

**The Bureau of Evangelism**  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
P. O. Box 33623  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28233-3623

# **ANSWERING GOD'S CALL!**



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**Decision Day  
Observance 2000**

*October 22, 2000*

African

Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



## DECISION DAY 2000



The Book of Discipline of our 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 theme for Decision Day 2000 is *Answering God's Call*. God's first call is the call to salvation. The church is to be His agency for announcing to the world the good news of salvation and for compelling all persons to answer this universal call. God's second call is the call to Christian Discipleship. This means that those who respond to the gospel call must be baptized into a nurturing church, where they may be taught to obey the commands of Christ. A third call of God is the call to the ministry or some form of Christian service. Some Christians are called to preach the gospel, but every Christian is called to serve the Lord in some capacity by using his or her spiritual gifts and natural talents. The Annual Decision Day Observance is generally held the fourth Sunday in October, but may be observed any time during the month or even in the month of November. During the time of year when people celebrate the harvest of crops and produce, the A. M. E. Zion Church pauses to celebrate the harvest of souls that God has produced during the previous twelve months. It is also a time to sponsor special evangelistic events or activities that will call attention to the importance of making appropriate decisions for Christ. This year we are broadening the emphasis of Decision Day beyond the traditional categories of conversions, new members, and re-dedications. The observance will include those answering the call to preach the gospel and those answering the call to any form of Christian service. Nothing furthers cause of Christ like the mobilization of committed Christians into the ranks of the gospel ministry and the other various areas of Christian service.

According to Bishop Clarence Carr, the Chairmen of the Board of Evangelism for the A.M.E. Zion Church, Decision Day was originally a concerted effort to encourage those who had been nurtured in the church from childhood to make a Decision for Christ. There is a connection between Infant Baptism and the Call to Decision. The Ancient Hebrews made circumcision the token of their Covenant with God and this ritual involved a commitment to nurture their children in the teachings of that Covenant. In the same way infant baptism is a symbol of the New Covenant in which Christian parents enter a covenant with God and the church. The terms of the covenant require the child be raised in a Christian home, nurtured in the Christian Church, and taught the truths of the New Covenant. The local church into which the child is baptized is responsible for providing spiritual nurture and oversight for both parents and children. The Church Ministries should provide for their spiritual and temporal needs. The goal of infant baptism is that of bringing the child to a place of personal decision for Christ. The nurture of home and church is to lead the child to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The child, who has been on probation from the time of baptism, is converted and becomes a candidate for Full Membership. God honors the faith of the parents and the faithfulness of the church by bringing the child to personal faith in Christ. Through spiritual growth he or she may become a responsible member of the church.

Decision Day, then is rooted and grounded in the quest to see our youth move beyond religion and ritual to authentic relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is a matter of record that many adults in our churches and communities have yet to come to faith in Christ. While still targeting our youth and children, the Decision Day Observance must broaden its scope in order to reach people of all ages who are in need of making a life-changing decision for Christ. While the Church School will continue to be the vanguard of the Observance, Directors of Evangelism at all levels and their respective Boards can provide invaluable leadership in creatively planning and implementing the events and activities of the observance.



THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2000

**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**

<b><u>Type of Decisions Made</u></b>	<b><u>During Decision Day Observance(s)</u></b>	<b><u>During the Year (Nov. 1999 - Oct. 2000)</u></b>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
The Ministry	_____	_____
Christian Service	_____	_____

Send to:  
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