



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



DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE 2011

“Embracing the Power of the Gospel”

Please note the Spiritual Emphasis Week 2012 Information on the last page!

Theme:

“Embracing the Power of the Gospel”



Decision Day Observance 2011

October 23, 2011

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



DECISION DAY OBSERVANCE

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



October 23, 2011

Theme: Embracing the Power of the Gospel

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 2011 is Embracing the Power of the Gospel. Paul writes to the Church at Rome to encourage them as they live for God in a hostile environment. In Romans 1:16-18, Apostle Paul testifies to his commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many Disciples of Christ had scattered from Jerusalem because of the severe persecution. The early church was operating under heavy persecution and ridicule. The Greeks considered Christianity as foolishness and the Jews sought for a sign. Paul declares that the Gospel is really the power of God to those who believe. Today's culture seems to simply tolerate Christians, but the world is still the world. The world has always been hostile towards God and his church. Regardless of the hostility, Paul was ready to preach the gospel in Rome, in the very pinnacle of heathenistic pride and power. If there was any place where one would be ashamed of a crucified Savior that place was Rome, the center of power. Paul gives several reasons why he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. First of all, he is not ashamed because of what the Gospel is; secondly, he is not ashamed of the gospel because of what it requires; thirdly, he is not ashamed because of what the Gospel can do; then, he is not ashamed because of the hope it brings to all and finally, he is not ashamed because of what the Gospel reveals. As we embrace the power of the Gospel, let us boldly proclaim the Gospel message to the world that they may know Jesus Christ. The book, *The Roman Road to Recovery* has been selected by the Connectional Lay Council as the book for common reading this year. I encourage each of us to read it and embrace the power of the Gospel.

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 again emphasizing several categories which include conversions, new members, re-dedications, call to Christian service and Call to preach the gospel.

Decision Day is rooted and grounded in the quest to see our members, children, youth and adults 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 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 2011
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. 2010 - Oct. 2011)</u>
Conversions	_____	_____
Re-dedications	_____	_____
New Members	_____	_____
The Preaching Ministry	_____	_____
Christian Service	_____	_____
Financial gift for the Bureau of Evangelism		\$ _____

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