



*“From Where I Sit ...”*

## **“The Investment Factor: The Present Generation”**

In August I attended the Mount Olive Cathedral CME Church in Memphis, TN and in addition to a meaningful worship experience and an inspiring message by the new pastor, the Reverend Peris J. Lester I, I was greatly moved by a special presentation led by Pastor Lester at the end of the worship service that acknowledged the importance and significance of the children of the church returning to school. The presentation consisted of the children and their parents (or sponsors) coming to the front of the church and pledging or committing their participation in a Parent-Child Covenant in which the parents made six promises and the children made five. Both sets of promises were listed on a one page document that the parents and each child signed and dated. The following is the “Parent-Child Covenant” as presented on that Sunday:

### **Parent-Child Covenant**

**THE PARENT:** I promise to meet your teachers face to face and give them my contact information during the first week of school or during “meet the teacher night.”

I promise to check your homework each day to make sure it is accurate, neat and presentable for class, and provide the necessary resources to complete all assignments.

I promise to make prayer a part of our daily routine.

I promise to listen to you a minimum of 15 minutes a day and be available to you anytime you feel the need to talk to me about anything or anyone that may be bothering you.

I promise to attend PTA meetings and teacher conferences; and to make regular unannounced visits to your school.

I promise to conduct myself in a manner that reflects Godly character, dignity, self-respect, moderation in speech/dress, and a positive attitude.

**THE CHILD:** I promise to study at home for at least 2 hours Monday through Thursday and complete my homework without distraction, including telephone, television and social networking.

I promise to always do my best and exemplify Christian values (truth, justice, honesty, kindness, love/respect for God, myself and others) during this school year.

I promise to share with you all information concerning academic progress, homework, notices, assignments and behavior.

I promise to surround myself with positive influences and resist all peer pressure that encourages or promotes negative activities (gangs, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; premarital sex – gay or straight) and be willing to talk with any responsible adult regarding any of these matters.

I promise to observe the standards set forth in my school’s student code of conduct including prescribed dress (no sagging pants), and appropriate language.

As our church begins a new quadrennial period with a new theme that emphasizes the “Investment Factor: ...” I was impressed and moved as I witnessed on that Sunday morning this local church’s actualizing the Investment Factor with its emphasis on the children of the church which to me represent the current or “present” generation. Or at least that’s the way it looks to me ...

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