

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

The Zion Informer

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PASTOR'S NICHE

One hundred forty-four years ago in 1865, a group of dedicated men and women who understood that the Emancipation Proclamation was not enough to secure the freedom, the life, the liberty and the happiness they longed for. Therefore, they came together, with the aid of God, to organize a church where the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be the *primary vehicle* to lead them onto the life they longed for. They believed the Word of God when it said that, *"He whom the Son sets free is free indeed."* They believed the Word when it said, *"The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I, (Jesus) have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."* They believed the Word and identified with the spirit of Paul when he said, *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the Power of God unto Salvation"* (Romans 1:16). Even though they lived in a world full of 'schisms' and 'isms', they believed the Word when it said, *"In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; For we are all one in Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 3:28-29).

I often wonder if our founding members had any idea of the magnitude, the lasting impact their small beginning would have on the world for Jesus Christ. Look at us... a 144 year history of impacting the world. And today, we are gathered here in what will soon be the fourth facility of record where a band of people - called out by Christ - gather to make up His Church

under the name Mount Zion, still true to its founding purpose, the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation and liberation.

Look around you; let your imagination take you on a guided tour... Can you see it? This Fellowship Hall where we are now seated filled with people who are being trained to be Disciples of Christ. Can you see it? This Sanctuary completed - filled with 2,000 worshipers. Yes, 2,000 - and not a bad seat in the house! Can you see it? A Baptistery where your sons and daughters and grandchildren will be baptized. Music Ministry, can you see it? A state-of-the-art Rehearsal Suite where you can perfect your gift. Children and parents, can't you see it? Mount Zion in partnership with families and schools equipping our children to become saved sanctified leaders of the future.

Can you see it? Office and Administration space that allows us to be more effective in meeting the needs of our members and those we serve outside of our walls. Can you see it? The Audio/Video Technology to produce a quality Media Ministry that transmits what we do here at Mount Zion all over the world!

Can't you see it? You, me, us, we...reaching the world for Christ, *driven by* our passion for Christ; *driven by* our faith in our ability to do all things through Christ who strengthens us; *driven by* our love for God and His people, and our hope in the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Look at us

