



VISION OF THE HOUSE 2022
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH - NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III - D. Min., Senior Pastor

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

*"Joseph is a fruitful bough,
A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall."
Genesis 49:22 (KJV)*

I greet all of you in the unmatched name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

What a blessing it is to witness the mighty hand of God upon the *Mount Zion Baptist Church*. For 156 years, we have endured much with a righteous resolve and determination to thrive. Out of this storied history blossomed a fruitful legacy that continues to catapult us into greater heights and opportunities to provide transformational ministry to our community and to the world. Throughout the year 2021, the global pandemic created an opportunity for us to pivot from a local gathering to a global force for change. As a result, we continue to grow and to give in a way that demonstrates our commitment to the Lord's church and to His vision for this ministry.

Today, we celebrate! We celebrate the hundreds of souls who came to Christ and who connected with Mount Zion in 2021. We celebrate becoming a debt-free ministry. We celebrate the successful transition back into our physical locations while simultaneously remaining strong in the virtual space. We celebrate new additions and a complete restructure to our team to better serve you. We celebrate the incredible testimonies of healings, employment, home ownership, new additions to families and so much more. Mount Zion truly is an amazing place — an amazing well.

As we move into another year, God has revealed to me that 2022 will be a year that **exceeds expectations**. As Jacob spoke over his son Joseph, declaring him a fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over the wall, the *Mount Zion Baptist Church* has just scratched the surface regarding what God is about to do. Until now, God has only allowed me to release 30% of the full vision that He gave me when I first became Pastor, almost 30 years ago as of April of this year. The year 2022 ignites the remaining 70% of that vision. We should all prepare ourselves for a season of what Paul declares in **Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)**, “*Exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think.*” This will be the season to run over the wall. This will be a season where our leadership, stewardship, relationships and partnerships will exceed expectations. We will be intentional and unapologetic in our pursuit of the fulfillment of this vision. I reiterate that this vision is a kingdom mandate and a continuation of the manifestation that has already begun.

There are four specific areas of focus: **Community, Expansion, Empowerment and Discipleship**. We will be intentional in assuring that these areas are a priority. Let us examine each area.

The first area is COMMUNITY. Notably, our commitment to the Nashville community was apparent in 2021 when we hired a full-time coordinator to manage our ambitious outreach efforts. In the year 2022, our outreach efforts will be even more widespread. Notably, our Mount Zion Gives initiative will touch the community in tangible ways. By way of Mount Zion Gives, we will commit significant budgeted dollars to truly become an “*oasis of hope.*” We will partner with agencies throughout the city and utilize all our locations as strategic service sites for those in need. We will purchase a vehicle called the “**Mount Zion Gives – Mobile,**” which will transport needed food, supplies and other services into the community. Each church ministry will participate in our Mount Zion Gives efforts to minister to the needs of the community. Our focus will be not only local but also global because we will be partnering with the *Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship*, with *Compassion International* as well as with Tennessee’s *St. Jude Children’s Hospital*. God has shown me that Mount Zion will be the epicenter of

community outreach in the city of Nashville. Yes, we will continue to exceed expectations in our service to others as we climb over the wall.

The second area is EXPANSION. You cannot climb over the wall without expanding. For our ministries to be more effective, our commitment in this area involves streamlining our ministries into “groups.” Our Executive Directors have already begun to map out this transition for all our ministries. Expanding our outreach will maximize our spiritual impact and will require an honest assessment of what we have done and of what we should do. Consequently, we are excited about expanding our teen church’s physical space at the Antioch location. We will be expanding our marketing efforts with a focus on digital evangelism. We will be expanding our work with Health and Wellness to develop a center focused solely on providing access to quality health-related resources and opportunities for our community. We are planning to break ground on the much-anticipated *Dream Center*, which will occupy our property across from our Mount Zion-Jefferson Street location. “*Climbing over the wall*” also means expanding our ministry to embrace the diverse population of Nashville. Finally, the Mount Zion Family Ministry will give greater attention to Single Parenting and to Blended Family Groups.

The next area of focus will be EMPOWERMENT. This is a significant part of the vision because we are committed to providing ministry to “*the total person.*” We are excited about our **Entre-School**, which is a curriculum-based virtual school for entrepreneurs. Leading business owners and industry experts from diverse fields will lead this program. The *Business Connect Group* is another ministry designed to connect business owners, to provide exposure of their businesses to the congregation and to connect mentees to mentors. Determined to be effective, mentors can help mentees achieve their business dreams. The *Financial Literacy Group* will focus on providing financial education to every generation within the congregation. From beginners to the advanced, this ministry will educate attendees in basic savings strategies, debt elimination, estate planning and so much more. Focusing on empowerment, Mount Zion plans to partner with corporations to provide workforce development training. As a beacon of hope in our community, we will strengthen our efforts in encouraging our community to vote in the

upcoming elections and in encouraging our community to be more civically engaged moving forward. Also, in 2022, we will offer a **Virtual Summit Empowerment Series** that will address a variety of relevant topics in our Entre-School.

The final area is DISCIPLESHIP. Our commitment to developing disciples will be at the forefront of all we do. We want those who accept Christ and who engage with our ministry to begin an intentional journey that involves strategic training and mentorship. To grow spiritually and to live out their faith in practical ways, believers will excel. Mount Zion, we will be constantly in training so that our ministry successfully develops disciples across the board. To this end, I will also be appointing Elders from our Ministerial Alliance to work with every ministry *Group* to fill discipleship assignments and strategically support the spiritual growth of those in training. Because our Christian Education Department has already developed a portal that allows engagement in classes anytime-anywhere, we will institute an aggressive evangelism campaign equipping members to use digital platforms to reach souls for Christ. The development of disciples will be evident in our healthier relationships and in our greater stewardship. When we mature as believers, our families are healthier, our giving is stronger and our service to the kingdom is genuine.

Mount Zion, the vision is only possible when we commit ourselves to going beyond anything we have already accomplished. We should never become at ease in Zion. We must continue to go over the wall. The implementation of the 2022 vision within the ministry will release the positive culture and climate that *anything* is possible. This is not only true for Mount Zion corporately but also for us individually. Mount Zion, let us do this, and let us do this *together*. **This is the season to Exceed Expectations!**

To God be the Glory,



Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III
Senior Pastor