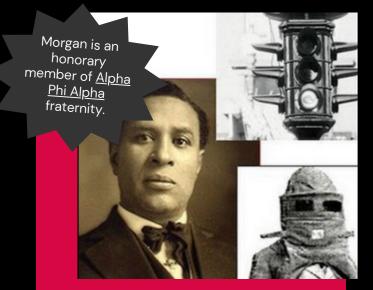
## Blacks In Excellence

Morgan, in 1920, founded the Cleveland Call, a weekly newspaper and, in 1938, subsequently participated in its merger that created the <u>Cleveland Call and Post</u> newspaper.

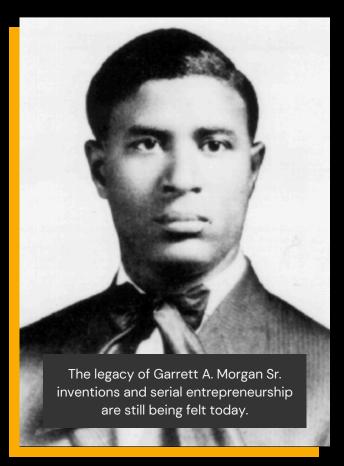
# Garrett A. Morgan Sr.

Garrett died in Cleveland in 1963, where he was buried in <u>Lake View</u> Cemetery.





"I had but a little schooling, but I am a graduate from the school of hard knocks and cruel treatment. I have personally saved nine lives."



"If you can be the best, then why not try to be the best? Was his favorite Quote



Garrett Augustus Morgan Sr. (March 4, 1877 - July 27, 1963) was an American inventor, businessman, and community leader. His most notable inventions were a type of three-way traffic light, and a protective 'smoke hood' notably used in a 1916 tunnel construction disaster rescue. Morgan also discovered and developed a hair-processing chemical straightening solution. He created a successful company called "G. A. Morgan Hair Refining Company" based on his hair product inventions along with a complete line of haircare products and became involved in the civic and political advancement of African Americans, especially in and around Cleveland, Ohio

Morgan was born in 1877 in Paris, Kentucky, an almost exclusively African American community. His father was Sydney Morgan, a son and freed slave of Confederate General John H. Morgan of Morgan's Raiders. His mother, also a freed slave, was Elizabeth Reed, daughter of Rev. Garrett Reed; she was part Native American. Garrett Morgan was the seventh of eleven children. Morgan only received a sixth grade education at Branch Elementary School in Claysville, Kentucky, then moved in search of work at the age of 14 to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Morgan spent most of his teenage years working as a handyman for a Cincinnati landowner. Like many African American children growing up at the turn of the century, he had to quit school at a young age to work full-time. Morgan hired a tutor and continued his studies while working in Cincinnati. In 1895, he moved to Cleveland. where he began repairing sewing machines for a dothing manufacturer. This experience sparked Morgan's interest in how things worked, and he built a reputation for fixing them. His first invention, made during this period, was a belt fastener for sewing machines. Morgan also invented a zigzag attachment for sewing machines.

In 1907, Morgan opened a sewing machine shop. One year later, more conscious of his heritage, he helped start the Cleveland Association of Colored Men in 1908. One year later, he and his wife Mary Anne, opened Morgan's Cut Rate Ladies Clothing Store. The shop made coats, suits, dresses, and other clothing, and ultimately had 32 employees.



Around 1910, his interest in repairing other people's inventions waned, and he became interested in developing some of his own. He received his first patent in 1912. In 1913, he incorporated hair care products into his growing list of patents and launched the G. A. Morgan Hair Refining Company, which sold hair care products, including his patented straightening cream, hair coloring, and a hair straightening comb invented by Morgan. He received a patent for his smoke hood design in 1914, also known as a 'breathing device'. That same year, he launched the National Safety Device Company. The invention earned him the first prize at the Second International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation in New York City." In 1916, Morgan rescued workers trapped in a water intake tunnel 50 ft (15 m) beneath Lake Erie, using the smoke hood to protect his eyes from smoke and featuring a series of air tubes that hung near the ground to draw clean air beneath the rising smoke.

Morgan would also design a traffic signal in 1923 after witnessing a horrible crash at an intersection. His manually-operated design included moving arms featuring signals for "go" and "stop". He eventually sold the rights to <u>General Electric</u> for \$40,000.

Later in life he developed glaucoma and by 1943 was functionally blind. He had poor health the rest of his life, but continued to work on his inventions. One of his last was a self-extinguishing cigarette, which used a small plastic pellet filled with water placed just before the filter. He died on July 27, 1963, at age 86 and was buried at the Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

Morgan conducted experiments with a liquid that gave sewing machine needles a high polish that prevented the needle from burning fabric as it sewed. In 1905, Morgan accidentally discovered that the liquid could also straighten hair. After he discovered this, he wiped the liquid on a piece of pony fur doth and it stood straight. He also observed that the liquid worked on his neighbor's dog and his own hair. He made the liquid into a refining cream and launched the G. A. Morgan Hair Refining Company to market it. Morgan received great success and added other products including "hair-growing" cream, black hair oil dye, and a curved-tooth comb for hair straightening in 1910.

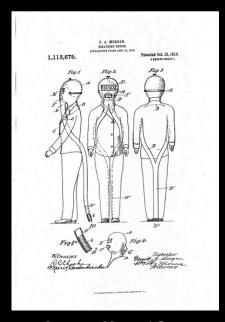
TEAPPIC SIGNAL
G. A. MORGAN
Nov. 20, 1923
1,475,024
SYOFF

Following the success of his company, Morgan became a well-known citizen in Cleveland and achieved financial success leading to his purchasing of a new automobile. In 1922, he witnessed an accident between a horse-drawn carriage and a car which sparked inspiration to prevent the likelihood of future events occurring. Morgan designed a manuallyoperated traffic signal with moving arms featuring "stop" and "go" signs, which could be situated on a post at traffic intersections. The arms could also be raised halfway to indicate caution moving forward. A traffic attendant would crank the post to operate the signal and all lanes could be stopped by showing "stop" if needed. A patent for Morgan's traffic signal was issued in 1923 and he later sold the rights to General Electric for \$40,000.

#### **SmokeHood**

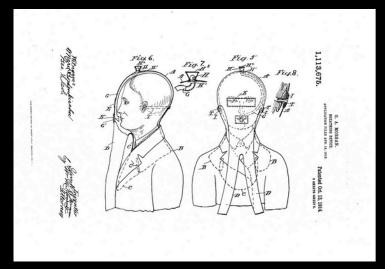
Garrett Morgan invented a "safety hood smoke protection device" after seeing firefighters struggling to withstand the suffocating smoke they encountered in the line of duty. His device used a moist sponge to filter out smoke and cool the air. It took advantage of the way smoke and fumes tend to rise to higher positions while leaving a layer of more breathable air below, by using an air intake tube that dangled near the floor.

The hood used a series of tubes to draw clean air of the lowest level the tubes could extend to. Smoke, being hotter than the air around it, rises, and by drawing air from the ground, the Safety Hood provided the user with a way perform emergency respiration. He filed for a patent on the device in 1912, and founded a company called the National Safety Device Company in 1914 to market it. He was able to sell his invention around the country, sometimes using the tactic of hiring a white actor who would take credit rather than revealing himself as its inventor. For demonstrations of the device, he sometimes adopted the disguise of "Big Chief Mason," a purported full-blooded Indian from the Walpole Island Indian Reserve in Canada. He would demonstrate the device by building a noxious fire fueled by tar, sulfur, formaldehyde, and manure inside an enclosed tent. [15] Disguised as "Big Chief Mason," he would enter the tent full of black smoke, and would remain there for 20 minutes before emerging unharmed.



#### Smoke Hood (Cont'd)

A successful demonstration was also presented in Cleveland, Ohio. A representative of the company, Mr. Mason, entered a poisonous building with Morgan's hood on his head and remained in that environment for twenty minutes. The test was satisfactory according to Chief Stickle of the Cleveland Fire Department, who said that the device was much cheaper and simpler than the oxygen mask used during that time. Following the demonstration. Chief Stickle recommended the purchase of several smoke hoods for the fire department. Mr. Mason continued to make numerous demonstrations in Ravenna. Youngstown, Canton, and other neighboring cities in Ohio where the device was proclaimed a success. The purchase of Morgan's Smoke Hood was not limited within the boundaries of fire departments in northeastern Ohio. Many large cities throughout the United States had Morgan's Smoke Hood in their fire departments, hospitals, asylums, and ammonia factories, and were using them satisfactorily.



His safety hood device was simple and effective, whereas the other devices in use at the time were generally difficult to put on, excessively complex, unreliable, or ineffective. It was patented and awarded a gold medal two years later by the <u>International Association of Fire Chiefs</u>. Morgan's safety hood was used to save many lives during the period of its use.

He also developed later models that incorporated an airbag that could hold about 15 minutes of fresh air.

His invention became known nationally when he led a rescue that saved several men's lives after the July 24, 1916, Waterworks Tunnel explosion in Cleveland, Ohio. Before Morgan arrived, two previous rescue attempts had failed. The attempted rescuers had become victims themselves by entering the tunnel and not returning. Morgan was roused in the middle of the night after one of the members of the rescue team who had seen a demonstration of his device sent a messenger to convince him to come and to bring as many of his Safety Hoods as he could.

He.aswellashisbrother Frankarrived on the scene still wearing their pajamas and bringing four Smoke Hoods with them. Most of the rescuers on the scene were initially skeptical of his device, so he and his brotherwent into the tunnel along with two other volunteers, and succeeded in pulling out two men from the previous rescue attempts He emerged carrying a victim on his back, and his brother followed just behind with another. Others joined in after his team succeeded, and rescued several more. His device was also used to retrieve the bodies of the rescuers that did not survive. Morgan personally made four trips into the tunnel during the rescue, and his health was affected for years afterward from the furnes he encountered there. Cleveland newspapers and city officials initially ignored Morgan's act of heroism as the first to rush into the tunnel for the rescue and the key role he played as the provider of the equipment that made the rescue possible, and it took years for the city to recognize his contributions. The mayor, Harry L. Davis, failed to put Garrett Morgan's name on the list of recommended heroes. City officials requested the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to issue medals to several of the men involved in the rescue but excluded Morgan from their request. He believed that the omission was racially motivated.

Morgan's suspicions were confirmed by Victor M. Sincere of the Bailey Company in his statement to the Citizens Award Committee. "Your deed should serve to help break down the shafts of prejudice with which you struggle. And is sure to be the beacon of light for those that follow you in the battles of life." Later, in 1917, a group of citizens of Cleveland tried to correct for the omission by presenting him with a diamond-studded gold medal.[15] After the heroic rescue Morgan's received order company more requests from fire departments all over the country. However, the national news contained photographs of him, and officials a number of southern cities canceled their existing orders when they discovered he was black. Morgan said in his diary, "I had but a little schooling, but I am a graduate from the school of hard knocks and cruel treatment. I have personally saved nine lives."

# THE ROCK WEEKLY

#### FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH "DAP" (DIGNITY AND PRIDE)



Historically, the dap is both a symbol among African American men that expresses unity, strength, defiance, or resistance and a complex language for communicating information. The dap and the black power handshake, which evolved from the dap, were important symbols of black consciousness, identity, and cultural unity throughout black America.

The dap originated during the late 1960s among black G.I.s stationed in the Pacific during the Vietnam War. At a time when the Black Power movement was burgeoning, racial unrest was prominent in American cities, and draft reforms sent tens of thousands of young African Americans into combat, the dap became an important symbol of unity and survival in a racially turbulent atmosphere.

Scholars on the Vietnam War and black Vietnam vets alike note that the dap derived from a pact black soldiers took in order to convey their commitment to looking after one another. Several unfortunate cases of black soldiers reportedly being shot by white soldiers during combat served as the impetus behind this physical act of solidarity.

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Such events, combined with the racism and segregation faced by black G.I.s, created a pressing need for an act and symbol of unity. The dap, an acronym for "dignity and pride" whose movements translate to "I'm not above you, you're not above me, we're side by side, we're together," provided just this symbol of solidarity and served as a substitute for the Black Power salute prohibited by the military.

# THE ROCK WEEKLY

#### FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH "DAP" (DIGNITY AND PRIDE)



White soldiers and commanding officers deemed the handshake a threat under the misconception that the dap was a coded language of potential black insurrection. In fact the dap was also a coded form of communication between soldiers that conveyed necessary information for survival, such as what to expect at the battlefront or what had transpired during an operation. The dap was banned at all levels of the military, and thus many black soldiers were courtmartialed. jailed, and even dishonorably discharged punishment for dapping. Military repression of the dap further cemented a desire for a symbol of solidarity and protection among black men.

Conversely, later in the war, the military saw the utility of using the dap in medical treatment of black combatants with post-traumatic stress disorder, creating a program of "dap therapy." The military would bring in black G.I.s fluent in the dap to dap with these men to build their trust up to accept treatment from white doctors and staff.

About 275,000 African Americans served in Vietnam between 1964 and 1972; more than 7,200 died there. After 1967 more and more black service members endorsed Black Power as a critique of the war itself.



★ Join Us in Serving Our Community! ★
The Rock Christian Center invites you to be a blessing at our
Monthly Feeding the Homeless Ministry ♣

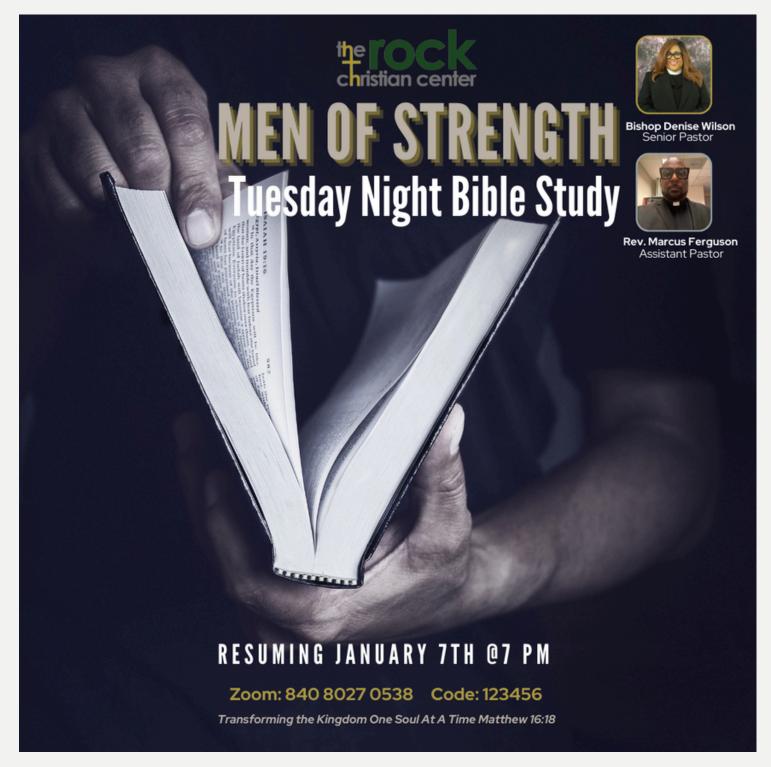
™ New Date: Saturday March 22, 2025

Time: 9:45 AM

Location: McPherson Square 15th & I NW, Washington, DC click here to join

Come share love, hope, and a warm meal with those in need. Together, we can make a difference!

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and let's serve our community with joy. See you there!



#### Men of Strength Bible Study is Back! 6

Mark your calendars! The Men's Bible Study, Men of Strength, are on Tuesdays at 7 PM via The Rock Bible Study Zoom.

Join us as we grow together in faith, wisdom, and fellowship. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your walk with God!

Zoom: 840 8027 0538 Code: 123456





Bishop Denise Wilson Senior Pastor

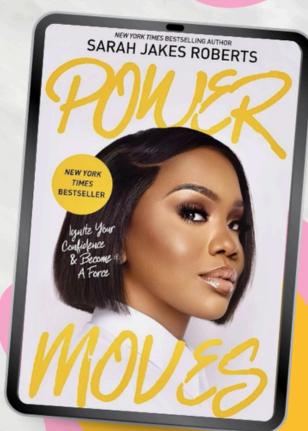
### **BOOK CLUB**

Do you enjoy reading books? Do you like the idea of being a part of community of likeminded women where you can share your ideas and thoughts? You are cordially invited to join The Rock Women's Ministry Book Club. We have resumed our Thursday Nights Book Club readings @ 7:00

Our first book is entitled Power Move by Sarah Jakes Roberts. The book can be purchased via Amazon. Get caught up and be ready to move in power in 2025!!

> Zoom Room: 840 8027 0538 Code: 123456

> > **Pastor Dee**



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Transforming the Kingdom One Soul at a Time/Matthew 16:18



✓ Exciting News! Nighttime Devotionals Are Here!
 ✓ Looking for some peaceful, reflective time with God before you rest?
 ✓ The Rock Christian Center now has Nighttime Devotionals available on our YouTube channel!
 ✓ Tune in to refresh your spirit and draw closer to the Lord as we guide you through evening prayers and reflections to end your day on a powerful note.

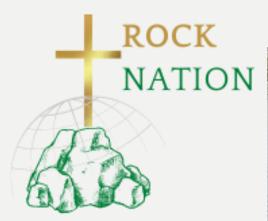
Value of the listen here: The Rock Christian Center YouTube Channel Subscribe now and don't miss out on our weekly devotionals! \*\*

#NighttimeDevotional #TRCC #SpiritualGrowth

#EveningReflection #FaithJourney #SubscribeNow

Bible Study

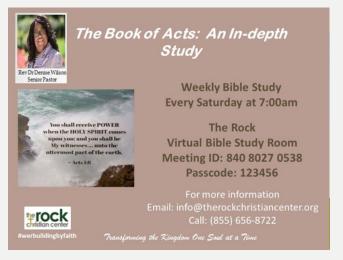
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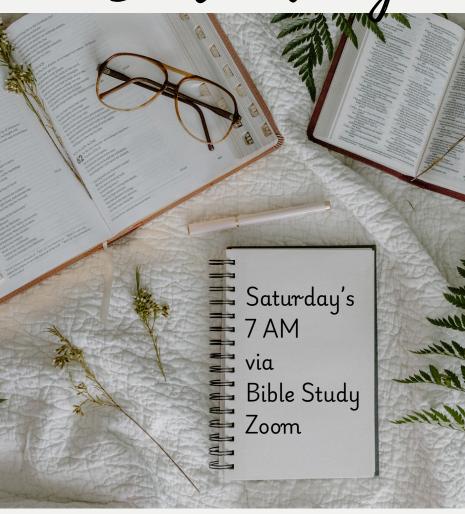


#### SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Saturday morning bible study at 7:00 am for an indepth study of The Book of Acts. This book provides a bridge for the writings of the NT. It joins what Jesus "began to do and to teach" as told in the Gospels with what he continued to do and teach through the apostles' preaching and the establishment of the church. It is also a bridge that ties the church in its beginning with each succeeding age.

#### \*Read Acts







### **Ministry Meeting**

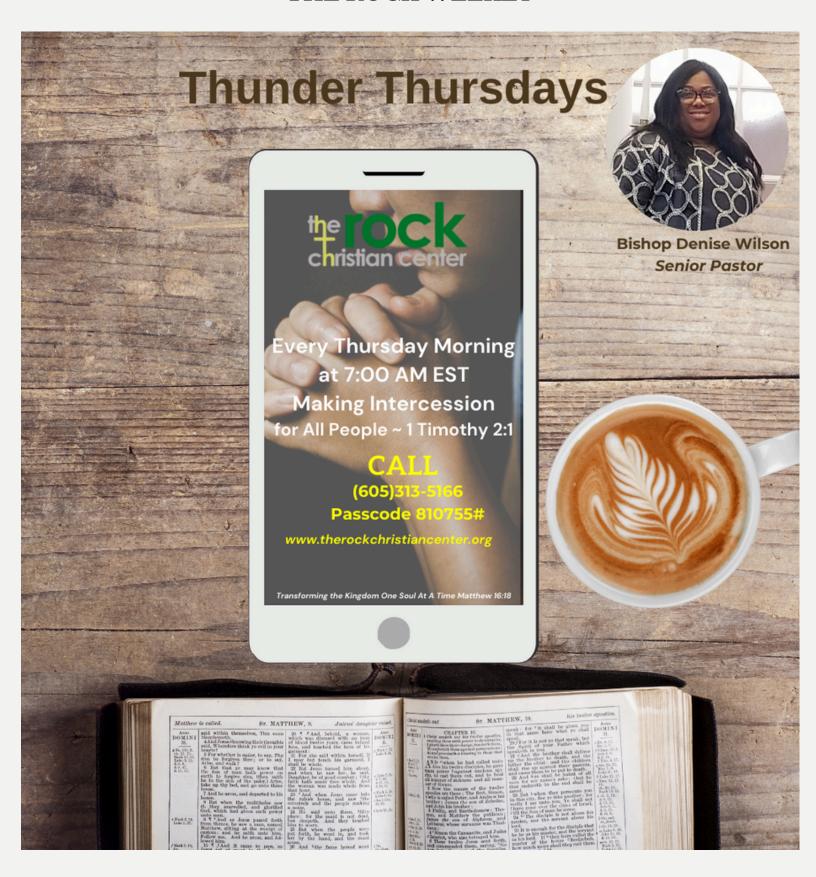


Are you a ministry leader here at The Rock? Have you scheduled a meeting for your ministry? Members are you apart of a ministry here at The Rock? If you are please be on the look out for ministry meetings where you can be apart of the planning for upcoming events.

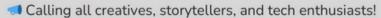


The youth department could use the help of our parents in the congregation. Please see Rev. Malika to see how you can be apart of a growing ministry in our church.

#### THE ROCK WEEKLY







**\*\*\*** 

Ready to make a difference and unleash your creativity? Join us at The Rock Christian Center's Multimedia Ministry!

✓ Use your talents to inspire, uplift, and connect with our community!

✓ Gain new skills, and be part of something truly special!

 Volunteer today and let's grow together! Message us to learn more or sign up now! ★★



**CONTACT:** Rev. Ferguson