

## 2013 church history highlights

At the end of 2012, three of our Ministry Directors approached Pastor Kennedy to discuss an idea that encompassed using an annual theme which would foster (i) a more focused approach to reaching people with the gospel message and (ii) making loyal followers of Jesus Christ. After great discussion on recommended themes and subsequent and equally as great input from staff and key leaders, the Lord guided us to the theme: "Connecting People to Jesus". Through these continued discussions, four (4) key actions were developed to help us specifically connect people to Jesus - "Pray", Go, Teach, and Serve".

In this one year history update, let us look at brief review of each of our four actions noted above to see how we did.

### "PRAY"

"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:36-38

Monday fasting from 12:00 noon to 8:30p.m.

Monday night prayer each Monday from 7pm to 8:30pm continues to provide Mt. Zion with necessary intercessory prayer.

Night of Prayer - Two nights of prayer were added to our intercessory prayer for Mt. Zion. Members came to the House of Prayer between the hours of 6:00 pm to 12:00 pm to worship and praise God, to pray in small groups, to pray individually, and to hear God's word. Each and every time God fortifies the church through prayer.

Sunday Prayer . -. Our Prayer Warriors continue to meet every Sunday "via telephone" to pray for our 8:00 am service and physically meet in Room One each Sunday morning to pray for our 11:00 am service.

Daily Prayer. - The prayer warriors also maintain their daily prayer line to intercede for the church.

We MUST CONTINUE IN PRAYER, Mt. Zion, to move forward on our knees!

## "GO"

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

## Foreign Missions

### Africa -

Our team returned to join Missionary Rene Farquharson in Africa once again. Accompanying our team this year was Lynnette Coachman; Lynnette was Mt. Zion's "first" female team member to accompany our team out of the country! Accompanying Lynnette Coachman on our African mission journey for 2013 were Johnnell Williams, Pastor Young and Missionary Rene. The Missionary team ministered to Destiny Worship Centre, Butangala Village, Evangel Church, Klanga Village, Deliverance Church, Namalere Village, Namaganga Baptist Church, Namaganga, and Buyego Baptist Church, Buyego Village!

## Domestic Missions – Tchula, Mississippi

In 2013 our Tchula missions team made their fourth summer trip to Tchula. Southwest Airlines blessed this ministry and Mt. Zion by providing six (6) buddy passes and two (2) unlimited tickets to help us accomplish the following:

- Install showers and do other repairs in a home over 100 years old;
- Provide airline transportation for our attending social worker to provide needed parenting training;
- Provide airline transportation for a college nursing student in to do simple eye exams and pass out reading glasses donated by Mt. Zion members, blood pressure checks, as well as to conduct diabetes and hypertension training along with our retired Orange County Fire Department Paramedic;
- Deliver six (6) large boxes of reading books, which were given to children attending Vacation Bible School and who were at the basketball tournament held this year! The children were absolutely thrilled to play in front of the community;
- Effect the signing up thirty (30) college-age community members to attend any Historic Black College with scholarship money attached (Note: Admission is almost assured through the program that we offered.)

- Worked closely with the new Tchula Police Chief and staff members to effect a comprehensive written strategic plan to help with the community planning process;

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#### Domestic Missions – Tchula, Mississippi (continued):

- Following through with our continued contacts in Southern California on a comprehensive plan to provide technical assistance to both the Tchula Police and Fire Departments.

#### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School, for the summer of 2013 and under the direction of Shonda Morgan, was, as always, a huge success! The theme - "Jesus' Family Reunion – The Remix" was AWESOME! Culminating

One of the memorable events was the first ever large outdoor movie night! Community neighbors of Mt. Zion and Vacation Bible School participants enjoyed the evening event together while snacking on popcorn and juice drinks! Our investment in a large blow up screen to show movies to large crowds really paid off in many ways!

#### Harvest Festival

Mt. Zion's investment in an extra parking lot, located next to the Youth Building, paid large dividends to not only accommodate parking needs but to expand our Harvest Festival area to afford additional games and slides for the children.

Our Harvest Festival, held on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, reached over 1,000 people and three (3) people prayed the prayer of salvation.

#### "Teach"

"Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;  
and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

#### Easter Sunrise Service

Mt. Zion's Easter Sunrise Service, which is held on Euclid Avenue each year, was yet another time of solemn reflection on what Jesus did for us on Calvary and through His miraculous resurrection. On this Easter Sunday morning we enjoyed a very special and moving musical presentation by our Music Ministry entitled, "Passion of Christ".

#### Youth Highlights:

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Youth Ministry highlights include the Youth Conference held in December of each year, the participation of our youth at our Tchula, Mississippi missions trip, and the annual "True Love Waits" program, to name a few

#### Children Highlights:

Mt. Zion's Summer Academic Enrichment and Adventure Camp expanded to seven weeks full fun, Christian education, field trips, swimming, academic enrichment, art and many other awesome opportunities for those children in attendance!

#### Annual Graduation Ceremony:

This year, Mt. Zion celebrated the graduation and academic advancement of six (6) elementary school graduates, eleven (11) middle school graduates, sixteen (16) high school graduates and ten (10) college graduates! The honored guest speaker for our 2013 Graduation Ceremony was the Honorable Adrienne Konigar Macklin. Congratulations to and God's blessings upon all of our graduates!

#### "Serve"

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

I Peter 4:10

History was made at Mt. Zion on Sunday, August 4, 2013, as over two hundred (200) members of our church left during "church hours" to enter into the community to "serve" and participate in our inaugural "Go Sunday" event!

Mt. Zion made History with our first "Go Sunday" where over 200 members of the church left church during church hours to enter into the community to "serve". Our Sunday School Ministry was used as the "lead ministry" due to the fact that their ministry has established large outreach efforts and experience. Some Sunday School classes passed out bottles of water to local parks and on established local walking trails; other Sunday classes led ministry at LeRoy's Boys Home or passed while other classes passed out "care kits" to the homeless at various freeway entrances and exits , while others passed out "care kits" in our local parks. Teams also "witnessed", by passing out plants, washing cars on the church parking lot. Several teams visited two local convalescent homes and/or visited several sick and shut-in members.

"Go Sunday" was a huge "connect people to Jesus" through service event! As teams returned during the 11:00 a.m. service and related their experiences, we were on fire with the joy of the Lord! What an exciting day! Due to numerous members sharing

their experience and the joy of doing ministry outside of one's comfort zone, Mt. Zion has scheduled our second "Go Sunday" event to be held on Sunday, November 24, 2013!

We used the Sunday School as the lead ministry because the Sunday School is already set up for large outreach efforts. Several Sunday School classes took the lead on passing out water in local parks, and on local walking trails. Other Sunday school classes led ministry at Leroy's Boys Home, passed out care kits to the homeless at freeway exits and entrances and in parks, street witnessing, passing out plants, washing cars on the church parking lot, visiting two local convalescent homes, and visiting several sick and shut in members.

"Go Sunday" was a huge "connect people to Jesus through service" event. As the teams returned during the 11:00 am service, we were on fire with the joy of the Lord - what an exciting day! Due to numerous members experiencing the joy of doing ministry outside of our comfort zones, we scheduled another "Go Sunday" for November 24, 2013.

#### Milestones, New Ministries and Things to Note

- New Sunday School classes: –  
Veteran's Sunday School Class  
Evangelism Sunday School Class

Singles Small Group

- Renovation of Baptism Room (new tile, carpet on stairs for safety)
- All broken and/or worn doors around the church have been replaced.
- Mortgage on Chino Avenue property (future home of Mt. Zion) has been paid down to under one million dollars! GOD CAN DO IT!
- Our Transportation Ministry vans now have "steps" to ease the ingress and egress of all passengers. Magnetic signs have also been placed on the vans so that the van, itself, may be used as a witnessing tool. The balances owed on our two (2) vans used for Mt. Zion transportation purposes have been paid off!
- The parking adjacent to our Youth Ministry building has been repaired and repaved to provide additional ease of parking.
- Our "Annual Parking Lot Give Away" was yet again a huge success and an additional way in which we, Mt. Zion, are able to bless the community.

## Angel tree ministry

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23-24

Through Mt. Zion’s partnership with Angel Tree, a ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries, we are able to bring joy to children whose parent is in prison. Currently there are 2.3 million who are serving time in prison resulting in 2.7 million children who have an incarcerated parent(s). When parents go to prison, their children also suffer the consequences of their punishment, often struggling with poverty, shame, anger, abandonment, and loneliness.

In the last five years the Angel Tree Ministry at Mt. Zion has doubled in the number of Angel Tree children who we have been able to accommodate. This could only be accomplished because of the Lord’s bountiful blessings, our church leadership and members as well as the tireless efforts of our many volunteers!

During our annual Angel Tree Christmas Party for Jesus, held on Saturday afternoon, Dec 15, 2012, we were blessed to welcome 150 Angel Tree children and their families from the communities that we serve. We were able to celebrate Christmas with the message of Christ’s love through activities in story and song. We provided a meal for all, music to celebrate the season, interactive games, face painting and crafts.

Because of the generosity of our Church members, who purchase gifts on behalf the incarcerated parent, each Angel Tree child took home two Christmas gifts along with gift bags that included Christian tracts. They knew that they had not been forgotten by their incarcerated parent. What a wonderful way for them to experience the love of Jesus Christ and be filled with hope, knowing that people care about them.

We are so very blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus each year. Our continued goal and prayer is to meet the ongoing needs of the Angel Tree children!

## Deaconess Ministry

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

As we look back at yester-years, the Deaconess Ministry has been led by beautiful women of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, teachers of God's word and most notable, eyewitnesses to God's power, allowing us to see how God has worked in the life of his people. We graciously would like to thank our past ministry leaders, Sister Katherine Williams and Wessie Bennett, for their outstanding leadership abilities.

Today our ministry consists of thirty-six (36) trained deaconesses and three (3) deaconess-in-training. Our goals and desires are that we are women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything (I Timothy 3:11) and that we are to be reverent in the way we live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good (Titus 2: 3-5).

Our ministry is actively involved with visitation to the sick and shut-in including hospital visits; counseling; bereavements/home-going services; and we serve with the Deacons administering the two church ordinances – "Communion" and "Baptism". So far this year, fourteen (14) candidates were baptized and Communion is served every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday. In addition, we participate in the following ministries: Monday Night Prayer; Bible Study; Nurturing; Sunday School; Choir; Trustee Board; Helping Hands; Wellness; and Praise Dance.

As well, during this reporting period our Ministry accepted the call to be "critical responders" at Mt. Zion's 90<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary; Women's Retreat; Community Harvest Festival; Pastor's Appreciation; and Angel Tree; Yearly Night of Prayer; Couples Valentines Dinner; Black History Program; Easter Sunrise Service; Association Bible Drill; Mother's Day Fashion Tea; Vacation Bible School; Tchula Mission; Go Sunday; and our Church Picnic combined with the first-ever Concert in the Park.

As servants of the most-high God, we never know when, where, or how we may be needed, however, we are ready to answer the call.

We commit to Connecting People to Jesus, "Pray, Go, Teach and Serve."



## DEACONS ministry

“Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty.”

Acts 6:3

Our Deacons’ Ministry continues to grow with men desiring to become deacons – those of good reputation, who are full of the Spirit and wisdom.

Our Deacons continue and faithfully play a vital part and an integral role in the well-being of our church. Mt. Zion’s Elders, Deacons, and other leaders continue to serve together in Christian harmony to carry out the Mission of our church. Mt. Zion’s Deacons are involved in several different outreach ministries including, but not limited to, Hospital Visitations, Home Visits, “I Care” evangelism, our sick and shut-in Communion visits, to name a few.

In February, 2013, our Deacons held their First Annual Deacon’s Workshop! The workshop’s main goal and objective was to focus on the development of the ministry through training and spiritual development in addition to serve and support our Pastor and the mission of our church. Through constant prayer, evangelism, Christian education, fellowship and “watch care”, the Deacons’ Ministry can and will continue to grow and meet the needs of our church members and community.

“A very grateful thank you”

In Memory of Deacon Bill Mann for his faithful service.

“GLORIOUS” PRAISE DANCE MINISTRY

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted."

Isaiah 61:1-3

Mt. Zion's Praise Dance Ministry entitled, "Glorious" is led by Katherine Williams and ministers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and Sunday of each month.

"Glorious" ministers through dance as a visual medium to bring contemplative thought and worship into the life of both dancer and members of the congregation. Many of the dance moves involve the arms being raised up as if reaching out to God. They are also held to the side to symbolize Christ, surrender to God or openness to healing and restoration.

It is the prayer of "Glorious" that God will be glorified and the congregation blessed by their ministry through dance.

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### Nursing Home Ministry

" Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherein we ourselves are comforted by God."

I Corinthians 1:3-4

The Nursing Home Ministry continues to provide visitation to two Nursing Facilities in Pomona, CA on the Second Sunday of each month, and conduct a Church Service at a facility for Moderate Alzheimer's Patients in Upland on the fourth Sunday of each month. The Nursing Home Ministry ministered to approximately (918) from September 2012 through August 2013. Three residents accepted Christ as Savior.

Room to room visitation is done on the second Sunday which consist of one-on one contact, encouragement, witnessing, scripture reading and prayer. Bibles are distributed to converts when needed. Tracts are also given out to residents and visitors. On the Fourth Sunday, a Church Service is conducted at Heritage Gardens (a facility for Moderate Alzheimer's Patients), which consist of praise and worship, prayer, scripture reading and words of encouragement from one of Mt. Zion's Ministers.

During our Church Service in December 2012, Christmas Carols were sang and a message surrounding the birth of Christ was given. Gifts bags (a joint effort with the Senior Noon Bible Study, Marsha Hayes and Winona Johnson) and tracks were distributed. Our prayer and goal for the coming year is to add Spanish speaking members and more men to minister to the growing number of male residents at Park View Healthcare in Pomona.

### Nurturers Ministry

The Nurturers Ministry continues to grow in many areas in addition to its mission to assist all new members by introducing and providing information regarding the many Mt. Zion ministries and events as well as introducing new members to our Mt. Zion church family.

Several new areas of growth (among the many) in regard to the Nurturers Ministry areas are as follows:

- Sixty-five (65) new members were nurtured during this reporting period. Nurturers introduce to new members the many ministries available to them within our church;
- Three (3) new Nurturers were added to our ministry;
- Welcoming all visitors to Mt. Zion with a "gift" and water and weekly contact follow-up via telephone, postcard e-mail, text or personal contact;
- Assist new members with any spiritual needs that they might have as well as maintaining continued membership through attending worship; and
- Participation in the New Members Luncheon and Mt. Zion's Holy Spirit Guidance Meetings held in February and July, 2013.

“the 2013 annual Mt. Zion Church Picnic!”

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine . . .”  
Proverbs 17:22

Awesome fellowship! Great food! Good friends! Exceptional music!

This year’s Annual Church Picnic and Concert was held at the spacious and beautiful Red Hill Park located in Rancho Cucamonga! The weather again was perfect (a little on the “toasty side”) but again “just perfect” for sitting and having long conversations with friends – both old and new - in the shade.

This year at our picnic we had one individual give their heart to Christ! Praise God! As well, there were many opportunities to witness to others.

The food was, as always, absolutely delicious! A special thank you goes out to Cynthia and Ralph Beatty, everyone who helped in the planning, donations, food preparation and activities. It was truly an affair to remember!

### Sunday School

“But grow in the special favor and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”  
2 Peter 3:18

God truly blessed Mt. Zion’s Sunday School this past year! Highlights of the year included fifty-six participants from Mt. Zion attending the all-day training at Cal Baptist University entitled, “Equipped for Excellence” which featured our very own Pastor Young taught the “Pastors & Directors of Small Sunday Schools” class! During this reporting period, Mt. Zion also started a new and revised facet of our Sunday School

Discipleship Training Program ministry. This new one-on-one format will allow for additional intensive training featuring an in-depth emphasis on scriptural memorization and personal growth resulting in a closer walk with the Lord. All ministry leaders are being encouraged to complete this class.

This year's Sunday School Kick-Off was a great success! The use of the Café' as a media and general information area offered all those in attendance with an opportunity to speak with teachers of our various classes and to review our Sunday School literature. Also, the Sunday Teacher and Worker's meetings were increased and the results were a blessing to all in attendance.

The Sunday School Ministry will be implementing new strategic plans to increase our present enrollment by at least fifty percent! Our total enrollment records reflect 533 enrolled – yet Sunday-to-Sunday records show that there we have an average attendance of approximately 193 attendees per Sunday. Keeping in line with Mt. Zion's outreach theme – "Connecting People to Jesus", outreach will be a major instrument in recognizing and achieving continued growth in our Sunday School department.

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#### WOMEN'S ministry

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and He helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.."

Psalm 28:7

The Women's Ministry continues to experience growth and reports that it has ministered to approximately 196 ladies during this reporting period. This ministry continues to strive to reach all women at Mt. Zion through relative biblical studies and events. The emphasis this year is based upon "God's Love for Me" through the lives of

women found in Scripture. The schedule for 2014 schedule includes, but not limited to, the following:

January – Martha	February – Esther	March – Namoi
May – Rehab	June – Lois	July – Abigail
August – Virgin Mary (Wise Girls)		September – Jezebel

The Women's Retreat Team continues to work on its 2013 Women's Retreat – scheduled to be held in Palm Desert, October 13 through 25, 2013! The theme for their retreat for 2013 is "W.O.W." (Women of the Word)!

The Women's Ministry continues to work hard to please the Lord and to be a source of encouragement to the women of Mt. Zion. A few of the ministries in which the Women's Ministry works within are: Hospitality Team, Greeting Team, Retreat Team, Mother's Day Luncheon, Prayer Team, Calling Tree Team, Praise & Worship, Encouragement Team, Health & Fitness and the Children's Team. This ministry meets in the Mt. Zion Café beginning at 10:30 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

2013 Women's Ministry

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### Vacation Bible School

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Joshua 24:15

This year's Vacation Bible School theme – "Jesus Family Reunion – The Remix" – was held from June 24 with all of the anticipation and excitement which this summer program always offers! Attendees this summer ranged from the ages of 18 month old through adults with an average attendance of approximately ninety (90) participants!

"Family members" participated in skits, sang praises to God, created wonderful arts and crafts, played an awesome amount of great games, and most importantly, learned how to join Jesus' family.

Over "405" delectable dinners were served in our Mt. Zion Galley. A new "adventure" this summer was the addition of an "outdoor Movie Night" held on Friday, June 28, 2013 in which the entire Ontario community was invited to attend this event by Vacation Bible School participants and our "I-Care" members prior to this event. Over ninety (90) people watched the movie under the stars. Community members also heard the plan of God's Salvation which was shared by Pastor Kennedy.

## 2014

Mt. Zion started the year on her knees at our New Year's Eve Service with a deeper determination to bathe the ministry in prayer. Our Prayer Consultant, Brother Thomas Bush, from the San Diego Association, led 149 of us in a day of prayer on January 27<sup>th</sup>. On June 6<sup>th</sup> we continued with our commitment to spend concentrated time in prayer together with 86 of us in a night of prayer. One significant highlight was that 50 men were present that night.

To further engage ministry leaders in congregational prayer, each leader submitted their prayer request in writing for our ministry prayer request book. Each ministry leader was scheduled to present their ministry prayer request at the Monday night prayer meetings. Then starting in June, each ministry leader was put on schedule to return to Monday Night prayer meeting and give a progress report on the ministries answered prayers. Intentional prayer is changing the Mt. Zion Congregation as evidenced by an increase in attendance at weekly prayer meetings, special prayer events, by the leader's cooperation with specific church realignment strategies, which are discussed later in this summary, and in the healthy life of Mt. Zion. This year's summary is a clear indicator of healthy life in the church.

In 2014, the Mt. Zion Leadership Team was more intentional in formalizing Worship Service Intercessors in memory of several prayer warriors who went to heaven. The Worship Service Intercessors sit in worship services and pray throughout the worship service. Our Prayer Teams also pray before each worship service. In 2014, Mt. Zion also spent more time in Sunday School praying for our "Go Sunday" outreach ministry. In general, the church went deeper in praying for our outreach efforts this year. We praise God for directing us to make prayer a core value and not an afterthought or merely a reaction to tragedy.

In 2014, the Couple's Ministry came alive with another off-site Valentines Dinner, and a "second to none," married couples retreat, with 22 couples. The Couples Sunday School Class has taken the wheel and refused to get stuck on the success of the retreat, but got busy looking at the 2015 couples retreat and other memorable couple's outings.

The Nurturers Ministry, which consist of 23 members, is a critical ministry to help close "the back door" (members joining and then leaving without anyone knowing) at Mt. Zion. The Nurturing Ministry stays in touch with new members for two months and encourages them to learn more about Mt. Zion in the Pastor's orientation class, and continue their spiritual growth journey in Sunday School discipleship training, and then into a regular or specialty Sunday School class. The Nurturers Ministry reached out to 63 new members from January through September, 2014. The Nurturers Ministry held new members luncheons at the beginning of the church annual and semi-annual Holy Spirit Guidance meetings. These two luncheons not only serve to welcome new members, but they demonstrate that Mt. Zion has an open door to critical financial and ministry reporting information. Informed members are effective members.

The Pastor frequently says, do not do ministry without the Audio Visual Ministry and the Ushers. Having several indoor and outdoor events that pose a variety of challenges for the A/V Ministry to provide quality sound, video, and broadcasting, the A/V team rises to the occasion. For instance, Sunrise Service requires an early morning crew that works without much light. The Harvest Festival requires working at night with over 1,200 community members walking around. The outdoor movie night requires perfect execution because once people are seated with popcorn and a drink, they are looking for a clear picture with sound, not delays due to "technical difficulties." Concerts with special recording needs and lighting, always pose unique challenges, and finally ensuring that Saturday night and Sunday services are staffed and running smoothly are the norms for the Audio Visual Ministry.

In the 2014 year, the A/V Ministry started the expensive but much needed process of replacing aging and worn equipment. Praise God for one of those ministries in which the members are not always seen, but they are always in place, qualified, and provide quality sound, video, recordings, and broadcasting ministry.



The "silent servants" who operate inside the church building, and outside the church in the parking lots, are constantly moving the flow of cars and individuals are also expected to be in place and functioning. The Parking Lot Ministry demonstrates a mastery of traffic flow with a smile for weekly services and specialty services (such as home-going services, revivals, and all outdoors events that put a strain on existing parking). They have maximized parking capacity in three parking lots, and systematized moving traffic safely at high traffic events with a smile. They also provide a security presence in all parking lots and around cars parked on the streets. We praise God for their smiles and patience as they maximize our parking and ask us to park in areas that are different from what we initially had in mind (LOL!!!!).

The Ushers and Greeters Ministry, which is over 60 members strong, continue excellent service with a smile as individuals enter the sanctuary and are shown great seating. The Ushers ministry travel with the pastor at most of his speaking events, and participate with several sister churches in providing usher services. One of the annual highlights is receiving the call from Inland Empire Association Church Growth Consultant, requesting the services of the Mt. Zion Ushers at Equipped for Excellence, which is one of the largest Sunday School conferences in the nation, and is held at California Baptist University, and Magnolia Ave. Church in Riverside.

Instead of spending time fussing and fighting, the Mt. Zion Ushers meet to strategize on how to improve seating individuals safely and monitoring for emergencies at every service. The Ushers partner with the Wellness Ministry and the Security Team to provide medical assistance, and safety for congregants during each service. We praise God for the people we see, sometimes do not see, and who silently serve us each week with a smile.

The Wellness Ministry, which has 4 registered nurses among their team members, takes Mt. Zion beyond medical assistance during services, to health awareness programming and printed materials. They sponsor two blood drives each year. In one blood drive Mt. Zion produced over 48 units of blood benefiting over 144 people. Mt. Zion's blood collection also consist of unique blood types that are especially needed during surgeries. For breast cancer and healthy heart awareness, the Wellness Ministry brought in Dr. Columbus Batiste, who specializes in cardiovascular disease, internal medicine, interventional cardiology at Kaiser Hospital in Riverside, to address the general congregation on healthy eating and exercise. The Wellness Ministry also provides a first aid station with healthy awareness literature at the Harvest Festival and the church picnic, and they provided breast cancer literature and a table for questions and answers at the women's retreat.

The Wellness Ministry is partnered with the Fitness Ministry which hosts weekly exercise and karate classes. In 2014, the Fitness Ministry opened a new fitness room with several pieces of exercise equipment to promote another avenue to stay fit through exercise. The fitness room is located behind room five in the education building. The

Fitness Ministry does many fun events at the church picnic and does a karate demonstration at the Annual Harvest Festival on October 31.

The spirit of the Wellness Ministry is reflected in the Seniors Ministry, which is what the Senior Pastor calls the most active ministry in the church. "The Seniors Ministry is always doing something!" The Mt. Zion Seniors traveled to at least 10 convalescent homes in 2014, they attended movies during the day, they attended a stage play, they traveled to places like Santa Barbara by train, they visited each other, and they met every Thursday, for both spiritual and physical food. When you catch them celebrating a birthday, or doing their Valentines, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, or some other celebration, you are sure to see a spread of food and leave full and fulfilled. The seniors travel to church services together, they network and find each other places to live, and provide practical resources to help each other enjoy a better quality of life. The Mt. Zion Seniors Ministry Directress, is second to none; she has clearly found her ministry in church and has a crown in heaven full of precious rewards. The Thursday Noon Day Bible Study was hijacked by the seniors at Mt. Zion, and is vibrant, Spirit filled, and averages 40 to 50 seniors each week.

What can we say about the Ministry "on front-street" every single Saturday Evening, and Sunday Mornings? We praise God for the members of the Music Ministry, who lead us with Spirit filled music, and praise dance.

In 2014, the Mt. Zion Sanctuary Choir experienced fresh growth with six new members and two returning members. The Male Chorus grew with three new members. The spiritual growth of the Music Ministry is hard to measure, but is clearly evident by the harmony that exist in the choirs and the spiritual character in their ministry each week.

The January 2014 Male Chorus concert set the tone for the Male Chorus to travel to five guest churches for male chorus concerts by September and three more scheduled by the end of the year.

The 38 member Mt. Zion Sanctuary Choir set our souls on fire as they kicked off our Ninety Second Church Anniversary with a Night of Praise. Despite a heat wave in the triple digits, the choir led us in worship for two hours non-stop! What a powerful testimony of the choir's commitment to bring glory to God over their personal comfort.

The Praise Dance Ministry, which is an intergenerational ministry is 20 strong consisting of 5 young adults, 5 youth, 3 children, and 7 middle aged adults, and brings plenty of life to the worship experience.

The Praise Dance Ministry ministers on the third and fifth Sundays at Mt. Zion, and went beyond the walls to Macedonia in Pomona, the Inland Empire Association Women's Retreat, the Easter musical drama, and stepped way out in Atlanta at the Gospel Heritage Praise Fest, while there for training.

The Senior Pastor constantly thanks God for the music ministries commitment to travel with him as he serves at various venues (the Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast, Los Angeles venues, and several local venues).

The Mt. Zion Music Department facilitated two area mass choirs (one for the Pomona Valley Ministers Alliance Revival, and the Annual Church Anniversary).

In December 2013, the Sanctuary Choir did a unique outreach ministry by singing at the Annual Christmas program at the Mormon Church in Upland.

We all look forward to the choir singing outside at the Easter Sunrise Service, and in 2013, the Choir led our Good Friday Service, Saturday Night, and Sunday Services with a unique musical drama which incorporated a sermon presentation from the Word. He is risen just as He said!

The Mt. Zion Youth Choir has developed into a highly committed and quality choir as is the Children's Choir. A restart of the Young Adult Choir was in process at the time of this writing.

The Mt. Zion Sunday School, which is the largest intergenerational discipleship ministry at Mt. Zion, is constantly training and raising up disciples to provide critical leadership at Mt. Zion. Forty teachers and workers attended the Annual Equipped for Excellence Conference with over 1,200 participants. Our Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, and Youth Director were conference workshop leaders in 2014. Eight new teachers were trained in 2014, and the Mt. Zion Sunday School held a localized Sunday School Training Conference in August 2014 with over 90 in attendance, of which 25 came from visiting churches. The Sunday School is raising up leaders through the Sunday School sponsored Bible Dill Ministry, and as said earlier, the Couples Sunday School Class led the 2014 marriage retreat. Later in this report you will learn about the Next Line of Leaders Training, which is also a ministry of the Sunday School.

Can you believe that the Men's Ministry took some notes out of the women's ministry retreat play book, and is returning to an off campus men's retreat. Both the Men's and Women's Ministries meet each fourth Saturday for food, fellowship, a challenging message, and a challenge to continue faithful in service. Likewise the Men's Ministry addresses the spiritual, physical, and social challenges facing Christian men today. The Men's Ministry took time in 2013, and has an on-going sensitivity to training young men to defuse potential conflict with police officers.

The Women's Ministry specialized in taking the Women's Ministry beyond the faithful few to exposing the Mt. Zion women to a variety of talented and godly women right in our midst. Of course the Annual Women's Retreat is second to none and exposes our

women to creative ways to grow spiritually, getting free from sin and weights, and being consistent women of God, in a relaxing, and aesthetically appealing environment.

The Men and Women's Ministries partnered with the Prayer Ministry and hosted the January 2014 Day of Prayer. Ministries working together display a powerful example as we work to unite the entire congregation in prayer.

Speaking of intergenerational ministry, the 2014 Vacation Bible School was a most refreshing display of concentrated intergenerational ministry. The chairs were removed from the sanctuary, and the sanctuary became a wilderness awaiting the twelve tribes of Israel (Mt. Zion Members and guest). The congregation was broken up into tribes with tribe leaders who facilitated a lesson to reflect upon our different experiences with God, and designed to deepen our trust in God, despite the uncertainties in life.

Three hundred fifty-nine members moved from dinner downstairs, to their tents in the sanctuary, to the wilderness game area on the parking lot, and the evangelism, prayer, and crafts tents in the Education Building.

In 2014, the Vacation Bible School grand finale was an outdoor movie with free popcorn, drinks and snacks. Members of the community were invited and we had an additional 35 people join us for a total of 394 total participants. Praise the Lord!

The Deacon and Deaconess Ministries are over 70 members strong and are consistently training and adding more loyal followers of Jesus Christ to provide selfless service to the congregation. These two ministries served the Lord's Supper to 80 sick and confined members. They assisted with 19 baptisms from January to September 2014, and prepared the Lord's Supper for all services each month. The Pastor is deeply appreciative for the Deacons providing drivers and accountable brothers each time he travels. What an honor for the pastor to walk into a variety of settings with Christ-centered Deacons.

The Deacons and Deaconess, are fully engaged at Mt. Zion and serve in every ministry or as close partners with that ministry. The Mt. Zion Deacons and Deaconess fulfill their biblical roles by helping the Pastor and Elder's carry out the work of ministry in the church.

The Trustees of Mt. Zion prepared another 1.3 million dollar budget and the congregation unanimously approved the budget. The Trustees took a conservative approach and uses a watchful eye as God brings precious dollars into the ministry for mission's work that exceeds the current mission's budget. The Trustees are committed to maintenance, renovation, and expansion of our existing facilities, and replacing aging equipment. For instance, one of our Deacons secured 30 commercial grade laptops to replace all staff computers, provided access to computer based learning for our pre-school staff and students, and upgraded the computers at our sister church in St.

Vincent, West Indies. The Church Administrator secured licenses and loaded each computer with Windows 8, and Microsoft Office 2013.

Through the Trustees' progressive approach to ministry, Mt. Zion resurfaced our third parking lot with asphalt. This was a \$10,000.00 investment that will pay dividends for increased parking, and outdoor events such as the Harvest Festival.

In 2013, we hit another milestone in paying off our 18 buildable acres on Grove and Chino Ave, in Ontario. Our balance at the end of December 2013 was \$918,605, and the balance as of September 17, 2014, was \$848,106. We praise the Lord. God can do it!

The Mt. Zion Trustees continued to demonstrate progressive-minded leadership in ensuring that our domestic and foreign missions efforts are funded.

Mt. Zion provided funding and personnel for our work in East Africa (Uganda, Rwanda, Congo, and Southern Sudan). After resting for a little over ten months, our missionary Rene Farquharson, returned to the field for the 2014 season, to prepare for our team members who joined her a month later. Our two person team, which includes one female for the second year, arrived in Kampala, Uganda, and lead drama, women's ministry, and leadership development ministry in Rwanda, and Uganda.

The first location in Uganda was Lwamatta (Raw-mau-tau). Our team ministered to a co-ed audience, and an all woman's class at the Christ for All Nations Church. At this location the team taught for two days. The woman's class was around the creation and Adam and Eve's disobedience. Twenty four students participated. The co-ed workshop focused on your body the temple. Thirty students participated.

The second location was at the FULL GOSPEL CHURCH, in Kyenjojo (Chin-jo-jo), which is located in the middle of a regional tea plantation.

The team also shared the gospel and taught on Paul's trials to 7 different classes at the church operated primary school.

A storm blew down the walls in the church where the team planned to sleep, and the Pastor arranged for the team to sleep in a stable. The team worked to produce a refreshing drama about Paul and his trials for a village community that could use a break from the daily routine of hard work. The women especially needed encouragement through the drama presentation, in light of their daily routine of collecting water a long distance away, working the farm for 75% of the family's food, cooking each meal from scratch, and monitoring the children who cared for the small children while mom worked to provide for the family. During the bible study time, the women were able to share their marital concerns and receive encouragement from the Word of God.

The team conducted two drama presentations on the Sufferings of Paul for 50 children from the primary school, and 100 members from the village.

Twenty teenage girls were brought to our team for encouragement and received a three hour workshop on Matt 5:13-16, with emphasis on the value of their lives.

The third location was Karangazi, Rwanda, with the Karangazi Assemblies of God. One hundred women and youth attended the woman's bible study, and 40 attended the early morning co-ed bible study.

The Karangazi Assemblies of churches turned out with 150 people for the community stage play on the Sufferings of Paul.

The fourth location was in Remikoma, Mbarraara (Baw-rau-rau), Uganda, where the women's bible study had 50 women and 35 youth, and the co-ed bible study had 30 participants.

The community showed up 300 strong for the grand finale dramatic presentation of The Sufferings of Paul.

Praise God for our 2014 team members who served in Rwanda, and Uganda. With heart wrenching passion, our team presented the message of salvation and how to live for Jesus despite our circumstances.

The summer 2014, Tchula, Mississippi team consisted of 40 members (20 adult women, 10 female youth, 7 adult men and 3 male youth; 7 team members were from Atlanta), and worked in seven areas. The Vacation Bible School Team led children and youth ministry in the City Park. The Youth Team taught the internationally known curriculum, "True Love Waits." The Cook Team, prepared three meals daily for the 40 member team, plus a meal for 230 community members each evening at the basketball tournament, and a meal for an 8 Pastor debriefing and planning meeting. The Parenting Team continued their work with parents in the Tel Fair Apartments. The Sewing Team provided five sewing machines and taught sewing techniques, to a turn away crowd. The Renovation Team painted two buildings and the car wash canopy. The CPR Training Team taught CPR and life saving techniques for drowning victims. The Leadership Development Team worked with the local pastors, political leaders, law enforcement officials, coordinated securing venues for team events, led the community in early morning exercise classes, and presented the gospel message at half-time each night at the basketball tournament. Over 200 people attended the basketball tournament each night. We heard a large number of people pray the prayer of salvation, but we were not sure of the exact number.

Mt. Zion's Angel Tree Ministry makes Christmas a joyful time for several families of prisoners during one of the most difficult times in their year. On Saturday, December 14, 2013, 25 plus Angel Tree Team members held a Christmas party for 110 Angel Tree

children and their families from the surrounding community. The Team presented the message of Christ's love and the real message of Christmas through activities in story and song. The children and family members ate, listened to Christmas music, they played interactive games, and enjoyed face painting and crafts, as each child awaited receiving two Christmas gifts, which were purchased by generous Mt. Zion members. The written message of the gospel and a note from the incarcerated parent, plus gobs of Jesus love from Mt. Zion members accompanies the gifts given to each child. Thank you Mt. Zion from the Angel Tree Team.

The Church Picnic Team worked overtime and despite extreme heat, over 300 members of the church gathered at Red Hill Park for another one of a kind picnic in the park. We had plenty of food, fellowship, tug of war, water wars, fun, fun, fun, and to top off the day, a 40 year wedding anniversary cake. During the picnic, 2 people gave their hearts to the Lord, and a community member joined the picnic. How is that for a day of fun in the park on a hot day?

The 2014 Harvest Festival was once again a successful community outreach lead by our Children's Department. Over 1,100 individuals registered and several other people passed the registration table and walked into the event. In 2014, over 75 volunteers worked to provide 12 game booths, a huge bouncer, a petting zoo, a karate demonstration, several open area events such as the cake walk, and plenty of food and fellowship. We praised God for the 6 people who gave their hearts to Jesus, and the hundreds of people who heard the gospel message go forth in both English and Spanish. Because of the generosity of our sponsors and the Mt. Zion members, we are able to offer the Harvest Festival to our community for free each year. Praise the Lord!

"Go Sunday" is our largest intergenerational outreach ministry, and is led by the Sunday School. On Sunday morning, June 8, 2014, with great anticipation, 227 Mt. Zion members and friends went into the community with the following outreach venues: Our children and adults washed 25 cars and served delicious homemade lemonade. Our adult teams visited 2 nursing homes, visited several sick and shut-in members, passed out water at the Claremont walking trail, passed out water at the Smart and Final parking lot in Ontario, and in Chino. Our Homeless Team, gave out 108 blankets and care packages to the homeless, we conducted a service at the Leroy's Boys home for over 20 young men, we knocked on doors for witnessing, and passed out over 75 plants to our neighbors in the Ontario community. Our Prayer Team held the entire team in prayer from the time the teams left until their return. In the June 2014 "Go Sunday" 28 people gave their hearts to Jesus. In the November 2013 "Go Sunday" 15 people gave their hearts to Jesus for a total of 43 people coming to Jesus through our "Go Sunday" outreach ministry.

In 2014, the Children's Ministry ran two four-week camps with a total of 85 children, and 12 teachers and workers. After each week which was filled with academic and spiritual development mixed in with swimming at Guasti Park, and fun, the children

looked forward to their Friday trips (Griffith Observatory, Upland Bowl, Knott's Berry Farm, The Science Museum, Skate Express, Laser Island, and Lego Land).

Speaking of children, 10 children professed Christ in 2014, in the weekly Children's Church. The Christmas Art Academy had 20 children ranging from 5 to 12 years old. The Children and Youth Sunday School classes hosted the Christmas play entitled "A Night to Remember." The Children's Ministry hosted the Parent's Night Out on Valentine's Day (10 children attended). The famous Children's Lock-In had 35 attendees ranging from 7 to 11 years old.

The Children's Ministry also led our 2014 Graduation Program featuring Dr. James Hammond, Superintendent of the Ontario-Montclair School District, as the keynote speaker. In 2014, we celebrated 33 graduates from pre-school to college.

The 13 member Children's Choir faithfully participated in Spirit-filled praise each fifth Sunday. The weekly ministries for the Children at Mt. Zion are as follows: Children's church, nursery ministry, Sunday School, Wednesday Kid Zone, and Stitched (stitched is a knitting ministry committed to donating knitted items to children in need).

With so much fun in the Children's Ministry, what child wants to grow up? All of them! Why? The children cannot wait to get across the street to the Mt. Zion Youth Ministry. In 2014, 70% of the 80 enrolled youth were active in the youth ministry Bible study and other youth ministries.

Two Youth Creative Directors, bring inspiration to the average of 30 youth in the Wednesday night "KNOWN" Bible study curriculum (KNOWN = KNOW who God is, to OWN your faith, and to let your faith be KNOWN).

The True Love Waits Program kicked off at Magic Mountain on February 8<sup>th</sup> with over 1,500 students from all over California. Thirty five Mt. Zion youth participated in 7 weeks of powerful training to remain abstinent. At the end, 35 youth made their vows to remain sexually pure until marriage in the presence of their families and friends. Families shared rings, letters, and their presence to enhance the meaning of this powerful ceremony.

In 2014, 4 youth participated in the State Bible Drill contest. All Bible Drill participants advanced to the State level and won. In 2014, our first youth stepped up to participate in the speakers contest. She did great.

The boys had a day of Go-cart racing and dinner with the Youth Director. The Youth Director was scared to invite the Senior Pastor because he would have serious competition on the track. Anyone can beat a youth driver on the Go-cart track (LOL!!!). By the way the girls became jealous because they really needed to practice driving.



Therefore the Youth Director and female youth workers had to take the girls to the movies and to dinner (another LOL!!!).

The Mt. Zion Youth willingly serve as Ushers, children's church and nursery workers, choir members, praise dancers, Helping Hands workers, "Go Sunday" workers, Jr. Deacons, Harvest Festival, and Church Picnic workers, and anywhere else needed. The Mt. Zion Youth passed out approximately five hundred Lifebook's (the gospel of John) during the 2013-14 school year.

The Xtreme Summer Youth Adventure lasted from June 9<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> and included experienced teachers and school administrator volunteers who teach reading, comprehension, and writing for success in the classroom, common core, AVID, math tips, and test taking techniques. The physical development period was student led, and the self-defense training was provided by a retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's S.W.A.T. Training Officer. Leadership development and financial literacy was provided by a Bank Executive from Community Bank. Presentation skills, spiritual development, and public transportation travel tips in Los Angeles was provided by our Youth Director.

Ten Mt. Zion Youth traveled to Tchula, Mississippi to perform various projects which included: True Love Waits training alongside of 2 Mt. Zion Young Adults, they painted 2 buildings, helped with parenting class, and the sewing class.

The College Connection Team provided a college preparation and scholarship workshop in November 2013, and scheduled an UCLA tour in November 2014. Several college students returned to the Youth Ministry to share their life experiences with our teens during a Wednesday night summer session.

In December 2014, 25 Mt. Zion Youth attended the Ignition Student Conference in San Diego with 500 other students. Three Mt. Zion members (our Sunday School Trainer, and our Youth and Young Adult Director's) taught in the 2013 Ignition Student Conference. Three of our students made rededications to Christ.

With a deep concern for our teenagers, leaders within the Youth Ministry launched intergenerational driven ministries to address the practical needs for our teens. The Good Man Movement for male teens, and the G.I.R.L.S. (God's Image Reveals Leadership through Salvation), for female teens were implemented in 2014.

What is the big fuss about leaving all the fun in the Children's Ministry to get across the street to the Youth Ministry? Check out the youth website at: [www.youthinaction.biz](http://www.youthinaction.biz). In addition, parents and guardians meet with the Youth Director at the "Parents of Teens" meeting in January.

After leaving High School and turning 18, a sobering transition takes place. You are an adult. You are faced with life responsibilities such as getting to your class or job on time, on your own. Paying your bills and having money left to eat becomes an issue.

Finding your place in society, building meaningful relationships, and even becoming more serious about marriage and having children moves to the front of your mind. Life takes a "no turning back" turn after High School, and many young people get lost trying to find their way. The HUB ministry is designed to meet young adults during the post high school transition, and help them become responsible reproducing Christians who significantly contribute to both church and society. Here are some highlights from our Young Adult Director.

In 2014 the HUB Ministry (Helping Unite Believers) saw an increase in Wednesday night Bible Study. The Ministry averaged 27 people with a summer average of 35, and a high attendance of 45. Praise God!

The HUB Leadership Team consist of 15 members. Four new members were added to the team in 2014. To build unity and enhance structure the HUB enjoyed a refreshing train ride retreat to Santa Barbra. An outcome from the retreat was having 4 sub-divisions among the team to better utilize the number of people and gifts.

In 2014, the HUB started a men and women's discipleship ministry and saw an increase in participation of men in their 20's and 30's, which was a missing piece in the past. The HUB engaged in several outreach efforts to reach young adults and disciple them for Christ. The Open Mic Night, which is a unique platform to present the gospel and draw people to Christ who would normally not come to Church, was held on April 12, with 75 people in attendance. In August the HUB Ministry hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Inland Young Adult Conference at Mt. Zion, in which 80 young adults attended. This conference is unique in that few conferences focus on the 18 thru 35's age group. Young adults enjoy outdoor fun while doing outreach. For instance the winter ski trip, the turkey bowl football game the day after Thanksgiving, the church picnic, and the Worship on the Beach fellowship are fun venues with outreach opportunities. The Worship on the Beach fellowship started 7 years ago and is hosted by the Mt Zion HUB and several other young adult ministries. In 2014 Mt. Zion had its largest participation with over 45 in attendance among 300 in total.

The Young Adult Director does campus ministry with an average of 20 at Chaffey College, and 15 students at Mt. San Antonio College, and 40 students at Etiwanda High School. The Young Adult Director also set up an information table in the quad area at Chaffey College, and was able to lead 6 students to Christ.

The HUB ministry served food at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, and at the Salvation Army in Ontario. The HUB also sent out 10 care packages to college students just to let them know we love them.

Mt. Zion is blessed with 18 men who accepted their call into the preaching ministry and has demonstrated a desire to continue training toward church ordination. Each minister is engaged in at least one ministry which ranges from hospital visitations, teaching, preaching, singing, counseling, administrating over one or more ministries, evangelism,

serving at home going services, performing weddings, leading in the Lords Supper, baptizing, helping the Pastor give leadership to the general congregation as a Church Elder, and serving on committees. Several Mt. Zion Ministers are in training for ordination. This process is obviously more than gaining head knowledge, but includes spiritual development, demonstrating consistent leadership before the people, overcoming personal challenges, loyalty to, and love for the Lord's church, involvement in the life of the church in general, and meeting the biblical qualifications as set forth in I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-4; and Acts 20:28.

One of the ministries where you will find Mt. Zion Ministers preaching on a regular basis is in our Convalescent Homes Ministry. Each month, Mt. Zion travels to convalescent homes to bring worship services to men and women who are unable to travel to a local church.

To prevent stagnation and decline, and better position Mt. Zion for the future, the pastor and leaders of Mt. Zion put in place written systems, and realignment strategies. Here is a brief summary of our work in 2014.

In reading the late Ruben Estrada's book, "Know Your Next Move," the pastor was compelled to design systems charts for several core structural disciplines at Mt. Zion.

- ▶ Growth System Chart Developed
- ▶ Marketing Goal System Chart Developed
- ▶ Sunday School Discipleship Training System Chart Developed
- ▶ Mt. Zion's Power Plant System Chart Developed

In looking at the next generation of leaders, we needed to reflect on our message to our young people that we sent off to college, the military, or trade school, and even work. We constantly told them that we need them to return home trained and experienced so they can lead Mt. Zion as the current leadership group retires and joyfully goes to heaven with a smile on our faces. Therefore we started the "Next Line of Leadership Training" classes. At the time of this writing, sixteen "18 – 35 year olds" are in phase III, of Mt. Zion's Next Line of Leadership Training during the Sunday School hour each week. More classes are scheduled and we expect many more "18 – 35 year olds" to participate so that they are prepared to lead Mt. Zion in the present, and into the future.

In 2014, we produced the first printing of our Next Line of Leadership Basic Training Manual.

Mt. Zion's Leadership Team is systematically approaching each area where we need to become stronger, grow, and stabilize. For instance, in our September leadership retreat, we agreed to implement two realignment strategies.

Firstly, we changed the church evangelism strategy to a Sunday School driven strategy to engage more members of the church at a time they are available to serve, and during a time that better targets people who are not in church.

Through the Sunday School, our Evangelism Director, and Executive Pastor, plus other leaders, lead the church into the community for outreach ministry (various types of outreach) every second Sunday, during the Sunday School hour (each general Sunday School class is to represent with at least one member to join the outreach team that day). As of this writing, over 20 people in 2014 gave their hearts to Christ through our monthly Sunday morning outreach ministry.

The Sunday School will continue leading our "Go Sunday" outreach, where the entire congregation goes into the community to show the love of Jesus, twice per year from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. On "Go Sunday," the 8:00 am and 11:00 am services are full of energy and encouragement for everyone in attendance. At the 11:00 am service all the returning outreach teams give a testimony of what God did in the community. In June 2014, 28 people gave their hearts to Jesus through the "Go Sunday" outreach. Can you imagine the praise that went up to God that Sunday?

Secondly, starting in October 2014, the leaders agreed to change the Saturday Service time to 5:00 pm and the Saturday School time to 4:00 pm for a 3 to 6 month trial period. We learned from others who conduct Saturday services that 5:00 pm seems to be a better time for the general population and leads to more participation in their Saturday services. We are willing to change what we are comfortable doing to improve our kingdom growth efforts.

Mt. Zion has two sister organization's that help us further reach into the community with practical ministry. Here are a couple of significant highlights from our two sister organizations.

The Mt. Zion Christian Preschool 2014 fall semester got off to a great start with 10 students. The New Directress has plans to grow the pre-school to our maximum capacity of 40 students. The Mt. Zion Christian Preschool has a solid reputation preparing students to enter the first grade with an advanced academicians. We praise God that the Mt. Zion Christian Preschool provides a learning environment where our children receive genuine love, personal attention, rigor, meaningful relationships as they assimilate into the classroom setting, motivation, and much more during the critical developmental years of their lives.

The Mt. Zion Community Development Corporation status was reinstated for California, and the 501c(3) paperwork was completed and submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for approval.

At the time of this writing, members of the Mt. Zion CDC were actively coordinating a Job Fair scheduled for March 10, 2015, for the entire community, and facilitating the renovation of the CDC building in partnership with Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The CDC building will not only provide a permanent home for the Mt. Zion CDC Team, but will also be a training center for the community and provide additional classrooms for the Mt. Zion Sunday School.

As we close this year's summary, we realize that we could fill endless pages if we documented all that God did at Mt. Zion in 2014. We thank God for every member and every guest who willingly joined together to reach people for Christ and build them up in the Christian faith.

Mt. Zion, God kept us for 92 years, and He chooses to continue using us to build His kingdom. Let us stay on our knees before Him as we intentionally connect people to Jesus through evangelism, discipleship, and faithful service.

## 2015

In this year 2015 we started with a strong desire to intentionally train and begin to put our next line of leaders in place. Getting stale and beginning to depend on the successes of the past are just not the ways to function as a ninety-three year old church.

With a \$1.55 million dollar budget, prepared by our Trustees, we started the year on our knees with an Annual Day of Prayer, with over eighty members in attendance. Brother Thomas Bush, led us in a practical time of prayer covering not only our church

concerns, but also prayers that included the nation and beyond. We came together again in June for our night of prayer. One hundred and twenty three people attended.

In 2015, God brought several breaths of fresh air to the church in the following ways:

The Couples Ministry continued to fight the good fight to bring on-going bible based interaction starting with the couples Sunday School Class. The couples Valentine dinner, the couples retreat, and this year a couples cruise strengthened the ministry. Each of these components is building a foundation to fight against the constant attack on families in our nation. Couples team leaders, keep fighting for more involvement, and for couples to realistically and practically deal with principles which make for healthy marriages.

This year God gave us the privilege to serve the City of Ontario, on Easter Sunday Morning, by hosting an all community Easter Sunrise Service, a mini concert, and the 8:00 am and 11:00 am Easter Services, at the beautiful Ontario Town Center. In our desire to honor God, we were able to bring pleasant delight to the City of Ontario. Mt. Zion, presented a five star example of teamwork, organization, and commitment to excellence. Over nineteen hundred people attended the four services.

Is education a concern of the church today? Should we address the educational disparities that exist among certain ethnic groups and in certain geographic regions? Yes, and we must push academic excellence for every student. This year's graduation was a telling example of the educational push at Mt. Zion. We had our largest graduation celebration with forty-nine graduates consisting of three preschool, three kindergarten, eight elementary, and twelve junior high promotions. We also had thirteen high school graduates, and ten college graduates. God continues to bless our young people to graduate, go to college, go into the military, or get a marketable trade.

The education building is 75% renovated (new front door, fresh paint, exposed wires covered, florescent lights were replaced with recessed fixtures with LED bulbs to save energy and cost, and new tiles for the children's center). A special thanks to MH

Flooring for another generous donation of tile for the children's center and the sanctuary.

The sanctuary received a face lift with new tile in the side entrance rooms, and brighter new energy efficient lights. The Mt. Zion café was spruced up with new paint in the kitchen, new recessed lights and the ceiling was painted. A new oven and ventilation hood were on order at the writing of this update.

The youth building also got new energy saving lights. The new lighting throughout the campus is expected to save us 30% on our lighting cost.

This year's Revival, sponsored by the Inland Valley Ministers Alliance, left a lasting impact on our hearts. We can still remember Pastor Glenn Shields from Progressive Community Church in Stockton teaching us that "It is not about you", then "It is still not about you" and closing out with "It was never about you"! Pastor Shields took us on a journey through the book of Job.

Following the Revival, the Sunday School had a record attendance of 300 learners for the annual Sunday School workshop. Small Group ministries such as Sunday School is still helping churches stay connected with the congregation and grow spiritually. The Revival and the Sunday School Workshop have become a winning combination.

The Mt. Zion Sunday School, made strides to upgrade our record keeping system; and reach our goal of 500 members in Sunday School by the end of 2015. As of the writing of this history update, we had an average attendance of 300 people.

We just completed two years for the Saturday Night Worship Service and the Saturday School. The results: Growth. The Saturday School has an attendance of twenty seven, and the Saturday Service has exceeded fifty in attendance. Praise God for His faithful servants who give the Word each Saturday at 4:00 pm, and serve at the worship service at 5:00 pm. Keep going Saturday night team. God is not done!

We celebrated Black History in a way which promoted education with several resource agencies in the areas of health care, social services, mental health, and personal hygiene. We had a special booth featuring the Little Rock Nine. In order to promote knowledge, we published key Black History facts in the bulletin each week during the month of February. Thank you Black History Committee for taking us to a more in-depth appreciation for those who sacrificed so that America is a better place for all people.

Are missions really a viable ministry today? Ask the Africa, and Tchula missions teams. This year our youngest missionary joined the Africa team, giving us a team of four who traveled to Uganda, and Rwanda to meet Renee. In each location the team did discipleship ministry with women, youth and young adults. They also conducted a Sunday School workshop. Once the team landed in Uganda, they did a one day worship in Buwenge, then off they traveled to Rwanda. Once in Rwanda, they did a two day workshop in Ruhengeri (this workshop was made possible through a new church relationship). Then the team traveled to the Karangazi Village and did a three day workshop. Then traveled back to Uganda and did a two day workshop in the Rwemikoma village.

The team also visited a school at Choice Baptist Church to witness the construction progress, where Mt. Zion, Ontario, CA, is helping to build classrooms for a school.

The team also held a dedication service for the church Mt. Zion, Ontario, CA helped to build in Masaka which is located at the Equator. The church had to extend the building and install the church sign. Praise God for what He is doing in Africa through Mt. Zion.

The Tchula Mission team was fired up as God opened the door in Lexington, a city ten miles away from Tchula. Sixty two team members coming from the following churches joined forces:

1. Good Samaritan Ecumenical Church, Tchula, MS
2. Zion City Baptist Church, Goodman, MS
3. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Athens, GA



4. Strong Tower at Washington Park, Montgomery, AL
5. St. Paul Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA
6. Southern Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA
7. New Hope Church of God in Christ Duarte, CA
8. Foothill Bible Church, Upland, CA.
9. Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Ontario, CA

In addition to a record number of churches joining forces this year, nine pastors in Holmes County, Mississippi agreed to support our efforts in 2016.

God used one young man in the City of Lexington, to open numerous doors, including the use of the oldest church in the country, Church of God in Christ, a community center, and an additional church. The word spread such that the Mayor of Lexington visited the True Love Waits Program at the PIRC-Impact Community Students Learning Center. For next year, team leaders have already planned to transport the youth from Tchula to Lexington for the True Love Waits ministry.

The Tchula renovation team repaired over ten damaged pews at Zion City Baptist Church in Tchula; and replaced two subfloors in the bathrooms; and repaired the source of the damage. Two Vacation Bible Schools, including True Love Waits, two health team presentations (blood pressure, diabetes, and simple eye exams), two parenting teams, and two sewing teams ministered concurrently in both Tchula, and Lexington each day.

The basketball tournament is always the highlight of each evening after a long day of ministry. An average of one hundred and fifty residents from the community attended to watch highly competitive basketball teams play for the cash prize, and to hear a Word from the Lord. This year NASA, from the Stennis Mississippi location, had a representative present to the young people the opportunities available for them to pursue a career in aeronautics and space.

Another highlight was the bonding of our team with the City Leaders in Tchula. We are making progress as we strive to improve the quality of life spiritually, economically and socially in Tchula and Lexington, Mississippi.

One other highlight for the Tchula trip was partnering with our sister church New Hope Church of God in Christ, in Duarte, CA. They provided a Luxury Coach so that our team could travel across country together, safer, and in comfort. Praise God for the New Hope family.

Two thousand fifteen was our seventh year traveling to Mississippi, to do missions. As we saw the mindset of the people shifting through our consistent presence and lovingly sharing the message of Christ in practical ways, the enemy got busy and attacked. But God is faithful and kept us, encouraged, strengthened, and taught us many lessons on spiritual warfare, and team building.

Doing intergenerational ministry through Vacation Bible School has taught us more about the dynamics of body life as described in I Corinthians 12. Instead of constantly staying separated by age group, we are looking for ways to be together as a body of believers and relate to each other and get into one another's worlds. In being more intentional, we are learning how to have fun together, how to help each other, how to better communicate with each other, and most importantly, how to grow spiritually together. Children and teenagers love to see the competitive nature of older adults come out. How would they know "we still have it" if we never get together. This year our VBS averaged 300 people in attendance as we studied the Ten Commandments. Moses showed up each night to teach us what "thus says the Lord", and on Friday night, we enjoyed a family movie together in the parking lot. We cannot forget that great hospitality team; who provided tasty and nutritious meals each evening for our busy families.

Through the Helping Hands Ministry, God helps us serve the less fortunate. Food was given to 3,375 individuals. Five hundred seventy-five food bags were delivered to seniors living in Ontario. Seventy-nine emergency request were fulfilled (food, clothing, and or housing). Approximately 300 food bags for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were distributed. We thank God for generous donations from The Gas

Company, San Dimas Vons, The United States Postal Service, Mt. Zion, and friends of Helping Hands.

The Summer Children's Camp was full of energy, learning, surprise, and fun filled days. The camp was extended to accommodate family summer schedules. Trips to Guasti Park, Knots Berry Farm, and Magic Mountain, are always exciting, along with creative cooking instructions while tasting the good cooking when each delicious dish is completed, and learning the personality of each teacher always makes Mt. Zion's Summer Camp, a highlight each year.

What really goes into acting? Does an actor just walk onto the movie set with raw talent and not training? Actors are professionals who put in countless hours to learn their craft well. The youth had a unique session this year which gave them deeper insights into the world of acting.

Speaking of summer fun, how about that picnic committee? With over two hundred fifty people attending, Mt. Zion members spread out in Homer Briggs Park. We thoroughly enjoyed each other. Just talking to each other, playing dominos together, watching each other play competitive games, eating each other's specialty foods, and enjoying Mt. Zion's talented grillers prepare tasty meats and sides, made for a church picnic like none other. At the church picnic we also got to catch up with members who were missing in action, and encouraged them to get reconnected. We were able to witness to other visitors in the park, and build one another up in the faith. The organization of the picnic was a 5 Star quality, and made us excited to be a part of something so honoring to God.

The two "Go-Sunday," Sunday School outreach events were great congregation boosts as usual. "Go-Sunday" is designed to get the maximum number of Mt. Zion members into the community to show the love of Jesus by passing out water at walking trails and grocery stores, visiting the convalescent hospitals, doing home visitations, doing a worship at LeRoy's Boys home, washing cars, serving lemonade, doing door to door evangelism, giving away plants, giving out homeless kits, and having our prayer warriors in prayer while the Church is doing outreach. Over two hundred people participated in each of the "Go-Sundays" (November 2014 and June 2015). Between the two efforts over fifty people prayed the prayer of salvation.

Mt. Zion serves the community as a critical blood donation location. With he two blood drives per year, Mt. Zion donates approximately ninety to 100 units of blood, which helps over 288 persons. Mt. Zion continues to make a difference in practical ways. Praise Him!

The F.B.I. visited Mt. Zion to discuss fraud, identity theft, and the relationship between law enforcement and the community. With so much tension between law enforcement and the community, the church is the perfect place to promote the type of healing that will make law enforcement and the community critical partners as we address violence, crime, and terrorist acts, together. The Ontario Police Department, the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, and one of Mt. Zion's retired L.A. County Sheriffs were on the panel discussion designed to build community.

The "women only" Wednesday night bible study class was a big hit in the spring of 2015, and returned just as strong in the fall. Ladies, continue to build a discipleship ministry that produces women of God (P31 women).

As we move into the last quarter of the 2015 year, we are excited about launching new ministries: Dealing with Grief and our Special Needs ministry will come on-line to meet more members right where they are now in their time of need.

To raise our level, our fitness ministry added a Zumba class on Tuesdays and a step class on Thursdays.

Our seniors stepped up their game as they traveled to Fillmore for a mystery train ride and lunch. They also spent the year enjoying movies, and great fellowship together. Exercise and activity produce physical, social, and spiritual health. Keep going seniors, we love you.

The Harvest Festival, which is our alternative to Halloween, is another large outdoor event to reach people for Jesus. Over twelve hundred members of our community joined us for great food, games, prizes, fellowship, singing, and a Word from the Lord. Several community members just walked in and had a great time.

Giving children of prisoners hope during a very sad time of the year is a joy for the Mt. Zion family. In December 2014, we threw a big party for 144 children of prisoners and their families through Project Angel Tree. We thank God for the parents, grandparents and other family members who care for children of prisoners, while their parent or parents are incarcerated.

Throughout the year, we cannot thank the choirs, praise dancers, ushers, ministers, deacons, deaconess, and that famous parking lot ministry for their tireless ministry to the Mt. Zion Family, and others. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

On this 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary year we are building into our future. Eleven Next In Line Leaders completed basic training. Five deacons were ordained and four ministers were ordained.

In a society that says a lot of negative things about 18 - 35 year olds, we must see potential and the reality that they are our next line of leaders. Our HUB ministry provides weekly Bible Study, and challenging ministry opportunities throughout the year. What we see in valuing our 18 - 35 year olds, is a group of Christians who love Jesus and are eager to accept the challenge of assuming key leadership positions right now and serve with seasoned saints so that they are best prepared to lead Mt. Zion in the future.

Both our Youth and Young Adult Directors are actively involved in our local middle Schools and colleges. Praise God for a witness for the Lord in the arena that is shaping the thinking of our future leaders around the world.

The key to the critical ministry of nurturing our children, youth, and eighteen to thirty five year olds is resisting practices that drive them away from church, or keeps them disconnected with the entire body in the church. The click mentality at any level in the church, which is the "we are a separate group" mentality, the subtle "only support our group" mentality, and the "we are here, but not really a part of the other ministries at

the church” mentality drives youth, young, and mature adults away from the church because mess blocks them from connecting with God’s vision for the church.

Every member of Christ’s body is connected (I Cor. 12:12-27), and each one of us must resist the ungodly preoccupation with individualism. Mt. Zion, young and mature, we must with Holy Spirit power, courageously, and lovingly challenge anyone in the church who would dare lead such a divisive and destructive movement in God’s church.

The Deacons’ ministry led the congregation to next level of body life. The Deacons and Deaconess’ family ministry was launched to provide each Mt. Zion family a Deacon or Deaconess. This ministry takes over after the Nurturing ministry walks with new members for three months. The Nurturing Ministry walked with sixty-one new members in 2015. Mt. Zion, this is how we will do a better job of encouraging one another, and being good stewards over the members entrusted to our care.

Having ended the year in the “black,” we thanked God for His generous provisions for us to do creative and practical outreach and in-reach ministry throughout the year. God also moved on four different families to donate \$31,000.00 to put in designated funds for future construction \$21,000.00, property maintenance \$5,000.00 and support ministry \$5,000.00. The Newman Family Trust was our most recent family to contribute to designated funds for our future. This is a great start to building large designated funds to use only the interest on the principle to fund the aforementioned areas of ministry. As you put together your life insurance, wills, living trust, and other estate plans, please remember Mt. Zion. This is how we will build the principle in these designated funds large enough to earn substantial interest in perpetuity.

Mt. Zion eighty members joined the church since our last anniversary, twenty-three were baptized, nine babies dedicated, and eleven members went to heaven, and twenty-seven members immediate family members went home to be with Jesus.

A special thanks to our Marketing and AV Team. The Mt. Zion website was updated to an attractive and user friendly experience. The Wi-Fi was also expanded to help improve the church experience for people using laptops, iPads and cellphones while on the church property during service and other activities. We utilize social media as a means to reach more people for Christ through the Pastor’s Blog, Twitter, and Facebook. Marketing and AV keep the live stream going and thanks a million for posting our services on U-Tube.

In looking at our future, we must never forget about building values and incredible skills into our children. At Mt. Zion, we provide a formalized system through the Mt. Zion Christian Preschool. In the fall of 2015, we had six staff members (One Directress, three Teachers, and two aides), totally committed to pour into the lives of eighteen energy filled students full of potential. For the 2015 school year, our goal is to grow the pre-school to thirty students. Thank you parents for entrusting your precious children into our care.

We ended the year with the New Year's Eve Celebration with several guests who shared inspiring poetry, and a concert by Markees Williams. We concluded the year on our knees in prayer.

Mt. Zion, as Christ pastors His church and we follow Him we are in for fulfilling years ahead.

Father, as we forge ahead, deepen our personal growth in Christ and raise up leaders that take this church into the future until You return. We love you deeply, Amen.