



## “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:

THE PASTOR'S PEN 

January 2, 2022

To my Pilgrim Rest family,

Thressessa and I Praise God for the opportunity to have served you these 19 years. As I shared last year, for some, pastoring is a burden and causes misery and suffering (some data record that between 250 and 1,200 clergy leave pastoral ministry each month, thousands of churches closed in America last year and thousands of people a day left the church last year), I receive great joy from serving you.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 virus continues to be a challenge to both our biological and church family fellowships. I Praise God for the vaccine, and praise God for those who have been vaccinated because this has assisted us in having some sense of normalcy in the midst of this socially distanced season in which we live. I praise God also for our Media Ministry for their continued commitment and dedication to ensuring that we the technological and the human resource necessary to have quality online presence for worship services, Bible studies, church school classes, meetings and other fellowship opportunities.

In 2022, I renew the call for us to be the **Radical, Revolutionary and Relevant Church** that Jesus modeled, and had in mind when He said in Matthew 16:18, “*On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*”

The **Radical, Revolutionary and Relevant Church** that our enslaved ancestors risked beatings and tortures to attend so that they could have “real church.” A church that gave them hope and sustained them through the horrors of slavery and the daily brutality that they faced.

The **Radical, Revolutionary and Relevant Church** that civil rights participants went into for meetings, trainings and before mass protests so they may be equipped and transformed to go out to transform the world.

The **Radical, Revolutionary and Relevant Church** in which many of us were raised, taught and developed. The church that established the foundations that made us who we are today, and upon which we now stand to accomplish greatness for humanity.

In 2022, our emphasis remains: **Conscious and Intentional Ministry: Doing Who I Am**, undergirded by Isaiah 6:8, “*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.’*” Our emphasis is on **doing** what God is calling us to do – paying special attention to the Least of These.

My prayer is that each one of us, Knowing who we are... Knowing why we are... Seeing exactly what it is God is calling us to do... Says, *Here am I! Send me.*

- ✓ **Frederick Douglass School** – In 2021, we purchased the former Frederick Douglass School Building – 3409 North 37<sup>th</sup> Street, and established the ***Pilgrim Rest Oasis***. Renovations are underway, and we anticipate the use of the building for ministry in 2022. You will be hearing more as we call upon you **Physical Support, Intellectual Support** and **Financial Support**.
- ✓ **Our Prophetic Witness and our Prophetic Voice** – We will present clearly our Prophetic Witness and pronounce proclaim boldly our Prophetic Voice through our ministry engagements.

We anticipate a blessed and productive 2022 **for** Pilgrim Rest, **with** Pilgrim Rest and **through** Pilgrim Rest

# WORK FOR THE WEEK

## JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

<sup>40</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me

## JANUARY MEDITATION QUOTE

“When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.”

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I a sheep or a goat? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does my life exhibit the evidence that I am in the family of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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## FOR THE YOUTH

What are you doing for the benefit of others who have less than you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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