

## **HISTORY OF THE MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FROM 2008**

### **PREPARING TO SOJOURN.....**

Led by God, Pastor Earl Harry, Sr., located the church and property at 221 Roebuck Drive in 2008, which was only five minutes away from the Zion City location. After submitting the church and property for consideration as the new location of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, tours of the property were made by the congregation and the purchase of the property was put before the church for a decision by vote. The motion to purchase the property was accepted with the majority of the congregation in agreement. The Airport Authority purchased the property at 9225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in May 2008; and, in turn, the property at 221 Roebuck Drive was purchased on June 19, 2008.

On November 16, 2008, a Farewell program was held at the 9225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North location in Zion City, and the last Sunday worship service was held there at that time. The move to the newly acquired facility was made on November 19 and 20, 2008, and the first Worship service was held on November 23, 2008. Although the property was purchased and the church owed no mortgage, during the period of time between the purchase of the property and actual relocation, repairs and renovation was done to this facility under the supervision of Pastor Earl Harry, Sr. On December 12, 2008, the landmark of Zion City, the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, was demolished; joining all the other homes surrounding it and ending an era in its history.

### **A NEW BEGINNING.....**

On August 9, 2009, Pastor Earl Harry, Sr., retired two months before reaching thirty-two years of service, leaving as the longest tenured Pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and having never pastored another church. The pulpit remained vacant for over two years, but under the direction of the church's two Associate Ministers, Reverend Leon Clay and Reverend Ennis Gaddis, worship service continued at Mount Zion without pause.

On October 23, 2011, Reverend Robert C. Bearden, III, was called to Pastor the Church by an overwhelming vote, but in reality he was sent by God to lead this people. Upon his arrival, his first and main effort was to show love and try to establish unity in a congregation that had been without a pastor for over two years. With a hands-on approach, he saw the needs of the church and moved quickly to get whatever was necessary done. His first major project was the paving of the parking lot, as there had not been one on the property when it was purchased.

One of his goals is to grow the church, physically as well as spiritually. He has instituted several programs to aid that growth; such as conferences and workshops. He is fun-loving, has a great love for children, and seeks to find ways to nurture them. Being a dynamic preacher and teacher of the Word, Mount Zion now has an outreach to the community with its Sunday morning radio broadcast; and a website has been developed and is preparing to launch under his administration, another method of outreach.

With the Lord as our guide, and our faith and trust in Him, we will continue this journey from the children of slaves to a thriving, prosperous church, reaching the community with the gospel message as we approach 145 years of existence at this writing.

Brenda F. Davis Godhigh  
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