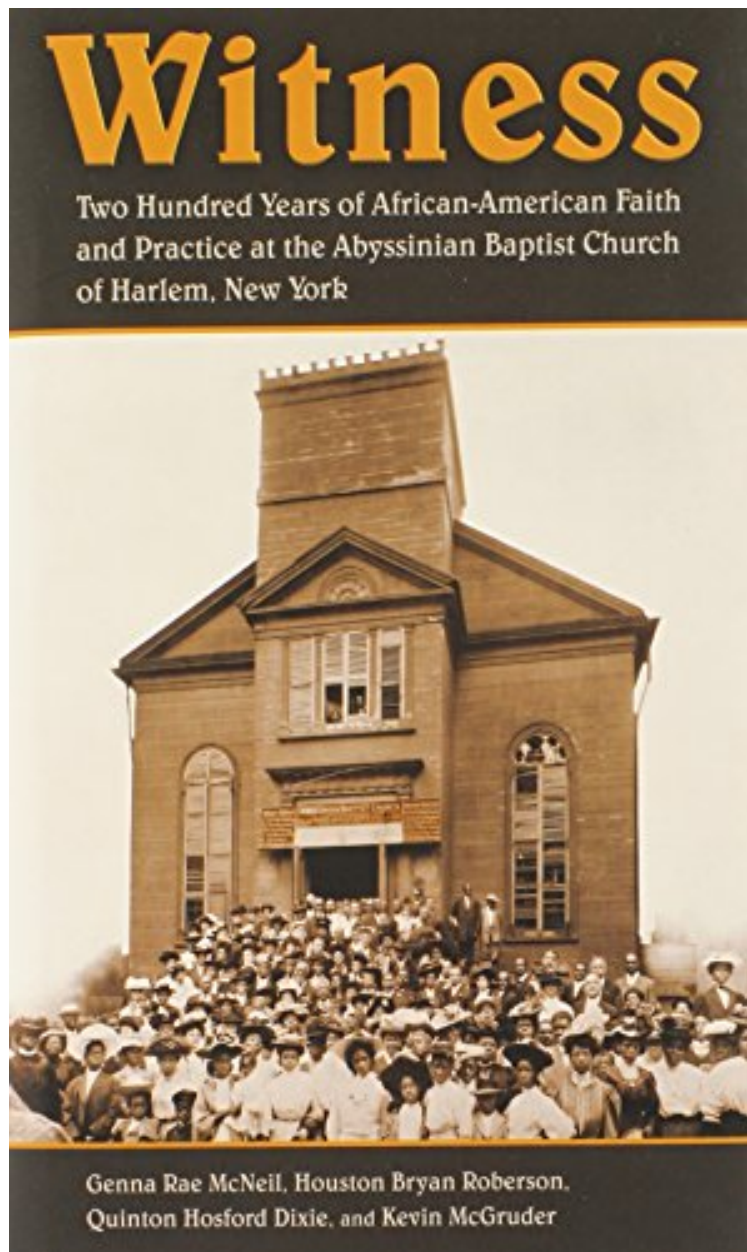


[PDF] Witness: Two Hundred Years of African-American Faith and Practice at the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, New York

## **Witness: Two Hundred Years of African-American Faith and Practice at the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, New York**

*Genna Rae McNeil, Houston Bryan Roberson, Quinton Hosford Dixie, Kevin McGruder*  
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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Witness: Two Hundred Years of African-American Faith and Practice at the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, New York*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful reading  
By Sheila Dozier  
This book is chock full of information that takes us to modern day Abyssinian Baptist Church. Being on that marvelous trip to Ethiopia during the church's bi-centennial and learning of our past history, this book sums up the feelings for Ethiopia and shows how far we've come. A true chronology of where we are today. I would recommend this book to any interested in the history of our great churches.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I LOVE MY CHURCH!  
By N. Wallace  
I love my church home and looking forward to learning more about its history! From what I already know; it's history and current contributions are very special in Harlem.

This detailed history of the famous Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York City, begins with its organization in 1809 and continues through its relocations, its famous senior pastors, and its many crises and triumphs, up to the present. Considered the largest Protestant congregation in the United States during the pre-megachurch 1930s, this church plays a very important part in the history of New York City.

From Booklist  
As an institutional history, *Witness* exemplifies a generally tedious genre. That its subject, the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, is the most famous African American congregation, certainly helps; and though the book may be dry, it's not stuffy, making this one of the best of its kind. During its 207-year history, Abyssinian Baptist has been central to the development of African American Christianity as a force for social justice. Antislavery in its beginnings, Abyssinian has always taken seriously the Christian injunction to minister to the needy and assert the commonality of all in the sight of God, necessarily beginning at home, among black people. From its second century to the present, its pastors have been national figures, especially the controversial Adam Clayton Powell Jr., who represented Harlem in Congress for more than 20 years, all the while retaining the pastorate and firmly establishing Abyssinian as a church of the masses. With its last 227 pages given over to photos (plenty are already in the main text), appendixes, and notes, this is a basic resource in African American history. --Ray Olson  
*The Catholic Historical* "Represents an important addition to African American congregational history."  
*Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae* "A book which one cannot ignore but must read to understand the global experiences of the African."  
Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. -- Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago "This much-needed history of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem is a 'must-read' for generations of Americans who want to know the complex and complicated story of the black religious tradition, the black church tradition, and the intersectionality of race, religion, and politics amidst the ever-changing and evolving landscape of life for Africans in New York City -- from the days following the Civil War up through the Great Migration and on into the twenty-first century. . . . A debt of gratitude is owed to Genna Rae McNeil, Houston Bryan Roberson, Quinton Hosford Dixie, and Kevin McGruder! These dedicated historians have captured an important segment of black church history and written about it with passion and with care."  
Lawrence H. Mamiya -- Vassar College "A magnificent history of an outstanding African-American congregation with a national pulpit for its preachers. On the basis of meticulous research, the authors have chronicled the triumphs and the failures, the harmonious unity and the conflicts within the two-hundred-year history of the Abyssinian Baptist Church. . . . This history serves as a model for the history of other church congregations."  
Cornel West -- from afterword "Magisterial. . . . A powerful and poignant book."  
Choice (American Library Association) "This institutional account of one of the most long-lived and famous black churches in the US deserves a place in the larger history of religion in the US. . . . The abundant detail and substantive appendixes make this a useful resource in the pursuit of religious networks and institutions over time. Recommended."  
Booklist "A basic resource in African American history."  
Journal of American History "A landmark scholarly treatment of a consequential congregation and its large role in the American and African American religious experience."