

Pastor's Page

Census 2010 project in partnership with The Ford foundation and the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Pastor's Conference has mounted a movement to make sure that African Americans are not under counted in the 2010 Census. Beloved our church has will be a site for information, education and empowerment for our community concerning the census. We want to make sure that Gary receives a fair share of resources. Every year the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state and local governments based on census data. It is in our best interest to fill out the census. Census data affects your voice in Congress. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county, city councils, and voting districts. It is in our best interest to make sure the Black community fills out the census forms. Census data helps determine fire, police and other first responders in our community. It is in all of our best interest to fill out and return the census forms. There are just **10** questions that will take only **10** minutes to complete and will last for **10** years. Please remember **10, 10, 10** census campaign and make sure everyone living in your household is counted. Please pass the word to your neighbors, family, co-workers and friends that we must not be undercounted in the 2010 census.

Finally as we continue in the season of lent please remember that this is a season of sacrifice. We sacrifice (i.e., fasting) to remember what our Lord and Savior had to go through. There is a hymn that says, "*The Ransomed never knew how deep were the waters and how dark was the night that the Lord passed through.*" In this season of sacrifice as you fast "fried foods, sweets, etc." please remember it is also a sacred chance to renew your faith commitment of **Time, Talent and Treasure**. We are a tithing church because tithing is a biblical mandate. The church can only do ministry (which is also a Biblical mandate) through your sacred sacrifice. Remember our Father gave all He had to save, secure and support a precious gift called you. "*What shall I render...?*"

God Bless you and God keep you!



Pastor