



MESSAGE

from the Mount



Volume 17



Sweet 16

Celebrating Pastor Anthony L. Bennett's 16th Pastoral Anniversary

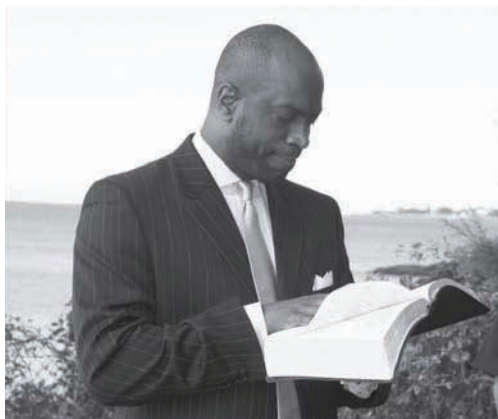


Youth Speak

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The Pastor's Pen

Sweet Sixteen

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Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It is an honor to greet you again in the name of He who was dead but who is alive forever more. Let me begin this month's Pastor's Pen with heart felt gratitude for the 16 years that God has allowed us to partner as Pastor and People.

I know I am such a blessed man to pastor such a dynamic and diverse congregation as Mount Aery Baptist Church. During the second Sunday in July, we officially celebrated our journey together. Pastor David Brawley, Pastor Ticey Brown were used by God to uplift and encourage my spirit as well as the energy of our congregation. In addition, Friday night's food, fellowship and fusion with "Psalm 150" was as good as any social evening can get. On behalf of Donna, Ahmad, and Brittany, thank you, thank you, thank you. I must express my gratitude for every card, every prayer, every gift, every "congratulations", every hug, every handshake, every smile and whatever else you all have done to encourage me and my family. Again thank you.

As we move forward in the fundamentals of the foundation, I know that God will lead us to higher heights and deeper depths. It is my prayer that August be a month of family, vacations, cookouts and parties. I know that we have a lot of activities scheduled for the fall, so let's rest up, fellowship, and enjoy each other.

God bless,

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett, D. Min.
Senior Pastor



Editor's Desk

How to build a church without a hammer or saw.

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A new church is coming and it won't feature a new sanctuary complete with a revolving glass stage.

A new church is coming and it won't have a new video production studio for live telecasts.

A new church is coming and unfortunately it won't have an in ground swimming pool in the basement, it won't feature a "full court" in-door basketball court and neither will it have a six-lane bowling alley. While I am on a roll did I mention it wouldn't have Movie Theater either?

No, the new church won't need the expertise of an architect; its design has already been determined.

No, the new church won't be built with hands so we won't have to knock down any physical walls.

No, the new church doesn't need the help of any building fund!

We've already hired an architectural firm from Nazareth with experience in Jerusalem and Galilee.

The new church was designed in Zion and will be built on Peter's foundation. According to lead architect, Jesus of Nazareth, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the very gates of hell shall not prevail."

At the first of a series of Church meetings it was asked, "How would the project be done and who will be doing the work?" The Lord quickly replied, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit".

Nehemiah, a freelancer on the project added, "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

Yes the new church was designed by Jesus and bathed in prayer.

Yes the new church is being built by our hearts and not our hands, we must tear down the mental walls and declare, "no limits, no limits, with God there are no limits!"

Yes the new church comes with the instructions, "some assembly required." Beloved, we must put the new church together piece by piece, one believer at a time, and one spiritual leader at a time!

Grace & Peace to all,

Reverend Thomas Williams
Assistant Pastor/M.F.T.M. Editor in Chief

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Why do we meditate?

by Betty Hill, RN

Many people experience some kind of stress and tension in their lives on a daily basis. Stress arises from emotions of fear, anger and frustration. These emotions conflict with our goals in life. So when we take time out to meditate on Sunday morning as a congregation together during service, this can be our time to relax and open our minds to receive God's message. Meditation is also a method of inner training, which can help you understand who you really are, and open you up to a new spiritual awakening. The calmness, inner peace and inner clarity you may experience during meditation, will in time affect the whole day, not just while sitting in church.

Success in meditation requires earnestness, patience, concentration and motivation, but the rewards are valuable.

1. Meditation is healthy – it can help the body relax and reduce stress.
2. Meditation is pleasant- it can place you in a blissful state of mind.
3. Meditation can lead to spiritual fulfillment-it can help you become even more open to receive the word of God. It can get you in touch with a peaceful place within yourself and open you up to the healing and understanding that lies within.

Where and How to Meditate:

- A quiet environment
- A mental device (ex. breathing)
- A passive attitude - not worrying about how well you are performing the technique. Just putting aside distracting thoughts and focusing on your breathing.
- Comfortable positions – relax sit back and place both feet on the floor.

Breathing technique:

- Slowly breathe in and out. Your stomach should be going in and out as you inhale and exhale. If your stomach is going up and down, you are not breathing correctly.
- Focus on your breathing; if your mind starts to wonder just bring your attention back to breathing.

Through meditation, the ability to really see, to really hear and to be really present, are among potential benefits.

The Unity Prayer

The light of God surrounds me
The Love of God enfolds me
The Power of God protects me
The Wisdom of God guides and directs me
Wherever I go, God is
And so it is
Amen.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Important Dates

Masters of Comedy II returns to Mt Aery! August 6, 2010

Back by popular demand Masters of Comedy II returns to Mt Aery on August 6, 2010 in the Bass Hall where doors will open at 7 pm and the show starts at 8 pm. For more information and tickers please see Deacon Fred Nielsen.

Gospel Lunch Cruise on August 14, 2010

The Missionaries will be sponsoring a Gospel Lunch Cruise on August 14, 2010. Please see Dorcas White for tickets.

Mount Aery Baptist Church Outing – August 22, 2010

Come out and join us for a day of service – Food, fun and kingdom building. Service will be held at Mount Aery Baptist Church at 9:30 am followed by a continental breakfast and then off to Beardsley Park. Passes for Beardsley Park will be distributed at the church. In case of inclement weather all events will take place at the church. For more information see Allison Riddick, Coordinator.

New Disciples

There will not be a New Disciples event in August. The next event will take place in September. The September dates will be listed in the mid-month update.

Spiritual Gifts

There will not be a Spiritual Gifts workshop in August. The next workshop will take place on Friday, September 24th at 7:00pm with the follow up on Saturday, October 9th at 1:30pm.

Pastor's Engagements with the Choir

September 26th at 6:30pm
Cathedral of the Holy Spirit – Formerly Prayer Tabernacle, Bridgeport
42 Years of Ministry

October 10th at 4pm
Faith Baptist Church, 39-41 Emma Street, West Haven
Pastor's 2nd Anniversary

youth speak

What's going on with Freedom School?

By: Zequanda Wright, Taylor Dawson and Paige Green



Zequanda Wright

There's a saying I once heard that went, "it's better to do something you love for free oppose to getting paid mounds of money for a job you hate"

Being a Junior Servant Leader at the Freedom School has been no waste of my time. Yes, Freedom School is a reading program, but it also consists of fun activities. One very popular activity is known as Harambee. This happens to be combinations of songs and chants which uplift or unbind any broken spirits. My favorite chant is "I know I can, I know I can, be what I want to be if I work hard at it, I'll be where I want to be". That chant always seems to minister to my heart because it's letting these kids know that regardless of their downfalls or what people say, they still can become whoever their heart desires them to be. Nevertheless, to stay encouraged and know that even in the midst of confusion, just know that God has already mapped out a list of "he knows you wills" before you know you even can.

Paige Green

The experiences I have had so far at Freedom School is one that is so awesome, it's hard to put into words.

When I first arrived at the school, I was amazed at how many kids there were that loved energy and loved to interact with each other. My first day I feel was energetic and it continued throughout the school. The first day consisted of eating breakfast, harambee, followed by I.R.C.'s, lunch, afternoon activities and finally snack. My personal favorite is Harambee. I have noticed that with each Freedom School day, the students become more comfortable and energetic. In Harambee, we have a motivational song, that I see the kids are falling in love with, followed by cheers and chants that intertwine with Freedom School. The kids love it so much that most of their parents are tired of hearing them, and some parents know most of them by heart. The Servant Leaders are down to earth. They know what needs to be done, and like the students, they are very energetic. Domonique, Zee-Zee, Taylor, Ka'wana, Brittany, De' Andre, Oriana, Wayne, and I have a fabulous time.

Taylor Dawson

Freedom School, how you feelin'? Fantastic, Terrific, Great all day long (stomp stomp stomp) Woah!

This cheer sums up how I am feeling at Freedom School. The camp is such a positive, exciting place and I'm glad to be a part of it.

I love my job of being a Junior SLI. When I say I love my job, I mean some of the SLI's call me a "camper" because I'm so into everything! It is enabling me to become more responsible and caring for others. This job requires me to prepare lessons prior to when they are being taught, keep the children together and in order, and clean up materials. I am responsible for the children, along with my fellow SLI's, and the more I get to know, the more I began to Love them. They are so energetic and comical that they never cease to put a smile on my face.

In addition, the kids inspire me. Many of them have shared stories with me about their experiences. I can't even imagine how I would have felt going through what they have gone through. However, the fact that they have made it through their situations inspires me to believe that I can get through some tough situations.

Furthermore, at Freedom School we have a motivational song called "Something Inside So Strong". This song has really touched me. When I first heard it, I'll admit, I thought it was kind of "little-kiddish" and "goofy", but once we began to sing it more, I started to really listen and hear what the lyrics were saying: "there's something inside so strong. I know that I can make it though you're doing me wrong, so wrong. You thought that my pride was gone, oh no! Something inside so strong, oh something inside so strong." From this song, I now know that I have something inside of me that's so strong and when I'm feeling down, I think about this song and it really motivates me.

Overall, I'm loving my experience at Freedom School as a Junior SLI. Whether it be through the cheers, the chants, the songs, or the kids, I learn something new everyday. It's only week 3 and Freedom School has already affected me so much! I can only imagine what the next few weeks of Freedom School holds in store!

Freedom School, how you feelin', fantastic, terrific, great all day long! Woo!!!

GUESSWHO!!!

From the list of names that is given, select the correct name and place it beside the numbers below:

Deacon Benjamin Maxwell
Sis. Margo Lazaro
Sis. Sadie Bristol
Bro. Ken Knight
Senior Pastor Anthony Bennett
Pastor Thomas Williams
Sis. Cathy Patton

- (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____
(5) _____

(1)

Make room for
us in your hearts.
We have ...
2 Cor. 7:2-7



(2)

.... since we are
surrounded by
such a great cloud of
witnesses, let us ...
Heb. 12:1-3



(5)

The Spirit of
the Lord is upon
me, because he
has anointed ...
Luke 4:18-19



(4)

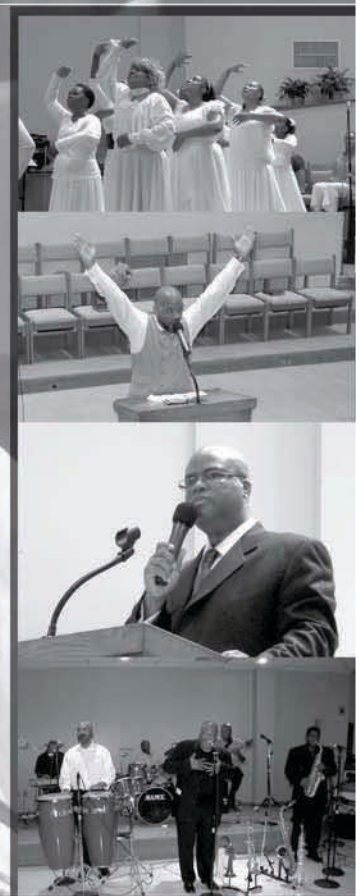
Pay attention to what
I say; listen closely
to my words ...
Prov. 4:20-22



(3)

... I have indeed
seen the misery
of my people
in Egypt. I have ...
Exodus 3:7-10





Pastor's 16th Anniversary By Terence Vermont

It is with great pleasure that the members of Mt. Aery Baptist Church join in celebration to honor our esteemed and great leader, Dr. Anthony L. Bennett, for his 16 years of serving as Pastor of the best church on Frank St. We are blessed to have an outstanding Pastor, Preacher and teacher as our under-shepherd.

To help facilitate our Friday night celebration, we were privileged to have the Reverend David K. Brawley of St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY as our speaker and special guest who dropped a dynamic word into our spirits. As an additional treat, there were stirring sounds of jazz music by the group Psalms 150 to add icing to the evening's festivities. Pastor Bennett was also presented with tokens of appreciation for his dedication to the members of Mt. Aery Baptist Church however; his service and inspiration have been priceless.

Pastor Bennett has continued to share the vision that God has given to him by sharing words of hope to those in despair and restoring joy through the word of God week after week. After a full weekend of celebrating the man of God for his labor, he will definitely be in need of a much deserved rejuvenation period.

The weekend culminated with the "down home" explosive preaching of Pastor Ticey Brown. Though he hails and resides in Los Angeles, CA, Pastor Brown put on display his oratorical skills by closing his sermon with a marvelous southern "hoop".

The weekend was fitting and symbolic as Dr. Bennett welcomed the new Pastors of his church homes. Pastor Ticey Brown is the Pastor of Mount Tabor in Los Angeles, CA where Dr. Bennett accepted his call and Pastor David Brawley is the Pastor of the Saint Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY.

Juneteenth Parade

By Gina LeVon Simpson

Juneteenth is the oldest African-American celebration in the United States. The Emancipation Proclamation that was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863. The proclamation gave slaves their freedom. However, while most of the enslaved Africans were set free, others were not. In Galveston, Texas, slaves were subjected to the laws of slavery until 1865. The word "Juneteenth" derives from the words "June" and "19th", which according to southern folklore, is when the slaves of Texas first learned of their freedom. Though technically freed in 1863, the slaves did not learn of their freedom until the arrival of the Union soldiers on June 19th, 1865.

In the city of Bridgeport and across this country celebrations take place in different ways honoring the freeing of said slaves. One such way to display our pride and celebrate our history is with the Juneteenth Parade. A young scholar warrior by the name of Eldorado Anderson sent out a clarion call for participants for the parade in Bridgeport. Considering the fact that the MAAFA Influence Production Team had been mulling around the idea for years as to how to participate, we did not hesitate to go through the necessary process to make something happen.

Of those who were available, over 40 MAAFA cast and crew from over the years saw the value in participating and showed up exhibiting pride in our culture, history, the MAAFA Production and most importantly themselves.

With the MAAFA Influence banner and the African Flag raised high, cast & crew ages 3 and up marched from City Hall to McLevy Hall. From a distance the heartbeat of the African Drums could be heard followed by a vision of an array of colorful dashikis moving to the rhythm while 5 young men dressed in African garb danced with fervor, flanked by another 8 feet high on stilts. These young men, Marcus Colbert, Douglas Smith, D'Andre Haynes, Jeremiah & Justice Smith and Mike Garner danced with all their might in 90° heat without a break! Parade viewers' comments of color, beauty, pride and professionalism was an encouragement to say the least.

The Juneteenth Parade culminating at McLevy Hall was a wonderful opportunity for the cast and crew to reconnect, learn more about our history and share about the MAAFA Influence Production of 2010. Thank you Pastor Bennett, cast & crew past & present for your dedication and commitment. Special thanks to Waly Thiam from Senegal, who played his drum with us, Gregg McBroom & Margo Lazaro for the use of their trucks, Toni Belcher & Carrie Greatheart for decorations, Lulu Sams for the flags and fabric, Avery & Brittany Lee for 1st Aid, Garland, Jr. & Cathy Patton for fliers as well as Sharon Layne, Henry Smalls & Malek Simpson for pictures.

To God be the Glory for all He has done!



2nd Annual AIDS Walk

By Doreen Cotter

Despite the tornado moving over Bridgeport, the Mount Aery 2nd Annual AIDS Walk was a success on Saturday, June 26th. Many came out to support this important event. They walked to raise awareness that HIV & AIDS is disproportionately affecting our community. They also marched to promote testing. Due to the tornado we were unable to do testing at the end of the march. However, testing is very important for one to know their status. For more information on testing please contact LaJeune Pollard, Chairperson of the Mount Aery AIDS Ministry.



Praise Showcase

By Magnolia P. Barnes

"Music ministry worship through fellowship" On Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 6 pm. The praise team, the male chorus, mass choir, chosen generation and members from our youth and young adult choirs ministered through song. We had an anointed, joyful service with special guests "Gospel Showcase Ensemble" from Mt. Vernon, New York. Who is one of Minister Mark Murray's recording groups. It was a powerful, anointed and encouraging concert.





by Doreen Cotter

Doreen's Top 10 Biblical Questions

The Old Testament:

1. What books of the Bible record the history of God's people from the call of Abraham to Moses leading them to the edge of the Promised Land of Canaan?

2. God's plan to reconcile the world to Himself, began with one man? _____
(a) Noah (b) Abraham (c) Terah (d) Lot

Of the above mentioned names, who was the Father of the Moabites? _____

3. How many people went with Jacob to Egypt? _____
The family grew into a nation of how many men _____ plus women and children?
(a) 600,000 (b) 750,000

4. During the period of the Judges, which Judge was left handed? _____
(a) Deborah (b) Gideon (c) Ehud (d) Shamgar

5. Joshua led the children of Israel into the Promised Land:
(a) Who gave him the name Joshua? _____
(b) What was his birth name? _____

6. She stopped King David from killing her husband, and later became his wife?

7. Who did the Apostle Paul bring back to life at Troas? _____

8. What two leaders accompanied Paul and Barnabas to deliver the Council's letter to the gentile believers in Antioch? _____ and _____

9. What were the gentile believers required to do? _____
(a) Abstain from food sacrificed to Idols
(b) Abstain from blood, from the meat of strangled animals
(c) Abstain from sexual immorality
(d) All of the above

10. Fill in the blanks:
"_____ will I _____ you and teach _____ in the _____
_____ should go; _____ will c_____ you and _____ over
_____ " Ps 32: 8

Is _____ too _____ for the _____? Gen. 18: 14

Recognitions

Alexia Williams

graduated from Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT and will be attending Southern Connecticut State University in the Fall

Braxton Gardner

graduated from Christian Heritage School and will be attending American International College

Tavarrea Jones

graduated from Bridge Academy and will be attending Elizabeth City State University

Brittany Lee

graduated from Platt Tech

Jazmin JeanBaptiste

graduated from St. Ambrose School and will be attending Kolbe Cathedral High School

Morgan Rollins

graduated from Park City Magnet and will be attending School of the Holy Child

TOP TEN ANSWERS:

1. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. (b) Abraham; Lot (Gen. 19: 36 - 37)
3. Seventy (70) (Exodus 1:5); (a) 600,000 (Exodus 12:37)
4. (c) Ehud (Judges 3:15)
5. Moses (Num. 13:16); Hoshea (Num. 13:16)
6. Abigail (1 Samuel 25:32 - 34)
7. Eutychus (Acts 20: 7 - 12)
8. Judas and Silas (Acts 15:27)
9. (d) All of the above
10. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you". (Ps. 32:8) Is anything too hard for the Lord? (Gen. 18:14)

Hospitalization & Nursing Home

Please be aware that there are strict legal and ethical guidelines regarding giving out patient information. Therefore, if you are hospitalized and desire pastoral support, you or your family member must notify the church office in advance, if possible. When you are admitted, state your denomination and place of worship.

Please address all correspondences for the above disciples to the church and the administrative office will forward all mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

Glover Gardner Sr.

Gardner Heights Nursing Health Care, 172 Rest Rock Road, Shelton, CT 06484

Bernice Adams, West Barnes, Leroy Wilson

Maefair Health Care Center, Maefair Court, Trumbull, CT 06611

Edward Cox, Jr.

New Britain Hospital for Special Care, 2150 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053

Lois Farrar, Kevin Hanks

St. Vincent's Medical Center, 2800 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Claude Dennis

Astoria Park, 725 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Sadie Kinder Cole

Subacute Center of Bristol, 23 Fair Street, Bristol, CT 06010

Deaconess Okakue Brown

St. Joseph's Manor, 6448 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Linda Carter, Greta Railey, Eula Sutton, David Greatheart

Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

Margarite Blake

Westport Health Care Center, 1 Burr Road, Westport, CT 06880

Deacon Brad Belcher

Yale – New Haven Hospital, 20 York Street, New Haven, CT 06610

Bereavement

- **Nicole Covington** in the loss of her mother Claudette Steptoe
- **Regina Dobson and family** in the loss of Richard Dobson
- **Frances Dunmore** in the loss of her cousin Linwood Watson of Norwalk, CT
- **Deacon Dan Gardner** in the loss of his cousin Essie Youngblood who was 104 years old.
- **Mary James Parker** in the loss of her sister Estelle in Maryland
- **Kathy Tabb** in the loss of her aunt Frankie Mae Moore in Clarksdale, MS
- **Mary Whidbee** in the loss of her nephew Richard Gee

Please Pray for Our Healing List

Clinnie Black

Deaconess Queen Boone

Millie Burton

Ophelia Cameron

Sandra Cameron

Delores Cox

George Davis

Harold Farrar

Felicia Ferguson

Barbara Foust

Bernice Geter

Jodi Green

Paige Green

Susan Holmes

Archie Jenkins

Brenda Johnson

Selaja Johnson

Unice Jones

Kenneth Knight

Nanette Malone

Regina Manns

Marjorie Martin

Clyde McLaughlin

Thomas Meredith

Joyce Pace

Ernest Parker

Eulalia Pettway

Gretal Railey

Deacon Willie

Mae Richardson

Bonita Robinson

Sally Soares

Mary Thigpen

Joanne Walton

Deaconess

Anna Watkins

Cecilia Williams

June Williams

Cecelia Wilson

Sisters at the Well Ministry Presents

10th Annual Women's Weekend

"FREEDOM – STEPS TO WHOLENESS"

Matt: 9:20-22 and Matt 17:20

20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. Matthew 9:20 – 22 KJV

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20 KJV

Friday, September 17, 2010 - Sunday, September 19, 2010

Price: \$ 100.00 per person

Payment Plan is available

\$20.00 weekly starting:

Sundays – Jul 25th, Aug 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th

Register Today!



Mount Aery Baptist Church Missionary Society Presents . . .

Gospel Lunch Cruise



August 14, 2010

A luxury motor coach will be provided for the transportation to/from departure dock in NYC.

Bus will depart at 9:30am from the Trumbull Center for J (1-2) exit 27A, i.e. 8 exit left to Huntington & Nicholas avenue (commuter lot)

Expected return to lot by 5pm

Cost: \$99.00 ...which includes

- bus transportation to dock
- cruise reservation (including all taxes & fees)
- all you can eat lunch buffet
- live entertainment by inspirational gospel groups throughout the tri-state area

For tickets please call:

President Dorcas White 203-260-6287

For additional trip information please contact:

Sister Joyce Meyers 203-218-5523