

Ethiopian History and the Bible

by MWB, guest writer

Ethiopia is a country of great natural beauty, marked by a vast mountain with a mean height of some 8,000 feet. The term Ethiopian refers to all people of dark skin, from the countries from Egypt to Nubia to India. For Ethiopians, Ethiopia remains as a heaven of peace where priests are dancing before the Ark of the Covenant. Traditional elements of love and mutual respect continue to live. A person who visits Ethiopia will notice some similarities between ancient Israel and Ethiopia. King David's harp and Ethiopian harps, lyres, drums, and sistras are all similar.

With all ancient musical instruments you see Ethiopians dancing with all their might and bringing up the Ark with traditional songs. It can be seen each year on many occasions. The Biblical atmosphere clearly shows itself in Ethiopia -- attitudes, beliefs and a general quality of life that resembles the old Testament world. For example, the council of elders resolving a dispute,

sitting under a tree in the field. Watching elders sends us back to one of the scenes in Deuteronomy 25:7-9 or Ruth 4:2 "Then the elders of the city shall call him to speak unto him" or "He took ten men of the elders of the city and said, sit ye down here." You can also notice an Ethiopian in the cold mist of dawn, on a donkey or mule, accompanied by his retainers. It is precisely as described in Genesis 22:3 "And Abraham rose up early in the morning and saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. . ." An Ethiopian child washes the feet of his father's guests, just as Abraham washed the feet of the three men, or as the women washed the feet of Jesus, or Jesus washed his followers' feet. The custom of the bow that is experienced in Ethiopia is as is described in Genesis 33:6-7, when Jacob's wives and maidens and children bow to Esau. All this is the daily routine life of Ethiopians in Ethiopia

It is after watching and observing Ethiopians and their daily life a professor of Ethiopian studies at the University of London said in his book "Hamito-Semitic union has produced a handsome race, elegant, subtle and nervous." Most travellers and observers have gained the impressions that Ethiopians are intelligent, mentally agile and quick to absorb knowledge. They are proud, yet courteous and good manners are highly esteemed. They are also accomplished diplomats, perhaps somewhat suspicious, but generous and uncalculating. Ethiopians are litigious, but their sense of honour and justice is satisfied once the matter has been argued out at length; they present a case with great dexterity and have distinct flair for oratory. Their hospitality retains something of biblical and patriarchal flavour and few of those who favoured it have been able to resist their sense of humour and their compelling charm.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

What does it mean to you?

Students and faculty alike enjoyed a day of goodwill recently. The second annual Respect Day held on March 27, was organized by members of the Peer Helpers Group. Not only was the message being sent out by the group "respect yourself", but also to respect the other people that affect your life. Several buildings on campus were decorated to help show our respect for the many services we use on campus; security, student services, and the health centre. Students are very stressed at this time of year, with deadlines and finals in the not so distant future. Respect Day was meant to help students and staff relax.

Prizes were passed out to people who looked like they could use some cheering up, as well as yellow ribbons, balloons, and "thoughts for the day." The event was a huge success and will hopefully be repeated again next year.

Yearbook Notice Last Chance!

Attention all UPEI students, in particular residents of Bernardine, Marian and Blanchard Hall, members of the Chemistry Society, Biology Club, Psychology Club and History Society: The Yearbook Staff are seeking submissions for the 1996 edition of Nexus. We need candid photos (embarrass your friends!), write-ups (let us know what you have done this year!), anything you want to represent you in the yearbook.

The deadline has been extended to April 4. This is your yearbook and we want to see you represented. Please send photos and write-ups to the yearbook office, 09 Main, or e-mail us at yearbook@upei.ca. We look forward to hearing from you.

Also, a reminder that the deadline for ordering yearbooks is April 4. Cost \$10. Seniors exempt.

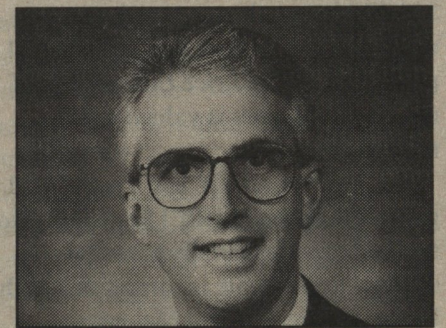
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