

FROM THE PASTOR TO YOU! (Article 1)

THE GOALS OF THE CHURCH

Short-range Goal: Walking in the Spirit

The point of Pentecost in Acts 2 was not the gift of tongues or charismatic gifts. The Day of Pentecost was a signal to the world that a new age of grace had come! Thus, the Spirit could begin His work in purging the church so as to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 24:14, Acts 2:1-11). Hence, as the church obeys the Word of Christ and is empowered by the Holy Spirit, it can witness and live to the glory of God.

Intermediate-range Goal: Declaring His Glory and Making Disciples among the World

The message of the Old and New Testaments is that God wants His people to declare His glory among the nations (I Chronicles 16:24, Matthew 28:19-20). Currently, during this age, the church of Jesus Christ is commissioned to make disciples so that the church may glorify Him.

Ultimate Goal: Being Conformed to the Image of the Lord Jesus Christ

The ultimate goal of the church is to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Although, the church will never perfectly reach this goal until the redeemed of all ages dwell with Him forever, it is nonetheless the goal of every member to ever pursue this image. Such pursuit is in anticipation of Christ's return and eternal reign.

About the Goals...

The above goals are accomplished through the strict adherence to the Word of God. God has given us the church, which is both an organism and an organization. Within the framework of the church is set in place the order of administration; Pastors, Elders/Senior Officers and Deacons.

A STATEMENT OF MISSION

The fundamental purpose of the Church in its mission is to glorify God as stated in I Corinthians 10:31, “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Yet, while the church is here on earth it is to glorify God by living as Jesus Christ lived in this world order. The Lord Jesus lived to reveal the glory of God to men (John 1:11, 16), and that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (II Corinthian 5:19).

Likewise, the Church is to reveal the glory of God to men. The mandate for this mission as given to the Church in our Lord’s Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

A STATEMENT OF MINISTRY

Mt. Zion of Oakwood Village has been established to be a spiritual community, which models the kingdom of God on earth. The church’s role is to provide for its community the divine option of God’s activity in the world without becoming a part of those worldly activities that are anti-Godly. At the same time, the church must not become so isolated in its practices so as to lose its influence within and upon its community.

In keeping with Acts 2:42, Mt. Zion of Oakwood Village has four major areas of concern in fulfilling its mission in the world: Worship, Fellowship, Christian Education, and Outreach.

- Worship has as its primary goal to express to God the esteem in which His people hold Him.**
- Fellowship is designed to promote the interpersonal caring and sharing of God’s people one to another as an outgrowth of our fellowship with God.**
- Christian Education promotes learning among God’s people and an obedient response to His Word.**
- Outreach touches people of all races and conditions with the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers.**

Hence, it is our purpose to make a divine difference in our time and era by presenting an alternative model of holistic ministry (body, mind and spirit). Such model and ministry exhibits a portrayal of God as He executes His program for mankind through His church.