

## ● 1 月度土曜例会

1 月度土曜例会(11/01/15)

今回の例会は二つの”初めて“がありました。一つはアフリカンアメリカン初のゲストです。また二つ目は過ぎて多くのゲストがスピーチの後お国自慢の楽器を演奏してくれたりダンスを披露してくれたりしましたが、今回はスピーチ自体が”音楽“ということでもプロのゴスペル歌手、美しい歌声を聴きながら自然に内容が理解できるという大変ユニークな例会でした。スピーカーは Beverly さん。比叡山のアウトティングにも参加され帰りのバスの中でマイクコンディションもあまりよくなく、足元もバスの揺れでふらつく中、すばらしいクリスマスソング



を披露してくれましたね。本日のタイトルは“Evolution of African American Culture”です。

まずは彼女の紹介から。アメリカフロリダ生まれ、幼少をフロリダ、ジョージアで過ごし 14 歳以来カリフォルニアはサクラメントの住人。家族は二人の娘さんと目の中に入れても痛くない孫娘、よく SKYPE しています。2 年前 2 週間ほど下見に来日、昨年 4 月 Missionary visa でほんまもんのゴスペルを通じキリスト教を宣教する為、腰をすえて活動開始しました。I am a singer, songwriter, contemporary gospel recording artist, voice coach and choir director.との事。 現在水尾の茨木聖書教会でゴスペルクラスを担当しています。ではスピーチの内容に移りましょう。その前に疑問点がありました。それは奴隷として連れて来られたアフリカ人はいろいろな部族がいたはず、それぞれの宗教も持っていたはず、それがなぜブラックチャーチの元でキリスト教のゴスペルに纏まって行ったのか、ということです。

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### 1) Evolution of African American Culture

I chose this topic because February is Black History Month in America. Much of the history and lineage of African American was lost due to slavery. Our ancestors were sold into slavery or abducted from their tribal homes. African from various tribes were brought to America and many of them could not even communicate with each other. Consequently, from generation to generation, more and more of our African heritage was lost. The purpose of Black History Month is to educate our youth and the world about the accomplishments of African thought our history that have often been ignored or attributed to others. Music in today' s world has been highly influenced the African American experience, so today I will share some highlights about how the music has envolved.

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### 2) The history of Gospel

A common feature of African American songs was the call-and-response format, where a leader would sing a verse or verses and the others would respond with a chorus. This came from African traditions of agricultural work song and found its way into the spirituals that developed once slaves began to convert to Christianity and from there to both gospel music and the blues. Also evident were field hollers, shouts, and moans, which may have been originally designed for different bands or individuals to locate each other and narrative songs that used folk tales and folk motifs, often making use of homemade instruments. In early

slavery drums were used to provide rhythm, but they were banned in later years because of the fear that black slaves would use them to communicate in a rebellion; nevertheless, slaves managed to generate percussion and percussive sounds, using other instruments or their own bodies. Perhaps surprisingly, there are very few examples of work songs linked to cotton picking.



The religious institutions of African American Christians commonly are referred to collectively as the black church. During slavery, many slaves were stripped of their African belief systems and typically denied free religious practice, forced to become Christian. Slaves managed, however, to hang on to some practices by integrating them into Christian worship in secret meetings. These practices, including dance, shouts, African rhythms, and enthusiastic singing, remain a large part of worship in the African American church. African American churches taught that all people were equal in God's eyes.



### 3) Gospel Greats

Tomy Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, Andre Crouch, そして Oh happy day のアレンジャー Edwin Hawkins, Mary Mary 等の人々のスタイルが Gospel music の信条を貫いている一方 Ray Charles, Al Green, Anita Baker 等の人々は African American church のリード歌手からナイトクラブ、ショウビジネスに転身して行った有名人で、いわゆる secular artists で歌詞も微妙に変更している、と分析しています。



4) African American culture has influenced music all over the world. African American musical styles became an integral part of American popular music through blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, and then rock and roll, soul and hip hop; all of these styles were consumed by Americans of all races, but were created in African American styles and idioms before eventually becoming common in performance and consumption across racial lines.

ご存知、世界のスーパーstar Michael Jackson,そして Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross 等が所属した Motown Label、B.B.King, Prince, James Brown, また私が日本で会った大概の人たちは映画 “天使にラブソング” の Whoopi Goldberg を知っていました。



数多くの名前が出てきましたが YouTube でそれぞれの歌手の演奏が聞けます。一度お試しあれ！





PS) ゴスペルの良さに取り付かれ自分も歌いたい方、友人に知らせてあげたい方、彼女の website にアクセスしてみてください。www.BeverlyRivers.com です。そこから video blogs, YouTube にもリンク出来ます。Mailing list に Sign up しては如何？ 茨木聖書教会に直接問い合わせも OK です。

ところで彼女に Whoopi Goldberg (左の写真) に似ている、って言ったら私そんなにブスじゃないわ、と言われました。