



“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 ✍ December 26, 2021

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that honors African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st.

Day One: Umoja (Unity)

To Strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. (*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren[and sisters] to dwell together in unity!”* Psalm 133:1)

Day Two: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves, instead of being defined, named and spoken for by others. (*“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands”* 2 Timothy 1:6)

Day Three: Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together. (*“And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary... And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it”* I Corinthians. 12:21-22, 26)

Day Four: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together. (*“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased”* Hebrews 13:16)

Day Five: Nia (Purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. (*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations”* Jeremiah 1:5)

Day Six: Kuumba (Creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. (*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:10)

Day Seven: Imani (Faith)

To believe, first, in God, then with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteous and victory of our struggle. (*“... I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you”* Matthew 17:20)

WORK FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

DECEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

“Our world is not divided by race, color, gender, or religion. Our world is divided into wise people and fools. And fools divide themselves by race, color, gender, or religion.”

Nelson Mandela

