



## **“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”**

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

**THE PASTOR’S PEN** January 1, 2023

### **2023: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING**

During the last Leadership Meeting, I asked the leaders to reflect upon two questions in preparation for their fulfillment of their ministry for 2023. As we all are preparing for the fulfillment of our ministry in 2023, I offer the two questions to you:

1. What have I been carrying that I want to/need to set down? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What in my life is ready to emerge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How we answer these questions will assist us in determining what we need to individually and personally do to ensure that we are ready to participate in 2023 as God would desire or remain stuck in the past.

This is not to suggest that the past is bad. Indeed, how God used us in the past is significant. Praise God for all of the meaningful ways that God used us to accomplish ministry that transformed lives. Therefore, we are not negating nor dismissing the past. Rather, we are acknowledging that what we did in the past was needed when we did it in the past. Today is a new day, a new year, a new opportunity. Since today is a new day, a new year, a new opportunity, what is the new thing that God is calling each of us to do?

Therefore, what have I been carrying that I want to/need to set down? What do I not need to carry into 2023? What do I want/need to set down in 2022 to free me up and lighten me up to receive the fresh expectations of 2023? What in my life is ready to emerge now that space and a place is provided for the fresh expectations to grow and flourish?

To further assist in releasing (2022) and receiving (2023), our church emphasis for 2023 is:

#### **“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING”**

Our guiding scripture is **1 Chronicles 12:32**, *“Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”* (NRSV)

The people of Issachar understood their times. Because they understood their times, the text shared, “they knew what Israel ought to do.” If we are going to be effective in ministry in 2023, we must understand our times to know what we ought to do. Understanding that our times in 2023 will reveal that everything is much different than it was years ago.

There is an African Proverb that says, “You never step into the same river twice.” We will never again have what we had. However, when we understand our times, we can have what we are supposed to have for today.

Praise God as we prepare to receive all that God has for us and prepare to transform our community.

# 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.*

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

# WORK FOR THE WEEK

## JANUARY MEMORY VERSE

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**James 1:27**

## JANUARY MEDITATION QUOTE

"We may go on from this day to Mars and to Jupiter and even to the heavens beyond, but as long as racism, poverty and hunger and war prevail on the Earth, we as a civilized nation have failed."

**Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy**

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What hard decisions am I facing right now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the honest desire in my heart regarding that hard decision? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOR THE YOUTH

What does it mean to do the right thing? \_\_\_\_\_

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