

# ZION'S CALL

City of Zion Church

"A City set on a hill...giving light to everyone!"

## PASTOR'S CORNER: RELATIONSHIP VS. RELIGION

I had an interesting conversation with a visitor that attended our Church the other day. He was a professed atheist who was invited to City of Zion Church by the men of our Evangelism Ministry. He said that the reason he visited our Church was to get



more insight into the RELIGION that we practiced.

Our conversation was very pleasant as he began to ask me many questions about my faith. However, as our discussion progressed, he became a bit agitated as he attempted to lead me into a debate about RELIGION. The visitor wanted to discuss dates, history, and various scientific proofs as to whether or not Jesus ever existed. I did not take his bait, and instead began to share my testimony about my personal RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ.

He raised issues like the corruption found in many large denominational churches and the various wars and atrocities carried out against people throughout history, in the name of RELIGION. I surprised him and caught him off guard by agreeing with him. I told him that I too am opposed to RELIGION. The truth of the matter is that throughout history many of the most heinous crimes against humanity were allowed to thrive under the banner of RELIGION (The Crusades, World War II Holocaust, Slavery, and the Christianizing of Africa).

As I spoke with this visitor, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the occasion when Jesus ministered to the Woman at the Well (John 4). She also was a victim of a cold and impersonal RELIGION that leaves people feeling empty and unsatisfied. RELIGION is what the Apostle Paul described as that "form of godliness" (II Tim 3:1-5) that has no real life-transforming power. RELIGION dictates that people go through the motions of "having Church." There are in fact many RELIGIOUS people out there that go to Church, sing in the Choir, give big offerings, and even stand in pulpits and preach rousing messages. Unfortunately, many of these same persons have no RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ, and consequently, will not go to Heaven.

Don't be surprised at this statement because Jesus warned us that such a day would come. In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, Jesus warned us that "not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my

Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day (Judgment Day), Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers."

God has not called us to merely participate in RELIGION. He desires a personal RELATIONSHIP with us through his precious son Jesus the Christ. As Jesus spoke to the Woman at the Well, He rebuffed her references to her family's church history and invited her to experience an up close and personal encounter with God through worship. He went on to reveal himself to her as the Messiah and from that moment on, her life was radically changed and she would never be the same.

When Jesus touches your life, He leaves an indelible mark that cannot be removed or hidden. After the Woman at the Well encountered the Savior, she instantly became an Evangelist running back to town telling everybody about Jesus. When Jesus truly comes into your heart, one of your responses is SERVICE. Here at City of Zion Church, we have a number of ministry opportunities for you to "prove your repentance by your deeds" (Acts 26:20). In fact, we thank God for a new ministry opportunity opening up for COZ's Prison Ministry. God has opened up a door for us to begin visiting the Thomas J. S. Waxter Children's Detention Center here in Laurel. Along with our ministry to the Oak Hill Youth Detention Center, we will now be able to minister to both adolescent boys and girls that are incarcerated.

As you settle down to read this article, my prayer for each of you is that you have a personal RELATIONSHIP with the risen Savior versus a mere RELIGIOUS experience. Allow Jesus to come into your heart, and if you are not connected to a good, strong, Bible-teaching, Bible-preaching church, get connected as soon as possible, so that you too can begin to experience new life. And unlike the atheist mentioned in this article, you won't come to Church to check out a RELIGION, but like the Woman at the Well, you will tell others to "Come see a MAN."

*Be Encouraged,*

*Pastor Gregory O. Strong*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Health Corner, Page 2

Did you RSVP?, Page 2

Ministry Spotlight, Page 3-4

Fasting, Page 5

First Youth Shut-In, Page 5

STYLE A, Page 6

Metro B, Page 6

Disciple Spotlight, Page 7

Announcements and Calendar, Page 8

## HEALTH CORNER: ARE YOU LISTENING TO YOUR BODY?

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything, (*1 Corinthians 6:12, NIV*).

Have you ever sat in a quiet or crowded room when your stomach suddenly erupts with loud rumbling noises? Have you ever ate something and within an hour nausea struck or you unexpectedly felt the need to nap? Ever experienced a time when you were thirsty and your soft drink was not enough? Can you relate to any of these scenarios?

Oftentimes, our body gives us clear signals that a problem has occurred, but we dismiss or ignore them. For instance - thirst, a warning sign to drink, arises from a lack of fluids. Whenever the water volume in our body falls below a certain level, the brain will signal thirst. If this signal is ignored over a period of time, dehydration will result. Symptoms of mild dehydration include headache, decreased urine volume, abnormally dark urine, unexplained fatigue, dry mouth, or dizziness while standing. Continuous dehydration is often associated with neurological problems and renal problems. At the first sign of thirst, you should always drink WATER to avoid dehydration. (*Note: Excessive thirst along with excessive urination may be an indication of diabetes. If you suffer from either of these symptoms, please consult your physician for further evaluation*).

Similarly, our body signals difficulty tolerating certain foods we have consumed. You may have, at some time, felt a burning sensation in your chest during or after a meal. This is commonly called heartburn. Heartburn is caused by exposure of the esophagus to the acids in your stomach during swallowing. If this occurs frequently, it will advance from heartburn to Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). Symptoms of GERD include regurgitation (bitter or sour tasting fluid returning to the mouth), nausea, and sore throat. If GERD is not controlled, it can result in an ulcer, stricture, and/or cancer.

The following beverages and foods may cause heartburn:

- Sodas and other carbonated drinks
- Chocolate
- Citrus fruits and juices
- Tomatoes and tomato sauces
- Spicy foods
- Mint
- Pepper
- Dry foods (such as nuts)
- Fatty foods (such as ice cream)
- Garlic
- Coffee
- Tea

Points to remember:

- Pay attention to your body and its signals during and after each meal.
- Take responsibility for the food you eat and the beverages you drink. While we are permitted to eat and drink everything, it does not mean our bodies will tolerate everything we consume.
- Take the above scripture to heart; "I will not be mastered by anything!" Be willing to refrain from substances you have habitually consumed that are not good for you.

Your body IS talking to you. Will you LISTEN?

*For more information on Healthy Eating, please contact Sister Sherita Hall.*

## HELL HAS NO EXIT... DID YOU RSVP?

Have you responded to God's invitation? "If you don't TURN you will BURN" are the words remembered from a sermon delivered by Minister Sheila J. Thompson on Sunday, August 26, 2007. Minister Thompson explained the call to salvation and our response with four letters commonly used to verify our presence at an event.

The call to salvation begins with God. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..." (*John 6:44, NIV*). Yet, still sin separates us from the Father. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (*Romans 3:23, NIV*). To bridge the gap between the invitation from God and the gift of salvation, we must RSVP.

Once you RSVP, make it public! "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved," (*Romans 9: 9-10, NIV*).

**R**epent – "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," (*Acts 3:19, NIV*).

**S**ubmit – Submit to Jesus Christ as Lord and ruler of your life. "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations," (*Jeremiah 1:5, NIV*).

**V**ictory – Know that you have the victory through Jesus. "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony..." (*Revelation 12:11, NIV*).

**P**ray – Communicate with God using your own words. "The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place," (*2 Chronicles 30:27, NIV*).

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

At City of Zion (COZ), our ministry areas are based on the need for fellowship and building Christian character. As a result, our disciples become equipped to minister to those they may encounter with similar needs. Through our Christian Education Ministry, Wednesday night Bible study is held every week at 7pm for all ages. Disciples and guests interact with our Pastor, our leaders, and each other in a setting where questions are encouraged and biblical answers, along with scripture references, are provided.

Our ministry goals are consistent with our mission - to reach the "unsaved" and "unchurched" for Jesus Christ. There are several ministry areas designed to reach persons who do not attend our church. This includes providing Bible Study for teenage boys at the Oak Hill Youth Detention Center, and client advocates to women at the Laurel Pregnancy Center in Laurel, MD.

Plans are underway for a new ministry at the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Thomas J. S. Waxter Children's Center, where we will provide encouragement and support to adolescent girls. Through our visitation ministry, we visit the elderly in two nursing homes in Laurel – Mariner Health of Greater Laurel, and the Cherry Lane Nursing Center, once per month. The Evangelism ministry meets at the METRO station in Greenbelt, MD twice per month to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with scores of METRO commuters. Jesus makes it clear that we are to go into our community and help others. City of Zion is an obedient church, and will continue to do its part to share Christ, whether in our sanctuary or within our community.



## MUSIC MINISTRY— ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The City of Zion's Music Ministry - Band, Choir, Praise teams, and Dance Ministry are meeting and preparing for the annual Christmas Cantata. Each year, these teams work together for this special festivity to create an uplifting and joyful celebration including live song and dance presentations, readings, and songs of praise. This year's presentation will be held on Sunday, December 23, 2007, at 10:00 am. Our Cantata is open to disciples and guests. Please join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior on this special day.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY - HEALTH AND BEAUTY SPA COMING SOON!

City of Zion's Women's Fellowship ministry – Women In Pursuit (WIP) – is preparing for it's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Health and Beauty Spa, which will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 8:30am-3:00pm. Topics to be discussed include spiritual, mental and physical health, along with beauty, fitness, and fashion. Breakfast, lunch, and childcare will be provided. Register early and take advantage of a discounted rate. Discounted early-bird registration will take place October 10 -24, 2007. The fee is \$5.00. After that, the fee will increase to \$10.00. Women who are not disciples of City of Zion Church are welcome to attend the Health and Beauty Spa. This will be a time for learning and becoming better equipped as a Christian woman. *For more information regarding the Health and Beauty Spa, or WIP, please contact Sister Mineva Strong.*

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT (Cont'd)

### LIVING FREE MINISTRY

The newly formed Living Free Ministry is a small group ministry that is focused on helping men who have struggled with drug or substance addiction. By utilizing the Turning Point model of a small group setting, this ministry provides support, discipleship, and compassionate accountability to its members. The Living Free Ministry meets from 9:00 am - 11:00 am, on the 4th Saturday of every month, and studies God's word using a curriculum designed specifically for this Christ-Centered Program. This ministry of recovery and reconciliation is dedicated to bringing healing, deliverance, and freedom from life-controlling problems. *For more information or to join this ministry, please contact Brother Julius Thompson.*

### EVANGELISM MINISTRY— ADOPT A ROAD AND NEW EVANGELISM CLASS

The City of Zion has adopted a stretch of Baltimore Avenue/Route 1 – between Cherry Lane and Contee Road through the Prince George's County's Adopt-A-Road program. The Evangelism Ministry will be going out to patrol and clean our area on Saturday, October 6, 2007. We look forward to witnessing and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Laurel community, while representing our church.

The Evangelism Ministry will lead an Evangelism Class beginning the second week of October. Anyone interested in learning more about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is encouraged to attend. *For more information or to join the Evangelism Ministry, please contact Deacon Don Watson.*



PICTURES OF THE FIRST BIBLE STUDY CLASSES IN OUR NEW BUILDING! - (WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007)

### HOSPITALITY MINISTRY — BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND ANNUAL HARVEST FEST

On Sunday, August 26, 2007, the Hospitality Ministry assisted parents with back-to-school preparation by providing backpacks filled with school supplies to some of our students. A total of 24 backpacks containing pens, pencils, notebooks, calculators, glue sticks, and other supplies were distributed. We hope all of our students are off to a good start this school year!

Join us on Wednesday, October 31, 2007, for our annual Harvest Fest. Harvest Fest is a Christian alternative for our children as the world participates in Halloween events. There will be fun, games, food, and a costume parade featuring non-scary costumes. City of Zion disciples and guests are welcome to Harvest Fest. Parents, please remember: Costumes must be non-scary. *For more information, or to volunteer to assist the Hospitality Ministry with Harvest Fest, please contact Sister Jacqueline Alston or Sister Antoinette Hawkins.*



The COZ Children's Choir greets us with 'Melodies From Heaven.'

### HOSPITALITY MINISTRY SALUTES HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

On June 30, 2007, City of Zion hosted its first 'Youth Honor Roll Achievers' reception. The reception honored students who made the Honor Roll at any time during the 2006-2007 school year. Each child received a trophy, certificate, and check from the City of Zion Church towards his/her college fund. The following students were honored: Jacqueline L. Alston; Armon A. Bingham; Jabari A. Cook; Devin Garrett; Christopher J. Hawkins; Nicole Hawkins; Breanna Johnson; Jordon Hill; Jewel Hill; Perry Lawrence; Emmanuel Lee; D'Angelo Monteiro; Genesis Monteiro; Vashitii J. Strong; Dmani Washington; Rachel Wood. We look forward to increased participation at next year's reception.



## FASTING—The Technology for Gaining a More Intimate Relationship with God

At the City of Zion Church, the biblical principle of fasting is strongly encouraged and is expected of every person in a leadership position. Each Wednesday, there is a corporate fast lasting from sunrise to sunset, where disciples drink only water and 100% juice. A modified fast permitting fruit and vegetables is suggested to persons with a medical condition or to those as deemed necessary. In addition to the corporate fast on Wednesdays, City of Zion launches each New Year with a 21-Day Power Fast beginning at midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We believe there is no substitute for fasting and praying while seeking intimacy with God.

Fasting is beyond science or psychology, and cannot be explained by sociology. It is a spiritual discipline used by believers who proactively seek a closer relationship with the Father. As a result of fasting, believers experience higher levels of peace, understanding, and focus. It provides us with a second ear that is acutely tuned in to hear from God – a function far beyond any capability our physical ear could ever possess. Though fasting is a tool for connecting with God, it is a multi-purpose activity, and can produce nutritional, as well as physical regeneration for the person fasting.

### Fasting is Personal:

“When you *fast*, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you *fast*, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you,” (*Matthew 6:16-18, NIV*).

### A Form of Worship:

“And then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, *fasting* and praying,” (*Luke 2:37, NIV*).

### An Act of Repentance:

“When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the Lord. On that day they *fasted* and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the Lord...,” (*1 Samuel 7:6*).

### For Major Decisions:

“While they were worshipping the Lord and *fasting*, the Holy Spirit said....“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had *fasted* and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off,” (*Acts 13: 2-3, NIV*). “Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and *fasting*, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust,” (*Acts 14:23, NIV*).

### During Times of Crisis:

“After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom....Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a *fast* for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him, (*2 Chronicles 20: 1-4, NIV*).

During these times, it is crucial to accompany our prayers to God with fasting. This combination, inquiring of the Lord (prayer) and crucifying the flesh (fasting), is a powerful force in combating the potential debilitating effects of a crisis.

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force,” (*Matthew 11:12, KJV*).

Fasting serves as a battle cry. Similar to a newborn’s cry to its mother; our cry through fasting arrests God’s attention. It is a powerful yell to our Father for relief or resolution.

It is through prayer, *fasting*, and the Holy Spirit – that we hear from God. To effectively do this, it becomes necessary to arrest our carnal desires so as to make sound spiritual judgment. Through carnal sacrifice, we demonstrate our sincerity and commitment to God. In return, our relationship with Him is deepened, and He answers our prayers.

Sister Melissa Pryce

## PRAISING GOD FOR OUR FIRST YOUTH SHUT-IN

On August 24, 2007, City of Zion’s youth ministry hosted its first Shut-In for students 13 – 18 years old. We enjoyed hanging out and fellowshiping with each other in a safe environment on a late summer Friday night. We played board games in the sanctuary, watched movies, and talked to each other about common challenges related to school, and life in general. We encouraged each other. We were also thankful for the opportunity to stay up all night with no noise restrictions – because we were in our very own church building! Thanks to City of Zion, Pastor Strong, the leaders of the Youth Ministry, and the chaperones for making this possible. We are all looking forward to the next Shut-In. Hopefully, it will be sometime soon.



Sister Nicole Hawkins

## STYLE A—SINGLE TESTED YOUTHFUL LOVING EXCELLENT ADULTS

### Marriage: Bliss or Abyss?

**“Our fear of marrying the wrong person or at the wrong time in our lives should be equal to our fear of God.”**

Imagine your favorite Caribbean island or vacation place, somewhere you have dreamed of visiting since childhood. For example, Hawaii, known for its good weather and great beaches is a popular tropical location. However, when we think of visiting our favorite vacation place, we often fail to realize that even the most beautiful islands are subject to a season of storms.

Similarly, Christian marriages are subject to devastating seasons called warfare. During this season, there are heavy blows that aim to attack even the strongest marriage. As singles, this should persuade us to build stronger spiritual defenses and better educate ourselves about the idea of becoming married.

Our desire for marriage is, at times, fueled with the mentality that it is some exquisite island where we will visit only during tourist season. Some of us even believe that once married, we can travel home to singleness as we please, then revisit the island once it is tourist season again. Instead, we should become aware

of the reality that each marriage has its unique challenges, and that it will become our duty to endure those times as a union and no longer singularly. As single persons, our ability to persevere through life's challenges relies solely on our faith in God. When we become married, the experience within our challenges will depend on our faith, along with the faith of our spouse. If our partner's fellowship with God is broken, our marriage will be gravely affected because we have become one flesh. “The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh,” (Genesis 2: 23-24, NIV).

We must understand that although this “vacation place” may be a childhood dream, the fact that we may never visit this island does not alter our destiny, neither should it compromise our happiness. Marriage was God's idea. Our existence and the plan for our lives are also God's ideas. And, if we claim a longing for His perfect will and not His permissive will, we must surrender the timing and the possibility of visiting that special place to Him.

*Sister Clivette Jones*

## METRO B—MARRIED ETERNAL THANKFUL RESPECTED OBEDIENT BELIEVERS

### A Marriage Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I bring my marriage before You. I pray and confess Your Word, and as I do, I use my faith, believing that Your Word will come to pass. Therefore, I pray that we will let all bitterness, indignation, wrath, passion, rage, bad temper, resentment, brawling, clamor, contention, slander, evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language be banished from our union; also all malice, spite, ill-will, or baseness of any kind that we may become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted, compassionate, understanding, loving hearted, forgiving one another readily and freely as You, Father, in Christ, has forgiven us.

Therefore, our marriage will be an imitator of You, God. We will copy You and follow Your example as well-beloved children imitate their father. We will walk in love, esteeming and delighting in one another as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.

I render Satan helpless in his activities in our lives and rise against a spirit of separation and divorce. Satan's power is broken from our marriage in the Name of Jesus.

Father, I thank you that we will be constantly renewed in the spirit, having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude that will bring forth a new nature, one that is created in God's image, in true righteousness and holiness. Thank You for the answer, Lord. I know it is done, In The Name of Jesus. Amen.

*Prayer Excerpts from World Harvest Christian Center, and provided to us by Minister Sheila Thompson*

## DISCIPLE SPOTLIGHT: BROTHER ANTHONY HOWARD



Anthony Howard is one of the happiest persons you will ever meet. When you ask the source of his joy, he will tell you, it is from his childhood and the loving Christian family values instilled in him. It is hard to fathom someone at his age with a natural unadulterated childlike joy despite facing many challenges. Born March 8, 1954, Brother Howard was raised in Wilson, North Carolina by his grandmother, Adi Mae Benjamin. He received the gift of salvation at an early age. Brother Howard describes his family as a family known for their joy, humor, and one that encompasses a strong bond of sharing Christ's love.

Although he describes his childhood as one filled with happiness, he walked away from his family at the age of 14. He describes this 'little boy,' as rebellious, wanting to grow up fast, and determined to prove his family wrong – for believing there is no joy in material possessions. "I wanted life in the fast lane. I was determined to be a movie star." In his quest for stardom, Brother Howard lived a lifestyle filled with drugs and alcohol, that resulted in a history of offenses in the penal system.

From 1969 to 1999, Anthony Howard was arrested 44 times, suffered from drug and alcohol abuse, and spent over 20 years in prison. He has been enrolled in multiple rehabilitation institutions including St. Elizabeth's, and has been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. At the start of our interview, he explained his tension by saying, "this is my first interview without handcuffs."

Brother Howard is not shy about admitting his anger and pain during this time of his life, nor the fact that it was his own rebellious spirit that delayed his deliverance and prevented him from contacting his family. When asked why didn't he just go back home, he responded, "I could not allow my family to see me in that state." His prayer and desire became to change his lifestyle before his grandmother, Adi Mae dies.



Since his last release from prison, Brother Howard says he will not go back. "What is the difference," I asked. He responded, "Jesus is now Lord over my life. I always loved the Lord – even throughout my wrongdoings, I loved the Lord and even told others about Him; but He was not Lord over my life. The rebellious little boy inside was not contained through Christ."

"I had to lose my freedom to become humble," says Brother Howard. "Being told when, how much, and what to eat, is very difficult for a man." At the age of 14, he described himself as arrogant, proud, determined to prove his family wrong, and stubborn. At the age of 53, he describes himself as a humble servant, one who seeks to walk in God's will and to diligently serve Him.

In the Spring of 2006, Brother Howard enrolled in the Central Union Mission's, Spiritual Transformation Program (STP). He describes his experience with the STP as different from any other program he has attempted. Shortly after his enrollment (six months), he contacted his family for the first time after 25 years and he reunited with them last Thanksgiving, 2006. He best describes his return home as that of the Prodigal son. His family told him during the 25 years he was away that they never stopped praying for his return. Brother Howard's prayer to change was answered, and his grandmother, Adi Mae Benjamin is still alive at 89 years old.

Anthony Howard graduated from the Central Union Mission's Spiritual Transformation Program on September 6, 2007. He celebrated his one year anniversary of being drug and alcohol free on August 8, 2007. "I am thankful for this," says Brother Howard. "I have been drug and alcohol free before – but this time, I am drug and alcohol free, *and* filled with the Holy Spirit." He thanks Pastor Gregory Strong, Director of the Spiritual Transformation Program, for his dedication, love, and understanding, which helped him break a vicious cycle. He continues to keep in contact with his family, traveling home every holiday. He gives all glory to God for his life. And, he is grateful to his grandmother, Adi Mae Benjamin, for a solid foundation, and for raising him with the love of Christ. Brother Anthony Howard works at the Central Union Mission and serves as Facilities Manager of the City of Zion Church. *This is based on an interview with Anthony Howard, written by Sister Clivette Jones.*

### CITY OF ZION CELEBRATES ANOTHER MARRIAGE!


(Pictured Right): On Saturday, September 8, 2007, Pastor Gregory Strong officiated the wedding ceremony of Craig Woodfolk and Marla Smith. They exchanged vows, and committed their marriage to Christ at the Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville, Maryland.

*Congratulations Craig and Marla Woodfolk!*



# CITY OF ZION CHURCH

"A City set on a hill...giving light to everyone!"

Our New Address   
14100 Laurel Park Drive  
Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.490.7660 (Phone)  
301.490.1500 (Fax)

www.CityofZionLaurel.org

We will continue to hold  
**Sunday Worship Service** at the  
Holiday Inn Laurel-West, 15101  
Swietzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20709  
until further notice.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### 2007

Harvest Fest, October 31

2nd Annual Women In Pursuit Health & Beauty Spa, November 10

Christmas Fellowship, December 15

Christmas Cantata, December 23

### 2008

COZ Leadership Summit, January 24 — 26, 2008

3rd Annual Valentine's Day Gala, February 16, 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DAUGHTERS OF ZION (ADULT) AND POWER WITH A PURPOSE (YOUTH) DANCE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Do you believe you are being called to Minister in Dance? The City of Zion Dance Ministries — Daughters of Zion (Adults ages 19 and over), and Power with a Purpose (Youth ages 6 to 18), will be holding an opportunity session on Saturday, October 27, 2007, at 2:00 pm, at the City of Zion Church. (This session will be for women and children only). For more information, please contact Sister Elsie Privott.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH MINISTRY

Children's Church Ministry is seeking teachers and assistants to facilitate Children's church during the Sunday Morning Worship Service and special events at the City of Zion Church. For more information or to join the Children's Church Ministry, please contact Sister Makuyo Nettey.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

The City of Zion Youth Ministry meets every fourth Friday at 7:00 pm with ongoing outings and events. Our current youth ministry is for teens ages 13 to 18. Please join us and tell your friends.

We will be creating a second division of the Youth Ministry for children ages 6 to 12. For more information, or to work on the team of Youth Workers, please contact Deacon John Edwards or Deaconess Lakisha Edwards.

### NEW DISCIPLES CLASS AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

New Disciples classes are held the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. In addition, each member of the City of Zion church is required to complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. The Spiritual Gifts Inventory is offered once every three months. This not only identifies your spiritual gifts, but also helps you determine a ministry area that aligns with your spiritual gifts. The next Spiritual Gifts Inventory will be administered on Sunday, October 19, at 8:30 am. Please contact Deaconess Kim Watson or Sister Debbie Broyles for information.

### VISITATION MINISTRY

The City of Zion Visitation Ministry visits Mariner Health of Greater Laurel at 14200 Laurel Park Drive, Laurel, Md., the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The Ministry visits the Cherry Lane Nursing Center at 9001 Cherry Lane, Laurel, Md., the fourth Sunday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information or to join the Visitation Ministry, please contact Sister Marla Woodfolk.

### CITY OF ZION BOOKSTORE: NOW OPEN

The City of Zion Bookstore is open and ready to take orders. Please visit our bookstore during the hours of 6:00 to 6:45 pm every Wednesday. Items include tapes, (pre-ordered with payment), CD's, bibles, books, ink-pens, and shirts. Special orders are available. For questions or for inquiries of in-stock items, please contact Sister Antoinette Hawkins. You may also forward your inquiries by email to antnhwk@aol.com.

### AUDIOVISUAL MINISTRY

The Audiovisual Ministry now has CD's with Sunday services available. CD's will also include Praise and Worship selections. To place an order, please see a member of the Audiovisual Ministry after church to complete an order form. Orders placed and purchased on Sunday, may be picked up the following Wednesday at the Bookstore. In addition, the Audiovisual Ministry will begin videotaping services soon. For questions regarding availability of items, or to join this ministry, please see Brother Saul Green.

### NEWSLETTER MINISTRY

The City of Zion Newsletter Ministry wants to hear from you! We need your stories and testimonies. Please contact Sister Clivette Jones, (clivettej@hotmail.com), and sister Paulette Campbell, (pwcampbell@earthlink.net) with any comments or ideas.