

We Believe in God, Too

The Book of Psalms

“If we are wanting to go to the very beginning of this story, then we must look back about 3,000 years or so. God spoke to and through some folks in a village. Those folks became the Jewish tribe. Some of them didn’t quite like the way things were being done and they became Christians. Somewhere in all this, folks started writing down words inspired by God and words spoken to God. Those texts became the Old Testament”.

–Taren S, 2019

The Book of Psalms, located within the Old Testament of the bible, has served as, “man’s words to God”. Primarily verbally spoken and then later translated to written text, Psalms is used for recitations and spells in combination with traditional Native healing herbs that were used for rootwork also known as “Hoodoo” (Marie, 2021). With the help and implementation of Native Americans, and there historical intermarriage to Black/African Americans; these prayers are used for asking for God’s strength, protection, aid, wisdom, and vengeance.

Read on how these individuals came to their own understanding of what it means to walk by faith and not by sight.

Image 1

“My name is Niyankor Albino Ajuaj – I am the daughter of Cecelia Abuk Ayuel who is the daughter of Nyayath Bol Kiir and Ayuel Kacgor Mathiang who is the son of Nyawell Baktor & Kacgor Mathiang. I am also the daughter of Albino Ajuaj Deng who is the son of ancestors whose names I do not know. My mother’s family is from Abyei, South Sudan – she grew up in Kaduguli, South Sudan. I do not know where my father’s side of the family is from. My mom and dad met when she was in her late teens, they had an arranged marriage. After they got married, they moved to Khartoum, Sudan & had my older sister before moving & settling in Cairo, Egypt where they had myself & my younger sister.

When I was 5/6, my dad was arrested and thrown out of Egypt. My mom was in a tough situation, she had 3 small children, had never worked a day in her life (my father was the sole provider of our household) and she had no form of education. She ended up getting a job cleaning houses and had literally been working ever since. Prior to my dad getting arrested and exiled, him & my mom were having conversations about moving to the states, my mom ended up reconnecting with whomever they were in conversation with and when I was 7, we moved to the states. I have been living in Colorado ever since”.

Niyankor Ajuaj | She/Her/Hers | Queer

Image 2

“There was a time in 2018 where I had lost my job, was losing my relationship and it felt like I was in the deepest hole of my depression. I went up to the roof of my apartment building which at that time was very close to the mountains in Lakewood. I didn’t go up there with a plan but nothing was out of the question as I ascended the steps.

When I got to the rooftop I began to think about all of the things that at that moment it felt like I was failing at. How I had moved to Colorado with no support and how embarrassed I would feel if I had to go back home. I cried on that rooftop thinking about how alone I felt and how much of a failure at life I felt like. I prayed to God and asked him why I had to be feeling this low. I told him it felt like all of these weapons were prospering against me. I cried more and ended my prayer with asking God if he was really there for me then to just show me something, anything because in that moment I felt so alone. As soon as the words finished coming out of my mouth this white lit cross became so clear in the distance I’m not sure how I didn’t see it. It was just the visual eye rub I needed to know that God was listening and he was there with me. That was the one and only time God has answered me that quickly and clearly and I often lean on that experience to know that he hears me”.

Jas Sherman | She/Her/They | Lesbian

www.ebpixs.com | For all inquires contact: DCPA Jesús Quintana Martinez

We Believe in God, Too

The Book of Psalms

Image 3

“I identify as a black trans man. Yes, I do believe in God, and have my own sense of spiritual connection. The way my spirituality fits within being trans is because for a long time I felt that who I saw in the mirror didn’t match the image I saw for myself. I do see and understand that we all have a purpose in life and different callings in life”.

Nazir L. Wattley | He/Him/His | Heterosexual/Trans

“As a pastor I have my spiritual connection to God and that tells me that if I truly know God I MUST LOVE everyone. It is a command. Love for one another is not predicated on the conditions of variables because true love is constant, unfailing, unconditional, and most of all unchanging. Often times “the Church” has unfairly highlighted the LGBTQIA+ community with systematic and targeted attacks like “pray the gay away” but if we are true believers and followers of Christ we know that our COMMAND to LOVE is above our need to rebuke, condemn, judge or hate.

We must understand that we all do things that someone else out there will not like, or that the Word of God speaks against, but God knowing our flawed human nature has given us grace, mercy, and love. We must realize ALL souls belong to God and therefore if we love God we must love EVERYONE not for the life they live in the flesh, but for who they live their Life for in Spirit”

Tyler Coburn | He/Him/His | Ally & Accomplice

Image 4

“I did grow up with a religious background, I grew up in COGIC, Baptist and Non-Denominational churches. We went to church on Sunday’s bible study on Wednesday’s and participated in other church events. I liked going to church and hanging out with my friends at church. My favorite part of church was always the music”.

Tyrell Rae | He/She/They | Gay

“I grew up in a Southern Baptist and Jehovah’s Witness split family. My Baptist side was not at church every week type but still expected you to behave like a good Christian. There were many expectations of how girls should act, look and duties assigned just to them. I struggled with that because I just wanted to be free to be me beyond the identity placed upon me as a girl”.

Ash Ferguson | She/They/Theirs | Queer