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Black Awareness Chapel 2-21-1973 - Student Testimonies

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Black awareness week
Chapel 2/21/73 Students

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February 21, 1973
BLACK AWARENESS WEEK
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STUDENTS

VOICE: Black awareness week is celebrated all across the United States in campuses and colleges and the purpose is to expose to the country the contributions that blacks have made and the strides that they have made throughout the years. First I want to thank the administration and Spiritual Life Department and the other people who I could name on down the line for helping us to present this Black Awareness Week as far as the details and little minute things that needed to be done. I ask for your participation by coming to the activities that we are having. I ask that you follow the schedule which is in the LRC and in various other locations and I especially want to thank Rod Jacobson for the close relationship that we've formed since I've worked with him through the Spiritual Life Department and I thank him for his help and efforts and I thank the President and Dr. Hamilton, a few others, for their openness and concern. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

VOICE: And now the great life, words, and efforts of former leader Martin Luther King, it's only appropriate that our chapel this morning should deal with

so that all of us can remember the courageous life that Martin Luther King led as he led the blacks toward social justice and equality. Our first speaker this morning is a freshman from Hobbs, New Mexico, Doris Sanders. Her theme will be Realities Down. Like for you all just to relax and enjoy what she's going to say. As far as relaxing goes, don't get too carried away with it, like we have at some chapels, but hope you enjoy what Doris has to say.

APPLAUSE

DORIS SANDERS: Common sense makes it very doubtful that I have to make any elaborate statements about my blackness. At this point, each of you have made two decisions about my appearance. First, I am black, and with all of the connotations that are usually inferred about blacks; second I have something to say, whether it is relevant or irrelevant in your opinion. You are waiting to hear the realization of a dream.

TAPE AVAILABLE

How do I as a black human being correlate with any man's dream. From time immemorial old wives and black men have dreamed dreams. These men have conquered legions of promise and armies of lies. One out of a thousand has dared to dream that one day away from the bondage and backwardness he shall be free. I am black but it is with the intelligence that there are greater fields of understanding to challenge. My people for years have cried, prayed, and even died to stand for our abilities. The ability to produce works of excellence has always been there. Yet there has always been a barrier which with a record against the so-called progress of this black race; therefore, my people, my race, has had to wear our skin pigmentations as a badge of courage. The realization of the dream of progress demands courage. This realization demands of courage that men stand as men. A record within us must be a bondage. Our hearts must link a chain, a chain which is linked by the love of God, the love which creates all men equal. All men are created equal. All men are created equal. The familiar words of injustice raised ironically through this bulk of democracy--all men were created with love. Black men as women and children are no different than the thousands of other people. There are no horns, ray guns, or antenna that separate us from the human race. There is only hate that separates us. There exists no magic prescription which makes us love one another. It isn't hard to promise to share with and to love our brothers but it is difficult to prove what we so easily promise. Upon arrival at this university I still retained the same prejudices and barriers against my fellow man and yet a greater love, the arrival of a greater love within me, changed my attitude. The realization of the dream of progress is the same change. This change begins with us. It begins with all of us. It begins with the black man, the black women, the white men, the white women. It begins with all men and women of all races. It begins with showing others that we have attained the mark of excellence, the pride in humanity which makes us stand and meet our brothers with a true heart. This is the only dream that can be fully realized. Martin Luther King and others have once said that we shall overcome. Deep in my heart I do believe

we shall overcome. We shall overcome not separated but standing as a nation of individuals with love and trust in God. We shall overcome.

APPLAUSE

VOICE: About all you can say to that is right on. It wouldn't be black without music and some of the earliest and best of black music began with the church. This morning we're going to be treated with a special singer, a transfer student from Ozark Alabama, like most of you haven't heard of it before, but I'm sure you'll remember it after this young man sings this morning. Sam McKinney has sang professionally and now sings every Sunday morning at Holy Family Church. I'm sure you'll enjoy him as they do and you'll want to hear him again tonight when he sings at the fashion show. Sam McKinney.

SONG BY SAM MCKINNEY

APPLAUSE

VOICE: Thank you Sam. Sam was accompanied by Dave Gatewood.

APPLAUSE

VOICE: Our next speaker Eugene [redacted] from Panama, a transfer from Canal Zone College. He's a double major in Theology and Mass Communications. He will give his interpretation of his part of the dream. Some of you have already become acquainted with Eugene if you saw Raising in the Sun so I hope to introduce to some of you who have not been lucky to see that, Eugene [redacted].

APPLAUSE

EUGENE [redacted]: I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day everybody shall be exalted. Every mountain and every hill shall be made low. The rough places shall be made straight and the crooked places shall be made plain and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed unto all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. With this faith we shall be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together knowing that we will be free one day. Martin Luther King, Jr., moved by this beautiful dream of freedom for his

people and of unity for the human race. He died almost 5 years ago for daring to have such a dream come true. His assassination left a hideous scar on this nation's history and in the hearts of many of his people because his creed was Christ and his calling was to advocate freedom. Seven years ago President Oral Roberts' dream came to realization when this university was officially opened, a dream which he carried in his heart for seven thirty long years. My friends, brothers, and sisters, dreams are not merely fragments of our imaginations when they are deeply rooted in the concepts of Christianity. They have much more depth when they are rooted in Christ Jesus, and we therefore testify before God, before Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit this morning that on this campus a campus founded on the principles of Christianity by the authority of Almighty God through the divine Paraclete and dedicated to the development of the whole man. Can we truly say this morning that we are the realization of Dr. King's dream? Are we the first evidence of a dream, a dream of one human race? Coming to Oral Roberts University to develop the whole man and to neglect the wholeness of the human race. It is not merely a sin but actually an act of slapping God in his face. Imagine my telling God that I want to develop my Spirit, my mind, and my body, and at the same time I'm not interested in the coming together of the human race which is now separated by ten colors. Is it not wise that if we should try to blend the body, mind and spirit into one being, should we not also find it intricate or find it expedient to blend the human race, black and white, which is now separated by color? Or is it that we do not know what we are called to be and to do? God made man and He gave him a body. He gave him a mind and he gave him a spirit and this very same God created all things and without Him was nothing made that was made, which means to say that God is the creator of the black man as well as the white man as well as the Indian, as well as the Jew. Can we say this morning that the race in our lives has been uplifted? Can we say this morning that the racial hills and mountains in our lives have been made low? What I mean to say is are there still any racial hang-ups standing over your shoulders? "I have a dream," Dr. King said. "I have a dream that the

rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight."

Brothers and sisters, these are referring to our hidden prejudices. Have they been straightened out? We cannot attain the wholeness that you demand. We cannot attain the wholeness that God demands unless these hidden prejudices have been stamped out and cast away to the bottom of the sea of the forgotten and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed in all flesh shall see it together. Do we make this our hope this morning? Do we have this faith at ORU? Not only do we need the faith that God can heal our sickness, not only do we need the faith that God can heal our financial burdens, our homes, our friendships, our loves but also do we need the faith that God can heal our racial conflicts, that God can heal our prejudices, that God can make us one human race if we have this faith this morning. We can really work together if we have this faith this morning. We can really pray together if we have this faith this morning. We can travel together. We can go to jail together. We can stand up for freedom together because in Christ Jesus we are free indeed. Is this the life-style at ORU? Are we the realization of Dr. King's dream? Or must I say that Martin Luther King, Jr., fought a good fight and Martin Luther King, Jr., died, however bravely, in vain for the simple recognition of a few men's dignity.

APPLAUSE

VOICE: In my church when you agree with what the preacher says and it doesn't really hit too close to you, you might hear a chorus of Amins go up from the crowd. If it hits where you are and steps on your toes you might hear somebody say Help us Lord. So you can say whichever one you want to. Our final speaker this morning, speaking on her dream, is Sylvia Jones. Maybe you're acquainted with Sylvia from her stirring rendition in Raising in the Sea which she portrayed the part of the grandmother. She too is a freshman and she's a major in mass communications, drama particularly. She comes from Platte City, Florida.

APPLAUSE

This is our last speaker. I hope you'll enjoy it. I'm sure you'll have a problem

because Sylvia has never disappointed us for her. she done this on the cheer squad, certainly in Raising in the Sun, and other performances. Please welcome Miss Sylvia Jones.

APPLAUSE

SYLVIA JONES: To the student body, faculty, and administration, I shall speak on the topic The Realization of a Dream. If we were to take a scenic cruise back through time down the pathway of black history, we found find that our black heritage is built upon the toil and struggle and sweat of black men and women who had dreams, dreams that it was possible to change the tomorrows and the years ahead of them but more important than that, dreams and hopes for the future generation that were to be the coming free. Sister Tubman had a dream. She realized that her people were enslaved and were in bondage and she risked her freedom and her life to return to the south that they might could be free. She had a dream. Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglas, George Washington Carver who discovered 300 products from the mere peanut had a dream. I am sure that we all remember the late Adam Clayton Powell, Mahalia Jackson world renowned gospel and spiritual singer and the late Jackie Robinson who opened the doors of professional athletics to the black man and I could go on till next year listing great men and women who have contributed to our heritage but I would like to pay a special tribute to one of the greatest men who ever lived on the face of this earth, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King had a dream and I quote, "I have a dream that one day little black children and little white children shall walk down the street hand in hand and shall love one another. I have a dream that there will come a time when man shall study war no more. I have a dream. Like any other man I would like to live but if I were to die tonight I would not be afraid because I have been to the mountaintops and I have visited with my Father and He has told me that everything will be all right. I have a dream." Isn't it a pity that Dr. King couldn't live in our world and preach non-violence? Dr. King and all the great persons that I've mentioned previously, all had dreams and they fulfilled those dreams by

working hard, by struggling, by sweating but they overcame so now my brothers and sisters I would like to ask each of you do you have a dream? What shall you contribute to make the world better for your fellow man? Shall we continue to forever live in a world torn with hatred for one another? Shall we forever live in a world separated by racial prejudices and strife? Will we all just sit back and relax and fold our arms while we watch our sisters and brothers blow their beautiful minds on junk? Shall we go on our merry way without ever thinking about our brothers and sisters that might be starving in our ghettos and our poverty areas? Again I ask, do you have a dream? My brothers and sisters, the time for war is over. The time for bigotry is over. The time for racial prejudice and racial strife is over. These things accomplish nothing except to bring more hatred and more bigotry. The time is for love, yes, black is beautiful, but without love it is nothing for black love is black wealth. Let us all get together and let's work to build our brothers and sisters up not tear them down, for we sit and we rap over many situations but talk without action is useless, for talk is cheap unless you get behind it and work. Realize your dreams, my brothers and sisters, and let us all work toward a time when a man will not be judged by the color of his skin or how broad his nose is or how kinky his hair is, but by the contents of his character. Let us all strive for land that Dr. King could have lived in. To my brothers and sisters I would like to leave the words of the Negro National Anthem. Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven rings. Ring with the harmony of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high at the listening sky. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. For sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won. To each and every one of you sitting out there I say let us all strive for a time when we will all be able to take hands whether black, yellow, white or brown, and proclaim free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we're free at last. Thank you.

VOICE: Thank you, Sylvia. We're going to close with singing again. Many of you know Clarissa Moore. She's a senior from West Virginia, and you've heard of some of us on Gospel Full of Fire and other occasions. I'd like to welcome now Clarissa Moore.

APPLAUSE

MUSIC BY CLARISSA MOORE

APPLAUSE

VOICE: In case you all didn't know it Clarissa Moore just got through singing. I could listen to that for quite a while, I believe. There are more activities of Black Awareness Week tonight the fashion show. For some of you that attended last year know it was quite enjoyable, even to my surprise, I enjoyed it. The fashion show was really good. The fashion show will be highlighted by more musical entertainment. Sam is going to sing again tonight. Debbie Shot will be singing. Virginia Cummings who just accompanied Clarissa will be playing. APPLAUSE The fashion show will be co-ordinated by Marvin Stewart and Charlotte Hall. If anybody is qualified to do a fashion show, I know it'd be Marvin. LAUGHTER Friday night at 7:30 will be a gospel festival in the auditorium with Bill Moss and the Celestials from Detroit and some of us have heard some of their records and I'm sure you'll enjoy them if you'll come out. Friday in chapel we hope to have Mayor Stokes from Cleveland, the former mayor and the Celestials will sing a selection or two there. Is President Roberts here? I thought he might come in at the end of chapel. If not, our part is just about concluded but in concurrence with the three speakers that you've heard this morning I'd like to challenge you to dream, dream big. Dream what God would have you to do. Without a dream the people perish. Without a dream the people don't know where to go. We can't stand in today's time for our thoughts must be of tomorrow if we're going to reach what God would have us to reach. In our relations with each other and our relations with God, we must think not only of today but of our tomorrows but we stop and we think only of our todays and end up lacking in the future. I

encourage you to have your dreams and to act on them. I'd like now to introduce Brother Bob who we appreciate his efforts in helping us with Black Awareness Week. He encouraged us and provided us with whatever we needed to be provided with. Brother Bob.

APPLAUSE

BOB STAMPS: I want President Roberts to wrap this up and he might be wrapping it up in a major way on Friday. Ever since I've come to this university my own spirit has identified with his, with his identification, with people who need, who need in every way. Who need because they're down, who need because they're hungry, who need because they're sick, who need because they're poor. It's identification with people that was not just common with men like Oral Roberts but comes from a man named Jesus Christ. I want to test whether you're really saved or not. You haven't heard this in church before. We really want to test how saved you are, I guess a man's only saved or not saved. Examine your heart toward those that have needs. I'm not really speaking to the black man now. I'm going to talk to my white constituents. In response to what we've heard this morning. Two nights ago I was awakened in the middle of the night, one of those things that don't usually happen in my life, I'm not usually awakened by God or anybody. LAUGHTER But I was awakened with a thought and it moved me so much that I got up and I found a little piece of paper and I wrote it down and it was the Lord speaking and He said, "Don't think that I'll just allow you to be comfortable and that I don't want you to change out of your comfortableness." And then something hit me. I'm not going to center this one nation out as an example of prejudice but I suddenly in my dreams I went back to sleep and I became a South African, a white South African, comfortably alive, in riches. A member of the Dutch Reform Church with great people all around me, happy mothers and great dads and brothers and sisters and a comfortable little place, a villa in the country, and happy servants all around me too. Black ones. I thought to myself, you know, this is great and I actually experienced a peace inside of me as I just lived in this comfortable situation. Then the words of the Master came to me again. I won't allow you to stay this way. I looked down at the

people that were serving me and God said, "I want you to take their side." And then in my dream, or maybe I was awake by this time, I went back to my own childhood as a boy in the south, comfortable, happy, everything all right, brothers and sisters, fine mother and dad, and TI and Veda and let me see, Ernestine, Rutha. Funny, I don't know their last names. I think I know TI's last name. You see, they were our servants. I went back to sleep and God said, "I want you to take their side." But Lord, how could something that's been so good to me be wrong? How could it be wrong? The Lord took some words from Joel and Isaiah and the other prophets in my mind. \$3 a day is wrong. The Lord said to me, "I want you to hate all sins. All of it. Do you hate fornication, and do you hate adultery? You can hate whiskey, but I want you to hate social injustice too. I died for all of it. I died for all sins. I died for the sin of paying a black woman who works herself down to the bone \$3 a day. I died for that sin too and your parents committed it." We've got all the laws now. TI's not making \$3 a day anymore. The law says he can't. We've got the law on the side of the poor man, but where's our heart? That's the question. I'm worried that we let it die in the 70's. We were agitated, some of us. Some of us were called to confirm. Some of us were called to action by the tremendous move for freedom in the 60's. We didn't light the torches, some of us didn't like the fact that they were sitting down, I say they, were sitting down where we usually sit at a drug store. Some of us were changed. Now, it's up to us, you see, in the 70's when the Vietnam war is over with, when all the laws have been written and they have been, to change the heart of the land, the heart of the land. To change the heart of a church, not just for token action or identity with those great things that went on in the last decade, but to change the heart of our people, to identify with those in need, and not just to put the black man in the chair next to us, put him in the home next to us. It will not be done until it's that close. It will not be done until we want it to be that close and that's the test. Do you want it to be that close? I think the Master wants us to respond in two ways to all of this that's been said, particularly I think to that which has been

the most caustic which I said. I think the Master wants us to hate it, to look down our nose and say, "I don't like that. I wish they'd shut up. I'm sick of it. I just want to go back and live in my white ghetto." I think the Master wants to tell us I'm going to do something about it. I want God to create in me the of clean, pure, loving, changed heart and I want to help change the heart of America and the world. That's a real negative response or a real positive response. What the Master says about the other response I won't even mention because you know what it is. He'll spew it out of his mouth. Just sit back and say, "Isn't that nice?" Then this afternoon go back to the same old mediocrity. Luke 1 that we've waded through the last 15 years of this, no one wants to change it. Sometimes a new heart hurts to be born. When God creates us a new and changed heart it hurts. It's a change in a lifestyle, a way of thinking, a way of living. I want to be changed like that. I want the last roots of prejudice in my heart to be torn out. I don't care if he starts with a root and rips them out that way. I want the last bit of bigotry to be stamped out. I don't care if He wears His shoes when he does it. Just get it out. I hope many of us have really been convicted, not just convicted toward God but convicted toward our brothers and sisters in love. Jesus is for the man that needs Him, not just for these who need Him in one way, but for these who need Him in another. We need you Lord to change us, so come on down and do it. Father, I pray that out of our comfortableness will come a cry for change, that out of our hearts, Lord, out of our hatred for sin which is the fear of God, out of our love for righteousness which is the fear of God, if there be in us any wicked way, in the fear of God help us to renounce it, to turn from it, repent of it, and turn to you who makes the mountains valleys, and the crooked places straight, who raises up the low places and makes them straight and plains. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for every young life that has shared his soul with us this morning. We loved the music, we loved the words that have come. We've loved the spirit in which they've been given. We love these kids because they are our brothers and our sisters. Now, Lord, we ask that you bless the

remainder of this week. Give us a part of this Black Awareness Week Father And really change our school for the good, for the good, because of it. Give us a great time of celebration and joy after the work is done. May freedom be not just a dream anymore but a reality as sure as the sunrise. In Jesus' name, Amen.