



“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN

November 28, 2021

FOR WHAT / WHOM AM I THANKFUL?

What we know today as Thanksgiving Day, is recorded as having been a harvest festival held in the fall of 1621. At this festival, the newly arrived Europeans [the Pilgrims] invited the indigenous people of this country [the Indians] to attend the feast. From that celebration, last Thursday, this country will celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

I pause to question, “For what were those newly arrived European settlers thankful?” Since I was not there, I cannot provide a definitive answer to that question. However, when I consider the history of that time, I can easily speculate some of the things for which they would have been thankful.

First, they would have been thankful for life. Additionally, history documents that if it were not for the knowledge of and assistance from the indigenous people who taught the Europeans how to survive through the winter months they would not have lived. Although many died, the majority were able to survive and flourish.

Second, they would have been thankful for food to eat. History also documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to smoke and dry meat and fish, plant corn, beans and squash, fertilize it and protect it with natural insect repellents.

Third, they would have been thankful for clothes to wear. History additionally documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to tan hides used for clothing.

Fourth, they would have been thankful for their health. History furthermore documents that the indigenous people taught the Europeans how to identify plants, herbs, berries and roots and determine which ones were toxic, and which ones were useful for medicinal and culinary uses.

Therefore, at the harvest festival held in the fall of 1621, I wonder if the Europeans were more thankful for what they had or more thankful for those who made it possible for them to have what they had. As I consider this, I reflect on the fact that the Europeans would later consider the indigenous people who saved and sustained their lives as savages, heathens and demon possessed. I also reflect on the fact that many indigenous people died of diseases contracted from the Europeans (like smallpox and measles). Since the Europeans brought these diseases to this country, the indigenous people had no natural immunities to fight the diseases. For all of the sacrifices made by the indigenous people, I wonder how much thanksgiving was offered on their behalf. More than being thankful for life, food, clothes and health, were they thankful for the indigenous people who were in their lives?

Lest we be too hard on the Europeans, what about us? Perhaps the question, “For what am I thankful?” should be replaced with the question, “For whom am I thankful?” More than what I have, Am I thankful for who I have. On today, I express my thanksgiving for those whom God has placed in my life. Those who love me, help me, guide me, assist me, correct me, defend me and pray for me. I would not be who I am nor where I am if it not for those people. More than life, food, clothes and health, I am thankful for the people that God has placed in my life – **I AM THANKFUL FOR YOU.**

PILGRIM REST OASIS

We envision the Pilgrim Rest Oasis as a needed resource to revitalize our community through family engagement and holistic community service. The Pilgrim Rest Oasis will function for the good of the community to promote neighborhood vitality.

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis is established upon three foundations:

1. Education Center – An elementary school with a comprehensive educational program built upon academic rigor, cultural understanding and character development, and to facilitate and expand our Summer Learning Camp.
2. Community Center – A center to support and invigorate the capacity of residents to thrive in recreation, athletics, performing arts, technology, along with other areas of their lives.
3. Community Venue – A venue to support and encourage the creative and innovative work of our neighbors while gathering to discuss and debate. GED/HSED and continuing education classes for adults, intergenerational gatherings, and more.

Through the Pilgrim Rest Oasis, we will create an environment for refreshment, renewal, restoration, refuge and recreation (re-creation). Our vision is to create the place and space for a **Pilgrim** to find **Rest**.

The momentum of our journey presses us to continue looking forward, knowing that this is our time, our opportunity, our expression of faith for this season through the Pilgrim Rest Oasis.



WORK FOR THE WEEK

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

¹⁰When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Judges 2:10

NOVEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

“Children who are treated as if they are uneducable almost invariably become uneducable.”

Dr. Kenneth Clark