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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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A PUBLICATION OF:

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Sunday:

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7:00 pm CST - Wednesday Bible Study

On Demand - 24/7



TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

8	From the Heart of Our First Lady, Dr. Stephanie Walker	A Closer Look at Mt. Zion Small Groups	29
10	The Right State of Mind: Ushering in Mental Health as a Priority in the Church and Community	Mt. Zion Welcomes Minister Andre' Anderson Jr., Executive Administrator to Bishop Walker	30
11	Simple and Delicious: A Recipe by Julius Evans	Metro Police Officer Gives Back to the Community	31
12	To Have and to Hold: Free Premarital Classes Offered From the Marriage Ministry	Joyra Vargas: Faithful Volunteer	32
15	Reimagining Children's Ministry	Onward and Upward: VaShawn Mitchell Joins the Mt. Zion Vision Team as Overseer of Music and Worship Arts	33
16	Church Beyond the Building: Taking the Word to Local High Schools	Meet Mt. Zion's New Kitchen Overseer, Chef Cleveland Shearls	34
17	Training Ground Middle School Ministry: Building Confident Teens. Strengthening Families. Serving the Community.	Farewell, Pastor Tyron Carter	35
18	Reading Recovery Adds to Summer Enrichment Program	Christian Education Overseer Departs to Pursue Doctorate	36
19	A Look at The Camp Zion Summer Enrichment Camp	Honoring Our Pastor: A Recap of Bishop's 25th Pastoral Anniversary	40
22	Ministries List	Greater Influence, Kingdom Impact: Bishop Walker Serves the Nashville Community as a Member of Four Local Boards	42
24	Meeting the Spiritual Needs of a Multigenerational Congregation	Marketing & Media Guidelines	43
26	Mt. Zion History Fact	How Dr. Aisha McKnight-Baron Triumphed Through Her Faith Journey	44
27	Homebuyers Education: Preparing You for the Unexpected: Finding Financial Freedom	Faith & Focus: How Phil Thornton, Sony SVP and General Manager of RCA Inspiration, Tops the Charts In and Out of the Studio	46
	PSALM Ministry Report: Music City Community Court Expungement Clinic a Great Success	God Provides: Tamela Mann Talks About Family and God's Favor	48
	#WereBetterTogether: Mt. Zion and Brentwood Baptist Church host "We're DevelopmentBetter Together" Back-to-School and Healthcare Outreach	2017 Fall Church Calendar	51
		2017 FGBC Fellowship International Conference Pictorial	

PUBLICATION GUIDE

Table of Contents

NOW: Spiritual Development

NOW: Health Awareness

NOW: Economic Empowerment

NOW: Community Outreach

NOW: Family Enrichment

#celebratethehouse

Positioning Ministry for Greater

Positioning Yourself for Greater

VISION OF THE HOUSE 2017



*"Don't put it off NOW!
Don't rest until you do." Proverbs 6:4 (NLT)*

As we approach another year, we are encouraged by what God did last year, yet we are challenged to maintain even greater momentum going forward. The issues in our world call for us as a ministry to intensify our efforts rather than to retreat in the spirit of complacency. God did some amazing things last year, and they were possible because of the incredible spirit of service, generosity, and prayer on Mt. Zion pews. God has given this ministry something special, and we must continue to build upon our accomplishments to the glory of God.

God spoke to me clearly about the year 2017, where no opportunity will be wasted. I have spoke much about cadence in 2016, and now the time has come. Everything we do will embody this vision. There are many people who allowed opportunity to pass by them because they were neither positioned nor prepared to respond, to get involved, to act. To be more efficient in our response, we will simplify our processes so that we garner maximum participation of our membership in an effort to make a difference in the community and in the world.

The Wisdom of Solomon passionately and emphatically speaks to us all. Don't put it off. Don't procrastinate. Don't get caught up in analysis paralysis. Do it now. Move now. Serve now. Study now. Expand now. It is not by accident that the word now speaks to the urgency of the time. Hebrews 11:1 begins with now when referring to our faith. Paul uses the word now when speaking to the church at Ephesus regarding God's ability and willingness to move on behalf of His people. Paul says in Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV), "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." God moves in the now, and those of us who have our finger on the pulse of God must join Him in His work in the earth. This is the year of NOW!

In particular, the 2017 vision will address five areas: Spiritual Development, Economic Empowerment, Health Awareness, Family Enrichment, and Community Outreach. Let's examine these key areas.

Spiritual Development will focus on enhancing our teaching ministries throughout the church. The Bible says in Hosea 4:6 (NKJV), "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." We will place a premium on teaching and on providing opportunities for spiritual growth. This area will:

1. Expand and enhance the Mount Zion Discipleship Institute course offerings.
2. Provide instructional webinars.
3. Provide small-group studies.
4. Increase Bible study attendance by 30 percent by elevating curriculum subject matter and strategic marketing campaigns.
5. Offer the "Know Your Bible" Institute, which will be designed to enhance biblical literacy.

Economic Empowerment will focus on providing tools to life-long learners for financial independence, exposure to resources that assist in fulfilling personal dreams, and exposure to resources that motivate an increase in biblical stewardship to God's kingdom. Under this area, we will:

1. Launch a church-wide economic summit that provides resources for debt elimination, home-buying, credit repair, budgeting, estate planning, insurance coverage, understanding the stock market, and biblical stewardship.
2. Present weekly personal testimonies about successful stewardship.
3. Continue to partner with Financial Peace University and with the DFree Program.
4. Offer Saturday School for Entrepreneurs, which will provide comprehensive business training in four-week intervals.
5. Host our first Business Owner Mixer, which not only will provide public exposure for business owners but also create networking and mentorship opportunities for those pursuing new careers.

Health Awareness continues to be a critical component of Mount Zion's vision. I am proud that ChurchFIT has now become an international movement and that we are fortifying our efforts to promote healthy living, we will:

1. Establish Mount Zion kitchens as "No Fry Zones" and encourage churches across the country to do the same.
2. Increase participation in weekly workout and resource classes through family fitness marketing campaigns.
3. Offer a Church-Wide 2-Mile Walkathon once a month.

4. Continue to enhance our community partnerships.
5. Establish faith-based platforms to remove the stigma around HIV education and around mental health illnesses.

Family Enrichment is perhaps the most important component of this vision. We recognize that stronger families make stronger churches and communities. Committed to strengthening the family, the most important social unit, we will:

1. Create greater exposure of the many Mount Zion Family Ministry opportunities to the congregation.
2. Host the Mount Zion Marriage Enrichment Conference, which will address all aspects of family life.
3. Expand the Youth, Middle School and Children's Church ministries. Their growth will include strategic marketing campaigns as well as better staffing of our nursery at both locations. To accommodate demand, we will also begin remodeling the spaces that house these ministries.
4. Host the Mount Zion Youth Summit, a two-day event designed to encourage and empower youth to fulfill their dreams.
5. Expand resource offerings to singles of varied demographics (i.e. divorced, widowed, age, etc.).

Community Outreach continues to be a part of our culture at Mount Zion. Lending a helping hand is simply who we are and what we do. Intentional about expanding our efforts in the community, we will:

1. Increase volunteer opportunities.
2. Maintain our outreach focus from last year but surpass 2016 efforts.
3. Provide support for the four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Nashville: Fisk University, Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, and American Baptist College.
4. Partner with Brentwood Baptist Church in an unprecedented city-wide service and outreach initiative.
5. Establish the Scholarship Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to support students entering college and support those currently attending college.

Mount Zion, the year 2017 is destined to be an amazing year, and I am honored to serve this ministry in my 25th year. I am encouraged by each of your continued support of the vision both here and internationally through the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship. To this end, I look forward to our remaining the chief supporters of our Full Gospel conferences and initiatives. This is the year of NOW, and I believe that as we move forward in seizing the opportunities before us, God's will shall be done in the earth. As we embrace this vision corporately, I believe it will flow down individually to each of you.

The blessing on Mount Zion Baptist Church will be evident as we continue to grow spiritually, numerically and fiscally. To this end, the Lord has spoken to me about expanding our ministry to a Mount Zion satellite campus located beyond the city of Nashville. The reach of this satellite ministry will expand in ways never seen before. Furthermore, I believe God for supernatural debt cancellation in our near future. Finally, I believe that the Dream Center will become a reality sooner than expected.

Mount Zion, if we continue to do what we can do, God will do what he does best. He will move NOW! Let's continue to pray together, work together, worship together and serve together. We are truly better together. God has raised us up for such a time as this, and we are determined that No Opportunity Will Be Wasted!

To the glory of God,

Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III

Photo Credit: Joy Marie Photography



I am so honored to be able to write to each of you. Bishop and I, along with Jovanni, count it a true blessing to be part of such an amazing congregation. I don't know where I would be if it were not for the support and prayers of each of you. Thank you for everything. During this year of NOW, it is imperative that we all position ourselves for greater. Now is the time.

When I reflect on my personal journey, I can see that it has not been a sprint but a marathon. Often, I meet people who are ambitious, as they should be, but who have not factored in the process necessary to achieve the greatness they desire. This journey requires much prayer, preparation, and poise. There will be challenges that will stretch your faith and make you second-guess the goal, but you must hold true to what God has promised you. I wouldn't be honest if I told you there were not times I felt like it was too tough, but I am convinced my relationship with God is what pushed me past my threshold. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me." That Scripture has been my motivation all my life.

Once you make up your mind that you will persevere through the process, it is critical that you surround yourself with the right people because connections are important. I've always had mentors who have spoken into my life. My medical career has benefited from one of those relationships. When you are successful, the degrees of separation get smaller and smaller. You cannot isolate yourself. Instead, you must build intentional relationships that can help you in developing and advise you during critical seasons of your life. Real mentors do not always tell you what you want to hear. Their honesty and candor help to release the greatness in you and position you for the next level. Who do you trust to speak into your destiny? Whomever it is, make certain that they have been where you are trying to go. Don't follow people who don't have a record of success themselves.

Finally, I want to encourage you to go for it! Don't allow any circumstance to derail your dreams. I'm just a girl from Los Angeles—not from Beverly Hills. I'm from "L.A., L.A.!" When there is greatness in you, greater will find you. Prepare yourself not to be average. My husband always says average is being on top of the bottom. Where you are going requires you to be on top of the top. This is your time, and the world is waiting on what you have to offer. There are many of us who are praying for you, but you must put in the work. You must will yourself to get out of bed and separate yourself from the crowd. It's time for your uniqueness to emerge. It's time to go after greater!

Blessings,

Dr. Steph

  @drstephwalker

Photo: Joy Marie Photography

FROM THE HEART OF OUR **FIRSTLADY**



"There will be challenges that will stretch your faith and make you second-guess the goal, but you must hold true to what God has promised you."

Gift

The of
ETERNAL LIFE

5 Steps to Salvation

1. Recognize and admit that you are a sinner (Romans 5:12-14).
2. Repent of your sins (1 John 1:9).
3. Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9).
4. Be baptized in water (Matthew 3:6).
5. Obey the Word of God (1 John 5:3).

Welcome to Jesus' family!

Next Steps

1. Build your faith.
 - Attend worship services and Bible study.
 - Read the Word every day.
 - Pray without ceasing.
2. Build your community.
 - Become a member.
 - Join a small group.
 - Serve in ministry.
 - Attend Discipleship Institute.

MENTAL HEALTH

MINISTRY



The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Ministry provides a space where people can freely come forward and receive the help they need with mental illness and addiction. The MHSA Ministry has already received wide-spread recognition, which demonstrates the necessity of discussing mental health in the church and ensuring resources are available for those who are struggling with substance addiction.



Elder Patrick Starnes, left, pictured with Mr. Monty Burks

The MHSA Ministry was founded by co-leaders Elder Patrick Starnes, Dr. Vanessa Bell, and Dr. Shameka Neely. After a year and a half, the ministry came to fruition in January 2017 and is now affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). (For more information, visit www.nami.org.)

Soon after its founding, the MHSA Ministry was certified by the state of Tennessee as a Recovery Congregation, indicating that Mt. Zion has certified leaders who can assist and guide persons to resources to help them in their recovery from substance addictions.

"We are glad that Mt. Zion can be at the forefront in opening this ministry and becoming that beacon of light for other black churches and breaking the stigma

surrounding mental illness," Elder Starnes says. "We would like for people to come forward freely and say, 'It's me, my loved one, or my friend who is suffering from addiction or suffering with this illness.' And we want to be there when they decide to confess that they've been dealing with the situation long enough."

Elder Starnes collaborated with Monty Burks, director of special projects for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, to establish a faith-based community within many churches to ensure the accurate information and

NOW: Health Awareness

resources are provided to those who seek mental health resources and substance abuse assistance. Starnes collaborated with Burks, Dr. Bell, and Dr. Neely to plan the recovery roundtable, a training program that includes a panel of professionals who share their expertise and resources with those who are recovering.

Currently, the ministry is preparing for the church's annual back-to-school event, as well as the worship service "Celebrate Recovery," where persons who are in recovery share their experiences and testimonies. Before implementing the services at Mt. Zion, Elder Starnes will shadow four to six similar services at Long Hollow Baptist Church.

On November 4, the MHSA ministry will also host a program called "So Blessed and Still Stressed," which will discuss stress-induced illnesses, awareness, and prevention, as well as highlight coping mechanisms.

To contact the MHSA ministry, call 615-254-7296. Updates for the ministry will be highlighted during the announcements section of Mt. Zion's worship services.



Simple & Delicious

We have all been at home watching The Cooking Channel or The Food Network and said to ourselves, "That looks easy. I could do that." Sometimes that may be true, but most times it's probably not.

Here is a simple recipe that doesn't require you to be a professional chef. With any recipe, some of the ingredients can be substituted for healthier options, as well as added or omitted for personal preference.

I hope you enjoy this delicious recipe. Free yourself to explore different options and make it your own!

Hashbrown Casserole

Unlike most people, I'm not a big macaroni and cheese fan. The only mac and cheese I loved was my grandmother's, and



she's resting in heaven with the recipe, so no one can duplicate hers. Hashbrown casserole is similar to mac and cheese, and I consider it to be my mac and cheese alternative. It's a great side dish to any meat such as barbeque ribs or fried or baked chicken. The best part about this dish is that it's easy to prepare and doesn't take long to cook!

Ingredients

- 1 bag frozen diced hashbrowns
- 1 8 oz. package sour cream
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (mild or sharp)

- ½ stick butter or margarine, melted

- Diced onions to taste

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Chop frozen hashbrowns with a fork or a knife to separate them.
- Mix hashbrowns, butter, sour cream, cream of mushroom soup, diced onions, and cheese in a large bowl.
- Pour hashbrown mixture into a baking dish and spread out.
- Bake at 350 degrees until casserole is bubbling and cheese is melted to slightly golden brown on top.
- Cool and serve.

Cooking Tips

For this recipe, you can use name-brand or off-brand ingredients. I use Ore Ida hashbrowns, Campbell's cream of mushroom soup, and margarine instead of butter. I use off-brands for the remaining ingredients.

One alternative I have tried with this recipe is using Campbell's cream of chicken soup and/or cream of chicken and herbs soup instead of the cream of mushroom soup. I couldn't taste a difference, but maybe you will if you decide to try it.

If you are a cheese lover, feel free to use more cheese or various cheeses in this dish. I also use a little more sour cream to make the casserole creamier, so I buy a 16-oz. package instead of an 8-oz. package of sour cream.

The recipe calls for one stick of butter, but it's not necessary. I suggest using only a ½ stick of butter or margarine. If you have never made this recipe before, I recommend trying it this way first so you can see how you like it. Then the second time you make it, you can adjust the recipe to your liking.

ENJOY!

by Julius Evans |@juliusae33



NOW: Family Enrichment

“Many couples focus on
the day and not the
forever”



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD...

Many couples believe in “happily ever after,” never thinking that their marriage could one day end in disaster—until it unexpectedly happens.

Divorce rates are at an all-time high. According to the clerk's office of the state of Tennessee, on average, 33,000 divorces are processed each year. To combat this alarming statistic, Mt. Zion Baptist Church offers free premarital classes to equip couples for a lifetime journey together as God intended. It is the mission of the Covenant Matters Marriage Ministry to build strong families with tools such as premarital counseling classes. These courses, overseen by Michael Cox, are held several times a year, rotating between the Antioch and Old Hickory Boulevard locations.

Cox says the purpose of the course is to give couples an understanding of marriage using biblical principles. During the course, couples cover topics such as what marriage is, the expectations of marriage, and biblical roles in marriage.

“Many couples focus on the day and not the forever,” Cox says. Forever should start with guidance and a plan to prepare couples for a life of not happily ever after but of happiness and reality.

New premarital counseling class now enrolling.

REGISTER TODAY!

September 12–October 31

6:30-8:30 PM

OHB location

www.mtzionnashville.org

Check out the Covenant Matters Marriage Ministry marriage-building resources, small-group meetings, and conference announcements at www.mtzionnashville.org.



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REIMAGINING

children's MINISTRY



The modern-day church is made up of many different ministries that support and encourage members according to their various spiritual needs. While meeting the needs of all people is the mission of the church, we must not forget the significance of the children's ministry. Today, children are exposed to all sorts of wickedness. As a result, it is important to instill a strong and positive sense of self and godliness into our children.



At Mt. Zion, we value our children. We cannot afford to allow society to negatively affect the youth. We have an amazing children's ministry, Kingdom Kids, where we strive to make the Word of God easy for them to understand, learn, and apply to their lives.

There are quite a few new and exciting things going on in the Kingdom Kids ministry. "What Is Orange" is a new program that has been added to the curriculum for children ages 1-6. This program provides educational and biblical study especially tailored for children and is sure to make growing in the Word of God fun.

The current physical transformation taking place at the Old Hickory Boulevard location fosters a more child-centered

atmosphere and is creating a new energy for the children of Kingdom Kids. One of the new additions is a chalkboard wall in the Pre-K/First Grade area.

There has also been a surge in volunteerism in the children's ministry, which has given the children more opportunities to interact during their lessons. Kingdom Kids now offers rotation stations, biblical games, Bible trivia, and worship experiences. According to ministry leaders, these changes have increased students' participation in Kingdom Kids.

None of these amazing could take place without the dedication of the leaders, staff, and volunteers of Kingdom Kids. Director Tiffani Norman coordinates the Antioch location, and Director LaMonica Butler coordinates the Old Hickory Boulevard location. Butler previously served as coordinator of the Old Hickory Boulevard nursery from 2008 until she became coordinator of Kingdom Kids at OHB. Other people who have remained dedicated and who have served for many years in various capacities are Ramona Whitworth (Pre-K), Jerica Brown (Pre-K), Henrietta Hardin and Phil Hough (Kid Zone ages 7-11), and Valerie Greer (registration team). All of our volunteers

are doing an excellent job in building upon what great, long-time children's leader India Scruggs started.

To become a volunteer with Kingdom Kids or to register your child to become part of Kingdom Kids Ministries, please visit the website at mtzionnashville.org.

Check out the "Anywhere Kidz" web series at www.mtzionanywhere.org.



CHURCH BEYOND THE BUILDING



TAKING THE WORD TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

The Xperience Bible Study

has been a culmination of divine encounters and part of the cultural catalytic shift from God "in theory" to everyday Jesus—in real life, live, and in living color. And to make those encounters real for youth in meaningful ways, Mt. Zion has taken the Word of God beyond the church walls. One of the many ways in which the Xperience is creating a positive impact in the community is by being right where young people are—in school!



Two Metro Nashville high schools have welcomed the Xperience Bible Study onto their campuses; and, as a result, lives have been changed. Currently, Whites Creek High School and Antioch High School host the Xperience one day a week, but the High School Ministry is planning to expand to additional locations in the future. Across Middle Tennessee, approximately 250 students participate weekly in the Xperience Bible Study; and thus far, more than 60 students have received salvation.

When asked about the impact of the Xperience Bible Study, Tyson Irvin, a college sophomore and a participant in Mt. Zion's High School Ministry, described it as a way to learn more about God outside of the formal setting of church. Destiny Settles, a senior at MLK Magnet High School, says, "I have been attending the Xperience almost since the beginning, and the impact that it has had on my life is that I have been encouraged to read the Bible and learn more about the

NOW: Family Enrichment

messages. DeWayne [the ministry overseer] makes it relatable to teenagers' lives and more personable than a typical church setting."

Elder DeWayne High, overseer of the High School Ministry, says, "The premise for the Xperience is to ignite the youth's desire to know God. It's not about conforming to what other

"My prayer is that church moves from a building to the hearts of the people."

people may think their relationship with God should be, but it's about authentic worship and being identified by how God chooses to interact with them. I hope the Xperience changes the overall dynamic of church. If you have been in church for any amount of time, you are used to preaching. But I want people to grow accustomed to being themselves, and I want them to know that God accepts them just as they are and that He can use them, regardless. My prayer is that church moves from a building to the hearts of the people."

Currently, the Xperience Bible Study takes place at the following locations and times, with additional locations to come:

Wednesdays

10:50 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Whites Creek High School

Thursdays

8:40 a.m.–9:40 a.m.
Antioch High School

Photo Credit: Elder DeWayne High



by Ashley Ewell



TRAINING GROUND MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

NOW: Family Enrichment

Building confident teens. Strengthening families. Serving the community.

The Training Ground Middle School Ministry aids in the development of biblical understanding, positive self-image, and intentional leadership of youth in 6th through 9th grades. At each Training Ground encounter, ministry leaders use creative techniques and demonstrations to teach students how to defend and live out their faith through biblical application, friendship principles, and fun fellowship activities.

Here's an overview of the exciting events conducted in the first half of the year at Training Ground.

A **Vision Board Party** was held on April 28. Participants were asked to create boards focused on the following six topics: (1) faith (2) family (3) friends (4) finance (5) future (college or career aspirations) and (6) fitness.

"Seeing families sit down and peruse through hundreds of magazines and discuss family goals was powerful," said Crystal Thomas, overseer of the Training Ground Ministry. "There were no distractions, so the dreams and planning were off the Richter scale!"

Literacy Night is an MNPS initiative that began a few years ago through Community Achieves, a program that gives support to local schools. Designated schools within a certain cluster are assigned a Community Achieves liaison to give community partners such as Mt. Zion clear direction and goals for making the most impact at their school. Makida Watson (liaison) was assigned to the Training Ground Ministry. Literacy Night was held recently at Antioch Middle School

"A parent would not dream of holding students back in school or supporting them in a certain grade until they are acclimated."



The Middle School Promotion program was designed to help with the transition of 5th graders to middle school and to celebrate the 8th graders headed to high school. The accomplishments of rising 6th and 9th graders were also highlighted. Many of the Training Ground participants are honor roll students, cheerleaders, volunteering in the community and operating their own businesses.

Old Skool Family Game Night gathered families for a night of fun and games. For two hours, kids of all ages played games like Jumbo Jenga, chess, Connect Four, and cards. Families spent intentional time interacting with their middle-school students.

The Training Ground also held unplugged parties for families throughout the summer to engage students in activities that create genuine conversation.

"We want to let students and parents know that transitions are uncomfortable sometimes. We are here to support," Thomas states. "A parent would not dream of holding students back in school or supporting them in a certain grade until they are acclimated."

However, we find that our youth are given a choice whether they want to attend church after the children's church age. At Mt. Zion, they have the option of attending Teen Church, Bible Study or church activities designed with them in mind.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Mobile Text Alerts: Text MTZMS to 63975

Email: cthomas@mtzionnashville.org

Phone: 615-254-7296 x3103

by Latresa Witherspoon | @lwitherspoon



READING RECOVERY

ADDS TO SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Mt. Zion Summer Enrichment Program has been nurturing our youth mind, body, and spirit for over 18 years. The program has enlarged its territory year after year and currently serves 120 students, comprised of rising first through ninth graders. Every year, teachers, mentors, trainers, and other staff members work to provide a diverse array of cultural, academic, leadership, and artistic exposure that includes Taekwondo, music, dance, invention activities, art, etiquette, leadership skill-building and support to achieve academic success in the upcoming school year. This year, the camp has added a reading recovery program

Given these statistics, it's important to make sure our children are excelling in reading and reading comprehension. Mt. Zion's reading recovery teacher, Debra Hortsman, takes the bottom 20 percent of first- and second-grade readers and engages in one-on-one intervention and small literacy groups of four to six children. Debra makes books for students guided by reading level and interests, including themes on friendship, honesty, caring, animals, family, feelings, and helping others. The students read three to four books a week at home and write about what they have read during camp, making connections with

themselves from the themes explored in the stories. Everything the kids learn happens in a story, so there are no flash cards or vocabulary lists. It's a holistic approach to building on existing reading skills because they see it in a story, synthesize it, and write it in their own stories. Hortsman says, "Once you can write it, you can read it."

This style of writing produces many positive outcomes such as gaining confidence in literacy skills, letter writing, and losing the fear of being behind at the start of the new school year. Hortsman has seen students in the program get excited about reading and pronouncing new words correctly and not simply following the story based on the illustrations.

"They sit up straighter and believe in themselves more. They volunteer to read out loud, take risk, and are truly excited about reading."

One tip that parents can try at home to help improve their child's reading level is to take time to listen to their children read and talk about the stories they've read. Parents can follow along with the stories and discuss them to make sure their children are actually reading the words and then provide them with feedback.



to get kids excited about reading and get them up to grade-level proficiency.

According to <http://tn.gov/education/topic/tcap-results-at-a-glance>, in Tennessee, 30 percent of all TCAP test takers performed at proficiency level or mastered English I, II, III for the 2015–2016 school year. The 2015 US Department of Education reports that Tennessee reading proficiency averages are not significantly lower than the national average, with 40 percent of students in the state reading at proficiency by fourth grade. This statistic reflects a steady rise in reading assessment scores in the state over the past decade. Tennessee's 2015 scores are 219/500.

"Once you write it,
you can read it."



by Tiffany Davenport | @tiffanysolves



CAMP ZION SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP

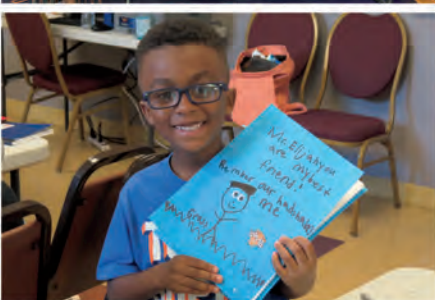
...inspiring students to a higher level of learning

Camp activities included

Chapel
Math
Reading
Language Arts
ACT Prep
Creative Writing
PE/Martial Arts
Music

Dance
Recreational Sports
Production
Reading Recovery
Cooking
Art
Field Trips

CAMP ZION



Camp Zion is a summer day camp that offers a fun experience for children while preparing them to excel academically and socially. We focus on enriching biblical knowledge, strengthening academic skills, developing character, building new relationships, and having the most fun possible!

(Cont'd on page 25)

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Production

MINISTRY LISTING

NOW: Family Enrichment

A-I Mime Ministry
dance@mtzionnashville.org

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

Athletics Ministry
athleticsministry@mtzionnashville.org

Audio Production
jstephens@mtzionnashville.org

Bookstore
bookstore1@mtzionnashville.org

Bridge Ministry
bridgeministry@mtzionnashville.org

Christian Education Ministry
christianeducation@mtzionnashville.org

Christians Against Cancer
relayforlife@mtzionnashville.org

College Ministry
collegeministry@mtzionnashville.org

Covenant in Motion Marriage Dance Ministry
covenantinmotion@mtzionnashville.org

Covenant Matters Marriage Ministry
covenantmatters@mtzionnashville.org
marriageministry@mtzionnashville.org

Daughters of the Promise (Women's Ministry)
women@mtzionnashville.org

Daughters of the Promise Choir (Women's Ministry)
iserve@mtzionnashville.org

Evangelism Ministry
evangelismministry@mtzionnashville.org

Financial Peace University
financialpeace@mtzionnashville.org

Food Pantry Ministry
foodpantry@mtzionnashville.org

Foreign Missions Ministry
foreignmissions@mtzionnashville.org

Health & Wellness Ministry
healthcare@mtzionnashville.org
ChurchFIT@mtzionnashville.org

Hospitality Ministry
iserve@mtzionnashville.org

Judah Generation Choir (Youth)
sbsmith@mtzionnashville.org

Judah Generation Liturgical Dance Ministry (Youth & Teen)
dance@mtzionnashville.org

Kingdom Kids Children Ministry
kingdomkids@mtzionnashville.org

Marketing, Graphic Design & Social Media
jstephens@mtzionnashville.org

Meals on Wheels Ministry
mrashied@mtzionnashville.org

Momentum Ministry (Men)
menofzion@mtzionnashville.org

Momentum Choir Ministry (Men)
momentumchorus@mtzionnashville.org

Network Ministry
thenetworkministry@mtzionnashville.org

New Members Ministry
newmembers@mtzionnashville.org

Nursery Ministry
kingdomkids@mtzionnashville.org

Outreach Ministry
mrashied@mtzionnashville.org

Pace Matrons Ministry
pacematron@mtzionnashville.org

Praise and Worship Liturgical Dance Ministry (Adults)
dance@mtzionnashville.org

Prayer Ministry
prayer@mtzionnashville.org

Prison Ministry
prisonministry@mtzionnashville.org
prison2palace@mtzionnashville.org

Room in the Inn Ministry
mrashied@mtzionnashville.org

Sanctuary Choir Ministry
iserve@mtzionnashville.org

Single Parent Ministry
singleparents@mtzionnashville.org

Singles Ministry
singlesministry@mtzionnashville.org

Social & Political Action Ministry
socialaction@mtzionnashville.org

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





MEETING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS of a **MULTIGENERATIONAL CONGREGATION**

Talking with Deacon Darrell Walker, general overseer of family ministries, was a personal eye-opener that made me feel as if I should be doing more. Meeting the needs of such a diverse, multigenerational congregation is no easy task, but Mt. Zion's family ministries seem to have found the niche. Walker says that his family (wife, Stacey; daughter, Darryan; and son, Darrell) are all benefactors of Mt. Zion's family-focused structure, which builds on the mission that strong families = a strong church = a strong community.

There are more than ten ministries within the church that fall under the mast of family ministries: Men, women, children, youth, single, young adult, single parent, marriage, senior saints, and college. Each ministry has its own overseer and an eight-member panel to provide a well-rounded perspective from all ministries to ensure every decision by one ministry has incorporated the needs of the others. Deacon Walker says this strategy is Mt. Zion's way of keeping ministries balanced and including all generations in the decisions.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
iSERVE
WWW.MTZIONNASHVILLE.ORG

iServe, Mt. Zion's ministry recruitment program, works to connect a multigenerational congregation of members to a spiritual calling. iServe's mission is to engage and enlist members to volunteer and participate in the church ministries. iServe recruits for over 50 different church ministries.

CHURCHFIT™

There are ministries for every age, including familiar ministries such as choirs, ushers, nurses, welcome/hospitality, and prayer groups. But there are also newer ministries such as mimes, dance groups for all ages, athletics, and a single parent group.

Mt. Zion combines members' careers and service to the church with ministries such as audio production; video production; and the ministry for graphic design, marketing, and social media. Then there are the community service ministries such as prison and social and political action. There's Pace Matrons for seniors; a host of ministries that serve infants to college-aged youth; and ChurchFIT for everyone else in between—just to name a few. If you can't find a ministry to join at Mt. Zion, you can't use the excuse that they don't have a ministry that fits you!



Walker points out that one of the services Mt. Zion's family ministries offers is childcare that is available during all ministry activities, to the greatest extent available.

He outlined Mt. Zion's commitment to keep families together by scheduling ministry activities concurrently, wherever possible, to maximize family time. These childcare and scheduling initiatives allow all family members to be in one place at one time to maximize family time. These childcare and scheduling initiatives allow all family members to be in one place at one time.



Another unique dynamic for Mt. Zion is ministries working across multiple locations, while remaining aware of meeting the spiritual needs of the multigenerational congregation. In addition to meeting those needs through four services on Sunday, Mt. Zion has examined the needs of each location and tried to answer that call. For example, many of the senior members of the congregation prefer to attend the 8 a.m. service at OHB on Sunday mornings. The Jefferson Street location has Bible study at noon on Wednesdays, college ministries, home-buyers' classes, and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. services on Saturdays. These Saturday evening

services address the needs of families that work on Sundays and have not been able to participate in Sunday worship services.

The Old Hickory Blvd. location has a summer enrichment camp, with over 130 youth from grades 1-9. The enrichment camp provides ACT prep; mentoring; and classes in cooking, finances, etiquette (a code of polite conduct), music, dance, and more. There is something to fit the needs of every child; and if there is a new activity that will engage and enrich

**CAMP
ZION**



the youth experience, Walker says, "Bring it on!"



As a 20-year member of Mt. Zion, Walker says that the mission of the family ministries is to create one church by bringing families together in service. Walker reflected on his childhood in Shreveport, Louisiana, and noted how his family never called out divisions in the family unit such as "step" members. They

were all just brothers, sisters, and family. That is the same model for Mt. Zion family ministries today. Walker highlighted that in the Book of Genesis, there was God and His covenant with and for the family unit—so shall the ministries of Mt. Zion be.



The diversity of programs and ministries that Mt. Zion offers its multigenerational congregation is no small task but rather a wealth of opportunity to connect with one



another. Every meeting and event held by each ministry is like a family reunion. Its purpose and passion is to reunite families toward a common theme, a common goal: serving the Lord as one body and one family. The breadth of Mt. Zion's ministries calls for its family members to engage and enlist in not

just one ministry but in as many as you can solemnly commit. These ministries are waiting for you. Will you answer the call?





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JOSEPH WALKER, III

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NOW: Economic Empowerment

by Precious Bond

On October 22, 2016, I completed pre-purchase education requirements for The Housing Fund's Mortgage Programs by participating in the New Level Community Development Center Home Buyers Education Class at Mt. Zion. In May 2017, at 26 years old, I closed on my first home, a two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath condo.

This eight-month process was quite an adventure that included successes and setbacks. Some of the setbacks I experienced included a loss of financing the day before closing on a home, which also resulted in a loss of my personal financial investment and having to say goodbye to that home. During the time I was searching for a house, the housing market was hot, and it was a challenge to find a house I could afford. These setbacks were discouraging, but I had the fight necessary to find the right combination of realtor, mortgage broker, lender, and friends. Sharon Jenkins, my realtor, advocated for me in daunting negotiations with multiple sellers, helped me recognize hidden problems with the conditions of several houses, and remained readily available for conversations about our next move when my original plans failed.

During the 45-day closing on the home I ultimately purchased, I lost my job, but God blessed me with a new one without even a one-day gap in employment. However, my income changed and made me ineligible for The Housing Fund's down-payment assistance I was banking on. My mortgage broker at the time, Mark Sullivan, would have had to take a loss. If it were anybody else, they would have walked away. But Mr. Sullivan went over and beyond the call of duty and found Chris Williams, a mortgage broker who had access to a loan I could qualify for. He also helped me close in two weeks so I wouldn't lose the house.

One of my mentors once told me, "Your character will take you further than your money will." This could not have been more true during the time I was trying to buy my home. Attending the New Level CDC first-time homebuyers class before I went home shopping was an opportunity for me to show my character and strengthen my resolve to purchase a house. Even though I had strikes against me, such as student loans, I did have a 100 percent payment history on my credit

"...at 26 years old, I closed on my first home, a two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath condo."

report. Although I lost a job during closing, I did not give up, but I was aggressive about securing another.

The first-time homebuyers class offered by the New Level CDC helped me identify how much home I could afford and taught me to secure a lender before I looked at one house. This information was a key factor in my success. Although I had many disappointments in this process because of my student loans, attending the class and being a steward over the little God has given me inspired the right people, such as my mother, Patricia Bond, and Sharon Jenkins, Chris Williams, Mark Sullivan, and Lisa McIntyre—to name a few—to help me overcome all my obstacles.

Mt. Zion partners with New Level CDC to help first-time home buyers navigate the complicated home purchasing process. If you are ready to buy your first home, we encourage you to attend the New Level CDC Home Buying Done Right workshop. For more information, call Lisa McIntyre at 615-627-0347, or email her at lmccintyre@nlcdc.com.

(Cont'd on page 25)



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7:00pm CST
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(Cont'd from page 18)

Camp Zion Summer Enrichment Camp

Blessed Lives Matter was written and directed by K. Addison Young for the Mt. Zion Summer Enrichment Camp Program. This amazing production is centered around Charles Burns, a young man who disobeys the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). As a result, he is taught a life-long lesson. One night, Charles dreams that he is standing in the heavenly courtroom where Judge Jehovah presides. Charles is represented by Satan and is on trial for being prideful, hurtful, a troublemaker, and abusive to others. His testimony doesn't line up with the Book of Life. Throughout Charles's life he has listened to the wrong counselors (Satan and his demons), so he is found guilty and is sentenced to hell. But then Charles wakes up and has a change of heart. He tells his parents he learned through his dream to be humble, nice, and thankful; and he vows to appreciate his parents more and to be grateful for all of God's blessings.

(Cont'd from page 24)

Finding Financial Freedom



Pictured: Rainbow Huff and Juda Buntin

I was introduced to Financial Peace University in early 2015. Through this program, Dave Ramsey teaches participants to manage money God's way and to tackle debt one payment at a time. I was tired of trying unsuccessfully to pay off my debt and make progress toward my financial goals.

Before participating in Financial Peace University, I had never used a budget, but the program taught me the importance of managing my income and controlling how it's spent. I was amazed at how much money was freed up once I began tracking where it was going and was intentional in how I spent it. Slowly but surely, I started tackling my debt and making significant progress toward becoming debt-free. I'm proud to say that within the first 16 months of my journey, I paid off a little over \$50,000 worth of debt. For the first time in my life, I faced my debt with hope and not despair. I've since been able

"...within the first 16 months of my journey, I paid off a little over \$50,000 worth of debt."

to purchase my first home, several years earlier than I originally planned, because of the progress I've made with my finances.

In addition to honoring God with our tithes and offerings, we are supposed to be good stewards of the financial blessings He bestows on us. Financial Peace University has equipped me with the tools and knowledge to do both. Whether you have tons of debt or no debt at all, this program will enrich your life and allow you to obtain true financial peace.

Mt. Zion offers Financial Peace University at various times during the year. Please check www.mtzionnashville.org for enrollment information.

by Rainbow Huff



MUSIC CITY COMMUNITY COURT Expungement Clinic a Great Success

by Elder James G. Davis, JD, MDiv | @jgddavis
Overseer, Mt. Zion Political Social Action Leadership Ministry (PSALM)

On Saturday, March 4, 2017, a collaboration between the Davidson County General Sessions Court Division VIII and Mt. Zion's PSALM Ministry hosted a Music City Community Court Records Expungement Clinic and Pro Se Indigency Docket. At the clinic, held at Mt. Zion's Antioch location, citizens who had criminal misdemeanor records had the opportunity to have them reviewed by the Honorable Division VIII Judge Rachel L. Bell. The records review covered all judgments and fines, fees, and court costs

owed to the court by citizens attending the clinic. Several attendees had records of their offenses expunged, or removed from the court records. People who were unable to pay the fines, fees, and other costs were eligible to have them waived by the court. Those who could pay but needed more time to do so, could set up payment plans to ease the burden of paying their costs, some of which were up to \$20,000.

Howard Gentry and his office and several attorneys who volunteered to help review records.

"...by the end of the day, we had served 187 people. And Judge Bell expunged approximately 1,309 records and waived about \$351,000 in fines, fees, and court costs."

The clinics are an important opportunity for citizens who are unable to pay off their legal costs. Even after their case sentences are served or disposed, they still face issues such as being unable to regain suspended drivers' licenses due to the unpaid fines. Not having driver licenses creates additional difficulties for them to obtain employment because they're unable to get to work. And not being able to get to work means they cannot pay the

outstanding court obligations. This is a never-ending cycle of difficulty for those persons caught up in this situation. But the clinics provide an opportunity for them to break this cycle and give justice to poor and low-income citizens, many of whom are often minorities and have no other way out.

Judge Bell founded the General Sessions Music City Community Court in 2012. The community court has piloted several initiatives on preventative and diversionary justice with the concept "Justice does not stop at the courthouse steps." The court tries to help break the school-to-prison pipeline and rehabilitate lives. Judge Bell also periodically hosts the clinics at various locations around Nashville.

For further information about upcoming clinics, please visit the community court website at gscourt.nashville.gov/communitycourt.



For most people, it can take many years to pay down these legal expenses, in addition to any attorney fees. But by the end of the day, we had served 187 people. And Judge Bell expunged approximately 1,309 records and waived about \$351,000 in fines, fees, and court costs.

Kroger and Hire Dynamics were sponsors and partners of the event and were hiring participants for jobs on the spot. Campus RX was also present and offered their services. Other partners included Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk



Photo Credit: James Davis



NOW: Community Outreach



BACKPACK GIVEAWAY #We'reBetterTogether

Mt. Zion and Brentwood Baptist Church have joined forces to host the "We're Better Together" Back-to-School and Healthcare Outreach Event, inviting families from all walks of life to start the school year off right with 2,500 free, fully-stocked backpacks and free health screenings.

The collaboration of the two churches originated from the friendship of its pastors and their desire to address the racial divide in the Nashville area. "We're Better Together" will be one of many future partnerships between the churches that will serve as a model for faith-based organizations committed to healing the racial divide across the country.



Bishop Joseph W. Walker III, who originated the Back-to-School and Healthcare Outreach Event over a decade ago, is thrilled that it took place at one of the country's historic African American public parks, Hadley Park. He hopes the event gave Nashville families a chance to see a different side of their city.

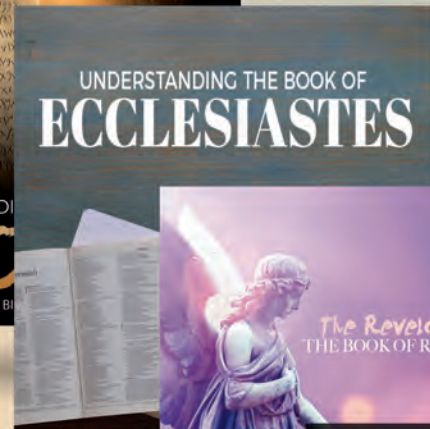
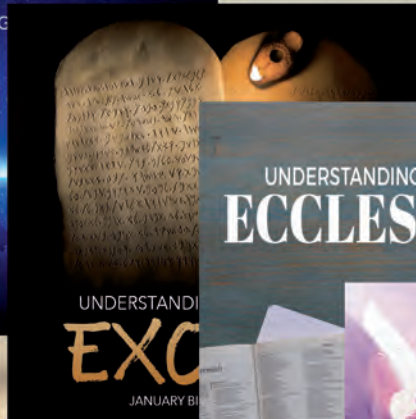
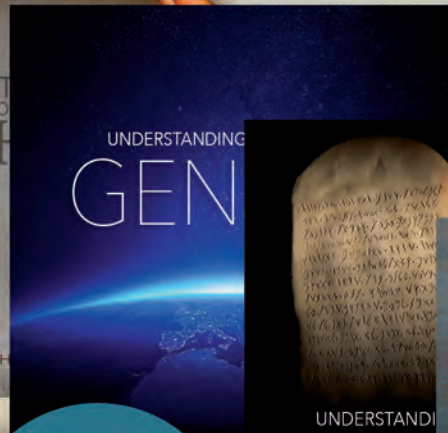
"We live in a special community where people have built bridges rather than walls," said Bishop Walker.

(Cont'd on page 29)

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"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

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A CLOSER LOOK

NOW: Spiritual Development

AT MT. ZION SMALL GROUPS



Small groups (no more than seven people) are weekly gatherings where the Mt. Zion community can fellowship and dig deeper into God's Word. They meet weekly to discuss Bishop Walker's Sunday sermons with provided study guides.

Trumpet: How long have you been a facilitator?

Kendria S.: I've had the pleasure of facilitating my group for six months.

Trumpet: What do you enjoy most about participating in small groups?

Kendria S.: It's been so encouraging to catch up each week and to see what God has done in our lives since the last time we met. It's a much-needed refresher! It's also great to have group members to text one another, share prayer requests, or pray for one another at any time.



Trumpet: What do other members enjoy about small groups?

Kendria S.: Community is a huge factor. If we send out a message on our group text, we can find out who else is attending our service and sit

with them. We can also send out a request for prayer and advice or suggest a hangout. It's great to have church family who are also friends.

Trumpet: What do you enjoy most about facilitating your small group?

Shemika D.: I enjoy the smaller, more intimate time to fellowship and to reflect on God's Word with like-minded people. It's less intimidating than what people call "Big Church." It's a good, small group that helps us to grow in Christ and to network with people in our church family and around the world! I received a request from a woman in South Carolina who is moving here. She watches Bishop Walker on mtzionanywhere.org and wanted to connect with us before she moved.

Trumpet: What is your opinion of small groups?

DJ: Small groups provide an excellent way to connect with other believers in studying God's Word. Iron can only sharpen

iron if there's a connection, and small groups allow that connection to happen.

Trumpet: What do you enjoy most about facilitating your small group?

DJ: I enjoy the fellowship and the revelation that God gives through each small-group encounter.

Trumpet: What do other members enjoy about small groups?

DJ: They enjoy the fellowship as well, and they like how each lesson speaks directly to their hearts, increasing their faith to follow Jesus with confidence.

Small groups meet in various places around Nashville and in surrounding cities. Check www.mtzionnashville.org for meeting locations and times.



(Cont'd from page 27 – #We'reBetterTogether)

"But Pastor Glenn and I believe we still have many bridges left to build, and we want to do our part. Our congregations are growing by leaps and bounds and so is this wonderful city. It is our responsibility to grow together and support one another. That's what 'We're Better Together' is all about."

Pastor Mike Glenn added, "The diversity of the church reveals the nature and character of God in a way that no one person or church can do by themselves. We're excited to have the opportunity to work with Bishop Walker and Mt. Zion Baptist Church to serve our common community in the love of Jesus Christ."

The event also helps to alleviate the financial burdens many families face preparing for the school year by making sure children and their families get off to a healthy start so they can perform at their best. Healthcare providers were onsite to provide free dental and blood pressure screenings, HIV testing, and immunizations, as well as health education counseling.



#celebratethehouse



MT. ZION WELCOMES MIN. ANDRÉ ANDERSON JR.

Executive Administrator to Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III

A native of Washington, DC, Minister Andre' Anderson Jr. joins the Mt. Zion Baptist Church team as the executive administrator to Bishop Joseph W. Walker III. In this newly reassessed role of the First Assistant position, Anderson will work alongside Bishop Walker, strategically creating a climate of efficiency around the Office of the Bishop to the church and all intersectional areas. Anderson began work on August 15, 2017.

Previously, Anderson served as the executive administrator and chief adjutant to the presiding prelate of the Temple of Praise International Fellowship of Churches, Bishop Glen A. Staples. In this role, Anderson oversaw all logistical and ministerial affairs, including speaking engagements, conferences, and other events. He also served as a political advisor and liaison to local elected officials serving The Temple of Praise ministry in our nation's capital.

Professionally, Anderson worked as an associate at the Dewey Square Group (DSG), where he provided media outreach and developed multicultural engagement strategies for some of the country's top corporate, non-profit, and notable influencers. His client portfolio at DSG included NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas, Atlanta's Grady Memorial Hospital, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, AT&T, American Federation of Teachers, and Microsoft.

On September 18, 2004, he was ordained as a youth deacon at the age of 17. On November 21, 2007, he

was licensed as a minister at the age of 20, the youngest in the history of the church.

At 30, Anderson has been to many places and accomplished many things, but he attributes his track record of performance to God and honors those who have trained him in the way that he should go. Last year, Anderson had the privilege to serve on the Hillary for America staff at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Democrats from around the country nominated Secretary Hillary Clinton, the first woman in the history of our country to become the nominee of a major political party for president of the United States.

Anderson takes pride in serving as a founding charter member and ambassador of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. As an ambassador of the museum, Anderson helps to elevate the African American experience to its rightful place at the center of our nation's history and culture.

Anderson's favorite Scripture passage is Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Anderson enjoys spending time with his family and friends and his two godchildren, Aaron, 5, and Blair, 4.

Photo Credit: Dewey Square Group

Metro Police Officer Gives Back to the Community



Sergeant Ed Rucker, a Metro police officer working at Carter-Lawrence Elementary School, is no stranger to the importance and necessity of mentoring. As a young man, he was mentored and sees it as the best gift that can be given back to the community. He highlighted the urgent need to have conversations in our communities instead of overlooking little things in hopes that they will go away.

Rucker takes pride in mentoring. He has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters for about a year. He also mentored while he was in college and then in his community for about seven years. Last spring, WKRN News Channel 2 highlighted his dedication to mentoring in a story about efforts to curb youth violence in Nashville.

According to Rucker, when police officers reach out to the community, they help citizens to know that they are real people just like they are. "I hang out with people in the community in a non-law enforcement capacity so they can see that as a police officer, I have issues just like they do," Rucker says. "It helps to

relate to them and deescalate issues that may arise. The conduct of our youth improves when we engage with them, and it helps build relationships."

"The conduct of our youth improves when we engage with them, and it helps build relationships."

The one thing Rucker wanted to emphasize was that police officers are accessible. He says that there are youth in the community who have his personal cell phone number so they can call him when they need him. He wants the youth to know that he loves them and wants them to be successful in life.

Photo Credit: Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Nashville

by Chantea Williams | @greaterwomen



#celebratethehouse

Faithful Volunteer

The Mt. Zion Prayer Ministry spotlights the faithful service of volunteer Joyra Vargas. A Mt. Zion member since 2009 and a volunteer with the Prayer Ministry since 2010, Vargas is the new member coordinator for the ministry. She serves on the prayer leadership team, and she is the corporate prayer team leader. She also serves as the Altar Workers Regional Director for the Central Region within Full Gospel.

Vargas's humility is evident. Her gifts of spiritual discernment, mercy, compassion, and healing are essential to the Prayer Ministry as she coordinates the needs of new intercessors and congregants. Her gifts of administration to help with organization of ministry events and her dedication to Kingdom work are also her greatest contributions to the ministry.



Consuela Roach, ministry overseer, says, "Joyra always makes herself available to serve God's people. She has a sweet spirit that exudes to all she meets. Joyra is dedicated to Kingdom work and always makes herself available to help and to pray with others. Her Christian walk is evident to all."

Vargas is retired from the military. She is a mother of one child, Anastacia, and enjoys spending time with her new granddaughter, Nalani.

Photo Credit: Joyra Vargas

by Latresa Witherspoon | @lwitherspoon



ONWARD & UPWARD

VaShawn Mitchell is a music minister par excellence. As a Grammy-nominated, multi-Stellar award-winning recording artist and songwriter, Mitchell is known for his most popular worship songs, "Nobody Greater," "Turning Around for Me," and "My Worship Is for Real," just to name a few. Additionally, as a former choir director and consultant, he's worked with numerous churches on various aspects of music ministry from choir clinics to choir leadership and infrastructure.

As he acclimates to his role as overseer of Mt. Zion's Music & Worship Arts Ministry, Mitchell has three overarching goals: structure, strengthen, and sharpen. Over the years, he's realized the importance of building a management culture to foster an environment of teamwork.

"After spending about 20 years as a minister of music, I've learned some things as it relates to developing, structuring, and strengthening a department, not just the choir," Mitchell says. "My focus is to train, develop, and inspire the next generation of leaders within worship ministry."

"My focus is to train, develop, and inspire the next generation of leaders within worship ministry."

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Mitchell received valuable wisdom and insight from many mentors while in his first position as a choir director at age 19. He is committed to doing the same for others. For the past eight years, he's been

the general overseer of choirs for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International.

"I use Full Gospel today in the same way it was used for me years ago," Mitchell says. "I use that platform to promote others, to put them in the spotlight. That's always the most gratifying part of what I do every year, to see fresh directors or fresh lead singers on the stage with me."

Mitchell is a God-chaser. With his latest release, *The Secret Place*, he followed God's leading to record the entire project in Johannesburg, South Africa. The recording was a test of faith as he stepped outside his comfort zone to capture the sound of Heaven. In May 2017, "Joy," his recent single, soared to the top of the music charts as the number one song in the country.

While in South Africa, Mitchell hosted his first worship conference entitled "The Call," which is designed to bring worshipers together to receive information, inspiration, and impartation to fortify their God-given assignment.

"One of the places I traveled where I felt like I was at home was South Africa. It became my secret place where I could hear from God and not be disturbed. When I left, I heard God say, 'You will record your next sound here.' It's a great blessing to see what God can do when you do what He says."

Mitchell is excited about the opportunity to serve MWA and gain new insight on music ministry in his new position.

"After meeting with Bishop and seeing his vision and seeing how I can fit within that vision, the question was 'God, why would You have me here, and what would You have me to get from this place?' He is revealing it over time as the days go by. I believe everything is God-ordained for a reason."



@VashawnMitchell | www.vashawnmitchell.com

Upper Photo: Tony Beasley | Studio One Production
Lower Photo: Allen Cooley



Chef Cleveland is excited about his new role as the overseer of Mt. Zion Kitchen. "With this new role, I'm responsible for organizing and overseeing the use of the kitchen at each Mt. Zion location." Cleveland said he will implement new policies for usage and care of the kitchens. He is going to make sure that each kitchen meets the same rigorous standards as any other restaurant kitchen would.

Cleveland's role also includes helping and coordinating every food-related ministry at Mt. Zion. He will recruit volunteers for church functions who will be responsible for cooking, grilling, prepping, and more.

Don't worry if Cleveland is going to keep his role as one of the partnering chefs of ChurchFIT cooking and nutrition classes. "I really enjoy sharing my knowledge for cooking with the ChurchFIT participants. They come to class so energetic and enthused. This allows me to appreciate my gift even more. It's always a pleasure working with ChurchFIT and hearing the progress and lifestyle changes the participants are making."

In 2014, Cleveland established The Lost Spoon, a personal chef and meal-prep service dedicated to teaching and elevating clients to new levels of cooking. Cleveland says The Lost Spoon's ultimate goal is to help customers have a new outlook on their culinary journey with a little help along the way.

In order to help our Mt. Zion family, Chef Cleveland is sharing his top five kitchen utensils and why they are important.

1. A *chef's knife* can be used in numerous tasks from slicing to chopping to mincing. He calls it "the work horse" of the kitchen.
2. A *whisk* is great for whipping and blending ingredients into a smoother consistency.
3. *Mesh strainers* can be used for multiple purposes such as draining vegetables after blanching or straining sauces.
4. A *peeler* is a quick and convenient tool that can be used for peeling a variety of vegetables and shaving different cheeses.
5. According to Cleveland, *wooden spoons* are preferred because they help to avoid scratching pans. And, unlike metal spoons, wooden spoons prevent transferring different fragments of metal into food.

Photo Credit: Evan Butler, Day 1 Graphics



by CaNesha Gordon | @CaNeshaGordon

MEET MT. ZION'S NEW KITCHEN OVERSEER

CHEF CLEVELAND

S H E A R L S



PASTOR TYRON CARTER

Farewell

The administrative offices of the church are tucked away near the front doors of the Antioch location. As I walked in, I was reminded of all the moving parts that keep Mt. Zion going: the people, the continual meetings, and planning sessions. It struck me that being a successful pastor is as much about the office as it is about the pulpit.

Pastor Tyron Carter's desk had the markings of an upcoming transition—papers scattered and phones buzzing. But there was a calmness and a lightness about him, even though the pressures of building a new church probably weighed constantly on his mind. Pastor Carter, the former overseer of the Young Adult Ministry, paused in his work to talk about his time at Mt. Zion and his plans for moving to California this summer to pastor WellSpring Church.

Pastor Carter: At Mt. Zion, I've gained insight that will be helpful to me as a pastor. One lesson, among many, that Bishop Walker has taught me is to be diverse in ministry. He's been in every arena you can think of, not just the church world. And he's well-respected in that way, which is pretty awesome, so I've been taking mental notes during my time here.

Trumpet: Do you see yourself expanding your ministry outside the church world, too?

Pastor Carter: Absolutely. And I believe that that's the reason I had to come to Mt. Zion. I've been in church my whole life, so I already knew that part. But I needed to learn the aspects of ministry that transcend the church walls.

After hearing Pastor Carter talk about building WellSpring Church, I could see why God surrounded him with the entrepreneurial spirit of excellence that defines Mt. Zion. He hopes to bring that same spirit, as well as a sense of community and service, to his new church.

Pastor Carter: Before we launch our first Sunday service in September, we're doing community service. In July, we'll have prayer services and Bible studies during the week. We're building the church from the ground up. Staff will come much later, and I'll be working a full-time job outside the church so as not to be a burden to the ministry.



Pastor Carter described building WellSpring in the same way as starting a new business. By serving and interacting with the community first, he hopes to add to the network of family and friends he grew up with.

Pastor Carter: Many people who have run away from the church are looking at giving it another chance because I'm coming back, which is empowering and encouraging to me. To me, that's confirmation that God is sending me back home.

Trumpet: How can Mt. Zion be praying for you?

Pastor Carter: Pray for stability. Pray for growth—in every area of growth, not just financial and not just numbers—in peace, revelation, and wisdom. Those are the most important things. And pray that I keep listening to God, regardless of the reality.

I love you all and will miss Mt. Zion. I have learned so much here, and the people at Mt. Zion have been awesome. This is still family. Even though I'm away, I'm still here.

Meredith McGinnis | @Ms_McG

"This is still family.
Even though I'm
away, I'm still here."



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OVERSEER DEPARTS TO PURSUE DOCTORATE

Stephanie Bennett moved to Nashville from Chicago in 2009 to attend Vanderbilt University Divinity School. After working at Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library, she accepted an intern position at Mt. Zion during her last two years of divinity school. Her first assignments allowed her to breathe life into Mt. Zion's Discipleship Institute and Christian education program.

Bennett developed the spiritual gifts class. This curriculum has served as a catalyst for many Ministers-in-Training (MIT) students to walk in their purpose of ministry. Later, she developed the curriculum for the Discipleship Institute and the online school, and she revitalized our Mt. Zion's Sunday school curriculum.

After Bennett accepted the assignment as the overseer of Christian education, her duties expanded to developing the curriculum for small groups, vacation Bible school, and

degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, which will allow her to return home.

Stephanie's parting words to Mt. Zion are, "Discipleship wasn't a suggestion; it was a command. Don't neglect it."

"God would often change up the script while showing me that it was not about me," she says. "It was about the people and their needs."

teacher development. She was also responsible for vetting the books ordered for the Mt. Zion bookstore.

Bennett enjoyed teaching while at Mt. Zion and has always been open to what God has for her. She has had many opportunities to "minister and pastor" people after her classes. "God would often change up the script while showing me that it was not about me," she says. "It was about the people and their needs."

Bennett's life was greatly impacted personally and professionally by Bishop Walker. Professionally, he gave her an opportunity to do something that aligned with her degree in theology. Personally, he encouraged her to continue applying for doctoral programs after being rejected.

"I was ready to throw in the towel, because the rejection took the wind from my sail." But God has favored Bennett with the opportunity to pursue her doctor of philosophy



The Discipleship Institute trains and equips students with the tools needed to become disciples and make other disciples. Mt. Zion's Christian education program offers our Word-centered ministry through over 30 community courses designed to instruct, enlighten, and activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Further, it is designed to teach students how to lead lives that reflect the power and love of God. In our classes, students learn to establish a strong connection with God so that they can better understand the heart of God. Taking a variety of classes promotes spiritual growth and helps us learn how to manifest the kingdom of God effectively. Classes are offered onsite and online. To register, visit www.mtzionnashville.org.



by Aretha Whitaker | @whitaker1964



honoring OUR PASTOR

A RECAP OF BISHOP'S 25th PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

Mt. Zion Baptist Church has loved their bishop, Joseph Warren Walker III, for 25 years. To honor our bishop's pastoral anniversary, members worked to create special recognitions for the leader of this historic church.

On April 19, a tribute to Bishop Walker's life and pastorship was displayed in the form of a living museum. For two weeks, the living museum, a walk down memory lane was displayed at the Old Hickory Boulevard location before Mt. Zion's Facilities Team carefully relocated it to the Antioch location, where it remained for another week.

With contributions from family and friends and Yolanda Holland and Faith Wiley of Mt. Zion's History Room, a small group of volunteers were able to represent Bishop Walker's life through memorabilia depicting his contributions in faith, education, family, and philanthropy. Visitors to the display were able to learn some of the historical impacts Bishop Walker made at Mt. Zion, from changing the traditional way in which parishioners took Communion to making services more available to nearby college students (preparing the way for the church's still-growing College Ministry).

"Bishop Walker made church more 'come as you are,' and in doing that, it opened up the church more to the community," said volunteer Iris Johnson-Arnold, member of Mt. Zion and associate professor at Tennessee State University. "A lot of things Bishop wanted to do were progressive and helped to grow the church."

The museum also provided a look into Bishop Walker's personal life. There were items depicting family and little-known facts from his pre-pastoral days. For example, his nickname was Memorex, because when he pledged his fraternity, he displayed his impressive memory. Mt. Zion's senior saints were also on hand to answer any questions regarding the historical tribute.

The second annual PeriSquad weekend turned into a surprise celebration. Approximately 200 PeriSquad members traveled from across the United States, and they were delightfully surprised that

they would be visiting Mt. Zion during Bishop Walker's 25th anniversary.

"They came because of how much they love him and wanted to honor him during the 25th year," says Karen Washington, media print manager at Mt. Zion. She named Brenda Logan of Berkley, California, as the ringleader behind the surprise gift-giving.

After Logan expressed a desire to present Bishop Walker with a gift from the PeriSquad, word spread, and within a few hours, every member had eagerly jumped on board, turning the previously scheduled meet-and-greet with the Walker family into a presentation of the PeriSquad's love for their pastor. "He has a heart for the people," Logan says. "When we found out, we wanted to show our appreciation for the blessing he has been to all of us individually and collectively."

Church member and at-large councilwoman Erica Gilmore co-sponsored a bill proposing the renaming of the Jefferson Street overpass bridge between 11th and 12th Avenues. The bill passed 30-0, and on April 23, 2017, along with surprise visits from Smokie Norful, Anthony Brown, and the Southern University Marching Band, Mayor Megan Barry dedicated the newly named Bishop Joseph W. Walker III overpass during the Sunday anniversary service.

"It was a very wonderful gesture to rename the bridge in his name," said Mary Owens, church member since 2001. "Because of all the work he has done, all the people he has blessed being the pastor of Mt. Zion, it was anointed and in order."

Bishop Walker has helped bridge the gap between community, generational, racial, and class divides by reaching people where they are in life through his anointed teaching and preaching. Biblically, the number 11 represents disorder and chaos, and the number 12 represents completeness. Walker has spent the past 25 years leading people from the disorder in their lives to completeness in a new life in Christ, and it all started at the historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Jefferson Street.



Photo Key:

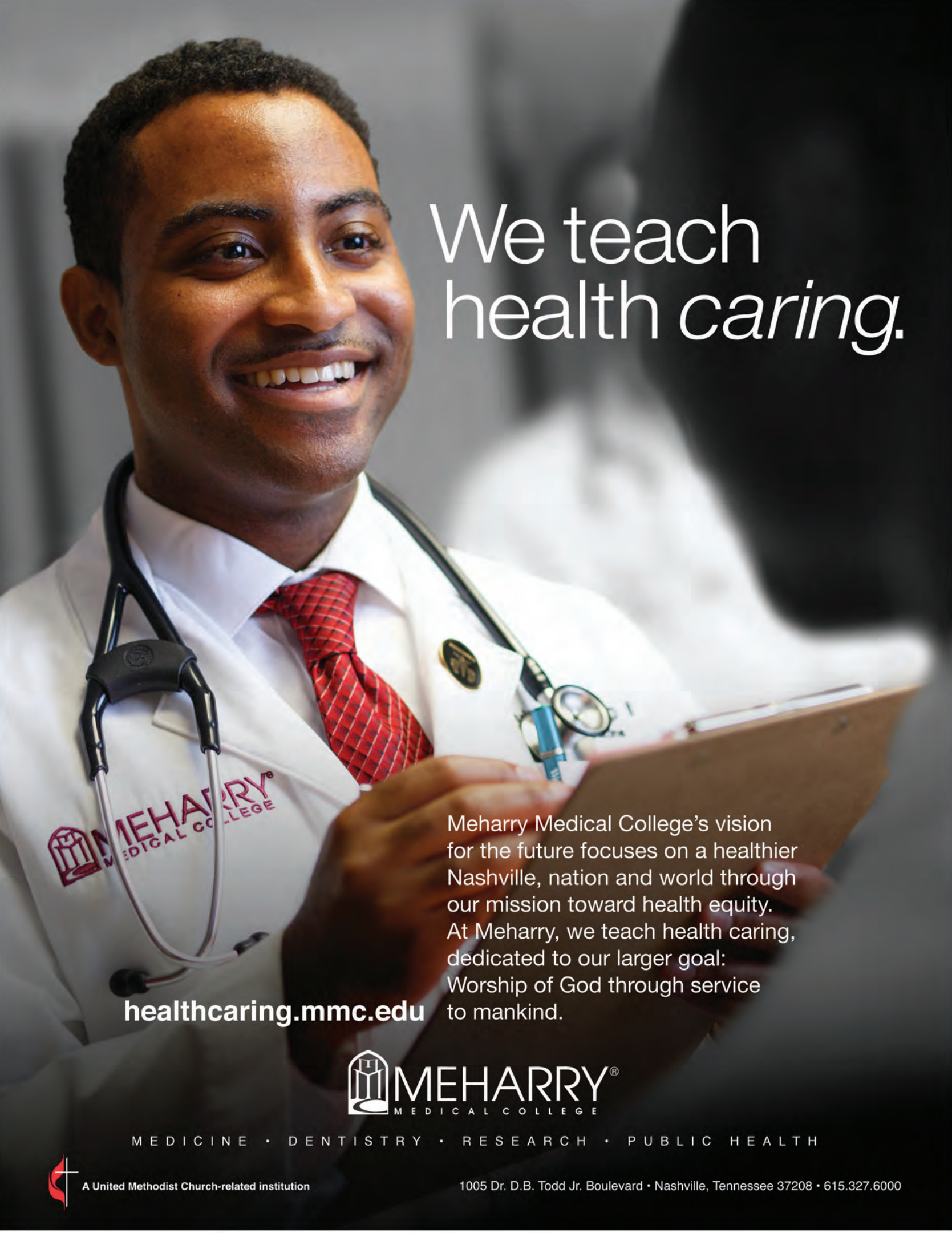
1. Bishop Walker, center; pictured with Reverend Jerry Black, Senior Pastor; Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Decatur, GA; Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., Founder; Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship and Senior Pastor; Changing A Generation Church, Atlanta, GA; and Dr. Harry Blake, Senior Pastor; Mount Canaan MBC, Shreveport, LA.
2. Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service with surprise guest Rickey Smiley, guest speaker Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., Founder of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship and Senior Pastor of Changing A Generation Church in Atlanta, GA; and Bishop Kevin Willis, Senior Pastor; New Life Church, Memphis, TN.
3. Dr. Bobby Jones, Grammy Award-winning Gospel music singer and television host.
4. Surprise welcome at entrance of Mt. Zion's OHB location, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
5. Pace Matrons Ministry Luncheon honoring Dr. Stephaine Walker.
6. Spiritual Sons and Daughters of Bishop Walker.
7. Grammy Award-winning recording artist Pastor Smokie Norful, Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service.
8. Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service musical artist Kirk Franklin.
9. Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
10. Bishop Walker, left, pictured with Kirk Franklin, Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service.
11. Bishop Walker, Dr. Stephaine, and guest enjoying Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service.
12. Pace Matrons Ministry Luncheon honoring Dr. Stephaine Walker.
13. Bishop Walker pictured with Southern University Marching Band, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.

14. Museum artifact, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
15. Southern University Marching Band surprises Bishop Walker and Dr. Stephaine, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
16. Nathan B. Haymer, Director of Bands, Southern University Marching Band with Bishop Walker.
17. Bishop Walker admires 25th Pastoral Anniversary Museum.
18. Spiritual Sons and Daughters Service musical artist Anthony Brown.
19. "Bishop Walker, after 25 years, is a champion and walking in victory. When you're a champion, everybody connected to you are champions." - Brian Courtney Wilson, Gospel Music Recording Artist, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Concert.
20. "I have to give honor to the great angels of this church. Bishop and Lady Walker, God bless you." - Tasha Cobb, Gospel Music Recording Artist, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Concert.
21. "Bishop Walker, I follow you. I love you from the bottom of my heart and Mt. Zion for everything you do for St. Jude. You are a blessing, to not just my family, but to so many other families. If I could go on a thank you tour, I would." - Chasity, Mother of Jordan (St. Jude Children's Hospital Ambassadors, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Concert.
22. Sunday of Hope raised raised \$60,000 benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
23. Museum artifact, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
24. 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration.
25. "I have to give honor to the great angels of this church. Bishop and Lady Walker, God bless you." - Pastor Donnie McClurkin, Gospel Music Recording Artist, 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Concert.



by Manon Lane | @ManonLaneNOW





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GREATER INFLUENCE



In the 2017 vision of the house, "Reset NOW! The Year of No Opportunity Wasted," Bishop Joseph W. Walker says, "As we seize the opportunities before us, God's will shall be done in the earth." Through the means of board membership, God has afforded our pastor a unique opportunity to make a significant impact in Nashville.

Recently, Trumpet Magazine sat down with Bishop Walker to learn more about the boards he serves on: Citizens Bank, the American Red Cross, the board of trustees at Meharry Medical College, and his most recent appointment as chairman of the board at Tennessee State University (TSU). Bishop gave insight on his involvement and his decision to serve these organizations in this capacity.

TRUMPET: What are the long-term strategies for each board?

BISHOP: Tennessee State has a viable and robust vision from its president, Dr. Glenda Glover. The board members who have been hand-picked by the governor are incredibly resourceful. The strategy is to make certain that Tennessee State rises to the place we know it can academically, in terms of the morale of the students, the state of the facilities and campus, and ability to compete with similar institutions. Resources are something we want to increase—strategies to increase donorship and awareness of programs.

The goals for Meharry Medical College are the same. Dr. James Hildreth, the president, has an amazing plan to expand programs and create joint programs with other schools. Meharry produces more African American medical professionals than any other school. So, the plan is to create awareness of the school's programs, increase philanthropy from outside sources to the school, and see expansion.

Citizens Bank is a community bank, and we want the community to understand why the bank exists. We want members of the community to have economic empowerment awareness and to help churches realize that if we come together and partner, we can move the needle along regarding our membership in terms of the products and services that the bank offers.

The American Red Cross sponsors blood drives and offers training and information on preparedness. They also are involved in philanthropy. All of us are one event away from needing The Red Cross, so it makes sense that this organization has the resources and the manpower to provide much-needed services in times of crisis.

TRUMPET: As a pastor, why is it important for you to serve on the boards of these organizations?

BISHOP: All of these organizations intersect. It's important for us to educate our community and provide resources for them to pursue their dreams. Theologically, that just makes sense. And Mt. Zion is uniquely positioned in this city to partner with these organizations to provide services in a way that separately we probably couldn't do. For example, as a church, we invest in college students. We could probably fill a basketball arena with people who have graduated from TSU and Meharry who could also say, "I went to Mt. Zion" or "I was impacted by Mt. Zion."

In regards to Citizens Bank, it's important for us to take a serious look at the economy and the issues that affect our community. At the root of those issues is poverty, financial illiteracy, and access to resources and wealth. I believe it's important to work to level the playing field and help people understand how to be stewards of the money God gives us.

TRUMPET: How can the congregation support you while you serve on these boards?

BISHOP: Pray for my strength. Pray for my family. I walk a tight line between these boards. There are conflicts-of-interest issues. There are a variety of different things that I have to be aware of. I want Mt. Zion to always recognize that no matter what I'm taking on, I'm still their pastor.

TRUMPET: Would you give us your personal thoughts on the purpose of serving the community through these organizations?

BISHOP: Some time ago, I shared a profound example with a group of ministers. I made a chart and filled it with everything that I was doing at the time. I had them to note every corner of the chart, explaining that everything I do touches something else and that that's what makes it easy.

"My assignment has several tentacles. I'm not just locked into one dimension. I have to affect other dimensions to be successful."

The Red Cross is the heart of God as demonstrated in Matthew 25: "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Jesus teaches us to be selfless enough in our expressions of Christianity to reach back and help our brothers and sisters in need.

TRUMPET: Does Mt. Zion's 2017 vision of the house, "Reset Now! The Year of No Opportunity Wasted," transfer to conversations you've had with the various board members?

BISHOP: I don't necessarily bring the Mt. Zion vision into those board meetings. Each organization's board has its own individual vision. But I do bring the sense of urgency that NOW pushes me into. I live NOW. So, I have seen a sense of urgency, not complacency, on these boards.

TRUMPET: How has Mt. Zion's 2017 vision of the house been reflected in your own life this year?

BISHOP: To whom much is given, much is required. Every single day I wake up, I think, *Why has God given me this opportunity to bless so many people?* The answer is stewardship. My assignment has several tentacles. I'm not just locked into one dimension. I have to affect other dimensions to be successful.

When people are aware of all of the things I do, naturally, they think it's massive. What I want people to understand is that there are a lot of good things that I could do, but they are not always "God" things. But when you do "God" things, they are all interrelated. Mt. Zion touches Full Gospel. Full Gospel touches Meharry, ChurchFIT, health, and awareness. Education touches TSU. The accounts for these schools are at Citizens Bank, which touches the economy, scholarships, and first-time homebuyers. The Red Cross wraps the community in love and is present to support us and to give opportunities for volunteers and mentorship.

Bishop Walker has served for over a year on the boards at Meharry Medical College and Citizens Bank, and for nearly a year as chairman of the board at Tennessee State University. He has served on the board of The American Red Cross for six years.



by Latresa Witherspoon | @lwitherspoon



MT. ZION MARKETING & MEDIA DEPARTMENT

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

The **Marketing & Media Department (M&M)** undergirds the outreach and inreach efforts of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the pastor, Bishop Joseph W. Walker III, using marketing and promotional resources to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The following are a few functions of the department:

CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS

(revivals, church anniversary, Bishop Walker's anniversary, conferences/workshops, special themed events, ChurchFIT, backpack giveaway, organizational benefit events)

- Executive team media requests must be turned in six weeks before the event.
- Media staff will be identified to act as event leads for event.
- Media lead will gather all detailed information about event and report findings at weekly meeting to create a marketing strategy.
- Media will place projected budget on forecast.
- The general overseer or executive team has discretion to adjust request date to meet promotional timelines.

Tools available for this request:

- screen graphic with voiceover
- promotional video
- social media presence
- e-blast (optional)
- flyer or handbill (optional)
- PR firm (optional)
- billboards (optional)
- radio/newsprint advertisement
- cable TV (optional)
- national TV advertisement (optional)
- merchandise (optional)

CHURCH-WIDE CAMPAIGNS (yearly vision)

- Bishop Walker will provide the vision of the house to the executive team.
- M&M will attend a one-day retreat to create a roll-out starting December 1.
- M&M will create a yearly branding kit, which will include:

- themed logo
- color palette
- merchandise options
- monthly themes
- branding promotional tools
- press release

BISHOP WALKER TAPINGS

- The Office of the Bishop will provide two weeks of production time (taping and editing).
- The Office of the Bishop will provide details of shoot 24 to 48 hours before the shoot via email.
- The production team will load information to monitor before shoot (mandatory practice).
- Bishop Walker will review information before shoot.
- The following staff will be available for shoot:

- camera person
- sound engineer
- producer*

*The producer will explain the shoot, be attentive to environment and talent, and listen for clear and precise annunciation, sentence structure, and ability to stay on message.

FULL GOSPEL

- Full Gospel Executive team media requests must be turned in six months before the event.
- Media staff will be identified to act as event leads for event.
- Media lead will gather all detailed information about event and report findings at weekly meeting to create a marketing strategy.
- Media will place projected budget on forecast.
- The general overseer or Full Gospel executive team has discretion to adjust request date to meet promotional timelines.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA)

- Media request should be submitted two weeks in advance for airing PSA.

Tools available for this request:

- screens at all locations
- social media



Positioning Ministry for Greater

DRBARONTALKS

A two-time Historically Black College and University (HBCU) graduate from Spelman College and Meharry Medical College, Dr. McKnight-Baron—who is also an entrepreneur, a Christian, a wife, a mother, and a cancer survivor—triumphs through her faith journey.

Faith

"Have you seen her? Tell me have you seen her!" This Chi-Lites classic might ring in your mind as you ask yourself that question. You might have seen her as one of three cast members on the Lifetime show *Atlanta Plastic*: Aisha McKnight-Baron, MD, referred to as "the breast and body doctor."

"I recently decided to leave the practice I was with. Professionally, I wasn't feeling fulfilled where I was," says McKnight-Baron. Earlier this year, she opened up a private practice in Marietta, Georgia, called Breast, Body, Beauty, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. She says, "I really stepped out on faith that I would be successful."

McKnight-Baron's achievements come with a personal story that involves a turning point in her life. She believes reflecting back on her story helps her to better identify with her patients, especially those who suffer with breast cancer.

"I know what it's like to lose all of your hair because of chemo [therapy]. I know what it's like to have that power of choice taken away from you when you have potentially such a devastatingly diagnosis," she says.

About a decade ago, McKnight-Baron was diagnosed with stage-four lymphoma. While she did not have breast cancer, she notes that the experiences were similar, and her journey allows her to be more compassionate with cancer patients. As a certified American Board plastic surgeon, she specializes in breast reconstructive surgery, among others, such as breast, face, body, and nonsurgical procedures.

"I've had several patients say, 'I came to you because you've gone through something similar, and you might understand where I'm coming from.' " McKnight-Baron uses her overall experience as a patient herself to influence how to interact with her patients.

The day she was diagnosed with stage-four lymphoma, McKnight-Baron recalls putting the phone down and immediately praying the words of Isaiah 53:5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Then she called her family. By that time, she had already made the decision not to allow the disease to defeat her, and God's ultimate will would commence.

"I never thought I was going to die," McKnight-Baron says. And she says that her faith was strengthened through this experience.

(Continued on page 45)



"...even though I was a doctor and I was trusting a doctor, God was the ultimate physician in this role."

FAITH & FOCUS

How Phil Thornton, Sony SVP and General Manager of RCA Inspiration, Tops the Charts In and Out of the Studio



Phil Thornton makes no apologies for his desire to be the best. It is that tenacity that has contributed to the meteoric rise of his career in music and television. Thornton, recently named senior vice president and general manager for RCA Inspiration (a division of Sony Music Entertainment), has garnered a curriculum vitae chock-full of shining examples of why GRAMMY® winning artists have entrusted their brands and livelihoods to his guidance over the years.

Thornton says, "Ultimately, I want God and my family to be pleased with my body of work," which has included managing some of the hottest names in R&B and gospel music, as well as producing popular television shows. Thornton is the founder of Bright Star Entertainment, an artist management and consulting firm, and is a managing partner of Ten2One Entertainment, a multimedia, television production, and artist management conglomerate. His inspirational management style has guided the careers of R&B royalty such as Faith Evans. His visionary leadership has led to original programming for hit reality shows such as TV One's *R&B Divas Atlanta*; *R&B Divas L.A.*; and *The Manns*, with David and Tamela Mann.

Thornton's achievements have helped cement his place among the industry's top young rising talents, prompting eOne Music to seek out his experience and business acumen to manage its Urban Inspirational division. As vice president and general manager, Thornton worked with gospel greats such as Erica Campbell, Jessica Reedy, and the legendary Shirley Caesar.

"In gospel music, cultivating authentic relationships is vital to the success of the artist as well as the managers who represent them. I pride myself on the partnerships God has enabled me to cultivate over the years. And a big driver of that is collaboration." It takes a village to successfully launch an artist, TV show, or media initiative.

"My faith drives me and fuels the work that I do. I've been tasked with raising the bar in entertainment. Even when I'm working with mainstream artists, my faith is the filter that guides the decisions I make."

And God has always been right there for Thornton, providentially ordering his steps, to be a light among many. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Thornton credits his faith with keeping him grounded.

"I grew up in church, but it wasn't until my teens that God became 'real' for me," says Thornton. And favor certainly followed. He accepted his first internship at age 12 with the local radio station, WOWI-FM, the first urban radio station in Norfolk to play Kirk Franklin's "Why We Sing." At age 15, Thornton landed an internship with Arista Records, working alongside music icons such as Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin. After graduating college, his career trajectory led him toward success as an entrepreneur and a music industry executive.

"God has truly blessed me, so how can I not pay it forward? This is kingdom work," says Thornton. And he uses his platform as an industry executive to fulfill his mission to help

"As vessels, our job is to continue to make God famous."

the next generation of up-and-coming artists navigate the entertainment industry. He frequently speaks to youth about his journey, as he did in 2016 at Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet School.

Ambitious but humble, Thornton credits his success to his unwavering faith and relationship with God.

"It's easy to get caught up in this industry. We live in the age of social media, when careers can be birthed or dismantled in an instant. I realize and accept the awesome responsibility God has placed upon my life in doing what I do because through my work, I can reach so many. As vessels, our job is to continue to make God famous."

Jacqueline Hayes, MBA is chief marketing strategist and principal of Crayons & Marketers, a woman-owned, full-service marketing company located in Nashville, Tennessee. She also serves as past president of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Nashville Chapter, and media & content director for the National Association of Women MBAs, Nashville Chapter. For more information, please visit www.crayonsandmarketers.com.

Photo Credit: Derek Blanks



by Jacqueline Hayes, MBA | @JacquiMBA31



(Cont'd from page 43 — Dr. Baron Talks Faith)

McKnight-Baron was scheduled to start chemotherapy on a Monday, but that Sunday, like most Sundays, she went to church. She went to the altar for special prayer and remembered the words of 1 Peter 5:7 (KJV): "Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you."

"Not allowing the disease to overtake me was definitely instrumental in improving my health," she says.

McKnight-Baron believes in using the resources that God has provided; so she used her faith, fervent prayer, Jamaican oils, and a positive outlook to help her through her journey.

"These things were key in giving me peace of mind and dictating that even though I was a doctor and I was trusting a doctor, God was the ultimate physician in this role." However, McKnight-Baron encourages other people not to forego medical care "thinking that God's going to take care of me" without using the resources and talents He has provided for us to use in addition to prayer.

Going through this experience helped McKnight-Baron learn to be a better physician.



"I pray for my patients if they ask me to. It gives them peace of mind and a sense of comfort," she says. Her openness and empathy help her to create a special bond with her breast cancer survivors.

"My own experiences and my faith allow me to understand my patients on a real level, especially my breast cancer patients for whom I've performed reconstruction. It gives them a sense of comfort that their doctor believes in the same things."

McKnight-Baron lists the characteristics of what she believes beauty exudes: confidence, strength, and self-worth. Her advice to other women, "Work hard when it counts." She says that putting in the effort up front and investing in your career is investing in yourself. She also believes that having joy is more important than being successful and that professional happiness and peace are more important than any amount of money you can earn.

McKnight-Baron was the first Meharry student to enter a plastic surgery residency, and she was the first African American female plastic surgery resident accepted into the Baylor College of Medicine program.

Photo Credit: Aisha McKnight-Baron, MD Plastic Surgery



by Shameka Y. Neely, PhD



GODPR



You may know Tamela Mann as Cora Simmons, Madea's daughter; the role she has played in several stage plays, movies, and television shows. And her husband, David, plays the comical role of her father, Mr. Brown. Mann and her family have taken the entertainment industry by storm with their recent hit television show, *Mann and Wife*, and her Grammy win in the category of "Best Gospel Performance" for her latest single, "God Provides."

"I had to learn that I can't be anyone but me," Mann says. "I lean and depend on God for all things, and I just want Him to be pleased with my life."

Mann's story is inspiring. She grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, the youngest of 14 children, and she was passionate about singing. As a teenager, she sang at local events as well as across the country with Kirk Franklin, Darrell Blair, and David Mann. Years later, when Franklin started the singing group The Family, Mann was given the opportunity of a lifetime to pursue music and ministry.

"Being with Kirk Franklin and The Family was a wonderful experience for me. To be able to do ministry was a wonderful part of my journey."

During her time with Franklin and The Family, Mann had an opportunity to be part of her first stage play, *He Say...She Say...But What Does God Say?* She sang background vocals and played an extra. Soon after, her husband contacted a promoter who connected the couple with Tyler Perry. The opportunity set them on a course that changed their lives.

"When I first met Tyler, I said, 'I'm willing to sing as many songs as you want me to sing, but acting—I don't know about that.' He told me, 'Before it's over with, I'll have you acting.' Originally, the part was for an uncle, but he changed it to an aunt and then to Madea's daughter."

After Mann won roles in stage plays, movies, and a television series, calls came for the family to do a reality television show. At first, the Manns declined the offers, but then they realized that doing a reality show would be their chance to be salt and light for the Kingdom, so they launched *The Manns*.

"Everything doesn't have to be ratchet. Why can't we have something that is good and clean and shows what we do every day? Preparing for rehearsal, ministering to people, helping people—that's what we do. I think we deserve that platform just as much as anybody else. We were willing to do the show as long as we had creative control where we could tell the producers yay and nay to what we were going to do and what we were not going to do."

OVIDES

The Manns describe themselves as a super-blended family. David has two daughters from a previous relationship, David and Tamela have two children together, and they raised Tamela's niece. They wanted to share their story to help other blended families.

"A lot of our stories are the same. They may have different characters or different names, but the situation is the same. We're just letting people know that they can make it."

There's no denying that Tamela and David are a powerful team. They are celebrating 29 years of marriage! The Mann brand now extends to a fashion line, a cooking show, and a family concert and comedy tour.

"Currently, we are working on our book. We want to encourage other [married couples] that they can stay together. You're gonna have ups and downs; that comes with it. But marriage is work. Just like you have to fix your mind to go to work and to better yourself at your job, it's the same thing with a relationship."

In our interview, I mentioned Mt. Zion's 2017 vision of the house. I asked Tamela what "Reset NOW! The Year of No Opportunity Wasted" means to her. She shared with me a recent experience that defines what it means in her life to let no opportunity go to waste.

"At the Grammys this year, I was with Chance the Rapper. In my heart, I wanted to sing "God Provides," but I said, 'Lord, if You opened up this door for me to sing "How Great Is Our God" within this one or two minutes that I get to sing about You, go before me. Touch the hearts of the people! So, whenever the opportunity comes, we have to be ready and not be afraid. I'm asking the Lord to make me ready, as well as to prepare the people around me.'"

Positioning Ministry for Greater

Follow Tamela Mann and her family at tillymannmusic.com and on Twitter and Instagram: @DAVIDANDTAMELA.

Catch *Mann and Wife* on Bounce TV and *The Manns* on TV One.

Photo Credit: Tillyman Entertainment



by Latresa Witherspoon
@lwitherspoon

"A lot of our stories are the same. They may have different characters or different names, but the situation is the same.

We're just letting people know that they can make it."



FALL CHURCH CALENDAR

September 10: Church Picnic



September 17: Dr. Steph's Birthday



September 22-23: Women's Conference
"Metamorphosis: Beauty Within Is Our Focus"

October 27: Bishop Walker's 25th Pastoral Anniversary Gala



September 27: "See You at the Pole"

"See You at the Pole" is a program in which students unite themselves in prayer before God and intercede for their generation.

November 2017–March 2018: Room in the Inn
Each year, Mt. Zion partners with Room in the Inn to offer hospitality and love during the winter season to women who call the streets of Nashville home by providing emergency winter shelter. Room in the Inn is a 22-week program offered every Thursday, November through March, at Mt. Zion's Old Hickory Boulevard location. The church provides clothing, showers, meals, a comfortable overnight stay, devotions, prayer, ministry, and transportation to and from our guests' base site. Donations are needed: socks, undergarments (including adult diapers), gloves, sweat suits, travel-sized toiletries (including liquid soap, bath gel, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and feminine hygienic products).

November 6: Legacy Night

Legacy Night is an opportunity for persons to honor those who have passed away. During the Legacy Night memorial service, those in grief will receive therapy and resources to help guide them through the grief process. This is also an opportunity to connect with others who are experiencing similar circumstances.

November 12: College Sunday



November 22: Thanksgiving Dinner Community Outreach, Antioch and Jefferson Street locations, Noon–2 p.m.

November 23: Thanksgiving Day Service on Periscope

To join, download the free Periscope app, and follow @josephwalker3.



December 2: World Vision Day

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development, and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families, and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

World Vision



December 3: 151st Church Anniversary of Mt. Zion Baptist Church



December 6: American Cancer Society's "Hope Lights the Season"

Mt. Zion is hosting its first "Hope Lights the Season" event, benefiting the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Volunteers and donors are asked to help raise awareness and funds so that the American Cancer Society can continue to provide vital research and programs for cancer patients and their loved ones. Mt. Zion and the entire Nashville community will have the opportunity to support ACS by purchasing individual or strands of Christmas lights that will be lit in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Our goal is to create a brighter holiday season as well as provide an opportunity to celebrate, remember, and honor family, friends, and caregivers who have been impacted by cancer.

December 24: Christmas Eve Services—Antioch, 7 a.m.; OHB, 8:15 a.m.; Antioch, 9:30 a.m.; OHB, 11:15 a.m.

December 31: New Year's Eve Watch Night Service—Antioch, 5 p.m.; Old Hickory Boulevard, 10 p.m.

to-do list

- Join a ministry/volunteer
- get in shape
- start a garden
- read more
- start going to bible study
- finish business plan
- stop cussing

timeline

~~-1 yr~~

~~-6 months~~

~~-30 days~~

~~-next week~~



PROPEL CONFERENCE 2017

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2

Pastoral Resources and Organizational
Plans for Equipping Leaders

The mission of P.R.O.P.E.L. is to empower and equip pastors and ministry leaders in enhancing their effectiveness in leading transformation in their unique context of ministry. This annual three day gathering will provide general sessions and specialized instruction daily to thousands of pastors, ministry leaders, staff and volunteers.



HOST PASTOR
BISHOP PAUL S. MORTON, SR.

PRESIDING BISHOP
BISHOP JOSEPH W.
WALKER, III

GENERAL OVERSEER OF
SENIOR PASTORS
DR. CRAIG L. OLIVER SR.

REGISTRATION

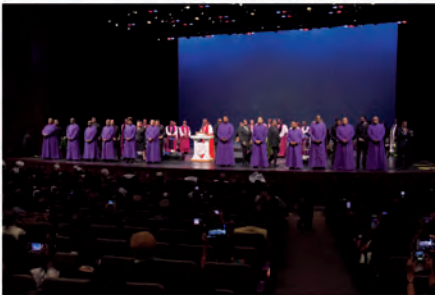
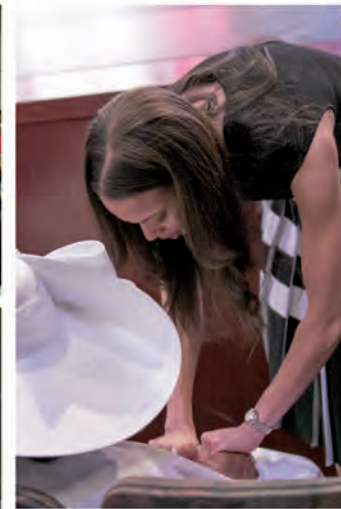
\$149 per person: Early Bird Registration
\$169 per person: Late Registration
(Sept. 30th)
\$20 per person: Conference Shuttle
Service (1 day)
\$60 per person: Conference Shuttle
Service (3 days)

LOCATION

Changing A Generation Church
Host: Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., Founder
Address: 3350 Greenbriar Pkwy SW, Atlanta,
GA 30331
Phone: (404) 284-8865

HOTEL INFORMATION

Atlanta Airport Marriott
Cost: \$141.00 per night
Address: 4711 Best Road, Atlanta, GA,
30337
Phone: (404) 766-7900



FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

2017

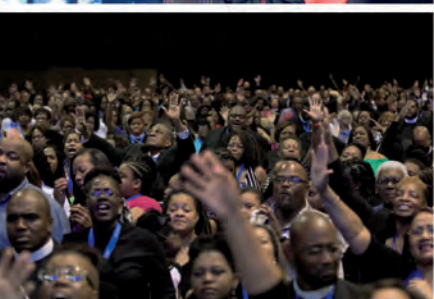


Photo Credit: C.J. Wells



SAVE THE DATE
10.27.17

ADMISSION: \$125.00
PER PERSON

Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III
25TH ANNIVERSARY
Community Awards Gala & Concert



At Nashville's Own
MUSIC CITY CENTER

KARL DEAN BALLROOM

6:00 PM - PRE-GALA RECEPTION // 7:00 PM - AWARDS CELEBRATION AND CONCERT

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MTZIONNASHVILLE.ORG.