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RETRACTION & CORRECTIONS

Spring 2016 edition: Page 37. Article title: "Meet
Camryn Magsby." The name of Miss Magsby's former
church was printed as Hopeful. The correct name is
Hopewell.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

I greet each of you in Divine love. As I pen this letter to you, I'm filled with much emotion. Reflecting back on the rich history of the Mount Zion Baptist Church is significant enough, but to be included in that history is beyond humbling. The Mount Zion Church has stood the test of time for 150 years, carving out an indelible place in the annals of history. This remarkable journey has impacted this community, and now the world, in unprecedented ways. This edition will attempt to share some of those stories of faith and fortitude.

THE MOUNT ZION CHURCH HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME FOR 150 YEARS

I remember when I first became pastor of this great church. The senior saints were, and still are today, amazing. Their commitment to the things of God inspired me to become the best I could be. I would

never have been able to accomplish the things God has allowed me to do if it were not for an amazing people who followed the vision of a young minister they believed was sent by God. I often stood in that pulpit on Jefferson Street in awe of the opportunity to lead God's people.

One of the things I realized early on is what Proverbs 22:10 says: "Remove not the old landmark." Mount Zion's history is what has given it the foundation to pursue the destiny it does today. The entrepreneurs who attended this church in the 1960's kept Jefferson Street vibrant, and the scholars who graced this pulpit positively impacted universities in this city.

Though times have changed, the family culture of Mount Zion has remained. It's family that has sustained this church over all these years. As I was embraced as a young preacher from Louisiana living in Nashville for the first time, Mount Zion continues to embrace and become family to countless others who have traveled through this city or who have made Nashville their home.

Mount Zion, we are incredibly blessed to be alive to witness this

MOUNT ZION IS NOW A GLOBAL FORCE, TOUCHING LIVES AROUND THE WORLD.

milestone of 150 years. We have an obligation to run our leg of the race, leaving a powerful legacy to the generations behind us. The Dream Center will be part of that legacy. I encourage each of you to continue to support the vision and mission of this great church. Mount Zion is now a global force, touching lives around the world. Though our reach has broadened, we are still committed to this community. It's this balance that allows us to be who God has called us to be. Thank each of you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to what the next 150 years will bring.

In His Service,
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III

from the desk of the *First Lady*

What a delight it is to share with each of you today. This edition of the *Trumpet* allows us all to take a look back at the remarkable history of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. For over 150 magnificent years, Mount Zion has impacted this community and continues to do so today. It is awe-inspiring to hear the stories of so many of our elders who were instrumental in the success of this ministry. It's these stories that should inspire us all to step up to the plate and do our part.

Although I've only been at Mount Zion as first lady for seven of those years, before that time, I experienced the impact of this authentic, relationship-driven ministry. When we were students at Vanderbilt University, my classmates and I would visit Mount Zion to get a word from its young pastor. Although I never met Bishop at that time, his ministry was instrumental in helping my classmates and me to get through school and beyond. As students, this church embraced us and taught us what an authentic, personal relationship with Christ looked and felt like.

The Mount Zion ministry left a significant impression in my spirit that I carried with me throughout my formidable adult years. Little did I know that I would return over 16 years later. It is so encouraging to see that that spirit remains in the church to this day as countless students attend and depend on the ministries of Mount Zion to be poured into week after week.

I believe our future is so promising. The spirit of faithfulness and generosity that has afforded us the privilege to call Mount Zion our church home beckons us all to go to the next level. I'm convinced that our best days are ahead of us. I have been so honored to see MZ ChurchFIT touch the lives of so many people. I remain committed to working with our outstanding team to take the Health and Wellness Ministry to another level.

Please know that all of us have a place. All of us have an assignment. All of us are Mount Zion. I'm honored and thankful to stand beside my husband, Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III, as he leads us into the future. With 150 years at our back pushing us forward, the future looks bright.

In His Service,
Dr. Stephaine H. Walker, MD, MPH



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THE OLD IS FOREVER NEW

by Elder Jimmy Roberts | Twitter @jimmyroberts7
Photo of Jimmy Roberts taken by RCCL-Oasis of the Seas



Early in my career, I had the opportunity to work for 3M where I received sales training that was second to none. The skills I learned then are skills I use every day. One thing that was etched in my mind during my tenure there was a saying that seemed to be everywhere: "The old is forever new." 3M wanted us to know that during our career, there may be ways we learn to enhance what we do, but nothing can replace the basics. This principal even dates back to the prophet Jeremiah who said, "Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

to Acts 2:42, their model for growth, their model for success and manifestations of power, was simply "[the church] continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

The apostles' doctrine was the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. It had a significant place in the life of every member. The word *continue* in this context implies that the people had an insatiable hunger for the Word. They simply could not get enough. By contrast, *Religion News* presented a poll in April 2013 that said that 26 percent of Americans read their Bible four or more times a week. A larger group, 57 percent, only read their Bible four times a year. Since the teaching and preaching of the Word of God were listed first, it must be the foundation of a powerful New Testament church.

Our church is preparing to celebrate an incredible 150-year history, but if we are to continue at the pace that has been established for us and reach the needs of new generations, we must remember the model of success established by the first church in Acts. According

"STAND YOU IN THE WAYS, AND SEE, AND ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, WHERE THE GOOD WAY IS, AND WALK IN IT, AND YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS" (JEREMIAH 6:16).

Because those in the early church loved the Word, they also loved one another. They had fel-

lowship. We must understand that there is a difference between membership and fellowship. *Membership* means your name is in a file, but *fellowship* means that you have a relationship with others. In the early church, their relationship was based on their common love for Christ, a relationship that crossed racial, demographic, and generational lines. It put every believer on an equal playing field. Then, because they continued in fellowship, they broke bread and prayed. They shared in one another's victories, and they bore one another's burdens. No person or family made the journey alone.

So how successful was this model? People were being saved every day, not just on Sundays. Miracles, signs, and wonders were commonplace. The church, in a time of no social media, marketing budget, sound, or lighting, drew crowds that were large enough to see 5,000 saved at one service. 3M had a lesson for a new salesman and the modern church: The old is forever new.

CHOOSE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WISELY:

Are You Equally Yoked?

by Elder Michael and Audra Cox | Twitter: @linked4life20



"Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's Holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives." (2 Corinthians 6:14-16, The Message Bible)

In this passage, Paul is writing to the church at Corinth, warning believers not to entangle themselves with unbelievers. He instructs that except for sharing the gospel, as Christians, we believe we should not develop partnerships or relationships with those of opposite faiths. He also cautions believers to avoid the corrupt mixtures of Christ and Satan, light and darkness, and believers and unbelievers. Paul warns believers that yoking together different faiths is dangerous and could possibly influence, persuade, or cause believers to reject their own biblical understanding.

Relationally, Christians live to please God by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We live our lives by obeying God's Word. If a Christian seeks

to build a life with a nonbeliever that rejects God, the two will never unite their lives together as one according to God's will for marriage. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24, King James Version).

Deuteronomy 22:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible) states, "Do not plow with an ox and a donkey together." Both animals are of the same kingdom, however, the two are unable to labor together because of their different desires, appetites, perspectives, work ethics, and priorities in life. Couples who are unequally yoked will encounter these same issues.

A Christian loves and is committed to God, but an unbeliever has no understanding or fear of God. Christians' passions for God lead them to attend church services, to go to Bible study, and to seek God's will for their lives; unbelievers' passions lead them to worldly desires and things not in the will of God. Christians look to God's Word for direction in life; unbelievers are rebellious and refuse instructions from anyone. Christians are spiritually minded, and unbelievers are carnally minded. Chris-

tians are purpose-driven, but unbelievers are pleasure-driven. Like the ox and the donkey, the two will never successfully yoke together to accomplish anything.

Tips to consider:

- Does the person's life reflect a personal relationship with God? Does that person's "walk" reflect his or her "talk"?
- Don't look at a relationship as a "project" to save someone. People can't save people. That's God's job!
- Be the light that God made you to be, even if you shine alone for now. Don't dim your light to make a relationship "fit."
- "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time." (Maya Angelou)



Teach to Touch

by Dallas Allbritton

Most Christians are familiar with the need to spread or preach the gospel but often miss the importance of the Great Commission, which charges us with making disciples of those who come to hear the gospel, the good news about Christ Jesus. The Discipleship Institute (DI) focuses on the charge of making disciples and positions them to spread the gospel through those who have a clearer understanding of some aspect of God and His written Word.

There is unique beauty and unexplainable joy in hearing from a student who has explained something covered in class with a family member, friend, or co-worker that the student did not previously understand. The unexplainable joy comes from knowing that you touched a soul by teaching a soul, and then what you taught spread to others. When a father enrolls in a class because his young son wanted to learn more about the Bible, not only are disciples made, but a bond like no other is forged between them that will not be broken.

The vast majority of DI students consider it a special place because it provides an opportunity to ask those questions that cannot be asked elsewhere. It's not Bible study or Sunday school where the subjects are set, time is limited, and the primary goal is to deliver information with limited dis-

cussion. DI is not a lecture series. It is a learning environment where discussion is used as the primary learning tool and questions are used to move the discussion forward.

borrow from Bishop Walker, when you understand what you stand under, you can stand on it and do so confidently.

Growing in God's Word is a process, and DI provides the opportunity to participate in a process that is effective, richly rewarding, and a lot of fun. If you are looking to grow in your understanding of God's Word, there is no better method than DI.

Salvation is a gift that is made available to anyone. But first we must repent and then believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and that He died and rose from the dead (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10). This gift is not earned through good deeds or by being a good person (Ephesians 2:8; 1 Timothy 1:9). It is a matter of faith. Will you accept this gift of eternal life?

DI classes are offered in-house and online through Mt. Zion's Christian Education program. Please visit www.mtzionnashville.org to view the course catalog and to register for our free community classes!



Accept Jesus Christ into your heart.

Believe that Jesus died for your sins.

Confess with your mouth that He is Lord.

In the Learning How to Study the Bible class, we discuss how students can learn in order to apply what they know to what may be new to them. Classes include live application of what students learn during the process and gives birth to one of the many rewards for participation, including confidence in self and confidence in Christ. When people are confident in what they know, they can share Christ with confidence with others who will then see and hear their confidence. To

TRAIN UP A CHILD HOW TO LIVE THE RIGHT WAY:

7 Principles for Parents to Communicate With Adult Children

by Shameka Y. Neely, Ph.D. | @ShamekaYNeely (Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Periscope) | @Trustnmeke (Instagram)

Think back to when you were growing up. Do you remember some of the things your parents or a loved one said to you when you were in trouble? "I brought you into this world, and I'll take you out!" "You betta watch yourself. I'll knock you into next week!!" "Your mouth is going to get you into trouble." "You're crusin' for a bruise!" and "You live under my roof, so you abide by my rules!" Perhaps you asked too many questions and got the classic response: "Because I said so!" These sayings might have been a precursor to additional punishment.

But what happens when you become an adult and your parents still treat you as a child living in their house and under their rules? I recently interviewed a few of my friends to find out more about their parental relationships.

Disclaimer: For the purpose of this article, only first names have been used, no surnames, which have been altered to protect the interviewees from a parental backhand!

As children grow older, they take the values learned in their childhood and create their own identities. There are 12 documented stages of the human life cycle, as adapted from the research of Thomas Armstrong, executive director of the American Institute for Learning and Human Development. The stages range from pre-birth to death. There are substantial age milestones that we have all gone through growing up. Some of the age milestones you may be familiar with include:

MILESTONES

- AGE 26** - Usually, the cost of car insurance decreases, and adults are required to obtain their own medical insurance.
- AGE 18** - By law, a person is considered an adult.
- AGE 17** - Up to this age, a person is still considered a minor.
- AGE 16** - Legal age to obtain a driver's license.
- AGE 5** - Usual age for beginning school. (No more naps.)



The dynamic bond between parents and their children will always be a special connection. Maintaining that bond can be challenging as both parties confront different stages in their lives such as establishing families, retiring, and experiencing health challenges, among others. Successfully making that transition involves having a mutual respect and trying to conform to a new relationship as mature adults instead of continuing to see it as a parent-child relationship.

Below are a few helpful tactics that can be used in order to teach parents how to better communicate with their adult children.

Tips for Maintaining Healthy Adult Child and Parent Relationships

1 Use appropriate language. Be careful how you speak to one another. Communicate carefully, not carelessly. Body and verbal language are important. Use phrases such as "I believe..." and "It is my opinion that..." Parents, you can interject your thoughts or advice if it's needed, asked for, or warranted; but be sure to incorporate phrases such as "I love you and want the best for you." Always be respectful in the delivery of what you say, and be open to listening.

2 Respect one another's space and privacy. Parents and adult children do not have to converse every day. Try to set aside certain rituals that you can stick to when possible, for example, talking on a Sunday afternoon after church services or checking in on a certain day of the week to see how things are going. Also use other forms of technology to communicate throughout the week if needed such as texting, FaceTime, Skype, or e-mail.

3 Communicate openly with one another. It is not good to withhold information that could be life-altering or have an impact on the family in



Dedicated to my loving papa, Willie C. Neely.

some way. For example, if a parent has a doctor's appointment and an illness or an ailment has been diagnosed or further examination is needed, do not keep that information from adult children. Many times parents believe they are protecting their children from hurt or worry, but most of the time it makes their children upset because they want to be there for their parents. "Both of my parents would keep health appointments from me and even hospital procedures. I would find out after the fact. It made me so angry that I could not help. I explained to both my parents how it made me feel, as well as my concern if something were to happen to them, how devastating, unfair, and selfish it is for them not to give me the opportunity to be there for them as they had been there for me my entire life," says Dr. Yvette. Be open to communicating and allowing your adult child the opportunity to listen, and be there supportively if needed.

4 Listen and do not try to fix everything. Try not to live in the past and see them as children versus the adults you have raised them to be. It is important to see grown children as adults. "They see us as we were and not as we are," says Ivonne. It's parental nature that

when children come to their parents with an issue or a problem, the parents want to automatically fix everything. However, things can become complex if parents are not right in the first place. "Mom wants to fix everything. Parents want everything to be okay with us, but everything's not okay with them. They want to fix everything that's not perfect with them," Ivonne explains. Adult children have evolved and many times will still abide by the values and principles instilled in them by their parents.

5 Do not give unsolicited advice. Try to refrain from voluntarily giving advice without being asked. Grown-up children want to be independent, so it is important they have the opportunity to develop and make their own choices. They have the final decision. If they have not asked for parental interjection, then another tactic may be considered. For example, ask, "Would you like my opinion?" or "May I make a suggestion regarding this situation?" Dr. Dionne states that the number one area where she and her mother clash is "unsolicited advice and opinions." She believes that more than anything at this point in her life, she needs love, time, and support from her parents.

6 Be more of a friend than a parent. Adult children want to have a close relationship with their parents. Renae believes that having a friendship with her parents has helped them become closer. "I'm broadening their horizons," says Renae. "Now they're more like friends, not like parents as they were when I was a child," she says. By taking on that view, Renae's parents have a more active relationship and explore new things together.

7 Your way is not always the best way. Times have changed over the past several decades, and many adults now want efficiency and quality. Just because parents did things a certain way years ago does not always mean it is the best way for current times. Let adult children make decisions about how best to do things. As long as what they're doing gets done correctly, the method may

not always be the most important thing. Mechelle explains: "I want to do something a certain way, and she has a different perspective on the way to do things. We have our own ways." Mechelle and her mother have different perspectives. "She does parent me. She wants to love and guide me and keep me on the straight and narrow," she explains. Parents should be there for guidance, not to take over situations.

No matter how parents helped you become the adult you are today, whether through disciplining you, being there for you at a sporting event or other life milestones, listening to you as you dealt with matters of the heart, encouraging you, or offering sound advice—they are still your parents, no matter how old you become. Age does not change the fact that you will always be a son or a daughter and that they are or were your parents.

Many parents laid a framework of standards without ever explaining these expectations. They led by example and through guidance, and they operated with excellence in silence. They instilled in us hard work, perseverance, and Christian values. Parents, trust your instincts, and let God do the rest. This time-honored Scripture is apropos: "Train up a child the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



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God The Creator

Mt. Zion was built 150 years ago. God created the whole world and everything in it many years before that. In the beginning, God made everything!

Below is a list of everything that God made during Creation. Can you memorize everything God made?

DAY 1 - Light & Dark

DAY 2 - Sky & Water

DAY 3 - Land, Plants, & Sea

DAY 4 - Sun, Moon, & Stars

DAY 5 - Fish & Birds

DAY 6 - Animals & People

DAY 7 - God Rested

Genesis 1

How many days did it take God to create everything? _____

When did God make you? _____

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

PASTE YOUR PICTURE HERE!



God made YOU, and He loves YOU very much!

more than just a bookstore

by Glen E. Townsend



Many of you may not be aware that the Mt. Zion Bookstore is not your normal Christian bookstore. We also serve as a ministry connection for Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the vision of our pastor, Bishop Joseph Walker, III. Our purpose is to honor and serve Jesus Christ by providing holistic ministry through ministry materials and other spiritually uplifting materials to our customers. We provide products and services designed to help equip believers to better worship, follow, and serve Christ. Our goal is to develop an atmosphere through our facility, staff, products, and operation that is attractive and inviting to non-Christians in the hope that they may be drawn to and exposed to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

The bookstore is your one-stop shop for a wide range of merchandise from Billboard Top 25 gospel music CDs, past and current Mt. Zion Sunday school books, Bishop's book club of the month books, to Bibles and devotionals. We also have a variety of Mt. Zion novelty items, along with greeting cards, t-shirts, and tote bags. From September through October, we will be featuring the book *The Power of a Whisper* by Bill Hybels. The bookstore is also planning to extend our greeting card selections and novelty product line to include more technology items for our Millennial audience. We are extremely excited about our 150-year church anniversary line of products that will hit the shelves in the next few months. This is a milestone that we want to ensure will be documented with our product line to let everyone know how proud we are of our rich church history. As many of you know, Mt. Zion loves its t-shirts, and this 150 anniversary will feature a commemorative t-shirt that everyone will have to own.

We are extremely proud of the Mt. Zion Bookstore Reward Program we recently started. This program was birthed because we wanted to reward our frequent visitors and show our appreciation for their support of the bookstore. When members of this program accumulate 250 points, they will receive a \$25 gift card to use on any product in our physical bookstores. We also offer a similar program for our online bookstore. You can ask any member of our great staff how to enroll in the program.

As bookstore staff, we understand that everyone who visits the Mt. Zion bookstore comes in looking for something. Some visitors are just looking for information, but many of them are looking for comfort from some type of hurt. We know that everyone who walks through our doors is in need of something, so we prepare spiritually to discern those needs in order to assist them more effectively. God has placed us in the bookstore to help others. We don't see those who come in the bookstore as customers but as children of God in need. We have the responsibility to help them live a godly life through the merchandise we offer.





5 TIPS TO FALL INTO FITNESS

God has set Mt. Zion Baptist Church at the forefront of the fitness movement for His kingdom. As you strive daily to live the Word of God, be certain to take the same approach to your temple—your body—which God has given you to do His works. Eat healthy, exercise regularly, and keep living your one fit lifestyle.

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We are revving up for the final turn. The last few months of 2016 are upon us. Remaining consistent—our largest task—is in our sights. Consistency is important during the holidays, birthdays, and winter weather when cakes, pies, cookies, sodas, extra sweet tea, and other drinks and foods alike will be in front of us. So how do we prepare, plan, and execute healthy eating with so much temptation around us? Here are 5 Tips to Surviving the Season.

1 Smaller plate, smaller servings. Reducing the size of your plate by two inches can make a huge difference in the number of calories you consume. According to Dr. Brian Lansink and Dr. Michael Roizen, reducing your plate size from 12 inches to 10 inches could help you consume 22 percent fewer calories. On average, that could help reduce your weight by 18 pounds per year.

2 'Tis the herbs, not the season. Try to avoid seasonings that are higher in sodium. Instead, use herbs and spices such as basil, cayenne pepper, dill, and coriander seeds to help spice up those holiday dishes. Also don't be afraid to use fruits such as pineapples or cranberries to give your guests a sweet treat.

3 The gym is around you. Inclement weather normally keeps us inside, which can put a damper on our exercise plans. Remember, a gym is only a physical place. Activity can happen anywhere. Use activities such as shoveling snow or sledding to obtain your steps and calorie-burning goals.

4 Don't fool yourself. Food yourself. Although it may sound like a good idea, skipping meals isn't wise. In a published article by the American Heart Association, registered dietician Linda Van Horn, Ph.D. suggests that those who eat frequent, smaller meals learn how to limit their intake at each meal. She also suggests that when you do this, you won't take the starve-all-day, stuff-all-night approach. Understanding the number of calories you consume and eating healthfully require patience, persistence, and sometimes a professional.

5 Balance is key. We aren't perfect, but we strive to be. Eating 100 percent healthy all the time is ideal but not realistic for some of us. Knowing this, we must also remind ourselves that we need a healthy balance. Eating one small treat won't derail your diet, but eating the whole treat can. Find a fitness family member or a friend who is on this journey with you. Share the treat with that person so both of you remain balanced and so that you don't consume all the calories alone.



GRILLED SWEET POTATOES, APPLES, & PECANS

4 SERVINGS/377 CALORIES/PER SERVING

1½ lbs. sweet potatoes
1 Honey Crisp apple, medium dice
½ cup roasted pecans

Vinaigrette
1 Tbsp. cinnamon
1 Tbsp. white balsamic vinegar
3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup local honey
1 lemon, zested and juiced
Himalayan salt, to taste
cracked black pepper, to taste

Instructions

Preheat charcoal or gas grill. (If using charcoal, wait until coals have turned completely white before cooking. If you're using gas, set the gauge to medium-high.) While the grill is heating up, peel the sweet potatoes, and slice lengthwise into ¼-inch slices. Coat the sweet potato slices with olive oil, and lightly sprinkle with Himalayan salt to taste.

In a small bowl, combine vinegar, honey, cinnamon, olive oil, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Then whisk the vinegar mixture together with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Once the grill has reached temperature, place the sweet potato slices onto the grill grates. Cover the grill, and cook each side between 3-5 minutes.

After removing the sweet potatoes from the grill, dice them into medium-sized pieces. Add them to the vinaigrette mixture. Then fold in the apple pieces and pecans, and serve. Enjoy!



MELON & BERRY SMOOTHIE

1 SERVING/302 CALORIES/PER SERVING

1 cup seedless watermelon
6 oz. Greek vanilla yogurt
3 mint leaves
¼ cup old-fashioned oats, gluten-free
1 lime, juiced
½ cup fresh strawberries
¾ cup filtered water

Instructions

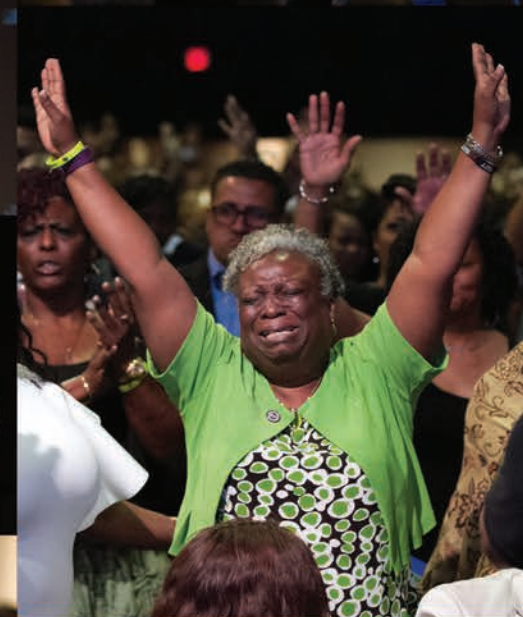
Place strawberries, mint, lime juice, yogurt, oats, watermelon, and water in a blender. Blend until ingredients reach a smooth consistency. Pour smoothie into a chilled Mason jar, and enjoy.



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FULL GOSPEL CONFERENCE 2016



A full-length portrait of Jonathan Butler, a Black man with a grey beard, smiling and standing with his hands in his pockets. He is wearing a blue suit jacket over a dark purple shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and trees.

FREE

A one-on-one interview with international recording artist Jonathan Butler

by Latresa Witherspoon | @lwitherspoon

I cherish a good conversation. In this digital age where most people would rather text, e-mail, or inbox, the greatest wisdom still comes from an engaging one-on-one interaction. In a recent phone interview, I was privileged to talk with international award-winning singer, songwriter, and producer Jonathan Butler. Although most people know Butler as a music icon, I came to know him as a brother in Christ who has an exuberant spirit and a zeal for life. His captivating story is an account of one favored by God from the start.

Butler's life has been nothing short of a dream come true. The youngest of 12 children raised in Cape Town, South Africa, he began his music career at age seven. By the time he was a youth, he was one of the most popular artists in South Africa, winning a Sarie Award, equivalent to a Grammy Award, at age 12 for Best New Artist of the Year.

"I was raised everywhere in South Africa because of my musical background and show business experience," Butler says. "I left home at a very young age to become an entertainer, musician, artist, and performer. It was definitely not the kind of life that most kids had who grew up around their parents."

Butler's accomplishments as a teen music sensation broke racial barriers with his first radio release reaching double gold and top five on the pop charts during a time of great social injustice. In the 1970's, segregation, or apartheid, oppressed the nonwhite population in South Africa.

"It was a ground-breaking time in South Africa, which I don't think has ever existed since. The fans were white, black, of all colors. Everyone had their own sort of weapon they could use to bring awareness to the struggle of South Africa. I think for me, my weapon was music."

Butler experienced great fame and great personal struggles along the way. However, his life was transformed when he was led to Christ by one of his fans. His destiny collided with purpose.

"At the time I became famous, there was a period of time where I accepted Christ. When I got signed to the record label, I was thinking about pursuing my ministry."

Taking a leap of faith, Butler traveled onward to London, England, signing to a recording contract with Jive Records. There, he sharpened his skills as a singer, songwriter, and producer writing for some of the biggest names in R&B such as Billy Ocean, The Pointer Sisters, Tom Jones, Al Jarreau, and Patti LaBelle—just to name a few.

"I was glad I moved to England because everything unfolded there. God showed me that I was in the right place. When I first arrived in the UK, I really simulated well. I raised my kids there. I connected with church. It was more about being grounded with my family, community, and church and the importance of that and at the same time working day to day on songs."

In the 1980's, a door opened for Butler to move to the United States. He was now ready to embrace an opportunity that would be the zenith of his career, however, it proved to be his greatest challenge.

"I had the most enormous privilege and honor to work with Whitney Houston and open for her for about four to six months," Butler says. "I then had my first experience of what it was like to be on an American stage. I was very young still, and it took a lot of learning. The biggest challenge for me was remaining a Christian in a very chaotic music world. It was also a challenge to be bold enough to be myself and not try to simulate too much and lose my identity as a South African artist or as a person, and to have the boldness to declare my faith and not compromise that."

Through the next decades, Butler continued to release chart-top-

Photos taken by Raj Naik

ping solo projects and collaboration projects across the jazz, R&B, and classical genres. With the resonances of South Africa, his sound remained true, and his faith was evident, often following the prompting of the Lord to share a message of hope during his performances.

"I'm playing in Cincinnati or I'm playing in Nashville. I'm playing for people who are drinking and partying, and God says, 'Well, I need you to sing "Falling in Love With Jesus" right now.' Later, somebody tells me in an e-mail that God just healed them from cancer because I sang a song that encouraged them. Those are the things that happen to you when you are obedient. You create this space for God to speak to people through your obedience."

When Butler recorded *Falling in Love With Jesus* in collaboration with jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum on the project *The Gospel According to Jazz Part II* in 2002, he garnered a new audience. Going on to release his first gospel project in 2004, he was intentional about petitioning God before making the shift. Now with an even broader base of fans, he wanted to use his voice to reach those who may not set foot in a church. It was not about trying something new.

"Instead of choosing to flirt with gospel music and the church, I waited until God released me to sing some of the songs that you are now hearing. The transition was seamless. It became seamless only because God did it. If He does it, you don't even know that you're in ministry."

Butler's latest project entitled *Free* was birthed during the darkest time in his life. While experiencing the loss

of family members and in the midst of his own trials, Butler received a new revelation of God's grace as he sought the Lord for strength. Songs entitled "New Day" and "Free" are the pillars of the album. While developing the project, he also discovered a new sound ebbing and flowing from the heart of God.

"There is a different sound in the atmosphere that I heard. What I feel that this album has given me is like a new wine poured into new wineskins. It's not going to be a predictable sound. It will be a sound that comes out of Africa. The aroma of that sound is going to touch everybody."

A philanthropist and a supporter of charitable efforts in South Africa, Butler is also passionate about giving back to the country that gave so much to him.

"Where there is great poverty, there is great spirit. I come from a country where we are happy even when we sing a slow song. I am one of those people who expresses that through the music and through my relationships with people."

The wisdom, the knowledge, and the personal conviction Butler shared during our conversation was inspiring. It's the reason why his music touches the soul. With every song, you see the images of South Africa. With every note, you hear the joy in his heart.



Photo taken by Darren B. Rankins



SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mount Zion Baptist Church | Established in 1866 | 1112 Jefferson St | Nashville, TN

1866-1890

Mount Zion Baptist Church is one of the oldest black churches organized in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1866. During this era, various black congregations emerged from white churches after enduring many years of servitude. Mount Zion Baptist Church, however, has an independent origin that dates back to when the church was founded in the home of Sister Mary Cole on McLeMORE Street (now known as 9th Avenue, North) by Reverend Jordan Bransford and a group of inspired worshippers.

After a brief season in the home of Sister Cole and after occupying a few worship places nearby, on May 14, 1891, Mount Zion Baptist Church purchased land at the corner of Jefferson Street and 11th Avenue, North for a new church home. Construction took place, and this new edifice was erected around 1905.

Mount Zion's ministry has expanded beyond its original location in the Jefferson Street corridor to three physical locations.

Some of Mount Zion's members were students at the newly established Fisk School (now Fisk University).

As other institutions of higher learning were established in Nashville, students represented them at Mount Zion, including Tennessee A & I (now Tennessee State University) and Medical Department of Central Tennessee College (now Meharry Medical College).



Rev. Bransford was a powerhouse preacher and a beautiful spiritual singer. Without a doubt, Rev. Bransford proved himself to be a strong and dedicated preacher for the new church.



Founded in 1866, Fisk University is the oldest institution of higher learning in Nashville, Tennessee.
[Source: www.fisk.edu]



In 1909, the Tennessee State General Assembly created three normal schools, including the Agricultural and Industrial Normal School, which would later become Tennessee State University. The first 247 students began their academic careers on June 19, 1912.
[Source: www.tnstate.edu]



Founded in 1876 as the Medical Department of Central Tennessee College, Meharry Medical College was the first medical school in the South for African Americans.
[Source: www.mmc.edu]

1890-1923

Although most of the members of Mount Zion Baptist Church's congregation lived on the north side of town, members were drawn from practically every segment of life. Large crowds participated in the church's many activities.

Rev. Anderson published the first church directory, which lists well over 300 members. The directory included a roster of 12 Sunday school classes.

Presently, the ministry has grown to over 30,000 and continues to grow at a phenomenal rate of over 2,000 souls per year.



1924-1932

iServe Then

With his strong organizational skills and leadership abilities, Rev. John Wesley Pitt embarked on new works of ministry with the creation of many ministries, including the Beautifying Club, Young People's Choir, Victory Club, Good Samaritan Club, and Junior Usher Board. Not only did this industrious pastor see the need for active participation in these ministries, he also felt that a line of communication was needed. At this point, he established *The Busy Bee* (possibly the original *Trumpet* magazine). This was a monthly newsletter that listed all church officers and informed the membership of auxiliary activities and other church happenings.

1933-1960

Rev. J. W. Watkins, B.Th., believed strongly in training the child in the way he should go. During his tenure, children were encouraged to develop their musical talents. As a result, children and teenagers played piano solos at church functions. Other evidence of Rev. Watkins's interest in youth was the strong Sunday school. He paved the way for youth to render their talents in oratorical contests, and Mount Zion youths were selected as delegates to participate in local, state, and national congress and conventions. To his credit, Rev. Watkins initiated a 20-piece band.



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

iServe Today

iServe is Mt. Zion's Ministry Recruitment Initiative designed to engage members to serve in various ministries. We offer over 50 help, healing, and empowerment ministry opportunities. For a complete list of ministry opportunities currently offered at Mount Zion, please visit the iServe page in this publication.



Pace Matrons Ministry



Men's Choir



Judah Generation Choir

1964

January 19, 1964: The church mortgage was burned, freeing Mount Zion from debt.

1970

Mount Zion's Bus Ministry was created to make stops across North Nashville to pick up children on Sunday mornings for Sunday school classes and worship services and to pick up senior members on Tuesday evenings for prayer meeting. Currently, the bus ministry has been expanded to pick up students every Sunday from area colleges in Tennessee and Kentucky for worship services.

- Austin Peay University
- Belmont University
- Fisk University
- Lipscomb University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Tennessee State University
- Vanderbilt University
- Western Kentucky University

Mount Zion currently feeds over 400 students weekly



1972-1992

Many strides and accomplishments were made under the guidance of Rev. Emanuel W. Roberson, B.Th., M.Div., D.D., who was called to the pastorate in 1972. Some of his accomplishments include land acquisitions, equipment purchases, and the creation of ministries that are still active today.

April 24, 1980: The Tennessee Historical Commission entered Mount Zion Baptist Church in the national registry of historic places.



1980

The church voted to purchase three lots across the street from the church. A printing company once stood on one of those lots. Newton Quality Press, owned and operated by Mount Zion members (the Newton family: Mr. W. G. Newton, Mrs. Lillie B. Haynes Newton, and their daughter, Ms. Marylouise Leona Newton Lowe) served the church by printing church bulletins (which Marylouise folded every Saturday evening in time for Sunday service), making plaques, and providing other items. Marylouise has been a member of Mount Zion all her life. She joined Mount Zion in 1960 and is currently employed here. The site where the Newtons' printing company once stood will be the future home of the Mount Zion Dream Center.



The Mount Zion Dream Center

The Mt. Zion Dream Center will be a facility designed to foster interaction through recreation, fitness, reading, and hospitality. Designed to unify our members and the greater Nashville community, the center will use the neighborhood space to strengthen individuals and families through spiritual fellowship.

The center will be a place where our members, as well as the community, can embrace the mission of Mount Zion for the ultimate goal of Kingdom-building.

The Dream Center will be constructed in two phases. Phase I will include Mount Zion Academy, a childcare and preschool with the capacity to accommodate 50 children. "Academic excellence and a quality education are what our young people deserve. We will recruit the best teachers in a highly competitive environment," says Bishop Joseph Walker. The Dream Center will also include office space for our New Level Community Development Corporation, as well as space for a bookstore and a coffee shop. Phase II will be comprised of a recreational complex, which will include a gymnasium, an indoor track, and a workout area complete with free weights, as well as elliptical equipment. Bishop Walker ensures the progressive renovation of our Jefferson Street location, thus, preserving its historic integrity for generations to come.



1962

April: Mount Zion extended a call to its youngest son in the ministry, then associate minister, Pastor Joseph Warren Walker, III, at the age of 24. The Lord told Bishop Walker that through him, millions of people would be blessed. At the time, the total membership of the church was 175 people. He began preaching and teaching as the Lord gave instruction, and the people responded favorably. He prayed for the sick. He visited the local universities and invited the students to visit Mount Zion.

December: Membership grows from 125 to 700.

1961

Membership grew from 700 to 1,500 members.



1961

Services were moved to 3,000-seat Baptist World Center, headquarters for the National Baptist Convention. Due to the numerous worshippers, Mount Zion held services at two different locations—Jefferson Street location at 7:45 a.m. and the Baptist World Center at 10:45 a.m.

Mount Zion connected with the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International (FGBCFI). Led by founder Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., FGBCFI is one of the fastest growing multicultural and multid denominational reformations. Praise and worship, women in ministry, and the concept of co-pastor all have their roots in the Fellowship.



Bishop's appointment as the Presiding Bishop

Mount Zion Baptist Church has seen years of trial and triumph but has always provided spiritual and social leadership for the community. The church has continued to be a place for restoration of the mind and heart and has

always been a vital asset to its community. Its leaders as well as its members have seen periods of spiritual and natural growth as God has guided Mt. Zion to be a place of hope in various seasons in the Nashville community.

1998

September: Membership grew to 3,100 members.

Wednesday Bible study drew about 900 people, a third of whom attended the noon service.

Bishop Walker was quoted as saying, "You can either preach to impress other preachers, or you can preach to impact people." Word spread about Mount Zion, especially to young people. They liked Bishop's dynamic preaching style, and the worship was unlike any they had ever known.

1999

Moved to 12,000-seat Tennessee State University's Gentry Center. Upwards of 200 people joined most Sundays.



2000

Additional services were added. Worship opportunities included:

- 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship.
- 10:45 a.m. service at Tennessee State University.
- Hour of Power Bible study at noon, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Service in Murfreesboro at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Riverdale Baptist Church (35 minutes from Nashville).

Mount Zion expanded its cassette tape ministry to include DVDs.

2001

April: Mount Zion met weekly at three locations to serve its membership of 6,000. 7:30 a.m. on Sundays at the historic Jefferson Street location, 9 a.m. on Sundays at Glendiff High School, and 10:45 a.m. at Tennessee State University.

October: The church moved into the \$17 million, 5,000-seat sanctuary at 7594 Old Hickory Boulevard (OHB).

Services were held at 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday at the OHB location and at 9 a.m. each Sunday at Glendiff High School.

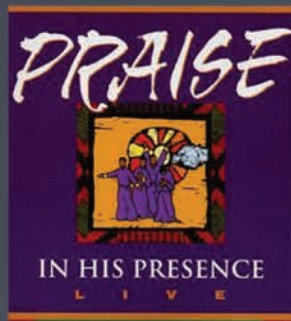
November: The New Level Community Development Corporation (NLCDC) was founded as an outreach ministry. NLCDC helps persons overcome obstacles and move up the economic ladder by providing education, counseling, and training on home-buying, home loans, and budgeting.

The Mount Zion mass choir released its first album, *Worship in His Presence*.



2002

The Mount Zion mass choir released its sophomore album, *Praise in His Presence*.



2003

December: Mount Zion completed its third location in Antioch, Tennessee, at the former site of a national chain supermarket. Today, this debt-free retail center—called Mount Zion Plaza—houses a multipurpose ministry complex that seats 2,000 people and includes the church's youth worship centers: KidZone and The Xperience Teen Church.



2004

The church implemented Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Mount Zion's goal is to teach people how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth.

2005

The late wife of Bishop Walker, Dr. Diane Nette Greer Walker, passed away. Lady Di, as she was fondly called, was committed to broadening the "Word-centered" ministry locally and internationally. She directed the Women's Ministry, taught Sunday school, enjoyed her love for God, and shared the mission of His church with anyone who would listen. One of her greatest desires was to see women reach their full potential through the Word. Even after being diagnosed with a rare pancreatic cancer, she actively worked in the ministry, relying on her faith to sustain her.



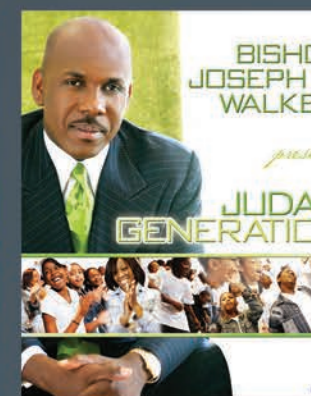
2006

The church opened KidZone. KidZone is a place that reaches youth by providing a fun atmosphere aimed at enriching lives and enhancing minds with the Word of God. KidZone has worship centers, a computer lab, a game room, and a snack bar.

Judah Generation Youth Choir released its debut album entitled *Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III Presents Judah Generation*.

We conducted our first Relay For Life event. Total contributions for this fundraising campaign since its inception are over \$386,000.

Mount Zion conducted a mission trip to Nairobi, Africa, to minister to 6,817 Kenyans and to build a well for clean, accessible water. Jesus told his disciples to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).



2008

College Sunday is a highly anticipated national worship service that draws thousands of college students, organizations, and church groups from around the world to Nashville, Tennessee. This service is designed to witness to, inspire, encourage, and empower the next generation to have a closer relationship with Christ, discover and pursue their God-given purpose, and to continue to strive for excellence in academics. During this national college worship service, College Sunday highlights various aspects of collegiate life and awards scholarships to deserving students, among other activities.



2009

December: Mount Zion opened its fourth location—a virtual church, *mtzionanywhere*. This cyber church virtually ministers to millions around the world through live streaming and on-demand video and has grown to 1,100+ members, an average of 11,675 monthly unique visitors, and engages with people from across the globe, including Ukraine, Germany, Turkey, Australia, France, Italy, Israel, and Great Britain.

Mount Zion's communication outreach includes six weekly television broadcasts and two daily radio ministries. In April 2006, the church also expanded to Jackson, Tennessee, where the Zion Church became the first church plant of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Mount Zion launched ChurchFIT. The Mount Zion ChurchFIT program is a comprehensive healthy living, healthy lifestyle wellness initiative designed to help individuals and families improve their health.

The Louisiana king married his California queen! Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III wed the former Dr. Stephanie Michelle Hale. A California native, Dr. Walker was previously a Harvard medical faculty physician, a neonatologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and an instructor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School in the Department of Pediatrics.



MOUNT ZION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Mount Zion Baptist Church has been the home of many great leaders who preached dynamic messages and inspired many people to give their lives to Christ. God paved the way and provided Mount Zion's leaders with the torch that illuminated the path that led these faithful pioneers on their pilgrimage. Mount Zion's 14 outstanding pastors were always highly esteemed and respected in the community, each carried a strong ministry, and many lead successful efforts in growing the church for the Kingdom.



1866-1890
Reverend Jordan Bransford

Served 2 Years
Reverend J.J. Blackshear

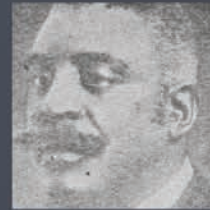
Became pastor around 1903, served for 6 years
Reverend Sandy Matheus

1890-?
(The exact length of Reverend Anderson's pastorate is not given. However, the record shows that his was one of three pastorates that occurred between 1890-1903.)
Reverend S. W. Anderson



Length of Leadership Unknown
Reverend J. M. Mason

1909-1913
Reverend B.F. Farrell



1914-1923
Reverend J.A. Brown



1925-1932
Reverend John Wesley Pitt



1960-1971
Reverend Maynard P. Turner, Jr., Th.D.



1992-Present
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III, D.Min.



FROM THE DEPTH, HEIGHT, AND WIDTH OF WHERE WE'VE COME
FROM AND OF WHERE WE ARE TODAY, WE GIVE ALL GLORY TO GOD!



MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
iSERVE
WWW.MTZIONNASHVILLE.ORG

Ministries

iServe is Mt. Zion's Ministry Recruitment Initiative designed to engage members to serve in various ministries. We offer over 50 help, healing, and empowerment ministry opportunities. For more information, please visit www.mtzionnashville.org. iServe. WILL YOU?

A-1 Mime Ministry
dance@mtzionnashville.org

Adoration Liturgical Dance Ministry (College)
adoration@mtzioncollegeministry.org

Athletics Ministry
athleticsministry@mtzionnashville.org

Audio Production
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Bookstore
bookstore1@mtzionnashville.org

Bridge Ministry
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Christian Education Ministry
christianeducation@mtzionnashville.org

Christians Against Cancer
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College Ministry
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Covenant In Motion Marriage Dance Ministry
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Covenant Matters Marriage Ministry
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Daughters of the Promise Choir (Women's Ministry)
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Deaf & Hard of Hearing
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Evangelism Ministry
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Financial Peace University
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Food Pantry Ministry
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Foreign Missions Ministry
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Health & Wellness Ministry
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churchfit@mtzionnashville.org

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Judah Generation Liturgical Dance Ministry (Youth & Teen)
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Meals on Wheels Ministry
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Momentum Ministry (Men)
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Momentum Choir Ministry (Men)
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New Members Ministry
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Nursery Ministry
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Outreach Ministry
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Pace Matrons Ministry
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Praise and Worship Liturgical Dance Ministry (Adults)
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Prayer Ministry
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Prison Ministry
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prison2palace@mtzionnashville.org

Room In The Inn Ministry
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Sanctuary Choir Ministry
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Single Parent Ministry
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Singles Ministry
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Social & Political Action Ministry
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The Lord's Kitchen Ministry
mrashied@mtzionnashville.org

The Xperience Youth Ministry (High School age)
thexperience@mtzionnashville.org

Training Ground (Middle School age)
cthomas@mtzionnashville.org

Usher Ministry
usherministry@mtzionnashville.org

Video Production Ministry
jstephens@mtzionnashville.org

Wedding Ministry
weddings@mtzionnashville.org

Welcome Ministry
welcomeministry@mtzionnashville.org

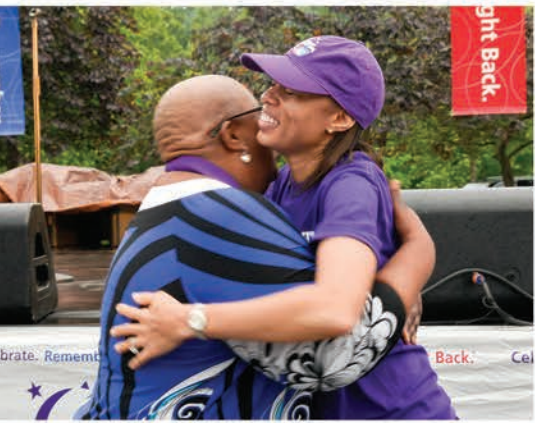
Young Adult Ministry
iserve@mtzionnashville.org

Young Adult & College Choir Ministry
iserve@mtzionnashville.org

OUTREACH

A PART OF OUR CULTURE

by Jacqueline Hayes, MBA | Twitter - @jacquiMBA31



On the eve of a new year, during our annual Watch Night service, Bishop Walker shared the 2016 vision of the House – RESET: How We Love, Live, and Lead. Thus far, 2016 has delivered on its promise.

The ministry has shifted into a new season, one shaped by a dedicated focus on hospitality, family, and outreach. It is that last pillar—outreach—that unifies our culture and activates our faith.

Bishop Walker challenged us to lead or participate in at least one outreach initiative every two months during 2016. With the help of the Mt. Zion staff, ministry leaders, congregation, and community partners, thus far, we're on track to meet our goal.

Christian artist Jason Gray said it best when he sang, "God put a million, million doors in the world for His love to walk through. One of those doors is you."

So here's a behind-the-scenes look at four of those outreach events and the "doors" demonstrating God's love in our communities today.

Relay for Life

In partnership with the American Cancer Society, Minister Kimberly Smith and her team organized the 9th Annual Relay for Life fundraiser. Mt. Zion holds the distinction of being the first faith-based Relay for Life race in the country.

From 6 pm until midnight, 24 teams, including a guest team from St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church (Pastor Frank D. Stevenson, Sr.), pitched tents and grilled burgers and hot dogs. Team members took turns walking around the Mt.

Zion Old Hickory campus, each lap representing the long journey cancer survivors must endure.

As the laps added up outside, cancer survivors and caretakers were pampered inside the church, enjoying a spa session that included manicures, pedicures, and massages.

The fundraising campaign raised over \$36,500 this past June that will be used to help fund research, support, and special programs.

Health & Back to School Outreach Day

The Healthcare & Wellness Ministry teamed up with the Middle & High School Ministries to get families off to a good start for the 2016-17 school year. In its third year, the Health & Back to School Outreach Day, a collaborative effort, brought together community and healthcare volunteers from across the city for a day of empowerment and fun.

From 10 am–2 pm, as many as 2,000 attendees picked up backpacks full of pencils and pens, notebooks, and other school supply essentials for school-age children. School supplies were donated by the generosity of Mt. Zion members or, for the first time, purchased through sponsorships made available by area business partners.

But filling over 1,500 backpacks is no easy task. According to Elder Crystal Thomas, Middle School Ministry leader, it took over 1,000 volunteers to sort, assemble, and distribute backpacks to the numerous families attending the event.

As families got their gear, they had an opportunity to participate in various free onsite healthcare screenings. Dr. Stephaine Walker, Kiara Young, and the Health & Wellness Ministry volunteers worked diligently to secure various healthcare resources offered at no cost to attendees. Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Meharry School of Dentistry, and Meharry Medical's Project COPE—among other providers—provided sports physicals, pediatric dental care, and HIV screenings.

Room In The Inn/Rescue Mission

Twelve women. One night. Countless blessings. For over ten years, Mt. Zion has partnered



with Room In The Inn to provide one night of hope for homeless women. From November through March, The Outreach Ministry provides a safe place to sleep, clean clothes to wear, and warm meals to eat for 12 homeless women congregated at the Room In The Inn Rescue Mission.

Every Thursday, these 12 guests are picked up and brought back to the Old Hickory Boulevard location. Once they arrive, there's no formal program. Ministry volunteers see that guests receive the toiletries they need to feel refreshed and revived. Prayer and devotion are offered but not required. The Lord's Kitchen provides a delicious home cooked meal that evening.

The fellowship hall transforms into a college dormitory of sorts. Volunteers set up cots. The ladies enjoy fellowship and camaraderie before the call for lights out. Come morning, guests are greeted with the smell of bacon and eggs provided by the attending ministry chaperone. Before the journey back to Room In The Inn, the Lord's Kitchen offers a nutritious lunch.

Over the years, the ministry has served over 2,000 women, but there's still work to do. The need is great. Ministry leader Medinah Rashied invites the congregation to come and see the lives being changed on Thursday evenings during the winter months at the OHB location. "It becomes personal. It puts in perspective the things that we take for granted," says Rashied.

For those interested in getting involved, chaperones (volunteers who stay overnight) are needed. The ministry also needs donations of toiletries (except razors and mouthwash).



Photo of Jacqueline Hayes taken by Paul Griffin/Griffin Image Works.

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A NEW SEASON,
ONE SHAPED BY A
DEDICATED FOCUS ON
HOSPITALITY, FAMILY,
AND OUTREACH.

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SUNDAY OF HOPE
\$60,000 RAISED



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15,424 PAIRS
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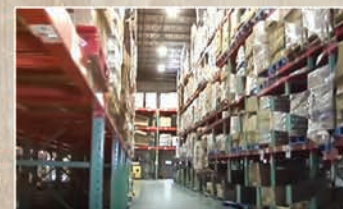


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2016 OUTREACH

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MEALS



ASSEMBLED
500 CAREGIVER KITS



FLINT, MI
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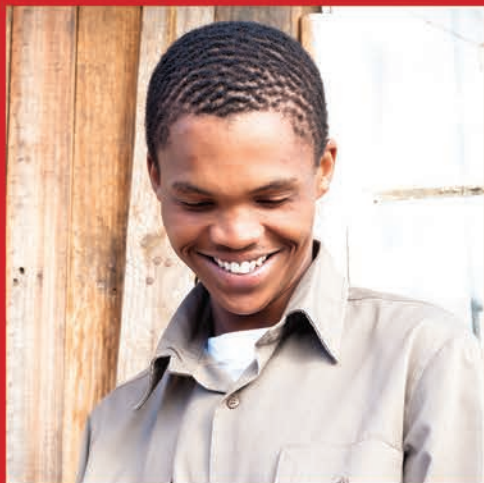
\$20K DONATED

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MILLION DOORS IN THE
WORD FOR HIS LOVE TO
WALK THROUGH. ONE OF
THOSE DOORS IS YOU."



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SONS IS OUR JOB!

by Chantea M. Williams | @greaterwomen | www.greaterwomen.com

For the last ten years, Saving Our Sons (S.O.S.) has been saving the lives of many of our young men. This mentoring program reaffirms to our sons who they are and whose they are, and it's keeping them from the downward spiral affecting so many young men. The program mentors young boys and teens from age ten through high school, giving them a male perspective on life and sharing their life experiences. Although created to help single parents, the program is open to any young boy or teen who wants to join. Young men always benefit when they have positive male figures in their lives to help steer them in the right direction.

Robert Barlowe, the leader of S.O.S., shares amazing stories of young boys who overcame great crises with their mentors' help, but he also emphasizes that it is the ongoing relationship between mentors and the young men that changes their lives for the better. Throughout the year, they are taught biblical principles for respecting authority, stewardship, building relationships, citizenship, financial independence, education, and compassion—all to make them better Christian men.

An important part of the program involves teaching young men to give back through community service: Hands on Nashville Day, Harvest Fest, Metro Schools Father Festival, and others. Of course, it's not just work! The program organizes outings to see plays, sporting events, and movies, and encourages the young men to participate in cookouts, camping trips, and a rival kickball game with Saving Our Daughters.

Whenever I get the chance to conduct these types of interviews, I always ask these two questions. First, what is the most rewarding? Second, what one thing would you want the participants to get out of it?

Williams: In your opinion, what is the most rewarding part of the program?

Barlowe: When parents tell me that they are seeing positive changes at home, in their sons' grades, and in their attitude. Consistency is the key. It's the little things that mean the most. I've had parents to come to me and ask me to talk to "our" son. That's how I know we're making a difference.

Williams: If you could tell the young boys one thing for them to get out of the program, what would it be?

Barlowe: There are two Scriptures I try to combine: Ephesians 6:2 and 1 Peter 5:8. Just listen to us—parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors. It's our job to make you ready for a world that doesn't want you to succeed.

The best thing about this program is that the upperclassmen are given the opportunity to coordinate events, which provides them training and leadership skills. If I had a son, he would definitely be in this program!

Young boys or teens are welcome to attend S.O.S. meetings each second and fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the OHB location. If you would like to be an S.O.S. mentor, the program welcomes whatever time and talent you have to offer. Sign up today!



Photo of Chantea Williams taken by Marion V.

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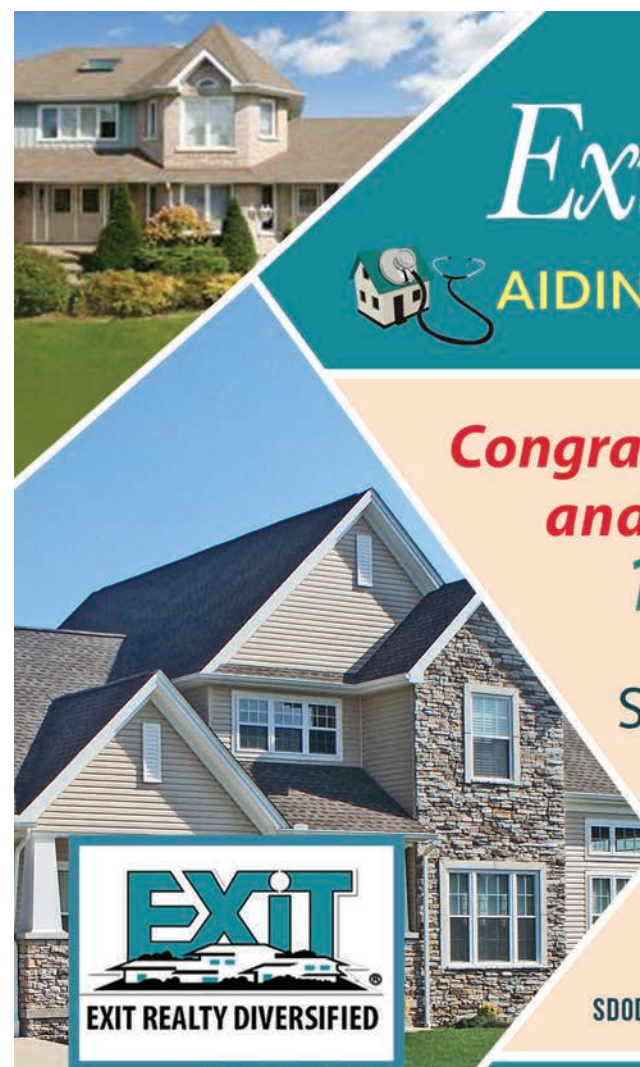
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Jeremiah 29:11

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BE PREPARED FOR LIFE

by Bobby Thomas, Jr.

Life happens, so be prepared. Proper planning can make all the difference when it comes to purchasing life insurance. According to the American Council of Life Insurers, \$68 billion was paid to beneficiaries in 2014 alone.¹ It's time to properly plan so your loved ones will share in that \$68 billion dollars.

Since no man knows the day or hour (Matthew 24:36), a good time to purchase life insurance is when you are alive. A better time to purchase life insurance is when you are alive, young, and healthy. Life insurance ratings and premiums are based on two core factors: your age and your insurability. This means that when you are young and healthy, the rates will be better than when you are older and start to experience some of life's aging challenges. The good news is you can get coverage for as young as a few days old and as seasoned as 85 years old. If you are still living, there's still time.

The common myths about life insurance are what we hear daily when sharing the necessity of life insurance to customers. Don't let your funeral be one that pulls a family apart because they are scrambling to pay for your homegoing.

You can have car insurance your entire life but never experience a car accident. You can purchase the best home insurance but never experience damages from fires, water, or a natural disaster.

Most financial lenders will require auto insurance and homeowners' insurance because it's important to the lender to protect what's important to them. Life happens, and the need for life insurance will happen to us all. Make life insurance a requirement for your family. Be prepared for life!



Bobby Thomas, Jr. is the president of BTJ Insurance, Inc. and president of the SUN-BELT Insurance Group of Dickson, Tennessee. He owns and operates four Nationwide Insurance offices in Nashville, Antioch, Belle Meade, and Dickson, Tennessee.

Twitter: @btjinsurance
Facebook.com/BTJInsurance/

Photo of Bobby Thomas, Jr. taken by Sean Ponder

1. Most recent data is 2014. 2015 data not available from the American Council of Life Insurers
<https://www.acli.com/Tools/Industry%20Facts/Benefits%20Paid/Pages/Default.aspx>

5 COMMON MYTHS ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE:

1.

I'M TOO YOUNG/TOO OLD FOR LIFE INSURANCE.

When someone passes away, my agency will file "death claims." Since 2004, my agency has had death claims in every age group from one-month-olds to teenagers to new parents to grandparents, and for every type of situation from sudden illnesses and accidental deaths to natural causes.

2.

I HAVE LIFE INSURANCE AT WORK.

The life insurance offered by your company is often a great benefit while you are working for that employer. However, if you lose your job, then you lose your coverage. Coverage doesn't follow you to your next employer. It doesn't matter if your separation from the company is voluntarily or involuntarily, coverage will end. Always have sound life insurance outside of your employer. Even if your goal is to work until you reach retirement age, make sure you retire with outside life insurance already in place.

3.

LIFE INSURANCE IS TOO EXPENSIVE.

Life insurance rates are based on your age and insurability. The younger you are, the lower the premium. There are other factors involved that determine your rate such as whether you smoke, your current health, and your current weight. These factors may make your rate higher or lower; however, the death benefit of an active policy will be paid to your beneficiary. The amount of the policy's benefit will normally exceed the amount of the premiums you have paid.

4.

THEY JUST NEED ENOUGH TO BURY ME, AND THAT'S IT.

According to Proverbs 12:22, a good man will leave an inheritance to his children's children. Life insurance is more than just burial insurance. This insurance policy will allow you to pass on wealth to another generation. Most money from life insurance is received by the beneficiary 100 percent tax-free. During the trying time of experiencing the loss of a loved one, worrying about who's going to pay for the funeral or other debt should be the last concern. You can pass on wealth instead of worry. Wealth transfer is a great way to change a generation and to give your loved ones a head start in life. amount of the premiums you have paid.

5.

I HAVE TOO MUCH OR I HAVE ENOUGH LIFE INSURANCE.

Life insurance doesn't have a deductible, but if you have substantial amounts of debt such as student loans, mortgages, car notes, and medical bills, then you are carrying a deductible yourself. All this debt will be paid off from your life insurance proceeds. Ask yourself, *How much money will my loved one receive after they pay off all my debt?* Make sure your coverage is more than enough to be there when your family needs it the most.

HOME-BUYING DONE RIGHT!

— BY KAY BOWERS AND LISA MCINTYRE | WWW.NEWLEVELCDC.ORG —

"Hands down, this class is a must for first-time home-buyers! In fact, this class should be a must even if this isn't your first time going through the home-buying experience. The instructors were knowledgeable, and the presenters were dropping jewels left and right. Great class!" – Jay Hollingsworth, New Level CDC attendee

Financially prepared home-buyers save thousands of dollars. Buyers who have planned well financially and are pre-approved for a loan have a much better chance to purchase the home of their dreams. So where do you start? Housing counselors and educators recommend starting with a financial check-up, a savings plan, and a home-buying education class



Tanya bought her first home after completing her debt reduction/ Matching Savings Plan with New Level CDC.

Photo Credit: Lisa McIntyre

For those who prefer an online class, New Level CDC partners with **eHomeAmerica**, which offers accredited online home-buyer education that is followed up with our individual one-hour consultations. Participants can complete the course on their own schedule and also have their questions answered by our certified educators.

For those who are income-eligible and need help saving for a home, acquiring post-secondary education, or starting a micro business, New Level CDC's Financial Education/**Matching Savings Program** helps participants adopt beneficial financial behaviors and improve their financial future.



Ed has paid off debt and is saving for his first home following a Credit & Financial Check-up session.

Photo Credit: Lisa McIntyre

challenges.

Once a savings and debt reduction plan has been implemented, the next step is to gain as much understanding of the home-buying process as possible. New Level CDC offers **Fast-Track Home-Buyer Education** classes led by nationally certified trainers who uphold national industry standards for delivering home-buyer education and counseling. Other class presenters include real estate, banking and mortgage, and insurance industry professionals.

The class is thorough and engaging, providing participants with the knowledge to (1) ask the right questions, (2) choose the right mortgage loan, (3) find the best value in a home with a professional real estate agent, and (4) save money and build wealth with their new home purchase.

Most first-time home-buyer assistance programs require participants to complete home-buyer education. There is a new federal program being administered by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency called Mortgage Credit Certification. Lenders who finance first-time home-buyers will have information on how to qualify for and submit the paperwork to secure a yearly tax credit.

from a nationally certified trainer.

To gain knowledge and make the best decisions, schedule a **Credit and Financial Check-up** at New Level CDC. The one-on-one session includes a credit report review, a mortgage readiness analysis, and an action plan that drives you toward your goals. Potential home-buyers learn how to create realistic spending plans and tackle credit



Carmen used our Matching Savings Plan to pay for tuition to earn a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Photo Credit: Kay Bowers

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HOW TO BECOME ★ PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ★

U.S. CONSTITUTION'S REQUIREMENTS FOR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

✓ NATURAL BORN
CITIZEN

✓ MINIMUM AGE
35 YEARS

✓ U.S. RESIDENT
14 YEARS

STEP 1 PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE PRESIDENT, EACH WITH THEIR OWN IDEAS ABOUT HOW GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK

PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR IDEAS BELONG TO THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY, THIS IS WHERE PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES COME IN

CANDIDATES FROM EACH POLITICAL PARTY CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO WIN THE FAVOR OF THEIR PARTY MEMBERS

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS STEP 2

AT EACH CONVENTION, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CHOOSES A RUNNING MATE (VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE)

EACH PARTY HOLDS A NATIONAL CONVENTION TO SELECT A FINAL PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

IN A PRIMARY
PARTY MEMBERS VOTE FOR THE BEST CANDIDATE THAT WILL REPRESENT THEM IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

IN A CAUCUS
PARTY MEMBERS SELECT THE BEST CANDIDATE THROUGH A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS AND VOTES

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION

STEP 3 GENERAL ELECTION

PEOPLE IN EVERY STATE ACROSS THE COUNTRY VOTE FOR ONE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

WHEN PEOPLE CAST THEIR VOTE, THEY ARE ACTUALLY VOTING FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE KNOWN AS **ELECTORS**

STEP 4 ELECTORAL COLLEGE

IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM, EACH STATE GETS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ELECTORS BASED ON ITS REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS

EACH ELECTOR CASTS ONE VOTE FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION, AND THE CANDIDATE WHO GETS MORE THAN HALF (270) WINS

THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE INAUGURATED IN JANUARY

DEFINITIONS

Caucus: A meeting of the local members of a political party to select delegates to the national party convention. A caucus is a substitute for a primary election.

Delegate: A person authorized to represent others as an elected representative to a political party conference.

Electoral: A member of the electoral college.

Electoral College: The voters of each state, and the District of Columbia, vote for electors to be the authorized constitutional members in a presidential election.

Natural Born Citizen: Someone born with U.S. citizenship includes any child born "in" the United States, the children of United States citizens born abroad, and those born abroad of one citizen parent.

Primary: An election where voters select candidates for an upcoming general election. Winning candidates will have delegates sent to the national party convention as their party's U.S. presidential nominee.

DESIGNED BY:
Ifrah Syed

SOURCES:

<http://kids.usa.gov/president>

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/election/president.html>

THE POWER OF READING

by Meredith McGinnis
Twitter: @Ms_McG

In today's world, there is no shortage of information. We are inundated with all kinds of knowledge every day. We see constant updates on our Twitter feeds, newspaper headlines, reports on television, billboards, text messages, and Wikipedia pages—providing an incredible amount of data. It can become overwhelming, especially if it seems as if it's passing us by faster than we can interpret it. But what if we saw all of this information a little differently? What if we took charge of the information and said to ourselves, "I can read anything."

Reading, like most other things, requires a certain level of confidence. You wouldn't go into an interview with an insecure attitude. You wouldn't decide to be healthy and work on your fitness if you weren't 100 percent dedicated. You wouldn't go back to school if you weren't sure you would finish. Reading takes the same level of determination; and like other areas of life, reading becomes empowering once you get started.

It's important to know that no matter how challenging the content of your reading, it is nothing that can't be understood with Google at your fingertips. First, start setting goals for yourself. According to a 2014 Gallup Poll, nearly a quarter of American adults had not read a single book in the past year. To change those statistics, it's going to take intentionality. Create a reading list to tackle this year; or set a goal to spend one less hour watching television, and replace it by reading a book.

Once reading becomes part of your daily life, the education and empowerment it will bring becomes irreplaceable. Reading opens up the mind for new ideas, new ways to solve problems, and new perspectives with which to view the world. As adults, it's easy to become entrenched in the way we see things. But growth, real development, comes from stepping outside our comfort zones and trying new things. For example, read pieces that you wouldn't normally be drawn to. If you're a history buff, try exploring science magazines. If you love art or architecture, browse the biographies section of the bookstore. Maybe your days are full of mathematics, so you might find spoken word or poetry awesome. It is through reading that we can overcome stagnation in our thought lives and diversify our minds.

Pulling together all of these pieces will put you in a position to learn anything. When you approach new and different kinds of writings with confidence, finding relevant details to apply to your life and work will be simple. Once you become a master reader, try writing things down. Research has shown that jotting down ideas is the key to remembering them. During the Renaissance in Europe, popular thinkers would record thoughts, questions, quotes, and practical notes into a "Commonplace Book," like a scrapbook for ideas. Create your own. You'll find that the growth you experience reading will be anything but commonplace.



Photo of Meredith McGinnis was taken by Colton Maii

A Moment in American History The Jefferson Street Renaissance

A stretch of road anchored by Tennessee State University and North First Street, Jefferson Street is a major historic part of Nashville, Tennessee, filled with signs of times gone by as well as what's to come. Once a wagon road during the Civil War, Jefferson Street later became the home of several venues that were critical to the development, growth, and stability of music within the black community.

Many people might not know about the history of one of Nashville's greatest gems. Jefferson Street, centered in the heart of "New Nashville," was overshadowed by the city's reputation for country music; however, Jefferson Street is an interesting and underrated layer of a city that was destined for growth and expansion.

Following the turn of the century, land on and around Jefferson Street was bought and sold for residential and commercial use by locals to build entertainment venues, funeral parlors, churches, and many other commercial ventures. During the Great Depression, Nashville's established Cedar Street black business district drastically declined because of the economic collapse of the working class; but Jefferson Street's economy was developing and beginning to thrive.

The Golden Years: 1935-1965

In the mid-1930's, Nashville saw the development of Chicago-influenced "speakeasies," nightclubs, supper clubs, dance halls, and pool rooms in the district affectionately nicknamed "Jeff Street." Because of the area and patronage, artists would perform in Nashville as a stop on their tours, making the city a vital component in the success of many well-known and respected artists today.

Over a span of three decades, Nashville hosted several soul, jazz, blues, and R&B artists, including Etta James, Otis Redding, Little Richard, Muddy Waters, James Brown,

Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, B. B. King, Jimi Hendrix, and Count Basie. On the ever-popular Chitlin' Circuit, developed to offer black artists and entertainers an opportunity to perform, Jefferson Street was home to Club Baron, the Del Morocco, Maceo's, and others. These entertainment venues were home to some of the greatest live music performances in their heyday, as well as vehicles to introduce artists who would later become international superstars.

Credited with the development of "Marbles," who later became known as international guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Street was the launching pad for many great artists.

The End of an Era

In 1952, several dozens of families were relocated away from the area. In the early to mid-1960's, restrictions surrounding

gambling in backrooms, a large source of revenue for Jefferson Street's entertainment establishments, created a crippling effect on the area's economy. As a result, many clubs and businesses were demolished or forced out of business. Then in the late 1960's, traffic on Jefferson Street was cut off to allow the construction of Interstate 40. A once thriving part of the city had been drastically altered and reduced by laws, expansions, and regulations after 30 years of success and viability.

Today, museums and journalists, especially in the redevelopment of Nashville, strive to pay homage to Jefferson Street. To many, it is just a long stretch of road that separates downtown from North Nashville; but to many locals, Jeff Street is a large piece of Nashville's music history and the history of black music around the world.

Contribution: National Museum of African American Music



Ray Charles performs at Maceo's in 1959, Nashville, TN.
Sourced from <http://raycharlesvideomuseum.blogspot.com/2010/08/ray-charles-is-in-town-chronology-1959.html>.

MNPS Brings Healthy Food to Students

By CaNesha Gordon | Twitter @CaNeshaGordon

According to Alignment Nashville, 72.4 percent of students (around 56,700) live at or below the federal poverty line and are food insecure. Many of these students will receive most or all of their day's entire caloric intake from school meals, making it vitally important to ensure that those meals are as nutritionally dense as they can be.

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Nutrition Services, with support from the Alignment Nashville School Nutrition Team, has worked hard over the last three years to implement whole-food scratch cooking in MNPS cafeterias through the Healthier Cafés Initiative and is now collaborating with key stakeholders on Farm to School—an initiative to get wholesome, farm-fresh produce into school kitchens and onto the plates of students who need it most.

Last November, Metro Schools received a \$38,682 planning grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the 2016-2017 school year. The grant helped MNPS work with the community's Nutrition Alignment Team, and it will help strengthen relationships with local farmers and enhance its food education partnerships as part of an effort to evaluate best practices that can be developed into a model for district-wide implementation in the future. The district expanded its Farm to School pilot program



during the strawberry harvest season as part of its US Department of Agriculture Planning grant. This past May, fresh strawberries were delivered to Casa Azafran Early Learning Center, Fall-Hamilton Elementary, Glengarry Elementary, Glenview Elementary, Park Avenue Enhanced Option Elementary, Rosebank Elementary, and Wright Middle Prep.

For the second year, Green Door Gourmet is the only farm to provide fresh strawberries to Metro Nashville students. The owner, Sylvia Ganier, said, "Green Door is once again honored to be the only local farm participating in this important community program, feeding our kids fresh food grown here in Middle Tennessee."

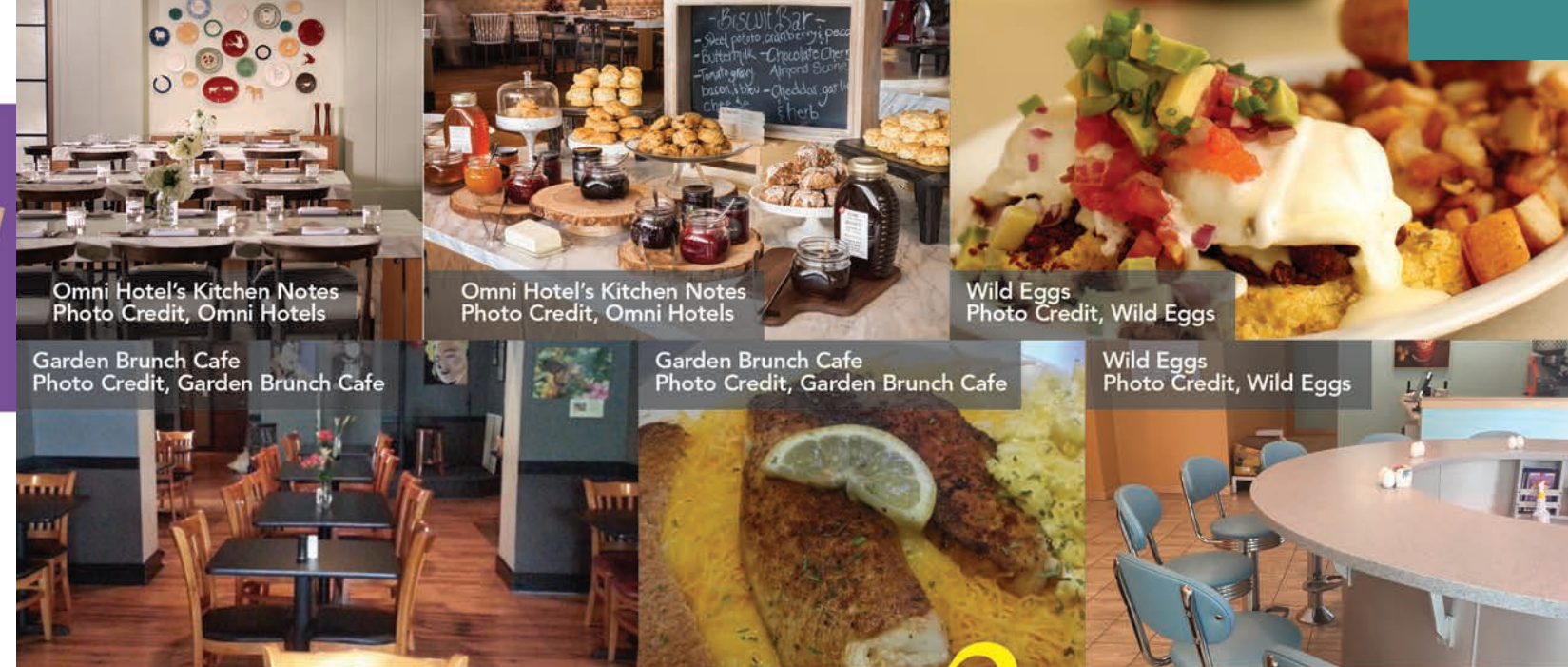
Jackie Contreras, Nashville Farmers' Market program manager, serves as the co-chair on Alignment Nashville's Farm, and she says that the Farmers' Market is excited to support Metro Schools' effort to provide more locally grown food in cafeterias: "The Nashville Farmers' Market is committed to supporting Farm to School by sharing Farm to School information with the agricultural community and engaging local farmers in opportunities to provide food and educational resources to MNPS."

After a successful trial run of strawberries with the pilot schools, the Alignment Nashville team is looking forward to a new run of produce for Metro schools.

Sources:
Children's First Article (May 11, 2016)
Children's First Article (November 18, 2015)
Alignment Nashville Website: <http://portal.alignmentnashville.org/>



Photo of CaNesha Gordon taken by Taunisha Murph



Brunch Options for 3 Occasions

by Karla Burnett

Brunch has become a popular social event for Nashville natives and visitors alike. Tantalizing brunch menus tempt patrons to try new restaurants and sample specialty items. With beautiful spaces and artistic food plating, Nashville's brunch scene has something for everyone!

Here are my recommendations for three Nashville brunch spots for three different occasions.

For brunch with a large group, I recommend:

Omni Hotel's Kitchen Notes
Nestled in the heart of downtown, Kitchen Notes offers open, spacious seating for large groups, and the brunch menu is buffet-style. Guests enter Kitchen Notes via the iconic Omni Hotel,

which allows for easy drop-off and pick-up. Patrons can also enjoy free parking with validation by the restaurant, which makes this option even sweeter.

For brunch on a date, I recommend:

Garden Brunch Café
Garden Brunch Café is located on Historic Jefferson Street and is a great place for an after-church date. The café occupies a quaint space, and the trees serve as a canopy for outdoor seating, where couples can connect and enjoy conversation while they wait to be served. My favorite dish is the fish and grits (pictured above). For those who prefer lighter fare, Garden Brunch Café is one of the few eateries that offer turkey instead of pork. I also enjoy the local art showcased throughout the café, with options to purchase. Be sure to say hello to the owners, Carl and Jennifer

Carpenter, as they are often seen working and mingling with guests.

For brunch for "just because," I recommend:

Wild Eggs
Wild Eggs is located downtown on Church Street and is an expansion of the Louisville-based chain. Its menu has a variety of options, from traditional breakfast items such as pancakes to crepes—and of course eggs! The restaurant is clean and bright, with welcoming pastel colors. Its location also makes it a nice stop before or after a stroll through downtown Music City. Any day is a reason for brunch, and Wild Eggs is a perfect place to brunch for any occasion. Be sure to take a stroll through Bicentennial Mall, the Farmers' Market, or any of the beautiful greenway trails to walk off the calories from your meal. Happy brunching!

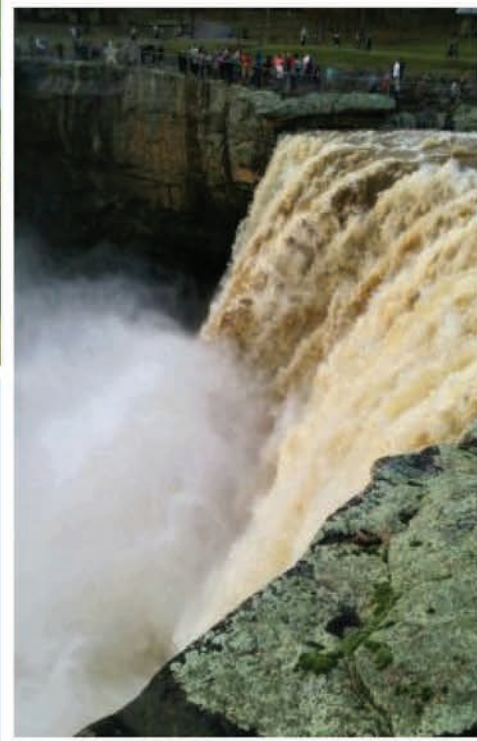


Karla Burnett is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a degree in sociology and is currently pursuing an MBA at Bethel University. She is a Nashville native and a lifestyle blogger, a free spirit, and a music lover.

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Legend says that the waterfall was named after a Cherokee princess named Nocalula



Nocalula & TWIN BRIDGES

By Vanessa Croft - Twitter: IamVanessaCroft

As I begin my travel journal, my first stop is in Gadsden, Alabama, my hometown. Gadsden is a beautiful city nestled at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains in the northeastern part of the state, located about three hours south of Nashville and an hour and a half from Atlanta.

What makes Gadsden so unique is its historic geographical terrain on what was once Native American land. One local hidden treasure, once inhabited by the Cherokee nation, is Nocalula Falls. The falls are a magnificent 90-foot drop that easily turn into a raging waterfall after heavy rains.

Legend says that the waterfall was named after a Cherokee princess named Nocalula, who jumped into the waters to her death after being forced to marry a man she did not love. Today, a statue of Nocalula stands on the edge of the bluff to commemorate the legend.

Many fun attractions await visitors to Nocalula Falls Park, including a train ride through the park, a petting zoo, caves to explore, a pioneer homestead, a miniature golf course, and a campsite complete with cabins for rental. If the rustic life of the campsite is not your idea of rest and relaxation, head down the road to Twin Bridges Golf Club, located along Gadsden's Coosa River.

Twin Bridges is a beautifully landscaped course and home to Brick Road to Success, an annual golf tournament and silent auction established by Gadsden native son Brick Haley. Haley is an assistant coach at the University of Texas. He has also coached at LSU and for the Chicago Bears. Each year, he returns to Twin Bridges for his annual fundraiser for autism.

Whether on the campgrounds of Nocalula or on the golf course at Twin Bridges, if you

want to venture a bit off the beaten path, just head to Gadsden. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised to find fun, adventure, and relaxation so close to home!



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Photos of site of the waterfall in Gadsden and Twin Bridges Golf Club taken by Vanessa Croft.

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