



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 November 13, 2022

WHAT IS AT STAKE THIS VOTING CYCLE?

For the past several weeks I have shared that one of the motivators for this voting season, and will continue to be used in future voting seasons, is power. It is about who has the power, who will get the power and who will keep the power. Another crucial motivator that was used this voting season, and will continue to be used in future voting seasons is fear.

We experienced this in the 2022 Wisconsin Senate race. Lieutenant Governor, Mandela Barnes, ran against the incumbent, Ron Johnson. The campaign ads against Barnes portrayed him in dark, devious and fear-filled images. Fear-filled ads were used as a motivator aimed at White, suburban women to terrorize them into believing that they should be afraid of this Black man and he will not be able to protect them.

We clearly see an example of this by looking at the results of Barnes’ Senate race. Statewide, Democrat Governor Evers won and was reelected and Attorney General Kaul won and was reelected. However, Lieutenant Governor Barnes lost. How? Why? If the same people who voted for Evers and Kaul voted for Barnes, he should have been victorious. That is exactly the point. Obviously, some of the people who voted for Evers and Kaul did not vote for Barnes. Even worse, some of the people who voted for Evers and Kaul voted for Johnson. Perhaps one could justify not voting for Barnes if he was an unknown and inexperienced candidate. That is not the case. Barnes was Evers’ Lieutenant Governor – responsible for the same agenda, the same policies, and the same platform for Wisconsin that encouraged voters to reelect Evers. Barnes is in the same administration as Evers and Kaul, working together in and for state government. How could some people vote for Evers and Kaul and not vote for Barnes? It was fear – the fear of having a Black man in that position of power.

When there is a choice between two Black candidates, fear is also at play as they will always support the candidate that they fear the least. They will support the candidate that they believe will be less aggressive, less radical, and less revolutionary. Paulo Freire, author of *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, writes, “The oppressors do not favor promoting the community as a whole, but rather selected leaders.” They will select ‘safe Black leaders’, prop them up, and then use them to perpetuate a false narrative of their support of the Black community. These propped up, ‘safe Black leaders’ do more harm than good because their goal was never to support and develop their community. Their goal was to gain the praise of the oppressors who placed them there and use the positions for personal gain.

Carter G. Woodson, in his book, *The Miseducation of the Negro*, refers to these propped up leaders as ‘misleaders’, “No people can go forward when the majority of those who should know better have chosen to go backward, but this is exactly what most of our misleaders do.”

We clearly see an example of this by examining the 2022 Georgia Senate race. One candidate is Dr. Raphael Warnock: Senior Pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, served as the Assistant Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, has an earned PhD in Systematic Theology and has been involved in Civil Rights Activism. The other candidate is Herschel Walker: Former NFL running back, former Heisman Trophy recipient, admitted struggles with mental health, admitted to domestic violence against his ex-wife, has several allegations of threatening behavior by other women, sexually promiscuous behavior, has not provided holistic support for his children and has paid for abortions in the past. When offered the choice of these two candidates to serve in the US Senate, the Evangelical, Conservative community chose Herschel Walker. The ‘safe Black leader’. The ‘misleader’.

Again, it is time to wake up, rise up, speak up and fight; not only for ourselves, for all of those who will come behind us also. And, as we fight, fight as if our future depended upon it – because in reality, it really does.

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

NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

NOVEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"The cross is a symbol of unity in diversity and a catalyst for pursuing justice in the face of injustice."

Dr. Gardner C. Taylor