. Broadcasting Station. She was also seen on Channel 13 preaching the Word of God for approximately 4 years. Many people were reached through the Word of God going over the air. The assembly continued to grow and progress with a new influx of membership. In 1961 a larger church was purchased on Cherry Street and God continued to bless.

On February 19, 1979, the church was completely destroyed by fire. This was quite a blow for Dr. Jackson, to see 42 years of hard labor (the building and furnishings) burned to the ground but Dr. Jackson knew according to the scriptures that; "All things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose", Romans 8:28.

Dr. Jackson's ministry has taken her across the United States and into many foreign countries. She was awarded numerous trophies and plaques from various councils around the world. A biographical sketch of her life history has been published in the book "Great Women of Pentecost".

Through her ministry, eight churches were established; Bishop Robert Jones, Syracuse, NY (deceased), Bishop Willie Hardy, Stamford, CT (deceased), Bishop Thomas Hunter, Waterbury, CT (deceased), Pastor Emily E. (Hoffler) Parish, Meriden, CT (deceased), Elder Ernest Rhodes, Augusta, GA, District Elder Nathaniel Greene, Torrington, CT, District Elder Glenn Dansby, Sr., Danbury, CT and Elder Melvin Norfleet, Evansville, IN.

Dr. Jackson also excelled in other areas; she attended Aeon Bible College on a scholarship awarded by the International Missionary Auxiliary of the PAW, Inc. and later received a Honorary Doctorate from Aeon College. She was also served as a Director on Aeon's Board.

On the state level Dr. Jackson served as Treasurer of the Connecticut State Council in its pioneer days. She was President of the Connecticut District Council Missionary Auxiliary for 21 years and served as President of the Church Extension for several more. She also served as 2nd Vice-Chairman of the Council for 11 years and as 1st Vice Chairman for 6 years.

In August 1960 she was elected Vice President of the International Missionary and Women's Auxiliary of the PAW, Inc. and served as the President from 1964 to 1980. Dr. Jackson was the first woman to be elected to the Bishop Board as Lay-Director of the North east District of the PAW, Inc. and served in this capacity for 6 years.

Dr. Lulu Jackson together with her husband Henry Jackson raised 8 children and at the time of her death in October 1994 she had 24 Grandchildren and 13 Great-grandchildren.

Her life is a testimony of the saving grace and keeping power of the mighty God we serve; she is to be honored and revered as a woman of distinction; blessed and highly favored of the Lord!

Article Submitted By: Sis. Betty Thomas, International Director for Christian Education