

NATIVE AMERICAN GENETIC HISTORY

DNA studies are showing ancient Native Americans have 11,000 years of genetic history on the American continents.

The state of DNA research samples from around the Americas are explaining this history. Studies are showing ancient population expanse across the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. There were large scale movements between North and South America.

Sequenced DNA shows migration patterns in South and North America from remains found within the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe in Nevada dating approximately 10,900 years old, at the Nevada Spirit Cave. The tribe was trying to repatriate the remains and succeeded. There were 14 other genome sites where remains were found from Alaska to Chile from 10,700 to 500 years old. Analysis of DNA samples from 49 genome locations was the basis for the study.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

These reflections have been written by Ms. Jean Mays. When you see her in church or anywhere else, please be sure to thank her for taking the time to write these missives and to beighten our awareness of the beautiful diversity that God has created and keeps on creating.

THE PAN-AFRICAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY CONFERENCE

Conceived by the National Black Clergy Caucus

This conference was organized during the observations made over a three-year period on the 500th anniversary of evangelization in the Americas. Their discussion on the people of African descent focused on how they could best benefit the people. The NBCCC (National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus) was invited by the Afro-Brazilian Bishops and Clergy Conference to send two delegates to share, observe, and participate, as well as provide insight on projects concerning evangelization through Black consciousness in April 1990. The meeting was held in São Paulo, Brazil. Also present at this conference were Afro-Latin clergy making known their desire to keep lines of communication open with North American brothers and sisters furthering shared experiences and continuing a broader exchange. Two Afro-Brazilian priests were invited to attend the Catholic Institute at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The exchanges in the meetings involving cultural, personal, and theological insights each needed, and the need for more sharing experiences became more pressing.

There was a need to include and encourage the North American Black clergy and religious and the Africans arriving in the United States to share and provide their input for studies and services in parishes and diocesan institutions. This information provided the impetus for the convening of the 5th Centenary Committee of the Pan-African Roman Catholic Clergy Conference which made a motion to also convene the NBCCC. The motion passed unanimously by the general assembly. The Conference took full advantage of these opportunities as some members were already committed and were enthused by the enrichment and exposure to Black Catholicism in North America.

Some members in attendance at this conference were:

Archbishop James P. Lyke, OFM, of Atlanta, GA

Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, of Galveston, TX

Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, PhD.

Fr. Clarence Williams, CPPS

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