

John Marrant

A. Background and Conversion

1. The Black church in America was born during the Great Awakening through the preaching of Whitefield, Samuel Davies, and others.
2. Marrant, a free black and a musician in Charleston was converted through hearing Whitefield's preaching in 1770 on Amos 4:12 – "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

B. Ministry

1. Persecuted by his family, he wandered off into the wilderness and was captured by the Cherokee; sentenced to be executed, he was instead an instrument of winning several Cherokee to Christ, including a chief and his daughter.
2. Back among his family, he briefly worked among the slaves of a plantation on which he was working; the mistress of the plantation broke up this work, however.
3. He was impressed into the British Navy where he backslid. God gave him reminders (e.g., meeting the Cherokee chief at Charleston, the site of his conversion) and preserved him through storm and battle.
4. Invalided out of the navy in Britain, he was restored to God through the Huntington Connexion of the Calvinistic Methodists (a group associated with Whitefield); he then went to Canada where many blacks settled after the Revolution and ministered.
5. He eventually returned to England and died at the age of thirty-six. His heritage lived on in Africa, when the churches he started in Canada moved to the free British colony of Sierra Leone.