

# Zion's Call

The City of Zion Church: "A Higher Place of Praise"

Vol. I, No. 1 • July/August 2005

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## Calendar

### JULY

- 3 First Sunday Prayer, 9 am
- 6 Bible Study, 7 pm  
Children's Choir Practice,  
7:15 pm
- 9 Praise Team/Choir  
Practice, 12:30 pm
- 10 New Disciples Class,  
9 am
- 13 Bible Study, 7 pm
- 16 Praise Team/Choir  
Practice, 12:30 pm
- 20 No Bible Study
- 23 Praise Team/Choir  
Practice, 12:30 pm
- 27 No Bible Study

### AUGUST

- 3 Bible Study, 7 pm  
Children's Choir Practice,  
7:15 pm
- 7 First Sunday Prayer, 9 am
- 10 Bible Study, 7 pm
- 13 Men's/Women's  
Fellowship, 9 am
- 14 New Disciples Class,  
9 am
- 17 Bible Study, 7 pm
- 21 Spiritual Gifts Inventory,  
9 am
- 24 Bible Study, 7 pm
- 27 Couples Fellowship, 6 pm
- 31 Bible Study, 7 pm

## Pastor's Corner: Writing Our Vision

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; and welcome to the first product of the City of Zion's (COZ) new Communication's Ministry.



The revelation for this ministry came from Habakkuk 2:2-3 (KJV). In that text, the Prophet wrote "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." This passage reveals to us that God has a number of creative ways of communicating His message to those who are willing to receive it. The Gospel and the message of Christ should not be limited to preaching, teaching or singing venues only. In this "information age" we have almost unlimited access to all types of data via the internet, cell phones, television, e-mails, etc. Therefore it is only natural, or more accurately, *divinely inspired* that the City of Zion Church "write the vision" of our Church through a quality news publication designed to inform and inspire.

COZ disciples, these are exciting times. God has placed many new endeavors before us. We are looking at different properties in search of our own building; our Seed for the City fund has surpassed \$10,000. We are also negotiating with the Maryland Department of Corrections to start our Prison Ministry at the Jessup and Laurel's Juvenile Facility. Our musical director, Keith Washington, has just launched a Music School, providing piano, percussion and voice lessons.

The Women's Fellowship has introduced a new Fitness Class, held twice a month on Wednesday evenings, just before Bible Study, under the direction of Sister Renee' Nettey; and we are in the final stages of beginning a Single Women's Fellowship. I'm glad to now have a more effective method of getting information to you about these new initiatives, as well as the various ministries already in place.

In each issue of *Zion's Call*, we hope to highlight individual Disciples and include announcements and news from our ministries. Please communicate with us any ideas you have for improving this publication. The September/October issue will be distributed the first Sunday in September. Please send story ideas and announcements to Sister Paulette Campbell at [pwcampbell@earthlink.net](mailto:pwcampbell@earthlink.net), or call her at 301.549.1143. We are also looking for disciples who are willing to join the team and work with this ministry. We hope you enjoy this inaugural effort. You hold in your hands a soon-to-be collector's item.

Be Encouraged,  
Pastor Gregory O. Strong

## Disciple Spotlight: Lisa Hall

COZ's Lisa Hall, who leaves for Thailand in August for a two-month missionary assignment, wasn't looking to become a foreign missionary. In fact, in the wake of a painful divorce, the veteran kindergarten teacher visited First Baptist Church of Glenarden in 2004 just to attend a meeting of their singles ministry. "I was rebuilding, putting the pieces of my life back together again," she said. "I wanted to get involved in a singles ministry to reach out to other women who had suffered loss, to help them rebuild their lives through Christ, and I wanted to live a successful single life."

But that night would set her on a course she had never imagined. The singles event at Glenarden featured a presentation by representatives from the Baptist General Conference about their foreign missions ministry. "As soon as they mentioned Cambodia and Vietnam, it was like God was prompting me to go there," Hall said. "This was not something I would have picked or wanted to do, but God gave me his plan, and I was at a point where I was listening."

Sister Hall became a little more resolved about the idea once her application was approved, but said she still wasn't fully committed to the idea of traveling to a foreign county to minister to people. "I remember thinking, 'Maybe for the summer, for a couple of weeks,' but not for the rest of my life," she said. But God had other plans. Sister Hall began to research the missionary life. God brought missionaries into her path to talk about their experiences. "As I prepared for my first trip, I decided to leave the door open," she said. "When I went on that trip to Cambodia in September 2004, I knew God was calling me to do this full time!"

Cambodia was an eye-opener, she said. "I didn't go there with the unreasonable expectation that I would change all these lives overnight. In fact, the poverty was a little overwhelming. But I went with the mindset that 'Lord, whatever you want me to see and learn. I want to be able to take that back, and share that experience.' It was spiritually rewarding to be able to share the Gospel and have the people be so receptive. They were hungry for the word; there was so much poverty, they needed to hear of a Savior. To be able to pray with them and testify ... to talk

to them about how no matter the severity of their trials, there is peace with Jesus."

Bangkok, Thailand — Sister Hall's upcoming destination — is nestled in the southeastern region of the 10/40 Window, an area that contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world. The 10/40 Window extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China. Two-thirds of the world's population — more than 3.2 billion people — live in this region, and 95% of them are un-evangelized. Many have never heard the Gospel message even once! Exacerbating the situation, Sister Hall said, is the level of poverty in this region; 85 percent of those living in the 10/40 Window are the poorest of the world's poor.

Serving as a missionary "is not something that anybody can do," Sister Hall cautions. "You definitely have to be called to this. You are going to have to be flexible. You are going to another culture where you won't know anybody; your family and your support system won't be there. And you have to be in good health and physical condition, because the food and living circumstances are not as we know it here in the United States. And some people are uncomfortable with the level of poverty and the language barriers."

Now that she's had her travel shots, she's beginning to feel the weight of the upcoming trip. "I'm grieving the eventual separation from family and friends, but I'm trusting God," she said, referring to Luke 6:38: *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

Sister Hall will be sending updates from the field. If you want additional information about Baptist General Conference's International Ministries, go online to <http://www.bgcworld.org>.

## Announcements

**COZ TEACHER NEEDED.** The Children's Church ministry is seeking a teacher available to lead Bible Study for children, ages 2 to 5, on Wednesday nights, from 7 to 8 pm. If you are interested please see Pastor Strong or Mineva Strong.

**TAPE MINISTRY.** The Tape Ministry has completed the second tape series of Pastor Strong's Sunday Sermons. Each series contains 16 tapes. Each tape is \$3; a complete series is \$48. Please place your orders with Brother Saul Green. Tapes of individual sermons may still be ordered after service.

**MUSIC MINISTRY.** COZ's Music Ministry is offering voice, percussion and piano lessons for children. For information, please contact Brother Keith Washington at 703.718.0811.

**BIBLE STUDY.** Wednesday evening Bible study will take a break at the end of July. Meetings will be held on July, 6 and July 13, but not on July 20 or July 27. Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume on August 3.

**COUPLES MINISTRY/MEN & WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.** These ministries will not meet in the month of July. See the "Calendar" on page 1 of *Zion's Call* to see the August meeting dates.

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The Mission of the City of Zion Church is to reach the unsaved and undisciplined for Jesus Christ. Our goals are to lead them into Christian Discipleship and Abundant Christian Living, and to equip them to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

## Children & Youth

### Children's Church

The COZ Children's Church presents Bible stories and Bible lessons to children in two age groups: 2 to 3; and 4-5. In July and August, the lessons will be based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

#### JESUS' MINISTRY OF TEACHING (GOSPEL OF MATTHEW)

♦ **July 3.** Theme: The Beatitudes, based on Matthew 5:1-16. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that children will know that Jesus taught about being happy. Attitude—that the children will desire to do good deeds and choose to do a good deed today.

♦ **July 10.** Theme: Practices of Piety, based on Matthew 6:1-14. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus taught His friends how to pray and worship Him. Attitude—that children will learn how to pray and pray a simple prayer to God today.



♦ **July 17.** Theme: The Purpose of the Parables, based on Matthew 13:9-17. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus used parables to explain God's word. Attitude—that the children will want to hear God's Word and listen each week in Children's Church.

♦ **July 24.** Theme: The Unforgiving Servant, based on Matthew 18:21-35. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus taught about forgiving others. Attitude—that the children will choose to forgive someone this week.

♦ **July 31.** Theme: Final Accounting, based on Matthew 25:31-46. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus taught that it is good to help others. Attitude—that the children will want to help someone and perform an act of service this week.

#### JESUS' MINISTRY OF COMPASSION (GOSPEL OF LUKE)

♦ **August 7.** Theme: Luke's Mission Statement, based on Luke 4:16-24, 28-30. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus came to help people. Attitude—that the children will want to help someone like Jesus did and help at home or school this week.

♦ **August 14.** Theme: Jairus's Daughter Restored and a Woman Healed, based on Luke 8:40-56. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that Jesus healed a woman and Jairus's daughter. Attitude—that the children will thank Jesus for being able to heal, and pray for the healing of someone this week.

♦ **August 21.** Theme: The Good Samaritan, based on Luke 10:25-37. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that a Good Samaritan helped a man in need. Attitude—that the children will want to be good neighbors and help someone today.

♦ **August 28.** Theme: Humility and Hospitality, based on Luke 14:7-11, 15-24. Lesson Objective: Knowledge—that the children will know that God is pleased when we share with others in spite of who they are. Attitude—that the children will name some things they can share, and share toys during playtime.

We encourage parents to reinforce these themes and lessons throughout the week. Each class includes a brief lesson based on the Biblical theme; class discussions; music, and arts and crafts; and a healthy snack. The Children's Church ministry is still seeking volunteers. If you are interested in working with children, ages 2 to 5, please contact First Lady Mineva Strong, at 301.490.3835.

### God's Anointed New Generation (G.A.N.G.)

When the teenagers and young adults of City of Zion were challenged to come up with a name for their youth ministry, they drew inspiration from two scriptures:

**Romans 12:1-2.** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**Ephesians 4:22-24.** *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

And thus, G.A.N.G. — God's Anointed New Generation — was conceived. The age group for G.A.N.G. is 13 to young adult. Since its creation, the ministry has participated in regularly scheduled Rap Sessions, as well as field trips to places like the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, in Baltimore, Md.; Kings Dominion; and a concert featuring New School Gospel sensations Tye Tribbett, Deitrick Haddon and Tonex. Upcoming activities include a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari Park in New Jersey; Gaithersburg Miniature Golf at Bohrer Park and horseback riding. If you are interested in volunteering or getting your child involved with this ministry, please contact Brother/Sister John and LaKisha Edwards at 301.582.3891; or via e-mail to [jlsparent118@aol.com](mailto:jlsparent118@aol.com).

## Ministry Spotlight

### Turning Point Ministries to Form New Entry-Level Class in the Fall

The Turning Point ministry of the City of Zion will be starting a new entry-level class in September. "Turning Point is all about people helping people," said Sister Sheila Cathie, who heads this ministry. "As non-credentialed persons, we promise no professional psychological expertise. However, we do have a desire to see the Lord help you with your struggles."

"You don't have to be addicted to drugs to get something out of this program," she said. "There are different kinds of addiction ... to gambling, to love, to anger. We believe that anyone can benefit from these groups. Whether participants want to gain skills to help others, want to prevent a problem from becoming overwhelming, or are currently trapped by some issue in their lives, they will find Turning Point relevant."

Turning Point's **Insight Group** is the starting place for all Disciples. This course enhances participant's understanding of themselves and others, pictures life-controlling problems as a downward spiral that pulls a person down, then presents the character qualities found in 2 Peter 1:3-11 as the path to Christian character. The course helps bond people in meaningful relationships and helps prepare them for more meaningful relationships in subsequent small Turning Point groups, including:

- ◆ **The Concerned Person's Group.** For the loved-ones of a person held in the stronghold of a life-controlling problem. Participants receive comfort, encouragement and instruction on how to love and help another person without being drawn into the person's problem.

- ◆ **Completely Free!** Designed to help Disciples grow in Christ by encouraging them to see beyond their

struggles to how God is working in their lives. This course will help Christians break out of the dull routine of a stagnant spiritual life. It explains the message of salvation as presented in Romans.

- ◆ **Knowing God My Father.** This group helps Disciples develop trust in and a relationship to God by studying the character of God as revealed in some of his names. It provides help for those who may have a distorted view of God because of an absent or abusive earthly father who did not or does not provide for them. This guide also provides help for men who want to be better fathers.

- ◆ **The Ten Commandments.** This group helps participants better understand God's boundaries. It shows how the Ten Commandments apply today. It also discusses the biblical laws on which the legal codes of every civilized society are based. This guide is written in a way that helps people see the Ten Commandments in light of today's problems.

These groups are Christ-centered. When problems remain the center of the group, people tend to remain "stuck." We want people to deal honestly with the problems they face but never lose sight of the fact that their true identity is in Christ and not in their struggles.

Turning Point groups are not a quick fix. The path of Christian growth is a long journey of growing in God's grace that requires diligence in resisting the devil, determination to keep the sinful nature crucified, devotion to God, and dedication to walking in the Spirit.

Sister Cathie became involved with the program in the mid-1990s, when she was trained to become a facilitator. "My life is still being transformed as a result of this ministry," Sister Cathie said. "God is good!" Participants should be committed to attending a year's worth of weekly meetings. For more information about the next Insight Group, contact Sister Cathie at 301.735.7466.

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