



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

## **DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2006**

**“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations”**  
**“Passionate Spirituality & Functional Structures”**

Please note the Spiritual Emphasis Week 2007 Information on the last page!



**PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY  
& FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES**

**Decision Day  
Observance 2006**

*October 22, 2006*

*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*



## DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2006

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

October 22, 2006



### **Theme: Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations** **“Passionate Spirituality & Functional Structures”**

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 quadrennial theme [2005-2009] is **“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations.”** Each year we are highlighting two of the eight essential qualities of healthy and growing churches identified by Christian A. Schwarz in his book, *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. From 2005-2006, we focused on “Empowering Leadership” and “Gift-Oriented Ministry.” From 2006-2007 our focus will be on “Passionate Spirituality” and “Functional Structures.”

As it relates to “Passionate Spirituality,” Schwarz’s research reveals that in healthy congregations the spiritual lives of members typify prayer, enthusiasm, and boldness. In Romans 12:11, 12 Paul exhorts churches to exemplify these qualities: *“not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup>rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”* Healthy congregations make private and corporate prayer a priority. Acts records that prayer was one of the four things to which 1<sup>st</sup> Century believers devoted themselves; the others being doctrine, fellowship, and the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42). Just as prayer was central to the spiritual life of the early church, it is central to the spiritual life of any healthy congregation today. Also, healthy congregations are those whose members typify boldness and enthusiasm because they have a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is the secret of passionate spirituality because it enables joy and love to overflow in our lives as fruit of the Spirit; it purifies our hearts so that we can have authentic boldness; and it empowers us to witness effectively for Christ.

For some congregations and/or denominations, “Functional Structures” may be one of the most challenging of the quality characteristics. The question to be answered is “Are the forms, regulations, and institutions of the church designed according to the criterion of what is demonstrably the most useful for the development of the church here and now? Healthy congregations have been able to summon the strength to look honestly how they do things to determine what is still useful and functional, and what needs to be updated, revised, revitalized, or discarded. They are not afraid to implement change and innovation when it is necessary. Often people assume that to embrace change is to dishonor those upon whose shoulder we stand. The truth is that these forefathers and foremothers gave us methods and strategies, which in their generation were innovations. We honor them best by being innovative and progressive, just as they were.

*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.*



**BUREAU OF EVANGELISM**  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



**DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2006**

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>Type of Decisions Made</u>	<u>During Decision Day Observance(s)</u>	<u>During the Year (Nov. 2005 - Oct. 2006)</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: #1/#1 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

The Call to Worship

Leader: But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true  
worshippers 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: #2/#2 *Come Thou Almighty King*

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

The Apostles' Creed: #657/#705

The Gloria Patri: #641/#703

The Lesson from the Holy Scriptures

The Call to Prayer: #211/#474 *Thou My Everlasting Portion*

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: #243/#504 *Blessed Assurance*

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Hymn of Invitation: #195/#501 *Amazing Grace*

The Recessional Hymn: #486/#493 *Blest Be the Tie*

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*

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The Rev. Dr. J. Wardell Henderson, Assistant to the Director  
Ms. Edna M. Dumas, Administrative Assistant  
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# DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2006

Sponsored by

## The Bureau of Evangelism

**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**

Theme:

**“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations”**

Passionate Spirituality & Functional Structures



***EVANGELISM AROUND THE WORLD***

Sunday, October 22, 2006



# Spiritual Emphasis Week



**JANUARY 7-13, 2007**

**“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 2007 are as follows:

**THEME: God's Word and the Human Heart**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:4-21

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sunday	Jan. 7, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Secrets of the Kingdom</b>	Luke 8: 4 - 10
Monday	Jan. 8, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Hardened Heart</b>	Luke 8: 5, 11-12
Tuesday	Jan. 9, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Shallow Heart</b>	Luke 8: 6, 13
Wednesday	Jan. 10, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Preoccupied Heart</b>	Luke 8: 7, 14
Thursday	Jan. 11, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Healthy Heart</b>	Luke 8: 8, 15
Friday	Jan. 12, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Attentive Heart</b>	Luke 8: 16-18
Saturday	Jan. 13, 2007	<b>God's Word and the Obedient Heart</b>	Luke 8: 19-21