



**The Bureau of Evangelism**  
**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**  
P. O. Box 217258  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28221-7258

**DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2003**  
**“Teaching Believers to Obey Christ’s Commands”**

Please note the Spiritual Emphasis Week 2004 Information on the last page!



**TEACHING BELIEVERS TO  
OBEY CHRIST’S COMMANDS**

**Decision Day  
Observance 2003**

***October 26, 2003***

***African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church***



# THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM

## African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



### DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2003

**October 26, 2003**

**Theme:**  
**Teaching Believers to Obey Christ's Commands**

The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church directs that every Sunday Church School shall emphasize "Decision Day" annually in the month of October. It further directs that each Sunday Church School should undertake an evangelistic quota for active membership. In the recent past the Decision Day Observance has also been an opportunity for the local churches to share financial gifts in support of the Bureau of Evangelism. While financial gifts will be welcomed during this observance, the Bureau is placing its greatest emphasis upon decisions for Christ.

The Evangelistic theme for this quadrennium [2001-2004] is "**Making Christian Disciples: A Mandate from Christ.**" In 2001 our theme was "*Evangelizing the World with a Christ-centered Gospel.*" It centered on evangelism as the first major step in fulfilling Christ's mandate and it stressed the importance of aggressively taking the good news of Jesus Christ to people from every walk of life. Last year, in 2002 our theme was *Initiating Converts into a Christ-Centered Church.* It stressed the importance of initiating those who make decisions for Christ into a local church where they can be nurtured to maturity in Christ.

The theme for Decision Day 2003 is ***Teaching Believers to Obey Christ's Commands.*** Central to the Great Commission given by the Lord Jesus Christ is the mandate to teach believers to obey everything that He has commanded. It is not enough for us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that those who believe it might be converted and experience a new birth. It is not enough for us to initiate and assimilate converts into the nurturing environment of a Christ-centered Church. Our mission includes that of teaching these believers to incorporate into their lives the commands and principles of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then can it be honestly said that these converts have been made into true followers or disciples of Christ.

The Annual Decision Day Observance is generally held the fourth Sunday in October. However, it may be observed any time during October or even in November, if it is convenient for the local church. During the harvest season, the constituents of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church pause to celebrate the harvest of souls (conversions, new members, re-dedications) gathered during the previous twelve months, as well as those entering the ministry or any form of Christian service. Forms have been provided in order to assist churches in the reporting process.



**THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM**  
**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**  
**DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2003**



**Report Form**

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor in charge \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presiding Elder \_\_\_\_\_ P. E. District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presiding Bishop \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
 Episcopal District \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT OF DECISIONS**

<u><b>Type of Decisions Made</b></u>	<u><b>During Decision Day Observance(s)</b></u>	<u><b>During the Year (Nov. 2002 - Oct. 2003)</b></u>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
The Ministry	_____	_____
Christian Service	_____	_____

Send to:  
**The Bureau of Evangelism**  
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 P.O. Box 217258  
 Charlotte, N.C. 28221-7258  
 Telephone: (704) 599-4630 Ext. 323  
 Fax: (704) 688-2547

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

The Processional Hymn: #225/#648 *Come We That Love the Lord*

The Call to Worship

Leader: But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

People: For the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

Leader: God is Spirit.

All: And those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

The Invocation

The Hymn of Praise: #243/#504 *Blessed Assurance*

The Responsive Reading: [AMEZ Hymnal] p. 96, 43<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Morning or  
[Bicentennial] p. 76, 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morn. - Kingdombtide

The Apostles' Creed: #657/#705

The Gloria Patri: #641/#703

The Lesson from the Holy Scriptures

The Call to Prayer: #321/#447 *Come Ye Disconsolate*

The Pastoral Prayer

The Choral Selection

The Ministry of Kindness Offering

The Announcements

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

The Hymn of Preparation: #228/#389 *I Love to Tell the Story*

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Hymn of Invitation: #280/#413 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Callings*

The Recessional Hymn: #252/#287 *Take the Name of Jesus With You*

The Benediction

**(Hymn numbers are from the AME Zion Church Hymnal, followed by the AME Zion Church Bicentennial Hymnal)**

### The Sinner's Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. I turn from my sins and my righteousness, and I turn to you. I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead for my justification. I place my trust in You as my personal Savior, and I receive You into my heart as Lord and Master of my life. Help me to follow You as I accept your free gift of eternal life. Amen.

(Please use the appropriate forms to report the number and the nature of the decision made for Christ. These should include any conversions, re-dedications, new members, and those answering the call to the gospel ministry or Christian service.) Send all correspondence to:

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# THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM

*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

## The Official Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Director**

The Rev. Dr. J. Wardell Henderson, Assistant to the Director

Ms. Edna M. Dumas, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Leondras Davis, Volunteer Assistant

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# DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2003

Sponsored by

**The Bureau of Evangelism**  
*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*

**Theme:**

**“Initiating Converts into a Christ-Centered Church”**



***EVANGELISM AROUND THE WORLD***

Sunday, October 26, 2003



# Spiritual Emphasis Week

## JANUARY 4-10, 2004



**“A Week of Prayer, Praise, and Proclamation”**

Sponsored by

**THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM**  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Director**

Spiritual Emphasis Week offers an opportunity for each local church to begin the year on a high spiritual note. The entire membership should be encouraged to participate as the church gathers Sunday through Friday for prayer, praise, and proclamation of the word. This annual event should climax with the clergy and laity of the Presiding Elder District coming together for a special service on Saturday. The suggested theme and daily sub-themes for Spiritual Emphasis Week 2004 are as follows:

**THEME: Making It Real in the Church** [Exposing Hypocrisy]

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:1-35

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sunday	Jan. 4, 2004	<b>Spiritual Authority</b> [Exposing Hypocritical Leadership]	Matthew 23:1-4
Monday	Jan. 5, 2004	<b>True Greatness</b> [Exposing Religious Pretense]	Matthew 23:5-12
Tuesday	Jan. 6, 2004	<b>Christian Discipleship</b> [Exposing Counterfeit Christianity]	Matthew 23:13-15
Wednesday	Jan. 7, 2004	<b>Moral Integrity</b> [Exposing Ecclesiastical Dishonesty]	Matthew 23:16-22
Thursday	Jan. 8, 2004	<b>True Devotion</b> [Exposing False Piety]	Matthew 23:23-24
Friday	Jan. 9, 2004	<b>Christian Character</b> [Exposing Superficial Spirituality]	Matthew 23:25-28
Saturday	Jan. 10, 2004	<b>Genuine Appreciation</b> [Exposing Religious Persecution]	Matthew 23:29-35