

2016 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

We started 2016 in prayer as we ended the New Year's Eve celebration and entered the New Year in praise and prayer. The theme and scripture for the 2016 all church prayer events was "Closer to God in Prayer", II Chronicles 7:14. The Pre Day of Prayer was held on Monday, January 11 with over 50 members in attendance. The Day of Prayer was held on Saturday, January 23. Thomas Bush was our guest speaker, and over 70 members attended. The prayer warriors came together and prayed to our God. The Night of Prayer was held on Friday, June 3, with 50 members in attendance.

The Valentine's Couples Dinner was held at the Westwind Center in Ontario. The theme was "GOD is the Source of Love", 1 John 4:7-11. Pastor Brian Kennedy was the speaker. We were blessed to have Michael and Regina Winans as our special guest recording artists.

The theme for the Black History Program was "The Memorial Stones of Black History", Joshua 4:5-7. Special emphasis were on the Underground Railroad and Selma. Our guest speaker was Dr. Daniel E. Walker, Research Associate of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

Our Resurrection Services (6:00am, 8:00am, and 10:00am) were held at the Ontario Town Square on Euclid Ave. for the second year. God was glorified, as we worshiped Him for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, as people prayed the prayer of salvation and the church experienced edification and the community was encouraged (over 1,400 in attendance).

The 2016 Vacation Bible School entitled "I've Got Talent – Showcasing My Work for Jesus" was a great success. Over 100 people attended each night. Various presentations were given by: Robotics by RoboZilla; Jamemy Barnett (Code presentation); Dr. C. Daniel Prather (Chair of Aviation Science, Cal-Baptist University); Gilbert Holmes (Dean & Professor, LaVerne School of Law); Lorenzo "Rob" Savage (Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Field Office, U.S. Secret Service); Janey Scott (Multiple Franchise Business Owner/Entrepreneur); "Bearcat" (armored police vehicle) presentation; Linda Smith (weathering the storm in the face of undesired business outcomes); Dr. Amelia Murry Taylor, MD. (You cannot go it alone, my journey to the medical field with the help of others) and Leon Ridgeway (Street Gospel Ministries). A light dinner was served each night.

Our Graduation Program had the most graduates ever! We had a total of 60 graduates, which included 17 college graduates, 12 high school graduates, 5 middle school promotions, 10 elementary promotions, 9 kindergarten promotions, and 7 pre-school promotions. Dr. Karen Semien-McBride gave encouraging words on "Mentoring and the Duty to Pay it Forward". Floyd Sie Clark, graduate of the US Military Academy (West

Point); gave a special address and Senator Connie Leyva, District 20, gave the keynote address.

In the summer 2016, the entire Tchula Mississippi team flew on Southwest Airlines to Tennessee, then rented vans and drove into Mississippi. Traveling by air made our team more efficient, and removed an enormous amount of stress on team members who were drivers (flying into Tennessee also helps obtain several 15 passenger vans at a competitive price).

The Mayor of Tchula gave her second State of the City Address at the annual basketball tournament. In 2016, we implemented a giveaway program to show unconditional love, and to attract more middle aged adults to the basketball tournament (the giveaways included \$20.00 gift cards to electronic devices, a barbeque grill with charcoal, a sound bar, and a 39" flat screen television).

We spent time in two senior apartment living complexes ministering to seniors around healthy eating, medications, loneliness, reading glasses, blood pressure checks, knowledge of resources, etc. (we gave out goodie bags with reading glasses, tooth paste, soaps and lotions). The Seniors Team led a person to Christ and shared the love of Jesus with a practicing witch, and ministered to 105 seniors.

We donated supplies to the Mayor's healthy eating program in Lexington, and our sewing ministry grew to seven sewing machine stations, and to nine sewing participants in Leawood apartments in Lexington. Mt. Zion members donated three new sewing machines for this unique ministry.

The St. Paul C.O.G.I.C., which is the Mother Church for the Church of God in Christ in the United States, hosted the True Love Waits Class. The True Love Waits class had up to sixteen participants, in which three gave their hearts to the Lord.

The Vacation Bible School in Lexington had fifty-four participants, where seven girls and twenty boys gave their hearts to the Lord and the Vacation Bible School in Tchula had up to eight participants.

The Leadership Development and Repair Team was combined. The team hung a ceiling fan for a senior in Tchula, repaired a water damaged ceiling at Zion City Baptist Church, in Tchula, and installed a screen door for a senior couple "in the country" of Tchula, and contributed \$130.00 to repair the broken windows in a trailer home for two displaced students.

The Church Picnic Team worked overtime and despite extreme heat, over 250 members of the church gathered at Homer Briggs Park in Ontario to celebrate our 94th Church Anniversary for another one of a kind picnic in the park.

The Harvest Festival had over 1,200 participants. We had two new attractions, rock climbing and monkey jump. The Gospel Line Dance Team performed and was a great hit. In addition, at least 10 people gave their lives to Christ that night.

Mt. Zion's Angel Tree Ministry made Christmas a joyful time for several families of prisoners during Christmas, which is one of the most difficult times in their year for prisoners and their families. We gave gifts to, and served over 150 children and their families.

Marketing and AV Team - had many new and exciting events that required very creative ways of supporting Mt. Zion's increasingly creative venues. They provided auxiliary sound for events such as Easter held at the Ontario Town Square, Harvest Festival, outdoor movie events, indoor concerts and always Saturday & Sunday Services.

The A/V ministry improved on the streaming experience; continued to grow in talent and replaced aging equipment with newer equipment to improve sound quality.

The Children's Ministry held two, four-week camps with eighty-five children. Fifty percent of the children who attended summer camp was from the community around the church, and other communities. In addition, some of the campers participated in karate and demonstrated their skills at the Rubidoux Library in Riverside.

Although the Christmas Art Academy for children had low numbers in 2016, the children had a blast and had three out of state visitors who said, "they will be back next year". Children have a habit of making commitments and then telling their parents (lol).

The Children's Christmas out Reach Event – had eleven participants including one senior went to Citrus Nursing Home in Fontana, sang Christmas carols, and passed out gifts.

We thank God for His blessings in 2016 and for what He accomplished in and through the Children's Ministry. Thank God, for the parents who take their nurturing role serious and collaborate with the children's ministry.

Youth – The youth were very active in ministry in 2016. Youth in the ministry have been called upon to serve on various committees, in the nursery, children ministry, praise dance ministry, ushers, choir, Harvest Festival, Tchula Mission, and Helping Hands.

The True Love Waits Program kicked-off at Magic Mountain in February with over 1500 students from all over California. The Natomas High School Drum Corps performed at the end of a Wednesday night workshop. The 7-week workshop culminated with our first TLW Battle Station Concert and Ceremony coordinated by Erin Beatty.

The Good Man Movement mentorship program awarded James Martin, IV and Blake English as Good Man of the Year. We sponsored "Brothers, Badges, and Breakfast," which brings together the community and law enforcement.

Teens operated booths and participated in the cleanup effort during the Harvest festival. Students shared the Gospel of John at their schools weekly with the Lifebook Project. Moreover, Mr. J lead local middle and high school bible clubs on school campuses each week during the school year.

Teens washed cars on "Go" Sunday and four students traveled to Mississippi with the Missions' Team to perform various projects in Tchula and Lexington.

The Youth College Connection Team hosted UCLA on our campus for a college preparation and scholarship workshop.

The Youth Christmas party included a five-team giftwrap-a-teen competition. What a creative way to have fun.

Twenty-one youths from Mt. Zion attended the Ignition Student Conference at the Ontario Convention Center in December with 1900 students.

The Wednesday Youth Bible study began using "inteen" curriculum through Urban Ministries International. The Sunday and Wednesday night curriculum design relates to a broader base of youth culturally, and the teachers/facilitators ensure that all youth connect in discussions. Another youth highlight is the Sunday middle school class moved into the COC building due to growth in class size.

In 2016, the HUB (Helping Unite Believers) Ministry facilitated by Pastor Wallace helped lead a team of college students at Mt. SAC College. Each week they shared the gospel and held an outdoor worship service in the middle of campus. Through this outreach, over 30 people committed or recommitted their lives to Christ.

In the spring of 2016 the HUB ministry experienced one of its highest average attendance for Wednesday Bible Study. The topics were relationships, apologetics and the Book of Isaiah. Wednesday night attracted new young adults to the church, and provide a consistent fellowship where they can grow in the Word of God.

In July, the HUB ministry hosted its Annual Young Adult Conference. The conference was a success with around 80 young adults in attendance. Praise God!

The Deacons Ministry worked on updating the family ministry. They ministered to the Mt. Zion congregation through prayer and service. They served Lord Supper to 80 members, assisted in baptizing 16 candidates and made 95 Hospital and home visits. The Deacons participated in the Men and Women's combined fellowship. The Deacons traveled with and assisted the pastor throughout the year.

In 2016, the Deaconess Ministry continued to work alongside the pastor, elders, and deacons. The Deaconess Ministry outreached to several hundred members/non-members in hospitals, convalescent homes, homes of bereaved families, and those sick and shut-in. The Deaconess also assisted the Deacons in Baptisms and the Lord's Supper. They were also involved in other ministries, maximizing their gifts and talents for the Lord. The ministry now has 47 members, to include seven (7) deaconess in training.

In 2016, the Sunday School had 19 Sunday School classes, 18 Discipleship Groups, and 5 Doing Life Together groups. We had 56 Sunday School teachers, plus outreach workers and 18 discipleship leaders. Six people completed the teacher training class. These individuals serve as co-teachers and then become lead teachers.

Our average attendance in 2106 was 246, which includes Sunday School, Saturday School and discipleship classes.

Sharon Bennett came on as the Sunday School Children's Division Director and Ann Iorg came on as the Sunday School Pre-School Division Director.

The Ministry Connection Sunday School training event was the best ever. Approximately 300 attended and participants had 11 conference choices. Josh Hunt, nationally known Sunday School Consultant, was the keynote speaker and led the conference on How to Double Your Sunday School in Two Years or Less.

Ann Iorg led a training conference for our preschool workers. She did an outstanding job, as usual.

The Sunday School is planning to unveil a Bible Teacher Directory, which will provide a biographical sketch and photograph of the Bible teachers at Mt. Zion.

Mt. Zion is using home based and church based Life Groups as a growth strategy to reach members and guest during the week with a meaningful small group experience throughout the region. Two new home Bible study groups started in 2016 with a goal to develop 10 groups by the end of 2017.

Renovation of the Community Outreach Building (corner of California and Palm Avenue) – Finally after many years of not developing a much needed building, and after Elder Robert Lewis, Jr. said: "let's raise the money and get it done," we began a campaign for the Community Outreach Center in January 2016. We exceeded the goal of \$20,000, in June 2016. The renovation included new floors, windows, new drywall and texture on all interior walls, recessed lighting, external stucco, a new HVAC unit, and bathroom and kitchen renovations. We had our Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 17, 2016 as part of our 94th Anniversary Celebration. Praise God!

We use the COC building for Sunday School classes, Grief Recovery, and other community oriented meetings and events. The Mt. Zion Community Development Corporation house their administrative operations in the COC building.

The Nursing Home Ministry provided room-to room visitations at Country Oaks and Park Avenue Healthcare (both in Pomona), and Upland Rehabilitation Center.

The Mt. Zion Seniors ministry gave out 150 gift bags at Country Oaks, Park Avenue Healthcare, and a facility in Rancho Cucamonga. The Nursing Home Ministry ministered to 587 residents in a six-month period in 2016.

The Nurturers Ministry hosted the New Members luncheon in August 2016 for 12 new members. During the luncheon, the new members shared something about themselves and their families. Additionally, seven Nurturers were present along with several ministry leaders who provided a brief overview of their ministry.

The Wellness Ministry collaborated with the Fitness Ministry and added a Gospel Line dance class. The Tuesday and Thursday Line Dance, Zumba, Step, and Karate classes continue to draw people from the community. To God be the glory.

The Helping Hands Ministry provided over 7,000 meals to individuals in need and provided emergency housing for several families. Every month Helping Hands collaborates with Operation REAPP to provide meals to seniors living in the Ontario area. Helping Hands provided 72 food bags for the homeless for "Go" Sunday. During the holidays, 1,858 individuals received food from Helping Hands Ministry. Helping Hands Ministry is a recipient of US Postal Carriers annual "Feed the Hunger Food Drive" and generous donations from the Mt. Zion family. The Helping Hands Ministry volunteers gave 2,843 hours of their time in 2016.

Men's Ministry – The primary goal for the men's ministry in 2016 was to increase participation by encouraging the male members of the Church with lessons on brotherhood, and developing new leaders.

In March of 2016, the Ministry sponsored the Men's Retreat titled, "The Battle of the Heart". Our guest speaker was Pastor Josh Beckley of Ecclesia Christian Fellowship Church in the city of San Bernardino, California. Pastor's Brian Kennedy, Richard Young and Al Percy Bennett Jr. served as breakout group leaders.

Ninety men attended this retreat in Alpine Village in the Blue Jay region.

In December of 2016, the Men's Ministry sponsored a community discussion regarding surviving law enforcement contacts, and was entitled "Brothers, Badges, and Breakfast". Representatives from the F.B.I., Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's, San Bernardino County Sheriffs and Ontario Police Departments participated.

The Women's Ministry Wednesday Bible Study delved into the Word of God studying Kingdom Women by author Chrystal Evans Hurst and at the fourth Saturday Women's Fellowship, they learned about the Idols of the Heart by author Elyse Fitzpatrick.

The women's ministry established the "war room," which is a designated area in the education building for women to bring their request to God.

The Women's Retreat was phenomenal! The theme was "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole" John 5:2-9. Women attended workshops on being Made Whole in Difficult Relationships and Being Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. The keynote speaker, Mrs. Robin Parker-Davis, inspired, challenged and encouraged us.

Under the direction of Sister Dana Booker, a social media platform was launched. The goal is to provide a platform to promote engagement in the work of Mt. Zion Ministries.

Two new ministries were introduced in 2016, Griefshare and Celebrate Recovery. We are praying for continued growth in these ministries.

Mt. Zion has made some significant upgrades in 2016. We installed a new stove and oven in the Mt. Zion Café and installed three 5-ton air conditioning units in the sanctuary. In addition, we installed lights around the Community Outreach Center for increased lighting in the parking area.

The church also upgraded our database and financial modules to ShelbyNext. The membership portion allows all members to access their membership records and update their records (address, phone, email, etc.). Members can also track their own giving records and print reports. Shelby "Giving" has the option for donors to contribute via online, or by text with instant file updates. Ministries are also able to take and track attendance electronically. The Children's Check-in was also implemented to enhance the security for our children.

The African mission's team consisting of Lynnette Coachman, Rachel Leary, John Crumpton, and Johnnell (Mr. J) Williams traveled to East Africa May 4 – 24, 2016 to serve in Uganda and Rwanda. The tour included teaching at the equator Baptist church in Uganda, workshop classes in Ruhengeri Rwanda, Karangazi Rwanda, and Rwemikoma Uganda. Workshop classes were designed for youth, women, and men, which included a health education component for each group. Renée Farquharson works during an 8-month period creating workshops for Pastors and Sunday School groups in area churches throughout Uganda and Rwanda.

This was the first year that the Music Ministry introduced original songs. We lead worship and provided musical support with a small team for the Young Adult Conference, Worship on the Beach, the Harvest Festival and the MLK Unity Breakfast.

2016 was the second year the choir led worship on Resurrection Sunday at the beautiful Ontario Town Square for our Sunrise, 8am and 10am Resurrection services. We look forward to doing it again in future years.

We had two concerts this year featuring the Mt. Zion Choir and the Mt. Zion Male Chorus. The Male Chorus concert included six other local churches.

The Mt. Zion Christian Pre-School had 19 students enrolled and 5 graduates in 2016.

Mt. Zion closed 2016 with a unanimous vote on December 10 and 11, by the congregation to use a "dba" for our name. Mt. Zion's official name is Mt. Zion Church of Ontario (Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Ontario doing business as Mt. Zion Church of Ontario). Here are the key talking points we used in this process:

1. Maintaining a denominational name is not a biblical mandate.
2. We desire to eliminate barriers that keep people away.
3. Millennials do not connect with denominationalism, but a meaningful relationship with God.
4. Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Ontario dba (doing business as) Mt. Zion Church of Ontario.
 - a) A DBA allows an organization to operate under a name other than its legal name. A DBA also allows an organization to use another name interchangeably with its legal name.
 - For example, Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Ontario dba as Mt. Zion Church of Ontario are legally one and the same.
 - b) A DBA does not change the organization's operations in any way.
 - Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws and the process for amending them remain unchanged.
 - Contracts, real estate, financial agreements, etc. under the legal name and any entered into under the new (DBA name) are still owned by Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Ontario.
 - c) The process for a DBA is simple. The following steps outline the process.
 - File an application for DBA with San Bernardino County.
 - Publish notice of DBA name change in the local paper for four (4) weeks.
 - Notify the City of Ontario of DBA name change
 - Notify financial institutions of DBA name change
 - Change Marquee, letterhead, business cards, etc.
5. Safeguards that protect Mt. Zion from wandering away from her doctrinal roots.
 - The Mt. Zion Bylaws and Constitution protects Mt. Zion from wandering away.
 - The Mt. Zion Statement of Faith is included in the Mt. Zion Constitution and Bylaws.
6. Retaining the name "Mt. Zion" keeps us connected to the rich history of Mt. Zion

We adjusted our name to better position future leaders of Mt. Zion to reach people for Christ. With this in mind, Mt. Zion remains unapologetically a Baptist church in which we hold to the supremacy of the Bible as the final authority for our faith and practices. We hold to a regenerate church membership, baptism by immersion, the autonomy of the local church, separation of church and state, religious freedom, and the priesthood of the believer. Moreover, our statement of faith remains the same (available in New Members orientation and upon request).

With such a huge change, we knew God's presence and power was with us, and we had "plenty reason" to worship and praise God during our annual New Year's Eve Service. Mt. Zion is a blessed church. God's hand of favor remains upon Mt. Zion.

2017 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

As is our norm, we literally started the year in praise and prayer (at the end of the New Year's Eve celebration, praise and pray when the clock strikes 12am.

The Pre Day of Prayer Meeting was on Monday, January 9 with over 50 members in attendance. The Day of Prayer was on Saturday, January 14 in conjunction with the Annual Leadership Seminar. Joining leaders and prayer is an intentional action to fulfill our strategic goal to build an army of prayer warriors.

The Night of Prayer was on Friday, June 2, with 71 members in attendance. Our focus was on "Being Persistent in Prayer" (Matt. 7:7-8).

In keeping with the 2017 National Black History Theme of education, Mt. Zion celebrated Black History on February 26, 2017 with an original play written by Deacon Dean Myles titled "A Black History Play". The play told the story of Harriet Tubman, the Buffalo Soldiers, and Madame C.J. Walker's accomplishments.

Ralph Sutherland, a WWII veteran, gave us a firsthand account of how it was to serve in the United States Army during a time when segregation was the norm.

Rachel Hilliard, President of the San Diego Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers, gave an outstanding portrayal of Cathay William, otherwise known as William Cathay, the first African American woman to enlist in the United States Army in 1866 – 1868.

Dinner was served before the program with over 300 in attendance.

The Usher Board held its 13th Usher Program in March. The guest speaker was Pastor Raymond Turner of Temple MBC, San Bernardino, CA with over 300 in attendance. One new usher was installed.

For the third year, we held our Resurrection Services at the beautiful Ontario Town Square (6:00 am, 8:00 am, and 10:00 am). We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord with over 1,600 in attendance. Each year we see an increased number of community members in

attendance. Hosting an annual Sunrise Service and "Easter Services" is an intentional effort by Mt. Zion to add pleasant surprise to the community members, and visitors to our City.

Our Graduation Program was another success. We had 43 graduates, which included 15 college graduates, 9 high school graduates, 7 middle school promotions, 7 elementary promotions, 2 kindergarten promotions, and 3 pre-school promotions. Dr. Jordan, and Dr. Fhanysha Gaddis gave encouraging words, and McDonald's Restaurant franchise owner, Reginald Webb, gave the keynote address. Senator Connie Leyva gave special commendations from the California State Senate to our graduates.

The 2017 Vacation Bible School "Glow for Jesus! Let Your Light Shine" was a great success. Using a day camp format, children entering Kindergarten through sixth grade were able to experience Matthew 5:16 for five fun-filled days. Each day began with morning exercise, followed by our VBS program. The children and workers were served a delicious lunch each day. The afternoon sessions included Black History, STEM, Acting/Film Production, Cooking, Career Development & Bible Drill activities. On Thursday, June 29, the children were able to go on a field trip to Jesse Turner Aquatic Park in Fontana, California. We had an average attendance of 69 participants each day, and every child heard the ABC's of Salvation. Our prayer was for God to save non-Christians and help Christians "Glow" for Him in a brighter way. We are grateful for the 31 VBS staff members who gave their time and talents to expand God's kingdom with the beautiful children He entrusted into our care.

The 2017 Mississippi Connecting People to Jesus mission's trip was a great success. We collaborated with 16 churches (6 from California, 1 from Florida, and 9 from Mississippi). Vacation Bible School was held at seven different churches throughout Holmes County, and at Leawood apartments in Lexington. The total daily average attendance for VBS at the eight locations was 205 people. Twenty-two children prayed the prayer of salvation at Leawood apartments.

The Youth and young adult development ministry (R.I.S.E.) was held during the day at the historic St. Paul C.O.G.I.C. in Lexington with a record attendance of 33 youth.

The Senior outreach team reached out to 35 seniors in their homes and in a senior complex clubhouse. The team discussed healthy eating, diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer, high blood pressure, and the team did a meaningful bible study. The team also discussed their senior's expensive electric bill and offered to help them get into special programs for low-income seniors. Praise the Lord.

Urban Ministries Inc. (UMI) donated VBS curriculum for 500 VBS students. The Lockman Foundation also donated 500 New American Standard Bibles for distribution.

The Basketball Tournament was held with a high attendance of over 200 people. On the first night, at least 20 people prayed the prayer of salvation. On the rest of the nights at least 10 people prayed the prayer of salvation for the first time (decisions for Christ during the week was at least 52 people).

Gospel artist Ruth Davis ministered during the Thursday evening concert along with the choir from Good Hope Baptist Church in Milestone. During the concert God blessed us with the resources to give away: Two 48" smart TV's, nine tablets, two Barbeque grills with a bag of charcoal, two scientific calculators (for two High School freshmen), three sport watches, one basketball, one CD player, two \$25 gift cards and two cards to buy applications on smart devices.

Through our host Pastor, Eddie Carthan, Bishop William Matthews (Head of International Mission for the Church of God in Christ) invited our team to lodge at Saints Academy (a 500-acre facility with a school and dorms). Our 33-member team residing at Saints Academy made us more efficient and built a much stronger team. St. Paul C.O.G.I.C, which is next door to the dorms, opened their kitchen for our cook team to prepare breakfast each morning, and they opened their gym for our team to exercise. Praise Him!

The Mt. Zion Marketing and AV Team – was a part of the team that put much thought and planning into upgrading our sanctuary and education building with new technology. We also provided auxiliary sound for our increasingly creative events, such as Easter, Harvest Festival, outdoor movie events, indoor concerts and always Saturday & Sunday Services. The A/V ministry improved the streaming quality by moving equipment to an isolated location, and replaced aging equipment (see end of 2017 report for renovation details).

The Children's Ministry. In February 12, children participated in our annual Parent's Night Out, which is in conjunction with our Couples Dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day.

In March, 25 children participated in our Lock-in, which is an overnight fellowship for fifth and sixth graders, and includes breakfast and a prayer walk in the community.

During the Resurrection Sunday services, the Children's ministry gave out over 100 gift bags to members and guests.

Summer Day Camp Session (1) was great and one of the highlights for the twenty-nine children attending the camp was visiting Splash Kingdom.

Summer Camp Session (2) had thirty-five campers with the highlight at Knott's Berry Farm.

In 2017, the children's ministry collaborated with the VBS ministry to conduct a week long VBS in day camp format. Collaboration and Creativity for the glory of God. Praise Him!

In June, our Children's Choir (A Joyful Noise) debuted under the new leadership of Doreen Jeter in our Annual Mass choir summer concert.

The Children's Ministry received a generous grant from So. Cal Ministries to help offset summer camp fees for several children in the community around Mt. Zion.

The 10:30 a.m. Children's Church grew to an average of 35 children each Sunday

Youth – Our youth continued to be very active in ministry this year. The Mt. Zion Youth served in several areas such as the Harvest Festival Outreach, Tchula missions, nursery workers, children's ministry helpers, praise dancers, ushers, choir members, Helping Hands, "Go" Sunday outreach, etc.

- Our Youth Teacher/Facilitators use creativity as they present curriculum to meet the unique needs of our youth.
- True Love Waits – The internationally teenage sexual abstinence program kicked-off at Magic Mountain. For the third year, the Natomas High School Drum Corps, from Sacramento, under the direction of Floyd Kennedy, performed at the end of one of the Wednesday workshops, and the seven-week program culminated with the second TLW Battle Station Conference and Concert Ceremony.
- The Good Man Movement concluded its third session by awarding Blake English as Good Man of the Year during the Gala at the University of La Verne.
- Mr. J lead local middle and high school bible clubs January to May on school campuses each week.
- The Graduation program included eight High School Seniors with 100% college enrollment in the fall.
- Nine students participated during the four week Youth Performing Arts Workshop during the summer.
- Three students served as instructors during the VBS "Children's Television Acting Class."
- Two students traveled to Mississippi with the missions' team to perform various projects in Tchula and Lexington.

The HUB Young Adult ministry used impactful messages from the teaching series entitled "Distracted," to help 18 – 35 year olds stay focused in a world full of distractions.

In April, the Young Adult and Youth Ministry Directors hired an Assistant Director, Freddy Alfaro, to help address youth making the challenging transition to young adult ministry. Not only does Freddy provide an ethnic bridge to the Hispanic community, but also his ability to lead worship enhanced the Wednesday nights HUB ministry with a resultant increase in attendance and ethnic diversity.

The ministry also saw good community building efforts to help members become more active at Mt. Zion. Some of these included a mountain trip, game night, Angel's baseball

game, Worship at the Beach, Starbucks fellowship for graduating class, and a luncheon for out-of-town college students.

The outreach ministry at Mt. SAC College, led by Pastor Wallace has proven fruitful as evidence by students making commitments to Christ during the weekly worship service held in the middle of the campus for all students.

The Deacons Ministry worked on updating the family ministry. They ministered to the Mt. Zion congregation through prayer and service. By June of 2017, they served Lord Supper to 26 members, assisted in baptizing 17 candidates and made 99 Hospital and home visits. The Deacons participated in the Men and Women's combined fellowship. The Deacons traveled with and assisted the pastor throughout the year.

The Deaconess Ministry continues to reach others for Christ by staying connected to the body of believers and others. They assisted the Deacons with baptisms and communion; consistently reached out to church families and others; and maximized their talents and gifts in various other ministries for kingdom building.

The Sunday School department continued to improve ways to involve teachers and workers. The Sunday School Council meet once a month to plan the work of the Sunday School Department, which resulted in significant improvements to the Sunday School. For instance, by gathering feedback for teachers and workers, the Council developed a meaningful format that includes all teachers and workers, and a day most teachers and workers can attend the Sunday School teachers and workers meetings. The result? The monthly attendance exceeds 50 teachers and workers. Another example is the development of a list of co-teachers who are prepared to teach at a moment's notice. One Sunday per quarter, these teachers are the "Batter Up" teacher. Hence, when a scheduled teacher has to work or has an emergency and cannot attend, every Sunday School class always have a trained and prepared teacher to present God's Word. Praise Him!

The Council made progress in establishing Outreach Leaders and Care Group Leaders in each adult class.

The Bible Teachers Directory, which contains a biographical sketch and photo of every person who teaches or leads a Bible Study at Mt. Zion, was completed in 2017.

Doing Life Together Groups are Bible Study groups either held on campus or hosted at a member's home. We had nine groups that met regularly by September 2107. The goal is for each group to meet all least twice per month, and the goal for the number of groups increased from 10 to 20 by the end of 2017.

The Nursing Home Ministry continued to provide room-to-room visitation at two Nursing Facilities in Pomona (Country Oaks and Park Avenue Healthcare).

The team conducted a Church Service at Upland Rehabilitation Center on the fourth Sunday of each month. The Nursing Home Ministry ministered to approximately 366 people during the first six months in 2017.

The Nurturers Ministry hosted the New Members luncheon on March 19, with 26 new members in attendance. Members were served lunch and given the opportunity to share something about themselves and their families. Pastor Kennedy and Pastor Young, and other Ministry Leaders were present to greet our new members. Each Ministry Leader had the opportunity to explain their function and invite the new members to be a part of a ministry. After the luncheon, the members had an invitation to attend the mid-year Holy Spirit Guidance Meeting held in the Video Café.

The Helping Hands Ministry provided approximately 3,089 meals to individuals in need during the first six months in 2017.

Helping Hands has an on-going partnership with San Bernardino County Emergency Food Assistance Program. Every month Helping Hands' volunteers pick up food in San Bernardino and distribute food at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Through June of 2017, Helping Hands delivered 576 food bags to seniors residing in Ontario, CA.

In the month of April Helping Hands provided Resurrection Holiday food bags that feed 181 individuals.

During "Go Sunday" in May, 56 homeless bags were distributed.

The Music Ministry began the year with the Annual Male Chorus Concert. Seven local and distant churches joined us for a memorable evening of worship. The leadership team met together for a Music Ministry Retreat, in which they mapped out the rest of the year (concerts, church events, schedule, goals, and being a Christ-centered ministry).

The choir was featured at the Annual M. L. K. Unity Breakfast at the Double Tree Hotel and Suites. In the spring, the choir ministered at the Ontario Town Center Amphitheater for Resurrection Sunday services, and then ended the spring season with the Annual Evening of Worship, featuring our very own choir.

The experienced growth both spiritually and numerically. The renovated stage made it easier to utilize space and have more options for events, concerts, and to be more video friendly. We were so excited to introduce a new director for our Children's Choir. We were excited and a little sore that we lost some of our Youth as they graduated and went abroad for college. We added new members to our band and worship team. We are mentoring a few prospects for our children and youth band among many other exciting things.

The Administration Department added three part-time Staff members (Seniors Ministry Coordinator, Facility Maintenance Manager, and Young Adult/Youth Assistant Director) and five Independent Contractors (temporary Marketing Director, 2 temporary Facility Maintenance workers, Choir Director, and Praise Dance Coordinator).

In an effort to be good stewards over the California Avenue properties, Mt. Zion is undertaking several building renovations:

The Helping Hands building – the floors were replaced in the entire building, all ceiling were painted, base boards were installed on the walls, new bathroom fixtures were installed, new interior doors were installed, and the gas line to the building was repaired. Girls/Women Baptism Room – Dressing room stalls were painted.

Boys/Men Baptism Room – The entire room was painted and all the stalls removed to make room for the Mt. Zion Studio/Recording room (60% complete in September 2017).

Education Building Upgrade – Instead of spending money for a huge local park experience for our 95th anniversary, the Leaders of the church agreed that we should invest the money into installing monitors in all the classrooms throughout the education building to enhance the learning experience, and to possess overflow space as the congregating grows. All new monitors have a hard wire to the AV booth for live viewing of worship services from the sanctuary, movies, critical messages, etc. God reassured us that we made the right decision with an overflow crowd for our 95th church anniversary celebration. Hallelujah!

Sanctuary Renovation - A group of talented, strong-willed men, who are members of Mt. Zion enjoyed spirited debate and planning sessions for the sanctuary renovation project. These bothers learned to put what they had into the hands of Jesus, and watched Jesus produced an outcome far beyond any one brother. Praise Him!

In Phase one, the team had several stage risers, and two chandeliers removed, and all the remaining chandeliers raised in the seating area to accommodate proper viewing of the stage area. To enhance safety, the team raised the stage/pulpit where they removed a riser. They removed the old carpet and installed new carpet. They painted the walls black, for better contrast and to eliminate unnecessary distractions, they built and hung large screens, and upgraded the video projectors for improved visual programming. They also enhanced the lighting for video recording. The team installed a wireless microphone system to remove several trip hazards; they updated plugs around the stage area, and installed an A/V rack for better organization of equipment.

As of September 2017, phase one was completed.

Phase 2, which includes improved lighting and other A/V related improvements throughout the sanctuary, will begin in 2017. The team also plans to start Phase 3 in 2017, which includes the ceiling treatment, painting walls, and installing new carpet.

The Church Sign – “So Cal Graphiks”, in Ontario, stepped up and installed the panels for front church sign to reflect our new service times, and the updated church logo before our 95th anniversary as promised. Our own Pastor Richard Young used his electrical skills to ensure that our sign shines brightly for the glory of God.

Fast Facts Just for the Record (first six months in 2017)

Sixteen (26) new members

Eleven (17) baptisms

Five (3) baby dedications

Four (5) members went home to be with the Lord

Ninety-Two (92) people attend “Doing Life Together” regularly on a weekly basis