

MESSAGE

from the Mount

Volume 14

POWER
+
CHOOSE

BROTHER'S CHOOSING LIFE

MEN'S RETREAT 2010:

87 YEARS AND STILL SERVING STRONG

PREPARING FOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



The Pastor's Pen

Upcoming at the Mount

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Namaste my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, The Christ. Happy Anniversary, Mount Aery! It is in the month of May that we will celebrate Mount Aery's 87-year history of life changing and transformative ministry. From those men and women who came together to found Mount Aery in 1923, to the generation still in their mothers' womb, God has been good to Mount Aery! The Holy Scriptures remind us that God loves to use a people who will partner with God in achieving God's will on the Earth. Mount Aery has been such a people.

Let me take the time to thank all of Mount Aery's life-long disciples. For without your presence, contribution and sacrifices, we would not be here today. Let me also share my appreciation for those who have recently joined us (within the past two decades) and how we look forward to even more fruit from our labor together. This will be my continuous refrain, eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither have entered in the heart of man what God has in store for Pastor and People.

May is also the time in which we celebrate the birth of the New Testament Church on the day of Pentecost. It is only through divine providence that we celebrate the Church's birth and Mount Aery's birth on May 23, 2010. In preparation for our Pentecost celebration, we are continuing our study From Resurrection to Pentecost. I encourage every disciple to take that journey with us. Come out to our M.A.I.L. (Mount Aery Institute of Learning) Classes: Sunday School, Daytime Bible Study and Evening Bible School and be blessed of the Lord.

I would be remiss without acknowledging the celebration of motherhood on the second Sunday. This will also be the Sunday we will dedicate our children back to God. In addition, on the third Sunday at 4pm, we will celebrate our Ushers and all the sacrifices they make to serve the congregation. Come on out and be blessed.

We are looking forward to seeing you and celebrating what God has done in our midst.

God bless,

Pastor Anthony L. Bennett

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



Editor's Desk

Moving in the Spirit

As we prepare to celebrate the Church's 87th anniversary, it is important that we take stock in what the Lord has done. Too often we look at what we don't have, what we haven't done and worry about what others, or we, should be doing. However, we should also take time to appreciate the many wonders that God has already done in our lives. We should open our eyes and appreciate how far the Lord has brought us. Take a moment to smell the roses and enjoy the beauty of the world. Remember, "we've come this far by faith leaning on the Lord, trusting in His holy word, He's never failed me yet. Oh we can't turn around, we've come this far by faith."

On another note, May marks a milestone for two young ladies who have made a rich contribution to the ministry of Mount Aery over the past three years. Minister Niechelle Guidry started visiting the Mount two years ago, along with other Yale grad students, after seeing the MAAFA production. Over time, Niechelle has stayed in touch and this year served an internship at the Church. Niechelle, a native of Texas, from New Creation Christian Fellowship under Bishop David Copeland and Rev. Dr. Claudette Copeland has fit right in. Assisting with Youth Church and contributing lessons to both the Profiles in Anonymity and From Resurrection to Pentecost series, I found her to be a willing and helpful partner in ministry. We congratulate her on her upcoming graduation and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

Ms. Natasha Noel, while having a short tenure, has had a very active role at the church; lending her youthful enthusiasm, rich talents and boundless energy to several ministries. During her time with us, Natasha has taught a writing class in M.A.I.L., been a founding member of our young adult ministry, M.A.Y.A., a P.L.U.G. advisor for our teens, and of course, the Managing Editor of the Message from the Mount. Natasha leaves to accept a job with Massachusetts General Hospital working as a Youth Development Coordinator at the Revere Community Center in Revere, MA. I don't know what church Natasha will call home up there, but I do know, they will be receiving a very talented, gifted and enthusiastic worker for the Lord!

In God's love,

Pastor Thomas Williams
M.F.T.M. Editor in Chief

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A Health & Wellness Fair ALL ABOUT YOU!

by *Leslie Gree & Cathy Patton*

On Saturday, March 13th, the Health & Wellness, the Nurses, and First Aid Ministries sponsored a Health Fair at Mount Aery from 9:00am – 1:00pm. For the next four hours, participants were given valuable information about managing their nutrition and the health and wellness of their bodies and spirits through a variety of vehicles; all designed to maximize a balanced life in what can, sometimes, seem like an unbalanced world.

I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the facilitators, Cathy Patton, and offer to you a charge, no a dare, to take to heart what she had to say and ask yourself, “What else do I need to see? What else needs to be presented to me for me to own the responsibility and obligation I have to captain my own health?” Here you will see how these ministries orchestrated a symphony of experts that groom, lead, and guide you onward and upward to the next level. Don’t miss this!

Hi Cathy, thank you for taking the time for this brief interview. I won’t hold you long but we think the Health & Wellness Fair deserves some media time.

Leslie: You, along, with others at Mount Aery are taking an active role in improving the health and wellness of the Mount Aery family. What was it that motivated you to put together a Fair?

Cathy: Well I have been a Personal Trainer for three years now, so I have a major interest in community health. People want to know where they can go to get fit. Because some people think getting fit is boring and a gym can be intimidating, we decided to not only bring the community of Mount Aery, together but to also make it fun. We believe that if we can support each other while getting fit more people will participate.

Leslie: What do these programs include?

Cathy: They include fitness training, Zumba, kickboxing, and strength training.

Leslie: How would you describe the turnout?

Cathy: We were extremely pleased that there was such a wonderful turnout.

Leslie: Are these high intensity programs or are beginners welcome?

Cathy: We have fitness experts that make it appropriate for all ages at all stages. The purpose is to make the programs fit your audience. These exercises can be done at home, as well as, with the support of family and friends. We make it very clear throughout, that if you need to stop, do so by walking it off, never stop just because your heart rate is up; you need to slow it down gradually.

Leslie: Why now?



Cathy: I lost close family members due to a lack of physical fitness. Their health complications could have been avoided. We could have eaten better, and certainly, got up and moved to stay healthy.

Leslie: Besides the physical exercises, are there any other instructions that are being offered?

Cathy: Yes, Dr. Fuqua did a piece on nutrition and Nurse Betty Hill did blood pressure screening. Also, representatives on breast cancer awareness and dental were available to share information. As a special treat, Uzimmadid did hand massages.

Leslie: Do you see this as maybe happening again or on a more regular basis?

Cathy: We definitely want to do this again; as a matter of fact, we are already planning a meeting about it. We want to make this into regular classes where we can support each other.



Leslie: If there was anything that you could say to the masses to get them to get up and join in a lifestyle of fitness, what would it be?

Cathy: Think about God who has given us health as a blessing. We are responsible to take care of our bodies. The weather is nicer now, getting up and going outside for a walk is just fine. You don't have to spend a lot of money to get fit. It's not necessary to go out and buy all that expensive equipment. There are inexpensive things like balls and fitness stretch bands. We have to show our children and lead them into fitness; we have to be the example they see so they get up from in front of the video games and computers. It's our responsibility.



Leslie: Great, now for those like myself who have limited mobility, would you encourage them to come out as well?

Cathy: Absolutely, you would talk to the Fitness Instructor and definitely check with your doctor to make sure you are cleared.

Leslie: Well, that sounds like a reflection of First Lady Michelle Obama's charge to get up and get moving.

Cathy: (laughs) That's a coincidence, as a Personal Trainer, I've been wanting to do this for a while.

Leslie: Well, thank you for taking the time to let everyone know what "All About You" was all about. It sounds like it was a lot of fun and I'm glad there are plans in the making to kick it off again.

This was the ultimate co-operative effort between ministries utilizing their knowledge and contacts to bring the best to the best. Keep an eye out for the next ultimate "All About You" sponsored program that promises to feed the mind, body, and soul. What is your health and wellness worth to you?

IT'S HERE MOUNT AERY!!! **OUR 87TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY** **RENEWAL SERVICES**

May 19th – 20th

Wednesday – Thursday

7pm

~Our Guest Preacher ~

Reverend Michael Walrond

1st Corinthian Baptist Church, New York

“[He is]... a gifted Preacher, Teacher and Organizer who is transforming Harlem for a new generation. He is a Morehouse brother who is very creative, powerful and prolific.” (Pastor)

May 23rd

Sunday

7:45am & 11:00am

~Our Guest Speaker ~

Reverend Richard Williams

Victory Institutional Baptist Church, California

“[He is]... a big brother to me in ministry and we are sons of Mount Tarver Baptist Church in Los Angeles. A powerful Teacher and Preacher who loves to worship – every time he and his congregation visit, our worship seems to expand to a different dimension.” (Pastor)

COME ON OUT!!!

BE RENEWED!

PASTOR AND CONGREGATION GOING UP TOGETHER

“LIVING OUT THE LOVE OF GOD”

Basic Bible Returns to Sunday School

Back by popular demand, Basic Bible class is returning to Sunday School. The class is scheduled to start on the second Sunday of May, May 14th, during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested, please sign up in the Church Office and you will be contacted about the class location.

Wall Builders

With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort. 1st Corinthians 15:58 (The Message)

Senior Pastor, Dr. Anthony L. Bennett and Pastor Thomas Williams are looking for 40 committed and faithful believers with a passion for teaching or leadership. We are prayerfully asking God to replenish our ranks of teachers and future leaders.

We will equip you and show you how to stir up and utilize the gifts that God has already placed within you. All that is needed is a willing spirit and a committed heart. "Remember, God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called."

Our desire is to prepare the people for a bountiful harvest and we are both convinced the laborers are in the pews. Like Nehemiah we are looking for willing workers to join us in this great work and help us rebuild the wall. We especially need African American men; our kids need to see us in a whole new way.

Here is how the program will work.

- Sign up
- Join Dr. Bennett and Pastor Williams in a special Orientation and Consecration service.
- Attend and complete a special Spiritual Gifts session
- Attend and complete the three Academy of Ministry Courses
- Attend and complete Safe Place Training
- Monthly touch bases with Dr. Bennett and Pastor Williams
- Attend and complete exclusive leadership seminars with Dr. Bennett and Pastor Williams
- Graduation Ceremony.

Please sign up for the Wall Builders program in the Church Office. We will convene a "Wall Builders" orientation session in late May. Please look for future updates during the month.

Yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Thomas A. Williams,
Assistant Pastor, M.A.I.L. Director

Wall Builders

YOUTH SQAQ

Experiencing a Leadership program

by Christina Seldom

I have been a student of Granville Academy of New Haven, CT for about three years. Granville Academy is a leadership program that works with youth to help them reach a positive future. Granville Academy does not just mentor the youth in New Haven, CT, they have world-wide affiliates. Other affiliates are located in Waterbury, CT, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. They also practice these teachings in Ghana. Throughout the year, we learn ways to better empower ourselves in life; every year we get the opportunity to attend a three-day weekend conference in March. During these conferences we attend colleges and hear speakers who can potentially help better our lives. We also have the opportunity to network and interact with thousands of other young people from all over the U.S. The amount of knowledge and resources you take away with you at the end of the day is truly amazing! I always go home having learned something new that I didn't know when I got there.

This year's conference was in Cleveland, Ohio on March 25-28. We traveled with the Waterbury affiliates and had a chance to interact with them. There were plenty of things to do and much to learn at this year's conference. During those three days, we attended all-day conferences where we listened to speakers, attended colleges, met resourceful business leaders; and we even got some free time to relax and go out and have a little fun. Some of the speakers from different colleges reward us with scholarships to attend their schools just because we were students of Granville Academy.

We heard speakers who were doctors, in the military, and other paid public speakers. They all gave their time for those three days to encourage and mentor us.

At times, it was rough listening to five to six speakers a day, but I know that it was all worth my while. We did have the opportunity to go out and have a good time interacting and getting to know the other youth. This year, we had the liberty of having a bowling night, which was a load of fun! I had such a great time and this also gave us all a chance to have some fun after being in conferences all day. Previously, we engaged in icebreakers, which forced us to get to know and interact a little with the other students. The icebreakers were a lot of fun as well and allowed us to meet everyone; and by the time we went bowling, we had already met everyone so no one was left out.

We also had the chance to attend a Robotics competition. It was a great experience for me because I had never been to one before. We had the opportunity to tour the competition and learn what robotics is all about. We saw how youth, just like us build functioning robots that are able to do pretty cool things. The different robots those kids built were very captivating. I would highly recommend taking the time to attend a robotics competition.

Granville Academy also put together an amazing banquet on our last night, which was quite fun. On that night, we came together dressed in our best and celebrated a wonderfully successful weekend. This

year, they had the most amazing steppers perform that I have ever seen in all my life. They were called "Steppers of Spoken Word." They were all young men around the same age as all of us who stepped with their souls. They did not only step, but they recited poems and chants, some self-written and others written by famous poets like Langston Hughes. This was my most favorite night out of all the nights and the amazing steppers I saw were mainly the reason.

Granville Academy is not only about having fun, it's also about networking and obtaining the resources to better oneself. Granville Academy has taught me powerful tools to reach success in my life and I have learned many amazing things that I doubt I would have learned anywhere else. Granville has provided knowledge to help push me farther in life and make something of myself. It has also taught me how to mature and how to behave in the global market. This Academy is a strict program that teaches youth how to dress and behave for success. I can say that I am a proud student of Granville Academy and I have come a long way from where I started before this program. The Granville Academy staff voluntarily free up their time to help youth succeed. All who attend this Academy reach a high level of success in life. Granville Academy is an inspirational program that enforces positives instead of the negative!

If a Tomb Could Talk - The Reflection

If the tomb that Jesus was buried in, and ultimately resurrected in, could talk what do you think it would say about the events that happened on that infamous Sabbath? On this Resurrection Sunday, April 4th, Pastor and people were ready for the word of God to raise them to a new level. For many, it's been 40 days of abstinence from something they believed would make them a better person. For many, it was 40 days of prayer to keep the covenant that would at long last bring them closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

The Mass Choir ushered in the spirit in song with Mount Aery's national Resurrection anthem, "He Got Up." The Intergenerational Praise dancers kept Calvary at the forefront, reminding us how interconnected and interdependent we are, Hallelujah!

As Pastor Bennett referred to the book of Mark, Chapter 16, where the disciples of Christ arrived at the tomb early on the Sabbath and inquired who would roll away the stone from the door of the tomb and where, to their amazement and astonishment, the very large stone had already been

rolled back was compared to the Swiffer floor cleaner certainly raised an eyebrow or two. Those familiar with Pastor Bennett, and those not so familiar with him, eagerly sat on the edge of our seats in the pews and faithfully decided we would follow him on this spiritual journey.

Pastor continued to explain how the commercial gave life-like qualities to inanimate objects. The anthropomorphism of the Swiffer mop losing its place as a staple household tool while the woman of the house would find a new relationship with another object in the household. As laughter radiated throughout the sanctuary, at the same time the question begs to be asked, "What if the stone at the tomb could tell the story of Jesus' resurrection?" "What would the tomb say?" The jubilation in the church building nearly burst at the seams as God's people made their own personalized connection to the sermon and the message of the day. Understanding that there is no greater love and God is ready, able, and willing, to roll away our stone so that we could leave our tombs and become new creatures. We can walk with Christ on this side of grace with the living; death has

no sting, sting has no grave and grave has no victory. This tomb and stone could not, and was never meant, to hold Jesus. It was simply a waiting station on the way to get the keys from Heaven; the keys that freed us from sin that we had yet to be born to commit. If that is not a Hallelujah moment then what is? For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

As Pastor closed the sermon, you saw on the faces of the disciples throughout the sanctuary, the enormity of the knowledge that Jesus had made the ultimate sacrifice. It was both a jubilant and humbling moment to see the realization, and dawning of understanding, about their personal charges in this world. You see, Resurrection Sunday is multi-faceted, it reminds us of how much we are loved by the one and only true God and how we, ourselves, are resurrected to discard that which is old and of no use toward God's purpose in our lives and to be resurrected anew, ready and willing disciples for Christ.

generalNEWS

Out of Control Joint Ministry Workshop on HIV/AIDS

By Dee Dee Pirro

The Mount Aery joint ministry event sponsored by the AIDS Ministry, Health Ministry, Sisters at the Well, and Men's Ministry held on Saturday, April 10th was a huge success. The event was attended by a cross-section of disciples from senior saints to elementary school children. The information presented was very serious and the AIDS statistics were frightening; but it also provided for some light moments and induced laughter. A very powerful, and necessary, question and answer period followed. Everyone left the event a little more knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS. A big "Thank You" to everyone involved and we look forward to our next joint event.

DSS RX-Xpress visits Mount Aery Baptist Church By Betty Hill



As a part of our Church Ministry, the RX-Xpress visited our church parking lot on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, from 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. During that time, about 20 people took advantage of the information available from the three staff members on the bus.

RX-Xpress is a service of the Connecticut Department of Social Services, a mobile office resource, sponsored by the Aging Services Division, that helps to make information about services more accessible to Connecticut residents. The staff on the RX-Xpress bus was available to provide individuals with program applications and enrollment assistance via four computer workstations with high speed internet access. The bus travels across the State and is equipped with a wheelchair accessible lift for persons with mobility issues. An information station displays various brochures, pamphlets and applications related to programs that the Department of Social Services, as well as its partners, manage and administer. Representatives from programs such as the CHOICES program, Area Agencies on Aging, State Supplemental Assistance, End Hunger CT!, Hispanic Health Council, Food Share, ConnPACE and the Internal Revenue Service also provide services on the bus.

DSS RX-Xpress is equipped with:

- Four computer workstations with high-speed internet access
- Monitor and SMARTBoard technology
- Booths that ensure privacy during counseling and interviewing process
- Information station features brochures, applications, and forms for various programs administered by DSS and other agencies
- Wheelchair accessible lift
- Handrails on exterior and interior enable safe boarding and exit of vehicle

We thank the Connecticut Department of Social Services for their support and pray that the information shared was beneficial to our church members. Thanks also to the Church who helped to bring this important information-sharing service to our community.

Entrepreneurs at the Mount: Dorcas White of Dorcas Cares, LLC

by Tonya Johnson



Dorcas White

What is Dorcas Cares?

Dorcas Cares is a private home care management service. We provide customized care planning and services for elderly and disabled persons who want to live independently at home and remain active in their community.

Dorcas Cares is concerned about the health and well-being of the elderly and disabled. Our company is dedicated to providing affordable, personalized and compassionate service. We understand your needs and treat you with dignity and respect.

What inspired you to start this company?

As a girl in Georgia, my mother, a missionary, would take me with her when she visited with the elderly, sick and shut-in members of the church and the larger community. I became my fathers' assistant after school in our dry cleaners and I learned service delivery (customer service, organizational skills, finance, management, tailoring and how to deliver orders) and how to earn honest trust. I enjoyed helping others, especially the elderly. From then, I had a passion for helping the elderly.

What is the process to have Dorcas Cares provide services?

The process is to first make contact and arrange for an interview that is informational and/or a consultation where the problem will be defined and suggestions made. Second, contractual services and method of payment will be established. In most cases the elderly person will not sign a contract and often will look to an adult child, relative, friend or legal representative to make that decision. The initial contact may be made by the elderly person, family/friends, doctor, Trust Department of a Bank, attorney, health or social service professional, church or other organization.

Dorcas Cares steps in, and through a compassionate and comprehensive assessment (Cognitive, Environment, Social, Emotional, Medical, Functional Status, Financial, Legal, Spiritual, and Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, Abandonment, and other Health Behaviors), provides a Total Care Plan. It is a personalized program for in-home care and assistance in coordinating legal and other affairs associated with managing in-home care.

I act as an information broker to assist people in making the correct choice in choosing elder care. I counsel and assist families in identifying experienced care professionals who are compatible with the patient and able to provide specific in-home care needs.

In most cases, an elderly person would like to be independent but adult children or caregivers may make it difficult. Allowing the elderly individual to fully participate in the written care plan and to make decisions affecting their care and household to the best of their ability, is acting in their best interest. A person's right to privacy is safeguarded because all matters are treated as confidential.

It sounds like you really have a passion for this business. You really take a lot of time and planning to get the elderly all the assistance they need without stripping them of their dignity and I think that is wonderful.

I really love the kind of work I do. No one can duplicate what I do because it is me, it is Dorcas. This is a personalized attention one-stop shop with flexible, affordable pricing, (no two services are alike), consistent point of contact, immediate in-home care intervention and as the company name says, Dorcas Cares. Sometimes people say to me, 'This is like seeing me through the storm,' or "I feel good since you are helping me."

How long have you been a member at Mount Aery Baptist Church?

46 years.

Are you a member of any of the ministries in the church?

I am the President of the Missionary Society Ministry.

Thank you so much for your time and patience. You have given me a wealth of information because I wasn't aware that these types of services existed and I am sure others are not aware either. I wish you continued success.

POWER TO CHOOSE: FAITH OR FEAR

Men's Weekend 2010 By Gregory McBroom

We are like jars of clay able to be molded into anything our creator desires, what will you choose to shape you? The choice is yours!

Mount Aery Baptist Church's Men's Weekend began Friday, March 19th and ended Sunday, March 21st. The weekend focused on three empowering themes:

- Acknowledging the Past
- Understanding the Present
- Aspiring to the Future

Friday night's focus on "Acknowledging the Past" was opened by Brother Shay Thomas, and then graced by a worship service featuring Pastor Chris Edwards of Stratford, Connecticut's Soul Center.

Scripture reading and prayer were done by Minister Ron Banks which was followed by an exciting performance by Team Treasure.

Pastor Bennett ignited the night with an insightful presentation entitled "Treasures in Jars of Clay." This was followed by a consecration and communion service, which highlighted up and coming male leaders, but included all present.

The evening was capped off by a warm fellowship hosted by Brother Shay Thomas providing refreshments and a synoptic overview of the day's events.

Saturday's "Understanding the Present" theme began with a prayer led by Minister Ron Banks and moved right into Breakfast and introductions hosted by Deacon Charlie Jones and Brother Shay Thomas.

The day's health discussion began with a humorous, but insightful, introduction by Brother Eddie Kirkland and culminated with an in-depth presentation and discussion by Dr. Ryan Kim of Fort Lee, NJ.

The morning was rounded off by a heartfelt sermon entitled "A War for Your Soul" by Ministry Corey McLaughlin of St Paul Community Baptist Church of Brooklyn, NY.



After a healthy lunch, the men reveled at this year's bowling competition which was coordinated by Brother Abdul J. Shabazz. The final bragging rights go out to _____ with honorable mention going to Truman D. Small, and _____.

After a dinner break, the "Aspiring to the Future" theme was highlighted in an astounding forum entitled "Saving Our Selves" facilitated by Pastor Thomas Williams.

The evening culminated with "March Gladness" that included music, games, food, and fellowship.

It all came together on Sunday March 21st, which was heralded as "Men's Day," featuring as guest speaker, the Reverend Ivan Pitts of New Hope Baptist Church, Danbury, CT. Pastor Pitts channeled his spiritual gifts of humor and theological wisdom to enlighten the entire congregation.

We all were also blessed by a male-themed performance and male-led praise and worship.

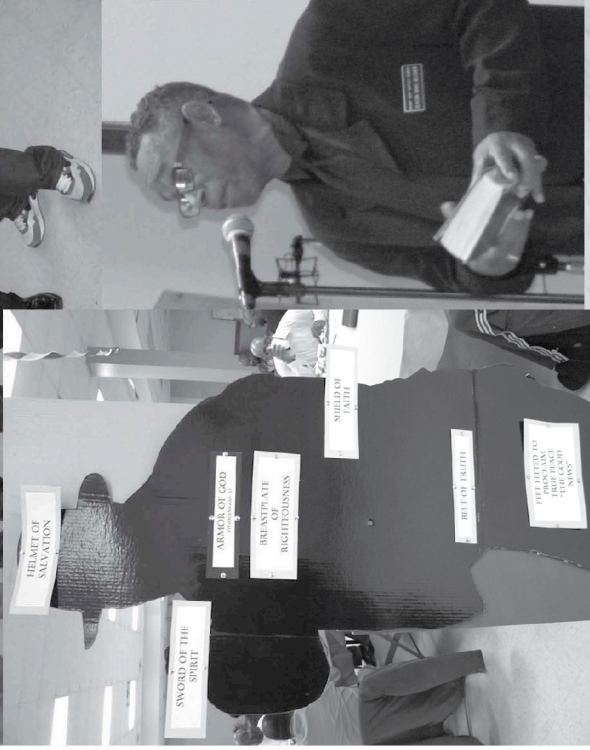
All in all, Mount Aery men, women, children, and guests were enriched by fellowship, worship, ministry, discipleship, and evangelism.

Remember men you have the:
POWER TO CHOOSE: FAITH OF FEAR



Men's Weekend 2010





From a Man to Men, From a Brother to Brotherhood!

Men's Weekend 2010 By Shay Thomas

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ, although Men's weekend 2010 has passed, and will soon be another wonderful, but distant memory, I can still feel the love, excitement and pure joy that most of the Men, along with myself, experienced over that weekend. It was as if the Spirit of the Lord took the time to give each of us the exact attention we needed, in that particular way we desire; such a warm embrace for the soul. Each day, each session, each hour, was filled with genuine dialogue and creative interaction that produced lots of memorable moments. As I reflect on the weekend, I am ecstatic about the ministry that took place, yet eager to exercise my power to choose. I am choosing to be a better disciple; choosing to be fearless and faithful in times of trouble, and making a choice I wish to share with my brothers. And that is... to be a constructive force in developing our race and community, starting at the Mount.

Mount Aery has a strong foundation that goes back almost 87 years. A rich history and legacy filled with people who have loved, worked, and sacrificed for us today. My prayer and hopes for our Men of Mount Aery is that we do our part to continue to build upon what was started and has continued through our elders, using this Men's weekend 2010 to re-ignite a flame that supports the spiritual, mental and physical effort to uplift our families, and supporting our own.

"Not an easy task," some say. Others may say "easier said than done." But God says we can... if we choose to. In fact, we already have begun. Better relationships are being built day by day. Unification is taking place amongst Men. Next, we will share and execute common goals and interest under the umbrella of Men's Ministry, all the while equipping ourselves to be effective leaders within the fabric of ministry. At this very moment, I am reminded of the words of Carter G. Woodson who wrote, "Real education means to inspire people to live more abundantly, to learn to begin with life as they find it and make it better." Those words are very relevant and should be kept in mind as we face situations of today. Jesus is the real thing. We have all received an adequate education, whether at a university or the school of "hard knocks." So Men, be inspired! Brothers, be better! Let's fall in love with our people again.

Mount Aery opens the Liberation Lab

By Odell Cooper

The Mount Aery Development Corporation proudly presents “The Liberation Lab,” a 21st Century Learning Center designed by a team of Mount Aery Disciples including Bro. Paul Mendes, the Executive Director of the Mount Aery Development Corporation and Minister Odell Montgomery Cooper. Bro. John Ferguson managed the construction of the project and Bro. Julian Jean-Baptiste served as the primary Network Administrator; technical support was provided by Rev. Ron Banks and Desmond Gamble. The “Liberation Lab” is comprised of 12 computer workstations and 1 instructor work station. Made possible by a partnership between Mount Aery’s Development Corporation and the Workplace, Inc. through an award of President Obama’s economic stimulus funds, the “Liberation Lab” will serve as the foundation for a unique job training program called “Pathways out of Poverty.”



Not by coincidence, who knew the title of my graduation project was titled “Liberation, Learning and Leveraging,” where I researched learning models to complement a congregation’s theology, leadership, culture, and mission. So, when Pastor Bennett was asked to name the lab not knowing about the project that lay in my heart, he called the lab “Liberation.” As Pastor Bennett has stated on several occasions, this endeavor is larger than we imagined, but relevant to the Bridgeport Community. The design and planning team thanks Pastor Bennett for his leadership and vision on this initiative, because without his leadership and support, the “Liberation Lab” would be anonymous.

The “Liberation Lab” is the primary location where clients enrolled in the program which is coined “Green Up Bridgeport” will meet with a Case Manager to complete eligibility requirements, schedule an orientation at the Workplace, and develop a personalized Employment/Training Management Plan. The Case Manager will assess all individual cases and schedule training that will occur at the Mount and on the campus of University of Bridgeport. All of the services available are designed to provide qualified Bridgeport residents who meet eligibility requirements, training and supportive services, that will help them to obtain economic self-sufficiency through employment in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.



In the media you may have heard that the United States is entering a new phase in its economy that will be rooted in “Green” solutions. These solutions will focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies. The focus of the “Green Up Bridgeport” program is to give participants the tools to be competitive and take full advantage of this promising new phase of our economy. Participants will receive a comprehensive overview of “Green Up Bridgeport’s” occupational skills training and the support services. All participants will enter the program as “freshmen,” taking 101-level survey courses designed to assess skills, interests, explore the job market, and simultaneously provide any required remedial services such as math, reading, English as a Second Language or other adult basic skills. Bridgeport residents who have earned college degrees or hold other certifications will be “Fast Tracked” through the “Green Up”



[Continues on next page >](#)

Mount Aery opens the Liberation Lab continues:

Program. Unlike most job retraining programs that provide training with the promise of employment, the “Green Up Bridgeport” Program is committed to placing participants who complete the program in “Green” jobs.

Each participant will meet with their Green Career Advisor at Mount Aery Development Corporation and based upon their assessment results, interest and preferences, decide which “Green” occupation that suits them the most and enroll in a credentialed course for training related to that occupation. “Green Up Bridgeport” offers participants the opportunity for basic skills remediation. For those participants who have been identified as needing additional assistance, through the assessment process, a variety of employment workshops and relevant trainings such as: Computer Workshops, Job Readiness, Customer Service, Math and Reading Assistance, ESL remediation, Resume and Interviewing Workshops, Internships, Job Shadowing and “Green” Jobs Placement.

How to Apply: Are you:

- 18 Years Old
- Unemployed
- Bridgeport Resident
- High School Drop-Out
- Ex- Offender

If you can answer “yes” to any one of the above, then you qualify to enroll in the “Green Up Bridgeport Program” today. Enrollment is currently underway and the program ends December 2011. For additional information, contact Minister Odell Cooper at ocooper@mtaerybaptist.org or (203)334-2757 ext 22. Program enrollment forms are located in the Narthex. Complete one today and leave in the Church Office. The program is a great opportunity for the City of Bridgeport and Mount Aery Community. All participants who enroll at Mount Aery will receive all their individual career guidance at the Mount.

I am excited about this project and the next 20 months and thank God for this journey to Mount Aery. God has placed great responsibility on the leadership at the Mount to serve his people in Bridgeport. In memory of my mentor Rev. Dr. Carl Dudley, and guidance of Bishop Benjamin K. Watts, I thank them for supporting my journey to grow and worship here at Mount Aery under the leadership of Pastor Anthony L. Bennett D. Min.

“Green-Up Bridgeport” is a project of The WorkPlace, Inc., supported with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



Sisters at the Well, Men's Ministry, MAYA, & P.L.U.G. presents
"A Joint Ministry Collaboration"—Part II

“The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children”

Saturday, May 8, 2010
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Mount Aery Baptist Church
Bass Hall

The 3 R's: Recognize, Refrain, & Resolve
Imagine the freedom we will experience in our worship
when we seek help to Recognize this behavior,
Refrain from this behavior,
and Resolve to put an end to this behavior.

Our day will include breakfast, a professional panel,
video viewing, brunch, and open discussion.
Resources and referrals available.



Doreen's Top 10

Biblical Questions

by Doreen Cotter

TRUE or FALSE:

1. As believers we are the temple in whom the Holy Spirit dwells? _____
2. We are empowered by the Spirit to exercise special gifts that enable us to build up the Church? _____
3. Who is the Holy Spirit?
a) Teacher b) Helper c) The third person of the Trinity
d) Advocate e) Guide f) Truth g) All of the above

4. Unscramble the words that are given and place in the appropriate spaces below:

CAACTFIINOSTIN; NTIECJASIUTOI; ORGANILOFICTI

- _____ Take on the characteristics of Christ.
- _____ God considers me righteous because Jesus enters my life.
- _____ Completion of our transformation when we stand in the presence of Christ in eternity.

5. COLOSSIANS 3:12-14:

- a) What must we clothe ourselves with as God's chosen People?

C _____, K _____, H _____,
G _____ and P _____

- b) What must we do each day?

B _____ with each other and f _____ whatever g _____ you may have against one another. F _____ as the Lord f _____ you.

- c) What is the bond of perfection for a) and b)? L _____

- d) What will consistent practice of A, B & C produce?

6. - 10. EPHESIANS 6:13-18:

The Armor – God's Armor brings victory because it is far more than a protective covering. It is the very life of Jesus Christ.

- The belt of _____: All that He is to us.
- The breastplate of _____: The protection of Holy Living.
- The _____ of the gospel of _____: We are to be at peace with God and others.
- The shield of _____: We are to trust and believe in God's word.
- The _____ of _____: We obtain it through Christ.
- The _____ of the _____: Scripture is our best offensive weapon against the devil.

TOP TEN ANSWERS:

1. True (1 Cor. 3:16)

2. True (1 Cor. 12:1-11)

3. g) All of the above

4. ROMANS 8,9,10

SANCTIFICATION: Take on the

characteristics of Christ

JUSTIFICATION: God considers me

righteous because Jesus enters my life

GLORIFICATION: Completion of our

transformation when we stand in the

presence of Christ in eternity.

5. a) Compassion, Kindness, Humility,

Gentleness and Patience.

b) BEAR with each other and FORGIVE

whatever GRIEVANCES you may have

against one another. FORGIVE as the Lord

FORGAVE you.

c) Love

d) Unity

6. - 10. EPHESIANS 6:13-18

• The belt of Truth

• The breastplate of Righteousness

• The shoes of the gospel of Peace

• The shield of Faith

• The helmet of Salvation

• The sword of the Spirit



Chaos In The House

FROM PRODUCER JAMES MCNEIL PERSON
AND DIRECTOR JENNIFER MASON

The First Cathedral

1151 Blue Hills AVE. Bloomfield, CT.

tickets start at 25.00

Sunday June 20th 6:45 pm

Gospel star/ Andra cross



Quan



From the R&B Group Black Street / Levi Little

A hilarious, spiritual drama that exemplifies the power of redemption. The characters in this story face many issues that American families deal with everyday in this age. There's always something going on from Frankie to Juju, you can never tell what will happen next. Fluorine being the backbone of the family has learned how to cope with the highs and lows of her adult children. However dealing with her own issues becomes another story, when a familiar face from her past comes to haunt her. What had been a somewhat controlled life is now a life that she doesn't want to face.

Sunday June 20th 6:45 pm

For Info and tickets call 800-615-0034 or 860-243-6520

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