



James Johnson as a young man.

Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. This was a direct result of the evangelistic work that the M.E. Church did among the (then) slaves.

1877 —Christianity was introduced into hostile Uganda. It was recorded that forty-five missionaries suffered martyrdom until the establishment of a British administration in 1894.

1883 —American missionaries translate the Bible into the Zulu language.

1886 —Ricketts and Scholl, two Black missionaries from the Northern Baptist Organization, were appointed to the Congo.

The National Baptist Convention was created in St. Louis. It served to consolidate state, regional and missionary bodies into a whole.

1887 —In addition to being a statesman and educator for Liberia, Edward Wilmot Blyden had published *Christianity, Islam and the Negro*.

1988 —James (Holy) Johnson was appointed assistant bishop of the Niger Delta Church Pastorate.

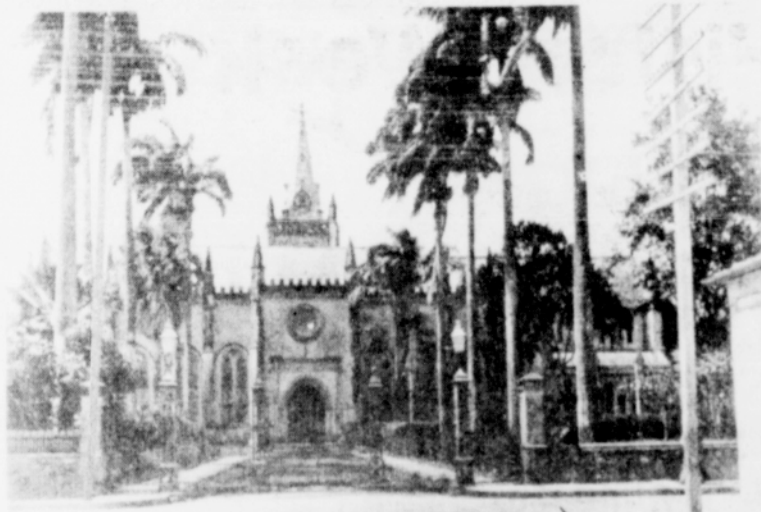
1900 —John Chilembwe of Malawi, a graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, established the first independent (Black) African-operated mission in his homeland. His martyrdom in the Chilembwe Rebellion of 1915 encouraged his countrymen to produce more teachers, evangelists and artisans.

So, the circle comes full. We know that the majority of Black America's ancestors practiced well-developed religions that were rich in gods; however, there generally was one all powerful Supreme Being. When the slaves in the New World were first imported, a serious effort to Christianize them was begun. Many captives readily accepted the new faith because of some of the striking similarities between the new and the old.

The phenomenal growth of the Baptist and Methodist denominations among Blacks is attributed to the high emotionalism involved in the evangelical form of Christianity which has done much to fashion the present form of worship.



John Chilembwe and family, about ten years before the 1915 rebellion.



Trinity Cathedral, Trinidad



Jamaica baptism

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