



NEW MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF TAMPA

CHRISTIAN
CHARACTER

COMMITMENT

COMPASSION

COMPETENCE

THE PROGRESSOR

AUGUST 2020

“We Are Changing The World Through The Love of Christ,
One Soul At A Time.”

REV. LARRY L. ROUNDTREE II, PASTOR



2511 E. COLUMBUS DRIVE TAMPA, FL 33605
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Hope In Uncertain Times | God Is In Control

A special thank you is extended to all content contributors, Sis. Juanita Seawright, A/V Photographer - Sis. Syntia King, and the Website Developer - Desiree Whitehead for their commitment in preparing this news magazine. It is my prayer that you enjoy your reading.

❤️ Clara Wardlow

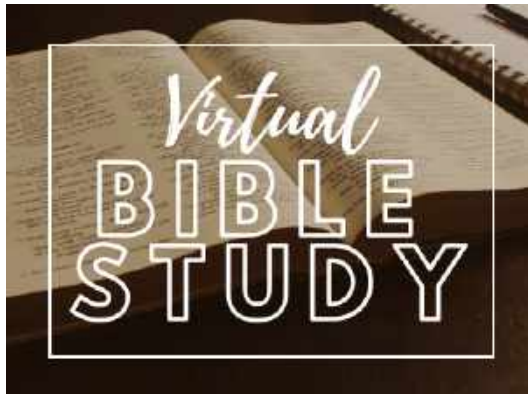
We are here for you!!

New Mount Zion is blessed to have all of the platforms shown on the cover page as means of communication.

Can we pray for you? If your answer is yes, then come by church on Wednesdays for drive thru prayer. Now more than ever, the prayers of the righteous availeth much!

When: Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Where: 2511 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33605



Our VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY is led by Pastor Larry L. Roundtree II. Expect the authentic truth through the continuation of 'The Words of Christ' series designed to reinvigorate us with hope and encouragement during these uncertain times.

When: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

How can you watch?



www.NMZTampa.com



Facebook Live



Listen by dialing (805) 706-4089
(no access code needed)

Community Prayer Calls

Join the Community Prayer Call, as we seek His face for direction and strength during these uncertain times. There is absolutely nothing that can stop a praying community.

FRIDAYS

6:00 a.m. - Worship and Confession

12:00 p.m. - Guidance and Wisdom

6:00 p.m. - Intercession and Thanksgiving

JOIN BY PHONE

Listen by dialing (805) 706-4089

no access code needed

Thank you to NMZ Frontliners

In the wake of the Coronavirus and the limited number of members who can be in attendance, we have been blessed with a group of members who faithfully report giving leadership to our Virtual 10AM Worship every Sunday. A special thank you is extended to everyone who makes it possible for us to have a spirit-filled Virtual Worship. A thank you is extended to:

- Pastor Roundtree, Ministerial Staff, and Deacons
- Worship and Arts Ministry
- Audio/Visual Ministry
- Evangelism Ministry for contacting the virtual requests for membership. We have been blessed with new members through contact requests
- Hospitality Ministry for contacting guests who have indicated they would like to learn more about New Mount Zion
- Rev. Dr. George Berry and Sunday School Superintendent Keith Powe facilitate Sunday School on our platforms
- Deaconess Ministry for preparing the Holy Communion for distribution and First Sunday fellowship
- Unknown others – We thank you, too

A Message from Pastor Roundtree



"Time is filled with swift transition..." Never has this phrase rang more true than in the year 2020! This year has proven, thus far, to be the most unprecedented, uncertain and unique year of most of our lives.

I would never have imagined a year dominated by a global pandemic causing society to shut down, a wide-ranging outcry against the long-established systems of racism and corporate worship services being virtual. Ironically, although "2020" is used to describe someone with good vision, no one could have seen these things coming.

Because of the upheaval in our world, I was led to start a new sermon series in March entitled "Hope in Uncertain Times". It is essential for Christians to know that our faith in the existence, power and love of God must remain strong as the winds of chaos try to move us from our foundation of trust. As I type these words, my heart goes out to those of you who have lost loved ones, faced physical and emotional challenges, endured financial struggles, etc. But be encouraged! You still have the same testimony as Job; "Though He slay me; yet will I trust Him"! (Job 13:15)

I miss you all tremendously and long for the day when we can reassemble physically and worship our God in spirit and in truth. Until that time comes (and I firmly believe that it WILL come), "... be not weary in well doing; for in due season, you will reap, IF you do not faint" (Galatians 6:9)

I love you all,
Pastor Roundtree

FIRST SUNDAY



Before March of 2020, there was no need to shelter in place, safe distancing, safe at home, social distancing, extensive job layoffs, limited invitational only Homegoing Services with others viewing service from media platforms, virtual education, virtual entertainment, conference calls as the norm, no school activities, parental teaching, wearing the mask, essential workers, non-essential workers, health professional working longer and longer hours, frontliners in essential services, one-way arrows in stores, toilet tissue and paper towel storage hoarding, shortages of hand sanitizers and disinfectants, storage of noodles, safer at home, no groups of more than 50, etc. Life was happy and carefree. Churches displayed loving fellowship through hugs, shaking hands, closeness of sitting, physical touching, etc.

On Sunday, March 15, Pastor's Sermon was from Romans 8:28 letting us know, especially in times like these, all things work together for good to them who love God and are called according to His purpose. With the Coronavirus pandemic, it has been stressed that there be no gatherings of 50 or more.

That dreaded Robo Call came through from Pastor Roundtree on Friday evening, March 20th. The first call was a prayer of petition to our Heavenly Father thanking Him for His assurance that He is in control. The second call indicated that church worship and other activities have been suspended until further notice. Even though we could not have corporate worship at 2511 E. Columbus Drive, we would have it via social media. The Praise Team and Music Ministry would start at 10AM followed by Pastor Roundtree. Those persons with smartphones and who needed assistance in programming them to stream the Worship could contact the church office and ask for assistance. Someone would come to their homes and set it up for them. DVDs would be made available, too. Pastor wants everyone to receive God's Word so that we can continue to grow spiritually. We are blessed to have a loving and caring Pastor who is dedicated to God; dedicated to his church family; and dedicated to changing the world through the love of Christ. But in these uncertain times, let us remember to "Hold On—God Will See You (US) Through" as we say...."MY HELP"

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, From whence cometh my help
My help cometh from the Lord, The Lord which made heaven and earth
He said he would not suffer thy foot, Thy foot to be moved
The Lord which keepeth thee, He will not slumber nor sleep
Oh the Lord is thy keeper, The Lord is thy shade
Upon thy right hand, Upon thy right hand
No, the sun shall not smite thee by day, Nor the moon by night
He shall preserve thy soul, Even forever more
My help, my help, my help, All of my help cometh from the Lord
("My Help," Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir)



IT'S PRAYER TIME — WE MUST CONTINUE IN PRAYER WHETHER IN THE SANCTUARY OR OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY.

This pandemic has opened our eyes even wider to the goodness of God! He's protected us, provided for us, comforted us, strengthened us, loved us, forgiven us, healed us, and so much more! A praise for His faithfulness alone should forever be in our mouths! "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." - Psalm 28:7 (quote from NMZ's Website Post)



HEALTH AWARENESS MINISTRY

Submitted by Sis. Cosette Whitmore

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (Previously known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus)

In early 2020, after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization identified SARS-CoV-2 as a new type of coronavirus. The outbreak quickly spread around the world (pandemic). The pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a disease caused by **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus** both named on February 11, 2020. The virus can trigger what doctors call a respiratory tract infection. It can affect your upper respiratory tract (sinuses, nose, and throat) or lower respiratory tract (windpipe and lungs).

The virus which originated in bats, but passed to people via an unrecognized intermediary animal species and **is believed** to have started infecting people in Wuhan, China in late November or early December 2019. The Coronavirus can lead to pneumonia, respiratory failure, septic shock and death. COVID-19 complications may be caused by a condition known as cytokine storm...this happens when an infection triggers your immune system to flood your bloodstream with inflammatory proteins that kill tissue and damage organs.

If you notice the following severe symptoms in yourself or loved one, get medical help right away:

- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Ongoing chest pain or pressure
- New confusion
- Can't wake up fully
- Bluish lips or face

Strokes have been reported ... Remember FAST: Face numb or drooping, Arms weak or numb, not able to speak clearly, Time-time to Call 911. Some who are hospitalized for COVID-19 have also had dangerous blood clots, in their legs, lungs and arteries.

Note: Many people are experiencing long term complications of COVID-19. [The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.](#)

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or sings
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms
- It is thought that COVID-19 may be spread through air (airborne)...the virus may last hours in the air after someone coughs or sneezes

Take steps to care for yourself and others:

- **There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)**
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus**
- Continue to wear cloth face masks -- cover your nose and mouth ... wear it in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household
- **Cloth face coverings** should not be placed on young children under age 2, and anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes



- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks
 - If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection
 - Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common **EPA-registered household disinfectants** will work



***Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes or obesity, seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

***If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms, you might have COVID-19. Most people have mild illnesses and are able to recover at home. If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider.

- Keep track of your symptoms
- If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), get emergency medical care immediately. Sources: CDC, WebMD, WHO

Something to Think About

"Hold on - God will see us through"

Reported by Sis. Gloria Thomas | "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:13

The meaning of "Hold On" - Endure or keep going in difficult circumstances, to survive. Believe me, we are certainly going through these times right now. We have first, of all hatred of the color of our skin where one man's color is better than another's, which is sad. Our Heavenly Father made us all and we all are equal in His sight, but for us as humans this is a hold on moment. We have to hold on to what God has said in His Word so we will be able to stand. In Isaiah 41:13, "For I the Lord Your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, don't be afraid, I will help you." Also, in Matthew 10:22, "The one who stands firm to the end will be saved." And that is us (all the Christians) that keep the faith and hold on. And now we're dealing with a pandemic that is taking people out all over the world and there is anxiety and fear trying to get into our minds. But again, we have to stand on the Word of God. Just like the sermon Pastor Roundtree preached on Sunday about jealousy and betrayal. At first Joseph's brothers were envious of the love their father showed him and they tried to get rid of him. On and on it went, but Joseph stayed faithful to God during his afflictions until God's timing was complete. He became the savior of all Israel. Joseph was a foreshadowing of Jesus who endured betrayal as a part of God's will in order to save His people. Now I don't know what God's plan is for us right now, but what I do know is my favorite verse: Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Even though we have to go through some storms in our lives, please don't give up on God, because He won't give up on you -- Hold On - God Will See Us Through.

"7 Promises of God to Remember His Love For Us"

Submitted by Sis. Marilyn Washington

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Promise 1.

"But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." **Job 23:10** We will come out "as gold," tested, tried, and true. God knows our way, and we are only passing through. He reminds us that we'll "come out" to the other side. Changed for the better, stronger, shining, beauty deepened from within.

Promise 2.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - **John 16:33**
He reminds us there will be trouble in this world, but He's already overcome it all. He's already victorious. And that same power works in us today, giving us the courage and strength to persevere and overcome.

Promise 3.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." - **Romans 8:28**
For those of us who love Him and are called to his purpose, He promises these powerful words, "in all things God works for the good." In everything. Not just the good things that happen, but in it all, we can be assured, He will indeed bring good from it. He is our Redeemer, and He will not waste our pain.

Promise 4.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." **James 1:2-3**
God reminds us to choose joy in whatever we face, confident that He is working even through every trial and hard place, to bring us greater endurance. We can only build deeper faith and perseverance by walking through the hard times that press us more closely into His Presence.

Promise 5.

"...Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ." - **2 Corinthians 1:4-5**
Unless we experience difficulty and suffering, we cannot truly help another soul who faces loss and pain. It's only through our own pain and grief, or hardship, that we can have a fuller understanding of what others walk through as well. There's great comfort in knowing that God will use what we have experienced, no matter how difficult, to help someone else.



7 Promises (cont.)

Promise 6.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Our difficulties allow us to see God's strength displayed in our lives. Through every weakness and hard place, it brings us to a deeper humility and dependency on Him.

Promise 7.

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Through every trial and storm we encounter in life, God will use it to make a mark in this world. He will use our lives, the joy and faith we have, in spite of our troubles, to draw others to Himself, and to help us to remember that what we see around us, is not all there is. May His Presence surround you in the storm you might be facing right now. May He lead your way and keep you secure, guiding your steps forward, and covering you from behind. May He assure you He will see you through, as He is working on your behalf. Know beyond a doubt, that our God is faithful, and He will turn this trial around for good somehow, and bring you forth as gold. (Source: www.debbiemcdaniel.com)

"TROUBLE DON'T LAST ALWAYS"

(Song by Rev. Timothy Wright)

I'm so glad troubles don't last always.

I'm so glad troubles don't last always.

May not come when you want Him, but He's on time (on time).

In times of trouble, I find Him to be a friend of mine (of mine).

When storm clouds rise in your life,

He'll be there (be there)

All your burdens, I know the Lord will bear (bear)

I'm so glad troubles don't last always.

I'm so glad troubles don't last always.

"Gracefully Yours "

Reported by Sis. Trellis Cooper

During these uncertain times, the one thing we must hold onto is our faith. We are feeling anxious and confused by all of the information, advice, and instructions coming from different sources. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt throughout the world, and we are left wondering what our new normal will look like in the future. Keep praying and believing that this too shall pass.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)" (Hebrews 10:23 KJV)

BREAKING NEWS

Reported By Sis. Alfredia Mulkey | Church Administrator

God has done mighty works for His glory during this time of uncertainty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the church has been closed since mid-March and at this time we do not have a definite date to gather again in person to worship and praise his name. During this time of separation, it was important that we continue to connect with our members and our community to share the love of Christ. We immediately developed a comprehensive online communications strategy to address the current crisis. We utilized various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to livestream our 10AM Sunday services and Wednesday night Bible Study at 7PM. We also had a conference call line connected for “audio only” participation for those who prefer to connect by phone. The NMZ website was also redesigned with a fresh new look to accommodate all church communications including links for live streaming services, Bible Study and a library of previous videos. The website also includes links to NMZ forms for members and visitors to request prayer, invitation to join our church and to receive more information about NMZ. To reach beyond our church members and local community, we now have a radio spot on WTMP on Sunday’s at 1pm to share the gospel with listeners all over the country. NMZ has truly leveraged the influence of technology to continue the work of the Lord. Also, during this downtime of not meeting for corporate worship, we have taken this opportunity to complete some of our capital projects.

We've purchased new audio equipment to ensure a high-quality sound during our live streaming. We have new computer applications to support the graphics shown on the screens during live recordings and we have a new drum cage to control the sound barriers in the sanctuary. To ensure that everyone is comfortable while seated in the balcony when we return to corporate worship, we have new burgundy chairs that match the overall color scheme of the sanctuary. We did not want to forget the outside grounds of the church so we have improved all the parking lots with pavement and new grass for a fresh new look. The first of the year we purchased property surrounding the church, and it included a condemned house on 25th Street, this house was demolished and now ready for any construction projects we consider in the future. God has truly been good to NMZ during this time of pandemic, and we thank Him for allowing us to continue to carry out the work of the church in these uncertain times.



"Hold on - God Will See Us Through

Scenes from April 12, 2020's Drive-In Worship with Mobile Marquee



PASTOR'S 7TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

Pastor Roundtree's 7th Anniversary was scheduled for April 19th. However, because of COVID-19, it could not take place as scheduled. Under the leadership of Sis. Valencia Simpson Holmes, Pastor's celebration did take place. Sis. Valencia Simpson Holmes organized a caravan that paraded in front of our church. Horns were blown, signs were displayed, cheering and powerful greetings were voiced as Pastor and Sis. Roundtree stood on the Family Life's Center sidewalk waving and greeting members parading in their vehicles.

Congrats



Virtual Roundtable with Rev. Roundtree

During the month of June, Pastor Roundtree held virtual roundtables for each age group of members. He wanted to have a wellness check on the membership concerning their health, concerns, issues and anything they wanted to discuss.

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Memo from Church Secretary

Sis. Jackie Jones

To God be the glory! Great things He has done. Even during this pandemic and social distancing, God is still in control! An NMZ Zoom account has been established and is available for Virtual Ministry Meetings. This tool allows you to have video and audio meetings via a computer or mobile phone devices. The Zoom account will allow meetings to be recorded in the clouds for easy review and distribution to all meeting attendees and those members absent from the call as well.

To schedule a meeting, please submit an email to info@nmztampa.com. Please include the following:

- 1) Ministry Name
- 2) Date for the Meeting
- 3) Time of the meeting
- 4) Name of your Ministry Host
- 5) Email address for all invited attendees

The request must be received no less than 5 days in advance of the requested meeting date. We will send an invitation via email to each attendee of your meeting. The email will provide a link to join the meeting along with required passcode. We will start your meeting, and then give Host access to your named "Ministry Host" and we will then leave your meeting. The Ministry Host will be responsible for facilitating and closing out your Zoom meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to reply by email or call (813) 248-8101, Ext. 1.

MINISTRIES & OTHERS SHARE...

Pastor's Aide Ministry

Reported by Sis. Gwen Hayes

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV) - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The members of the Pastor's Aide Ministry were so excited about our Pastor and First Family's 7th Anniversary approaching. In our minds, we were well ahead of the game: we'd taken photos with Pastor and Lady Roundtree, had the program put together, proofed, and ready for Sister Jackie Jones to print. It was mid-March and we had the finishing touches to put on.



Pastor's Aide Ministry (cont.)

But you know, God always has a way of bringing us to Him; bringing us to the realization that He is in charge and our focus needs to be on God and His Son, Jesus. That He did with the onslaught of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

I believe our last time of worshipping together was the 3rd Sunday in March. At this time, we're not sure when we'll be able to unite again.

The Pastor's Aide Ministry is grateful to those organizations and individuals who have taken the liberty to go ahead and bless Pastor Roundtree and his family with Anniversary gifts. And, that gesture by Sister Barbara Wright to present an Easter Basket to the family was phenomenal.

Sister Sherryl Cusseaux, Sister Valencia Simpson Holmes, with some others, surprised our Pastor and the Family on the 3rd Sunday in April, which would have been his Culmination Anniversary Service, with a Drive-By Celebration with gifts, balloons and signs as well as several prepared messages on a Message Board outside the church.

We also thank those of you who participated in our July 19, 2020, Drive-Through Anniversary Celebration. Even though we have been distancing ourselves, the Pastor's Aide Ministry has still been doing for our First Family – keeping them lifted in prayer and recognizing their special days. We had Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays and graduations to celebrate.

We have Pastor and Lady Roundtree's Anniversary coming up in August followed by his birthday on Sept. 24th, and Lady Roundtree's on November 24th. You'll hear more about these in the weeks to come.

We're also planning a Pastor's Appreciation Day in October for our Pastor. Yes, and the Church Anniversary is upcoming in October, too.

Although we had to do it from a distance, we celebrated Reverend Walter J. Williams' Day in June. We spoke with Sis. Williams and expressed our love for them.

During this pandemic, we have not been able to actually visit with our sick and shut-in, but they've felt our love through cards and phone calls.

Please, family, do the best that you can to be safe – follow CDC guidelines, wear masks, wash hands OFTEN, stay out of large crowds and do social distancing.

God bless all of us.

Worship & Arts Ministry

Minister Larenz Johnson

P15

As the Minister of Worship & Arts, I am overjoyed with the improvements and adjustments our ministry has made to meet the needs of our congregation. In the Audio Visual Auxiliary, we have completed our audio upgrade which includes a completely new state of the art sound system! We have also purchased a new HD camera and streaming software. Our upgrades have allowed us to reach over 2,000 weekly viewers on our weekly Facebook and YouTube Broadcast combined! Also, our AV team creates weekly radio broadcast that reach over 3,000 people in the Tampa Bay community on WTMP 1150am and 97.5FM every Sunday at 1:00p.m.

Our Music Ministry has been blessed with our Praise Team, Voices of Praise and Male Chorus ministering effectively! We were also blessed by special guest groups: The Tampa Mass Choir and "Bishop & The Earthen Vessels." Each group has ministered out of their hearts each week to bless our congregation. We have also been blessed by our guest (volunteer) musician and soloist, Bro. Torrey Thomas, who has assisted in leading our musicians each week during our quarantine.

All in all, our Worship & Arts Ministry is doing all we can to meet the needs of our congregation! We are patiently and eagerly awaiting the day we can all worship together on one accord!



Contemporary Choir



Youth Choir



Male Chorus

Youth Ministry

Reported by Youth Director Sis. Shamira Hayes

All youth were invited to join in a prayer call on April 7th at 7PM. The need to keep our children lifted in prayer and encouraged during these times is essential. On May 7th at 6:30PM, the Youth Ministry held its first Zoom Virtual Youth Bible Study. The leaders of New Mount Zion's Youth Ministry, along with Pastor Roundtree, wanted to make sure our youth were continuing to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God.

Youth Ministry (cont.)

In the youth ministry corner, we would like to congratulate these active high school graduates:

TRESS JACOBS

She is graduating from Academy of the Holy Names. She will be attending Howard University in the fall. She serves on the Youth Usher Board. She also holds office in the Deacons Convention.

JEFFREY JONES

He is graduating from Armwood High School. He plans to attend Johnson C. Smith University where he will major in Business. He serves in the youth choir. He also came in 2nd place at the First South Florida Missionary Baptist District Association E. Armster Memorial Oratorical contest.

LA'MIAH PAGE

She is graduating from Spoto High School. She will be attending HCC for 2 years and later she will transfer to USF studying Psychology. She serves in the youth choir and the praise team.

LARRY "BISHOP" ROUNDTREE III

He is planning to attend HCC majoring in Psychology while minoring in Music. He serves in the youth choir and on the praise team. He is also one of New Mt. Zion's youth Ministers.

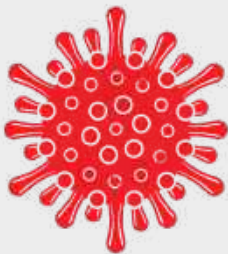
DENARJAE WOMACK

He is graduating from Hillsborough High School. He wants to own his own business in construction/welding. He is well on his way to reaching his goal as he currently works as a welder/pipefitter. He is one of our youth ministers and he also serves in the youth choir.

LADARIUS SHAW

He is graduating from Interactive Education Academy. He wants to earn certification in Automotive Technology at Erwin Technical College. He serves on the Youth Ushers Board.

New Mt. Zion, let's congratulate all of our graduates. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3



COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS

**WITH A YOUTH'S
VIEWPOINT ON
LEARNING**

Reported by Timothy Jones, Jr.

Direct classroom learning in my opinion, is better and more effective than distance learning. I am aware of the pandemic and I understand the option of distance learning, but most children and teenagers need face-to-face instruction and social interaction. With the online instruction, the curriculum is taught somewhat different, which makes it more difficult to learn more effectively. The Zoom meetings were okay, but there is nothing like being able to ask questions in person and work with friends in class. Normal classes may have been difficult, but having friends makes it so much more manageable and less stressful.

COVID-19 Youth Viewpoint (cont.)

Online classes take out the benefits of having friends to socialize with and being stuck alone with nothing but assignments. I do understand that face-to-face learning does not work for all students, so in that case, online classes are a great alternative to normal in school classes. This may be especially true for students who have a difficult time focusing while in a traditional classroom setting. When school starts back in August, I am hoping that my parents will allow me to go back to school for the traditional face-to-face learning model. Even though I know about the risk of COVID-19, we all must wear masks and with the new guidelines that have been put in place, that should help to prevent more cases.

COVID-19 Parent's Viewpoint

My children handled Distant Learning very well. The only thing I had to do was to make sure they got started. Another family member attends a school where he virtually changed classes. He, also, had to wear his uniform. All-in-all the virtual schooling was very successful for them. The only thing they did not like was not being able to socialize with their friends.

COVID-19 Educator's Viewpoint on Learning

By Sis. Elise Odom

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7.

As we all adjust to the "new norm," these are a few tips and common issues that I have:

1. **Communication** is key. Daily communication with your child and weekly/bi-weekly communication with teacher.
2. **Organization** is vital. Require students to utilize a planner to monitor deadlines and assignments instead of a cell phone.
 - a. Parents should designate a minimum of one day per week to review the planner
 - b. Students and parents should have designated space and time to work
 - c. Students learn organization or disorganization from parents/caretakers
3. **Mental health** is important. Students should have frequent "mental health" breaks by walking/talking about feelings. Also, students enjoy listening to music. Parents should avoid "negative comments" about the education process in the presence of their child.



Student Services Ministry

(Formerly Educational Ministry)

Reported by President Sis. Kenya Jones



P18

Congratulations to our 2020 high school and college graduates! They've missed out on having a proper ceremony this year with family and friends due to the pandemic, so we wanted to make sure that they felt the love and support from their NMZ church family.

Therefore, on July 12, 2020, we celebrated our graduates with a live virtual watch party ceremony, followed by a congratulatory drive-by parade. Each graduate received a love token from the Student Services Ministry and an anonymous donor gave each high school graduate an additional love token. Listed below are our 2020 NMZ graduates:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

A'Nija Givens graduated from Seminole Heights Charter High School. She plans to attend Hillsborough Community College to earn her AA Degree in Performing Arts for dance. She also plans to take business classes online so that she can open her own dance studio for kids, in addition to opening a recreational center. **A'Nija is the daughter of Sis. Michelle Givens.**

Tress Jacobs graduated from Academy of the Holy Names. She plans to attend Howard University in Washington, DC and major in Biology/Pre-Med. **Tress is the daughter of Sis. Angelita Fort-Dupree and the granddaughter of Deacon Clarence and Sis. Yvonne Fort.**

Jeffrey Jones, Jr. graduated from Armwood High School. He plans to attend Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC and major in Business Administration. Jeffrey's goal is to maintain good grades in college, and once he graduates, he would like to open his own business. **Jeffrey's parents are Bro. Jeffrey and Sis. Lisa Jones.**

La'Miah Page graduated from Spoto High School. She plans to attend Hillsborough Community College and major in Psychology, and afterwards she plans to transfer to the University of South Florida to earn her Bachelor's degree. **La'Miah is the daughter of Sis. La'Shanna Cook and the granddaughter of Sis. Linda Cook.**

Minister Larry Roundtree, III graduated from Armwood High School. He plans to attend Hillsborough Community College to major in Psychology and minor in Music. Afterwards, Bishop plans to attend FAMU to further his academic studies. **Bishop's parents are our very own Pastor Larry Roundtree, II and Sis. Sameya Roundtree and the grandson of Bro. Lamar and Sis. Crysandra Scott.**

LaDarius Shaw graduated from Interactive Education Academy. His plans are to attend Erwin Technical College to major in Automotives. **LaDarius is the son of Deacon Darrious and Sis. Sharon Bryant.**

Minister Denarjae Womack graduated from Hillsborough High School. He currently works as a welder/pipe fitter and he plans to operate his own construction/welding business. **Denarjae is the son of Bro. Alonzo and Sis. Hariena Ashwood.**



COLLEGE GRADUATES

P19

Maya Brown is a graduate of Florida International University where she received her Master of Public Administration & Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit and Community Development. She is the owner and operator of MB Strategies, LLC which specializes in political and nonprofit consulting. **Maya is the daughter of Ms. Michele Brown of DeLand, FL.**

Simone Davis graduated from Liberty University with a Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling: Life Coaching. She is currently a senior academic advisor for online medical students. Simone plans to advise higher education students at the Bachelors and Masters level, or counsel high school students. In addition, she recently launched her LLC in April 2020 known as Respect in Self Esteem (RISE), which specializes in life coaching, marriage coaching, financial coaching, group counseling and Christian counseling.

Dianna Davis-Mitchem graduated from Saint Leo University with her AA Degree in Psychology. Mrs. Davis-Mitchem has been counseling young people, single mothers, and foster parents most of her adult life and this is a passion of hers. She wanted her 11 adult children, 25 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren to know that if she can do it, they can too with God's help.

Cherrie Parrish received College Credit in Accounting Technology Specialist with Honors from Hillsborough Community College. Ms. Parrish already holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and she plans to enroll into the Logistics Specialist Course at HCC.

Keith Robertson graduated from the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg with a Master's in Digital Journalism and Design. Keith plans to expand his multimedia business by creating a design studio for fellow artists, videographers, and photographers to collaborate and to teach others in the field. **Keith is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Annie Robertson.**

Claudia Terrell graduated from Hillsborough Community College with an AA Degree in Liberal Arts. Claudia plans to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and after that, she would like to work for a nonprofit organization. Her dream is to one day start her own nonprofit agency helping and educating minority and marginalized communities. **Claudia is the proud mother of KayShaun and Kameron.**

THEY MET THE CHALLENGE!!! This has been a historical-challenging year for the Graduating Class of 2020. However, with their love of Jesus, family and self, they met the challenge and graduated.



Pearls for Christ

A small group for Bible Study

Reported By President Sis. Patricia Strowbridge

P20

The Bible study members have developed an intimate relationship on a spiritual as well as a social level. Small groups are to facilitate human development for living a Christ reflecting life in this present world. Pearls for Christ members have participated in some bible study sessions over the phone. We are currently learning from Acts. We also have independent study. Our main function, since the quarantine, has been intimate social support.

We have prayed together before major medical procedures, car pooled, and helped each other receive needed community supports. We have even been in the social protect activities against brutality to any humans. Since our group members have a few years on us, we have had to encourage each other in the use of the needed technology updates such as "ZOOM". We have missed seeing and touching our church family. A song that keeps rolling across my mind is THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME.

This may be the last
time (3x)
This may be the last
time I don't know...
Maybe be the last time
we sing together, I don't know...
Maybe the last time
we pray together, I don't know
Maybe the last time
we shake hands together, I don't know...
This may be the last
time, I don't know.

There is such strength in seeing the people that God has blessed praising him. If God is blessing them, then we can be assured that God is and will bless us.

As I remember, the last time we sang that song "THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME", we didn't put much feeling behind it. We have been a long time apart from each other and the virus is taking some. We miss you and please take this time to enjoy each day. We all have new mercies and grace each day we awake.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. Lam 3:22-23

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. Lam 3:22-23



Usher Board #1

Reported by President Janice Sturks

P21

**Psalm 27-14 “Wait on the Lord be of good courage
and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait I say on the Lord.”**

Prayer List:

Sister Toynetta Williams was hospitalized for a few days and is doing well. Deacon Patrick Andrews had surgery and is recovering well. Please continue to keep them in prayer. Prayers continue for Usher Board members: Deacons Willie Grant, Wesley Collins, Sutton Page; Brothers Dan Mitchell, Robert Cunningham, Percy Weatherly, Michael Collins, Ernest Higginbotham; Sisters Carrie Terrell, Annie Preston, Francis Everett, Linda Mitchell, Ozretta Page, Robyn Andrews, Barbara Bell, Rhonda Joyner, Fontella Decoursey, Frances Whyte, Beverly Davis, Monica Narain, Aisley Conley, Cathy Morris, Shirley James.

Belated Birthday Blessings:

Sister Francis Everett - Turned 80 in March
Sister Toynetta Williams - Turned 92 in June
Brother Dan Mitchell - June
Sister Robyn Andrews - March
Sister Frances Whytes - June

A song that has been ministering to me during these times is, “CHANGED” by Tramaine Hawkins (A Change Has Come Over Me). It’s an awesome song with a real powerful meaning, knowing that a change is coming through these uncertain times.



CHANGED

(Song By Tramaine Hawkins)

“A change, a change has come over me. He changed my life and now I’m free. He washed away all my sins, and he made me whole, He washed me white as snow. He changed, my life complete, and now I sit I sit at his feet. To do what must be done I’ll work and work, until he comes. A wonderful change has come over me. A wonderful change has come over me, Lord, You’ve changed my life complete.”

We understand the big changes in our lives are not easy. But we must stay prayed up and give thanks each and every day. Knowing that God is in control gives us hope in these uncertain times.



“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)

Senior Mission Ministry

Reported by President Sis. Linda Cook

It has been a hard battle these past months. Our seniors have suffered sickness, deaths of family members and/or friends, but we have not stopped reaching out through prayers to the sick and feeding the hungry, as well as supplying clothing and phone calls.

(COMMANDMENTS OF OUR FATHER)

Although our bodies have been attacked, our minds and hearts are stayed on Jesus!

(WE CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR GOD)

Our first meeting, since the start of this COVID-19 virus, was held on July 6th via conference and Zoom calls. We were glad to hear and see one another! Our Bible lesson was excellently taught by Sis. Catherine Waddell (Philippians 4:10-23). A special thank you to Sis. Gloria Sylvester, as well, for the devotional and dismissal prayers.

Love you all Senior Women!!!!

Thank You Pastor Roundtree for all your do.

(TO GOD BE THE GLORY)

Linda Cook, President/Yvonne Douglas, Vice President
Johnnie Mae Harris, Secretary



Food Pantry

The CommUNITY continues to pick up groceries on Mondays after the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Bags are prepared and picked up at the door by church members and the community from 10AM to 12PM. Thank you to the workers who continue the ministry of the Food Pantry.

Couples Ministry

Reported By Sis. Nell Kimbrough

P23

“The True Discovery and Greatness of America, Is the Trinity.”

Ecclesiastes 9:11--"I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them, all."

On behalf, of the Couples Ministry, we would like to wish all of New Mount Zion married Couples 2020 Happy Wedding Anniversary. Sadly, to announce the Couples Ministry August 2020 Annual Workshop is cancelled. The purpose of this cancellation is due to the world pandemic-COVID 19. Hope to see you all at our next year annual workshop. If any couple would like to join the Couples Ministry, please contact the church office or Deacon Lane at (813.810.9427). Our Couples Ministry meeting is on NMZ Zoom or phone conference on the second Thursday at 6:30p.m. until further notice. We pray that you all stay safe. We know all unity prayers link-in together with GOD's infinite power. GOD will restore calmness to all mankind and give us Perfect Peace.



Clym's Clothes Closet

Clym's Clothes Closet will welcome your donations again as soon as the pandemic is over and it is safe to do another give-away. Thank you volunteers and thank you donors for your continued support. Thank you, Pastor Roundtree and church family, who have sustained me during these past months via drive-through prayer, Bible class, prayer line and virtual church service.

“Sometimes our skies are cloudy and dreary, sometimes our hearts are burdened with care, but we know what ever may befall us, Jesus is always there. Never a burden that he does not carry, never a sorrow that he does not share, whether the days may be sunny or dreary, **Jesus is always there.**”



Golden Gems Ministry

Reported by Casandra Leeks Howard, President

P24

We, The Golden Gems Ministry Family, are happy to mention that we are holding enjoyable Zoom meetings. At the release of this article, we are going into our Fourth week with the following members: President C. Howard, S. Butler, C. Cannon, D. Dixon, C. Waddell, R. Banks, and L. Lane. We are studying the Book of Joshua, under the teaching of Sister Catherine Waddell; what a glorious, good time we are having seeing each other's reactions. With Zoom, during this terrible time, we are talking about how God has blessed us through this time.

Anyone who has Zoom is very welcome to join us each Tuesday at 11AM - 12PM. You will always get more teaching and learning of God's Word. I can be contacted at 813-409-0004, please leave a message, and I will return your call.

YOU pray for us, as WE are praying for you, to be safe and blessed. God will unite us once again.



The Brotherhood

Reported by Dea. Bobby Priester, President

The Brotherhood has been in contact with members via text and phone. A few members assisted with the distribution of roses on Mother's Day.

Most of us are following the CDC guidelines of staying safe at home. We are also tuning in virtually to the services at New Mt. Zion to remain spiritually uplifted during these challenging times. We cancelled our planned golf tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but do intend to reschedule during 2021.

I encourage you to stay prayerful because in spite of circumstances, God is still on the throne.



Deaconess Ministry

Sister Mary Priester, President

P25

The Deaconess Ministry is praising God for his goodness and mercy that endures forever. We are thankful that He is faithful and will take care of us in spite of circumstances. We have maintained contact with each other through virtual meetings, emails, telephone calls, and texts.

Some of our members have lost loved ones, and we offered prayers and expressions of sympathy to their families. It is our intent to be a blessing to others as we show the love of Christ.

We are thankful that even during the pandemic, God's Word is still being proclaimed. We thank our Pastor for his steadfastness in preaching and teaching.

We were able to extend Happy Anniversary wishes to our Pastor during the anniversary parade. We continue to pray for our Pastor and his family. We love them all.

The Deaconess assisted in the preparation and distribution of roses for Mother's Day. We also prepared the communion for distribution prior to the first Sunday.

We tune in via Facebook, YouTube, or conference call lines to hear our Sunday worship service and our Wednesday Bible study. Also, we are able to tune in to the prayer call on Friday. We invite all members to stay connected with the body of New Mt. Zion because a "Church that prays together, stays together."

Some of our members have joined the NBCA Senior Women's Thursday conference calls to hear the Word of God proclaimed throughout the USA.

We trust God to lead us through these challenging times. We are following the CDC guidelines by staying safe at home and wearing masks when going out. We look forward to the day when we will gather in New Mt. Zion to praise God with one voice. What a time, what a time, what a time when all of God's children get together.



Mental Health Awareness

Submitted by Sis. Jeanene Robinson Kyles Licensed Clinical Psychologist (03/13/2020)

Coping with Anxiety: It is important to schedule consistent times to de-stress in order to help your body to recover from experiencing heightened adrenaline and cortisone levels. The following activities infused into your schedule can help reduce the adrenaline and cortisone levels that occur with the presence of prolonged stress:

- Eating a healthy diet, getting regular exercise and plenty of sleep
- Practicing relaxation techniques such as trying yoga, practicing deep breathing, getting a massage or learning to meditate
- Taking time for hobbies, such as reading a book or listening to music
- Fostering healthy friendships
- Having a sense of humor
- Volunteering in your community
- Seeking professional counseling when needed



Self-Control: The Bible discusses the control that God has given us. We have to work to control our worrisome thoughts and behaviors through increasing our faith. It is important to read the Bible, pray, attend church, spend time with other believers; if anxiety becomes overwhelming, seek out counseling services.

2 Peter 1 Verses 5-7 state: (5) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; (6) and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; (7) and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Financial Planning Ministry

Reported by Consultants Bro. Arthur and Sis. Brenda Holley

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1 (KJV)

During these turbulent times, we must remember that we own nothing and must avoid letting FEAR take over. God allows us to participate. We have NO control over the pandemic or the economy, we must exercise our FAITH.

The way we respond to prepare for the uncertainty is important. So these are some things we can do as we prepare to make better financial decisions in these uncertain times:

- **Focus on Ways to Stretch Your Savings & Maintain Your Credit:** Save the money that you would have been spending eating out or traveling. Things are constantly changing. Protect your money by evaluating & adjusting your spending plan. Cut back on expenses, work with lenders and creditors to see what options are available to you. Consider taking advantage of low interest rates while they are dropping.

Financial Planning Ministry (cont.)

Submitted by Sis. Jeanene Robinson Kyles Licensed Clinical Psychologist (03/13/2020)

P27

- **Increase Your Emergency Fund:** If you are working from home, save what you would have spent on commuting costs, and resist impulse buying. If you haven't received your tax refund yet, put it in an interest bearing account until you need it for an emergency.
- **Take An Inventory of What You Have:** Essentials such as food and toiletry. Don't overstock. Remember to purchase your staple items, and plan your meals around them. Don't give in to impulse buying, if you don't need it, don't buy it.

There are some good resources listed to assist with hardships on Florida Department of Financial Services website. They list agencies that can possibly help those that are willing to work constructively with borrowers affected by COVID-19. Let's continue to pray for one another, always lifting our Pastor and Family in prayer. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us at (813) 417-3440.

HOW MANY OF THESE POPULAR HYMNS DO YOU KNOW?

To God Be The Glory, We're Marching To Zion, How Great Thou Art, Blessed Assurance, Count Your Blessings, Hold To God's Unchanging Hand, Guide Me--O Thou Great Jehovah, The Name of Jesus, I Have Decided To Follow Jesus, It Is Well With My Soul



July 8, 2020

Coming Together While Staying Apart

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. ~ Colossians 3:17 KJV

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!

In early April, when it was evident that the period of shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic was not going to be short-term, God gave another vision to one of His leaders. That leader is Dr. Barbara F. Wright, President of the Senior Women's Missionary Union Auxiliary (SWMU) of the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc. (NBCA). Sister Wright thought it essential to keep the members of the SWMU Auxiliary engaged and in touch until we are able to meet face to face.

Through conversation with SWMU Corresponding Secretary, Marie Franklin Lair, President Wright had an outline of what her vision was and the title of the virtual meetings was birthed: "Coming Together While Staying Apart".

After the name was settled upon, Dr. Wright presented her concept to our National President, Rev. Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr. With President Tolbert's exuberant approval, the first invitation to the Sisterhood was sent out on April 24, 2020. And, because President Wright strongly believes in inclusion, invitations were extended to other Auxiliary Leaders of the Convention as well their members.

The first virtual meeting of the SWMU was held on April 30, 2020. And the rest is history... God has blessed this ministry in participation. The initial virtual call had a total of seventy-eight (78) members. Through the span of ten weeks, callers online have increased to over three hundred (300). The list below is a contributing factor; to God be the glory because not one of our Convention Leaders/Pastors has declined President Wright's invitation on behalf of the Sisterhood of the SWMU.

April 30, 2020	Rev. Dr. F. D. Sampson, Sr. (TX)	Psalm 23	Protection from the Shepherd
May 7, 2020	Rev. Dr. Brian K. Brown (FL)	II Cor 4:16-18	Please Don't Faint
May 14, 2020	Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby (KY)	Psalm 23:6	God's Light Makes
May 21, 2020	Rev. Dr. Kenneth M. Davis (MS)	Mark 6:48	Jesus Has Power Over Disaster
May 28, 2020	Rev. Dr. Shelton C. Dixon (LA)	Mark 6:45-55	How to Handle Windy Situations
June 4, 2020	Rev. Dr. Delvin Atchison (TX)	Daniel 3:19-20	Problems to Promotions
June 11, 2020	Rev. Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert (LA)	Psalm 37:4-7	Count on God
June 18, 2020	Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Banks (FL)	Psalm 146:5	The Ingredients for Happiness
June 25, 2020	Rev. Dr. William T. Glynn (TX)	Luke 7:11-15	Story of Two Only Sons
July 2, 2020	Rev. Dr. Lesley T. Mabry (MS)	II Cor 1:8-10	God Will Put More Thank You Can Bear

The eleventh scheduled virtual meeting was held at 6PM (Central Time) on Thursday, July 9, 2020. We were blessed by another anointed man of God in the person of Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Woods, Sr. (AL).

But more than the number of callers or which state has the largest number in attendance each week (which is usually Florida), we have had dynamic messages from the powerful, prophetic, phenomenal 'Words of Encouragement' spoken by the men of God that have given of their time by accepting the invitation of the SWMU.

Not only have we been blessed to have members from other Auxiliaries of our Convention on our virtual meetings, but at least two of our Convention Partners have joined in as well. Sam Rushing of Blessed Communion and David Harris of Heritage Holdings (G.I.V.E. Program) have been frequent participants with us. During our June 4th meeting, they both expressed their delight to be able to join in with the SWMU.

Despite technical difficulties that occurred on the first few virtual meetings, those involved in the planning and execution are dedicated to the success of the virtual meetings. The 'bugs' have been worked out, tutorials have been taken on the hosting of virtual meetings, all delegated assignments have been as unto the Lord' and God has consecrated these meetings.

The SWMU Sisterhood has been encouraged to start calling in on our dedicated line up to thirty minutes before the start of each meeting. This practice makes it easier for members to get on line without much difficulty. Moreover, it was evident the members were elated to have extra time to hear the voices of their sisters across the miles, from California to Maryland to Florida and all points in between. Those minutes became our time of fellowship.

In His Service!
Barbara F. Wright

Bereavement Ministry

Reported by President Sister Jean Collins

P29

“Let not your heart be troubled believe in God; believe also in me.” John 14:1

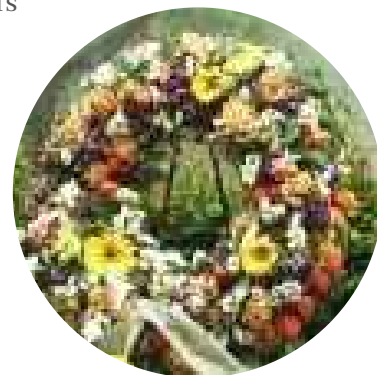
If there was ever a time that the old adage “the Church is not a building” rings true, it’s now. Over the last couple of months, we have been faced with the challenges of trying to control a growing pandemic, Covid-19. It has crippled countries, cities, businesses, families, and even our churches, you name it. Loved ones are dying alone. Essential workers are being overworked. One sure way to defeat it has been to try to stay home and away from anyone that has been affected by it.

With this has come much anxiety, frustration, and bickering even amongst families. It has been especially challenging for our Bereavement Ministry coping with NMZ Church members whose families are now dealing with their loss of loved ones. During this COVID-19 virus pandemic, we can no longer gather together in Christian fellowship with families at Church. The cultural customs for Funerals has been interrupting in churches and in our communities so much that steps for safety have been put in place to deal with families and loved ones. Even guidelines in accordance with CDC have been created to have safe environments for families to honor those lost loved ones at Visitation/Wakes or Memorials. It has been heartbreaking for everyone involved. In most cases, people are usually resilient, considering most of us can endure loss and then continue on with our own lives. But now it appears people are struggling with grief for longer periods of time and feeling unable to carry out daily activities.

We know that bereavement is a painful, stressful, and difficult journey at the best times. But grieving the loss of a loved one has become a genuine concern for our fellow brothers and sisters at NMZ.

Family! since COVID-19, related church cancellations are still rolling in fast, we felt that at this time it would be necessary for our Bereavement Ministry to step forward and find non-traditional paths of Ministry that do not include in-person meetings. We knew that this would be a chance for our Ministry to take ownership of this opportunity--but how. So we thought to add emailing and texting more, but we found out it didn’t seem to add that more personal touch needed. Or perhaps dropping off food, but that results in a visit for fear of spreading the virus. We discussed randomly ways to show acts of kindness on different occasions. But it still was not the right response in these circumstances.

Well! NMZ Family, our Ministry decided that we needed a clear game plan to help manage the additional challenges caused by this thing called “Coronavirus” to our bereaved. What would be the response? Living in uncertain times surrounded by bereavement, fear, anxiety, and illnesses, what could we all do to generate coping strategies? Summing it UP!

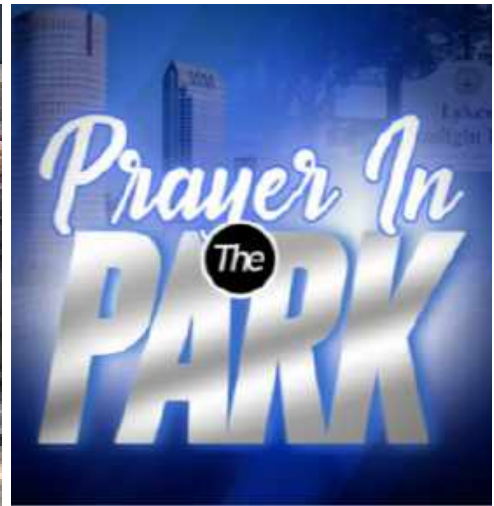


PRAY!

James 5:16... "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Dear Lord, right now we need you more than ever. We are all hurting in some way that is unimaginable. I pray today that your love would overflow from each of us as we battle this Coronavirus in the world. I pray that we would lay aside ourselves and become more concerned about one another and all of our sick, heartbroken, bereaved and grieving members each day. I pray that we would begin to extend love to our Pastor and all New Mt. Zion Members. May we let our lights shine that men may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen.

Yes! PRAY! That is my challenge to you today in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to those that you can help in this season. It may be as simple as a phone call or sending a card of encouragement. Whatever the case, let love overflow from the depths of your heart and may this epidemic of love spread like wildfire in our land. For the Bible tells us that the prayers of a righteous person are very powerful in its effect. So Zionites, pray for one another so that you may be healed. Grace and peace to you!



Unity In the CommUNITY

The call came through that organized unity needed to take place in the community as Black lives are being taken because of systematic racism. Many Black lives have and are being taken simply because of skin color. Pastor Roundtree was asked to involve the clergy from all religious denominations to come together in an organized venue to pray in Gaslight Park (downtown Tampa) for the cry of racial discrimination increasing via some police officers. Pastor gave leadership to this community event on Monday, June 1. People from all religious denominations, racial, and ethnics backgrounds were in attendance.



Lift Every Voice & March

Many people, of all ethnic groups, unified to “Lift Every Voice and March” on Saturday, June 13th. Some marchers parked at New Mount Zion and took our van and mini-bus as shuttles to Allen Temple AME Church, where the March began. The March ended at the City of Tampa’s Courthouse. (Please see below pictures)



Racial Injustice Ravages Our Nation!

Minister Larenz Johnson

P32

In the wake of the death of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd , Elijah McClain and Jamee Johnson; America has seen mass protests across the land! Tensions are high and there is civil unrest as people from all walks of life demand JUSTICE! Social media has “Blacked Out” as hashtags perpetuate the sentiments of The African American community. Does my life matter? Is the question young black men and women have been forced to ask themselves; as white murderers continue to walk freely because of their badge and privilege. Nevertheless, we remind ourselves that our BLACK LIVES MATTER! We matter to our children, our families, our community members but most of all we matter to God! It is evident, that we must continue to fight for justice as prisons replace plantations, badges replace white sheets, while gun shots have become the new lynching mechanism! Yet, we will continue to follow the lead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and fight hatred with love, violence with peace and show the world who we are truly meant to be, Royalty.



Life as a Black Female in the World

Zoie Mulkey’s “Angry Black Female”

Zoie Mulkey shared this powerful and timely speech at her school earlier this year. It was posted on Facebook and reaffirms the reality that some do not think exists “all people are created equally by God.”

Zoie Mulkey’s “Angry Black Female”

“This topic might be controversial but hear me out. I am going to show you what it is like being in my shoes. Not only does this experience teach lessons but it shows the world’s true colors. “The most disrespected person in America is the black woman. The Zoie Mulkey’s most unprotected person in America is the black woman. The most neglected person in America is the black woman.”(Malcolm X). I do believe that statement is true. From the tight coils and waves of my hair that are somehow deemed undesirable to the sun kissed hue of mocha I wear as my complexion. I will forever proudly be a black female in America.

Life as a Black Female in the World (cont.)

I am not one to be too problematic but many people know I am very openly opinionated when triggered. While most people probably see me as a reserved, quiet, and soft-spoken, this is somewhat of a facade; because I feel as if I need to "hold my tongue" in order not to be the angry black girl.

Somehow being black and female does not give you the right to have an emotionally driven highly political option. I know you are saying what do you mean by that? Fact or opinion I must hold my tongue like it is some secret code. Meaning just because I have a strong opinion opposing yours, I am "sensitive." Most of you know what I am talking about: there are examples in this very building of strong black females being vocal and being deemed as aggressive or a disliked personality. I guess many people ask why does it have to be a race thing. I don't want it to be but it turns out that way. But if I confront you about it jokes or remarks I'm the bad guy. I am fed up with a double standard that no one talks about. I become the epitome of the angry black woman. I do not mean to come off as high strung or intimidating but how else am I supposed to react to some of the things that I have encountered. So I'm going to take you back.

Freshman year math, one moment that stuck out in my head the most where one of my classmates in the middle of a lesson blurts out, "Do you want to know what my least favorite color is?" Now I know what you are thinking it could just be orange or something. But no he says brown like the word disgusted him. Some might say it was free speech. No, he thought he was entitled to a racist joke that would evoke a response. In the moment the teacher moved on and continued the lesson but I was stunned. I mostly definitely wanted to blow a fuse but that's what he wanted "The Angry Black." I have always been taught not to be that girl; "the angry black girl."

Sophomore year here I am walking in the courtyard and a security guard stops my friends and me and calmly says, "if you do not go here, you can't be here." First thing in my head was you are the security personnel aren't you supposed to know who "kinda" go to school here. I apparently must have looked out of place. In all honestly I wanted to react: but I don't want to be "Angry Black Girl." Junior year a teacher purposely trying to rile my feathers by going out of the way to show me up in something I do very well. At the time I was heated, frustrated but my mother had to explain to me it is not worth it. You are just going to be seen as the angry black girl. Though all of my feelings and points were valid, I was still going to be perceived as the angry black girl if I confronted the situation.

Writing this declamation, I have realized this conversation needs to be had. I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. (Fanny Lou Hamer) I do not want to hold my tongue. Help me understand what's so intimidating yet you have the audacity to be bold in certain remarks; but I am called sensitive if I care and speak on it. I am tired of playing the game. I am ready to step into becoming more unapologetic. My feelings and emotions matter. You are going to respect them. Why do I always have to be the bigger person? You are never going to learn and I am tired of living in a world where it is my reality. Independent women of color are not threatening. I have to dot every "I" and cross every "t" in order to be comprehensible. Even if I dared to say some of the ignorant slick stuff that comes out of people's mouths as a joke; it's wrong and comes with consequences. But when the tables are turned I have to react in the calmest way possible. At this point, I do not care how I am perceived, what I think matters. I'm no longer going to suppress it to perpetuate sliding problems under the rug, but I hope I sparked a conversation that eventually needs to be had."

CONGRATULATIONS

DESHAWNA HALL-LEWIS graduated from Air Force Basic Training on Thursday, July 2nd at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. DeShawna will receive Phase One of her training in Aerospace Medicine Services at Army Base -- Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. DeShawna is a 2019 graduate of Tampa Bay Technical High School and is currently a student at FAMU in Tallahassee, Florida. Her training is preparing her for the Air Force's Reserves. DeShawn is the granddaughter of Sis. Valencia Simpson Holmes.

SIS. MARILYN WASHINGTON retired from the University of South Florida on June 30th after working a total of 35 years in the following departments: 5 years at WUSF Radio Reading Service; 7 years at the Florida Mental Health Institute; 23 years in the College of Education. Sis. Washington serves as our Church Clerk and is committed to several church ministries.

SIS. VANESSA CHATMAN launched her Professional Development Business on June 13th. She has a desire to help people with career planning, resume writing, and interview preparation sessions, goals and issues through individual-career coaching. She, also, offers a free Resumes Webinar. You can sign up at her website www.chatmanassociates.com.

SIS. SIMONE DAVIS launched her Life Coaching Service in May of this year. The name of her business is RISE (Respect In Self Esteem). Your dreams need to RISE this year. You want to start your business, you want to travel, you want to create generational wealth for your family, you want to love YOU more. RISE is all about that.

Voting Rights - Did You Know? Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Era



While the 15th Amendment barred voting rights discrimination on the basis of race, it left the door open for states to determine the specific qualifications for suffrage. Southern state legislatures used such qualifications—including literacy tests, poll taxes and other discriminatory practices—to disenfranchise a majority of Black voters in the decades following reconstruction.

As a result, white-dominated state legislatures consolidated control and effectively reestablished the Black codes in the form of so-called Jim Crow laws, a system of segregation that would remain in place for nearly a century. In the 1950s and '60s, securing voting rights for African Americans in the South became a central focus of the civil rights movement. While the sweeping Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally banned segregation in schools and other public places, it did little to remedy the problem of discrimination in voting rights. The brutal attacks by state and local law enforcement on hundreds of peaceful marchers led by Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists in Selma, Alabama in March 1965 drew unprecedented attention to the movement for voting rights.

Voting Rights - Did You Know? (cont.)

Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Era

Later that year, [President Lyndon Johnson](#) signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which banned literacy tests and other methods used to disenfranchise Black voters. In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections* that poll taxes (which the 24th Amendment had eliminated for federal elections in 1964) were unconstitutional for state and local elections as well. President Lyndon B. Johnson celebrates with Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and Clarence Mitchell after signing the Voting Rights bill into law on August 6, 1965. Before passage of the [Voting Rights Act](#), an estimated 23 percent of eligible Black voters were registered nationwide; by 1969 that number rose to [61 percent](#). By 1980, the percentage of the adult Black population on Southern voter rolls surpassed that in the rest of the country, [the historian James C. Cobb](#) wrote in 2015, adding that by the mid-1980s there were more Black people in public office in the South than in the rest of the nation combined.

In 2012, turnout of Black voters exceeded that of white voters for the first time in history, as [66.6 percent](#) of eligible Black voters turned out to help reelect [Barack Obama](#), the nation's first African American president. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, ruling 5-4 in *Shelby County v. Holder* that it was unconstitutional to require states with a history of voter discrimination to seek federal approval before changing their election laws. In the wake of the Court's decision, a number of states passed [new restrictions](#) on voting, including limiting early voting and requiring voters to show photo ID. Supporters argue such measures are designed to prevent voter fraud, while critics say they—like poll taxes and literacy tests before them—disproportionately affect poor, elderly, Black and Latino voters. (Source: Internet)

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

We shall overcome, We shall overcome, We shall overcome, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall overcome, some day.
We'll walk hand in hand, We'll walk hand in hand, We'll walk hand in hand, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall walk hand in hand, some day
We shall live in peace, We shall live in peace, We shall live in peace, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall live in peace, someday
We shall all be free, We shall all be free, We shall all be free, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall all be free, some day
We are not afraid, We are not afraid, We are not afraid, today
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We are not afraid today
We shall overcome, We shall overcome, We shall overcome, some day,
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome, some day.

The below song was written by James Weldon Johnson and put to music by J. Rosamond Johnson is called “The Negro National Anthem.” It was written with love focusing on the trials and tribulations we have gone through over the years.



Not only are we to “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” we give additional action to this song by lifting our voices by VOTING. Many lives have been lost just to give us the right to vote. We can give meaning to the lives of those who sacrificed for the right to vote for all of us. LET US LIFT OUR VOICES BY VOTING, TOO.

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

1Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and Heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea, Sing a song, full of faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought Us; Facing the rising sun, of our new day Begun, Let us march on till victory is Won.

2Stony the road we trod, Bitter the Chast'ning rod, Felt in the days when hope, Unborn had died; Yet with a steady Beat, Have not our weary feet, Come to the Place for which our fathers sighed? We have Come, over a way that with tears has been Watered, We have come, treading our path Through the blood of the slaughtered, Out from The gloomy past, till now we stand at Last Where the white gleam, of our bright star is Cast.

3God of our weary years, God of Our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus, Far on the way; Thou who has by thy Might, Led us into the light, Keep us Forever in the path, we pray Lest our feet, Stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of The world, we forget thee, Shadowed beneath thy Hand, May we forever stand, True to our God, True to our native land

Can you complete these Hymn Titles?

1. To God Be The G_____
2. We're Marching To Z_____
3. How Great Thou A_____
4. Blessed A_____
5. Count Your B_____
6. Hold To God's U_____ Hand
7. Guide Me, O Thou Great J_____
8. The Name Of J_____
9. I Have Decided To F_____ Jesus
10. It Is W_____ With My Soul

Do You Remember?

March 15, 2020

The last corporate worship assembly due to COVID-19. Pastor shared "The Mind of Christ" from Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

"God is in control. Things do not just work together for your good. There has to be something there to work all things together. Don't give into panic. God has His children in His hand. The God we serve has all power. **God is in control.**"

"HE'S GOT IT ALL IN CONTROL"
(By Shirley Caesar)

God's got it all in control, He's got it all in control, You know, he put that reassurance way down in my soul, yes he did, God's got it all in control
Now, I've put my life in his hands, I've put my life in his hands, And every road I walk down, I'm sure it's in God's holy plan, Yes it is now, so I put my life in God's hand
He holds the stars in the sky, He holds the land back from the sea, And if he can do all of that, Surely he can take good care of you and me
God's got it all in control, God's got it all in control, You know, he put that reassurance way down in my soul, yes he did now
God's got it all in control, He's got it all in control, My God's got it all in control, You know, he put that reassurance, he put it way down in my soul, yes he did now
God's got it all in control, You know, he put that reassurance, he put it way down in my soul,
God's got it all in control

