



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

DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2005

“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations”
“Empowering Leadership & Gift-Oriented Ministry”

Please note the Spiritual Emphasis Week 2006 Information on the last page!



**EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP
& GIFT-ORIENTED MINISTRY**

Decision Day Observance 2005

October 23, 2005

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



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October 23, 2005



Theme: Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations

“Empowering Leadership & Gift-Oriented Ministry”

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

The Evangelistic theme for this quadrennium [2005-2009] is **“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations”** Each year we shall highlight two of the eight essential qualities of healthy and growing churches, as identified and described by Christian A. Schwarz in his book, *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*. The book is the result of an international research project in which Schwarz sought to discover universally applicable church growth principles. The study resulted into the most comprehensive research project of the causes of church growth ever undertaken. More than a thousand churches from a total of 32 countries on six continents were studied.

During the 2005-2006 year, we will focus on “Empowering Leadership” and “Gift-Oriented Ministry.” It is no surprise that the first essential quality of healthy churches mentioned in the book had to do with leadership. It has long been known that fortunes of any institution rises or falls with its caliber of leadership. What is surprising, however, is the kind of leadership which fosters health and growth in churches. Schwarz describes that leadership as follows:

“The key distinction is probably best expressed by the word ‘empowerment.’ Leaders of growing churches concentrate on empowering other Christians for ministry. They do not use lay workers as “helpers” in attaining their own goals and fulfilling their own visions. Rather, they invert the pyramid of authority so that the leader assists Christians to attain the spiritual potential God has for them. These pastors equip, support, motivate, and mentor individuals, enabling them to become all that God wants them to be.”¹

Just as important in healthy congregations is “Gift-Oriented Ministry.” Schwarz’s research revealed that tasks should be assigned to people in the church on the basis of the spiritual gifts. The people of God must be nurtured and guided to discover, develop and utilize the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to them. The spiritual gifts will help us to recognize the ministries of the church with which we should be involved. Few things are more rewarding than finding one proper place in the Body of Christ and being used there to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

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.

¹ Christian A. Schwarz, *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches* (St. Charles, IL: Church Smart Resources, 2003), p. 22.



BUREAU OF EVANGELISM
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2005

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. 2004 - Oct. 2005)</u>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
The Ministry	_____	_____
Christian Service	_____	_____

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

The Processional Hymn: #225/#307 *Come We That Love the Lord*

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: #29/#29 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

The Responsive Reading: [AMEZ Hymnal] p. 96, 43rd Sunday
Morning or [Bicentennial] p. 76, 11th Sunday Morn. - Kingdومت

The Apostles' Creed: #657/#705

The Gloria Patri: #641/#703

The Lesson from the Holy Scriptures

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

The Pastoral Prayer

The Choral Selection

The Ministry of Kindness Offering

The Announcements

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

The Hymn of Preparation: #191/#494 *Father, I Stretch My Hands to Thee*

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

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

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

The Benediction

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

The Sinner's Prayer

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

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

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THE BUREAU OF EVANGELISM

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

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DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2005

Sponsored by

The Bureau of Evangelism

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Theme:

“Quality Characteristics of Healthy Congregations”

Empowering Leadership & Gift-Oriented Ministry

The Rev. Dr. J. Wardell Henderson	Piedmont District
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The Rev. Dr. Otis McMillan	Eastern North Carolina District
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The Rev. Dr. Douglas Maven	Mid-Atlantic I District
The Rev. Dr. Gloria Snipes	Mid-Atlantic II District
The Rev. Kordell Jenkins	Western District
The Rev. Mamie Hollowonger	Southwestern Delta District
The Rev. Ezekiel Washington	Alabama-Florida District
The Rev. A. K. Mensah	Western West Africa District



EVANGELISM AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, October 23, 2005



Spiritual Emphasis Week



JANUARY 1-7, 2006

“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 2006 are as follows:

THEME: Pure Religion [Evidencing Genuine Faith]

SCRIPTURE: James 1-5

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sunday	Jan. 1, 2006	Resilient Faith [Profiting from Our Trials]	James 1:1 - 11
Monday	Jan. 2, 2006	Victorious Faith [Overcoming Our Temptations]	James 1:12 - 17
Tuesday	Jan. 3, 2006	Transforming Faith [Changing Our Lives]	James 1:18 - 27
Wednesday	Jan. 4, 2006	Loving Faith/Living Faith [Demonstrating Divine Love & Life]	James 2:1 - 26
Thursday	Jan. 5, 2006	Mature Faith [Bridling Our Tongues/Living Wisely]	James 3:1 - 18
Friday	Jan. 6, 2006	Holy Faith/Humble Faith [Pursuing Holiness/Walking Humbly]	James 4:1 - 17
Saturday	Jan. 7, 2006	Persevering Faith [Heeding Warnings/Practicing Principles]	James 5:1 - 20