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**CONTACT:** Mark D. Weinstein  
Executive Director of Public Relations  
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)  
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)  
[Mweinstein@cedarville.edu](mailto:Mweinstein@cedarville.edu)  
[@cedarvillenews](#)

## **Cedarville Library Celebrates Black History Month**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- It's February, and that means celebrating Black History Month at Cedarville University.

This year, Cedarville University's [Centennial Library](#) will spotlight minority missionaries through its monthly book display.

"It's good to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month. It's a way to remind ourselves of the role African-Americans and other minorities have played in the history of missions," said Josh Michael, dean of library services.

It's not uncommon for the library to feature minorities in each month's display, but during Black History Month, only persons of color are highlighted to honor the ways they have impacted domestic and international missions. Next month the library will feature women in missions as a companion piece.

The Centennial Library staff consulted with Cedarville University's Kingdom Diversity Team for missionary and book suggestions.

"We're a team working together trying to think strategically and godly about race and ethnicity," said Dr. Kevin Jones, dean of the [school of education](#) and a member of the [Kingdom Diversity Team](#).

Those highlighted during Black History Month include missionaries such as Lott Carey, minister and physician serving in Liberia; Equiano, an evangelical missionary to indigenous Central America; Thomas Johnson, missionary in Liverpool; Jeanette Li, founder of Christian Mission to Buddhists; Shi Meiyu, a medical missionary in China; and Philip Quaque, the first African Anglican missionary.

The library staff and Kingdom Diversity Team have high hopes for what the book display signifies.

"A display, in a gentle yet strategic way, can say, 'hey, don't forget about this.' It communicates that we care about missionaries, missions, and minorities," said Jones.

Books on display are regularly checked out and students engage with these resources to learn.

"For us, the book displays help highlight resources that don't get as much visibility. It helps ensure that our collection reflects the depth and breadth of, in this case, the history of missions and reflecting our minority community," said Michael.

Not only does the book display honor minority missionaries but it has the chance for a greater impact than just the one person looking at the display.

"These books will be used by teachers as they go out in the schools. It's cool how much of a ripple effect the display can have. It doesn't necessarily stop with the one person who looks and checks the book out," said Julie Deardorff, director of library collection services and associate professor of library science.

Centennial Library encourages students to share display topic ideas and book purchase suggestions through their website. Students can either scan a QR code in the library or use these links: [Display Topic Suggestions link](#), [Suggest a Purchase link](#).

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual-enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit [www.cedarville.edu](http://www.cedarville.edu).

Written by Abby Totten

Photo Caption: The 2023 Black History Month Book Display in Centennial Library with library intern, Morgan Rupp.