

CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE PASTOR'S PEN

September 1, 2024

STILL I RISE By Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history With your bitter, twisted lies, You may trod me in the very dirt But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you beset with gloom? 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns, With the certainty of tides, Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken? Bowed head and lowered eyes? Shoulders falling down like teardrops, Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you? Don't you take it awful hard 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you? Does it come as a surprise That I dance like I've got diamonds At the meeting of my thighs?

> Out of the huts of history's shame I rise Up from a past that's rooted in pain I rise I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide, Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear l rise Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear l rise Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. l rise l rise l rise.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

²⁴... But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:24, 25

SEPTEMBER MEDITATION QUOTES

"Hope is not blind optimism. It's not ignoring the enormity of the task ahead or the roadblocks that stand in our path. It's not sitting on the sidelines or shirking from a fight. Hope is that thing inside us that insists, despite all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it, and to work for it, and to fight for it."

President Barack Obama

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

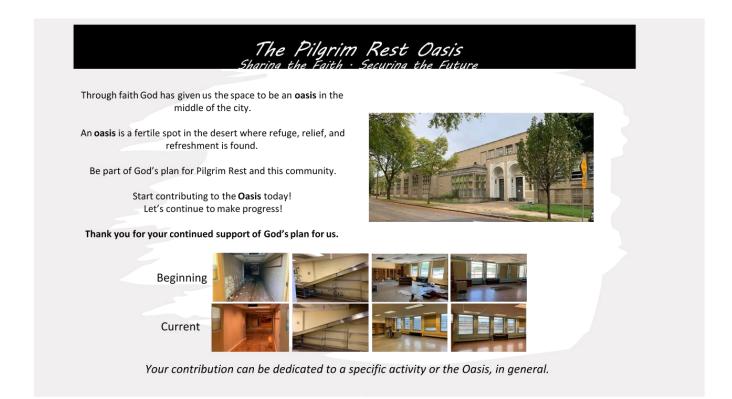
It is not what you have on you, it is what you have in you _____

I will rise up, with hope, and be who God created me to be. My future generations are counting on me.

FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to share with you some of their

stories of how they overcame their struggles _____



	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