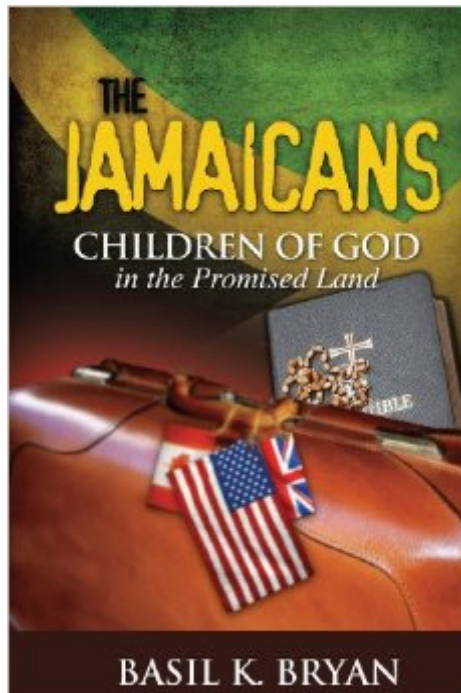


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The Jamaicans: Children Of God In The Promised Land



Synopsis

"Jamaicans living abroad have never forgotten their roots as is manifested in the numerous charitable initiatives undertaken each year, the consistent promotion of Jamaica in every sphere of activity, the increase flow of remittances and contribution to nation building and the overwhelming support given by Jamaicans to Jamaica's teams wherever they perform abroad. No one can read this book and not realize the inspiration it carries as it defines the attitude and the strength of the Jamaican people. We are grateful to Dr. Bryan for this well-documented study." The Most Honorable Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVO, CD Governor General of Jamaica (1991-2006). "In the main the immigrants from Jamaica, while yearning to fulfill their hopes for a better life through gainful employment and the honing of their skills, seek to preserve and promote their cultural identity. They often maintain a nostalgic desire to eventually return home, but their decision will be based on the prospects for jobs, adequate remuneration, acceptable working conditions and a feeling of personal security." Bryan's treatise offers a discerning insight of the Diaspora and compelling personal stories of the journey travelled by Jamaicans in the United States. The story he tells is vital to a fuller understanding of our history. It is informative, interesting and thought-provoking. The Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, ON, OCC, PC, QC Prime Minister of Jamaica 1992-2006

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ambassador Dr. Basil K. Bryant's book, THE JAMAICANS: Children of God in the Promised Land, is an outstanding account of Jamaicans and their offspring living outside of Jamaica; a phenomenon, which describes the Jamaican diaspora. The diplomat and scholar uses his extensive experience to present an authoritative work on the significant achievements of Jamaicans who

migrated to some countries in Africa, Central and South America; also, the United States, England, Canada, and Bermuda. The emphasis is overwhelmingly on Jamaican migrants to the United States. The theme of the book is that the small island has socialized individuals such that anywhere they go, their work ethic generally leads to outstanding success in many areas of endeavor. The JAMAICANS is excellent reading for laymen and scholars. The prose is presented with clarity; the organization of the book is such that as the reader proceeds through all 15 chapters (and earlier the Foreword, Author's Note, and Introduction), the reading gets more interesting throughout the 550 pages. The book gives a detailed account of Jamaican migration for more than 170 years, and the concomitant international and societal changes in each country, that affected immigrants. He details monumental achievements of human rights activists, musicians, singers, track and field athletes, scholars, writers, film stars, electronic and print media personnel, politicians (local, state, and federal), government officials, and organizations that have influenced civil society and governments. In addition, he highlights the outstanding contributions of Jamaicans in the diaspora in boxing, basket ball, football, soccer, and cricket.

Make no mistake, "The Jamaicans" is not a story of survival. Rather, it is the remarkable history of improbable triumph over astounding odds. Dr. Bryan relates story after story of astonishing success among the Jamaica Diaspora in America, a massive subset of a diaspora that comprises 50% of all Jamaicans or about 3 million people, spread across three major locations: the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada. The story is the more remarkable, limited as it is to just the America chapter of the diaspora and told in a manner that makes it very unlikely that even the purely curious will be bored once immersed in reading. The history of the United Kingdom and Canada chapters of the Diaspora is yet to be told in the manner related in "The Jamaicans". This is a distinct challenge and responsibility for some knowledgeable and discerning members of these groups. "The Jamaicans" reveals an almost unimaginable string of individual as well as collective achievements that may be unparalleled among any comparable group of once colonized, subjugated and exploited people, descendants of slaves. So extensive is the story that it takes over 500 pages in its telling with not a single page appearing redundant or unnecessary. The revelations are engaging and riveting. How many are aware, for example, that Jamaicans have been a notable presence in "every war in which America has been involved, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, through World War I and World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Gulf War, to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan...."? The contributions of Jamaicans to nation building in America are acknowledged to be extensive and exemplary and are dealt with at length in "The Jamaicans".

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