



Pilgrim Rest
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“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 9, 2022

I am well aware that the implementation of ministry in the environment of Covid-19 has been challenging at best and impossible at worse. However, as God revealed to you your calling to the ministry that God has assigned you, and as God will revealed to you the goals that God has for your ministry for 2022, God knew that the Covid-19 would have the effect that it has on our community, city, state, country, world AND our ministries.

Not coming to the church building does not mean we cannot engage in effective ministry and fulfill the ministry goals that God will give to us to fulfill. The building is a meeting place, the works of the ministry is fields. Note the following story:

A young man was sent to live with his grandparents down south on a farm because his mother knew that he needed some discipline and structure. His first morning, his grandfather woke him at 5:00 am and told him to get dressed and come down for breakfast. After eating a hearty breakfast, the young man desired to go back to bed. His grandfather told him that needed to go out to the barn to get some things done. After arriving at the barn, they watered and fed the animals and place fresh straw in their stalls. They collected the eggs from the hens and milked the cows. After a couple of hours, they returned to the house. The young man again desired to go back to his room and take a nap. His grandfather told him that he could not take a nap because there was work to be done. The young man answered, “We just did the work.” His grandfather replied, “No, we did the chores. The work is in the fields.”

Indeed, the tasks that we fulfill at the church building are the chores. The work of the ministry is in the fields: to give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, clothes to the naked, comfort to the sick and liberation to those imprisoned. We will not be asked about anniversaries and annual days. We will not be questioned concerning hat shows and teas. We will not be examined regarding how much money was raised and how many people were in attendance. The question will be, **What Did You Do?**

I know it is easy to pause and reflect upon what we cannot do because of Covid-19. I know it is easy to focus on and emphasize the barriers, obstacles, closings and restrictions. However, in the midst of the barriers, obstacles, closings and restrictions, the question yet remains, **What Can You Do?** I encourage you to prayerfully meditate upon the possibilities and opportunities before you and faithfully lay out plans to respond to the question, **What Will You Do?**

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 37th 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

⁴⁰ 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:

Is my heart hardened and my hand shut, or is my hand opened wide willingly lending to meet the needs of those in need? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your parents to assist you in finding an opportunity to help and support someone who is in need _____
