

ZION'S CALL

Volume 3, No. 2 – Summer 2007

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



PASTOR'S CORNER: THE KINGDOM IS COMING!

In a recent series of messages taught at City of Zion Church (COZ) titled "The Kingdom Community," we discovered that God has set aside a group of people for Himself here on earth known as "The Church." In Matthew 16 and Acts 2, we found the blueprint for a healthy, vibrant and festive group of Believers where God's mi-



raculous, wonder-working power now resides. Matthew 16 reminds us that in the grand scheme of things you are on one of two sides. On one side you will find Christ and His Church, and on the other side you will find Satan and the dark forces of Hell (Matthew 16:15-18). It is important to remember that in spite of any sophistication, pedigree or academic accomplishments we may achieve, Satan is real and he is active in the world today (1 Peter 5:8).

Believers can find great consolation and encouragement in the truth that Jesus has secured both **PROTECTION** and **VICTORY** for us against the schemes and attacks of the enemy. However, we must also realize that this provision is **CONDITIONAL**. According to Matthew 16, King Jesus has secured this protection and victory for the **SUBJECTS** of His Kingdom. This is comparable to a small military unit that is being attacked by a larger and stronger army. The clear objective of this enemy force is to destroy the smaller unit (John 10:10). However, anyone who makes it into the **STRONG TOWER** (Proverbs 18:10) gains protection and victory. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Believer's **STRONG TOWER**.

Jesus said "I will give you [the Church] the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19, NIV). Satan's power will never prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ. When today's Church begins to resemble the Church in Acts 2—study God's Word, fellowship, celebrate the Lord's Supper, and regularly fast and pray—we, too, shall experience the miracles and wonder-working power as did the 1st century Church.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 that "I will build my Church." City of Zion Church witnessed this truth first-hand on Feb. 9, 2007, when we signed a lease with B&P, LLC for our own building located at 14100 Laurel Park Drive. Phase I of the transition

from the Holiday Inn Hotel included moving all meetings, rehearsals and activities (except Wednesday and Sunday events) into our new building. Praise God that this phase has been completed!

Phase II of our transition is underway. During this period, we will move all Wednesday activities to our new building. In order for this to occur, we must make a modification to the current building by adding an additional point of egress from the main sanctuary by order of the Fire Marshall of the City of Laurel. Construction has begun on this new exit, and if the good Lord is willing, we will complete Phase II of our transition by the end of June. The final phase of our transition will entail moving all our Sunday Morning Services and activities to the new building. Before this can occur, we must obtain a change in the zoning status of our new building from the City of Laurel. This is scheduled to take place in the Fall of 2007.

These are exciting times as we watch God "advance the Kingdom" here in Laurel. We seek to be that "Kingdom Community," where people can experience the miraculous, wonder-working power of God as described in Matthew 16 and Acts 2. I challenge you to make sure that you are part of a true kingdom church. If you are visiting with us and live in the Washington, D.C. area, I invite you to "seek first His Kingdom" (Matthew 6: 33) here with us at City of Zion Church. Beloved, the Kingdom is coming! When it arrives in its fullness, where will you be?

*Be Encouraged,
Pastor Gregory O. Strong*



City of Zion's new home! See more pictures on page 2.

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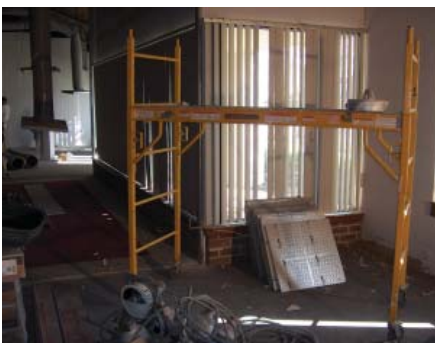
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"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2-3 (KJV).

The Kingdom is Coming ... A Progression of City of Zion's New Home



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

At City of Zion (COZ), serving in a ministry is strongly encouraged; each disciple is expected to serve in at least one ministry. Minister Sheila Thompson once preached about the difference between a worker and a servant, pointing out the difference between those who do things to accomplish given tasks for some sort of compensation and those whose sole purpose is serving and glorifying God.

The compensation for serving God goes directly to the Kingdom. Ministry births obedience and gets you closer to the heart of God; this is where answers to our toughest questions can be found, where peace and understanding await. Ministry should not be viewed as 'something to do,' but as an act that moves the heart of God and gets us closer to Him. Many COZ disciples have been delivered from life-controlling habits, and their lives have been changed through the ministry opportunities at COZ.

For a list and details of all City of Zion's Ministries, please visit our website: www.cityofzionlaurel.org.

WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?

A Turning Point Testimony

"When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:6 KJV). I joined Turning Point because it was available. God wants us to be whole—mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Prior to joining Turning Point, I worked on nurturing my intellect by completing my Master's degree. I worked on my physical appearance and health by losing more than 80 pounds through diet and exercise. I thought I could address my social standing by interacting as the world does; but that had no lasting results.

I had been connected with the church for more than 20 years, so I knew the Lord. But, although I was spiritual, I was not connected to the body of Christ through church membership, and I was incomplete. I joined City of Zion because it became critical that I be reconnected through fellowship and ministry to nurture my spirit.

I was thirsty! I showed up at every event. I confirmed my gifts by taking the spiritual gifts inventory. I fasted. I prayed. I gave. I fellowshiped. I witnessed. I served. As time passed, by all appearances, I should

have been fulfilled and complete. I wasn't. What else was there?

I'm finding the missing piece through the Turning Point. The group listens, they ask questions, provoke me, and show genuine concern. They support my healing process as I share the things I know about myself, and the things that the Lord reveals about me through group discussions. As it is suggested in (Hebrews 10:24), this group always "consider[s] how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Turning Point consists of guidebooks that take us through self-awareness exercises that help identify potential strongholds and sins that keep us from living a successful Christian life. Each session offers tools, techniques, and guidance that is supported with or by scriptures and a Bible study that requires that we "Do our best to present ourselves to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and one who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2: 15 NIV).

Blessings are flowing in unexpected ways—a new mindset, job, family, and a whole new set of friends. My family sees a difference in me. My friends wonder what is causing the transformation. It is the Turning Point Ministry and its small group of Disciples who create a safe place for me to make my real issues known and to work through them. This is a journey, and I am well on my way to becoming the person God intends for me to be.

For more information or to join the Turning Point Ministry, please contact Minister Sheila Thompson.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

On Mother's Day, May 13, COZ honored Mothers by presenting each with a special bookmark and writing set. Mothers in certain categories—the one with the most children, the one that traveled the farthest, those celebrating their first Mother's Day, and those with the youngest baby—were presented with engraved stainless steel coffee mugs.

On Father's Day, June 17, COZ honored Fathers and gave each one a commemorative bookmark. Fathers in certain categories—the oldest, the one with the most children, new fathers, and the one who traveled the farthest—were presented

with road-side emergency kits.

On June 30, we will host our first 'Youth Honor Roll Achievers' reception. There will be food, fun, games and rewards. The reception will honor students who made the Honor Roll at any time during the 2006-2007 school year. We are proud of our Honor Roll scholars. They are all listed on page 8. *To join the Hospitality Ministry, please contact Sister Antoinette Hawkins.*

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

On Saturday May 10, the COZ's Women's Fellowship ministry—Women In Pursuit (WIP)—gathered at Minister Sheila Thompson's home for fellowship and to honor "Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Girlfriends." Women were asked to bring a picture commemorating a special woman in their life, along with a few words about that person. When they arrived at the meeting, they were surprised to learn that they would be using the material to create a scrapbook page. Women were also asked to bring to the meeting mothers, daughters, sisters, girlfriends—any special woman who has provided love and support. Each woman went home with their first scrap book page.

On Saturday June 9, WIP gathered at City of Zion's new home in Laurel. The fellowship included a presentation by Sister Sherita Hall, who provided valuable information about diet, nutrition and holistic health. The women explored the use of scripture to prevent stress and to promote emotional well being, and Sister Sherita offered ideas for healthy eating, warning signs for health deficiencies, sample menus, and multiple resources that promote nutrition and healthy eating. For additional information on Health, please read Sister Sherita's column on page 2.

WIP meets every second Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the City of Zion Church, 14100 Laurel Park Drive, Laurel, Md. *For more information regarding WIP, please contact Sister Mineva Strong.*

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Fellowship meets the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the City of Zion Church, 14100 Laurel Park Drive, Laurel, Md.

Continued on page 4

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

In addition, they often meet the first Saturday at Camp Bennett in Brookeville, Md., to play basketball. The purpose of the Men's ministry is to encourage, edify, and equip men according to God's Plan. *For more information regarding the Men's Ministry, please contact Pastor Strong.*

LAUREL PREGNANCY CENTER

City of Zion continues to support the Laurel Pregnancy Center (LPC) through volunteers, prayers, and financial contributions—including their annual Baby Bottle campaign. During the Baby Bottle campaign, Disciples are provided with empty baby bottles and asked to fill the bottles with coins and spare change. In 2005, COZ donated \$708; in 2006, \$923; and in 2007, \$800.

LPC ministers to women, men and families facing unplanned pregnancies and difficult situations. Core services include free laboratory quality pregnancy tests, viability sonograms, information on pregnancy, abortion and alternatives, sexually transmitted disease education, information on RU486 and the morning after pill, friendship and emotional support, assistance in obtaining pre-natal care, referrals to community resources and agencies, parenting classes, mentoring program for first-time parents, information on abstinence, layettes, formula, and diapers, pre-abortion education, post-abortion care and education, and

a 24-hour helpline. *If you are interested in volunteering at the Laurel Pregnancy Center, please contact Sister Mineva Strong.*

PRISON MINISTRY

COZ's Prison Ministry currently provides Bible Study and mentoring for teenage boys at the Oak Hill Youth Detention Center in Laurel, Md., twice per month. This ministry's goal is to extend the love of Christ to those who are incarcerated through fellowship, mentoring, visits and correspondence. *For more information or to join the Prison Ministry, please contact Brother Dwight Cook.*

THE DANCE MINISTRY

A CLEAN BREAK. I have been a disciple of City of Zion for less than six months. At first glance, I immediately felt an inward pull and calling towards the Dance Ministry. This ministry encompasses so much more than the dance itself; it is indeed a ministry where you grow and mature in Christ individually and collectively. This growth takes place as God's word is embraced, studied, applied, and lived.

With each practice session and ministering during Sunday worship, God reaches out in love, grace, and mercy as He identifies and ministers to our innermost hurts, desires, longings, strengths, and weaknesses. God brings us face to face with our 'masks'

that Minister Sheila Thompson so often references. He begins to strip them one layer at a time. With every lean and movement, there is a message for us—the Daughters of Zion—to embrace. As God prepares our hearts and minds to receive Him, He breaks us of self and charges us with the responsibility of passing on to and ministering to others.

A clean break does not pertain to the condition of your bones. After one of Sister Elsie Privott's rigorous rehearsals, God revealed to me that He must break me of old thought patterns (Romans 2:2 and Ephesians 4: 23–24) so He can minister to my hurts (Psalm 147:3), and so that I may be renewed (Isaiah 40:31 and Psalm 51:10). I understand this process is vital to being able to effectively minister through dance as God would have me.

My spiritual growth has expanded in so many ways. I give God all the glory and praise for the steps of a clean break. As stated in I Peter 1:7, my earnest prayer is that my faith will result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. God is teaching me to see myself in 'His mirror' versus man's mirror. I am also learning the magnitude and depth of God's love for me, which, in turn, motivates me to witness to others even more. I am thankful for the many ways God is shaping and molding me.

Sister Charyn Cade

Ministry With Glenarden's R.E.B.E.L.S Drama Team

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. (Romans 12:1 NIV).

I have heard the above scripture on multiple occasions, but never digested the meaning. Present your bodies as a living sacrifice. What does that mean to you? The words living and sacrifice are in direct contrast with each other. Living means life and alive, while sacrificing gives a negative connotation: saying good bye, surrendering, forfeiting, or giving up something.

The meaning of this was made crystal clear to me through my experience with the REBELS (Radicals Empowered Beyond Earthly Limitations Serving Christ 4 Life) drama team at First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Through preparation for a play entitled the "The Broken House" written and directed by Joshua Jenkins, REBELS were challenged to present themselves as a living sacrifice in order for lives to be touched through the ministry. We stood in the gap (as living sacrifices) for the unloved mother, the molested child, the abusive parent, the abused child, and those hurt and wounded from broken homes.

The play dealt with many of the issues that young people face, such as growing up in one-parent homes. Our participation in the ministry was not based on our acting skills, but on our dedication to Christ. We not only rehearsed and memorized lines, we sought ways to deliver God's word and to be open to being ministered to, as well. We prayed and meditated on our characters and on the issues raised in the play. God's presence was experienced at every rehearsal. Sometimes we had to interrupt rehearsal, and on one occasion dismiss, to allow God's spirit to minister to us.

The play was presented on the weekend of March 30, when, ironically, Prince George's County officials closed down several night clubs in an effort to stem the tide of violence, a direct outgrowth, many say, of children growing up in broken homes. My prayer for our youth is that the bonds and strongholds causing homes to be broken will be mended; that fears, hurts, pains, absent fathers and mothers, and poor examples will be replaced with Christ's ever-shining love.

Sister Clivette Jones

THE JOURNEY BETWEEN FLAWED AND FAVORED

The Boiling Point

Have you reached your boiling point? The boiling point of a substance is the maximum temperature at which a liquid can remain a liquid. At this point, the substance becomes something new; it becomes vapor, a phase change takes place. The same is true for believers and our spiritual growth. Often, we must reach a point where pressure has risen and we are pressed so hard that it becomes necessary to change phases. Your boiling point arrives when, after juggling all your finances you are still drowning in debt, and there is no way out; or it may arrive when, after living a lifestyle of fornicating, drugs, and alcohol, you find yourself feeling increasingly empty. For some, reaching this point comes after loosing a job you thought to be secure.

The common thread in all these experiences is that we feel weak and desperate. Instead of looking at these experiences as

problems and becoming overwhelmed, God wants us to acknowledge them simply as another boiling point. For these passing troubles can help us achieve eternal glory that far outweighs them all (II Corinthians 4:17). If we allow Him, God will use the experience to take us to the next phase in Him, or in the next phase in our Christian walk. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (II Corinthians 4: 18 (b), NIV).

God's grace is the perfect remedy for those of us who have reached our boiling point. We can either allow His grace to calm our fears, or we can spiral to what may seem like the fiery pits of Hell. If we continue to seek God's face in times of trouble, and to practice Paul's response to the thorns in his flesh, (2nd Corinthians 12: 8-10), we will be one step closer to His glory.

Searching God's Word

Fill in the blanks in the following passage, then find the words in the Kingdom Servant's Word Find.

The Kingdom _____ will make you _____. Then we will no longer be _____, tossed back and forth by the _____, and blown here and there by every _____ of _____, by the _____ and _____ of men in their _____ scheming. But solid foods are for the _____, who by constant use have _____ themselves to distinguish _____ from evil. Let _____ move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your _____ in the Lord is not in vain.

Future puzzles will be adapted from one of Pastor Strong's series of messages. Listen intently to the sermons, study and meditate on God's word, and enjoy the Searching For God's Word puzzle!

The answer key is on page 8.

C L U F T I E C E D S M
 R J R A G W T G J H T A
 A S R O H N N E A O N T
 F C N O B I I N E T A U
 T C L O N A O H F A F R
 I E Z N T I L B C I N E
 N S U V N H X B E A I Y
 E C P T R A I N E D E E
 S O I Y I X R N D N U T
 S N S E V A W O G I H N
 G I L U C A O R L W I X
 H X D B N G R W U N D I

One thing people on the outside do not comprehend about Christians is that all of us fall somewhere on the scope between flawed and favored. Some of us may be closer to flawed than to favored; however, this does not make us hypocrites. During the Kingdom Servant series, Pastor Strong has said, "Don't get it twisted. People in the church are seeking perfection; they are not perfect. You might as well join the hypocrites in the church than stay in the world because the church is the only thing Christ is coming back for." (Kingdom Servant series, message no. 5 – April 22, 2007). Don't stand on the sidelines any longer, join the Kingdom of God, and you too can be on your way from being flawed to becoming favored.

STYLE A—SINGLE TESTED YOUTHFUL LOVING EXCELLENT ADULTS

What are YOU Waiting For?

Sometimes it becomes necessary to examine ourselves while we wait for what we believe to be is right for us. For most of us, the definition of 'right' is conditional, but God's meaning of 'right' is absolute. In terms of relationships, I have learned that on one level you can be happy that someone "decent" is interested and being nice to you. It's another thing altogether when you've met such a person, but are able to step back and ask God, "Is this what or who you have in mind for me?" Because, what we think is acceptable or the best, may not be so in God's eyes.

What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for a saved man/woman? Are you waiting for a Christian, or a believer after God's heart? Are you waiting for a prince in a shining armor or a trophy bride? Even those of us steadfast in our Christian walk can twist these terms to fit our circumstances. Sometimes we make the mistake of defining and determining what a person is without consulting God for His thoughts on the matter. Then it becomes an issue of believing we have met the right one merely by our very

conditional terms. What if God says: 'Let it go' or 'Now's not the time.' This is where our trust in God kicks in. Our carnal reaction is to grow weary and be disappointed. It is during such times that we must decide whether we will renew our strength with temporary fixes, or wait on God for enduring solutions.

If we take matters into our own hands, we will find ourselves in the same position at a later time because our strength was not renewed; we just took the focus off our weakness and did a quick ego boost to resolve inadequate feelings. But, they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).

I challenge you, as I have challenged myself, to examine what it is you are truly waiting for. Is it a person to fulfill feelings of inadequacy, or are you waiting on the Lord?

Sister Clivette Jones

METRO B—MARRIED ETERNAL THANKFUL RESPECTED OBEDIENT BELIEVERS

Six Rules for Good Communication in Marriage and Families

Rule #1. Allow Enough Time. Much communication in strong families is spontaneous. "We talk while we do chores together" or "we talk anytime we're together." Some strong families plan a certain time each day for the entire family to be together to talk. Other families plan special times, such as family night or family councils, for family members to share happy things, problems, and concerns with each other. Strong families don't spend all their time communicating about problems or worries.

Be sure to make time to talk about other matters of interest to every family member, both trivial and important. Read Hosea 10:12 and Ephesians 5:15-21.

Rule #2. Listen. Communication involves two steps: talking and listening. Avoid the trap of focusing on talking to the exclusion of listening. Listening strengthens the relationship between family members by conveying messages of caring and respect. Read James 1:19-20.

Rule #3. Check It Out. Example: Bob had been irritated all evening. He'd been snapping at Ann over small things and had been unusually quiet the rest of the time. Ann was disturbed over this. Naturally, she felt hurt and resentful. But, she decided to see if Bob was really upset with her, or if something else was going on.

When she asked, he shared with her

that his budget had been cut at work, and because of the reduction, he would have to fire a friend who works in his office. He was not angry with her at all. If Ann had not clarified the meaning of his communication, she would have misinterpreted his behavior and may have reacted in a way that would only have made their evening worse. Read Romans 12:19, Ephesians 4:2-3, 1 Peter 3:8-9 and 1 Peter 5:8-9.

Rule #4. Get inside the Other Person's World. Each of us lives in our own unique world. No one sees life exactly the same way. The way you look at a certain situation depends on past experiences, your values, temperament and personality. So when two people disagree on an issue, it is not always because one person is right and the other wrong. It is more likely due to the fact that the two people come from different worlds, with different perspectives. Read Proverbs 20:5 and Ephesians 4:2-3.

Rule #5. Keep The Monsters In Late-Night Movies. Remember when you were a kid and someone would yell, "Here comes the green monster." Everybody would scream and howl and run amok. The game was scary, but fun. Adults play a similar game, but it's not much fun. It creates anxiety, destroys good communication, and ruins relationships. These "monsters" are criticizing, evaluating, and acting superior;

When such disrespectful judgment takes place, relationships fail. Read Romans 12:4-5; 9-10, 1 Corinthians 3:18 and Hebrews 12:3.

Rule # 6. Keep It Honest. The communication patterns in strong families are characterized by honesty and openness; members don't resort to bullying, outwitting, blaming, dominating, or controlling. They don't play on dependency; they aren't silent, long-suffering martyrs who create guilt. These manipulative methods lead to dishonesty and shallowness in relationships. Some use "honesty" as an excuse to be exceedingly unkind.

Strong families maintain a balance of honesty and kindness. Any disagreement or thought, any aspect of human relationships can be expressed in a positive, nonjudgmental, non-hurtful way. Kindness is more than reserving harsh or hurtful words. At times, it is seeing to the needs of others in the family before expecting them to help with your own. Read Proverbs 24:26, Ephesians 4:25, 29-32, Philippians 2:3-7 and Galatians 5:22-26.

These excerpts, from the Website of familydynamics.net and from the Fantastic Families by Dr. Nick Stinnett and Joe Beam, were compiled for your encouragement by Minister Sheila Thompson.

HEALTH CORNER: SUMMER HEAT

Summer brings heat and more activity, so we need a diet that keeps us cool and light. First and foremost, we should drink plenty of water and make fruits and vegetables a staple in our diets. Fortunately, fruits and vegetables are plentiful this time of the year. Fruits are good to start the day, and as a light mid-day or evening snack. Two to three servings of vegetables are recommended for lunch, with one serving for a light dinner or supper. Green leafy vegetables should be a staple for supper. Remember, thick and creamy salad dressings should be avoided. Adding healthy portions of roasted, unsalted nuts or seeds, and legumes/beans, or sprouts to green salads will create a light, nutritious meal. Lean meats and freshwater fish should be consumed only in moderation.

Summer is a great time to restructure meal sizes with an eye toward making the changes permanent. Breakfast should be light, lunch should be large, and supper should be small. Eating larger meals at lunch will give your body time to process the nutrients and complete digestion. You will have more energy in the evenings, as well as more time to enjoy the sunlight after a day of work. An additional benefit of a lighter supper is a more restful sleep.

SUMMER BREAKFAST IDEAS

- Fruit and fruit juice or herb tea;

- Yogurt with one or two slices of fruit;
- A smoothie (two tablespoons of yogurt, one ripe banana, apple or pear, four ounces of apple juice, one tablespoon of olive oil, one tablespoon of blackstrap molasses, one tablespoon of nutritional brewer's yeast).

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Avoid caffeine;
- Drink beverages 30 minutes before or one hour after meals;
- Avoid mixing many different fruits together, as this will impair digestion;
- Take time to eat and savor each bite.

For more information on nutrition, please contact Sister Sherita Hall.

GOOD HEALTH REQUIRES EXERCISE

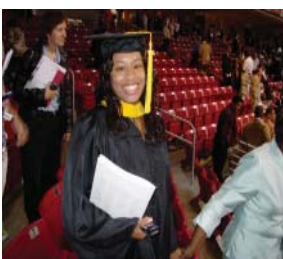
We are all so busy that we often don't exercise. But good health requires a person be active for at least an hour a day through aerobic or anaerobic exercise. Aerobic exercises are anything that requires your body to take in large amounts of oxygen into the lungs. Some good examples are taking a brisk walk after dinner with your family; participating in a fitness class; or playing a game of tennis or basketball. The benefits of aerobic exercise far outweigh the risks. Aerobic exercises help to maintain a healthy heart, increase circulation, increase lung capacity, decrease

insomnia, and reduce fat.

Anaerobic exercises are those that do not require a large intake of oxygen. Common ways to perform anaerobic exercises include weight training, calisthenics (exercises that use your own body weight like push-ups or pull-ups), or sprinting. You may think to yourself, "If my body is not using oxygen, what is it using?" While performing anaerobic exercises, your body uses stored energy such as glycogen (sugar), and secretions from muscle fibers called ATP (adenosine triphosphate). Weight training is one of the natural means for your body to regulate the sugars you produce and the sugars you eat without drugs. Therefore, performing anaerobic exercises is a good idea to reduce the risk and avoid some diseases that prevent the body from properly regulating sugar and insulin levels.

For optimum health, get moving! Go to the recreation center, go bike riding with your family, visit a gym; or join us on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. this fall when we resume "My Body, God's Temple," women's exercise class led by Sister Renee Nettey-Coates, Physical Therapist. Get up, get out, and get great health! *For more information on fitness and exercise, please contact Sister Mia Speight.*

Congratulations to our 2007 Graduates!



Pictured from left to right, Mineva C. Strong graduates Magna Cum Laude from Capital Bible Seminary with a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling & Discipleship. Paul Monteiro graduates from Howard University School of Law, JD. Stephanie Hill graduates with a Master of Science degree in Sports Management from Howard University. N'keesha L. Broyles graduates Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Temple University; Melissa Pryce graduates from Howard University School of Law, JD. Lena Fraser graduates with a Master of Science in Administration from Trinity University. Not Pictured: Dennis Washington graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Organization Management from NYACK Christian College, (Omicron Psi Honor Society inductee); and Eric Hines graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Geographical Information Science with a citation in Environmental Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.

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

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2007

Honor Roll Reception, June 30
 Back To School Sunday, August 26
 Grandparent's Day, September 9
 Financial Freedom Seminar,
 September 29
 Harvest Fest, October 31
 2nd Annual Women In Pursuit
 Health & Beauty Spa, November 10
 Christmas Fellowship, December 15
 Christmas Cantata, December 23

2008

2008 COZ Leadership Summit,
 January 24-26, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

On June 30, we will honor the following students for their scholastic achievements throughout the 2006-2007 school year: Jacqueline L. Alston; Armon A. Bingham; Jabari A. Cook; Devin Garrett; Christopher J. Hawkins; Nicole Hawkins; Jordon Hill; Jewel Hill; Perry Lawrence; Emmanuel Lee; D'Angelo Monteiro; Genesis Monteiro; Vashtii J. Strong; Dmani Washington; Rachael Wood.

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.

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, July 15, at 8:30 a.m. Please contact Deaconess Kim Watson or Sister Debbie Broyles for information.

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 for teens, 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 Laki-sha Edwards.

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 p.m. 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 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 September 2007, with a deadline to submit articles of Wednesday, August 22. 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 suggest new categories. If you have topic ideas you want addressed, please e-mail us.

*Answer Key to Searching God's Word Puzzle
 The Kingdom Anointing will make you Whole. Then we will no longer be Infants,
 tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of
 teaching, by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. But
 solid foods are for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to
 distinguish good from evil. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to
 the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*