

## **WHY EDUCATION AND THE ACCURATE TEACHING OF OUR HISTORY MATTERS**

For the Benchmark Clarifications (*Clarification 1: Instruction includes how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit.*) on page 6 to teach that our enslaved ancestors developed skills while enslaved that could be applied for their personal benefit, implies that our enslaved ancestors had no skills, no talents and no abilities other than what they were able to gain while enslaved. This view supports the belief that our ancestors who lived on the continent of Africa were uncivilized, ignorant brutes who needed their White enslavers to rescue them from their miserable existence.

In her book, *The Black Christ*, Kelly Brown Douglass shared the following quotes that expressed the view of the so-called benefits of slavery as far back as the 1800’s.

As one pro-slaver argued: “The condition of the slave is far better than that of the Africans from among whom they have been brought. Instead of debased savages, they are, to a considerable extent, civilized, enlightened and Christianized.”

An antebellum philosopher put it: “So it will be found that [God] permitted the introduction of the pagan African into this country, that he might be... redeemed by the genius of the gospel and return to bless his kindred and his country. Thus all of Africa shall, sooner or later, share the blessings of civilization and religion.”

Additionally, the perpetuation of the view of the so-called benefits of slavery was undergirded by diminishing the image of the continent of Africa and distorting the contribution that Africans made to advance civilization throughout the world. Therefore, many myths were started, sustained and are yet submitted today as facts. Following are examples of such myths accompanied with the truth to dispel the myths:

1. **Africa is the Dark Continent** – Africa was not, is not and will never be dark. The continent of Africa is the light of life and the light of civilization. This perspective was purposefully perpetrated to justify the unjust stealing of the people and the unjust stealing of the natural resources.
2. **Africa is a jungle** – Africa does not have a jungle. Africa’s physical geographic regions include deserts, savanna (grassland) and rainforest.
3. **Lions live in the jungle** – If there are no jungles in Africa, then where do the lions live? Lions live in the savanna or grassland.
4. **The people of Africa are savages** – Most African societies were fully within the iron age when Europeans first made contact with them. The savage myth was also in place to justify the slave trade. The need to justify the trade as compatible with Christian morality was another source of the savage myth. After all, the myth promoted, “Taking people away from such savagery was a step up, even if that step took them into a life of slavery for themselves and for their descendants.”

The continent of Africa is not a dark continent, does not have a jungle, and those who originally inhabited the continent were not uncivilized savages. Rather, the continent of Africa is the dawn of creation, the cradle of civilization, the motherland, the place where it all began and the place from where everyone else received.

Understand also, that this perspective of the so-called benefits of slavery are also believed as fact among people of color. Several years ago, a Black, Baptist pastor hosting a local radio program responded to a caller who argued that July 4<sup>th</sup> has no significance in his life by shouting, “You should be glad they brought you here as a slave. If not, you would be running around in Africa hungry, naked and begging for a bowl of rice.”



# **PILGRIM REST**

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation**

# *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

## AUGUST MEMORY VERSE

<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, "to deliver you."

**Jeremiah 1:19**

## AUGUST MEDITATION QUOTE

"If you see a good fight, get in it"

**Reverend Vernon Johns**

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

When was the last time you had a good fight for your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you cannot let it go of it, perhaps you should get in it \_\_\_\_\_

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## FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your parents to assist you in understanding the difference between fighting and fighting for a good reason \_\_\_\_\_

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