



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 March 26, 2023

## BLACK HISTORY / BLACK CHURCH THOUGHTS

### WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLACK CHURCH (SLAVE CHURCH) DURING SLAVERY?

- A. **Gayraud S. Wilmore**, The African attitude literally created the image of the pre-existent God in the freedom of the religious imagination and opened the life of man to the influence of divinity which flowed to him from his ancestors and from the natural world. The liberation of the whole man – mind, body, and soul – from every internal and external restraint that was not deliberately and purposefully chosen was the first requirement for one who had been possessed by the Spirit.
- B. **Gayraud S. Wilmore**, Enough mischief seeped out of the meeting houses and field worship services for them to have tightened security around them by the middle of the eighteenth century. **[they could not catch them, and when they did, they could not stop them]**
- C. **Dwight Hopkins**, Furthermore, in radical distinctions to white Christianity, religious encounters in ex-slave narratives, autobiographies, and spirituals suggests an alternate theological interpretation with at least two aspects. First, African-American slaves pictured a political dimension in their theology. They saw a direct political power struggle between serving their God and serving the white slave master’s god...Second, slave’s religious thought accented an original cultural expression. Not only did they wage a political battle for the supremacy of their liberator God, they also chose to worship this God in their own language and idiom, and in the extraordinary clandestineness of their own black religious community.
- D. **Kelly Brown Douglas**, Disgusted by slaveholding Christianity and its White Christ, some slaves held clandestine services – away from the watchful eyes of their masters and mistresses – where they had ‘real church’ and heard what they considered *Christian* preaching... These hidden services nurtured slave Christianity. The Black Christ was the center of this religion. The Black Christ characteristically (1) reflected an intimate relationship between Jesus and the slaves, (2) radicalized the slave to fight for their freedom, and (3) illuminated the contradiction between Christianity and the cruelty of slavery.
- E. **Albert J. Raboteau**, A continual complaint of masters was that Christianity would ruin their slaves by making them “saucy,” since they would begin to think of themselves equal to white folks...Slaveholders feared that Christianity would make their slaves not only proud but ungovernable, and even rebellious...
- F. **Dwight Hopkins**, Enslaved Africans realized that God created them originally with a free soul, heart and mind. Yet white American Christians had re-created them in the demonic image of distorted Christianity. Hence for the slave, the purpose of humanity was to show fully the spark of God’s created equality implanted deep within black breasts. To return to original creation, then, African American slaves pursued a resistance of politics and a culture of resistance.

## G. Outcome...

1. **1787** – Richard Allen and several congregants were in a prayer meeting in St. Georges Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. It was interrupted by white church trustees who told them that they could not kneel there and pray. After praying, they left and established the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church
2. **1831** – Nat Turner, a Baptist preacher and a slave, feeling commissioned by God through a vision, to lead his people out of the bondage of slavery and oppression, preached rebellion and led a group of enslaved men to kill 60 whites in 24 hours
3. **1839** – Daniel Alexander Payne, “I am opposed to slavery, not because it enslaves the black man, but because it enslaves man... for whatever and whenever I may see a being in the form of a man, enslaved by his fellowman, without respect to his complexion, I shall lift my voice to plead his cause, against all claims of his proud oppressor; and I shall do it not merely from the sympathy which man feels towards suffering man, but because God, the living God, whom I dare not disobey, had commended me to open my mouth for the dumb, and to plead the cause of the oppressed.”
4. **1848** – Reverend Highland Garnett (to those enslaved), “If... a band of Christians should attempt to enslave a race of heathen men, and to entail slavery upon them and to keep them in heathenism in the midst of Christianity, the God of heaven would smile upon every effort which the injured might make to disenthral themselves... Liberty is a spirit sent from God and, like its great Author, is no respecter of persons. Brethren, the time has come when you must act for yourselves. It is an old and true saying that, if hereditary bondmen would be free, they must themselves strike the blow.”
5. **James Cone**, “Hope, then, as seen in the minds of the slave preachers, is not patience but impatience, not calmness but protest.”

# 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.

	<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

### MARCH MEMORY VERSE

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things are just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

**Philippians 4:8**

### MARCH MEDITATION QUOTE

"I must confront my own complicity with a European way of thinking"

**Dr. Miguel De La Torres**