



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 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN July 17, 2022

AREN’T YOU GLAD THAT GOD DOES NOT TAKE A VACATION?

For many, especially for those of us who live in Wisconsin, summer is a time of warmth, sunshine, cookouts, festivals, shorts and sandals, fishing, the lake, family reunions and all of the things that make us appreciate this time of the year.

We appreciate summer because we are well aware that in a few short months we will experience cold, snow, ice, coats, boots, dead car batteries, high heating bills and all of the things that make us look forward to the next summer that will come.

Summer is also a time for vacations. We travel across the country, outside of the country, to islands, on cruise ships and multiple mini excursions. Some of us go “home” – that is, back to Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Kentucky, D.C., Virginia, Maryland and other states where we were born (sorry if I missed your state).

Since we have quarantined for two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many have been anticipating going somewhere – going anywhere – to get away, vacation and return to some sense of normalcy (whatever that will be).

Whereas, some of us are fortunate enough to vacation all year long – and we are not mad at you, the rest of us vacation primarily in the summer. Whether summer or all year, there is one thing in which we rejoice and celebrate every single day of the year:

God Does Not Take A Vacation

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God’s Spirit is within us...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God loves us...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God cares for us...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God gives us His grace...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God gives us His mercy...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God grants us His favor...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God forgives us...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God gives us air to breathe...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, God is faithful...
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even when we are not, God is faithful

The Psalmist shares in Psalm 46:1, “*God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.*” God is always there - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

My challenge for us on today is simple: Are we faithful to God? Do we take a vacation from God when we are on vacation? Do we take a vacation from attending worship when we are on vacation? Do we take a vacation from our spiritual values when we are on vacation? Do we take a vacation from our Tithes and Offerings when we are on vacation? Do we take a vacation from God, and the things of God when we are on vacation?

Just as we expect God to remain faithful to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – even while we are on vacation, God expects that we will remain faithful to Him 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – even when we are on vacation.

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis *Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today!
Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.



Beginning



Current

Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 iPad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 basketballs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 art sets for aspiring artists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 tennis rackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 computer for graphic design and website creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 sets of golf clubs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Play Scripts with performance/ licensing fee and cast instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

JULY MEMORY VERSE

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves

James 1:22

JULY MEDITATION QUOTE

"When I got religion, I found some work to do to benefit somebody."

Sojourner Truth

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Have I eaten the Word of God? _____

Is the Word of God more to me than bubblegum? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Is the Bible more to me than bubblegum? _____
