

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
WALKER
CENTERED MINISTRY

JOSEPH W. WALKER III

A RENAISSANCE MAN OF GOD



..... M T . Z I O N
MISSION STATEMENT



The Mt. Zion Baptist Church is a Word-centered ministry, designed to evangelize the lost at any cost, equip and empower the people of God and provide holistic ministry to our community as well as the world. Seeking to minister to the total person, we are a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural ministry impacting the world in which we live with the uncompromising message of Jesus Christ. Committed to the spirit of excellence, we are striving to become an oasis of hope within the Nashville community, by promoting and providing education, awareness as well as financial independence. We believe that God must be worshipped in spirit and truth. We embrace freedom in worship because the Word says, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Our foundation is the Word of God, and we believe it in its entirety. We believe we can do what It says we can do, be who It says we can be and have what It says we can have.



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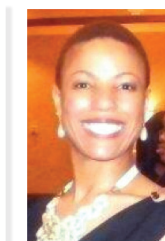
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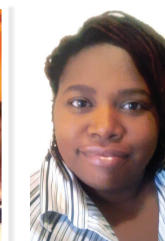
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Celebrating 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP INTO world-wide ministry

Nicole Gilbert Marketing Communications Specialist, MZBC

I became a Mt. Zion member in 1996 and subsequently joined the Tape Ministry. Some of you are more familiar with digital downloads and MP3 players as your primary source of listening to pre-recorded audio. However, in the 90s, there were cassette tapes and boom boxes. Do you remember BASF, Maxell and TDK cassette brands? Do you remember cassettes, whose inner magnetic tape was subject to get tangled in the player, requiring you to ever so gently unravel it and then hand-wind it, using the cassette's wheels? Do you remember having to sometimes blow on the magnetic tape to remove the excess dust that accumulated so that your audio wouldn't sound distorted? lol! The new millennium would introduce to the world the Compact Disc (CD). The Tape Ministry welcomed this innovation. No longer did we have to carry around to each church location those 20 lb. machines that dubbed 3-4 cassettes at a time. Whew! We were moving up, and moving up we did.

God has so richly blessed Mt. Zion because we now have a virtual church location, **mtzion**anywhere, that allows viewers from literally anywhere in the world to join our church, participate in worship and receive a relevant word from God, simply by way of the internet. In addition to **mtzion**anywhere, Mt. Zion is also mobile. While working out at the gym, have you ever wanted to listen, once again, to the powerful praise and worship songs from service? Have you ever wanted to review a relevant word from the previous week's service while in your car? Well, there's an app for that! Mt. Zion launched an app for smart phones and mobile devices that allows users to quickly access Live and On Demand streaming video and audio of full-length Sunday sermons and Bible Study services, ministry updates/highlights and aids users to share all that content through their social networks like Twitter and Facebook. Wow! Mt. Zion has definitely come a long way since the days of cassettes. To God be the Glory!

Thank you, Bishop Walker!



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My, how time flies! It seems like just yesterday when I arrived at my first worship service at Mt. Zion. And to think, I thought I was just visiting because I was late for church at my “home” church. However, as God would have it, Bishop Walker delivered a mighty message that captured my attention and impressed upon my heart the desire to dig deeper in the Word. Thank you, God, for such an anointed and dedicated leader.

Mt. Zion, as we celebrate Bishop Walker's 20 years of pastoral service at Mt. Zion, take time to reflect on your first worship experience here. As you reflect, share your experience and invite others to get into relationship with Christ. Here at The Mount, that is exactly what we are instructed to do – “to evangelize the lost at any cost.”

Bishop Walker does a fantastic job of instructing, developing, nurturing and supporting us. It is Bishop Walker's faithfulness that has allowed God to continue to bless this ministry. Reading this commemorative edition of *Trumpet* will enlighten you on the impact Bishop Walker has made not only at Mt. Zion but also within the local community as well as around the world.

Bishop, you truly are a Renaissance Man of God, and we are thankful for the past 20 years of service and are even more excited for what the next 20-plus years have in store for us!

Valerie King, Editor

General Overseer of Marketing and Media


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PATHWAY TO JESUS FROM TOTS TO TEENS

BY: Paula Gardner-Porter

In 1999, when the You Can Make It Youth Crusade (YCMIYC) held its first conference, the youngest teens at Mt. Zion were mere toddlers just learning to walk. Since then, under the guiding hand of Bishop Walker, the Youth Ministry, now known as The Xperience, has grown "... in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52, KJV). Through Mt. Zion's nursery ministry, preschool classes and Children's Church, today's teens followed a direct path that gently led them to purpose and destiny.

The Children and Youth Ministry was at the heart of our visionary. His vision soon turned into what is now known as Kid Zone. In 2007, Kid Zone opened its doors to children under the age of 12 where they learned to worship in a traditional sanctuary designed just for them. Kid Zone exposed them to personal worship, a relevant word, praise on another level and a chance to continue to establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Fast forward 13 years, and you will find these same toddlers, now teenagers, walking in their purpose and giving God a radical praise.

There was something new happening at the Antioch Location the first Sunday in March when over 200 teenagers flooded what was once a tae kwon do studio in Antioch's Mt. Zion Plaza—and it was not Kid Zone! Sounds of teens playing bass guitars, snare drums and joyful singing were heard in the parking lot as passersby in nearby stores inquired about what they witnessed. Teens were walking with anticipation to enter the "standing room only" sanctuary that was the Youth Ministry's (aka The Xperience) first ever Teen Church! Lamar & One Voyce, a gospel praise and worship teen group, offered praise and worship to the King of Kings. Judah Generation Choir and Dance Ministry worshipped, and The Boyz & Jesus, a phenomenal Gospel Hip-Hop group, brought down the house with their hit single "P.U.S.H."

High praise and soulful worship was not the only rejoicing that occurred that day. Elder Alexander Raspberry, the Overseer of the Youth Ministry (aka The Xperience), brought forth a powerful sermon about transformation. His message moved many teens to rededicate their lives to Christ, to request prayer for healing and deliverance and to receive the power of God's love and salvation. Still worshipping, the teens lingered at the altar long after the Benediction. Many prayed with friends!

The "Xperience" at Teen Church drew teenagers near and far, and Twitter sang its praises. Tweets went out, declaring that the service was "off the hook" and "a day they would always remember." Other social apps relayed similar sentiments, and news spread like wildfire about what is going on with the teenagers of Mt. Zion! The teens are excited about God. They are being taught about witnessing to others, taking authority over their environment and praying with their peers.

The Xperience "family," who are parents and other adults working with Elder Raspberry, is excited about what God is doing for young people. It's a new day for Mt. Zion youth!

The Xperience Wishes Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III A Happy 20th Pastoral Anniversary!

FROM VISION TO COVENANT...MATTERS

BY: Alfonso & Neischa Alexander

Throughout the years, the Mt. Zion Marriage Ministry has taken several forms and different strategic directions. However, the last four years have been a real testament to our pastor's leadership and commitment to marriages.

Many of you may remember one Sunday in 2007 when Bishop Walker announced to the congregation that the church was temporarily suspending all marriage ministry activities as he prayed and sought direction from the Lord for a revamped marriage ministry. Having the wisdom and courage to step back and redirect the ministry was a tremendous act of courage and leadership.

Later that year, Bishop Walker recruited a team to develop and lead this new ministry that he dreamed would be called Covenant Matters. After several months of meeting and planning, Bishop Walker and the team unveiled the dream of what the Covenant Matters Ministry was to become, a ministry impacting the lives of couples at Mt. Zion and throughout the world. Based on God's instructions in Colossians 3:12-17, the Covenant Matters Ministry brings married and engaged couples closer to God and each other by providing opportunities to grow, first as men and women of God and secondly as husbands and wives.

Since its unveiling, Covenant Matters has hosted retreats, conferences, small group sessions and pre-marital training. The most memorable of these events, was a marriage retreat that drew over 500 to downtown Chattanooga for a wonderful weekend. Mt. Zion sent 400 participants while partnering with two other churches from Chattanooga and Atlanta. The most recent conference was a half-day event held at the Antioch location which had more than 700 attendees. In both cases, Bishop and Dr. Stephaine Walker shared words that inspired the couples who attended. Their transparency allowed couples to see that they experienced the same daily challenges. Their presentation complimented the other sessions: Money in Marriage, Blended Families, Communicating in Marriage and Reconnecting in Marriage.

The Covenant Matters Ministry provides continual classes during Sunday School at both locations, year-round Pre-marital Training, and ongoing small group couples sessions. These activities originated from Bishop Walker's vision for Covenant Matters. His vision and leadership birthed the commitment to covenants that really matter for our married and engaged couples at Mt. Zion. We thank Bishop Walker for his visionary leadership.

Happy 20th Anniversary!!!




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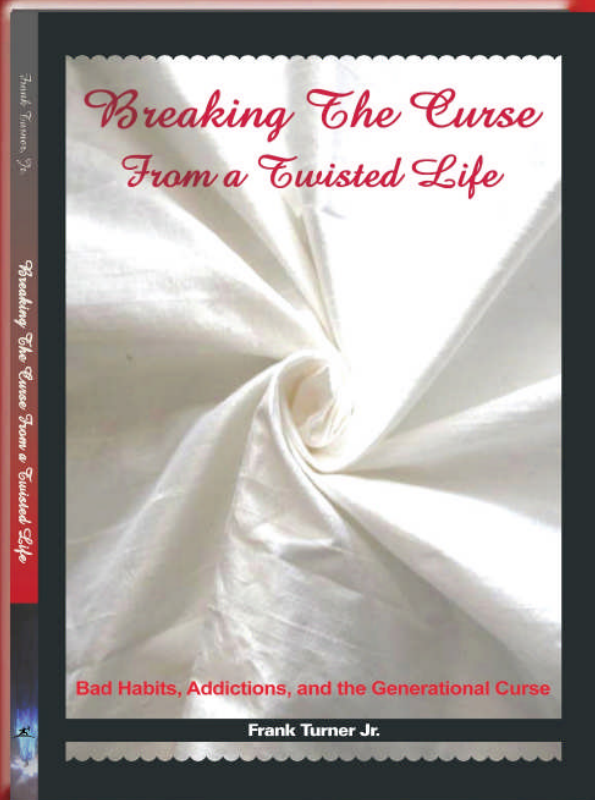
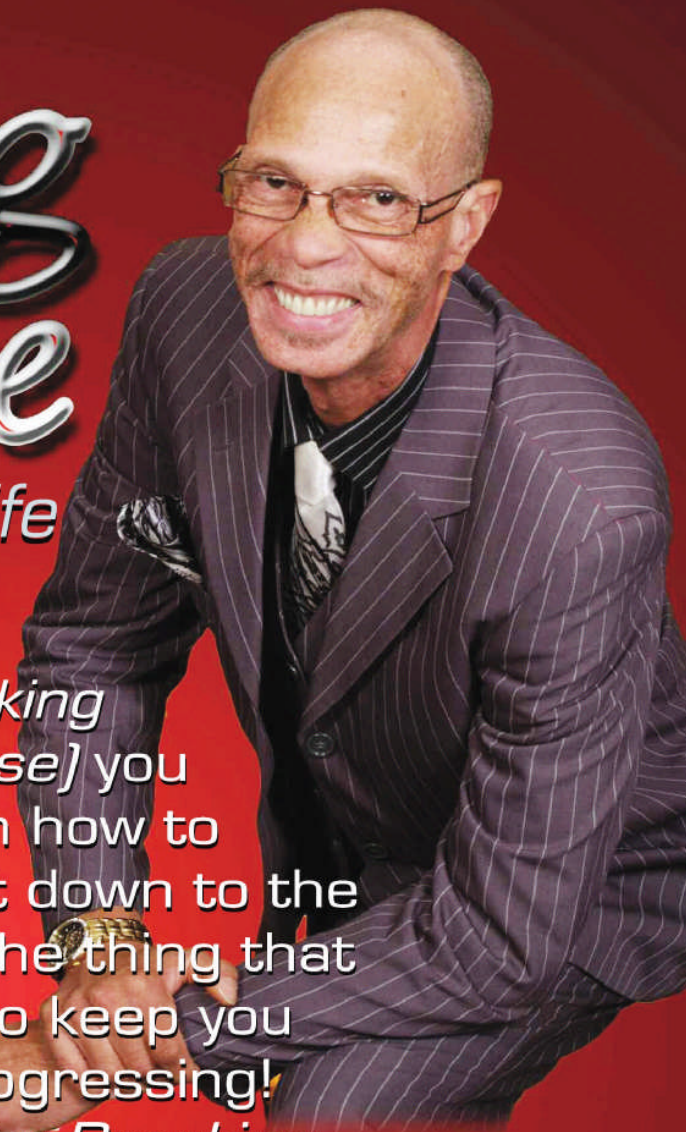
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Frank Turner is a gift to the Kingdom of God. This book is perhaps his greatest work. It is a transparent look into his struggle and a powerful witness of triumphant deliverance. After reading this book you will be convinced of the power of a singular testimony. This is a must read and I pray it blesses you as it has blessed me.

Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III
 Senior Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church
 Nashville, Tennessee

In his first book, *Rapture Your Destiny*, Frank Turner, Jr. asked the question: what is your purpose in life? He then answered that question with a carefully thought out meditation from the Word of God. In this second book, *"Breaking The Curse,"* he takes it a step further. He is asking what obstacles in a person's life would keep him from progressing toward that God-given destiny. Frank is a student of the Scriptures. May this new book speak to your heart... just as God has spoken to his.

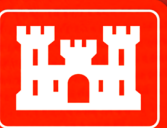
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REFLECTIONS ON A PASTORAL CONNECTION

BY: K. Edwin Bryant, Senior Pastor

Mt. Pisgah Church | Dayton, OH

ARRIVAL/CONNECTION

I walked through the doors of Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, August 23, 1992, and had an immediate connection with the congregation. Mt. Zion resembled my home church and seemingly offered everything that I had sacrificed to attend school in Nashville, Tennessee. The congregation was aged but reflected a church that had the potential to grow. I sensed that the congregation was reflective of a seasoned, older and mature leader even though I had never met the pastor. My destiny and connection with Rev. Walker began the moment the ushers discerned that I was a student from American Baptist College. I was quickly ushered to meet Rev. Walker and awaited his arrival inside his small, outdated office. When I finally met him, he greeted me with an affectionate, "Hey, Man!" My subconscious reaction was "Oh, my!" I had not anticipated that my new pastor was barely old enough to be my older brother. Nonetheless, my initial shock subsided once I began to spend time with him, and he created the space for me to listen to his heart.

AFFECTION/COVENANT

Rev. Walker seemed exceptionally bright despite his youthfulness. He spoke with such wisdom but was as equally inexperienced. As I began to connect the desires of his heart with the vision for the church, my relationship with Rev. Walker deepened. With only a cursory understanding of his calling, I knew he would always be my pastor. I reflect, with humility, that the Holy Spirit allowed me to serve my pastor as his only associate for several years. It was during this time that I developed a unique bond with him, and I knew that our relationship was special.

AFFIRMATION/CALLING

I knew my pastor was unique, but the momentum and growth Mt. Zion encountered was phenomenal and beyond my imagination. Mt. Zion grew because Rev. Walker had a vision to grow the ministry from the bottom up. I remember his deep passion for evange-

lism and his willingness to reach the demographics in which other pastors deemed as unsuitable to sustain church growth. I am overwhelmed that he allowed me to make a contribution to his destiny at ground level – a testimony that only few can claim. Rev. Walker's vision and our evangelistic efforts rendered Mt. Zion's growth unprecedented. I saw God take him between unpredictable extremes. He went from urging his small congregation to sit closer in one service to offering four worship services each Sunday. This unparalleled growth suggested that Rev. Walker set in his mind to accomplish what God promised through faith. The Holy Spirit had used him to transform Mt. Zion from the inside out. Rev. Walker used each spiritual gift in the ministry to advance the church. I remember a pivotal pastoral insight occurred while he worked on his

"How are we going to find a place to accommodate five thousand people in seventy-two hours?"

degree at Princeton. He explored the ways in which the initial congregation negotiated the change to their church culture and how their "grief process" impacted those who joined Mt. Zion. When reading his doctoral manuscript while I was his courier, I discovered that the conclusions to Rev. Walker's hypothesis led him to reconcile his heart with the demographic of the church members who had initially affirmed his pastoral call. In my opinion, this shift of vocational clarity allowed Rev. Walker to reach the hearts of the "old Mt. Zion." I will never forget the voice of the Late John

Wesley Bailey, then the oldest member of Mt. Zion, when he led a motion that changed our worship location from 1112 Jefferson Street to the Baptist World Center Headquarters. I knew then that my pastor had done more than demonstrate that he could increase membership. I witnessed at point blank range how the Holy Spirit not only used him to transform a church but also used him to shift the church toward a more corporate identity. Mt. Zion had changed her mind about who God was and about what God could accomplish through its members. I believe after that church meeting, Rev. Walker knew that he himself was insignificant to the process. God's sovereignty was in control.

ACCELERATION/CHOSEN

It was during moments of crisis that my decision to

serve along side Bishop Walker was reaffirmed. After the Baptist World Center was no longer our place of worship, I remember his raising the question, "How are we going to find a place to accommodate five thousand people in seventy-two hours?" I knew his question was rhetorical, but I began to think about a contingency plan. Then out of nowhere, Bishop said, "Eunice Bell and the TSU Gentry Center." Mrs. Bell reserved the TSU Gentry Center for the church until our new church facility was completed. I soon learned that it was not the success that kept me close to Bishop. Rather, it was watching him handle dire circumstances creatively and seeing him rise above adversity that impressed me more.

ADDITION/CONVERSION

Even though the Mt. Zion Ministry continued to grow at a phenomenal rate, Bishop was not without spiritual crises in his life. I witnessed the Holy Spirit transform Rev. Walker into the

preacher, leader, pastor and scholar with which God would be pleased. I would argue that the numerous years of success and achievement did not produce the man whom we affectionately call Bishop. The adversity in his life pushed him toward a "second conversion." I saw more than any other time in my service to Bishop that he reconciled his pain by appropriating the crucified Christ within his life. I saw Bishop develop from one who maintained traditional views to one who had become fully vulnerable to the flow of the Holy Spirit. After twenty years with Bishop, I remain humbled by the fact that a large degree of my destiny was influenced by him.

ACCEPTANCE/CONFIRMATION

I am thankful that the world has discovered the leader, scholar, pastor and husband whom I met on Sunday, August 23, 1992. There was, however, no way could either of us have known that our destinies would come togeth-

er this way. Each year Bishop celebrates his anniversary, I also celebrate the day God introduced us. God has allowed me to celebrate every ministry milestone in his life. It is an honor to support Mt. Zion Baptist Church and to serve with Bishop Walker. Regardless of any future ambition and regardless of where my calling in ministry takes me, I will never outgrow being his armorbearer.

May God eternally keep the anointing on his life.

"I am thankful that the world has discovered the leader, scholar, pastor and husband..."




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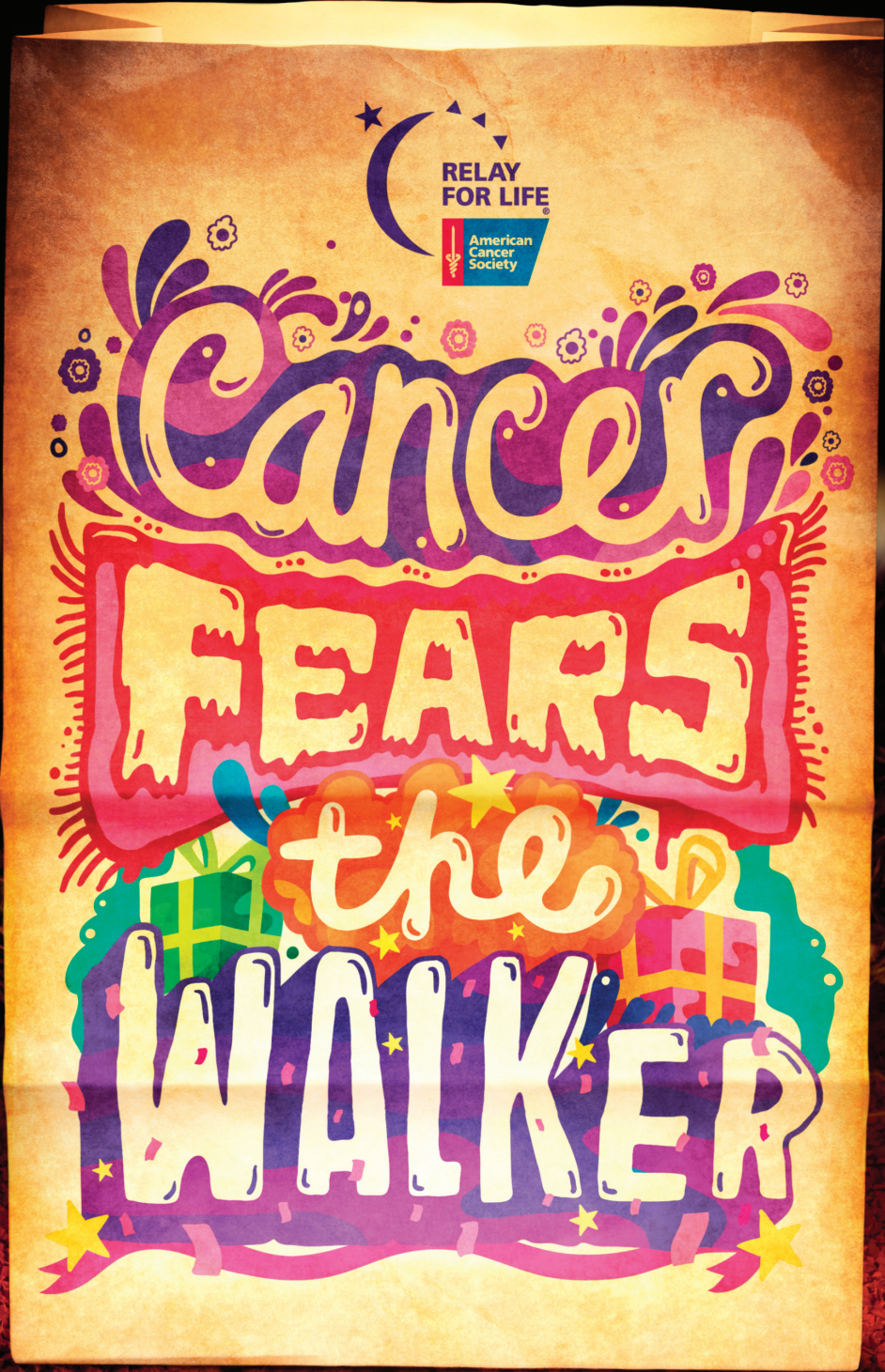
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PROMISE

BY: **Jeboria Scott & Michelle Jones**

Bishop Walker's support and strong dedication to leadership is the catalyst that allows the Daughters of the Promise to walk in the fullness of our calling. He is unwavering in his goal to positively impact lives in the Nashville community. His commitment is demonstrated through his actions, which suggest an absolute clarity as to the purpose and mission of the church. In 2011, Bishop Walker's vision for the church was "Healing the House." As Daughters of The Promise, we seize every opportunity to pour into the lives of our sisters-in-Christ. Every month, we plan activities specifically geared towards empowering the lives of our

single and married sisters by imparting wisdom in transparent ways. We have engaged women in various activities and initiatives—including bowling, a quarterly prayer breakfast, diaper donations to the Hope Clinic and assistance at Room In the Inn.

One of our most popular events is Girl Talk, which provides a forum for women to freely share their life experiences. During these sessions, women are freed from strongholds, uplifted and inspired. In one Girl Talk session, a woman mentioned that she contemplated suicide, and that the only thing that prevented her from doing so was an invitation to a Girl Talk session. Another young lady was even blessed with a scholarship to finish nursing school and with a paid registration to the 2012 Daughters of the Promise Women's Retreat.

Our Prayer Breakfast continues to be a blessing to all who attend. At one of the sessions, a woman admitted to arriving there with very little

gas in her car. She hoped to be the winner of one of several gift cards being raffled off during the event. After hearing her plea, those in attendance gave her more than \$300.00 dollars. One lady mentioned that she was blessed by receiving hugs from several core members.

Whatever Daughters of the Promise accomplishes, the primary objective is to uplift women so that hearts are healed from the inside out. As a ministry, we have grown tremendously under the leadership of Bishop Walker. We have created a bond and a unified connection with the women of Mt. Zion.

Bishop Walker has created an environment where auxiliaries are given the responsibility and accountability to act as God's emissaries on earth. Under his leadership, he ensures that Mt. Zion has a relevant mission that instills a sense of purpose. The Daughters of the Promise are committed.

A CHAMPION OF HOPE

BY: **Kim Smith**

The festive day had turned into night. The luminarias aligned the track—each one reminding us of a loved one touched by cancer. Although the high spirit of love and camaraderie was in the air, a sense of peace lay over the crowd as everyone's eyes were affixed on one man, Bishop Joseph Walker. Bishop Walker stood before the crowd and directed us to look up at the sky. He professed that this night was ordained by God, and that His presence was with us. He reminded us of the HOPE of God's healing power and of our own ability to impact change in the fight against cancer. All who were present at the Relay For Life event knew that we were part of something significant because hope was our inspiration.

Bishop Walker has always been a Champion of Hope in the fight against cancer. Under his leadership and support, Mt. Zion implemented the first faith-based Relay For Life event in the nation. Since then, other faith-based entities across the country have been moved to impact the fight against cancer in the same manner. Mt. Zion was also the first faith-based entity to host a CPS-3 (Cancer Prevention Study) enrollment inspiring nearly 200 people to participate in a 20-year study for cancer research. Now, the American Cancer Society uses this same model to bring other faith-based entities on board. The steps of one man, Bishop Walker, have inspired many to participate in RFL.

Relay For Life is a time when we as a congregation **Celebrate** our cancer survivors, **Remember** our loved ones lost to cancer and **Fight Back** against cancer by making healthy lifestyle choices as well as by raising funds for the American Cancer Society. As Mt. Zion continues to strive to be an oasis of HOPE within the Nashville community as well as around the world, we are encouraged and empowered by the vision our pastor sets before us.

The Christians Against Cancer Ministry congratulates Bishop Walker on his 20 years of leadership and service. We thank you for blessing our congregation with a venue where we can

Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back.

HERE ARE SOME TESTIMONIALS FROM A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS:

I had been in Nashville for about a year, and I felt it was time for me to get involved in the church. While sitting under the anointed teaching of Bishop Walker, I received great insight on how important it is to build relationship with others, so I became a member of the Women's Ministry in 2008. I later realized that I was in the right place. I can actually say I have made some really good friends, so thanks, Bishop Walker, for allowing God to use you in unimaginable ways.

— Angela D. Jackson

I joined the Women's Ministry in an effort to become more involved in the church. The blessings I have experienced since joining the Women's Ministry have been extraordinary. When women of God come together with one purpose, the glory of God is MORE than powerful. It's life-changing!

— Michelle M. Jones

After joining Mt. Zion, I was looking for an avenue in which to serve God. I can say without reservation that the decision to serve on the Women's Ministry was the right one. We have made significant strides in impacting the God's kingdom. Bishop has been a phenomenal leader, preaching a very relevant word. God has allowed him to be a BLESSING to Mt Zion for the last 20 years, and we hope there will be many more to come.

— Miquelyn Holt

I bless GOD for the opportunity to serve under the leadership of Bishop Walker and to follow the vision the LORD has given him. The anointing of Bishop Walker has flowed not only to me as a leader in Mt. Zion but also in every aspect of my life, allowing me to walk in integrity as a woman in God's kingdom.

— Elder Princess Cowan, Overseer of Daughters of the Promise



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The Mount Zion Vision Team congratulates

Bishop Joseph W. Walker III,

on 20 years of faithfulness.

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- David Warren, Music Director, Antioch

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP WALKER ON 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS:

It seems like only yesterday I was standing in front of the congregation on Jefferson Street as a pre-teen doing the church announcements and welcoming new visitors to my church home. I can remember my mother dropping me off Sunday morning, before she had to go to work and do her nursing duties. Her only question was, "How are you going to get home"? I would assure her that I would be just fine. Sure enough after service I would politely tap someone and ask if they could take me home. The answer was always 'yes'. I can remember our church becoming too large for every location we acquired and now three locations later, I just smile in silence. I would like to personally thank you Bishop Walker for making my 15-year journey with Mt. Zion amazing. I'm so proud to call Mt. Zion my church home. Bishop Walker my pastor and Dr. Stephaine Walker, our first lady. I love you guys both and I love the entire Mt. Zion Church. XOXO

Tamara Thrower
Owner

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A R E N A I S S A N C E

man^{of} GOD

BY: Alex Atkinson

Twenty years ago, I arrived in Nashville, Tennessee for a college tour of Vanderbilt University, which literally changed my life. During recruitment, on stage, stepping with the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, was Joseph W. Walker, III, who was showcasing his “skills” as a master stepper before Vandy students. Little did I know in the fall of 1992 that I would meet him again as by future pastor. Twenty years ago, Mt. Zion Baptist Church was a church with a congregation of approximately 175 members. No one could have foreseen what Mt. Zion would become 20 years later under the dynamic leadership of one of its youngest pastors.

Attending Mt. Zion in the early 90s as a college student was like going to my grandmother’s church. Deep in tradition and history, it was a staple in the community; however, it was about to undergo a transformation like no other ministry under the leadership of Rev. Walker. It became apparent that the number of college students attending services increased weekly. Some of us went because we grew up in church all our lives, but we invited our friends because the Word was relevant to our situation as students. As Sunday service grew in attendance, we were soon invited to Bible Study, which for some of us had been boring and disengaging in the past. However, he promised to make it an “hour of power.” I can tell you that it was nothing like any Bible Study I had attended. We students took copious notes during Bible Study as though we were in a classroom. At the closing of Bible Study, Rev. Walker did something unique, which he probably does not recall today. He

instructed us to pray in groups of 3-5 people. Praying in groups was an energy boost to the mind and spirit that motivated us to keep going a little while longer.

Mt. Zion was growing by leaps and bounds through the late 90s. I still remember the Sunday that we students came to church on time, rather than early, and had to sit in the balcony. Pastor would always encourage the seasoned members of Mt. Zion to embrace the college students and make sure that hospitality was at the forefront. Thousands of college students have passed through Mt. Zion over the years with the congregation cordially greeting them. In particular, members like Seniors Iris Brandon and Rosa Lee Houston, Deacon James Dobson, Deacon Woodrow Campbell and others were glad to see us at church. Members who represented the spirit of our pastor such as Deacon Oscar Crawford and Deacon Lewis Trammell are now deceased, but their generosity will never be forgotten.

Long before the Mt. Zion Praise & Worship Team, the Deacons’ Ministry led devotion old school style at the beginning of service. Rev. Walker eventually asked the Music Ministry to lead the church in songs before the message. I believe that our pastor noticed that young adults needed to be engaged worshippers. Thus, the Inspirational Voices of Zion (IVZ) was created as the young adult choir. IVZ was like a fresh wind that accompanied Rev. Walker to local churches. Whenever he was the guest speaker at a local church, Mt. Zion



A RENAISSANCE

“.... he has reshaped and redefined ministry in the 21st century church.”



MAN OF GOD

members packed the visiting church to support him. He would say, “Mt. Zion, Stand up!” and over half the congregation would be our members. On occasions, we also traveled out of state with him, especially to his home church, Mt. Canaan Baptist Church in Louisiana where he embraced his pastor, Rev. Harry Blake. Once, our pastor preached so powerfully that the Holy Spirit turned the service upside down and moved worship to new level. We loved our pastor and wanted to make sure he knew that the church supported him. We “had his back.”

Over the years, Rev. Walker called Mt. Zion members with gifts and talents to get involved. He was the first pastor at Mt. Zion to ordain a female minister, Elder Opal Scales, and jump started Ministers-in-Training to insure that individuals called to the proclamation of the gospel received the best training. While in class with him one day, I remember his saying, “You don’t let a doctor who hasn’t been to medical school perform surgery on you, so why would you let someone who refuses to be properly trained minister to you?”





A R E N A I S S A N C E

Showing his passion for kingdom building, Rev. Walker invested in many who now serve God's kingdom as pastors and as other church leaders. Looking back, I often think about our times to fellowship with one another at his home years ago, where there was good food too.

I remember the Sunday he announced that we had literally run out of space to hold the second morning service. On a normal Sunday, a 45-minute early arrival was necessary to get a seat in the sanctuary, or watching service on the big screen television in the basement was our alternative. The congregation soon moved to the World Baptist Center (WBC) to hold our second service. The WBC was enormous compared to our Jefferson Street location, but our pastor assured us that God had a plan and that we would find a new home. During this time, Rev. Walker always seemed to be thinking 2-3 years ahead. He established additional ministries, which led to continued membership growth. Under his leadership, the Mt. Zion Bible College, which is now the Mt. Zion Discipleship Institute, was created in partnership with Vanderbilt Divinity School. Also, the College Ambassadors program reached out to the college campuses to increase student participation, which led to the establishment of the Campus Crusade for Christ at Tennessee State University. Our pastor has always been a person who stressed the importance of education and life-long training.

I can say over the years our pastor's gifts to preach and to teach about the kingdom of God did not go unnoticed. When he was consecrated a Bishop in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, I had the privilege to be present. The Mt. Zion congregation was quite proud of him.

As we transitioned from the WBC to the Tennessee State University (TSU) Gentry Center for worship services, preaching and teaching the gospel was always at the forefront, but many memorable experiences came along with our new location. For instance, while we were at the TSU Gentry Center, many newly converted members were baptized in TSU's Olympic-size pool. It was also while we were at the Gentry Center that God lead Bishop to start another service in South Nashville at Glencliff High School. What was supposed to be something small turned into something BIG at the first Sunday services there. We held worship services in the school auditorium but quickly moved to the gymnasium the following Sunday. God was empowering our pastor and congregation in a mighty way. This was the season, too, in which we found our new home location on Old Hickory Boulevard in Whites Creek, Tennessee. The Lord led the church to more than 100 acres of prime land where our main location resides today. The excitement from the congregation and shouts of praise told the story that God had yet fulfilled another promise.

M A N O F G O D

“...hearing the voice of God gave him the answer of obedience”

However, in the midst of the OHB building process, God stretched Bishop Walker by giving him another, more challenging, vision—the building of the Antioch location. Now, if you know anything about Bishop, he despises debt, and building another location in the midst of just walking into one newly erected seemed unheard of in the church community. However, hearing the voice of God gave him the answer of obedience, “Yes, Lord.” A testament of perseverance, today, Antioch stands debt free under the leadership of our pastor, who is a visionary.

God has led our pastor through the hills and the valleys, tests and trials and again into victory. We had several recordings happen with our choirs including Judah Generation, which showcased our young people to whom our pastor is dedicated. Ministry outreach to colleges and universities across Middle Tennessee sends hundreds of students to church each Sunday. They are shuttled to the OHB location for 11:15 morning worship and fed a full dinner following service. The Lord sustained our pastor through the unfortunate loss of his first wife (The Late Dr. Diane Walker), but God has chosen another in Dr. Stephaine Walker, who nurtures what God has placed inside of him as a husband, pastor, mentor and father-to-be.

I am truly blessed by the man of God to not only see him grow over the years as my pastor but also as my mentor in ministry. He has encouraged me and countless co-laborers in our academic aspirations and motivated us to pursue our dreams. On many occasions, I sat in service, heard the voice of God and knew I was in the right place at the right time.

Bishop Walker is a Renaissance man of God because he has reshaped and redefined ministry in the 21st century church. He as often stated that we are not an eight-track ministry trapped in an iPad generation but a global ministry, through mtzionanywhere, touching lives and saving souls. He has planted the Zion Church and encourages his son's and daughters-in-ministry around the world. Our pastor is a true testament of Jeremiah 3:15 (NKJV), “And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

FAITHFULNES S

*A commemorative timeline of 20
years of faithfulness and service from
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.*

2011

- Bishop Walker co-authors *Becoming A Couple of Destiny* with Dr. Stephaine.
- Bishop Walker supports the Walk 100 Miles with Mayor Dean.
- Bishop Walker is the “Relationship Doctor” on *The Rickey Smiley Morning Show*.
- Mt. Zion launches Church Fit, a movement promoting healthy living.
- Mt. Zion’s Christian Education Department offers a wide range of ministry classes and programs under its Mt. Zion Discipleship Institute.

2009

- Mt. Zion launches **mtzion**anywhere, a virtual church location.

2006

- Bishop Walker becomes consecrated as Bishop of Evangelism of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International under the leadership of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.
- June 27, 2006 - Judah Generation, the Mt. Zion Youth Choir releases *Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III Presents Judah Generation*, their inaugural CD.

2005

- Bishop Walker introduces Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University to the congregation to encourage debt-free living.

2003

- Mt. Zion launches its Business Fair to benefit members and the Nashville community.
- December 2003 - Mt. Zion completes a third ministry complex and acquires a retail center in Antioch, Tennessee.

1992

- Bishop Walker began his pastorate at Mt. Zion Baptist Church with about 175 members.

1998

- Bishop Walker kicks off the first You Can Make It Youth Crusade at Mt. Zion.

1999

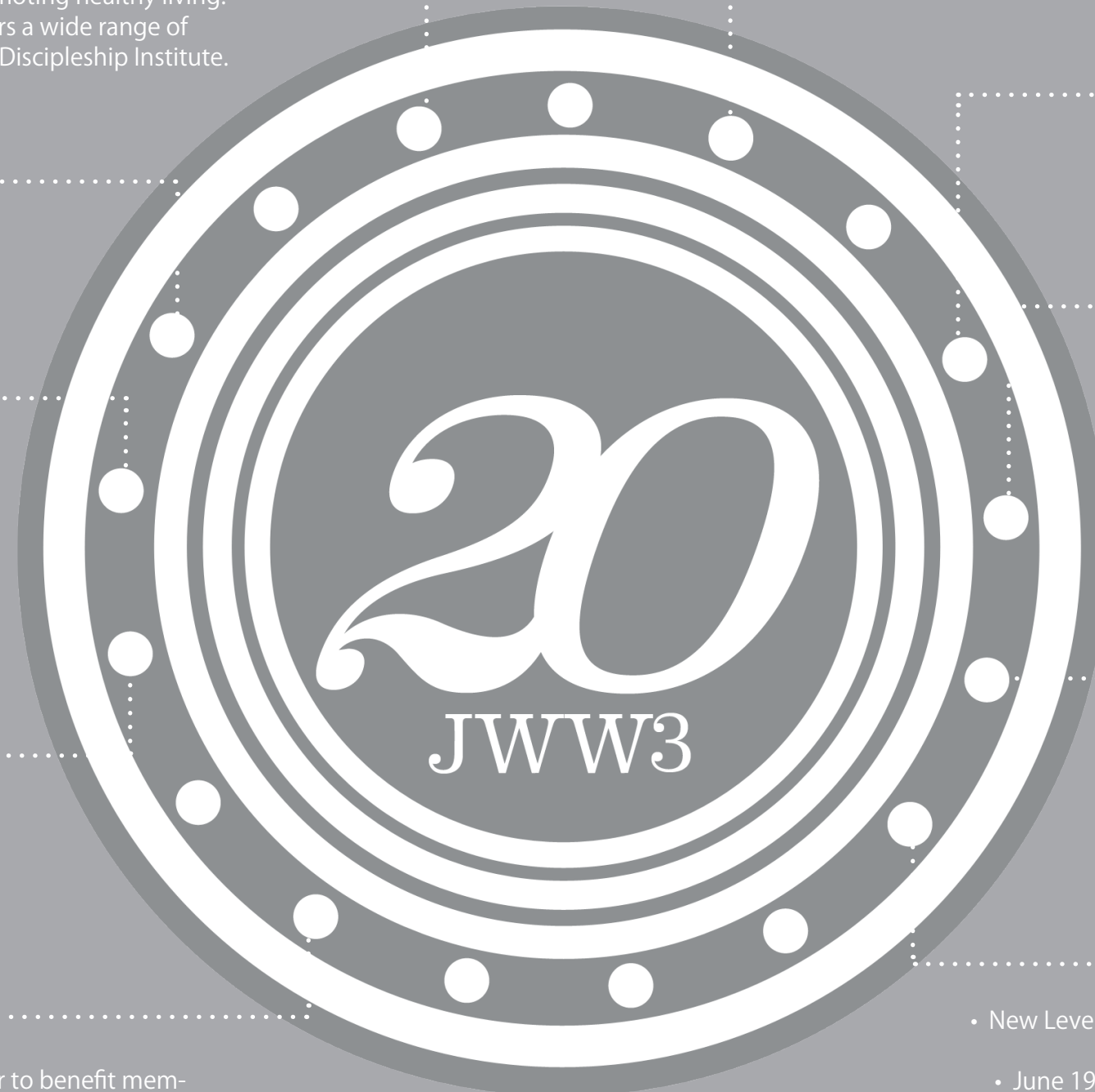
- Mt. Zion’s historical Jefferson Street location reaches full capacity, leading to the expansion of services to temporary locations that included the World Baptist Center, Tennessee State University, Glenclyff High School and Riverdale Baptist Church (Murfreesboro, Tennessee).

2000

- Bishop Walker publishes his first two books—*From Tragedy to Triumph* and *Before You Say “I Do.”*
- This is the first year Bishop Walker awards academic scholarships to deserving students.

2001

- New Level Community Development Corporation is founded as a Mt. Zion outreach ministry.
- June 19, 2001 - The Mt. Zion Mass Choir releases *Worship in His Presence*, the choir’s freshman album.
- October 2001 - Mt. Zion completes a \$17 million, state-of-the-art ministry complex that seats 5,000 on Old Hickory Boulevard.



“And all things are of God, who has reconciled himself to us through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

II Corinthians 5:13 (KJV)

faith & finances a ministry of reconciliation

BY: Jerry White, General Overseer of Fiscal Management

Faith and Finances often times clash under the same roof. However, with strong leadership that is transparent about dollars-and-cents, the Mt. Zion Ministry, with Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III as our pastor, has worked diligently to keep balance between the two. Both a man of faith and a visionary, our pastor preaches a simple, personal and relevant word that has a foundation in worship, outreach, relationship and discipleship. On the other hand, accounting/finance requires a practical approach that is systemic, rigid, controlling and impersonal.

These two fundamental opposites join hand-in-hand at Mt. Zion through intelligent fiscal management combined with a spiritual focus. Thus, finances do not drive the Vision of the House. Rather, the Vision of the House drives the finances. Let me share with you how the latter has been successful over the last ten years.

Since Bishop Walker's arrival in 1992, Mt Zion has experienced phenomenal growth. During the 90s, Mt. Zion's growth was exponential and required an expansion of services to several satellite locations until finally securing 125 acres of property in Whites Creek, Tennessee. Through a combination of in-house and external financing, we raised the 15 million dollars needed to build the Old Hickory Boulevard location. However, the last minute addition of an upper balcony threatened the timely completion of the project and contributed to a deficit of two million dollars. Mt. Zion leadership asked me to assist in negotiating the additional outside funding to complete the project, and I later accepted the role of Chief Financial Officer to manage current spending requirements. Our church family moved into our new site in October 2001 and successfully implemented intelligent fiscal management techniques, which set us on the path to recovery.

In early 2002, our pastor realized that we would have to expand again. Our remaining satellite location was located at Glencliff High School in Antioch, and it ultimately became our fastest growing service. We located 8.4 acres in Antioch, consisting of a strip mall and an abandoned Albertson's grocery, and redirected our debt-free campaign to the Antioch location after negotiating a lease buy-out arrangement with Albertson's. Our banking partner approved the church for a bridge

loan of three million dollars payable over two years but granting the loan was contingent upon our obtaining pledges from members to cover the loan. The bank gave us one month to obtain the pledges. Then, we invited bank officials to our worship services the following Sunday and obtained the necessary pledges in one day! Also, with the wisdom gained from our OHB construction, we were able to complete the Antioch construction on time and under budget. We moved into the new site in December 2003.

To fulfill our Debt Service, maintain our ministries and manage multiple locations, we needed an increase in our giving by 30%-40%. We also committed to a significant cut in our spending to establish a stronger cash position. Bishop Walker placed the largest share of the burden squarely on his shoulders. We met our giving

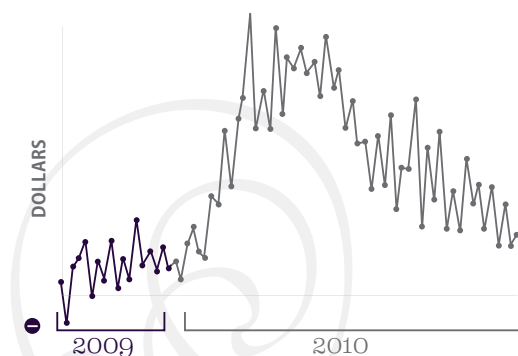
increase goals through additional services at the Antioch location. Still today, these additional services require him to preach four times on Sunday and three times on Wednesday every week.

In the second quarter of 2009, Mt. Zion experienced a 20% decrease in weekly giving. Mt. Zion, like many churches, felt the impact of our country's economic downturn. Consequently, we evaluated ministry initiatives and devised an updated spending plan consistent with the decrease in giving. We effectively managed our spending without impacting ministry initiatives, without resulting to layoffs or salary reductions and by continuing our debt reduction program. We successfully reduced our debt by \$2.5 million within the last two years.

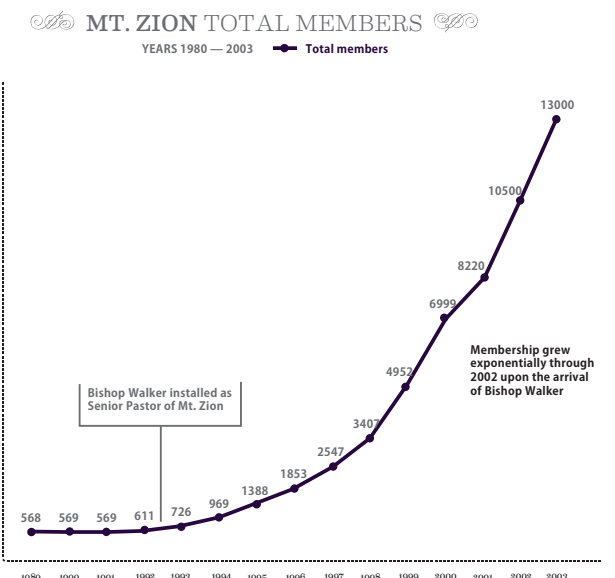
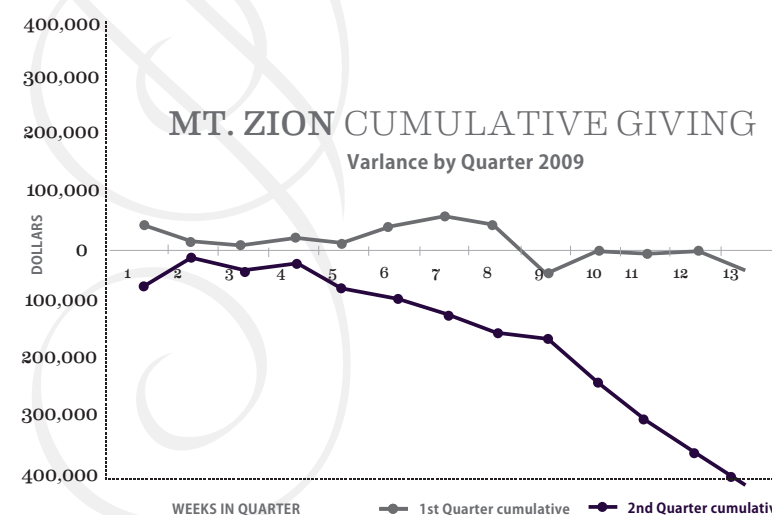
As Christians, we adhere to an economy of faith. However, we also

recognize that we are involved in active spiritual warfare. This war manifests itself through the current state of economic turmoil across the world. The effective management of kingdom economics requires the wisdom to accept a spiritual mindset, while utilizing effective tools and behavior shifts to deal with the financial practicalities we face on a daily basis. Hence, intelligent fiscal management with a spiritual focus is of the utmost importance.

In the life struggle of spirituality vs. practicality, Mt. Zion believes in reconciling the two. In Proverbs 13:22 (KJV), the Bible states “A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children.” We at Mt. Zion are blessed to be a progressive ministry with a congregation that understands this biblical principle.



MT. ZION CASH RESERVES
Actual cash reserves August 2009 — December 2010



ANTIOCH SITE ACQUISITION

\$7.6 Million Total Project Cost

\$3.2 Million Land Acquisition

\$4.4 Million Church Construction Cost

PAID IN FULL

Congratulations

on 20 years of faithfulness

Bishop
Joseph
Walker

LOVE, MEMBERS:

Fannie Holmes
Pamela Dixon Evans
Eunice Bell

Dangerfield Family
Janice Anderson
Frank & Fannie Holmes
Charles McCutcheon
Beverly Benedict
Caldwell & Catherine Ramsey
Alamazie & Tasha Warren



Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report,
full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
Acts 6:3 (KJV) II Corinthians 5:13 (KJV)

the heart of a shepherd

BY: Feloy Gibbs, Lee Molette & Bobby Straughter

Bringing Self Awareness . . . by Feloy Gibbs

Major precepts and religious beliefs are essential foundations that form over a lifetime and that usually require life-changing behaviors. Rarely in life does an individual or an experience require man to redefine his outlook on life.

To redefine something means to give a new or different definition to a word or an item. That is exactly what Bishop Walker did for me regarding my perspective on the church. I was raised in a household that taught the principles of Christian behavior and biblical rules. I knew what salvation meant, what it required and had long forged a personal relationship with God for myself. However, I had a "silo" view of what church was and how it should be viewed.

Upon joining Mt. Zion in 1992 and beginning to work alongside Bishop Walker in ministry, I began to *redefine* what church really entailed. No longer would I classify my religion as Baptist, but I began to view the body of Christ as an assembly of people who believed in Jesus Christ and his teachings. Denomination began to take a back seat to faith. I no longer placed emphasis on the doctrine of one's denomination because I began to focus more on how God intended for his believers to live in the world that he created for us.

Being fortunate to see Mt. Zion grow in numbers from approximately 250 people to now over 20,000 has been an exciting period in my life. However, the growth in numbers is not what has impressed me most about Bishop Walker's work.

"Bishop Walker helped me redefine my identity..."

What I view as the greatest gift Bishop Walker has given Mt. Zion and our community is the ability to look at things with a different perspective. In the past, I had a limited spiritual viewpoint on issues such as health, finances, relationships and worship. Growing up, I believed that God could do anything but fail; however, the church would always navigate what that meant for me. While the traditional Baptist church provided a strong foundation for my personal convictions, it limited me on what I could achieve in and through Christ. Bishop Walker taught me that it was okay to be affiliated with the Baptist denomination as long as it did not compromise what the Bible says. Therefore, if the Baptist denomination said women were not allowed in the pulpit, I should seek spiritual truth regarding matters instead of accepting denominational doctrine. If the Baptist faith requires that Deacons work as a board, does the Bible support that idea?

Even having experienced the worst loss in my life with the death of my son Isaiah, Bishop's teaching of Scripture helped my family to understand God's sovereign love. During this time, he showed us great compassion as our brother-in-Christ rather than as a "Bishop of a big church." In each of these situations, Bishop Walker stretched me and helped me redefine my theology regarding church customs.

I am fortunate to have been raised in the Baptist church and to have been given a strong spiritual foundation toward becoming the man that I am today. As my spiritual leader, Bishop Walker helped me redefine my identity in becoming a stronger man of faith as a husband, father, son and Christian who now walks, even more, in and through the Word of God. I believe that "I can do what It says I can do, be who It says I can be and have what It says I can have."

I will be forever grateful to Bishop Joseph W. Walker III, a great pastor and leader.

... Spiritual Direction ... by Lee Molette

As with most members, when I walked into my first service at Mt. Zion, I knew I had entered a unique church. Reflecting on the past, I recall the first time I attempted to attend a church service at the Jefferson Street location. I could hear the music as I approached the building. I could see a line of people waiting to enter the sanctuary, so I went to another church down the street. The following Sunday, I visited Mt. Zion again and eventually joined the church.

Over the years, Mt. Zion reached many milestones pivotal to its growth and maturation. First, Rev. Walker invested time and research to set up the foundation for the soon-to-be mega ministry. His diligence showed the congregation that Mt. Zion would be different from what we understood to be our traditional church. Not only did he study long and hard about the church but he also improved himself by earning his doctorate degree from Princeton University. We then referred to him as Dr. Walker and eventually as Bishop when he became the first of his Nashville peers to be consecrated a Bishop.

Bishop's research and anointing led him to change both the structure and function of the Deacon Board. We shifted our focus from a governing body to a body directly serving the needs of the congregation. While in transition, the decision to change our name to the Deacons Ministry reflected our role of service and the heart of our pastor.

During my 11-year tenure as a Deacon, I have been afforded the opportunity to have a special relationship with Bishop Walker. In my tenure as Deacon chair, Bishop Walker shared his vision with me and gave me the autonomy to lead the Deacons Ministry. His confidence in my ability to understand his vision and to carry it out was rewarding to me. We had very few issues during that time, but if an issue arose, we were always willing to discuss a resolution.

During the great loss of his first wife, the Late Dr. Diane Greer Walker, the Deacons were honored to be at his side, holding him up in brotherly love. Grieving was difficult for the church, but our pastor's anointing, commitment and strength led us through it

to where we are today. Mt. Zion is blessed to have a gift in Reverend, Doctor and Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.

... and Service by Deacon Bobby Straughter

After experiencing the anointing of the Holy Spirit through the messages of Bishop Walker, I had a burning desire to serve Mt. Zion in a greater way. As a Deacon, I was honored to be appointed over the business of rendering service to the flock of Mt. Zion and of supporting a great leader—Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III. Receiving weekly a relevant word from God through Bishop, I had a conversation of commitment in my mind, saying to myself, "I want to help this man. I want to offer him my service and support so that he might be free to continue to minister in such a profound way."

I began attending services at Mt. Zion in 2001. I came from a small traditional Baptist church in Mississippi, where I served as custodian, counselor, Sunday school teacher and chairman of the Deacons. I unlocked the doors, lit the heaters and filled the baptismal pool. I was relatively a "one man" servant for a small, yet needy, congregation of believers.

After joining the Deacons Ministry at Mt. Zion—my eyes had not seen, my ears had not heard, nor had it entered into my mind—the works of God that were being performed before me. I transitioned from a small membership into a spiritual covering at Mt. Zion, where a plan to meet the needs of each congregant had been established for serving alongside the pastor. Kicking off the Mississippi dust, I joined a team of 40 Deacons, willing servants, to fulfill a new commitment of service. Bishop's vision for our role in the church reflected the heart of a shepherd.

As I entered into the early morning worship service, I was astonished to find the church filled with a multitude of worshippers. Each Sunday, many people gave their lives to Christ, which yielded a need for bi-weekly baptisms. Mt. Zion had more saints being baptized bi-weekly than I could recall being baptized annually in my home church.

The anointing God has placed on Bishop Walker's life is amazing. Each yearly vision for our congregation comes to pass. Everything Bishop advocates appears to end successfully. He organized conferences attended by hundreds of youth from various states and communities and hosted special occasions like Super Sunday and New Year's Eve services, which still generate bumper-to-bumper traffic. I thought to myself, "God has His hands on this man." Bishop's anointing does not stay within the confines of the walls of Mt. Zion. It extends to the Middle Tennessee community, across the U.S. and around the world.

Bishop is an awesome man of God. Over the past 10 years, I have watched him impact the city of Nashville in numerous ways— from the Room In the Inn to the Nashville Disaster Relief (May Flood), from Relay For Life to cleaning up neighborhoods and from supporting the American Red Cross to providing financial assistance to local college students. Our pastor demonstrates a tireless passion for service and a natural concern for his fellow man.

I pray that God continues to bless Bishop with a generous portion of strength for the work of the gospel and continues to give us, the Deacons, the zeal to be an even stronger arm of support to him and to the Mt. Zion congregation.

"Each yearly vision for our congregation comes to pass..."

"While Mt. Zion celebrates the 20th anniversary of Bishop Walker, New Level CDC celebrates its 10th anniversary, fulfilling his vision of God's church serving God's people in our community." -Kay Bowers

ministry on a new level

BY: Kay Bowers, Executive Director

The year was 1996. Deacon Lee Molette, a long time Mt. Zion member, and Bishop Walker were sitting in Bishop's office on Jefferson Street, working on Project 2000, which was building Mt. Zion's Old Hickory Boulevard (OHB) facility—at the time still a concept. During that work session, Bishop Walker shared with Deacon Molette his vision for an additional South Nashville facility and his desire for the church

to continue serving the North Nashville community.

Five years later, after the efforts to construct the OHB and Antioch locations were well underway, Bishop Walker circled back to his vision for a vehicle to provide support for the North Nashville community. That vehicle became a faith-based nonprofit community development corporation. Its mission was to be God's hands by bringing resources, tools and knowledge into the community.

The name "New Level CDC" (not to be confused with another government entity called the CDC or Centers for Disease Control) came from the theme for Mt. Zion's ministries, which was "ministry on a new level." Bishop Walker and Elder Bryant met over lunch with Deacon Molette to ask for his help in launching the nonprofit business, New Level Community Development Corporation. Deacon Molette agreed and began to put the pieces in place. He states, "Bishop Walker has the ability to help others catch the vision, he gives them the autonomy to execute and he provides the foundational support to help bring the vision to fruition."

A year later, the organization was officially approved by the state

"Bishop provides the foundational support to help bring the vision to fruition."

of Tennessee as a nonprofit community development corporation and by early 2003 had been approved by the IRS as a nonprofit business. Bishop Walker understood that leaders were critical to the success of any organization and that New Level CDC should reach into the community for needed knowledge and expertise. Joyce Searcy, a board member who was not a Mt. Zion member at the time, states:

Bishop Walker wanted people with knowledge, open minds and a heart for the community. He was engaged in the early meetings, listened intently and asked tons of questions. He was looking for individuals who would bring their gifts and a strong work ethic so that together they could lay the foundation for change in the community.

Community development frequently takes place in tough neighborhoods with many challenges and involves working with many different mindsets. It is by its very nature "a faith building" experience that pushes people out of their comfort zone to work across economic lines, racial lines, cultural lines and religious lines. Bishop Walker set the example for those from Mt. Zion who were involved in New Level CDC's early days to reach deeply and broadly into the community, relying on our belief that God walks beside us.

Early on, education campaigns took place around HIV awareness and domestic violence, voter registration drives were held and business development workshops took place. Programs and services were added to empower people with money management skills for them to learn credible ways to build wealth, to prepare for

successful homeownership and to gain the knowledge needed to ensure the success of a new business. New Level CDC invested, and still invests, in the North Nashville community by building and improving homes and by providing a foundation for families to live and grow into all that God intends for them to be.

One success story is that of Sarah and her son Cornelius, who rent one of the homes that New Level CDC recently purchased and rehabbed. Sarah is improving her financial future through our personal finance training, and Cornelius has the opportunity to receive funds for his college education by completing our financial education and matching savings program. Today, their lives are more stable and safe while their tomorrows hold real, attainable promise. Their story is probably one of thousands that exemplifies our work's focus, God's people.

IF YOU CAN'T BE THERE FOR THEM, WE CAN HELP.

If you couldn't be there for your loved ones ...

- Could they keep their home? Their car?
- Would they be able to pay for health insurance?
- Could your kids afford to go to college?
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reflecting on the early years honoring a man after God's own heart

BY: Cassandra Gray

It is with great honor and respect that I share reflections on my past 20 years here at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and also pay tribute to a respected pastor, mentor, friend and extended family member, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.

My first introduction to Mt. Zion and to Bishop Walker—then Pastor Walker—dates back to the early years, 1994 to be exact. During this time, Bishop was in his first year as pastor of the church, and I was one of several local college students who soon made Mt. Zion's Jefferson Street location their home.

Having grown up in a household that was half Methodist, half Baptist, I was accustomed to various types of ministry, from subtle Gloria Patri to hand clapping, congregation- swaying praise. Once I began my matriculation at Tennessee State University (TSU), I asked God to unite me with a ministry where I could mature in my faith, learn how to apply the Word to today's ever-evolving lifestyle and utilize my talents and gifts through ministry outreach. Mt. Zion was the answer to my prayer!

I recall my first visit to Mt. Zion in 1994. The church had roughly 200-or-so members comprised of Seniors, long-time members and a handful of college students hailing from TSU, Fisk, Meharry, Vanderbilt and American Baptist College. Bishop was practically a college student him-

self, having just finished his course study at Vanderbilt Divinity School. I was immediately impressed with the way the senior members offered their support to such a young pastor and the way they welcomed students with open arms.

Bishop Walker's ability to connect with all ages was evident through his delivery of the Word and his genuine interaction with the congregation. His messages were delivered in such a way that people of all ages, all walks of life and all levels of spiritual maturity could not only understand the Word but also easily apply the Word to their respective circumstances and endeavors.

Long before the days of feeding the masses of college students on-site, Bishop would feed the college students "personally" by taking us to the likes of Piccadilly or Homey's Diner for Sunday dinner. We were more than grateful for his generosity and willingness to feed us physically and spiritually. When the college students inevitably filled the Sunday pews, the church decided to provide dinner for them on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Bishop Walker was one who respected the elders in the church. In turn, they respected him and embraced his leadership. On many a Sunday, he would humbly take his seat so that 50+ members, such as Brother Oden and Brother Townsend, could take hold of the microphone, in their typical impromptu fashion, to testify before the congregation on

how good God had been to them and to Mt. Zion through the years. What a testament to the rich history of our ministry!

Many considered the worship experience as a balanced blend of traditional and modern church culture. Traditional—in a sense that several generations were represented in the church and modern—because of the ministry's fresh application of God's word and connection with a younger generation.

Bishop Walker wanted all members to become involved and find their own niche within the ministry. He personally invited college students to attend all types of church activities....including Baptist Training Union (BTU), church meetings, as well as weddings and funerals. As he would often share, "It's important to learn about your church and be supportive of one another." Onward, we went...to everything with the understanding that God honors faithfulness! It wasn't before long that I, and so many others, was busy working in some area of ministry. The Welcome Ministry, Communications Ministry, Singles Ministry, College Ministry...everyone was engaged in ministry outreach activities. Looking back, it was a good use of my time, and the experience positioned me to accomplish the goals I originally set forth—to grow in the faith and to properly use my talents. Bishop Walker and other church leaders were to be given credit for the increased and rapid involvement of college students within

the ministry.

Upon graduating from TSU, I interned and later worked for Bishop Walker as his assistant in the Youth Ministry Department of the Sunday School Publishing Board—National Baptist Convention (NBC, USA, Inc). Bishop Walker served as the Director of the Youth Ministry Department. In this role, he was responsible for consulting churches and organizations on the development and growth of their youth ministry initiatives.

Possessing a strong work ethic, Bishop Walker used his experiences at Mt. Zion to educate pastors and youth leaders on how to creatively and spiritually influence a changing generation. Much detail was spent preparing materials and talking points prior to each speaking engagement. As many know, Bishop Walker is quite the wordsmith. Let's just say the thesaurus and the dictionary became our friend as he wrote his messages and articles about youth ministry. All crafted prior to the age of Wikipedia, high-speed internet and social media, his work was grassroots, relevant and easy to apply to any ministry or organization, whether small or large. It's hard to believe all

of our work was produced using a word processor and Bishop's personal desktop computer. Times certainly have changed. Thank God for technology!

Whenever he traveled to speak before a group, ministries would grow and lives would change. Soon, we would witness youth and college ministries evolving across the country, reaching the masses through God's word. What a movement!

Bishop's writing skills were also put to use as Editor-in-Chief of YES Magazine. Published by the National Baptist Convention, the magazine was yet another tool used to educate and motivate youth and youth leaders involved in ministry.

One requirement of the Publishing Board staff was to attend weekly chapel. Whenever Bishop wasn't traveling, he would bless fellow staff by delivering the chapel message. On these days, word traveled fast that Bishop was the featured speaker. As you can imagine, there wasn't an empty seat in the place! The spirit was alive and moving as coworkers could often be heard and seen shouting up and down the hallways, moved by the Spirit and the inspirational

message brought forth.

Bishop Walker's experiences and exposure through the Sunday School Publishing Board, coupled with his passion for God's word, prepared him for the overwhelming growth of Mt. Zion in the years to come. From Jefferson Street to the Gentry Center, from the Baptist World Center to Old Hickory Boulevard, from Glencliff High School to the Antioch location and now to **mtzion**anywhere—the ministry's growth and outreach to the world has been phenomenal.

The congregation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church is blessed with a leader who is an anointed man after God's own heart. Thank you, Bishop Walker, for being a teacher, preacher, mentor and friend to me and to countless others who have long stood beside you during your 20-year tenure at Mt. Zion. We wouldn't have it any other way! Thank you for sharing your insight, your wisdom, your humor and your humility with us. Most importantly, I thank God for calling you to serve as one of His vessels. Beyond the walls of Mt. Zion, you are a blessing to the kingdom of God. We love and support you! Congratulations on your 20th year anniversary!



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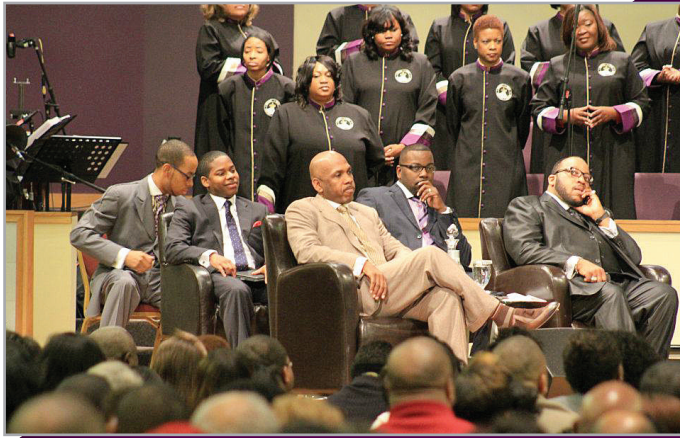
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