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Those Preachin' Women

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and how to begin, techniques for handling oral interviews, organizing history conferences, and incorporating people of all ages in collecting material. The most interesting chapter was about one woman's process of unearthing information about a little-known woman who was quite influential in her time. Intrigued by each nugget of information, the author undertook a treasure hunt to find out more. This woman's story, vividly resurrected from the past, captivated me as well and made me wonder how many treasures lie buried among my own roots.

While such research would be difficult for one woman to do alone, this book might help a research group get started in your church or denomination, a group committed to lifting up the long history of women's ministries in the church.

—Sharon Baker-Johnson

THOSE PREACHIN' WOMEN: SERMONS BY BLACK WOMEN PREACHERS

Edited by Ella Pearson Mitchell
Judson Press, 1985
126 pages, \$8.00

I wish I could have sat among the assembled congregations and heard these fourteen black women preachers deliver their sermons in person. The Spirit of God must have rained down upon everyone there. Even in print, their words are evidence that women *can* preach, and that, despite much opposition, these women have known that fire in their bones that could only be quenched by faithful, obedient preaching.

These women, from many different areas of the country, are all unapologetically black and female. Though not all the sermons refer directly to feminism, they all convey a liberation theme and are directed toward black audiences. One is gratified in each sermon by the combination of good scholarship with the unique dynamism characteristic of black preaching at its best.

I recommend *Those Preachin' Women* to blacks and whites alike, especially

preachers, women and men, who are continually on the lookout for inspiration and help in their task of publicly proclaiming the Word of God.

—Reta Finger



Stories

The named woman is the one who got into trouble, Dinah, or Tamar, or Mary Magdalene. These are the records of men who could not conceive value apart from exception, the tougher hero, bolder villain, more treacherous victim.

Yet women beyond number taught their mothers' stories to their daughters. Our questions, shaped by longings newly named, search out these scattered notations of a few solo speeches in their many-voiced drama.

ELLEN ROBERTS YOUNG is a poet from Ardmore, Pennsylvania.