

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

SPRING 2017

TRUMPET



25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY
OF BISHOP JOSEPH W. WALKER, III

— 2017 —

credits

Trumpet Magazine
A PUBLICATION OF
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Trumpet Magazine Mission Statement:
To provide and equip readers with vital, current, and relevant information that is applicable to their daily lives as Christians in the Nashville community and the world.

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Congratulations, Bishop Walker, on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary!



Rob Merritt, Owner
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04
FEATURE

PASTOR:

a spiritual overseer;

especially : a clergyman serving a local church or parish

The Call

As a student at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III accepted his call to preach. Even before that time, he had sensed in his spirit that he was supposed to do something other than practice law. Bishop Walker remembers the moment when he clearly heard the Lord's voice.

"I heard a voice that simply said, 'NOW.' I didn't quite understand what the voice was telling me to do, but whatever it was, I convinced myself that it couldn't happen at that time because I had already planned out my life. I was going to graduate from Southern and go on to law school. But after I heard that voice, I couldn't focus. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I ran to the chapel at the Baptist Student Center, fell on my knees, and said, 'God, what?' God said, 'I want you to preach the gospel. I want you to feed my sheep.'"

The strong pull of the Spirit caused Bishop Walker to question the path he had planned for himself. So instead of heading to law school, he stepped out on faith and decided to enter seminary. With a letter from his pastor, Dr. Harry Blake, senior pastor of Mount Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, Bishop Walker was accepted into divinity school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"After I arrived in Nashville, I attended a service at Mt. Zion. On my first visit, I sat in the back and observed this congregation of about 120 people. Mrs. Margaret Wilson introduced herself to me and then introduced me to the pastor, the Reverend E. W. Roberson. Once Rev. Roberson learned that I was a minister, he invited me to sit in the pulpit with him. I stayed for a portion of the service, but I decided to leave and visit another church down the street. But after only 15 minutes at the other church, the power of the Holy

Spirit compelled me to return to Mt. Zion. As I walked into the sanctuary, Rev. Roberson was finishing his sermon, and I immediately went forward to join the church. At the time, I was the only associate minister, I was a first-year seminary student, and I was new in the ministry. But I walked alongside the pastor and served to the best of my ability.

Despite his service to Mt. Zion, Bishop Walker had no plans of settling permanently in Nashville. He assumed that after he graduated from Vanderbilt, he would return to Shreveport to assist Dr. Blake in ministry. However, God had other plans for him.

"Pastor Roberson called on me more frequently, and people responded favorably to my preaching and teaching. Even after Pastor Roberson left, members of the congregation wanted me to stay on and become their pastor. So, in April 1992, one month before I graduated from divinity





school, I became pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Here I was, 24 years old, pastoring my first church. I was in awe!"

As Bishop Walker took on the mantle of pastor, God promised him that his ministry would bless millions of people. Twenty-five years later, Mt. Zion Baptist Church is proof that the promises of God are yes and amen.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

SHEPHERD

transitive verb

1: to tend as a shepherd

2: to guide or guard in the manner of a shepherd

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15)

The Bible describes a shepherd as one who leads forth a flock from the fold to the place where the sheep are to be pastured. There, the shepherd watches them during the day, taking care that none of the sheep stray. And if some of them elude his watch and wander away from the rest of the flock, he seeks for them diligently until they are found and brought back to the fold.



Bishop Walker takes seriously the call to evangelize the lost at any cost, to equip and empower the people of God, and to provide holistic ministry to our community, as well as to the world.

He is a selfless leader who visits sick members, prays for his congregation, and immerses himself in the well-being of Mt. Zion's members. Even with a local membership of over 30,000 and an online congregation worldwide, Bishop

Walker makes time for genuine connections. In addition to greeting members before and after services and participating in the weekly Prayer Call, he gives daily inspiration through Periscope. He is relevant, personal, and even comical as he shares a word of encouragement with the "PeriSquad."

Always on the cutting edge, Bishop Walker's ingenious strategies for ministry reach a multi-

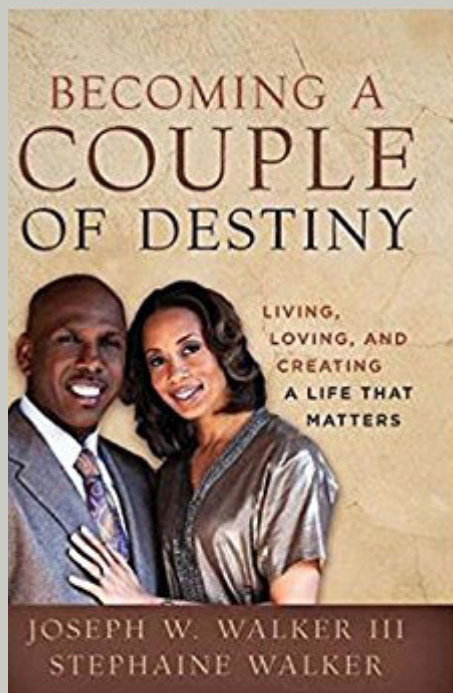


generational, multicultural audience of all socioeconomic situations. His prolific message of empowerment has made Mt. Zion known as a church that offers the total package, from health and wellness classes; Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace program; and, more recently, a mental health and substance abuse ministry. Bishop Walker is a shepherd anointed and appointed to help people prosper in every area of their lives.





Bishop Walker is especially passionate about mentorship. He meets often with ministry



leaders, pastors, and individuals seeking career

guidance. Whether in person or via Skype, he is devoted to nurturing leaders and sharpening them to become problem-solvers in today's society.

VISIONARY

: someone with progressive ideas about the future or advancements.

Throughout his life and ministry, Bishop Walker has demonstrated a caliber of leadership well beyond his years. His influence extends beyond the walls of Mt. Zion, reaching audiences worldwide in the private and the public sector as a teacher and a public speaker. He's also a community leader, serving organizations such as New Level Community Development Corporation, Nashville Unites, the American Red Cross, Citizens Bank, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University.

Bishop Walker goes beyond merely talking about societal concerns; he works tirelessly to find creative solutions. In 2016, in his first major initiative as Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel

Baptist Church Fellowship International, he mobilized a nationwide donation of water to the residents of Flint, Michigan, when it was discovered that their drinking water had become contaminated. Bishop Walker and Dr. Steph founded the Drs. Joseph & Stephaine Walker Scholarship Fund. The scholarships are awarded to people to help them to achieve their academic dreams.

A prolific writer, Bishop Walker is the author of nine books. He and Dr. Stephaine co-authored his eighth book, *Becoming a Couple of Destiny*.

Bishop Walker's genuine love for the people of God is evident in all of his endeavors. We honor him as a man chosen by God to transform lives in this generation.



We love you Bishop
Happy 25th Pastoral Anniversary
— Your Mt. Zion Family

25 YEARS

— 300 MONTHS —

1,304 WEEKS

9,125 DAYS

219,000 HOURS

13,140,000 MINUTES

To our biggest supporter,

Bishop Joseph W. Walker, W.V.

YOUR EXAMPLE OF

SERVING IN

EXCELLENCE PERSONIFIES

TIME WELL SPENT.

Thank you for your vision.

— The Trumpet Team —

mt. zion church

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step
INTO
a new season

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

7:00 AM & 9:30 AM

ANTIOCH LOCATION

(2261 MURFREESBORO RD.)

8:15 AM & 11:15 AM

OLD HICKORY LOCATION

(7594 OLD HICKORY BLVD.)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

12 NOON (1112 JEFFERSON ST.)

5:00 PM (2261 MURFREESBORO RD.)

7:00 PM (7594 OLD HICKORY BLVD.)

WWW.MTZIONNASHVILLE.ORG | WWW.MTZIONANYWHERE.ORG

COMFORT ZONE



RECEIVE CHURCH-WIDE UPDATES
BY TEXTING 'MTZION' TO '63975'.

THE YEAR OF **NOW** NO OPPORTUNITY WASTED



In this special edition of Trumpet magazine, we are honoring and celebrating 25 years of work and accomplishments by Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III as the senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. We are reflecting on past achievements, but we are also focusing on the 2017 Vision of the House NOW! NOW represents no opportunity wasted. Don't put it off; do it now! Don't rest until you do (Proverbs 6:4).

Throughout this issue, you will see the impact of the NOW philosophy on our various ministries and on the lives of those we touch. Last year, Bishop Walker introduced the four C's: Character, Competence, Cadence, and Capacity. These serve as measuring tools by which we gauge our progress as part of an effective staff. Living by a NOW philosophy reminds us that we are not promised the next day, the next hour, or the next second, so as you are reading this issue of Trumpet, ask yourself, "Why not NOW?"

Why Now?

In Bishop Walker's official transcript of the 2017 vision, he states, "God spoke to me clearly about 2017. This year will be a year where no opportunity is wasted. I've spoken much about cadence in 2016, and now the time has come. Everything we do will embody this vision. There are many people who allowed opportunity to pass them by because they were not positioned nor prepared to respond. In an effort to be more efficient in our response, we will simplify our processes so that we can garner maximum participation in our efforts to make a difference in the community as well as in the world."

This statement reminds us that ministry should not be too complicated or hard. Bishop Walker also explains how we can prepare ourselves by focusing on five areas in ministry: spiritual development, economic empowerment, health awareness, family enrichment, and community outreach.

In reading the many tributes from staff and friends of Bishop Walker, we hope you will discover how God has orchestrated an international ministry from the proud historic beginnings of Jefferson Street to the global impact of two additional locations, Antioch and Old Hickory, and our growing virtual platform, MtZonAnywhere. We want you to see how Bishop Walker's obedience in following God's vision 25 years ago has put him on the international stage for such a time as this.

Bishop Walker, we salute you, and we honor your wife, Dr. Steph, and your daughter, JoJo, for being the fuel to the fire that allows you to serve all these levels of ministry. On behalf of your Media Department Team, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we love you and that it's an honor to be one of the vehicles that drives the 2017 Vision of NOW!

No Opportunity Wasted!

Johnny Stephens
General Overseer,
Marketing & Media

Johnny Stephens, Editor in Chief | Trumpet Magazine





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Congratulations to
BISHOP JOSEPH W. WALKER, III
ON YOUR 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY.

DR. JACQUELINE BUTLER MITCHELL, D.D.S.

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*For 25 years, God has made a pattern for the life of our son, **Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.** Like a great tailor, God has used this pattern to make a wonderful garment that is fit for a dreamer. Every piece of fabric, every spool of thread, is used to hold your dreams and your family together.*

To our son, brother, uncle, God has made a wonderful garment from a pattern that was designed for you. We celebrate the fabric and the thread that is you, which keeps our family together. Joseph, you are a dreamer with a coat of many colors that is connected through the thread of love. Congratulations on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary.

We Love You!

Mom, Rosa

Dad, Joseph

Siblings: Sheritha, Dewanna, Darrell, Jerry, Michael, Zelda, Laleshia

Honey,

words cannot express how proud I am of you as we celebrate your 25th anniversary here at Mt. Zion. You are truly an amazing pastor and leader, but you are an even MORE amazing husband, father, and friend. Over the last nine years, I have watched you grow and stretch yourself as a leader. I've watched you sacrifice and give and give and give, and never once have you ever complained. You consistently humble yourself and give God glory for His work through you, and for that, I also honor the God in you. You have clearly been anointed for this. Giovanni and I thank God for you daily, and we are so grateful to be able to walk beside you in this season. Indeed, the best is yet to come!

Love, Stephaine



dear daddy...

You have been at Mt. Zion for a very long time. I am happy for you. You take care of the people, but you still always play with me and my dolls and take me to the park to ride my bike and to get ice cream. Thank you, Daddy, for being the best daddy ever!

i love you! jojo

Dear Bishop Walker,

I greet you in divine love.

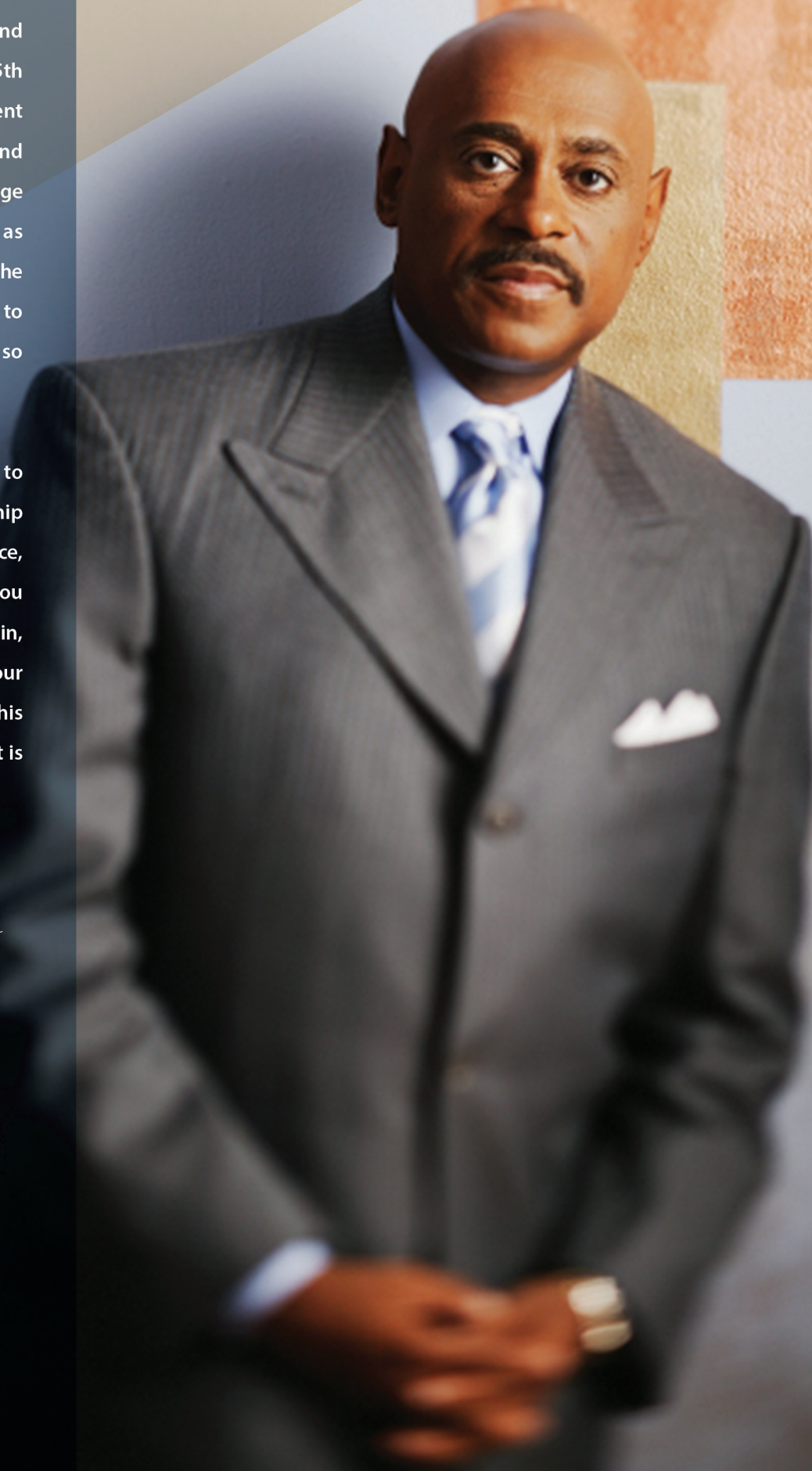
It is with joy that I salute you and extend congratulations on the occasion of your 25th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration. It is evident that God is using you to help touch and change the lives of His people. I encourage you to remain steadfast in the things of God as you continue your service in building the Kingdom. Your life has been an example to many, and I am confident that God has so much in store for you.

You have truly been a blessing to my life and to the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. You are a leader par excellence, and God is pleased with your efforts as you lead and serve his people. Again, congratulations to you, Stephaine, your family, and the Mt. Zion Church family. This time in your life is due season, and the best is yet to come!

Changing a Generation,

Bishop Paul S. Morton

Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr.





OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR

ELDER DARRYL M. TALIAFERRO, M.S., M.DIV.

Bishop Walker,

Congratulations on **25 years** of faithful service to The Mount.

As we celebrate you today, I want to personally express how thankful and blessed we are to have you as our pastor. While many around the world call you their Presiding Bishop, we here at Mount Zion have the distinct privilege of calling you our Pastor, and for that we are grateful.

As I reflect over the years that I have been at The Mount, I have had the incredible honor of serving alongside you. During this time, I have watched how you have cared for, prayed with, and ministered to our members. Even in moments of personal affliction, you still gave of yourself time and time again, going above and beyond to ensure that our members were comforted or encouraged in their time of need. Your visible demonstration of leadership and sacrifice has taught me a great deal about what it means to be longsuffering and compassionate to the people of God.

Thank you for leading by example.

Thank you for tireless service to the Mount Zion Baptist Church and to the Kingdom of God. It is my sincere prayer that because of all the seeds you have sown into the people of God that you will reap a bountiful harvest of blessings.

In His Service
Elder Darryl M. Taliaferro

Dr. Harry Blake, Pastor

**"Embracing the Purpose, Principles &
Practices of a New Testament Church"**

March 20, 2017

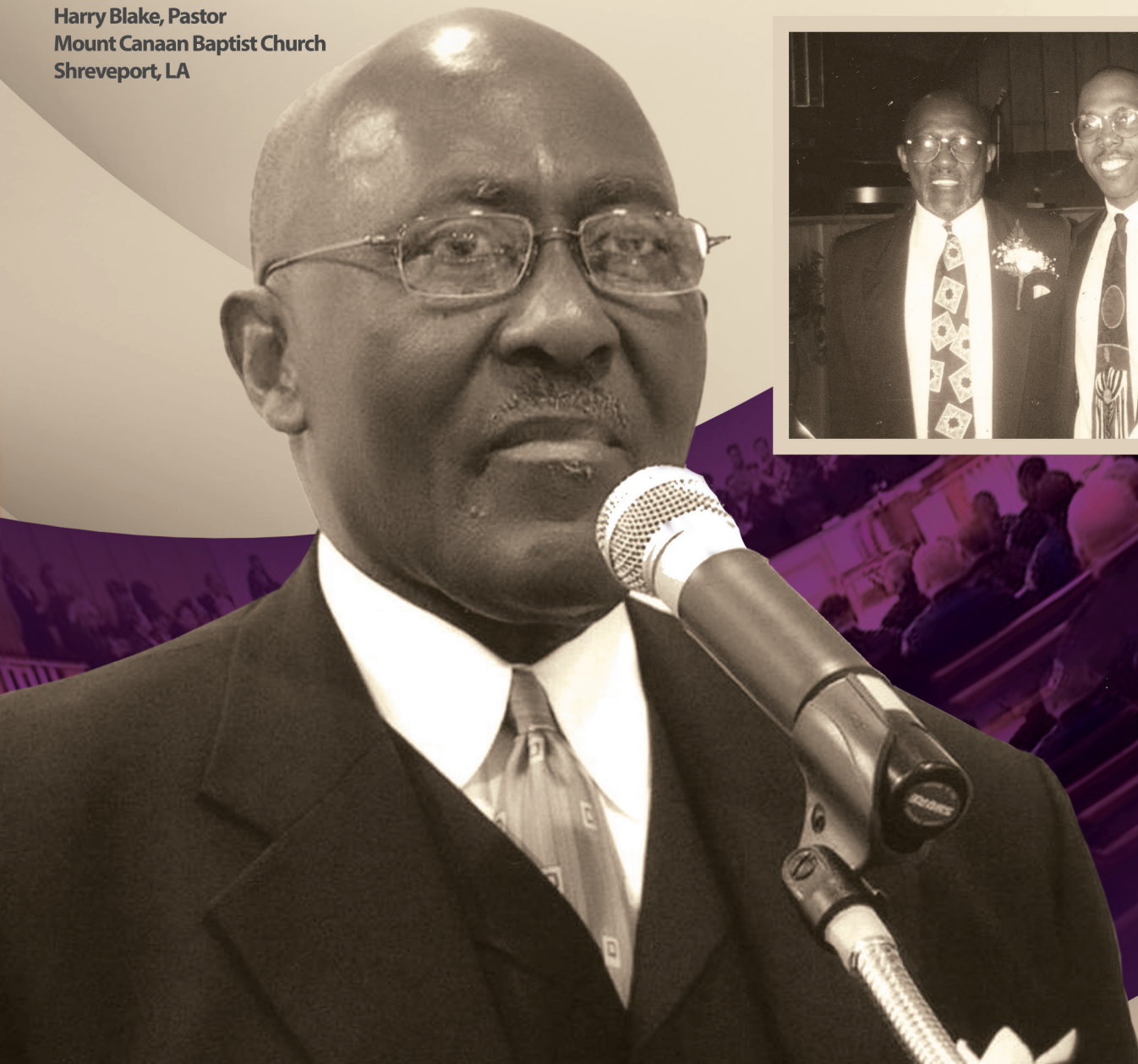
Dear Son,

It seems like just yesterday you were graduating high school and heading to college at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. To think, God has blessed you to serve the people of Mount Zion, in Nashville, Tennessee, for a quarter century! To God be all the glory!

I am proud to be your spiritual father from your birth to this point in time. You are a man of character; a man of integrity; and most of all, a true man of God. Keep lifting high the cross, and God will continue to draw all men unto Him!

With sincere love,

Harry Blake, Pastor
Mount Canaan Baptist Church
Shreveport, LA





RICKEY SMILEY

Bishop Walker,

Congratulations on 25 years of pastoral ministry. You are gifted and anointed for such a time as this. I am grateful to call you my bishop, pastor, best friend, and fraternity brother (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity). Knowing you has made me a better businessman and father. I should have become a better godfather to that sweet baby, JoJo, but you and Dr. Stephaine refuse to let me spoil her (HATERS).

Together, we have been through some storms. There were times we both wanted to give up. Thank you for encouraging me to press on. Thank you for your wisdom, guidance, and unwavering love.

No matter where I am in the world, I stream the church service. And when my schedule permits, I find my way to Mt. Zion. No matter if it's online or in person, each time I receive an on-time, life-altering word. Bishop, I celebrate you and all the things that you do today and well into the future.

PS: If Benita Washington or Vashawn Mitchell are ever out, The Little Women of Atlanta would like to come to your church to sing their original song "PICK ME UP, so I can see Jesus!"

BE OWT, Your Boy,
Rickey Smiley



WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP

DISCIPLESHIP

MINISTRY

EVANGELISM

CONNECT | GROW | SERVE | GO

Share Your Story



WWW.HIGHERD.NET

SUNDAYS | 8A | 10:45A | 12:45P



Congratulations

BISHOP, ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE!

2 Timothy 2:5 says, "If . . . a man strive for masteries, yet he is not crowned unless he strive lawfully."

You definitely taught us to strive with excellence.

The Athletic Ministry of Mt. Zion




BRING THE PEOPLE.
BUILD THE FUN.
FUND THE MISSION.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

PAINT YOUR WORLD PURPLE

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Survivors – Celebrating Life!
Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Relay For Life Sends Words of Love for Bishop Walker's Anniversary!

Bishop,
Christians Against Cancer thank you for 25 years of faithful service to Mt. Zion Baptist Church. You always go above and beyond the call of duty for us. We are pleased to call you our bishop, pastor, mentor, and friend.

Peaches DeBerry and Demetria Rollins, Co-Chairs



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CONGRATULATIONS
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III
on **25 blessed years**
On behalf of Nashville Dental Center and
the entire Newberry family
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most deserving man of God.



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good begins
with a SMILE.



MINISTRY



The Covenant Marriage Matters Ministry would like to wish our beloved pastor, Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III, a happy 25th Pastoral Anniversary!

Bishop Walker, thank you for your awesome vision to help grow healthy, solid, God-centered marriages through various avenues such as Home Builders, Married Sunday school classes, and Covenant in Motion Marriage Dance Ministry, as well as workshops and symposiums, just to name a few.

You deserve the best because you give us your best. May our Lord and Savior continue to reign upon you. God bless you. We love you, Bishop and First Lady Stephaine!

The mission of the **COVENANT MATTERS** marriage ministry is to provide biblically-based principles, holistic Christian instruction, fellowship opportunities, and a safe haven where the covenant union between a man and a woman can be nurtured and supported by offering relevant, structured, practical, and godly solutions to the daily issues of life.



TRAINING GROUND

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

MZBC

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Bishop, we're feeling you on a spiritual level!



XPERIENCE

YOUTH MINISTRY

MZBC

From dodgeball to altar calls, Bishop, we're able to do what we do because of you!

#BARS #THEXPERIENCE



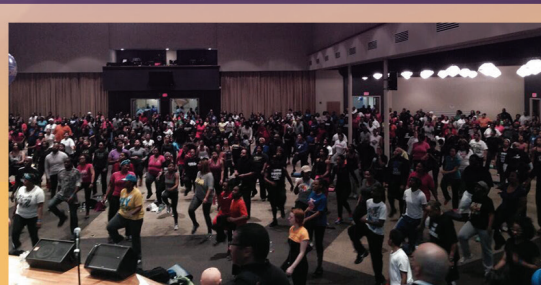
CHURCHFIT™

INTERNATIONAL

The ChurchFIT Team extends well wishes to the first family as Bishop Walker celebrates his 25th Pastoral Anniversary. We are grateful for their continued commitment to bringing awareness to health and wellness.

Under the united vision of Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III and Dr. Stephaine Walker, last year, ChurchFIT launched an international initiative, making it a worldwide movement. Employing biblically-based principals, ChurchFIT has been adopted by various churches nationwide as a transformative program to address the health disparities within their congregations and even within their local communities. The Full Gospel Conference has been a viable platform to expose churches to the program and, this year, will offer a number of engaging events for the entire family.

The best is yet to come as we empower the members of the body of Christ to improve their health holistically—mind, body, and spirit.



College

MINISTRY

Congratulations, Bishop!

Thank you for 25 years of humble, faithful service. We are truly honored to serve under a leader who is committed to working, worshipping, and witnessing.

Adoration
Ladies of Virtue
Men of Valor
Operation Give Back
Project Purpose
Young Adult and
College Choir



 [mzcmnashville](https://twitter.com/mzcmnashville)
www.mtzioncollegeministry.org



"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, NKJV

Kingdom Kids Children's Ministry

provides age-appropriate biblical educational opportunities for independently walking children ages 1 through 5th grade. Each age group is exposed to the love of God, displayed by caring volunteers who encourage & motivate students to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.



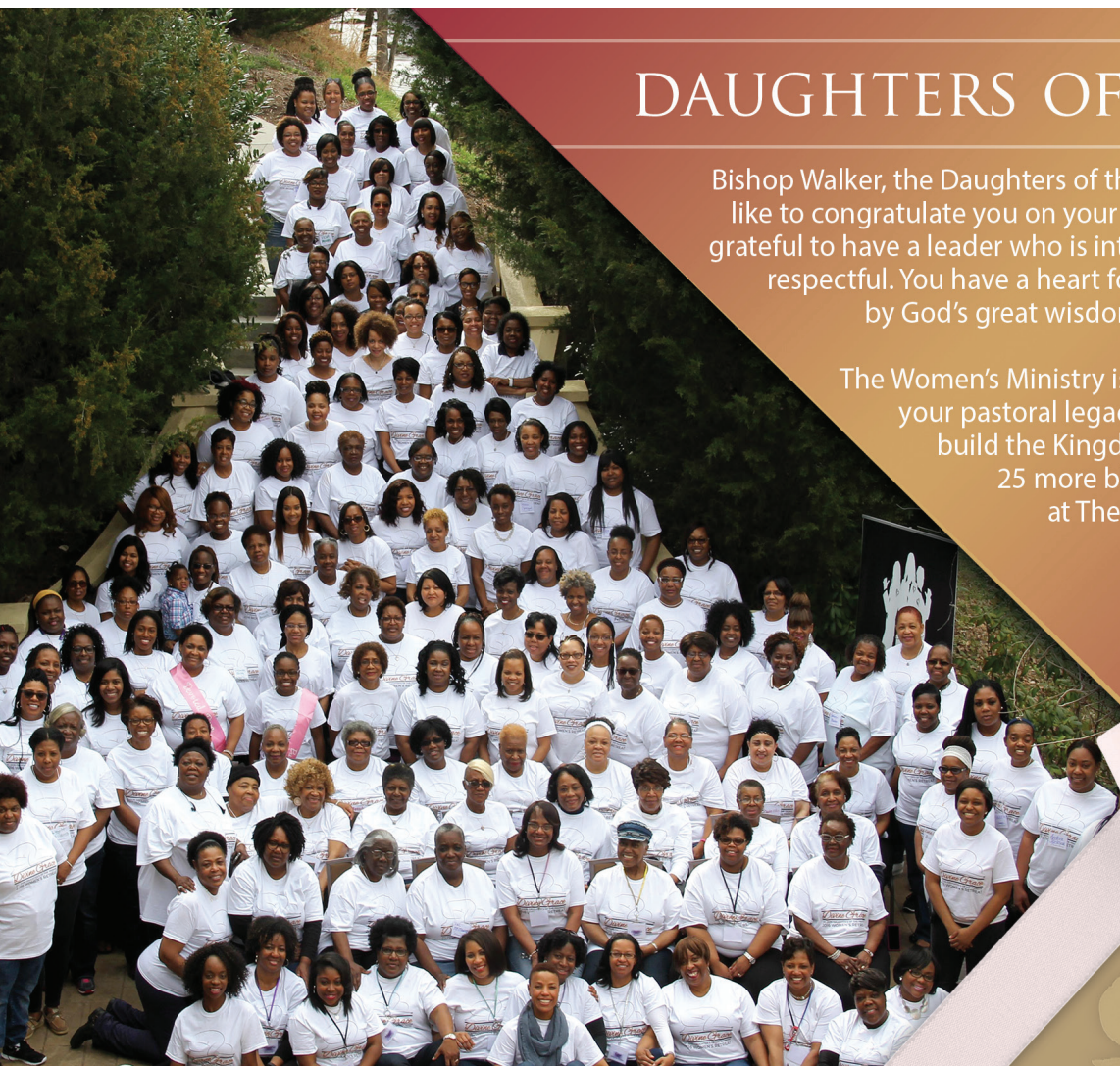
Happy Anniversary, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.
— *Kingdom Kids Children's Ministry*



The Singles & Single Parent Ministry congratulates you, Bishop, on your 25th anniversary! It is an honor for us to share this wonderful landmark with you. Thank you for edifying, enriching, and empowering us through the Word of God. When you pour out, we fill up!

We love you! God bless you and your family.

SINGLES MINISTRY



DAUGHTERS OF THE PROMISE

Bishop Walker, the Daughters of the Promise Women's Ministry would like to congratulate you on your 25 years of faithful service. We are grateful to have a leader who is intelligent, dedicated, passionate, and respectful. You have a heart for God's people and are guided by God's great wisdom as you lead His flock.

The Women's Ministry is honored to serve under your pastoral legacy as we continue to build the Kingdom. Wishing you 25 more blessed years at The Mount!



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

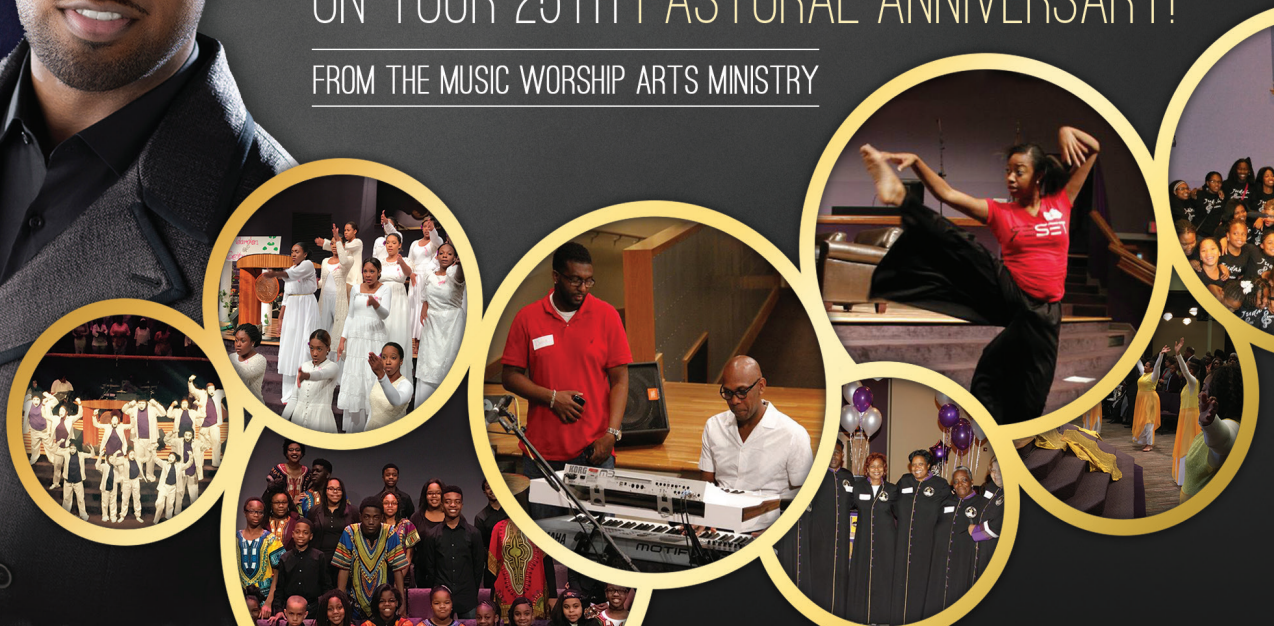
Bishop,

No words can describe what your guidance, hard work, and dedication to Mt. Zion has meant to us over the years! We thank God for your faithfulness and commitment to serve and to lead His people. We look ahead with great expectation and excitement for how you will continue to advance the kingdom of God.

The Young Adult Ministry would like to wish you a happy 25th Pastoral Anniversary. May you continue to walk in the blessings and favor of the Lord.



BENITA WASHINGTON VASHAWN MITCHELL
CONGRATULATIONS
BISHOP WALKER,
ON YOUR 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY!
FROM THE MUSIC WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY



MOMENTUM MEN'S MINISTRY

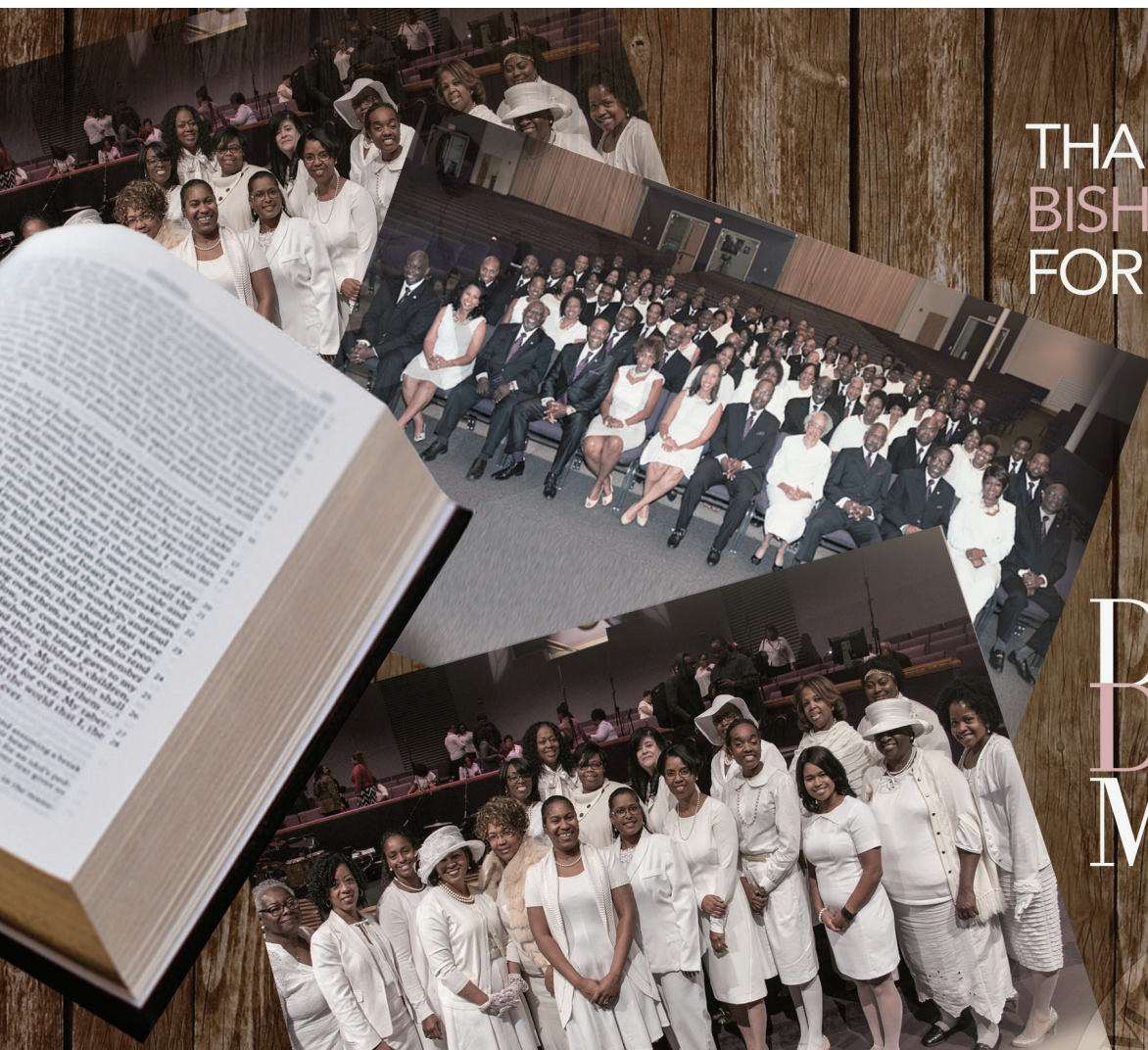


Bishop, thank you for 25 years of faithful service! You feed us very well because it's God's heart that you are after. (And we thank Him that we don't have to eat soup and crackers!)

**Congratulations, Bishop Walker,
on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary!**



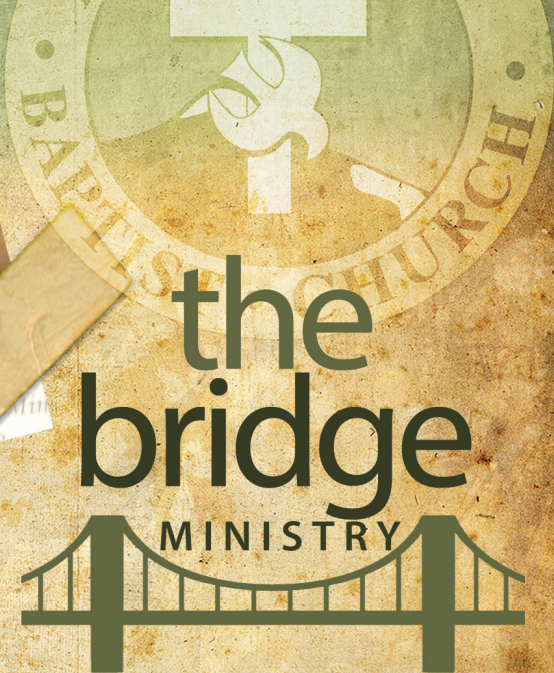
With love, Christian Education Ministry
Sunday School | Discipleship Institute | Small Groups



**THANKS,
BISHOP WALKER,
FOR 25 YEARS OF ...**

Caring for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watching over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it but, because you are eager to serve God. (1 Peter 5:2, NLT)
We Love You!

**Deacon &
Deaconess
Ministries**



Bishop Walker,

we are grateful to you, our visionary, for birthing the Bridge Ministry in 2008.

With the rapid and incredible growth of our church, you saw the need to create a ministry that could provide a bridge on which our members can move purposefully from membership to discipleship in a spirit of excellence.

Thank you for 25 years of awesome leadership,

teaching and entrusting us to serve this ministry and to faithfully bring the vision of the house to fruition

Only God knew that this young man who sat in our young adult's Sunday school class (taught by Opal Scales) on Jefferson Street 25 years ago would change the lives of people far and near. You have impacted our lives tremendously over the years.



50+ Ministry

Congratulations, Bishop Walker

on your 25th anniversary, and may God continue to bless you.

Thank you, and we love you.

INTAKE MINISTRY



"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10, NKJV)

It is with tremendous love and adoration that we wish you a happy 25th Pastoral Anniversary. Thank you for 25 faithful years of service, for saying yes to being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith. We thank God for you!

With Love,
The Intake Ministry

PASTORAL CARE MT. ZION NASHVILLE

meals

water

towels

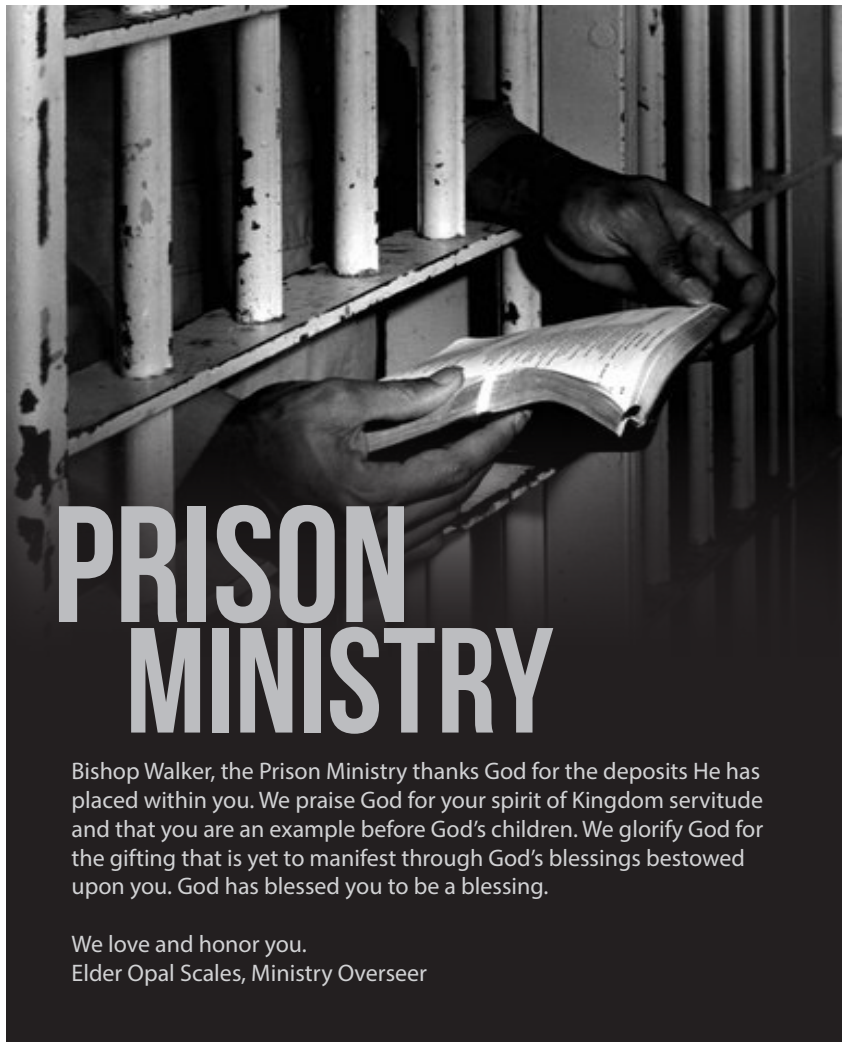
Congratulations, Bishop Walker, on your
25th Pastoral Anniversary!
Thank you for the opportunity to serve the first family.
Love, The Pastoral Care Ministry



PRISON MINISTRY

Bishop Walker, the Prison Ministry thanks God for the deposits He has placed within you. We praise God for your spirit of Kingdom servitude and that you are an example before God's children. We glorify God for the gifting that is yet to manifest through God's blessings bestowed upon you. God has blessed you to be a blessing.

We love and honor you.
Elder Opal Scales, Ministry Overseer



WELCOME MINISTRY



"We are bound to give thanks to God always for you."
(2 Thessalonians 2:13, NKJV).

We thank God for blessing us through the works of His anointed servant, Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III, the voice of one crying in the wilderness of the 21st century! Congratulations on 25 years of extraordinarily gifted and loyal service to God and to Mt. Zion Baptist Church! We love you, Bishop! *The Mt Zion Welcome Ministry*

The mission of the **Welcome Ministry** is to extend a sincere, heartfelt welcome to those who attend our worship services.



USHER MINISTRY



Bishop Walker, Congratulations on 25 outstanding years as the pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. We thank God for you and for the first family. To God be the glory!

The Mount Zion Usher Ministry



CONGRATULATIONS
**BISHOP
WALKER**
ON YOUR
25TH
**PASTORAL
ANNIVERSARY!**
EVANGELISM MINISTRY



Grief SHARE

Congratulations, Bishop. We thank God for you!
Thanks for your obedience to God. We see the nature
of David, a man after God's own heart; Joshua, a
conqueror of people and land; Jeremiah, a prophet
with the fire of the Spirit shut up in his bones; and
Jesus, with unconditional love for everyone.

We love you! – The GRIEF SHARE TEAM

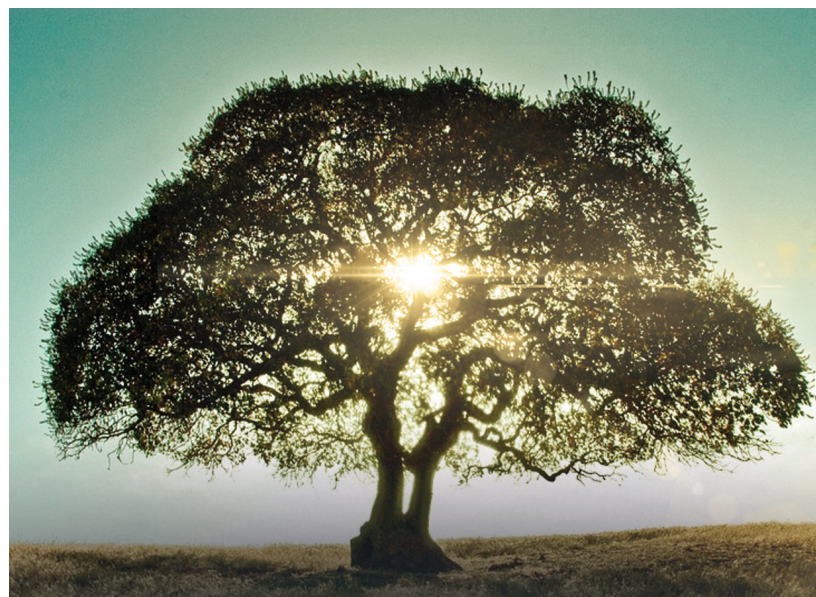
FOOD PANTRY

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, HELPING THE HOPELESS

Overseer Shannon
Fitzpatrick
Courtney Gray and
Karen Washington,
food pantry
volunteers



Congratulations, Bishop Walker,
on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary!
The Food Pantry Ministry is so grateful for all you do and
for how you empower us to help the community. God bless you!



PSALM Ministry

The **PSALM Ministry**
congratulates Bishop Walker
for 25 years of selfless
service to the Mt. Zion
family. We are thankful for
your vision to start this
ministry and for your support
for our success.



Bishop, we love you and pray for many more years of your pastoring.

DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY



For 12 years, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University has been blessing hundreds of MTZ families, thanks to Bishop Walker. We are honored that you, our shepherd, know the power of collaboration and legacy! Bishop, we appreciate and love you!

#25moreyearsplease
#kingdomfinance
#changingourfamilytree

mt. zion
anywhere

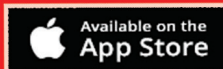
A Real Church in a Virtual World

Happy anniversary, Bishop! Thank you for your amazing vision.
A necessary space designed to inspire our children and youth
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Reaching the unchurched and dechurched at any cost
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THE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Congratulations, Bishop Walker, on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary!

With love, The Outreach Ministry



Meals on Wheels Ministry | Prison Ministry | Room in the Inn Ministry | The Lord's Kitchen Ministry | The Mt. Zion Breakfast Café | Volunteer Event Planning Team | Wedding Ministry

Pace Matrons

The purpose of Pace Matrons is to promote **worldwide missions** based upon the fundamental principles of Christian living through soul winning, prayers, Bible and mission study, and to minister to the needs of those who are sick, elderly, and less fortunate.



Congratulations, Bishop Walker, on 25 years of service to Mt. Zion Baptist Church! We love you! Pace Matrons

March 31, 2017

Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III
Presiding Bishop
Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International
c/o Mt. Zion Baptist Church
7594 Old Hickory Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37189

Dear Bishop Walker,

Thank you for your generous support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through our St. Jude Sunday of Hope program. Your designation of St. Jude as the charity of choice for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International reformation during your installation as Presiding Bishop in November 2015 has made a tremendous difference in the success of the program. With a first-year contribution of more than \$236,000, Full Gospel was instrumental in our reaching \$1 million for Sunday of Hope for the first time since its inception. In addition, with a \$60,000 contribution, Mt. Zion raised more than any other church in a given year.

Your support demonstrates the commitment you have to helping some of the world's sickest children. Not only are you providing hope for children with cancer, but you are also helping those suffering with sickle cell disease, which I know is important to you personally and to the Full Gospel fellowship.

On behalf of the entire St. Jude family, I congratulate you on your outstanding career as pastor and bishop. Your leadership of Mt. Zion Baptist Church over the last 25 years has made a significant difference in the lives of so many and has provided valuable support to the Nashville community.

While I am unable to personally share this special occasion with you, I am thankful that members of the ALSAC/St. Jude team will be there to join you. We are so blessed to have you, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International as part of our family. On behalf of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, we appreciate your contributions and celebrate you on this special occasion.

Sincerely yours,



Richard C. Shadyac, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

St. Jude patient Muhammad



CONGRATULATIONS

BISHOP

Joseph

WALKER, III

ON

25
YEARS

OF LEADING & PASTORING
MT. ZION OF NASHVILLE

FROM

**BISHOP DESIGNATE
BRYAN J. PIERCE, SR.,
FIRST LADY DEBRA PIERCE**

& MOUNT ZION OF GREENSBORO CHURCH FAMILY



One in Christ

MOUNT ZION

BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, INC

1301 ALAMANCE CHURCH ROAD
GREENSBORO NC 27406





Bishop Walker,
Your espresso-style words of encouragement
inspire and nurture us with every 'scope. Thank
you for investing your time to make the
connection. Happy anniversary!
With Love,

#PERI  SQUAD

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Kendall Davis,
Owner & Creative Director

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY
Bishop Walker
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUOUS LOVE
AND SUPPORT.

"Milestone moments should be joyful, not stressful."

Baby Showers • Weddings • Family Events
Class Reunions • Conferences/Seminars • Bridal Showers
Anniversaries • Birthday Celebrations • Graduation Parties
Destination Weddings • Trade Fairs • Social Gatherings
Day of Coordination • Full-Service Planning • Decorations

"Every event plan needs a planner."

Bishop Walker,

You are such an inspiration and a true blessing to the Mount Zion congregation. It is amazing to see the growth of the church in the last 15 years since I joined Mount Zion. Under your leadership, I have grown and developed into a strong leader while strengthening my relationship with God.

Twenty-five years have served you well, and may the Lord continue to keep you and bless you as you remain on the battlefield for Jesus Christ.

Erica Gilmore

Council Lady at Large



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Congratulations
TO BISHOP
JOSEPH W. WALKER, III
ON YOUR
25th
Pastoral
ANNIVERSARY

May God continue to bless you
& the Mount Zion Baptist Church.



BISHOP LANIER C. TWYMAN, SR.
FIRST LADY TONYA P. TWYMAN

St. Stephen Baptist Church Family - Full Gospel DC State

Honoring 25 years

of service to God.



The Operations Team

extends heartfelt congratulations
to Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III
on his

25th Pastoral Anniversary

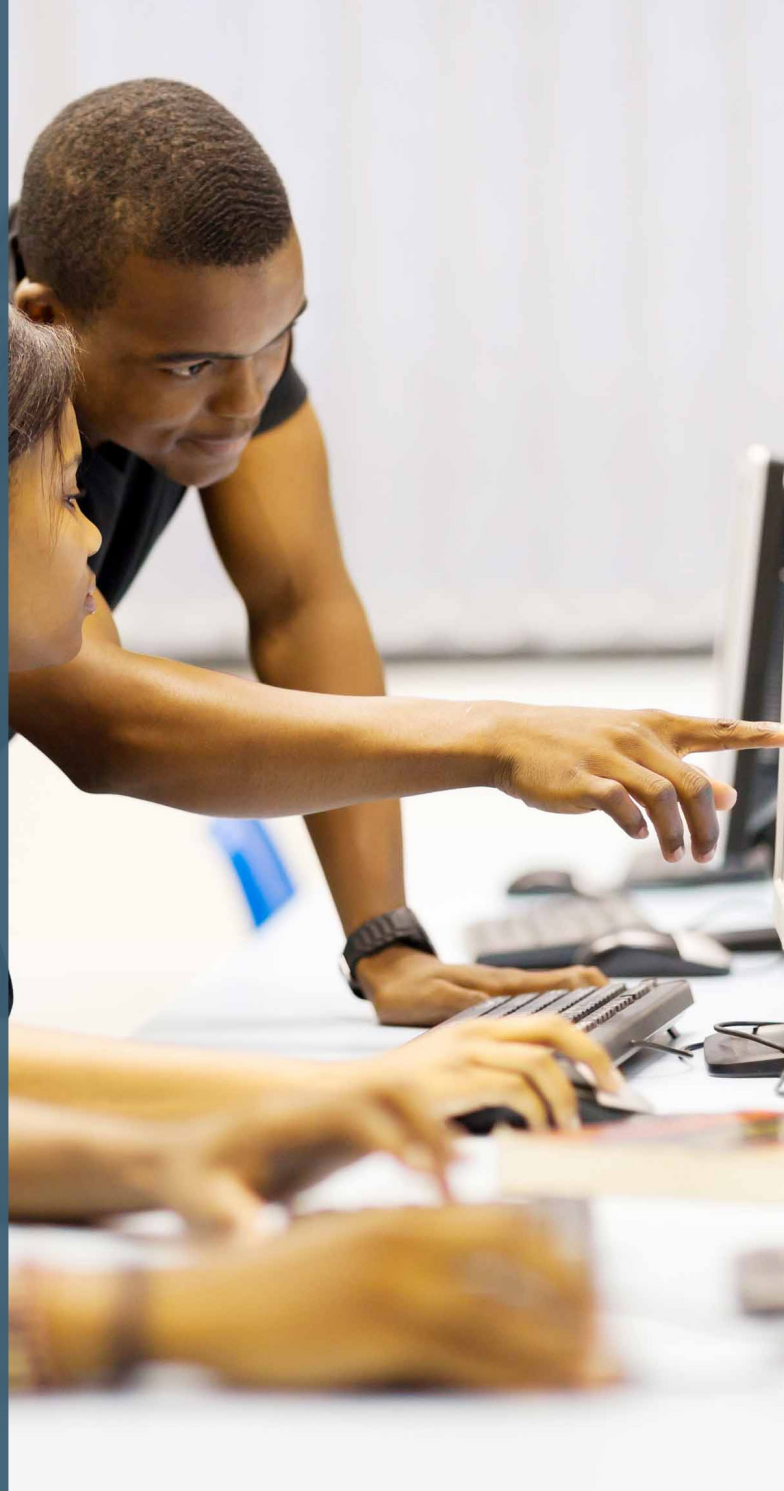
"And He gave some,
apostles; and some,
prophets; and some,
evangelists; and
some, pastors and
teachers; for the
perfecting of the
saints, for the work of
the ministry, for the
edifying of the body
of Christ."
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

MARKETING AND MEDIA

To our beloved Bishop, Joseph W. Walker, III:
On behalf of the Marketing and Media
Department and the teams that serve under
this umbrella (the Bookstore, Video
Production, Audio Production,
Photographers, and the Team, we salute you
and honor you as you celebrate your 25th
anniversary as pastor.

You are an extraordinary example of Psalm
37:23: "The steps of a good man are ordered
by the Lord, And He delights in his way."
THANK YOU for your unconditional love!
The M&M Team

Johnny Stephens | Nicole Gilbert | Eric Jackson | Mark
Jackson | Shirley Mason Erica Payne | Jet Penix | Betsy
Stubblefield | Karen Washington | Xaviery Caldwell Lani
Brown | Justin Crockett | Dan Grimes | Jim Hunter |
Jacqueline Marks | Crystal Owens | Ron Reid | Walter
Smart | Chauncy Smith | Milton Sneed | Brian Williams
Rodney Baldwin | Keosha Thomas | Dallas Allbritton |
Tony Beasley | David Brandon | D. J. Eason | Melodye
Jenkins | Denise Reed | Glen Townsend | Latoria Bogard |
Stacy Bowers | Gretchen Brown | Sonya Cliff | Tamala
Davis | Tonisha Franklin | Lacreasha Hanserd | Nakeia Pirtle
| Keisha Scott | Jillina Stewart | Rochelle Townsend |
Brianna Vasser | Danielle Ward | Jasmine Williams |
Deirdre Young





Happy 25th Pastoral ANNIVERSARY!

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM



Giving to others seems to come so naturally to you, but we know it doesn't happen by accident. You go the extra mile, take the extra time, and give the extra thought, and it really makes a difference.

Thank you, Bishop Walker and Dr. Steph, for being innovative servant leaders! I am a better person because of you. Congratulations!

AdminSupport Team

"How may we provide you with quality service?"



Sending a shout out to our illustrious pastor, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III, and first lady, Dr. Stephaine Walker!



A RELEVANT WORD

WITH BISHOP
JOSEPH WALKER, III

IS NOW ON

BET★

SUNDAYS

5:30AM (CST)

6:30AM (EST)

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR PROVIDER
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Congratulations, Bishop Walker, on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary! Thank you, Bishop Walker & Dr. Steph, for being innovative servant leaders! I am a better person because of you. Congratulations!



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PRAYER MINISTRY

On behalf of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Prayer Ministry, we congratulate our pastor, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III on 25 years of faithful service! We honor you and give God glory for your heart, vision, and commitment to making Mt. Zion a house of prayer. We will continue to fervently pray with you and for you as you seize every opportunity to love, to lead God's people, and to advance His Kingdom. We love you!

The vision of the Prayer Ministry is to connect people to Christ through prayer and intercession. The Prayer Ministry aims to create a culture of prayer where people can connect with, experience, and pursue God. We believe our role in intercession is an extension of the work Christ Jesus has completed for us as He stands at the right hand of God as our Intercessor (Isaiah 56:7; 1 Timothy 2:1).

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(401k, 403b, SEP, SOLO K)

Jarrett Strickland - Investment Advisor
jarrett@moletteInvestmentServices.com

Lee Molette - Owner
lee@moletteinvestmentservices.com

Lauren Overton - Business Development
lauren@moletteinvestmentservices.com

Happy 25th anniversary, Bishop Walker! You have been a blessing to me, Lee III, and so many more people! It's been a pleasure to serve and to grow under your leadership.

1506 Church Street, Suite 131, Nashville, TN 37203 615-627-0968

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

5 STEPS TO *Salvation*



- 1 Recognize & Admit That You Are a Sinner. (Romans 5:12-14).
- 2 Repent of Your Sins. (1 John 1:9).
- 3 Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9).
- 4 Be Baptized in Water. (Matthew 3:6.)
- 5 Obey the Word of God. (1 John 5:3)



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ERA POWERED

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Congratulations, Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III on your 25th Pastoral Anniversary of serving God's people! May God continue to bless you and the people you reach through your international ministry.



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COMPLIMENTARY NATIONWIDE REFERRAL SERVICE

Gideon's Trumpet Is Calling Us To ACTION

by Elder James G. Davis, J.D., M.Div.

Overseer, Mt. Zion Political Social Action Leadership Ministry (PSALM)

Gideon blew his trumpet and called Israel to battle and defeat the Midianites (Judges 6:34). His trumpet is now calling us to work for justice. Gideon's Army, a community activist group, works to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and to encourage juvenile justice reform in Nashville. It released a report in October 2016 entitled "Driving While Black." This report states that between 2011 and 2015, black drivers, despite comprising 27.6 percent of Nashville's driving-age population, were 39.3 percent of all traffic stops—11.7 percent more than the black driving-age population. White drivers, comprising 63.8 percent of the driving-age population, were only 55.5 percent of all traffic stops—8.3 percent less than Nashville's white driving-age population. In 2015–2016, blacks were 2 to 5 times more likely than whites to be stopped multiple times in a year.

The Metro Police Department uses "Flex teams" to flood high crime areas of the city with patrols and to reduce criminal behavior. Misdemeanor traffic violations are used as probable cause to stop vehicles and to determine if further police action is required with the vehicle's occupants above and beyond the moving violations. Such stops, primarily in areas of concentrated minority populations, are reflected in the report's numbers.

On Friday, February 10, 2017, Jocques Clemmons, a 31-year-old African American male and a former convicted felon, ran a

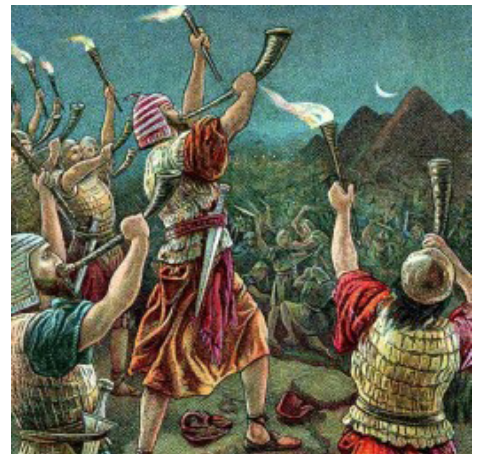
stop sign in the Cayce Homes area. He was then approached for the moving violation by Metro Flex officer Joshua Lippert. During the encounter, Clemmons was shot and killed by Officer Lippert, who has a history of disciplinary actions for use of excessive force.

On August 21, 2014, Metro Police Chief Steve Anderson and several top police commanders attended a packed public town hall meeting led by Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III at Mt. Zion Jefferson Street. The meeting was organized to discuss police tactics in dealing with minorities following the Mike Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. Chief Anderson committed to releasing information in such incidents as soon as possible. With the Clemmons shooting, Metro Police have honored that commitment.

Nashville mayor Megan Barry, Chief Anderson, and other officials should be commended for their efforts in addressing such issues by being in constant dialogue with community organizations, putting things in place to mitigate the possibility of officer-involved shootings and subsequent destructive civil unrest from occurring, and providing accountability when those situations occur. District attorney Glenn Funk recently announced that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI) will investigate the Clemmons shooting and any future Metro officer-involved shootings. But regardless of

the outcome of the Clemmons investigation, with police disproportionately stopping more minority drivers, the stage remains set for what happened that fateful Friday afternoon to happen again.

Black Lives Matter, NOAH, Nashville Unites, and the NAACP must also be commended for their efforts to initiate dialogue and to trumpet the need for accountability and equitable treatment of minority citizens in encounters with police. Gideon's trumpet calls for us to continue the dialogue and to develop resolutions for this issue. We must work to achieve balance between the need to address Nashville's crime and the civil rights of all its citizens to life, liberty, and justice.



MEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Bishop Walker:
Congratulations for 25
years of making a
difference.
Being under your
leadership has had such
an impact in our lives.
I thank God for the strong
anointing he has given you.
Woody & Eunice Bell

Congrats, Bishop,
on a wonderful 25
years of pastoring.
God has used you in a
mighty way to teach me
and to open my eyes to see
the Word like I've never seen it
before. Thank you for the 14 years
you have been my pastor.
Janice Hughes
Member since 2003

I, Thank God! for sending
Bishop Joseph W. Walker, my
way and at this appointed
time in my life. The anointing
on him is phenomenal. I have
learned so much from his
preaching, teaching and
business ethics. I now have my
own business. Congratulations
Bishop Walker!
Valerie J. Norman
Member since 2001

Congratulations on 25 years and
counting! May God continue to show
favor on you and on your family.
Ann, Lacreia, and LaVita Dangerfield
Members since 2000.

Congratulations on 25 years of
unfettered faithfulness to God's will!
Bishop, you have fully embraced the
Lord's bidding for your life, ordering
your footsteps in His likeness. For such
a time as this, Mt. Zion and all the world
witnesses your good works, which are
pleasing to our God in heaven. My
family and I are proud of your stalwart
example and of Mt. Zion's unceasing
prayers for you, our pastor. Dearly loved
and greatly appreciated, Bishop Joseph
W. Walker, III, you are worthy, and we
are blessed.
Barbara F. Gray and Family

Instagram
erickalsmith
I watch every Sunday
morning
@josephwalker3 takes
the time to shake
hands and talk to every
person who enters the
church before he
preaches a powerful
word. God gave us
such an awesome
Pastor!

Bishop, you have been our spiritual
father, brother and friend. Sitting
under your teaching over the years
have taught us to love people who
were hard to love and we will
your family the best and we will
continue to keep you in our prayers.
To God Be the Glory, we Love Ya.
Minister Charles and Minister
Anglie McCutcheon

Thank you, God, for the Gift of our
Pastor, Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III.
We are expressing joyful and
Grateful thanks to Bishop Walker
for his 25 years of service in saving
thousands of souls and feeding the
most Powerful Anointed words to
us, and to the Body of Christ our
Lord and Savior! So Blessed and
Many Prayerful Congratulations!
Elma C. Adkisson and Family

Congratulations Bishop Walker on 25
Great Years. Much love Terrence &
Brenda Fields.
Members for 10 years

Testimonies OF HEALING, DELIVERANCE, AND RESTORATION KEEP US IN AWE OF GOD'S POWER.

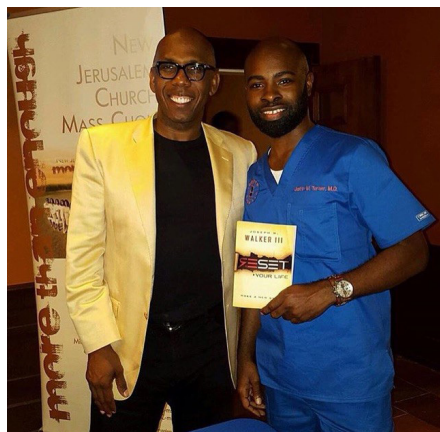
The testimonies in the next few pages are proof that
"all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23).
God is working miracles in our midst at Mt. Zion!



Bishop Walker; Dr. Turner; Dr. Olurotimi Badero, cardionephrologist and pastor at Vine Chapel Church; and Dr. Dwayne Pickett, pastor of New Jerusalem Church at the opening of TurnerCare, LLC in 2013.

@ceboj_
cebojac@gmail.com
<http://www.turnercarems.com>

FROM BISHOP'S CARE TO TURNER CARE, LLC



Picture of Dr. Justin Turner and Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III at a stop on Bishop's book tour.



Picture of Bishop and Dr. Turner at the opening of TurnerCare, LLC in 2013



At 32 years old, Dr. Justin Turner is the youngest physician in Mississippi to own his own medical practice, TurnerCare, LLC, where he serves over 3,000 patients in south Jackson, Mississippi. Turner's "approach to medicine involves treating the whole person." He says, "Health can only be optimized if we understand physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health are interrelated and not separate entities."

Turner's excellence in the medical field has not gone unnoticed. He has received many commendations for his work, including "2015 Top 40 Under 50 by Mississippi Business Journal," "2015 Finalist Best Doctor in Jackson by Jackson Free Press," and "2015 Finalist Best Clinical in Jackson by Jackson Free Press."

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Turner moved to Nashville to pursue his medical career. He reflects on how Bishop Joseph Walker's sermons kept him encouraged when challenges arose during his journey through medical school.

"Bishop helped me to take my spiritual knowledge to another level. I was gifted academically, but when I failed one of my tests at Meharry, I recalled one of Bishop's sermons

on sovereignty, explaining how God doesn't have to get permission for what He does and what He allows us to go through. God told me, 'You've gotten this far with your intellect, but it's going to be My supernatural that I put on your natural that's going to allow you to have true success.'"

Turner's first encounter with Bishop Walker was in 2005 when he became the first Mr. Meharry Medical College. After a Wednesday Bible study, he asked Bishop to speak at a seminar he was hosting on campus. From that day forward, Bishop became Turner's mentor.

"We shared an understanding of the importance of mentoring, and that inspired me. I do a lot of mentoring, but I'll never forget the people who paved the way for me. Bishop Walker is extremely busy, but knowing that he still takes time to mentor others helps to keep me grounded and understand that no matter how high you go, you should always reach back and help someone else."

After receiving his medical degree from Meharry Medical College, Turner completed his residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, but he did not start his practice right away.

"I was not able to fulfill my purpose and destiny as a doctor because I felt as if I couldn't really talk about God and pray with my patients and spend the necessary time with my patients. I also thought I was too young to have my own practice. But Bishop encouraged me, despite older doctors telling me to wait."

Due to faith and his personal expectation, Turner has been able to pass along to his patients the nuggets of wisdom that Bishop deposited into his life. Through it all, he is grateful for the mentorship and role model Bishop continues to be for him.

"Bishop, thank you for your constant example of how to be a better person, servant, father, and husband as I prepare to tie the knot."



- the Mt Zion family that I ran into that prayed with me.

TRUST IN GOD

by Paula Gardner-Porter

 @LadyPorter

Faith, hope, prayerfulness. These three words describe the years that Jimmy and Aquanetta Smith lived through the challenges that could have claimed the life of a loving husband and father. Their story is one of trust and divine intervention.

Jimmy and Aquanetta were interrupted by one health challenge after another. While Jimmy was preparing to have half of a cancerous kidney removed, the couple received disturbing news that the cancer had not only damaged the whole kidney but had spread to the other kidney as well. Facing the inevitability of a life on dialysis and a five-year wait before being considered for the transplant list, Jimmy then discovered that he had a blockage in his heart and needed to have a double-bypass before his kidneys could be removed.

In 2005, Jimmy endured two surgeries within a matter of three months, but he recovered, with his wife close by his side. Aquanetta still believed that God was going to turn things around for her husband.

By the grace of God, Jimmy recovered and was diagnosed cancer-free, so he was finally placed on the transplant list to receive a new kidney in 2010. However, the doctors soon found more complications with his heart; so instead of getting a new kidney, he received stents in his legs. Jimmy was added to and removed from the kidney transplant list several times after that. Throughout this journey, the couple declared that they would trust God and continue to praise Him for grace and healing.

On October 4, 2016, their lives would change forever. God was moving behind the scenes. With hopeful hearts and a stack of bills, Jimmy and Aquanetta arrived early to attend the Black Out service at Mount Zion. They knew that something about that night was different. Looking back, they know now that they were right!

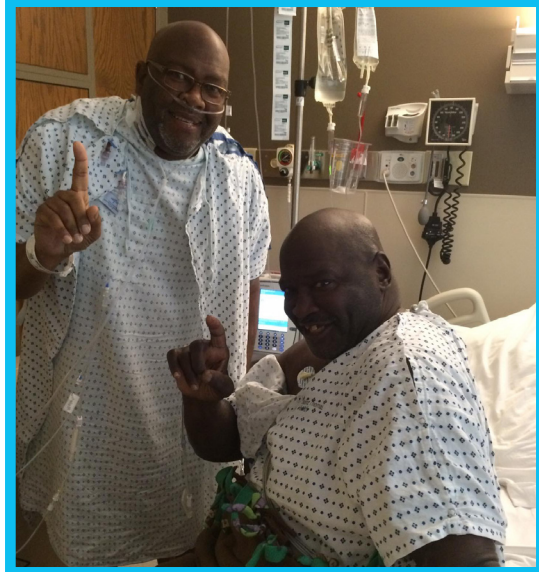
While they waited for the service to begin, Aquanetta prepared for a mandatory critical illness presentation that she was less than thrilled to do. Little did she know that her research would lead her to discover thousands of dollars in enrollment benefits for Jimmy. And the next evening, the couple received a call to inform them that a kidney had suddenly become available for Jimmy. Although this had been the third time that they had received this call, something felt right. They remembered that God was faithful to His Word, and they would not believe man's report.

Aquanetta admits to feeling a little discouraged the night before the surgery, but as a loving Father, God directed her to see two church members at the hospital. Alametric and LaShae, who were often seen waving banners and flags during praise and worship each Sunday morning, took time to encourage Aquanetta and to pray with her. They even stood nearby praying when the new kidney arrived by helicopter.

Jimmy received his transplant the next morning, and his surgery was paid for in full. After 11 years of dialysis and health challenges, Jimmy is in recovery and is doing better than the doctors expected he would.

God is faithful to His Word.

"We are now trusting and believing that God will restore all of those years and that our latter days will be greater than our former."—Jimmy and Aquanetta Smith



Jimmy and Mr. Arnold. Received their kidneys on the same day from the same donor.



Before the operation



Going home

THE BLESSED BLEDSOES

On August 31, 2016, Chloé lay in a hospital bed at Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt surrounded by her parents, extended family, a team of doctors, and the Mt. Zion Flock Ministry joined hand-in-hand to pray for a successful heart surgery

By Charlane Oliver | Charlaneoliver@gmail.com | [@CharlaneO](https://twitter.com/CharlaneO)

It's a sunny Saturday morning. The neighborhood streets are quiet. Cordney Bledsoe opens the door to greet me but quickly returns to being preoccupied with motherly duties. Omari, Cordney's eight-year-old son, is in his bedroom watching television, while Bailey, age 4, sits on the sofa and plays with her mom's iPad. Yancey, Cordney's husband, has just returned from taking out the trash. Baby Chloé, still in her pajamas, glides across the room in a walker, mesmerized by my flashy mobile device on the coffee table. The 11-month-old then coasts over to the TV stand, tinkers with family photos, and chuckles at the sight of her own reflection smiling back at her in the portrait.

By the sounds of Chloé's coos and laughter, you'd never know that she had been in the battle of her young life just five months earlier. On August 31, 2016, Chloé lay in a hospital bed at Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt surrounded by her parents, extended family, a team of doctors, and the Mt. Zion Flock Ministry joined hand-in-hand to pray for a successful heart surgery.

Days after being born a mere 2 lbs. and 2 oz., Chloé was diagnosed with tetralogy of fallot, a rare congenital heart defect that changes

the normal flow of blood through the heart. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, this disease occurs in about 5 out of every 10,000 babies.

With two older, healthy children, the thought of having a sick child weighed heavily on Cordney. She was in denial and believed the situation would cure itself. Embarrassment was the primary reason few family members and friends knew what was going on. "All my friends were having healthy babies at the time," said Cordney, a nurse assistant at Vanderbilt Medical Center. "But then my baby was not progressing and gaining weight. I kept wondering, 'How could this happen to my child?' Why, Lord? Why me? What did I do?"

Over the next several months, Chloé's rapid breathing, shortness of breath, and her inability to keep food down persisted. It became clear to Cordney that Chloé needed surgery.

Meanwhile, Yancey and Cordney were struggling financially and looked to Mt. Zion for assistance. The Flock Ministry came to pray for the Bledsoes, paid their electricity bill, and offered to bring them a food box.

Three days prior to the surgery, Chloé was christened at Mt. Zion, where Bishop Joseph Walker, III led the congregation in a prayer for healing.

"As a husband, I had to be a rock for my wife," Yancey recalled of the hours before Chloé's surgery. "I put it in God's hands."

Needless to say, the surgery was successful. Glory be to God, Chloé would not be required to wear a pacemaker for the rest of her life, and she would not need blood pressure support. She was even eating better. She was in ICU for only a day, whereas a normal stay for this type of procedure was three to four days. Chloé's cardiologist predicted she would stay in the hospital for weeks. She stayed for only three days. "That was nobody but God!" Cordney proclaimed. "It was a very big test for us."

"God used us. God used Chloé for the good. When He wants to use you, let Him use you," said Yancey.

Today, Chloé is thriving and has to see a cardiologist only once a year. She has not been ill since the surgery, and she celebrated her first birthday in February. Cordney is able to be a stay-at-home mother while Yancey continues to provide for the family as an MTA bus operator.

If you ask Cordney what a difference a year makes, she'd say, "God has really been blessing the Bledsoes."



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