



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 December 18, 2022

“TRUNK OR TREAT”

Pedophiles, and those who prey on children understand that children will not just trustingly walk up to them and get in their vehicles. They understand that children must be enticed. To entice a child effectively, one must offer the child something of such great value to the child that the child will override her natural fear of strangers and view that particular stranger as someone they can trust and will, thereby, go to the stranger's vehicle to receive the valued item.

There are several methods that they use to entice, however, there is one item that is valued by children that is a common bait used by pedophiles and those to prey on children to entice children to come to their vehicle. That item is candy.

It is for that reason that we teach our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and younger siblings to never, ever go near a stranger's car – even and especially when that stranger offers them candy. First, we teach our children this lesson because we acknowledge the value of candy to children. Most children enjoy candy, and for those who do not enjoy it, some environments condition them to appreciate it. For example, some families and schools use candy to motivate children to comply with instructions. Some families and schools use candy to encourage positive behavior and discourage negative behavior. Some families and schools use candy to celebrate achievements and accomplishments with children. Children are conditioned to view candy in an acceptable, affirming and celebrative way.

Second, we teach our children this lesson because we acknowledge the powerful bait that candy is to pedophiles and those who prey on children. According to [Child Lures Prevention’s 17 Lures Predators May Use to Exploit Children](#), number five is The Bribery Lure:

5. The Bribery Lure

Children are offered candy, toys, CDs, drugs, money, etc. to persuade them to go willingly with a potential abductor or as a reward for tolerating abuse or keeping it secret.

All of this being said, there is a disturbing activity that is gaining increased popularity in our community. It is called ‘Trunk or Treat’. Trunk or Treat is a Halloween activity where children go to the open trunks of cars and open cargo hatches of vans to receive candy and treats. The Milwaukee Times reported on a Trunk or Treat event in their November 4, 2021 newspaper, “*The event was held on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive between Burleigh and Locust Streets. Children who came in costume could visit every trunk and get treats, while parents could shop the vendors area. There were also pony rides, music, food and fun.*”

From reading the articles and hearing the expectations of those who are sponsoring Trunk or Treat events, I believe that their emphasis is on the community coming together for a safe, fun and informational activity for those who participate. However, they are not considering that having children come to vehicles to receive candy and treats is grooming them to do the exact opposite of what we are teaching them not to do. Children cannot discern between a safe vehicle and an unsafe vehicle. Children cannot differentiate between when it is safe to receive candy from a stranger and when it is not safe to receive candy from a stranger.

Yes, we can bring the community together for safe, fun and informational activities. However, please, let the children receive their candy from a table and not from the trunk of a vehicle.

Trunk or treat is a demonic idea, and this idea had to be conceived in the mind of a pedophile or sexual predator.

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.



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

DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

⁶When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also

Acts 17:6

DECEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I'm changing the things I cannot accept."

Dr. Angela Davis

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

With whom do I need to reunite? _____

As you are considering with whom you need to reunite, consider the value and blessing of unity

FOR THE YOUTH

Think about a school project you would not have been able to complete without the assistance of someone else _____
