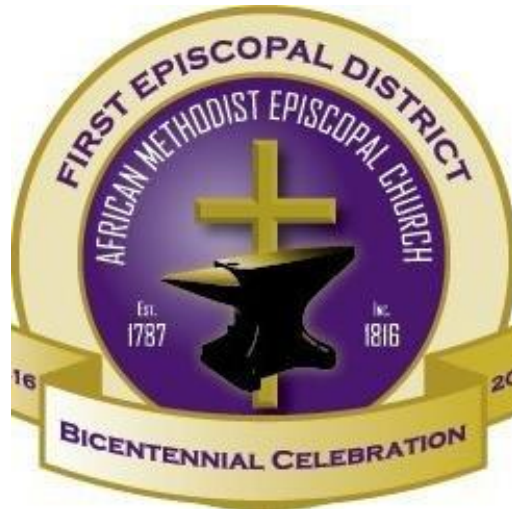


## **“ALL THINGS NEW”**

*“See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19.*



## **FAITHFUL SONS AND DAUGHTERS**



- Teaching the relevancy of God and the Bible in every aspect of life.
- *“... We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:28, 37-39. V.3*

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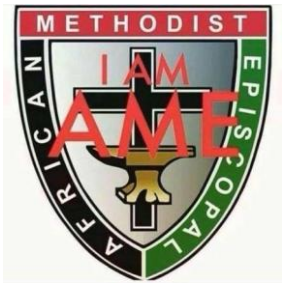
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### **Some other prior/ addressed major concerns:**

- Spiritual Doctrines; Spiritual Disciplines;
- Renewed Mind;
- Technology Addictions (phones and social media);
- Understanding Relationships; Our Family Matters;
- Spirit of Prayer;
- The Armor of God (Spiritual Warfare);
- Twisting the Truth;
- Addictions;
- Music, Media and Music; and
- Abuse and Violence.

<u>Traits/ Aspects</u>	<u>Student Traits</u> <u>Early Teen Age</u> <u>Ages 12,13 and 14</u> <u>Grades 7,8, and 9</u>	<u>Senior High School</u> <u>Ages 15,16, and 17</u> <u>Grades 10,11, and 12</u>	
<u>Spiritual</u>	Spiritual questioning. God becomes very personal or alien. What is the meaning of life, of me, of God?	Sensitive to injustice. How can life be better? What can I do to make it better? What is God's role?	
<u>Social</u>	Restlessness, awkward, silliness, and brashness. Friendships are the primary social circle.	Begins to see weakness -es and contradictions in parents and adults. Parties and outings.	
<u>Physical</u>	Voice changes, rapid body growth. Pubic hair, breast and hip in girls. Concern about personal grooming.	On the go and out late. The world is the neighborhood and friends. Eats a lot of food. Loud music.	<b>BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN</b> , addressed the many different needs of God's people founded in Matthew 25:31-46. He founded our A.M.E. Denomination on these Scriptures.
<u>Intellectual</u>	Project related assignments. Basic research, document-action and creative ideas. Heard, not told.	Idealistic. Appeal to issues in society, drugs, poverty, housing, racism, and politics. Creativity.	His holistic approach in the AMEC Mission Statement, requires believers to respond to the various needs embedded in human traits. To save and serve the needy by: (1) evangelizing the spirit; (2) feeding the hungry; (3) clothing the naked; (4) housing the homeless; (5) cheering the fallen; (6) providing jobs; (7) caring for the sick and those in prisons; and (8) encouraging economic advancement.
<u>Emotional</u>	Fantasies – sexual and relational role models: both positive and negative. Rebels.	Rapid development in sexual interests, fantasies, petting and masturbation.	
<u>Psychological</u>	Beginning of drug and alcohol culture. Who is the most appealing or biggest?	Critical concerns for self, future, career, education, money, success & adulthood.	
<u>Problem-Solving &amp; Discipline</u>	“Don’t tell me, I know.” Verbal sparring. Avoid word for word. Make clear suggestions.	Appeal to maturity. Help them to look critically at their behavior and feelings, then make decisions.	<b>We focus on the spiritual aspect first.</b>
<u>Activities</u>	Organized sports, movies, sexual and health information. Music, complex dancing, and drama.	Community outreach projects. Projects with younger children. Organized sports. Action groups	

## **Elements of a Lesson Plan**

### **1. Aim / Goals / Objective**

- A. Scripture
- B. Lesson Aims

### **2. Introduction: MUST BE ATTENTION-GETTING**

- A. Standard Lesson Commentary (SLC): **Lesson Aims**
- B. SLC and Urban Ministries Inc. (UMI): **Key Verse**

### **3. Lesson Development (learn to be flexible in using the reference materials, you may have to condense your lesson plan or creatively adjust to the needs of the students.)**

#### **A. Main points**

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-

#### **B. Illustrations:**

- 1- UMI
- 2- SLC
- 3- Personal Observations

### **4. Lesson Application**

#### **A. Relevancy to lives of students**

- 1- UMI: Discuss the Meanings and Lesson in Our Society
- 2- SLC: What Do You Think? Talking Points.

#### **B. SLC: Into the Lesson; Into the Word; and Into Life.**

#### **C. UMI: Make It Happen.**

#### **D. SLC: Conclusion**

### **5. Review: Develop open forum approach. Encourage participation! Student should be speaking 50-60% of the time.**

#### **A. Questions:**

- 1- UMI: Search the Scriptures. Discuss the meaning.
- 2- SLC: What Do You Think?

#### **B. Prayers: Ask one female and one male student to pray using the lesson.**

## **FSAD Creative Methods for Teaching**

**(with invaluable cooperation, inputs and experiences from all Teachers)**

Encourage young people to **have their own Bible** and to bring it to Church. Digital Bible on phones are encouraged.

- 1- Develop open forum approach for teaching the lesson.** Ask open-ended questions (like Socrates). Which helps them to be engaged and to think. Students should be speaking 50-60% of the time. Always find time to answers their questions (during or after the lesson/ session).
- 2- Using their positive language and expressions** to develop role play, skits, spoken word, dancing, stepping, and singing.
- 3- Use Media: CDs, DVDs and Photos to illustrate concerns.** This younger generation is very visual and technology oriented. **Integrate media with a written handout, that emphasizes Scriptures, to focus the discussions on why this concern is relevant to our lives.** Try to have a new Gospel song to share and discuss monthly.
- 4- Have students write prose, poetry, draw, and create rap songs.** Display their writings and share with the Church Family.
- 5- Use visual art, posters, and charts to display concerns.** For example: Spiritual Doctrines; Spiritual Disciplines; and Social Action topics (i.e. Managing encounters with the Police and Black Lives Matter).
- 6- Class projects:** banners, poster, tee shirts (i.e. FSAD tee shirts), and appreciation certificates. For Holidays have social gathering to celebrate (food/ beverage optional).
- 7- Display photos of the young people and share with Church Family.** In physical display case, or on FaceBook: **Greater Allen AME Cathedral – Sunday School.**
- 8- Have each High School Graduate create a Vision Board** with their plans. Including their spirituality, desired vocation, college and future aspirations. Give each a FSAD Tee Shirts!
- 9- Attend Worship Service** as a class on special occasions.
- 10- Have guest speakers from Church Family, Ministerial Staff, and Community.**
- 11- Visits to: local community activities and outreach** (e.g. Senior Citizen Center; Nursing Homes; and YMCA/ YWCA). Plan a future visit to Washington D.C. & the NMAAHC.





**2013: First FSAD High School Graduates and Teachers to Rock their FSAD Tee Shirts**



**2014 Monthly FSAD Session**

Faithful Sons and Daughters 2017-2018 Annual Survey							
<b>SUMMARY</b>			The Survey identifies "Good Soil" (Matt. 13:8) and "Fallow Ground" (Jer.4:3 harden spirits or hearts). We use the students' inputs (answers), with the process of focus teaching, to plant spiritual seeds in good soil and to break up the fallow areas in their lives. To achieve the <u>desired output</u> of preparing students for life and beyond. <b>"All things new!"</b>				
<b>Top 5 Faith Issues by Age</b>							
		<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</b>					
	<b>Issue of Concern</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 years</b>	<b>13 years</b>	<b>14 years</b>	<b>15 years</b>	<b>16+ years</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Male</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>1</b>	How strongly do you believe in God?	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.3</b>	7.7	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>2</b>	How important is the Bible to the way you make decisions about your life, relationships, and your future?	7.2	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	8.6
<b>3</b>	How prepared are the ministries in this church to meet the needs of your generation?	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.6	8.0	8.1
<b>4</b>	How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) your faith?	8.0	7.1	<b>8.5</b>	8.5	<b>8.7</b>	7.8
<b>5</b>	How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) your family?	8.2	7.6	<b>8.7</b>	8.5	8.3	8.5
<b>6</b>	How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) our African and Hispanic Communities?	<b>8.8</b>	7.5	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	8.4	<b>9.6</b>
<b>7</b>	How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) our Nation?	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>8</b>	How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) our World?	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>9</b>	How important is it that biblical lessons, being taught or preached, have to impact you personally?	7.6	6.7	6.7	8.0	<b>8.6</b>	8.5
<b>10</b>	How important is it that biblical lessons, being taught or preached, are joyful?	8.1	<b>7.9</b>	7.5	8.4	8.0	8.8
<b>11</b>	How important is it that biblical lessons, being taught or preached, are hopeful?	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>	8.0	<b>8.7</b>	8.1	<b>9.3</b>
<b>12</b>	How difficult is it when a biblical lesson, being taught or preached, is a painful lesson that convicts you?	6.0	5.1	5.7	6.0	6.6	7.5
<b>13</b>	How important is it that biblical lessons, being taught or preached, gives you insight to the wonders of the Universe?	8.1	<b>7.9</b>	7.2	8.0	8.3	9.1
	<b>Weighted Average 13 Faith-based questions (#1- #13)</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>
	Tell me who God is using 3 words? Not a sentence.  We are listening for their perspectives on who God is ... their essential vocabulary for God. Teachers should use them more.	<b>Powerful 17X Love 9X Father 7X Healer 6X Almighty 5X</b>	Powerful 8X Love 4X Holy Spirit 2X Merciful 2X	Powerful 3X Almighty 2X Father 2X	Love 3X Amazing 2x Father 2X Healer 2X	Powerful 2x Faithful 2X	Powerful 3X

## FSAD Agenda 2017 - 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event ... <b>Work in Progress</b></u>
August 20, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faithful Sons and Daughters: "All Things New"</li> <li>- Isaiah 43:18-19; 51:12-13; and 54:13-14.</li> <li>- <b>Part 1: Keeping Faith In God vs. Discrimination and White Supremacy &amp; Terrorism</b></li> </ul>
September 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New" John 6:8</li> <li>- <b>Part 2: Next Generation "Gen Z" (1996 to now).</b> Demographics; Spirituality (Post Christianity) &amp; Future Challenges. Not the first generation to walk through a time of uncertainty.</li> </ul>
October 15, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New" Isaiah 3:14-15; 30:18-20; 61:8; Eze 22:29;</li> <li>- <b>Part 3: Social, Economic, and Political Justice</b></li> <li>- "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" Theodore Parker 1853; MLK Jr. 1964 and Barak Obama 2009;</li> <li>- <b>"The Ministers March For Justice."</b> August 28, 2017</li> </ul> <p><b>Writing Assignment: What do you want God to make new?</b></p>
October 28, 2017, Saturday 8AM - 4PM	<b>First Episcopal Church School "24th Annual Seminar &amp; Luncheon,"</b> <b>Theme: "All Things New" Philadelphia, Pa.</b>
November 20, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New" Romans 12: 1-2</li> <li>- <b>Part 4: Education; Jobs and Economic Justice.</b></li> <li>- <b>Evangelism and Social Action</b> - John Scott; Christian Civil Disobedience; Social Righteousness;</li> </ul>
December 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New"</li> <li>- <b>Part 5: Criminal Justice and Police Abuse Reform.</b></li> </ul>
January 21, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New"</li> <li>- <b>Part 6: Affordable Healthcare;</b> Other Countries; and Single Pay Mode</li> </ul>
March 18, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New"</li> <li>- <b>Part 7: Action Plan For Achieving My Potential.</b></li> <li>- Myles Monroe <b>"Maximizing Your Potential"</b></li> </ul>
April 15, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "All Things New" Isaiah 65:17-20; Rev. 21:1-7</li> <li>- <b>Part 8: New Heaven and New Earth.</b></li> </ul>



**Song: Way Maker by Jason Nelson**

Please think about how are we as African and Hispanic Americans, to live in a twenty-first century world, with various types of historical racism, discriminations, prejudices, oppressions, and deaths of innocent people? In the wake of the rising domestic terrorism of white hate groups, such as the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, we look to God and the Word of God.

**Q1: The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865: 11 Southern States, the Confederacy, decided to violently separate from the United States, to keep slavery. What are your thoughts regarding the display of Confederate statues and perpetuating Confederate culture?**

**Q2: How does domestic (American) and international (world-wide) terrorism impact your life?**

**Q3: What can the future generations (you) do to change the racial relations and terrorism?**

**Q4: How do we show others, Christ-like love, peace, and unity?**

**“I am doing a New thing!:-”**

In the Book of Isaiah, God’s judgment, for the Hebrew exiles in ancient Babylon, had already taken place. The Word of God further says, the Hebrews would experience a new type of Exodus from oppression and slavery. Also, their restoration was at hand. Their path to return to the Promised Land would go through difficult terrain, however God would pave the way. ***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV).***

**Relevancy:**

(1) The Hebrews’ restoration did, and (2) our restoration today is, taking place because of God’s faithfulness to His covenants with His people. **We the believers, both in ancient Babylon and now in a racially divide America, are exhorted by the Word of God to keep faith in God. Keep faith in the biblical covenants: the old relational covenants with Israel and the new covenant of Grace through Jesus Christ available to all believers. Believers have faith, that God will make all things new.**

**“You live in constant terror every day:”**

***“I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor? (Isaiah 51:12-13 NIV).***

**Relevancy:**

God’s people feared Babylon, but not God. They should have realized that God’s power is much greater than Babylon’s. Babylon, the oppressor, was interested in making the people captives. God was interested in setting them free. The people had misplaced their fear and their love. Historically and today, in America, some of our oppressor are White supremacists, White nationals, Alt-right, Neo Nazis, the KKKs, and abusive police officers. **We have to spiritually and politically align against these groups. Continue to educate our next generations to resist: the Millennials ’77-’95 and Gen Z ’96+.**

Remember, historically some white Europeans had enslaved and exploited people of color. Some committed genocide against the Red Race of American Indians for their land. Some enslaved some of the Black Race to build American wealth. The Confederacy lost a treasonous Civil War, where millions died, to retain slavery of Blacks. Today our oppressors are led by a Republican President, who is against Mexicans, Islamic immigrants, who is a racist, a sexist, a deceiver (liar), a thief, and who is pro-police brutality against non-whites. Today’s oppressors are still seeking political, economic and social supremacy. These are in broad perspectives the wrath of our American oppressors. **Historically, God freed the Hebrews, freed the Black Race in America, and freed others in America. God can do it again!**

**The Great Griot's Video: America's Wealth (10:48), You tube.**

**Rev. Dr. William Barber, North Carolina NAACP and Moral Mondays spiritual leader/ prophet.**

**"You shall be far from oppression ... and from terror:"**

**"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great will be the peace of your children. In righteousness, you shall be established. You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you." (Isaiah 54:13-14 NKJV).**

#### **Relevancy:**

These verses of Scripture speak to the future Zion (Kingdom of God and Heaven). The Kingdom of God is within believers. When we as a people turn from our wickedness and learn God's righteousness, God will heal the land and establish a covenant of peace. Political oppression, economic oppression, and social terror will be removed. **Oppression and terror will not come near believers.**

#### **"GALLUP POLL MARCH 15, 2017 Americans' Worries About Race Relations at Record High**

- 42% in U.S. worry a "great deal" about race relations. A record high in Gallup's 17-year trend.
- Total worries about this issue is up from 17% in 2014; and up from 35% in April 2016.
- 59% of Democrats; 39% of Independents; and 29% of Republicans say they worry a "great deal"
- **Democrats** (people who believe in political or social equality of all people and big government ... regulation of business; health care; housing; education; and environment;); are more worried than
- **Independents** (people who vote for candidates in accordance to their own judgment without regard to any political party); and
- **Republicans** (people who believe in wealth accumulation; political, economic or social inequalities and smaller government ... less regulations; less government expenses; and lower taxes for the rich).
- This surge in worry about race relations likely stems from the racial tensions and public discourse sparked by high-profile incidents of police shooting unarmed black men and of black men shooting police in retaliation.
- The political success of President Donald Trump -- whose comments on racial matters, including his recent feud with Rep. John Lewis, have sparked outrage among some black leaders -- could also be a factor in Americans' heightened concern about race relations. *[In August 2017, Trump's support of the terroristic actions of white hate groups, has shown his lack of morals and his demonic nature.]*
- Race relations, one of the top concerns in the 1950s and 1960s, has returned as a major issue this decade. The Black Lives Matter movement sprang up in 2013 to combat allegedly racist police shootings and attracted national attention in 2014 after police shot an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri. Movements such as Black Lives Matter have highlighted the precarious nature of black-white relations in the U.S." **[Christians are commanded to resist evil, to pray without ceasing, to keep the faith!]**

#### **Prayer:**

God of Grace and Justice, guide everyone to be more Christ-like in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Help us all to show love, peace, faith, and unity to each other every day. We believe that You God are able, to remove all evil discriminators, oppressors and terrorists. Holy Spirit comfort us every day, in the midst of the constant oppression and terror. Help us to unite in praying, resisting, and voting, to remove the power of the demonic oppressors bend on destruction. Grant us Your sons and daughters, the grace of righteousness to learn how to remove our fears and to establish Your eternal peace. Help us to change racial relations world-wide, to achieve moral-Christian equality and justice. Make all of us new, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, that You put to work in us. By Your grace, we pray all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen! Rev. Ken Richardson

**Song: “All Things New” by Anthony Evans**

**FSAD Annual Survey 2017**

Please think about how are we as African and Hispanic Americans, to live in a twenty-first century world; with the next generation, **Generation Z (born between 1996 and 2014)**, some being: digital over connected; experiencing financial hardships due to growing up in the 2007 – 2011 Depression; being the most diverse generation in a climate of white supremacy; some being confused by fluid sexuality of same sex marriages/ transgenderism; and being the first Post Christian generation?

“The word “post” means “past” or “after.” So, Post Christian means after the dominance of Christian ideas and influence ... To my thinking and observation ... our culture and society is no longer based on foundation of Christian ideologies. Instead our morals are ever changing, and we are becoming a society who strings together individualized belief systems.”<sup>1</sup>

**Q1: How strongly do you believe in God?**

**Q2: How important is the Bible to the way you make decisions about your life, relationships, and your future?**

**Q3: How much do you want God to do a new thing (transform or change) your faith? Family? African and Hispanic Communities? Our nation? Our World?**

**“Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand:”**

*“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him “Eight months’ wage would not buy enough bread for each one.*

*Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, **“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. (John 6:5-11 NIV).***

**Relevancy:**

Jesus was testing Philip to strengthen his faith. By asking for a human solution (knowing that there was none). Jesus highlighted the powerful and miraculous act that he was about to perform. Philip started estimating the probable cost. Jesus wanted to teach him (and us) that financial resources are not the most important ones.

We can limit what God does in us by assuming what is and is not possible. In the future, if there is some impossible task that you believe God wants you to do? Don’t let your estimate of what can’t be done keep you from taking on the task. God can do the miraculous; trust him to provide the resources. **Believers (e.g. Richard Allen, Abolitionists, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Barak Obama, and all other freedom fighters in the past and today) have faith that God can do the miraculous.**

The Disciples didn’t give anything. The boy gave what little he had, and it made all the difference. If we offer nothing to God, he will have nothing of human faith to use. However, he can take what little we have and turn it into something great. Jesus did a new thing ... he took what a young child offered

<sup>1</sup> “Here Comes Generation Z,” Vibrant Faith, Leneita Fix, August 2017 Article

in faith and used it to accomplish one of the great miracles recorded in the Gospels. **Age is no barrier to Christ Jesus. Never think that you are too young or too old to be of service to God.**

God takes whatever we can offer him in faith, time, ability, or resources and multiples it effectiveness beyond our expectations. **If you take the first step in making yourself available to God, he will show you how greatly you can be used to make all things new in his kingdom.**

### **Generation Z:**

“New ideas are awakening and maturing within Generation Z. They are the next culture in line for us to know and engage ... According to research done by Joan Hope, 41% of generation Z has attended church in their young adulthood ... **Our generation isn't the first generation to walk through a time of uncertainties. In understanding the generation to come, be confident as God assured the Israelites in Isaiah 43:19, that he is doing a new thing. He will provide a way, even in the wilderness.** May we ... finding comfort and encouragement knowing that God has gone before us.”<sup>2</sup>

#### **PEW RESEARCH: RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE STUDY 2014: Younger Millennials - Generation Z**

	<b>Fallow Areas</b>				
	<b>Absolutely Certain</b>	<b>Fairly Certain</b>	<b>Not too/not at all Certain</b>	<b>Do not Believe</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
<b>Belief in God</b>	50%	21%	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>3%</b>
	<b>At least once a week</b>	<b>Monthly / a few times a year</b>	<b>Seldom/ never</b>		
<b>Attendance at religious Services</b>	28%	38%	<b>34%</b>		
	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Seldom/never</b>	
<b>Frequency of Prayer</b>	39%	18%	7%	<b>36%</b>	
	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Seldom/never</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Frequency of reading Scriptures</b>	25%	13%	8%	<b>53%</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annually</b>	<b>Seldom/never</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Frequency of feeling wonder about the Universe</b>	<b>49%</b>	20%	11%	19%	1%
	<b>Believe</b>	<b>Don't believe</b>	<b>Don't know</b>		
<b>Belief in Heaven</b>	68%	<b>26%</b>	<b>6%</b>		
<b>Belief in Hell</b>	56%	<b>38%</b>	<b>6%</b>		

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, you are the bread of life, that provides for both body and soul. Help us to know that you always have compassion for needy people. Guide us to know the little we have can be made into much if put into the Lord's blessing hands. Bless this Generation Z to overcome technological addictions, financial hardships, white supremacy, and fluid sexuality. To embrace Christian faith, beliefs and Scriptures. Make all of us new, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you put to work in us. By your grace, we pray all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen! Rev. Ken Richardson

<sup>2</sup> "Generation Z" by Maina Mwaura July 26, 2016 Article; MAINASPEAKS.COM



**DVD: “All Things New” by Anthony Evans; CD: “Already Won” by Tye Tribbett**  
**FSAD Annual Survey 2017 Results and Writing Assignment**

Please think about how are we as African, Caribbean and Hispanic Americans, to live in a twenty-first century world in need of:

- (1) social justice reforms (i.e. civil rights (racism, sexism) and voting rights);
- (2) equality in economic opportunities and employment (to eliminate poverty);
- (3) criminal justice reforms (to eliminate high rates of mass incarcerations, police abuse, and unregulated gun control);
- (4) equality in access to quality education;
- (5) equality to adequate and affordable healthcare;
- (6) global programs to eliminate terrorism, and wars; and
- (7) correctly fix our immigration/ DACA (Dreamers) programs.

Historically, these social, economic, and political inequalities have resulted in systemic poverty for a large number of people in our communities, especially children.

**Q1: As God’s people, how can we transform our African, Caribbean, and Hispanic American Communities? Our Nation? Our World?**

**Q2: What resources are needed? How long will these changes take to complete?**

**Q3: Inequalities are old problems; how can you help make new solutions for reforms and equality?**

**Justice** is the practice of what is right and just. Justice (or judgment KJV) specifies what is right, not only as measured by a code of law, but also by what makes for right relationships as well as harmony and peace.

**The concept of justice in the Bible goes beyond the law courts to everyday life. The Bible speaks of doing justice. “How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and the needy. Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82: 2-5 NKJV).**

Doing justice is to maintain what is right or to set things right. Justice is done when honorable relations are maintained between husband and wives, parent and children, employers and employees, government and citizens, and human beings and God. **In every generation, justice is newly grounded in spirit and actions between God and humanity.**

**“The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.” (Psalm 103:6 NKJV).** The Bible speaks of justice as a chief attribute of God, the justice of God is tied to his mercy and his righteous judgment. As a God of justice, He is interested in fairness and impartial treatment of all people. His actions and decisions are for individuals and nations to look after victims of oppression.

As Lord and Judge, God brings justice to nations and sets things right in behalf of the poor, the oppressed, and victims of injustice. He will judge the wicked, the unjust, and the oppressors. **For the oppress that are faithful, God’s just actions are reason for hope. God has demonstrated justice so many times in history. He will ultimately bring about justice again in humanity’s long collective journeys through time and space.**

Theodore Parker, a reforming minister and abolitionist (advocated against slavery), in 1853 spoke of **“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”** From 1964-1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. repeated this belief publicly, at least three different times, especially in his speech **“How Long, Not Long.”** In 2009, President Barak Obama also spoke these words to give hope that justice would prevail.

A central concept is that the justice of a community is measured by their treatment of the poor and oppressed. Although the message of justice is woven throughout the Bible, the prophets especially

issued a strong call for the covenant community to recognize God as the God of justice and to repent of their injustice. The prophets of the Old Testament were champions of social justice. During those days, justice was often corrupted through bribery and favoritism or partiality (*Amos 5:10-13*). Israel's national prosperity was limited to the wealthier families and came at the expense of the poor who were victims of injustices ... like today, throughout the world. But God's rewards come to those who practice justice in all their dealings with others. In the words of the prophet Amos *"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* (*Amos 5:24 NIV*).

#### **Relevancy:**

God expects all judges to administer true justice. *"Do justice (Psalm 82: 3b)"*: these words summarize the teaching of the Law and indicate God's basic desire that the defenseless would find a haven of justice in the courts and laws. In biblical times, God accused the judges of failing to fulfill their responsibilities because they favor the wicked. Today, the same accusations can be said regarding some "conservative judges and politicians that interpret or create laws" that: (1) favor the wicked police that abuse and kill unarmed citizens; (2) that sentenced minorities more frequently and more harshly; (3) that agree with the wicked President's call for Islamic Immigration bans; and (4) that seek to repeal affordable healthcare, to fund tax cuts for the rich.

*"Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. (Psalm 146:5-9 NIV).*

#### **Relevancy:**

Why is justice so important in the Bible? (1) Justice is part of God's attributes/ nature; it part of his goodness and mercy in the universe. (2) **God is always doing new things to bring justice to every generation of his people.** (3) when the government, workplace, and church leaders are unjust, the poor, the oppressed, and powerless suffer. (4) God holds the poor and righteous in high regard. They are the ones who will most likely turn to God for help. Justice is essential to God relationship with humanity both in His love and His judgment. (5) When we do nothing to help the poor and oppressed, we are in fact condoning the oppressor. (6) **Because we follow a just God, we are commanded to uphold justice and righteousness.**

August 28, 2017, 3,000 clergy participated in *The Ministers March for Justice*, in Washington D.C.. We marched because the Department of Justice and the current Administration are undermining social justice. *"We marched to reaffirm that religious leaders will recommit to being at the forefront of social justice and civil rights. We marched for voting rights; healthcare; criminal justice reform; and economic justice."*<sup>3</sup> As God's people, we are required to defend the rights of the poor and oppressed.

#### **Prayer:**

God of Justice, we are grateful that You attend to our spiritual, social, and economic needs. Help us to uphold justice and righteousness. Guide us, to learn to show love and compassion in all our relationships with others. Teach us, new ways to change social and economic inequalities to godly equalities. We know and believe that You are doing new things to bring justice to every generation. Make all of us new, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you put to work in us. By your grace, we pray all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen! Rev. Ken Richardson

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<sup>3</sup> National Action Network, *The Ministers March For Justice*, August 28, 2017

## **Faithful Sons and Daughters 2016-2017 Annual Survey Summary 4 to Teachers**

Thank you, Teachers for your cooperation in this importance assessment of the FSAD's Issues of Concern. The following summarizes the Annual Survey (52 responses).

### **Top 5 Issues of Concern are:**

- 1- Help with my relationship with God. Spiritual accountability (8.0 weight average).
- 2- Help with understanding the Bible (7.8).
- 3- Help with School/ College/ Vocation (7.1).
- 4- Help with overcoming temptations. Christian accountability (7.0).
- 5- Help with how to seek first to understand, then to be understood (6.7).

### **Our primary focus will be on developing innovative ways, throughout the school year, to helping our young people with their relationship with God. Spiritual accountability.**

- We need to, in positive ways, address the low interest of the 13 year olds (6.1) and 15 year olds (6.6) regarding their relationship with God.
- For the **October 16, 2016 FSAD Session**, one Teacher from three classes will have the opportunity to briefly make a statement and answer questions (10 minutes or less) regarding the importance of having a relationship with God.

### **Our related secondary focus will be helping our young people, throughout the school year, with understanding the Bible in relevant ways.**

- We need to, in positive ways, address the low interest of the 13 year olds (6.3) regarding understanding the Bible.
- For the **November 20, 2016 FSAD Session**, a different Teacher from October, in three classes will have the opportunity to briefly make a statement and answer questions (10 minutes or less) regarding the importance of understanding the Bible in relevant ways. Please give life related illustrations of how the Bible is relevant for young people.

### **Our third focus will be on helping our young people to understand the lifelong importance of doing well in school, college, and vocational training.**

- We need to address the low interest of the 14 year olds (5.4) regarding school, college and vocation.
- For the **December 18, 2016 FSAD Session**, there will be 1 or 2 young presenter(s) to give their testimony to the importance of doing well in school, college, and vocational training.

### **Our scheduled FSAD Sessions for 2017 are as follows:**

- January 29, 2017: Christian accountability
- February 19, 2017: Relationships: Family and Friends
- March 19, 2017: Being Understood and Personal accountability
- April 30, 2017: Social Equality and Public accountability
- May 21, 2017: Developing an Action Plan for Life
- June 25, 2017: FSAD High School Graduates Presentation
- July 16, 2017: Review the FSAD Curriculum
- August 20, 2017: Discuss Promotion Sunday Presentations

**I- God and Church:****A- Spiritual accountability:****Help with my relationship with God. Help in understanding the Bible.****1- Relevancy:****a- Why do I believe in God? If not, why do I have doubts?****Students' Responses *[italics are used to completed thoughts or make additional comments]*:**

- 1- 14-year old male: A few years ago, I didn't know God. Even though I grew up in the Church. There is no mention of God in school. The Church *[doctrines]* and school don't match *[rational/ science vs. spiritual]*. I am confused by the many difference religions and beliefs ... Catholic, Buddhist, and AME.
- 2- 14-year old female: I am confused about Adam and Eve in Creation. How did two people become responsible for all of humanity? It doesn't make sense. *[Doesn't understand "be fruitful and multiple"/human reproduction or Noah's family re-populating the world.]*
- 3- 15-year old male: I got into problems in school with teachers and bullies. I prayed for help. After a while I saw my prayers answered.
- 4- 15-year old male: I experience multiple deaths in my family in a short period of time. I prayed to God for there to be no more deaths in my family. Two weeks later someone else died. I didn't believe that God's existed. Over many years, I witness the Holy Spirit working in people during Praise and Worship in the Church. I want to know more.
- 5- 17-year old male: I was raised in the Church traditions. I am questioning is this the right religion? There are many religions ... Why this one? *[Christianity is the only religion with a resurrected Messiah/ Savior. Later we provided a clear and concise comparison of religious beliefs/ doctrines using the Rose Publication Brochure.]*

**b- What are my questions about God the Father? Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit?****Discussion** on what it means to be an "anorexic Christian." To not consume enough spiritual knowledge to be a healthy Christian. To be a weak Christian.**c- How is God relevant in an ever growing quick-fast digitalized-scientific global community?****Discussion:**

- 1- There is nothing new under the sun *[Eccl. 1:9]*.
- 2- In a media driven world evil come to us faster.
- 3- With access to so much information, it's easier for us to waste time with viewing/ gaming/ and using computers & phones.
- 4- The study of Hermeneutics *(the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts.)* is now used by humans to interpret aspects of life. Technology is a tool. Spiritually we need to go to God and emphasize the Bible.
- 5- Go directly to God to find your potential and gifts. Myles Munroe stated that we are gifted to give. Proverbs 18:16. Share God with the world.



**Student Responses: How do I know my talents? Why should I doubt or stop pursuing a career as a singer if I know that I have talent?**

- 6- Listen to God for guidance ... Proverbs 19:21 and Jer. 29:11.
- 7- You will be judge for not using your talents/ gifts. Parable of the Talents Matt. 25: 14-30.  
“Well done good and faithful servant” vs. “You wicked, lazy servant.”

**d- What innovations (changes) are needed for my generation to build an identity in Jesus daily?**

**e- When I need (long for) Jesus, how does the Church/ Sunday School help me receive Jesus?**

**f- Can you identify the spiritual significance, and cultural relevancy of the Black Church?**

**Discussion:**

- 1-Origins of African slavery. The sins of tribal hatred, greed and oppression led to the start of slavery in and among African tribes *[with first the Arabs and then the Europeans.]*
- 2-During slavery, the Black Church was our source of comfort and guidance.
- 3-We developed culture songs of freedom: “Swing Low Sweet Chariot.” *[Great singing!]*
- 4-The historical purposes of the Church were: to build character; to learn spiritual guidance; to develop social encouragement; to change unjust laws; to fight for civil rights and voting rights. *[“Still We Rise!”]*

**g- Is the Church a safe haven for my generation of young people?**

**h- How important is the Bible for my generation?**

**Discussion:**

- 1-God speaks to us in His Will and His Word. “God is central to me.”
- 2-God the Creator *[Elohim]* is time eternal *[The Alpha and Omega]*.
- 3-God created us because of His attribute of unconditional love.
- 4-Our human lives are 60, 70, 80, or 90 years in duration.
- 5-We are to share our faith with others, our children and grandchildren. We are a generational people of faith. The Bible leads us to be faithful.
- 6-God is our Redeemer *[Jehovah]*. God guides our futures with His Will and Word. The biblical characters show us how God guides and protects our lives from sin.
- 7-One illustration is the life and purpose of Moses:
  - A- Moses should have died as a Hebrew male child. Instead God protected him and led him to be raised as Prince in Egypt with gifts.
  - B- **In his first 40 years** of life, he learned to be a leader *[and warrior]*.
  - C- In his second 40 years, he learned of his Hebrew heritage and identified with the suffering of his people. He fled to the desert *[after angrily killing an Egyptian guard]*. In the desert he met God, as the Burning Bush. God spoke to Moses, telling him that He was “I Am, that I Am, the Eternal One.” *[Under God guidance Moses learned how to control his anger, be more patience, and to be more courageous.]*

D- In his third 40 years, he saved millions of his people from slavery. He was a leader over Unfaithful people. Through adversity he led the Hebrew people [*to the Torah, to the Laws, to the Ten Commandants, to form a nation, and to the "Promised Land."*]

E- God wants to redeem all of humanity and to give us universal peace ...

"Universal Shalom." When we have peace, we don't have to doubt, to be afraid, or worry.

**i- What is the Church/ Sunday School missing from my perspective?**

**Responses:**

1- Ministry for developing Preachers.

2- Poetry ministry.

3- Rap ministry.

4- History of the development of Church and religions. [*Provide a comparison of religions.*]

**2- Pew Research Center Survey 2012:**

a- 87% of African Americans identifies with a religious group.

b- 79% believes faith/ religion is very important in their lives.

c- 76% pray daily.

d- 53% attends Church weekly.

**GenForward Survey 2016: The Top Issues for Young African Americans:**

a- Education is a top 3 issues for 38% of African Americans.

b- Racism 34%

c- Health Care 23%

d- Economic Growth/ Jobs 22%

e- Police Brutality 21%

**3- Obstacles and Challenges to Staying in Church:**

a- Social and economic improvements make the Church appear less relevant.

b- The Church appears to be old, stagnant, and judgmental.

c- Some people have to choose between spiritual beliefs (faith) and secular science/ business.

d- Some disagree with passages in the Bible on slavery, same sex, and etc.

e- Some desires immediate sexual freedoms, i.e. before marriage.

f- Some are tire of pretending that their existence is getting better. Some have lost faith in God.

g- For some the Gospel's love, joy and peace are missing in Church. No real participation.

h- Some people don't want to be saved.

**4- Strengths of Bible and the Church:**

a- The strength of the Bible is in both the easy and the hard passages of Scripture.

b- We benefit from faithfully applying the Bible to our life, family, careers and community.

c- The Church is a spiritual organism, given life and purpose by God.

d- The strength of the Church is not in its numbers of members, but in its faithfulness.

e- The Church is not called by God to be secularly attractive. It's called to be spiritual faithful.

f- The world doesn't know what it really needs. These things are spiritually discerned.

g- If the Church doesn't discern the spiritual needs of the world, who will?

**Introduction:** ask several young people (graduates) to present their testimony on the importance of doing well in school, college, and vocational training.

**A- Help with taking responsibility for my life.****1- Relevancy:**

a- Action Steps for developing an Action Plan to improve myself regularly.

See the Form ... each student should develop the habit of answering the questions for themselves every six months. What do I need to do to define my goals?

b- To Understanding and achieving my potential. What do I need to do to achieve my goals?

c- To define my mission and goals in life.

d- To have a positive “win attitude.”

**2- Action Plan For Achieving My Potential:**

a- Build/ maintain a spiritual and loving relationship with God. Develop spiritual foundation.

b- Build and maintain family relationships. Maintain family support system.

c- Learn how to develop Academic or Vocational skills. Get help with College or Vocation.

d- Evaluate my skills and progress semi-annually. How am I doing? How do I improve continuously?

e- Learn to know what am I good at? What am I good at?

f- Learn how to choose a career. What are my career choices?

g- Learn what I need to do to achieve my goals. Do I have the drive to achieve? this goal? Will I be happy in 3 years? 10years? What do I need to do next?

h- Learn who can help me? How to get a mentor? How to network?

i-Learn how to find resources and references.

**3- Year 2 through 10 repeat steps for continuous improvement.**

**a-How am I doing?**

**b- How are my grades? Your GPA is so very important. A good to excellent GPA will create job opportunities.**

**c-Where am I on my career path?**

**d-Generate motivation and drive through the habit of working 80% of your waking hours. Actual work on your job, housework, chores, and self-improvement activities. Use the remaining 20%, waking hours to relax, have fun, nurture your family relationships and friendships. Spend more time with people rather than technology.**

Action Plan For Achieving			My Potential		
Name:					
Year	My Age	My Goals	What do I need to do to achieve my goals?	Resources/References	Semi - Annual Asses - How am I doing? - How do I improve continuously?
1		Spiritual: love God in spirit and truth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sanctified spirit (the process of becoming holy ... more Christ-like)</li> <li>- Healthier body</li> <li>- Righteous mind</li> <li>- Living life as a faith journey (keeping God relevant in my life)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bible study</li> <li>- Church worship &amp; fellowship</li> <li>- Clergy sermon &amp; counseling</li> <li>- Journaling</li> </ul>	<b>June 30th:</b>  <b>December 31st:</b>
		Family: love and support all family members. Share quality time with family ... maintain balance in my life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define and maintain loving relationships with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents</li> <li>- Spouse or significant other</li> <li>- Your children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate truthfully and with heart-felt emotions</li> <li>- Build honesty and trust</li> <li>- Keep your word</li> <li>- Give love and forgiveness</li> <li>- Remove anger &amp; bitterness</li> </ul>	<b>June 30th:</b>  <b>December 31st:</b>
		Academic/ Vocational: - Continue or start schooling/ training. - What am I good at?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete High School or GED</li> <li>- Vocational training</li> <li>- Assess my college potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What assessment test can I take? Use the internet.</li> <li>- What aptitude test can I take? Use the internet.</li> </ul>	<b>June 30th: Grades?</b>  <b>December 31st: Grades?</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What schools are available?</li> <li>- What SAT scores do I need?</li> <li>- Are there other requirements?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use the internet.</li> <li>- Use school resources.</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there funding for achieving my goals?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use the internet.</li> <li>- Use school resources.</li> </ul>	



Year	My Age	My Goals	What do I need to do to achieve my goals?	Resources/References	Semi - Annual Assessment: - How am I doing? - How do I improve continuously?	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who can help me? Are mentors available?</li> <li>- How do I network?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elder family members</li> <li>- Church clergy and members</li> <li>- Professional affiliations</li> </ul>		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are my career choices?</li> <li>- Narrow my choices to 1 or 2.</li> <li>- How will I know if I have chosen right?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Occupational Handbook</li> <li>- Search for related affiliations.</li> <li>- Use the internet.</li> </ul>		
		Career: chose my occupation/vocation/entrepreneurship.	(1) Network to share time with experienced people in my chosen occupation/vocation. (2) How did they get their start? (3) What were the challenges and how did they overcome them? (4) How did they developed in their career path?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Job search resources: NYS and Federal internet sites</li> <li>- Resume writing and interviewing skills: NYS internet site</li> </ul>	<b>June 30th:</b>  <b>December 31st:</b>	
		- Job Title	- Do I have the drive to achieve this goal?	<b>80% work time.</b> <b>20% fun time.</b>		
		- Career	What do I need to sustain my chosen career?			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the salary?</li> <li>- Is there a career path?</li> <li>- What is the future salary growth?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will I be happy in 3 years?</li> <li>- 5 years?</li> <li>- 10 years?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New York Times Salary Index and online job search</li> <li>- Wall Street Journal online job search</li> <li>- Local newspapers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June 30th: Performance Evaluation?</li> <li>- December 31st: Performance Evaluation?</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the benefits?</li> <li>- Medical?</li> <li>- Dental?</li> <li>- Family?</li> <li>- Retirement?</li> <li>- Pension?</li> </ul>				

How are we, as African Americans and Hispanic Americans, to overcome the long list of temptations that lead to sins e.g. found in the Ten Commandments recorded in both Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5: 6-21 (idolatry (making false gods or things your God), taking the Lord's name in vain, dishonoring the Sabbath Day, dishonoring your parents, killing, adultery, stealing, lying, and coveting); and in 1 John 2:16 (lust of the flesh (sensual pleasures outside marriage); lust of the eyes (materialism and greed); and pride)?

**DVD Video: *"Son of God, Jesus, The Life of Jesus In You,"*  
Session 2: *"Jesus' Temptation and Your Temptation"* by Rev. Rick Warren.**

**Spiritual Lessons:****1- It is not a sin to be tempted.**

"[Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet [Jesus] was without sin."

Hebrews 4:15, NIV

"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18, NIV

**2- You will never outgrow temptation.**

Temptation is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign that you are a threat to the Devil. You have a godly future.

**3- After a spiritual high, you can expect a spiritual test.**

"Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." Luke 4: 1-2 & Matt. 4:1-10, NIV. See #5 Wilderness Scene.

**4- Temptation isn't always about your weaknesses. Many times, temptation is about misusing your strengths.****5- Wilderness Scene: Jesus is our role model for overcoming temptation. He used Scriptures to defeat Satan.****6- Everyone experiences the repeated cycle of: good intents; failure; confession...**

**Key Verse:** "The temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." 1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT

## **Seven Steps To Escape Temptation:**

**Step #1: Get into the Word of God/ the Bible.** Know and speak the Word as your defense against temptations. **\*Read your Bible for 10 minutes each day. Learn to memorize Scriptures.**

You cannot say, "It is written," if you don't know what is written.

"I have hidden your word in my heart so that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11, NIV

**Step #2: Identify your vulnerabilities and distractions (TV, music, social media, phones and computers).**

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak." Matthew 26:41, NIV

- **When am I most tempted? b) Where am I most tempted? c) Who is with me when I'm most tempted? d) How do I feel before I'm tempted? e) Watch for the why of temptation.**

**\*Make an honest assessment of your vulnerabilities. What are the lures (desires) of the world that causes my temptation, distractions and then rebellion? Why do I want to rebel?**

**Step #3: Plan what you're not going to do.**

"Plan carefully what you do ... Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way." Proverbs 4: 26-27, TEV (Today's English Version)

Plan in advance to stay away from people, places, emotions, or circumstances that cause you to be vulnerable to temptation. If you don't want to get stung, stay away from the bees.

**\*Plan what you're going to do, and then stick to you plan. Think first and don't just follow the lead of us.**

**Step #4: Guard your heart. Your heart is the well spring of your good and bad desires.**

Temptation is an inside job. Intent is inside your mind, and if unchecked, results in sinful actions outside your body.

"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away." James 1:14, NLT

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do." Proverbs 4:23, NLT

**\*Learn to guard your eyes and ears, because they are the gateways to your heart.**

**Step #5: Pray for deliverance.** Simply put, just ask "God help me."

"God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it." 1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT

**\*Trust in God-power and not your will-power. Begin your day with a prayer of deliverance, ask God to help you and give you strength. Prayer works!**

**Step #6: Refocus your attention. Overcome temptation by refocusing your mind and spirit.**

Whatever gets your attention gets you. The battle for sin always starts in your mind. The only way to win that battle and escape temptation is to change your focus and think about something else.

**\*Begin now to think of a “go-to place” that you can refocus your attention on: a Scripture; an activity; a hobby; a project; or a good memory.**

**Step #7: Find a friend. Everyone needs trusted support. We weren’t created to go it alone.**

“Two are better than one because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help his friend get up. But how tragic it is for the one who is all alone when he falls. There is no one to help him get up.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 TEV/GW (God’s Word).

If we had more people in our lives to whom we could confess our temptations, we would have less need to confess our sins.

**\*Who do you know that can be trusted? To find this kind of friend, you need to be this kind of friend.**

**Questions:**

- 1- How do you feel about yourself when you are tempted?**
- 2- How can temptation draw you closer to God, instead of farther from God?**
- 3- Jesus’ only defense when he was tempted was the Word of God. Which verse(s) will you memorize?**

**Prayer:**

**Holy Spirit**, help us to be strong, to be courageous, to obey your Laws, and to meditate on your Word day and night (Joshua 1:7-8). Direct our footsteps according to Your Word, let no sin rule over us (Psalm 119:133). Keep us from the evils (Prov. 4:27) of lust of the flesh, materialism, and pride (1 John 2:16). Strengthen each of us with the daily filling of the Word to overcome worldly temptations, distractions, amoral entertainment and selfishness (Matt. 4: 3-10). In the name of Jesus, Amen!

**Please read this student essay: Accountability: ESTHER Age 16, July 2011**

The issue of accountability is one that is rather apparent among teenagers during this day and age. The devil has managed to remove the feeling of guilt that helps to distinguish right from wrong from the hearts and minds of teenagers. We find ourselves living in a time where more and more people are diverting away from the path of God. I have witnessed first-hand, teens that have engaged in smoking, drinking, cursing, and sexual activity and have yet to feel the slightest bit of conviction. What is even worse is that although my peers do not hold themselves accountable, the law does. My heart has been plagued with overwhelming sadness from seeing many of my peers end up in jail or in trouble with the law. I have found myself feeling deeply concerned with the welfare of my age group that is on a downward spiral. Without any intervention, the youth have the potential to grow up to become corrupt politicians, deadbeat parents, promiscuous beings and much more. Who will care for the next generation? It seems as though even accountability within the church has failed at times. I have seen avid churchgoers curse and misbehave in the house of God. Who will speak the word and carry on the ministry?

I would like to say that I have always appreciated the adults in my life who hold me accountable but I cannot lie and must admit that at times I have been frustrated by the people who have made me feel guilty. It makes it impossible for me to behave as I wish without an overwhelming feeling to repent. I am sometimes angry and annoyed with the constant presence of my parents in every aspect of my life. However, to be 16 years old



and have never smoked or drunk alcohol I am extremely proud. I am not pregnant and have never done anything that I truly regret. It is extremely comforting to receive compliments for my good behavior at times. I appreciate the adults God has placed in my life.

I believe that those headed in the right direction should aid their fellow peers headed down the wrong path. While prayer is essentially the best form of help, much more should be done. It is the spiritual obligation of followers of Christ to help others in every way possible. When people around us fail while we continue to succeed God will question us and hold us accountable. It is easy for many faithful Christians to feel above or better than others but in reality, we are all one mistake away from ending up in a similar position as those we deem unholy. I believe young Christians should share their testimonies and encourage others to go to church. They should use every opportunity to share the word of God. It is easy for one to stay home and complain about the destructive behaviors of our generation but it takes a true leader to go out and get involved.

- **How would you rate this essay for: spiritual accountability? Honesty?**

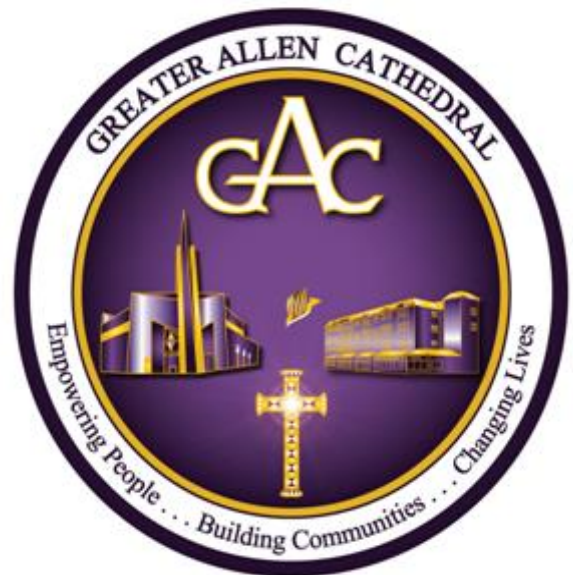
- **How accountable are our young people today? Gen Z?**

- **We are called to think of ways that we can help them to transform spiritually.**

Postscript: Esther is now on track to be a Medical Doctor. Occasionally, she visits the Sunday School, shares her appreciation of her time learning Christian Formation and encourages the young people to be spiritually accountable.

# Faithful Sons And Daughters' Mission Statement:

- Have unity of purpose with Teachers, Superintendents, and Clergy to develop effective Christian Formation in young people!
- Strives to increase godly values in the lives of young people now and in the future! To be spiritual warriors having faith to conquer problems.
- Strives to lead young people to eternal salvation with Jesus!
- Strives to prepare our next generation of people to be more Christ-like! Especially in their relationships with God, Family, Friends and Neighbors!
- Creatively teach the relevancy of God and the Bible in every aspect of life!
- We the believers, both in ancient Babylon and now in a racially divide America, are exhorted by the Word of God to keep faith in God. Keep faith in the biblical covenants: the old relational covenants with Israel and the new covenant of Grace through Jesus Christ available to all believers. Believers have faith, that God will make all things new.



## **FSAD Resources and Reference Books:**

- 1- ***The King James Study Bible***, KJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1988.
- 2- ***Life Application Study Bible***, NIV, Tyndale House Publishing, 1997.
- 3- ***Life in the Spirit Study Bible***, NIV, Zondervan, 2003.
- 4- ***New King James Version Study Bible***, NKJV, Thomas Nelson, 2007.
- 5- ***Standard Lesson Commentary*** Deluxe Edition with DVD, Annually
- 6- ***Inteen Teacher & Student***, Urban Ministries Inc. Quarterly
- 7- ***Willington's Guide to the Bible***, Tyndale House Publishers, 1984.
- 8- ***A More Excellent Way: Handbook For Christian Education*** by Kenneth H. Hill, AMEC Sunday School Union/ Legacy Publishing, 1994.
- 9- ***Drinking From Our Well, Foundations for the Ministry of Christian Education in the African Methodist Episcopal Church*** by Kenneth H. Hill, the Christian Education Department African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2004.
- 10- ***Know Your Church Manual/ You and Your Church***, by Andrew White, AMEC Publishing House, 1965.
- 11- ***Parents' Guide To The Spiritual Mentoring of Teens***, Focus On the Family, Editors: Joe White and Jim Weidman, Tyndale House Publishers, 2001.
- 12- ***801 Questions Kids Ask About God***, Focus On The Family, Tyndale House Publishers, 2000.
- 13- ***Reclaiming Our Prodigal Sons and Daughters, A Practical Approach for Connecting With Youth in Conflict***, by Scott Larson and Larry Brendtro, National Educational Service, 2000.
- 14- ***Soul Stories, African American Christian Education***, by Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Abingdon Press, 1994.
- 15- ***Keep It Real, Working With Today's Black Youth***, Edited by Anne E. Streaty Wimberly, Abingdon Press, 2005.
- 16- ***Maximizing Your Potential*** by Myles Munroe, Destiny Image Publishers, 2008.
- 17- ***The Renewed Mind, Becoming the Person God Wants You To Be***, by Larry Christenson, Bethany House, 2001.
- 18- ***Victory in Spiritual Warfare***, by Tony Evans, Harvest House Publishers, 2011.
- 19- ***Spiritual Warfare***, by Derek Prince, Whitaker House, 1987.
- 20- ***Know Why You Believe***, Paul E. Little, Inter Varsity Press, 2000.
- 21- ***Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth***, by Richard J. Foster, HarperSanFrancisco Publisher, 1998.
- 22- ***Spiritual Disciplines For The Christian Life***, by Donald S. Whitney, NavPress, 1991.
- 23- ***Rose Publishing Pamphlets: Print, Digital Downloads, and Graphs: The Trinity; Attributes of God; Names of God; Bible Overview; How to Study the Bible; Favorite Bible Verses; Prayer; The Armor of God; Essential Doctrine Made Easy; Spiritual Disciplines; and Denominations Comparison.***

## **FSAD Historical, Theological and Gospel Media Resources:**

### **Historical:**

- 24- *Bishop Richard Allen, Apostle of Freedom, The Documentary*, Mother Bethel AME.
- 25- *Martin Luther King "I Have A Dream,"* MPI Media Group, 2005.
- 26- *Citizen King*, WGBH Educational Foundation, 2004.
- 27- *President Barack Obama, the Man and His Journey*, Veridicus Films, 2008.
- 28- *Eyes On The Prize, America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1965*, PBS, 1986.
- 29- *African American Lives*, Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., PBS, 2006.
- 30- *African American Lives 2*, Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., PBS 2008.
- 31- *The African Americans, Many Rivers To Cross*, Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., PBS, 2013.
- 32- *Nelson Mandela, The Life and Times*, Kultur, 2004.
- 33- *The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela*, PBS, 1991, 2011.
- 34- *Nelson Mandela, Man of Forgiveness*, AIM International Television.

### **Theological:**

- 35- *Son of God, The Life of Jesus In You*, Hosted by Rick Warren, Daily Hope and Light Workers, 2014. Six video sessions: Jesus' and Your: Baptism; Temptation; Suffering; Death; Resurrection and Ministry.
- 36- *Twisting The Truth, Learning to Discern in a Culture of Deception*, Andy Stanley, Zondervan, 2008. Six video sessions: Exposes some common ways God's truth gets twisted to destroy your relationships, cloud your decisions, and distort your perceptions. Also, how we can recognize and overcome them.
- 37- *He's Still Got The Whole World in His Hands*, Andy Stanley, North Point Ministries, Inc., 2009. How do we remain hopeful in a world that seems broken?
- 38- *Noah and the Last Days*, Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, Living Waters, 2009. Compares the people of Noah's time versus today, ignoring warnings of God's judgment.
- 39- *Why Christianity?* Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, Living Waters, 2009.
- 40- *RightNow Media, at [www.Rightnow.org](http://www.Rightnow.org)*; paid online subscription to theological resources: books, videos, and bible studies for various age groups. Recommended videos: *Decisions* (discusses the various decisions and spiritual accountability that teenagers face) hosted by Eric Mason; *Teen Mom Has Hope*; and *Pregnancy and Surrendering to God*. Recommended Bible Study: *How to Read the Bible with the Bible Project*, text combined with visuals drawings, and spoked words by Tim Mackie. So much more!

### **Gospel Videos/ DVDs:**

- 41- *WOW Gospel, the Year's Top Gospel Videos: 2001 to 2017*. RCA Inspiration.

### **Display Case: FSAD Writings and Photos**







**2015 FSAD High School Graduates, Teachers and Clergy**



**2016 FSAD High School Graduates**



**2017 FSAD High School Graduates, Teachers, and Clergy**