



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati  
405 West Seventh Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45203  
(513) 381-3858  
[www.union-baptist.net](http://www.union-baptist.net)  
Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

### MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE'S Last Will & Testament



(1875-1955)

**I LEAVE YOU A THIRST FOR EDUCATION.** Knowledge is the prime need of the hour. More and more, Negroes are taking full advantage of hard-won opportunities for learning, and the educational level of the Negro population is at its highest point in history.

**I LEAVE YOU RESPECT FOR THE USES OF POWER.** We live in a world which respects power above all things. Power, intelligently directed, can lead to more freedom. Unwisely directed, it can be a dreadful, destructive force. During my life time I have seen the power of the Negro grow enormously. It has always been my first concern that this power should be placed on the side of human justice.

Now that the barriers are crumbling everywhere, the Negro in America must be ever vigilant lest his forces be marshaled behind wrong causes and undemocratic movements. He must not lend his support to any group that seeks to subvert democracy. That is why we must select leaders who are wise, courageous, and of great moral stature and ability. We have great leaders among us today: Ralph Bunche, Channing Tobias, Mordecai Johnson, Walter White, and Mary Church Terrell. [The latter now deceased]. We have had other great men and women in the past. Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth. We must produce more qualified people like them, who will work not for themselves, but for others. AMEN.

**Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**  
Published in Ebony Magazine, August, 1955

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*  
Matthew 28:18 – 20

