



Pilgrim Rest
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for
Transformation and Liberation

“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 February 5, 2023

WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS THERMOSTAT OR THERMOMETER

There was a time when the church was very powerful--in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society...So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an archdefender of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent--and often even vocal--sanction of things as they are. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Two thousand years later, many who consider themselves to be leaders are simply *thermometers*. They only record and recount the issues and concerns of the community. They only restate the obvious and remind us of what we are already aware of. They are satisfied permitting people to remain who they are and conditions to remain as they are.

- “Young ladies with children are out here struggling.”
- “Our youth are going down the wrong path.”
- “Our neighborhoods are dirty, houses are deteriorating and no one cares.”
- “Our schools are in need of an overhaul.”
- “Yes, he should not have permitted that to happen in his gas station...” (from the pastor who acknowledged the obscene act in the gas station on 35th and Townsend and refused to open his mouth to condemn the one who permitted it.)

Dr. King encouraged us to be *thermostats*. He encouraged us to be those who transform the mores of society. He also reminded us, “... the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed.” They understood that being a thermostat meant suffering. They understand that being one who seeks to transform meant sacrifice. They understood that those who desire to make their families, their churches, their communities, their schools, their places of employment, their environments better must be willing to give something of themselves to accomplish it.

Our responsibility is not to make people comfortable where they are. Our responsibility is to press, encourage and support people in doing their most, their greatest, their best – to fulfill their calling for God. And, if we must sacrifice being liked, being supported, large crowds, generous offerings, many volunteers to do God’s will, so be it.

Dr. King shared at the National Labor Leadership Assembly for Peace in 1967:

*One spoke to me one day and said, “Now Dr. King, don't you think you're going to have to agree more with the Administration's policy? I understand that your position on Vietnam has hurt the budget of your organization. And many people who respected you in civil rights have lost that respect and don't you think that you're going to have to agree more with the Administration's policy to regain this?” And I had to answer by looking that person into the eye, and say “I'm sorry sir but you don't know me. I'm not a consensus leader.” I do not determine what is right and wrong by looking at the budget of my organization or by taking a Gallup poll of the majority opinion. **Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.***

Are looking for a Thermostat while remaining settled and satisfied being a
Thermometer, or are you praying to become the Thermostat God has called you to be?

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

FEBRUARY MEMORY VERSE

¹²O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes *are* upon You.”

2 Chronicles 20:12

FEBRUARY MEDITATION QUOTE

"Nat Turner's faith in God did not stop his insurrection, nor thousands of slave insurrections all over the south. Every time a black man led an insurrection, he knew that he was doing the will of God. When you fight, you must believe that you are doing the will of God. Just being mad is not enough... We must believe that our struggle is a revolutionary struggle designed to change the world and to establish us in our rightful position.."

Dr. Albert B. Cleage, Jr.

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Am I a Thermostat or Thermometer? _____

Am I talking about it or am I doing it? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

Am I talking about the problems or am I doing something about the problems? _____
