

## MEN'S HIS-STORY MONTH WHITE PAPER

It's time to celebrate!

Something new and exciting is about to happen, not just in Seattle, but also across the nation. The month of June is designated as “Men’s His-Story Month.” Presently, the third Sunday in June is recognized as Father’s Day and was founded by. But through insight and creativity inspired by God. I have developed a program in which the entire month of June will become a celebration of men.

I first introduced Men’s His-Story Month” in June 1993, in the nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., at the District of Columbia’s General Hospital, with many distinguished male participants who joyfully embraced the concept for one reason in particular – the feeling of being nurtured and supported by their families. Not only did it provide families with the opportunity to say “thank you” to their fathers, brothers, and

uncles, it also conveyed the empowering message to every adult and adolescent that each is appreciated and honored as a significant, contributing member of society. For children, it is an educational tool, teaching the importance of honoring the men in their lives.

Since 1989, I had taken an active role in celebrating Women’s His-Story Month, which takes place in March of every year. But I had not taken the time to celebrate with our men or officially say “thank you” to our men during a designated time or month. That worried me as I considered that I was a product of having been reared in Cocoa, Florida by a strong man, my grandfather, Deacon Gene Cone, and my grandmother, the late Carrie Cone. I had observed through the years single and divorced men raising their children without female counterparts. This

great phenomenon needs to be celebrated during Men's His-Story Month.

I shall never forget that I was directing the District of Columbia's General Hospital Pastoral Care Department and presented to the Assistant Executive Director of the hospital, Mr. John Fairman, the importance of recognizing Fathers/Men's His-Story Month. The program, *Fathers/Men's His-Story Month*, made its debut on June 18, 1993 at the District of Columbia's General Hospital in Washington, D.C. That day was full of joy and celebration for our men. The program's participants included the following: Mr. John Fairman, Assistant Executive Director of D.C. General Hospital, The Honorable Abdul Akbar Sahriff, Muslim chaplain who delivered the invocation, Mr. Kojo Namdi, host of *Evening Exchange* at WKMM TV-Channel 32, Mr. Walter Ridley, Director of the D.C. Department of Corrections, Attorney Jerry Kitner, board member of Beacon House, and Rev. Dr. Cameron Byrd, Director of the

Pastoral Care Department at Washington Hospital Center.

There is a unique inclusiveness about celebrating Men's His-Story Month during the month of June. It affords us the opportunity to say "thank you" to our fathers and to convey empowering messages to our men who are striving to become fathers. It affirms the importance of setting aside the entire month to say to our men, "yes, we love you," It affirms the knowledge and acceptance that our men need healing, embracing, nurturing and support from all of us in order for them to not become estranged or an endangered species, but well and alive in the "here and now" of life! As the Winans sing so proudly, "*Color Him Father*," this the time to color our men.

It is theologically sound to recognize our men during a month of celebrations to empower and help them understand that it is God who created them in the Genesis story, and God created men in God's own image. During this month, our men will experience a

rebirthing and renewal of experiences. It will be a time to heal their woundedness, to give them light in the midst of their darkness – and in the words of Rev. Jessie Jackson, “to keep hope alive.” Our men need to be repaired so that they may be in a position of reparation and not depravation. Sermons should be preached every Sunday during the month of June to celebrate the theological concepts of our men. Posters and pictures of men should be displayed; programs that focus on our men need to be circulated during the entire month, and emphasized nationwide.

We women should send out strong messages of affirmation to our men in the sense of sending them cards, wearing the Men’s His-Story Month t-shirt, and writing articles about our men. They need to know that women appreciate their centeredness. This is the time to acknowledge all men in our lives – whether they are our husbands, brothers, uncles, cousins, cohorts, or significant others. June is the time to say,

“Thank you men and we love you,” during a celebration of Men’s His-Story Month.

Men’s His-Story Month is a theoretical concept borne out of the exclusivity of (his) Story which is steadily moving toward the creative integration of “(her) Story (his) Story”. We celebrate Women’s His-Story during the month of March. It is appropriate and necessary that we continue to see the value of celebrating both women and men by also celebrating Men’s His-Story during the month of June. In order for equality to remain in the forefront of the new millennium, both are important.

Men’s His-Story Month is an educational concept because our children – boys and girls – need to be taught the importance of loving, respecting, and honoring our men. The world needs to be taught the true essence of just what is manhood, and fatherhood, and brotherhood. Men’s His-Story Month will give us all the opportunity to stand, and stand tall while we celebrate our men!

## **SAY YES TO MEN'S HIS-STORY MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE**

I want to send a special thank you to D.C. General Hospital for believing in the dream and allowing me to produce and present the first program in recognition of Men's His-Story Month on June 18, 1993. Thank you to Rev. Patricia A. Gordon of Detroit, Michigan for creatively sharing the importance of my connection to the pyramids, so that I now have a pyramid design of several ethnic men on the front of the t-shirts that celebrate Men's His-Story Month. Thank you to Ms. Cicely Miller of Lacey, Washington, for designing the pyramid logo for the t-shirts; and Dr. Marie English of Anchorage, Alaska, for dialoguing with me over the phone regarding this dream, sometimes as late as three o'clock in the morning. Thank you to Ms. Beverly Nicks for your ideas of motivation and inspiration, and empowering me to organize this project in a professional manner.

**Men's His-Story Month**

## **CONTACT**

**Rev. Dr. Patricia Wilson-Cone**  
[PatriciaWilsonCone@att.net](mailto:PatriciaWilsonCone@att.net)  
786.417.8804  
[www.menshisstorymonth.com](http://www.menshisstorymonth.com)

**Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Wilson-Cone**  
**Cone's Spiritual Counseling Center**