



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 **September 10, 2023**

WHY EDUCATION AND THE ACCURATE TEACHING OF OUR HISTORY MATTERS

To believe that it is appropriate for someone to rewrite, revise and/or reframe another person’s history to fit into that person’s viewpoint is the height of arrogance and perceived superiority.

History is defined by the Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary as, “a chronological record of significant events (such as those affecting a nation or institution) often including an explanation of their causes.” Additionally, The Cambridge Dictionary defines history, “(the study of or a record of) past events considered together, especially events of a particular period, country, or subject:” Note that nowhere in the definitions does it state, suggest or imply anything regarding how the study of history should make one should feel. The study of history is not about how someone should feel about the events that took place in the past. It is about the review and study of the events that occurred in the past with a consideration of what was beneficial and, therefore, should be reinforced and what was detrimental and, therefore, should be resolved never to happen again.

The study of Black History in Florida and several other states has been more about sanitizing the horrific, inhumane and immoral events of the past to ensure that young, White boys and girls do not learn how horrible, inhumane and immoral their ancestors were. If that were the goal of studying history, they would be perfectly positioned to accomplish the goal of protecting young, White boys and girls. However, again, that is not the goal of studying history.

Even more, if the goal of history is to protect young, White girls and boys, what about young, Black and Brown girls and boys? What about their feelings? Who is protecting them? What about their needs. How do they receive an accurate view of their ancestors and the realities of what they overcame amid the horrific, inhumane and immoral things that were done to them?

How will they discover that they have steel in their spines to stand strong against the forces that come against them if the books that share those stories are banned from their libraries?

How will they discern that that something that they feel on the inside that keeps pushing them forward through their challenges is a fire that was placed in their bellies by their ancestors who struggled through life-defeating and life-depleting challenges more than any other people in the history of humanity if those stories are in books that are illegal to open to them?

How will they develop the ability to listen to the “voice of the genuine in themselves”¹ if they are denied the right to know who they genuinely are because they are denied access to the trials and triumphs of their ancestors, not only on the continent of North America, also and more importantly, on the continent of Africa?

Dr. Marvin McMickle writes,

Today, there is a new form of white privilege emerging that involves banning any books, canceling any courses and classes, and curbing any public dialogue to shield themselves and their children from any opinion or historical fact that might “disturb or hurt their feelings.”

God forbid that any white people in this generation of Americans should be forced to face how this nation stole land from Native Americans, and then stole and enslaved people from Africa to work that stolen land. The argument is that being exposed to those lessons might hurt the feelings of some white people or leave them feeling guilty about the actions of their ancestors.

If we do not stand up to protect our children and grandchildren, who will?

¹ There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide that you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days in the ends of strings that somebody else pulls. **Dr. Howard Thurman**



PILGRIM REST

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	☐ 15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)	☐ 1 iPad	☐ 10 basketballs	☐ 10 art sets for aspiring artists	☐ External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	☐ 100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks	☐ 100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students	☐ 10 tennis rackets	☐ 4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins	☐ Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	☐ 9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs	☐ 1 computer for graphic design and website creation	☐ 12 sets of golf clubs for children	☐ 10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions	☐ Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	☐ 1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning	☐ 1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities	☐ 3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars	☐ 100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers	☐ Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	☐ 1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU	☐ 100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects	☐ Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place	☐ 200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company	☐ LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 20:4 (NIV)

SEPTEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

" It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin."

Benjamin E Mays

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What am I currently struggling through and wrestling with?

Am I willing to endure believing that I will win? _____

FOR THE YOUTH

As school is starting, do I anticipate any specific struggles that I will have?

Do I believe that God has already given me what I need to get through it?