

# ZION'S CALL

Volume 3, No. 1 ~ Spring 2007

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



## PASTOR'S CORNER: Enlarging His Territory

God is AWESOME, and He does all things well! My reason for such an exclamation is because on February 9, the Elders of the City of Zion Church signed a lease with the B&P, LLC, allowing us to occupy our very own building.



This property is located at 14100 Laurel Park Drive in Laurel, Maryland. At the time of the writing of this article, renovations are being made on this office building to prepare it to function as a house of worship. Resurrection Sunday will mark the third year City of Zion Church has been meeting at the Holiday Inn/Laurel West (formerly the Best Western). This has indeed been a long, challenging and exciting journey; however, in the words of

Rev. James Cleveland's classic song, "I don't feel no ways tired."

These are indeed exciting times at City of Zion Church as we watch God grow us and "enlarge our territory." I remember our humble beginnings at the Oseh Shalom Synagogue in January 2004, when we rented two rooms a week for one adult and one children's weekly Bible Class held on Wednesday night. Look at how far God has brought us as we now currently occupy the entire ballroom of the Holiday Inn, with additional ancillary rooms for Sunday Morning Worship, along with classes and rehearsals taking place every night of the week. To God be the Glory!

I just completed teaching on a series entitled the "Kingdom Family." In this series I highlighted the fact that family is God's idea and that it's His will for all of us to be a part of the "family of Believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV). All of us need the care, nurture, instruction, discipline and protection that a healthy family has to offer. While many of us may have missed these qualities in our own natural families, God stands ready to make provision for us today through His Church (Psalm 27:10).

At City of Zion Church it is our goal to be God's provision for a hurting and dying world. We want to teach families how to become healthy and whole according to God's plan (Titus 2:1-8) versus being toxic and dysfunctional. As the Lord allows us to occupy our own building, we look forward to expanded opportunities

to come alongside of parents by helping to reinforce the Godly principles they should already be instilling in their children. We're grateful to God for this new building, because we are confident that a new building will open up new opportunities for ministry.

We're also excited about the addition of the Visitation Ministry under the direction of Marla Smith. This ministry helps us fulfill God's mandate for His church to go out and visit the sick (Matthew 25:31-40). We're also excited about the growth of our Turning Point Ministry. Over the past months, Minister Sheila Thompson has added two new classes as we continue to "work out our salvation" by overcoming life controlling issues through this small group ministry.

If you live in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, please join us as we celebrate the Easter season by commemorating the Lord's death on the cross with our "Good Friday at the Movies" event for both children and adults. We shall then celebrate His resurrection on the following Sunday with a special worship service of song, dance and the Word of God. And then, please come and be with us at any of our various services or fellowships. These are truly exciting times, and I want you to be a part of the excitement.

*Be Encouraged,  
Pastor Strong*



*COZ Officers are pictured here with a representative from B&B, LLC, after signing the lease for City of Zion's future home.*

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*"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2-3 (KJV).*

## HEALTH CORNER

### Spring Cleaning the Body

As winter comes to an end, it is a great time to spring our bodies into a cleaning regimen. While Spring Cleaning is a tradition that allows us to refresh our homes by getting rid of clutter, a similar approach may be taken to declutter our bodies. During the winter months, we consume more cooked and processed foods. As a result, our organs, particularly the liver, work harder to assimilate nutrients from chemical-laden and heat-stripped foods. With the arrival of more daylight, warmer weather, and vibrant colors, there is added motivation to spring into 'a healthier you' this season.

#### EXERCISE

As Spring surfaces with its longer days and brighter sunshine, we are naturally more energized. Exercise is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. It is important to make time and space in your life for activities that will take you to your physical limit and beyond. Exercising does not have to be redundant, you can be creative. For example, parking your car further away from the doors of your destination; taking steps instead of elevators or escalators; or taking brisk walks to enjoy the fresh air. In addition, by sweating during exercise, you eliminate toxins and stimulate the functions of internal organs, including your intestines.

#### CLEANSING

Our bodies are finely tuned machines designed to operate on pure, unpolluted and unprocessed fuel from the earth. Over time, manufactured substances have been used to treat the food during the growth process. The body is not equipped to handle foreign

substances and subsequently stores the waste in our liver and other organs. Cleansing the body helps to remove the excess waste and disease. This can be accomplished by resting from foods over a period of time or drinking vegetable or fruit juices, and water.

#### NUTRITION

Green is the color most associated with Spring, and green should be a color present on our plate for at least one meal per day. Fresh spinach, romaine lettuce, spring mix salad, collard greens, turnip greens, mustard greens, kale, and cabbage will be available in abundance in the produce aisle this season. Fresh fruits are also widely available and are a great idea for snacks. When we consume fresh vegetables and fruits—also referred to as 'live foods,'—we restore life to our bodies.

There are a few activities that should become part of your daily routine while aiming for 'a healthier you' this season. They are:

- Do not eat on the go.
- Set aside time to eat and take a moment to relax. This will allow your body sufficient time to digest food for optimal nourishment.
- While eating, breathe deeply, chew well, and eat only what you need.
- Avoid eating during times of emotional imbalance, in the midst of stressful environments, or when tired.

For more information on fitness and exercise, please contact Sister Mia Speight. For more information on nutrition and cleansing, please contact Sister Sherita Hall.

*Sister Sherita Hall*

## Expressions of Music at the Gospel Heritage Conference

Leaders from the City of Zion's Music and Dance Ministries attended the 2007 Gospel Heritage Praise & Worship Conference at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center, February 28 through March 3. The theme of the conference was "Power, Passion & Purpose," and was sponsored by the Gospel Heritage Foundation with Dr. Teresa Hariston as chair.

The main goals of the conference were to educate, inspire and inform those in the ministry of gospel music and dance. One theme throughout the conference was that when you know God has anointed you in the gift of encouragement through music, this anointing is a great responsibility and requires you to constantly seek God's revelation, stay in prayer for new and exciting ideas, educate the congregation on why we do what we do to lift up the name of Jesus, and get spiritually connected with other spiritually mature saints who are willing

to share the 'do's and don'ts' of the music ministry.

One scripture that stood out was Psalm 89:15, "Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord." It is my prayer that God will teach me to walk in the light of His presence so that I can always experience 'true worship' without concern for the musical expression of pitch, harmony, words, or instrumental support. I want to hear the distinct sound of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to flow freely throughout our congregation, so that no man or woman sees me, but God in my ministry.

One particularly inspiring session was: "Understanding the Responsibilities of Choir Members vs. Department Leaders," facilitated by Steve Lawrence from The Potter's House, which explored how we knit together the real divisions of choirs,

praise teams, and other levels of the music ministry. He used the analogy of the roles of Joseph, Moses, and Pharaoh, when God led the Israelites out of Egypt. God sets aside mature servants to show others how to experience the presence of God, Lawrence said, adding that worship should be a participatory experience, not a spectator event.

One lesson during the workshop was taken from 1 Chronicles 25:7, "Along with their relatives—all of them trained and skilled in music for the Lord..." God wants us to study music; but more importantly, music leaders should leave no room for egos, the need for validation or the fear of being unpopular. We closed the workshop by praying, in small groups, for one another. We hugged, and sang "Lift Him Up." I left experiencing the peace of God.

*Sister Detra Battle*

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

### MINISTERING TO THE ELDERLY

The Visitation Ministry has a heart for sharing Christ with the elderly and those who have found their home in a nursing facility. It is always exciting to see the joy and laughter on the resident's faces as we greet them with bright City of Zion smiles. We sing, sometimes we just sit and listen. Often, our smiles and company alone are enough to cheer a sad face.

The residents at each nursing home we visit verbalize their appreciation for the time we spend with them each month. To continue sharing our infectious good spirits, we have added a new Nursing Home for the year 2007!

We will be visiting the Cherry Lane Nursing Center the fourth Sunday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. In addition, we will continue to visit Mariner Health of Greater Laurel the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The ministry has welcomed some new members, but we are always looking for more. If you have compassion for the elderly and are willing to sacrifice an hour or two for them each month, this ministry will suit you. If you have any questions or would like to join the Visitation Ministry, please contact Sister Marla Smith.

### OPENING THE GATE TO THE CITY

Within the City of Zion's Greeters visitation statement you will find details of the tactical vision for the Greeters Ministry; and within the tactical vision, you will find details of the strategic vision, all working together to advance the Kingdom of God. As doorkeepers, we are the first impression that the outside world encounters. Our response to them sets the tone for the rest of the service. In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi wrote that during his student days he read the Gospels seriously and considered converting to Christianity. So one Sunday he decided to attend services at a nearby church and talk to the minister about

becoming a Christian. When he entered the sanctuary, however, the usher refused to give him a seat and suggested that he go worship with his own people. Gandhi left the church and never returned.

As we prepare to enter our new building, the Greeters will play a crucial role in how the world views the City of Zion Church. We will either be seen as a 'traditional church,' where the greeters are seen as unconcerned bucket passers, or as people seeking to be 'the light of the world in a city on a hill' that cannot be hidden (*see story on page 7*).

I prefer the latter; how about you? If your passion is to serve and you have a desire to align yourself to a larger vision, prayerfully consider the Greeters Ministry. For more information or to join City of Zion's Greeters Ministry, please see Deacon Dennis Washington.

### CARING FOR NEW DISCIPLES

The New Disciples Ministry is one of the first ministries started at City of Zion. Meeting every second Sunday, the New Disciples class introduces to some, and reviews for others, the four spiritual laws that should govern every Christian's life: 1) God LOVES you and offers a wonderful PLAN for your life; 2) Man is SINFUL and SEPARATED from God; 3) Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for man's sin; and 4) We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. This class also discusses the importance of studying the Bible.

We recently launched our First Friends Outreach, where each new Disciple is partnered with a 'first friend' who contacts that new Disciple to provide information and answer questions about the church or any of its ministries. We hope that this outreach will help new Disciples feel connected with

their new church family.

For more information, or to become a part of the New Disciples ministry, please contact Deaconess Kim Watson and Sister Debbie Broyles.

### MINISTRY MAKES A JOYFUL NOISE

The City of Zion Choir and Praise and Worship teams continuously seek ways to excel in its worship, taking us to a 'Higher Place of Praise' each week. On the recommendation of Pastor Strong, leaders from the City of Zion's Music and Dance Ministries attended the 2007 Gospel Heritage Praise & Worship Conference February 28 to March 3 (*see story on page 2*). There, ministry leaders were educated daily on various issues and barriers that can interfere with a true worship experience. The activities of each day included corporate Praise and Worship in the main convention hall, at least one featured soloist with dancers, and a keynote speaker, followed by individual workshops. The attendees from COZ were Detra Battle, Keisha Brown, Davina Cook, Sherita Hall and Elsie Privott.

Our Music Ministry is growing, and we encourage you to consider joining one of COZ's four choirs. Bringing different styles of music to our church is exciting and will open the eyes of many to see the power of God through music. For more information, please contact Sister Detra Battle.

### DOZ: DANCING THEIR PRAISE

The Daughters of Zion (DOZ) Dance Ministry is the essence of praise and worship through the movement of your limbs. The ministry continues to grow in number and in each members' spiritual maturity. As a result, the dance ministry is divided into an adult team and a youth team. It is not a performing or entertainment ministry. Its sole purpose is to praise and worship God through the activity and movement of our limbs—not only in church, but throughout our daily lives. It is important to understand the true meaning of worship and have an insatiable desire for praising and worshipping Him.

In March, we attended the Praise II: Liturgical Dance Praise Festival held in Landover, Maryland. Members were



*Disciples of COZ visit with residents at the Mariner Healthcare Center on Dec. 21, 2006.*

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

inspired by the zeal and passion of various dance troupes throughout the metropolitan area and their commitment to praising God through movement. DOZ looks forward to many opportunities to minister this year so others may experience God through our praise. We are scheduled to minister at the Laurel Main Street Festival to be held this coming May in Laurel, Maryland.

One part of the vision of the Dance Ministry includes outreach activities, continued strengthening of members, and hosting in-service activities and workshops. For more information or to join the Daughters of Zion Dance Ministry, please contact Sister Elsie Privott.



*Disciples and Guest resplendent in traditional African garments for Black History Month.*

### ENTHUSIASTIC DISCIPLES

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15: NIV). An unbeliever’s decision to accept Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior is based on our answers to the hope that we have and the agape love we share. Our lives and our approach should always be an example of Christ, His love, His grace, and His mercy. If you’re excited, eager, and passionate about sharing God’s word, the Evangelism Ministry is for you! Anyone who wants to know Jesus better and wants to share Him with others is welcome. Because we

are so excited about our ministry and what we do, we will be starting a Study Group in April! For more information, to join the Evangelism Ministry or our study group, please contact Deacon Don Watson.

### REHABILITATING BELIEVERS

COZ’s Turning Point Ministry has helped scores of Disciples become more aware of who they are in Christ, leading them to shake themselves free of life-controlling problems and start the journey to abundant living through Him.

The first class formed in 2005, and now we have four Turning Point groups in session, meeting once a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Last fall, the COZ family celebrated one class’s completion of the entire program—a year-long commitment that involves the completion of five workbooks. This spring, a second class will reach that milestone. Two additional classes recently received certificates for completing the first phase of the ministry, and six facilitators have been born: Sisters Debra Broyles, Illetha Mayzck (who took over for Sister Tarsha Washington), and Clivette Jones, as well as Sisters Alvera Bullock and Sherita Hall, who have begun facilitating the two newest Turning Point classes.

If you are tired of self-destructive or unproductive behaviors ruling your life,



*Turning Point members receive certificates for completing phases of the program.*

or if you just simply want to become a more effective Christian, then Turning Point is for you. The only thing needed to join is a desire to change and a willingness to commit to attending the classes, which can last at least 15 months. The classes are small and

intimate, and there is a strong emphasis on confidentiality.



*Turning Point members receive certificates for completing phases of the program.*

For information on upcoming classes, please contact Minister Sheila Thompson.

### THE YOUTH MINISTRY: NEW FACES

The youth ministry has seen increased participation at our Wednesday night bible studies and at our Friday night monthly meetings. Thanks to our youth for spreading the word and bringing their friends out to fellowship with us. In addition, the workers on our team have increased.

Youth member, Nicole Hawkins has taken on the responsibility of identifying a youth to lead prayer and read the scripture on the 2nd Sunday of each month, where we encourage active participation of our youth at Sunday services. We are very proud of Nicole! Brother David Lawrence and Sister Clivette Jones have joined the team as youth workers to assist with facilitating the Youth Ministry.

If you are interested in working as part of the team of youth workers, please contact Deacon John Edwards or Deaconess Laki-sha Edwards.

### COUPLES CELEBRATE LOVE, FAITH

On February 17, nearly 50 couples gathered for COZ’s 2nd Annual Valentine’s Gala. St. Valentine’s Day is the day our culture has set aside to reflect, respect, express and celebrate love. But biblical love is based on a decision; it’s a covenant for life. A biblical “I love you” is affection coupled with a commitment to serve, even when feelings temporarily disappear from time to time.

COZ’s Couples Fellowship seeks to pro-

## COZ Missionary on the Battlefield in Thailand

City of Zion disciple, Lisa Harris-Hall spent almost one year in Thailand sharing the English language and spreading God's word. Read below as Lisa speaks of her missionary experience – working to introduce Christ to what appears to be a lost nation:

Thailand, in all of its splendor and beauty is still considered a third-world country. Nestled in all the wealth and majesty is a hidden world of poverty, drugs and prostitution. This is the Thailand we don't hear or read about. There are many there that don't know the name of Jesus, but are looking for a Savior. For a land known as being free, Thai people are in bondage - not only to Buddhism as a religion, but in every aspect of life. There, becoming a Christian can lead to alienation from family and friends who believe that if one is not Buddhist, he or she is not Thai.

Many of the students I taught at Santisuk English School believed that Jesus existed, but did not want to risk and take the next step in accepting Christ. Teaching English gave me the opportunity to bond, build relationships and share the love of Christ with Thais. I also gained a better understanding of life in Thailand.

Learning English for Thais can lead to many options in life such as a higher salary and various job opportunities. There are many schools located throughout the city that advertise the guarantee of being able to speak English. Bangkok offers many things - massages, fine dining, cultural events and shows, and shopping malls galore. Basically, everything is available that one could

ever desire, but many Thais lead unfulfilled lives. Teens and young adults wonder and question why they are here and what to live for.

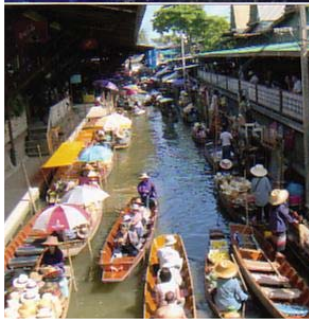
Why did God call me to Thailand? Because I was willing and ready. I desired to understand God's world, and I knew that meant stepping out of my comfort zone. Missions didn't start for me overseas, it started at church. Involvement in church ministries prepared me. Teaching developed my patience in walking side by side with others. My trials allowed me to become more compassionate toward those struggling and see no relief or hope in sight. God used my trials to show me how to persevere and endure. My church family trained and cared for me so I could share with others. Getting involved in outreach activities developed my relational skills.

I have learned that missions at home are just as important as missions overseas. Sharing the "Great Commission" starts in our own backyard. There are many in the United States that don't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

As Christians we can bring the good news to the lost. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

As God's witnesses, let's continue to evangelize and reach the world for Jesus!

*Sister Lisa Harris-Hall*



### *Ministry Spotlights, continued*

vide married and engaged couples real-life and biblical edification to help enhance their marriage in such a way to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. We meet every fourth Saturday at 6:00 p.m., and childcare is provided. The April meeting will feature fun-filled games designed for couples. Join us on April 28, at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of fun.

The Couples Fellowship is open to all married and engaged couples. For additional information, please contact Sister Mineva Strong.



*Pictured right: Several couples pose for Valentine's pictures at COZ's 2nd Annual Valentine's Gala.*

## STYLE A—SINGLE TESTED YOUTHFUL LOVING EXCELLENT ADULTS

### Aiming for the Zenith of Singleness

As my relationship with Jesus Christ continues to strengthen, I often wonder, 'How far will this go?' If I went from having casual affairs to being married to Him in only two years, how much more will it be if I stay committed to Him for the rest of my life?

The answer depends on my hunger and thirst for righteousness. As long as my desire for Him remains endless, my connection will always soar. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV).

It took some time for me understand that the core of my relationship with Christ should have more to do with pleasing God at all costs, and less to do with satisfying a self-proclaimed or society-imposed goal of getting married. Because we live in a society that places emphasis on ownership, status, and who you know—I am

happy to claim my position as a child of God, a faithful Disciple, and someone with direct access to the Kingdom.

So when the enemy sends doubt my way, I kindly remind him of Habakkuk 3: 17 – 18, which reads: Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

It is my prayer that before the Lord adds a third party to our intimate worship, that I reach the Zenith of our dual relationship. If I take my relationship with Him to its peak, then everything else that follows, including my husband will be automatically secondary.

*Sister Clivette Jones*

*"The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV).*

## METRO B—MARRIED ETERNAL THANKFUL RESPECTED OBEDIENT BELIEVERS

### Marriage Strengthened my Relationship With Christ

When you get married and the nuptials are fresh, it is easy to get distracted and place unrealistic expectations on your spouse. In all the splendor of the beautiful wedding day you get caught up in the eros love, instead of focusing on the fact that loving this new person in your life is going to take agape love—the kind of unconditional love that could only come from God.

So when disappointments occur, it becomes very challenging to reflect Christ in your marriage. "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God," Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV.

When you get married, you should give yourself up to become one flesh with your spouse and there are sacrifices to be made. Sacrificing is not always easy, but even more challenging is becoming one flesh. This is a process; it does not happen overnight. And only with God being the center of the relationship can this happen.

Marriage has been my greatest test of always imitating God. Having to imitate God, whether you want to or not, and when you are happy or sad is quite the challenge.

My relationship with God began just before I entered marital life. Things may have been much easier had I spent more time cultivating my relationship with God before getting married.

As a married unit, we are children of God and grace and mercy thankfully still abide. With each passing year, I have learned to lean more on Him. I have learned to trust in the Lord with all my heart and in all I do and I continually seek and receive encouragement from women who have walked this path.

I've had to trip, fall, and even get hurt before I learned to truly trust in the Lord and ignore my understanding. And even if (when) I fall, my relationship with my Heavenly Father grows even stronger. He is always there to pick me up. He embraces me through His word, prayer (my own and the prayers of others when I cannot pray for myself), and the bonds that I have formed with other women of God.

This journey has at times been challenging. But I thank God for His Mercy, because it is through Him that I can do all things.

The following are various scriptures that

you may find helpful for living by the Bible in your marriage:

- Love flows through a marriage that lives up to mutual responsibility. "Love is not self-seeking, it's not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. (1 Corinthians 13:5 )
- "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24) Ask yourself: "How can I spur my spouse on to encourage him/her?"
- Don't isolate yourself, "let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)
- A true demonstration of love: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for each other." (1 John 3:16)
- Apply Romans 12:18, which says "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)

*Anonymous*

## VOICES FROM THE YOUTH

Yes, this is my life. I am 14 years old; my 15th birthday is in a few months (July 22). I am in the 9th grade, and my favorite subject is Nutrition, because it teaches me how to cook. I always do better in the classes that teach me things I want to learn.

Right now, my life is going great; and I hope to keep it this way. I have not been doing well in school, and I have no justification for it either. But I do know, it is going to change from this quarter forward. This new marking period starts the new beginning of my future. I'm off to school to get my education, not to socialize, and not to please my friends.

On a typical day, I come home from school and do my chores. I am responsible for putting my brothers to sleep; one usually cooperates, but my youngest brother gives me a hard time. When he finally goes to sleep, I take some time to relax. Once I get in the bed, the phone rings, and it is my father. He always talks to me about school. His first question is, "What are your grades looking like?" My response is that they are good; but that is also a lie because at the time, they were bad ... really bad.

I am tired of the feeling I get when progress reports or report cards are issued, and I have to show my parents my real grades. When they see the real grades, they get upset because the fact is ... I lied! My old attitude was, 'Ok, alright ... I lied. So what? I'll just deal with the consequences.' But the truth is, I don't like to see my parents upset; I know this is not what Jesus would do, and He wants me to always look like Him. I take comfort in knowing that He loves me and wants the best for me, including doing well in school.

So that's the "so what;" I should not disappoint Him by having bad grades. I am a child of the King, and He deserves the best of my efforts.

*Mark Davis III*



*On February 11, City of Zion's youngest disciples were awarded certificates for receiving Honor Roll grades during the second quarter of the 2006-2007 school year. Pictured here are Jabari Cook, Vashtii Strong and Armon L. Bingham. Other children honored were: Christopher Hawkins, Rachael Wood, Jacqueline Alston, Emmanuel Monteiro, Genesis Monteiro, Devin Garrett, Jewell Hill, and Jordan Hill Dunlap, Congratulations All-Stars!*



*On February 11, COZ's Childrens Choir sang in tribute to Black History Month.*

## VISION OF THE COZ GREETERS MINISTRY

Corporate America aligns its goals and objectives; so then, how much more should the ministries in God's Church? Each year my company requires each employee to complete several goals and objectives for the upcoming year. At the end of the year, we are either rewarded or reprimanded based on a measurement of our efforts to accomplish the strategic, or "big picture," goals of the company.

The same applies to our Christian walk. Our daily lifestyle is being measured against God's vision and our diligence in pursuing the Kingdom. God has a strategic vision. He declares the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure (Isaiah 46:10).

In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and

of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The City of Zion Greeters ministry seeks to do the same. The tactical vision given to Pastor Strong for the City of Zion is to reach the "unsaved" and "unchurched" for Jesus Christ. The goals are to lead them into Christian discipleship and abundant Christian living and to equip them to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

The operational vision for the Greeters are to be COZ's own "doorkeepers in the house of my God" (Psalm 84:10) and to be on the front line to make Disciples and guests feel comfortable and welcome during the various events at COZ.

*Deacon Dennis Washington*

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

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### 2007

Good Friday at the Movies, April 6  
Resurrection Sunday, April 8  
Mother's Day, May 13  
Father's Day, June 17  
Honor Roll Reception, June 30  
Back To School Sunday, August 26  
Grandparent's Day, September 9  
Harvest Fest, October 31  
2nd Annual Health & Beauty Spa,  
November 10  
Christmas Fellowship, December 15  
Christmas Cantata, December 23

### 2008

2008 COZ Leadership Summit,  
January 24-26, 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SEED FOR THE CITY, FRUIT FOR THE WORLD!

The Mission of City of Zion Church is to reach the "unsaved" and "unchurched" 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. Part of bringing this mission to life included securing a church building where we could abundantly bless others through various avenues without the restrictions imposed by renting a facility.

Through the faithfulness of our Disciples, guests, and our extended family, and through fervent prayer and fasting, the City of Zion Church has found its home!

As we prepare to move into our new building, we thank our Disciples and our extended family in advance for their continued support to 'Seed for the City.' Through your gifts to 'Seed for the City,' we are well on our way to providing much 'Fruit for the World!'

### 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, April 15, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

The City of Zion Youth Ministry meets every fourth Friday at 7:00 p.m., with ongoing outings and events. Our current youth ministry is open to ages 13 to 18. We hope to have active participation of all our teens in this ministry. Please join us and tell your

friends.

There will be a second division of the Youth Ministry open to ages 6 to 12 starting very soon. For more information, or to work on the team of Youth Workers, please contact Deacon John Edwards or Deaconess Lakisha Edwards.

### VISITATION MINISTRY

The City of Zion Visitation Ministry visits Mariner Health of Greater Laurel at 14200 Laurel Park Drive, Laurel, Maryland 20707, the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Ministry visits the Cherry Lane Nursing Center at 9001 Cherry Lane, Laurel, Md. 20708, the fourth Sunday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information or to join the Visitation Ministry, please contact Sister Marla Smith.

### NEWSLETTER MINISTRY

The COZ 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.

The next issue of Zion's Call will be published in June 2007, with a deadline to submit articles of Friday, June 1, 2007. There are several topic areas in which you can contribute:

- Health Corner
- Voices from the Youth
- Journey between Flawed and Favored (Personal testimonies)
- STYLE A (A Column for Singles)
- METRO B (A Column for Married Couples)

Or you can create your own. If you have topic ideas you want addressed, please e-mail us.