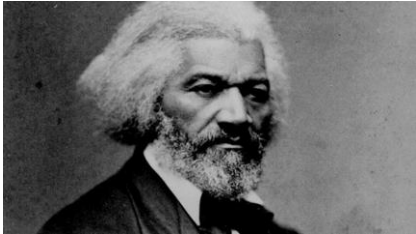



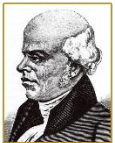
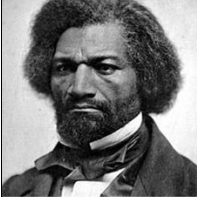

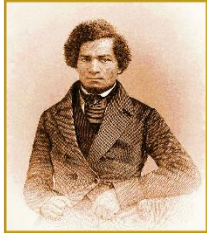


A TALK WITH FREDERICK DOUGLASS
By Joyce Perry Edwards, M.Ch.Ed., Ph.D.

PICTURE	SCRIPT
<p>1</p> 	<p>Good morning. I am very glad to be with you. As you know, my life began as a slave. The distance between this chapel and the slave plantation, from which I escaped, is considerable—and the difficulties that that had to be overcome in getting from the latter to the former are by no means slight. However, I believe good practices helped me to get from one place to another. I'd like to share a few of my observations with you about good practices that I believe are still important today.</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p><i>First, be diligent in inviting the presence of God into your hearts by practicing the means of grace.</i> John Wesley, the founder of Methodism reminded us that it is through prayer, searching the scriptures, fasting, communal practices, works of charity, and healthy living that God visits us with the blessing of God's unmerited favor. Remember, it was through the means of grace that God built the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church!</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p><i>Second, be willing to learn.</i> Learn the scriptures, learn about the world, and learn to express yourself. Make companions of those who are willing to learn and learn together. Although I had little opportunity for learning, my two wives, Anna Murray Douglass and Helen Pitts, were very helpful to me in my development.</p>
<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY AND CLAIM OUR LEGACY</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="212 1541 326 1682">  <p>PETER WILLIAMS 1755 - 1823 Layman (Trustee of the 1st AME (Zion) Church called Zion, NY, NY)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="423 1541 537 1682">  <p>REV. JAMES VARICK 1750 - 1828 First Superintendent (Bishop) Elected 1820</p> </div> </div>	<p><i>Third, celebrate the history of our church and claim the legacy left by our founders!</i> Our founders earnestly tried in a respectful and loyal manner to work with the authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church. However, they wanted to be treated with dignity. Some were men who knew they had been called to preach the gospel, but when this work in God's kingdom was denied them, it was wholly unacceptable! So they moved on—setting up their own place to worship God without encumbrances to their hearts and minds.</p>

<p>5</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, Abolitionist </p>	<p>Fourth, be willing to cooperate with anyone to the greatest extent possible for achieving worthy goals. I believed in dialogue and in making alliances across racial and ideological divides, Sometimes people would criticize me because I was willing to dialogue with slave owners, but I liked to say: "I will unite with <i>anybody</i> to do right and with <i>nobody</i> to do wrong."¹ On the other side of the coin, we should never take our eye off the goal. As many know, I often said, "Agitate, agitate, agitate!" We know from our founders that we should always keep working for what is right.</p>
<p>6</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #c08040;">BE DILIGENT FOR KINGDOM- BUILDING</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #c08040;">"A man's rights rest in three boxes: the ballot box, jury box and the cartridge box." Frederick Douglass</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	<p>Fifth, be diligent in the service of Kingdom-building while we have this time on earth. As you are no doubt aware, the A.M.E. Zion Church and so many of its members part of the Abolitionist Movement to free the slaves and thus became known as the Freedom Church. Later, we worked for women's rights. We should never ignore the world in which we live and the needs of the people in it. For 25 years after the slaves were freed, my stump speeches were devoted to civic rights and women's rights. In a speech I delivered on November 15, 1867, I said: "A man's rights rest in three boxes. The ballot box, jury box and the cartridge box. Let no person be kept from the ballot box because of his color or gender. The cartridge I spoke of was f the typewriter. Of course, you don't have typewriters today—you have computers! (<i>chuckles</i>). But anyway, I believed in writing to get the word out. In my lifetime I created and wrote for 5 different newspapers.</p>

7



The A.M.E. Zion Church has performed great mission work in many countries around the world. I say, “Let Zion **continue to reach out to others!**” at home and abroad. We are doing some great work abroad. Let’s continue. Also, every local church ought to be involved with reaching out to others with the word of God. We should not forget the children, the young, the elderly, the homeless, the sick, the disabled, or the destitute. Everyone is important. Our local churches should have ministries that include *everyone* in the congregation, not just able-bodied adults.

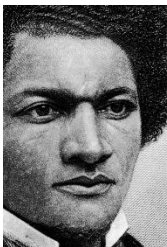
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G GOAL-ORIENTED
F FOCUSED
C COMMITTED

And, *seventh*, my last observation. In EVERYTHING we do, we should remember this acronym: **G-F-C**. These letters stand for these three words: **goal-oriented, focused, and committed**. These words reflect the basic premise of my life. For example, when I sought to be free, I tried to run away on three occasions, but I didn’t give up even though I was unsuccessful twice; but the third time, I was successful. I kept my eye on my **goal**—to be free. And stayed **focused**—so important! And 3rd, stay **committed**. **Be** being willing to give your all to achieve worthy goals.

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**THE FREEDOM CHURCH:
REVIEWING OUR
PRACTICES**

Now! That’s enough of my talk! Let’s look at our theme through some skits. Our theme tells us to ask ourselves: “Are we using the methods and strategies that will enable us to accomplish our mission as a church---making disciples.” Someone said that “don’t fix what ain’t broke.” However, practices do get broken for a variety of reasons. So we should examine them and fix what’s broken! We want to get in a rut or if we’re already in one, we don’t stay there. (*chuckles*)