



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

## **DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2008**

**“Walking Upright in a Fallen World”**  
**“Modeling the Message of Christianity”**

Please note the Spiritual Emphasis Week 2009 Information on the last page!  
Downloadable Resources available at [www.beamezion.org](http://www.beamezion.org)



**Theme:**  
**“Walking Upright in a Fallen World”**  
**Modeling the Message of Christianity**

## **Decision Day Observance 2008**

*October 26, 2008*

*African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*



## DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



October 26, 2008

### Theme: Walking Upright in a Fallen World “Modeling the Message of Christianity”

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 and needed during this observance, the Bureau is placing its greatest emphasis upon decisions for Christ.

This year’s theme [2009] is “**Walking Upright in a Fallen World.**” We are highlighting the idea of modeling the message of Christianity. After a quadrennial of studying the eight essential qualities of healthy and growing churches identified by Christian A. Schwarz in his book, *Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches*, we must now practice what we have learned. Using the book of Romans as our study guide, we will focus on walking upright in a fallen world. Romans chapter 12 & 13 are really Paul’s commentary on how Christians ought to behave. Apostle Paul moves from theology to practical application. As Christians apply and practice the word of God, the message of Christ is modeled, and their verbal witness has credibility.

How can we walk upright in a fallen world? How can we live in this present world without conforming to its walk and way? Paul calls on each one of us to take personal responsibility. He makes his appeal based on all the mercies of God that we have received. In the earlier chapters of Romans, he sets forth his argument concerning the depravity of men and man’s inability to save himself. Then Paul amplifies the love of God. God loved us so much that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He reconciled us, redeemed us, justified us and placed us in the favor of God. Paul does not command us in this text, but pleads with us to present ourselves unto God. God desires our service and faithfulness from a heart of gratitude not compulsion.

The believer must possess a single-minded passion to please God in love, devotion, praise and holiness. Their love for God should be the motivation for their service and dedication to God. Paul lifts several ideas for consideration that every believer must take seriously if they are going to be successful in walking upright in a fallen world. Believers are challenged to offer God their bodies, their minds and their service. As we do, we become doers of the word and not mere hearers. ***James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.***

According to the Romans 12 & 13, we can best model the message of Christ by becoming living sacrifices for God. Roman 12:1 “***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.***” Believers are challenged to offer their body to God; offer their mind to God; offer their ministry gift to the body of Christ; offer their love to all and especially to the household of faith; and finally offer their obedience to God’s delegated authority.

***The Annual Decision Day Observance is generally held the fourth Sunday in October. However, it may be observed any time during October or even in November, if it is convenient for the local church. During the harvest season, the constituents of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church pause to celebrate the harvest of souls (conversions, new members, re-dedications) gathered during the previous twelve months, as well as those entering the ministry or any form of Christian service. Forms have been provided in order to assist churches in the reporting process.***



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



**DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2008**

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. 2007 - Oct. 2008)</u>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
The Ministry	_____	_____
Christian Service	_____	_____
Financial gift for the Bureau of Evangelism		\$ _____

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