

Books That Have Most Influenced the Ministries of Our National Baptists

On Two Hemispheres: Bits from the Life Story of Lewis G. Jordan

by Lewis Garnett Jordan

(available: <http://www.amazon.com/On-Two-Hemispheres-Story-Jordan/dp/1938812190>)

Up the Ladder in Foreign Missions by L.G. Jordan, D.D.

(full copy available free online at: <https://archive.org/details/upladderinfoieig00jord>)

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On Two Hemispheres: Bits from the Life Story of Lewis G. Jordan (1936), the author of this insightful work, was born into slavery. Like many slaves during that period of American history, he chose his name from those of three benefactors who had befriended and helped him. Out of those borrowed names came one of the best preachers, Church builders the race has produced. In 1896, he became the third Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of Negro Baptist Churches USA, he served for 26 years. He was a temperance advocate, which won him the respect of the American people, who nominated him for the United States Congress on the Prohibition ticket. These important milestones in American history are fast becoming unfamiliar.

Up The Ladder in Foreign Missions. Who Knows Homer? Who knows the birthplace of Shakespeare and his life? From what source can we get the facts to paint in rich oratory the achievements of Napoleon, Cromwell, L'Ouverture, Washington, Lincoln, Grant and the matchless Maceo?

History alone records the deeds and sayings of these great men. And though the inscriptions may have long since moldered on tablets, the columns and arches which marks the spots where remain all that was mortal of them may be heaps of sand, and the epitaphs but characters written in the dust, yet these men live and the footprints marking the way they went are clearly seen, as history lights up the pathway all down the march of time.

As in the secular, so it is in the religious world. The lives of such men as William Carey, Judson, Lott Carey, William J. Simmons, Cosby, Spurgen, Coles, Luke, and scores of others, who were matchless heroes in the development of Christianity in this and other centuries illuminating the pages of missionary history, are an inspiration to the churches for ages to come.

It was after great research that we have snatched from obscurity Negro pioneers in missions, for men blinded by prejudice never saw the black martyrs of early missions, nor even have those knowing of their efforts written fully of them. Since we are counted in the religious census of the world it is strange that our achievements in the same history are unwritten.

Knowing therefore, if our children are to know the facts, we must write them, or, like us, they must glean them from the reluctant testimony of partial historians.

"I write this book and send it out on the wings of a prayer that it may be an instrument in God's hands, stimulating a new interest in missions throughout this country, and serving as a beacon light to many who shall venture forth in the service of God in African Missions. It will serve my purpose if any good is done, in inspiring those who shall come after me in the work of missions to which I have willingly dedicated the remainder of my life." The Author, L.G.Jordan 1941.