

Nannie Helen Burroughs 1879-1961

1879 - HOME SETTING IN VIRGINIA

Nannie Helen Burroughs was born in Orange County, Virginia on May 2, 1879. This was 15 years after slavery was declared illegal, However her parents lived under the shadows of slavery - John and Jennie (Poindexter) Burroughs. Her paternal grandfather was a slave who purchased his own freedom.

Nannie was reared in a Christian home. Her father became an itinerant preacher. He influenced this young life by teaching her about the love of God. He later attended Virginia Union University, formerly named the Richmond Institute.

Father teaches her daughter:

To Be supplied

Nannie recites:

To Be Supplied

Family prays the Lord's Prayer on their knees:

MUSIC - Jesus Loves Me this I Know -

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago, Taking children on His knee, Saying, "Let them come to Me.

NARRATOR

Young Nannie moved with her mother to Washington, D.C. Nannie attended public schools in the District of Columbia. She had an unusual thirst for knowledge and later in 1896 attended the M Street High School where she majored in Business and Domestic Science.

1883 - 1896 SCHOOL SETTING - Jessica

Nannie Speaks - reflecting her study discipline and educational goals:

Her leadership qualities became apparent in such projects as the Harriet Beecher Stowe Library Society, which she organized before graduation. She graduated with honors.

Early disappointments in securing a position to each Domestic Science in the District of Columbia Public School system inspired Nannie to work toward assisting black girls and women to develop their God-given skills. She believed that adequate trainings and preparation would assure them the possibility of gainful employment.

To Be Supplied

MUSIC - WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH A STORM

When you walk through a storm
Keep your chin up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone.

NARRATOR

- She left Washington to become the bookkeeper and associate editor of the Christian Banner in Philadelphia.
- She later accepted a similar position in the office of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention in Louisville, KY.
- In Louisville, she organized a Women's Industrial Club, which specialized in offering short-term lodging to Negro girls and teaching them basic skills.

1900 - NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION - Richmond, Virginia

Scene I

Convention President's Speaks

- The National Baptist Convention is called to Order for deliberation in its Annual Session. We are grateful to be hosted here in Richmond, Virginia, the heart of the Confederacy. Across the river on Monument Avenue are statues of the great Confederacy Warriors. They are statues - We are alive in the Army of the Lord. They fought against flesh and blood for a losing Cause. We fight against the spiritual principalities. They had metal and gold amour. We are dressed with the amour of God.

- Brothers and Sisters, we are the largest organized body of Black Americans in our nation and have the responsibility to lead our people who are suffering from Poverty, Lynchings, Segregation. Mis-education and illiteracy.
- Brethern, there is a concern among our ranks that we need to expand our leadership to include laymen and women,

PREACHER - MR. PRESIDENT

God called us, as he did Moses, as Men to lead our people to freedom and opportunity. The only thing I agree with the Roman Catholics is - Men have their place and Women have their place. Jesus used only men to become His disciples. Amen, Amen

NARRATOR

Nannie launched her famous career in religious leadership in Richmond, VA with her stirring address to the National Baptist Convention titled

Scene II Nannie Speaks to the Convention

NANNIE (Jovita) rises from the audience: (must have mike)

MR. PRESIDENT - You petition the Chair to speak?

NANNIE - Yes, Mr. President

PRESIDENT - Why do you Rise Sister Burroughs?

NANNIE -

I would like to speak from my heart to the distinguished clergy and to my brothers and sisters

PRESIDENT

You are granted two minutes to speak. You must not use this pulpit but the lectern to my right. This platform is designated for preachers only.

NANNIE

To my distinguished Brothers In Christ

Jesus may have chosen 12 Men to be his Disciples but God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus; God choose Elizabeth to be the mother of John the Baptist and Lastly it was three women at the Master's tomb when his Men - disciples ran and hid for fear.

It was women at the Cross - not Men

- My Christian Brothers and Sisters, we, Baptist Women, have been hindered from helping.
- We all have just come through the dark tunnels of slavery.
- We have no financial inheritance for all the years of our toiling in the hot sun on the slave Master's farms and feeding and rearing the Master's children in the big house. It is now time that turn our attention to our children, their future and their God-given rights.
- Yes, our eyes are still red from tears of pain and struggle. But, it is now time for you my brothers in Christ, to use their greatest resource - We the Women - who have supported Your work IN THE KINGDOM from

behind.

- We need now to organize Baptist Women and to support President's Vision for our people. WE NEED TO PLAN TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN
- God has brought us through those weary years.
- We are segregated and legally disfranchised. We may bring our ugly scars and memories from our PAST, but our spirits are fresh and alive with the blood of Jesus and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- Our Black Church is the only institution not up for sale. It was purchased and provided eternal status for women and men.
- Therefore, I petition the Convention to authorize the Women as an Auxillary to the Parent Body of the National Baptist Convention, subjected to the supervision and rules governing the Parent Body.

PRESIDENT BRETHERN, WHAT IS YOUR PLEASURE?

MINISTER I MOVE THAT SISTERS BURROUGHS REQUEST BE GRANTED

NARRATOR

Her dynamic presence, coupled with the long efforts of Black Baptist women to form a national organization, culminated not only in the birth of the National Baptist Woman's Convention (WC), but also in the election of Burroughs as its corresponding secretary.

Her youthful energy, resourcefulness, and speaking abilities ensured the

growth of the newly formed convention. A few years later, NANNIE recites her efforts.

SCENE - CHURCH

NANNIE

During my first year in office, reported having worked 365 days,

I traveled 22,125 miles,

I delivered 215 speeches,

I organized 12 societies,

I wrote 9,235 letters, and

I received 4,820 letters.

- By 1903 I reported that the Women's Convention represented nearly 1 million black Baptist women and now by 1907, we boast of 1.5 million.
- In addition I systematized the work of women's state and local societies by publishing a handbook:
- *What to Do and How to Do It* and I distributing uniform record books and bookkeeping advice.
- In 1908 she conceived of National Woman's Day and inaugurated its annual celebration in local churches as an expression of sisterhood and as a means of garnering financial support for the WC.
- I wrote *The Slabtown District Convention*, a humorous play that continues to be reprinted and performed.

Yes I have had at times stormy relationship with the preacher-led National; Baptist Convention, But I have maintained the love and loyalty of the women. They have elected me corresponding secretary year after year between for 48 years. In 1948 I was voted president of the Woman's Convention.

THESE WOMEN have provided me an arena TO SERVE them and to address freely- their religious, political, and social concerns. We boldly confronted the boldly denounced the sins of lynching, segregation, employment

discrimination, and African Colonialism.

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This provided me an arena for black women to address freely their religious, political, and social concerns. Along with these women we boldly confronted the boldly denounced lynching, segregation, employment discrimination, and African colonialism. Her verbal attacks were coupled with calls to action.

CLOSE - Music- This little Light of Mine

SCENE- THE NEW SCHOOL

NARRATOR

This address spurred the development of the Women's Convention to embrace her childhood dream of establishing an industrial school for girls resulting in her mobilizing the Women's Convention to underwrite such an adventure.

For many years, she served as corresponding secretary to the Women's Convention, an auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. From 1948 until her death in 1961, she was president of the Women's Convention. She helped influence women to provide political support for issues like suffrage for blacks and women, the anti-lynching campaign, temperance, decent housing, greater employment opportunities for black women, and labor laws to protect women and children.

1909 SCENE - WASHINGTON DC - SCHOOL GOD'S HILL

- Mrs. Brewster

In Washington, D.C. Nannie Helen Burroughs founded the National Training School for Women (later renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School). The curriculum combined both aspects of the DuBois versus

Washington debate, liberal arts and training in the skills of household and domestic services. It included religious and biblical training
1934 -In July, Nannie launched Washington's first "Negro Self-help Project".

12 THINGS THE NEGRO MUST DO FOR HIMSELF

1944

The Baptist Women's Auxiliary initiated a quarterly journal entitled The Walker, under the editorship of Nannie Helen Burroughs ("Grow: A Handy Guide for Progressive Churchwomen").

THE SCHOOL-

The Model, Mission, As a Magnet, As a Movement

1. **The Negro Must Learn To Put First Things First. The First Things Are: Education; Development of Character Traits; A Trade and Home Ownership**
2. **The Negro Must Stop Expecting God and White Folk To Do For Him What He Can Do For Himself.**
3. **The Negro Must Keep Himself, His Children And His Home Clean And Make The Surroundings In Which He Lives Comfortable and Attractive.**
4. **The Negro Must Learn To Dress More Appropriately For Work And For Leisure.**
5. **The Negro Must Make His Religion An Everyday Practice And Not Just A Sunday-Go-To-Meeting Emotional Affair.**
6. **The Negro Must Highly Resolve To Wipe Out Mass Ignorance**
7. **The Negro Must Stop Charging His Failures Up To His "Color" And To White People's Attitude.**
8. **The Negro Must Overcome His Bad Job Habits.**
9. **He Must Improve His Conduct In Public Places.**
10. **The Negro Must Learn How To Operate Business For People -- Not For Negro People, Only.**

Retreat
Center
Born out of
CH leaders.
Crisis Center

Helen Burroughs 1879-1961

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1900

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1902

She studied business and received an honorary degree from Eckstein-Norton University in Kentucky.

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1961

Nannie Helen Burroughs died of natural causes in Washington, DC.

**SOME ITEMS ARE
ONLY AVAILABLE VIA
THE REPOSITORY
DUE TO COPYRIGHT
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Nannie Helen Burroughs: "12 Things The Negro Must Do For Himself"

1. The Negro Must Learn To Put First Things First. The First Things Are: Education; Development of Character Traits; A Trade and Home Ownership.

The Negro puts too much of his earning in clothes, in food, in show and in having what he calls "a good time." The Dr. Kelly Miller said, "The Negro buys what he WANTS and begs for what he Needs." Too true!

2. The Negro Must Stop Expecting God and White Folk To Do For Him What He Can Do For Himself.

It is the "Divine Plan" that the strong shall help the weak, but even God does not do for man what man can do for himself. The Negro will have to do exactly what Jesus told the man (in John 5:8) to do -- Carry his own load -- "Take up your bed and walk."

3. The Negro Must Keep Himself, His Children And His Home Clean And Make The Surroundings In Which He Lives Comfortable and Attractive.

He must learn to "run his community up" -- not down. We can segregate by law, we integrate only by living. Civilization is not a matter of race, it is a matter of standards. Believe it or not -- some day, some race is going to outdo the Anglo-Saxon, completely. It can be the Negro race, if the Negro gets sense enough. Civilization goes up and down that way.

4. The Negro Must Learn To Dress More Appropriately For Work And For Leisure.

Knowing what to wear -- how to wear it -- when to wear it and where to wear it, are earmarks of common sense, culture and also an index to character.

5. The Negro Must Make His Religion An Everyday Practice And Not Just A Sunday-Go-To-Meeting Emotional Affair.

6. The Negro Must Highly Resolve To Wipe Out Mass Ignorance. The leaders of the race must teach and inspire the masses to become eager and determined to improve mentally, morally and spiritually, and to meet the basic requirements of good citizenship. We should initiate an intensive literacy campaign in America, as well as in Africa. Ignorance -- *satisfied ignorance* -- is a millstone about the neck of the race. It is democracy's greatest burden. Social integration is a relationship attained as a result of the cultivation of kindred social ideals, interests and standards. It is a blending process that requires time, understanding and kindred purposes to achieve. Likes alone and not laws can do it.

7. The Negro Must Stop Charging His Failures Up To His "Color" And To White People's Attitude.

The truth of the matter is that good service and conduct will make senseless race prejudice fade like mist before the rising sun. God never intended that a man's color shall be anything other than a *badge of distinction*. It is high time that all races were learning that fact. The Negro must first QUALIFY for whatever position he wants. Purpose, initiative, ingenuity and industry are the keys that all men use to get what they want. The Negro will have to do the same. He must make himself a workman who is too skilled not to be wanted, and too DEPENDABLE not to be on the job, according to promise or plan. He will never become a vital factor in industry until he learns to put into his work the vitalizing force of initiative, skill and dependability. He has gone "RIGHTS" mad and "DUTY" dumb.

8. The Negro Must Overcome His Bad Job Habits. He must make a brand new reputation for himself in the world of labor. His bad job habits are absenteeism, funerals to attend, or a little business to look after. The Negro runs an off and on business. He also has a bad reputation for conduct on the job -- such as petty quarrelling with other help, incessant loud talking about nothing; loafing, carelessness, due to lack of job pride; insolence, gum chewing and -- too often--liquor drinking. Just plain bad job habits!

9. He Must Improve His Conduct In Public Places. Taken as a whole, he is entirely too loud and too ill-mannered. There is much talk about wiping out racial segregation and also much talk about achieving integration. Segregation is a physical arrangement by which people are separated in various services. It is definitely up to the Negro to wipe out the apparent justification or excuse for segregation. The only effective way to do it is to clean up and keep clean. By practice, cleanliness will become a habit and habit becomes character.

10. The Negro Must Learn How To Operate Business For People -- Not For Negro People, Only. To do business, he will have to remove all typical "earmarks," business principles; measure up to accepted standards and meet stimulating competition, graciously--in fact, he must learn to welcome competition.

11. The Average So-Called Educated Negro Will Have To Come Down Out Of The Air. He Is Too Inflated Over Nothing. He Needs An Experience Similar To The One That Ezekiel Had -- (Ezekiel 3:14-19). And He Must Do What Ezekiel Did. Otherwise, through indifference, as to the plight of the masses, the Negro, who thinks that he has escaped, will lose his own soul. It will do all leaders good to read Hebrew 13:3, and the first Thirty-seven Chapters of Ezekiel. A race transformation itself through its own leaders and its sensible "common people." A race rises on its own wings, or is held down by its own weight. True leaders are never "things apart from the people." They are the masses. They simply got to the front ahead of them. Their only business at the front is to inspire to masses by hard work and noble example and challenge them to "Come

on!" Dante stated a fact when he said, "Show the people the light and they will find the way!" There must arise within the Negro race a leadership that is not out hunting bargains for itself. A noble example is found in the men and women of the Negro race, who, in the early days, laid down their lives for the people. Their invaluable contributions have not been appraised by the "latter-day leaders." In many cases, their names would never be recorded, among the unsung heroes of the world, but for the fact that white friends have written them there. "Lord, God of Hosts, Be with us yet." The Negro of today does not realize that, but, for these exhibits A's, that certainly show the innate possibilities of members of their own race, white people would not have been moved to make such princely investments in lives and money, as they have made, for the establishment of schools and for the on-going of the race.

12. The Negro Must Stop Forgetting His Friends. "Remember." Read Deuteronomy 24:18. Deuteronomy rings the big bell of gratitude. Why? Because an ingrate is an abomination in the sight of God. God is constantly telling us that "*I the Lord thy God delivered you*" -- through human instrumentalities. The American Negro has had and still has friends -- in the North and in the South. These friends not only pray, speak, write, influence others, but make unbelievable, unpublished sacrifices and contributions for the advancement of the race -- for their brothers in bonds. The noblest thing that the Negro can do is to so live and labor that these benefactors will not have given in vain. The Negro must make his heart warm with gratitude, his lips sweet with thanks and his heart and mind resolute with purpose to justify the sacrifices and stand on his feet and go forward -- "*God is no respecter of persons. In every nation, he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is*" sure to win out. Get to work! That's the answer to everything that hurts us. We talk too much about nothing instead of redeeming the time by working.

Dear Ancestor,

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.
The name and the date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who cares
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Author Unknown