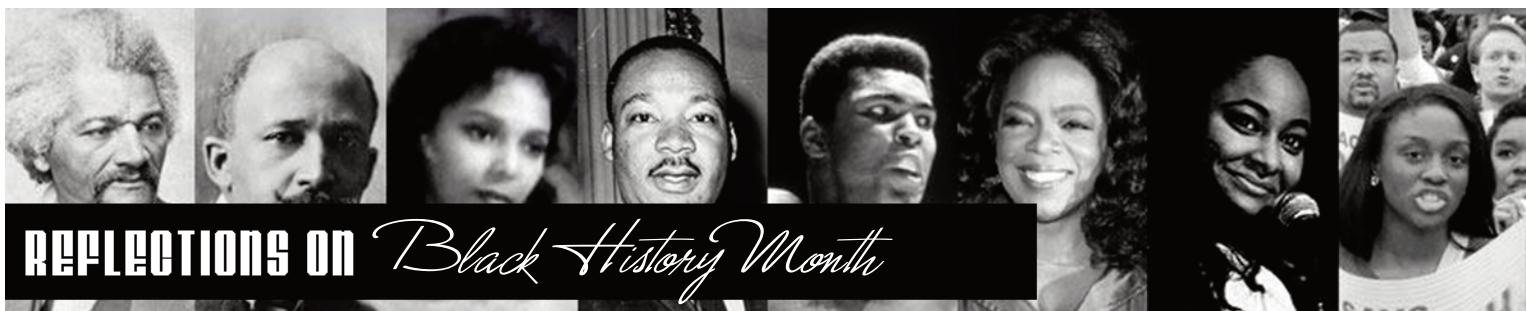


March 2014

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The City Temple Times



REFLECTIONS ON *Black History Month*

By: Rev. Dr. Grady A. Yeargin, Jr.

We have just concluded our annual celebration of Black History month. During the month of February, we take the time to remember our history and celebrate our heritage. I believe that by so doing, we renew and keep alive our sense of who we are as a people. For those of us who are a part of the Christian faith, I also believe it is a time when we remind ourselves and one another that it has been by the gracious, merciful and mighty hand of our God that we have come this far.

In his final address to the children of Israel before he dies and before Joshua leads them over into the Promised Land, Moses reminds them of the greatest commandment in what is known as the Shema:

"Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength."

(Deuteronomy 6:4-5, CEB)

Moses then gives the following instructions:

"These words I command you

today must always be on your minds.

Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, CEB)

I believe these words spoken by Moses more than thousands of years ago are just as relevant to us and to our history today as they were to the people of Israel about their love and commitment to God in their day. Teaching our children about our history should not be relegated to one month out of the year. There are too many of our children who know little or nothing about our history. There are even those who feel that knowing and celebrating our history is no longer necessary. So they take it lightly or completely dismiss it.

But we cannot know who we are as a people without knowing our history; we cannot live with hope for the future without knowing how we made it through the dark and dangerous past;

we cannot begin to dream impossible dreams without knowing the impossibilities that our ancestors overcame; and we cannot know the power of faith without knowing how the faith of our fore parents sustained them and kept them through the many dangers, toils and snares they faced.

Yes, we need to celebrate and rejoice in our history and our heritage. But we need to spend time every month that the Lord so graciously sends to us and to our children telling them about our history, sharing with them some of the history of our own families, and impressing upon them that they are the daughters and sons of a talented, gifted and spiritual people whose faith liberated them.

In the words of Moses, we must tell our children of their history and their heritage. We must tell them while we are sitting in our houses; when we are out and about; when we are lying down and rising up. It may be the only way to give our children hope and a future.

MAKING *Marriage* WORK II



Last year, for our March issue, I asked several married couples in our church to give their opinions on what helps to make a marriage successful. Everyone provided honest and invaluable feedback. However, I realized that the experiences of older couples and divorced/remarried couples are different from the challenges younger couples experience. So for this article, I asked couples in their thirties to share what they have learned makes their marriages work. This is what they had to say...

There are several keys to making a successful marriage. The first: Partnership. Most people take this for granted. Spouses often go outside of the marriage with their problems, questions, concerns, financial burdens, intimacy issues, and stress. In addition, couples marry the families instead of each other. This is evident by the amount of influence family members have on the marriage.

When you are really married and in a true partnership with each other, it is you and your spouse against the world with the Lord by your side. You should depend on your partner for everything. Be each other's strength and weakness.

The second: Create Valentine's Day within every month. You can get caught in a cycle of kids, work, and maintaining the house. Most couples

forget to continue or create the times, love and passion that led them to get married. Couples must continue to make time to keep the fire going. Fellas this is for you: you should always do something special for your wife. You should make your wife feel special all the time. A simple rose to a pair of shoes go really far in showing your special someone that you're not only thinking about her, but that you care for her as well.

The third: Intimacy. This is a big issue in a marriage. I know it is in mine! Usually, one of us wants it and the other one doesn't. Sometimes you must compromise and give in to each other. At the same time each person must be understanding to the other's needs. You must not always pressure your spouse into making love and understand that they may need a moment. Sometimes, you just have to suck it up and make love with a smile on your face. The key word is balance. It's up to you and your spouse to be open and communicate with each other about this topic just as you do with anything else.

It shouldn't be taboo!

This leads me to communication. This is a really BIG deal in marriage. There should be communication on every level. Most men are straight to

the point and give very little details. Women often want every detail and to be notified about everything. Men and women need to understand the mindset of their spouse and learn to adjust to each other. In certain situations, men must provide more information and women can provide less. In addition, both parties should share everything. The truth shall set you free. It will take a while, believe me, but learning to share everything with your spouse makes the road a lot easier on both.

Couples must learn (sometimes the hard way) that all marriages are not storybook. Most people think that because you're married you should never run into any problems and that you will always be happy. This is not the case at all. All marriages go

through problems, difficulties, stress, anger, and frustration. The marriages that last are the ones that come through the fire wounded, but still ticking. You're

“Couples must learn that all marriages are not storybook.”

going to go through some tough times in your marriage. It's a fact. What makes your marriage stronger is going through these tough times together. It's like exercising. No one wants to do it and

making marriage work

part two

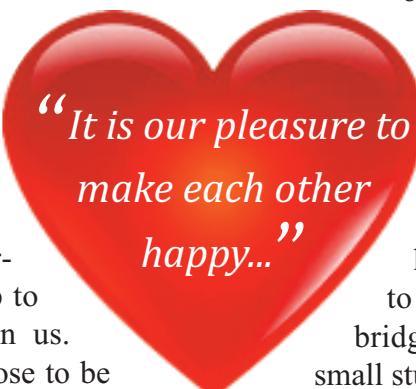
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it hurts, but eventually you get stronger. If you quit every time it gets difficult, you will never make it. Also, couples must remember that the Lord will not put you in something he knew you could not get out of. Most importantly, if you have the Lord as your foundation, you will not fail. Firstly, I just want to say that I have the GREATEST husband in the world. He does not have all his rules down yet, but we have a life-time!

I do not agree that there are certain rules or tricks to having a successful marriage. I feel that is up to us and it depends on us.

Once two people choose to be together and make the super important choice to get married, it is up to them to find out what keeps it going for them. I would imagine that it is very different for every couple and that it even differs in each couple depending on the day or situation.

No one else can say if our marriage is or isn't a success. If he is happy and I am happy and the kids are happy (most of the time), we got action!!! So now you say, "well how do you keep everyone happy?" and my response is you don't, you just try. I do things he likes when I can. We spend time together or don't—whatever is needed. It's simple for me. I love on him and he loves on me every day, every hour, every minute, even when he is mad and even when I am sad. I hold him up when he needs it and he



picks me up when I can no longer do it on my own.

My point is if my husband never gave me a rose or only answered me in one word sentences, I would still live and I would still love him. Marriage is about collaboration not compromise. You are joining two totally different people together; like he said, you are going to have stress and anger, but if you got married to stay married none of that matters for long.

Our marriage is fun!

We really like each other and did before we got married. That makes it a lot easier when I want to throw him off a bridge. It helps us let the small stuff go.

I trust my husband and he trusts me. I am not talking about faithfulness. Neither of us is worried about that. I am saying that we trust that we both want the same things for our family and that makes it easy for me to let him win an argument every now and then. I just think to myself that he is still taking us where we need to go. He is just taking a different path. When you trust your partner, you can let him make some decisions that you wouldn't make. He follows his own set of rules (kinda) and I follow him (kinda) and that works for us! I mean we do have structure and order to our household and how we raise our kids, but I will not bore you with all the details because none of that matters if your bottom line is love and respect.



Submitted by Godfrey & La'Dona Wheatley
Married 11 Years

Firstly, teamwork weighs highly in our relationship. If one lacks, the other complements strongly in every way. We traded "I" for "We" and "Me" for "Us" in our conversations. We try our best not to go to bed angry and we try to focus on the root of any disagreements, if they arise, together. Selfishness can be the demise of any union. So it is our pleasure to make each other happy and work as a team! We enjoy life together and plan things together; both small and large.

Second and third we group together, trust and communication, because they weigh equally the same. We must have that level of trust for our marriage to work, which can be really hard sometimes, but we make it work through communication. For example, we have a large calendar that hangs in the bathroom so we can be aware of each other's schedule and so we can schedule our "DNs," which are date nights. We continue to use technology as much as possible, which makes our communication increasingly better.

Finally, and most importantly, keeping God in our marriage or any marriage is vital. Faith in the Lord drives everything. He works in giving you the vision to make room for trust, communication and selflessness; to aim to please just as God aims to please his children. It is our wish to increase praying together. ♥

Submitted by Kendrick & Carol Tilghman
Married 3 Years

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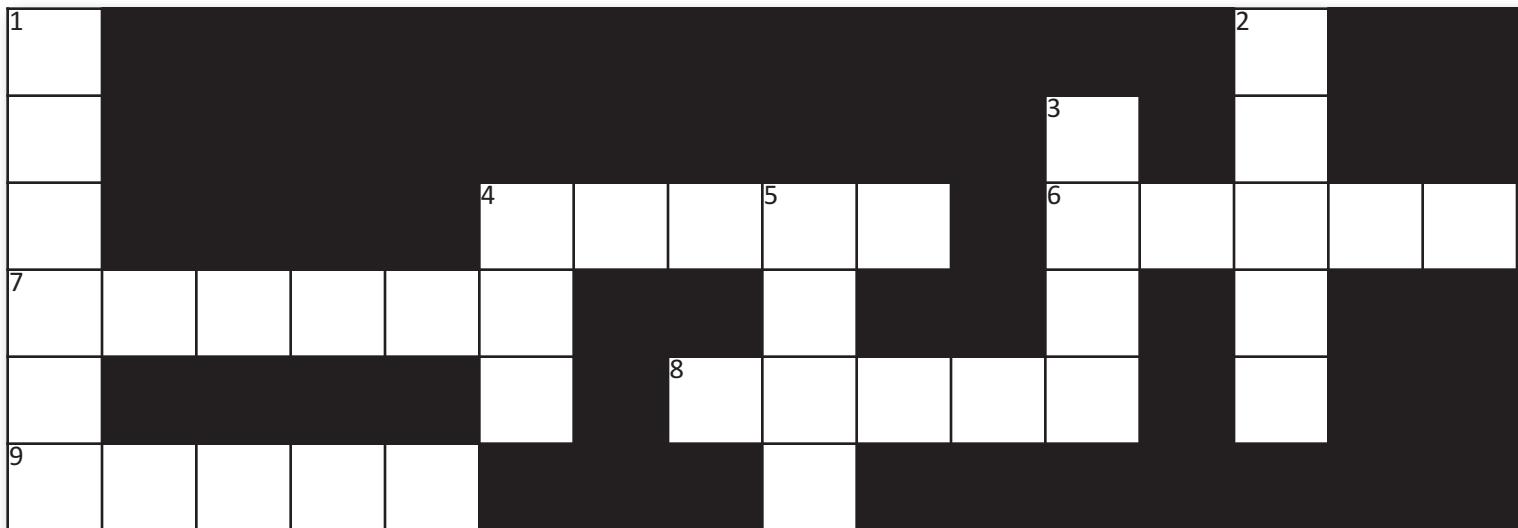
kid's fun page

games, puzzles & trivia

THE EMPTY TOMB

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

JOHN 20:1



ACROSS

- 4. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers
- 6. Not dead
- 7. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
- 8. To have nothing inside
- 9. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb

DOWN

- 1. Messengers from heaven
- 2. The color of snow; the opposite of black
- 3. The woman who found the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb
- 4. To produce tears; to weep
- 5. A grave or a room where someone is buried

EMPTY
STONE

ANGELS
ALIVE

EASTER
TOMB

CLOTH
CRY

WHITE
MARY

celebrate woman's history

2014

March is National Women's History Month, which observes women's contributions to history and contemporary society, and honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. This year's theme is Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment.

The start of Women's History Month dates back to the 1980's when President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. In the same year, Maryland Representative Barbara Mikulski, who at the time was in the House of Representatives, and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week 1981.

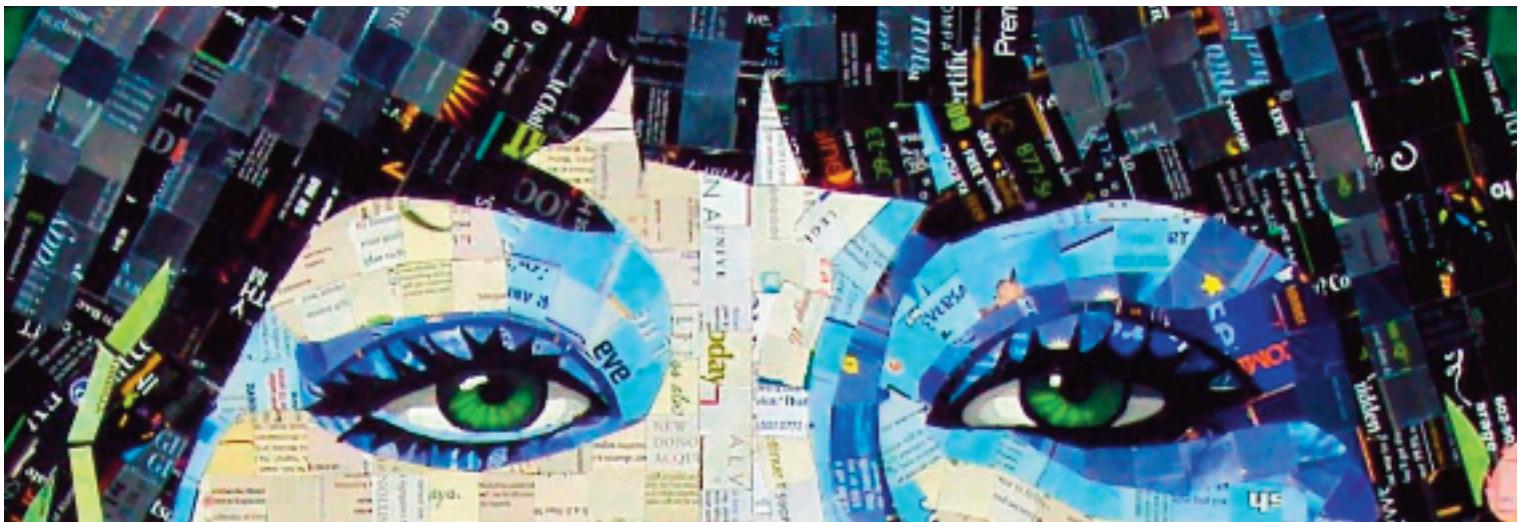
This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the achievements of American women. For more history on Women's History Month visit <http://nwhp.org/whm/history.php>.

President Obama recently proclaimed, "Throughout our Nation's history, American women have led movements for social and economic justice, made groundbreaking scientific discoveries, enriched our culture with stunning works of art and literature, and charted bold directions in our foreign policy. They have served our country with valor, from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan. During Women's History Month, we recognize the victories, struggles, and stories of the women who have made our country what it is today."

2014 Honorees

- Chipeta (1843 – 1924): Indian Rights Advocate and Diplomat
- Anna Julia Haywood Cooper (1858 – 1964): African American Educator and Author
- Agatha Tiegel Hanson (1873 – 1959): Educator, Author, and Advocate for Deaf Community
- Katharine Ryan Gibbs (1863 – 1934): Women's Employment Pioneer
- Frances Oldham Kelsey (1914 – Present): Pharmacologist and Public Health Activist
- Roxcy O'Neal Bolton (1926 – Present): 20th Century Women's Rights Pioneer
- Arden Eversmeyer (1931 – Present): The Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project Founder
- Carmen Delgado Votaw (1935 – Present): International Women's Rights Activist
- Ann Lewis (1937- Present): Women's Rights Organizer and Women's History Advocate
- Jaida Im (1961- Present): Advocate for Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Tammy Duckworth (1968 – Present): Member of Congress and Iraq War Veteran
- Lisa Taylor (1974 – Present): Civil Rights Attorney

For additional information about National Women's History Month, please visit the Office of Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity's National Women's History Month website.



An Open Letter to my Sisters with Issues

WALK BY *faith*

You have been walking in my spirit for a while. Now I am compelled to share with you a word - WALK. Although I do not know your names, I know all about you. You have issues. You have had, do have, and will have issues. Me too.

Not unlike the nameless woman of antiquity with a seemingly unceasing flow of blood, no doubt we can exchange tales of woe about our issues. Perhaps your issue is physical; they call you Cripple. Possibly your issue is mental; they call you Crazy. Maybe your issue is emotional; they call you Complainier. Some say your issue is spiritual; they call you Un-Clean.

I imagine you are feeling "dissed"--disrespected, discounted, dismissed, disregarded, and discouraged. Others have targeted you for game, blame or shame. We suffer on our jobs, in our communities, in our homes and even in our churches. The silent question is, "Does anybody care?" My Sisters, this need not be the end of our tale. Let me tell you a story.

Once upon a time in a land on the other side of the Galilean Sea across from the country of the Gadarenes, lived a certain woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. By law and by custom, she was shunned because she hemorrhaged. Efforts for help had left her physically weak, financially poor, emotionally saddened, mentally depressed and spiritually suspect.



This woman had heard about a man named Jesus who was passing through her town. The rumor was that this man was a healer. If only she could touch the hem of his garment, the woman believed that she too would be made whole. At first, she was fearful. Moving outside her comfort zone, she slowly pressed into the rear of the crowd, moving forward until she made a vital connection.

Immediately, the "fountain of her blood was dried up."

Feeling a burst of energy, the woman knew immediately that she had been made well. She thought that she could remain silent and invisible. No way! Jesus inquired as to who had touched his clothes. So insistent was He that the nameless, fearful woman confessed her intention, deed and healing. What a testimony!

Jesus had known who the woman was, what had happened her, and what had yet to occur. This I know for sure: Differentiating the female gender, the issue of blood makes us unique. Announcing a shift from girl to woman, the issue of blood marks our new status, maturity. Preparing us to be fruitful, the issue of blood proclaims our potential for greatness.

My Sisters, walk by faith. Whatever the issue, healing is a sacred walk™. Be blessed.

Submitted by Maxine Bigby Cunningham

making *marriage* work

continued from P3

My husband and I came to the conclusion that the most important things that keep our marriage successful are genuine love and respect for one another. If you have respect and genuine/unconditional love for someone you love, you would not jeopardize the blessing you have or hurt that person. With these two qualities, our

marriage has been able to sustain anything that have come our way. ♥

Submitted by Corey & Danielle Taylor
Married 9 Years

- Continue to date
- Make time for romance and spiritual reflection
- Endorse free and open communication. That is, be honest and open in

situations that may be uncomfortable for either person

- Have separate interests (hobbies) to keep a sense of individuality
- Have ample family time: Cooking together, household projects, regular family outings
- Remember to laugh ♥

Submitted by Jay & Traci Walker
Married 1-1/2 Years

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

By Mary Viola Williams

I was beaten unrecognizably, beaten until my flesh was torn from my back and hung on a cross. Was it all for nothing? My father raised me from death and placed me on a throne deep in heaven. There I sit at his right side. In charge of everything and not just for a little while but forever. It was my blood that saved the world. What will it take for you to call my name? There is no name higher than mine. There is power in my name. Why don't you believe in me? Where is your faith?

You are living in troubled times confronted with one disaster after another. Children killing each other dying in the streets. As your city streets are turned into one big memorial site. What will it take for you to call my name? Mothers weeping and wailing over the loss of their children. How much more will they endure before they call my name? Stop deceiving yourselves. I am no longer the baby Jesus you celebrate once a year starting at Christmas Eve.

I am no longer hanging from the cross. What will it take for you to call my name? Was my dying in vain? I am the living God. I am hope for all humanity. I am the prince of peace. I have come and I am coming with my Church. You don't have to search for a light to the eternal gate of life because I am the light that lights the pathway to righteousness. I can take you from mortal to immortal. I am that I am. I am the Son of God. What will it take for you to call my name?

March

CAROLYN GASKINS
CLARISSA WOODSON
CURTIS BROWN
DELORES A. BOYKINS
DORIS L. HUNTER
GLADYS PALMER-BUTLER
RANSOM DEAN
ROSE REDDING
THELMA CROSBY
VEIDA HARRIS
ELIZABETH HOBSON
LYNDA HENDERSON
NORMAN MEREDITH
LARRY REVELL
THOMAS KWENAH
DE'ARIE LOVELIST
TYRAY LIVINGSTON
JIM IVEY
LILLIAN LYDE
ROBERT RUSSELL
LILLY TRAYNHAM
ANN MILLER
TONY JONES
LESLIE PITTMAN
JAMIE GRIFFIN
ELAINE JACKSON
KALIAH DINKINS

FRAUN MURDOCK
KENDRICK TILGHMAN
KENNETH DEAN

JORDAN RICHARDSON
BEVERLY PRYOR CLINTON
MALINDA MAYFIELD
VALERIE JONES

ANNIE BROWN
CATHERINE M SPENCER
DORA A. GASKINS
GWENDOLYN PATILLO

HUGH JACKSON
JAMES RUFFIN

JOANN DOWERY
JOHN JOHNSON

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
OTELIA SPIVEY

DEVERA

TONI STANFORD

DELORES L. ALLEN

GINA LOVELIST

JOY MONET GRANDISON
VIOLET CHURN

DANIELLE TILLMAN
BRIANA HAMIEN

QUENTIN LEE
SHANNON RICE

QUINCY JACKSON
QUINTON JACKSON

JEWEL LEWIS

KYNDRA NIKIEA DAVIS

LYNETTE STANLEY

SHIRLEY LINDSAY

MICHELLE HUDNALL

WILLIAM JACKSON, JR

April

GERTHENIA
ROBINSON
GLORIA J.
MCLEAN
PATRICIA
BONAPARTE
MARK
KENNEDY



MARSHELL JENKINS
CAROLE HICKS-TILGHMAN
SHEVON TAYLOR
STACEY DAVIS
DANIEL SMITH
JONATHAN BROWN
VICKI JENNINGS
TAYLOR BLACKBURN

BERTHA WILDER
BENITA WHITAKER
EVELYN WOOLEY
DIAFIE TUBAH
ROSA BARNES

QUINCY JACKSON
QUINTON JACKSON
JEWEL LEWIS
KYNDRA NIKIEA DAVIS
LYNETTE STANLEY
SHIRLEY LINDSAY
MICHELLE HUDNALL
WILLIAM JACKSON, JR

May

a night to remember

If you did not attend City Temple's first Masquerade Ball, you missed out on an out of this world experience. Masks, dining, comedy, dancing—we had it all! But don't take my word for it, check it out for yourself!

