



FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

State of Maryland

Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam, State Bishop

Bishop Paul S. Morton
International Presiding Bishop

Bishop Jesse N. Gavin
Regional Bishop

A Message from Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam

Let me begin by just sharing my gratitude to all of you for your strong support as we celebrated together at the Consecration



Banquet. The entire evening was one of those mountain top experiences. I am sure that the Lord was pleased in that His name was high and lifted up. I thank you for any part that you may have played in ensuring that the evening was one that my family and I will always remember. "This was a 10-star event."

I would also like to encourage all of you, as we move toward State Conference 2005, to assist in the planning as well as make preparations for being there, as we celebrate how God is blessing us as a family. So much is happening, and I want to make sure that you realize how important you are to the success of the State Fellowship. Your input, prayers, and consistent participation, will allow us to do ministry in a way that pleases our God.

Finally, I encourage you to inspire someone else to be a part of our School of Ministry as we move to empower and equip persons to move into their destiny. God has so much in store for us; however, it begins and ends with us being prepared to take the next step. Our aim is to prepare you to know God in a greater way. Stay focused and faithful.

Consecration Banquet Celebrates What God Has Done

The Maryland Fellowship welcomed the New Year with an elegant Consecration Banquet for Maryland's newly consecrated Bishop, Dr. Dwayne C. Debnam. Some 500 persons attended the event, which served as the official Maryland celebratory activity recognizing Bishop Debnam, who was consecrated at the Fellowship's International Leadership Conference in November.

The event was held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in downtown Baltimore. Elegance, excellence, and praises to God were the theme as persons from the entire State, as well as visitors from New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Texas and New Orleans celebrated what God has done in the ministry of Dr. Debnam, Morning Star Baptist Church, and the Maryland Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship.



Bishop Brister preaches the Word of God

Bishop Darryl S. Brister, from the Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral, located in New Orleans, preached the consecration message. Evangelist Beverly Crawford was the special musical guest. Others in attendance included Regional Bishop Jesse N. Gavin, Bishop Aretha Morton, Bishop Andre' Jackson, and Bishop James Lott.

The entire event has been captured on a Commemorative DVD which is now available from the Morning Star Baptist Church Ticket Center. To order your copy, call the Church at (410) 747-3417.



Bishop Debnam is shown with Bishop-Elect Walter Scott Thomas and Deaconess Robbin Brown

In the words of Bishop Heber Brown, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Edgemere, "these shoes fit Bishop Debnam well." In his remarks, he shared a story about how he always desired to wear his father's shoes, but soon discovered the shoes didn't fit. Then, he shared highlights from Bishop Debnam's ministry walk, ending the story with the words – "these shoes fit." Indeed they do. As the pastor of Morning Star and as the leader of the Maryland Fellowship, Bishop Debnam has developed initiatives and set standards of excellence that are being recognized across the country.



Bishop Debnam and Lady Carla are shown with Bishop Oscar Brown and his wife, Lady Jackie

Pastor Alonzo Jones Travels to Kenya

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus!”

Romans 8:38-39



Recently, our own Pastor Alonzo Jones, Pastor of Family Life Ministries had the opportunity to travel with the Pat Kelly Ministries to Nacuru, Kenya in East Africa. Kenya, one of the most beautiful countries, is marred only by the poverty, the high rate of persons infected with the HIV/Aids virus (one out of four children have lost either one or both parents due to the epidemic), prostitution, theft and high unemployment. Even amid dangerous terrorist alerts, deadly diseases and unspeakable living conditions, numerous souls were saved, healed and set free.

“The highlight for me was during one crusade when one young lady (a single mother) who had contemplated suicide gave her life

to Christ and experienced a change of heart,” adds Pastor Jones. “We carried a message of hope in Christ Jesus which was highly received by the Kenyans. They danced and praised God like I have never witnessed before in my life.”

The trip was such a success that Pastor Jones and the entire American Missions Team have been invited by Bishop Kibe (Conference Host) to return next year. Finally, the team was able to partner with several churches in Kenya and commit to sending ongoing support to help build the Kingdom in Africa. To God be the Glory for the marvelous things He has done.

Maryland School of Ministry Set to Change a Generation

Maryland’s Full Gospel School of Ministry will hold its third session on Monday night, February 28th. The School of Ministry is designed to assist churches with the training and development of its leadership and membership. The School opened in the Fall 2004 and has held two sessions. The curriculum has included special sessions for men and women, as well as courses on finding balance in ministry, and ministry marketing and communications. At both of the 2004 sessions, Pastors Jason Clark and Harry Greene, repeated their sessions on the Wounded Healer and the Full Gospel Distinctives, respectively.

The national theme for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship is to “Change a Generation.” Bishop Debnam believes that in order to effectively change a generation, the Church must develop, train, and teach persons to effectively minister inside and outside the walls of the Church building.

The certificate program offers courses in an array of areas, including ministry to men and women, leadership development, evangelism, finding balance in ministry, stewardship, ministry communication programs and church administration. The School is modeled after the vision set forth by the Fellowship’s International Presiding Bishop, Paul S. Morton.

Classes are held monthly at the State Headquarters located at Morning Star Baptist Church, 154 Winters Lane, Catonsville, Maryland 21228. Classes are open to men, women and young people from all denominations and walks of life.

February 28th courses will include plenary sessions for men, women and youth, and classes on Ministry Relationships & Accessibility and Dealing with Grief. There will also be a class for couples, You Complete Me, which will be taught by the wife of Bishop Debnam, Lady Carla Debnam. Lady Debnam also serves as the Executive Director for the Renaissance Christian Counseling Center. There will also be youth ministry classes for youth and youth ministry workers. The Christian Education ministry will also host an information expose’ which will provide information on a number of State Fellowship programs.

To register for this month’s classes, call (410) 747-8153. For a complete listing of courses and certification program requirements, visit www.msbcministries.org.

Special Note: The State Monthly Meetings will involve School of Ministry Classes or Corporate Worship. The School of Ministry will meet at the State Headquarters (Morning Star, 154 Winters Lane), and the location for monthly worship services will be announced. Here is the schedule for the next two months:

- March 28th – Full Gospel School of Ministry
- April 25th – Full Gospel Monthly Worship Service, Omega Baptist Church
- May 23rd – Full Gospel School of Ministry

Ministry **Spotlight**

Sacred Zion Takes it to the Streets

As we struggle with the moral and spiritual chaos that seems to characterize life today, nothing is more evident than the need to reach those who are lost. But we must reach them with more than mere words. James 2:15-16 sums it up this way: If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?” Sacred Zion is determined to use every opportunity to meet the needs of the whole person.



Pastor Bertha Greene

Armed for battle, every second and third Saturday, a team of dedicated warriors take to the streets of inner city Baltimore on a mission to win souls for Christ through street evangelism. They spread the Good News of the Gospel, pray for and with those they meet. Every third Saturday—deemed Outreach Saturday, a hot meal and the Word is provided to each person who comes through the doors of Sacred Zion. Theirs is a simple but very profound message: “JESUS IS THE ONLY ANSWER!”

Five days a week, another type of evangelism is taking place through community outreach. Project ARISE, under the Sacred Zion umbrella, a federally-funded program is meeting the needs of those infected with the HIV/Aids virus. Through Ryan White Title I & II and CDC Education Prevention Grant we provide HIV testing, education, referrals, spiritual counseling, support and prevention case management.

“We are challenged to approach ministry non-traditionally which causes us to adapt and equip ourselves to meet the ever-changing problems some of our brothers and sisters face on a daily basis. At Sacred Zion, we’ve added the spiritual component which enables us to meet the needs of the whole person,” says Pastor Bertha Greene who serves as Board Chair. Ministry is designed to reach those families and individuals suffering from social, economic, psychological mental health that stigmatizes and labels them dysfunctional in our communities.

As more and more funding sources become obsolete, the public sector is now eager to partner with the faith community to bring programs and services to the people who so desperately need them. But rather than business as usual, Sacred Zion provides ministry. Programs and services can be provided by anyone, but ministry comes when dedicated servants purpose in their hearts to fulfill The Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20.

We are called to live and work side by side with the people we serve by making an impact on those who do not know or follow Christ. Because of this, Sacred Zion takes the responsibility to help those who are at-risk, disadvantaged and forgotten by society seriously. In so doing, we realize that engagement, not isolation, is God’s desire for each of us. In the end, the same message applies: “Jesus is the only answer!”

The latter part of 2004, God gave Pastor Greene a foretaste of the direction in which the ministry was to flow. To do Kingdom Work, He redirected the focus of Sacred Zion. Because Pastor Greene believes God has a purpose and plan for each of us, we embarked on a journey through education and enlightenment. We must know who we are in Christ and to whom we belong. This is a crucial step before we can be a disciple and disciple others whether in the pew or on the streets.

Covenant Partners Make the Difference

Habakkuk 2:2 challenges us to “Write The Vision and Make It Plain Upon Tables, That He May Run That Readeth It.” A plain “Vision” is one, which is written in such a way that it can be easily understood and intelligently articulated. The “Vision” of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship is to “Change A Generation”.

The Full Gospel Covenant Partner Program provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to support this vision. As a Covenant Partner, persons commit to blessing the International ministry with a monthly financial commitment. Beyond the financial commitment, covenant partners are also

charged with praying for the Fellowship on a daily basis, supporting local Fellowship initiatives and supporting the International Conference.

The desire is to have 50,000 Covenant Partners ranging from Tiers of Leadership, churches and members of the local churches, the community and Corporate Business. For more information on how you and your church can become a Covenant Partner please contact the office of the State Bishop at (410) 747-3417. Additionally, if you have already committed yourself as a Covenant Partner, please communicate this information to the Office of the State Bishop.

International Conference Goes Back Home

This year the International Conference will return home to New Orleans, Louisiana between July 11 -15. The Maryland Fellowship will once again offer a travel and hotel package for those wishing to travel as a group. You can register for the conference now by going online to www.fullgospelbaptist.org. Information on traveling with the Maryland Fellowship is available online at www.msbcministries.org. You may also call us at (410)-747-8153.

State Conference Planning Underway

Mark your calendars for Maryland's Ninth Annual State Conference scheduled for June 16th and 17th. While planning is just beginning, tentative discussions involve luncheons for seniors and leaders, as well as evening worship services, and a special youth praise night. Details regarding the conference will follow, but for now, save these important dates.

Also, if you're interested in volunteering for the conference, please complete a volunteer registration form, which will be available at the February 28th School of Ministry session. To request a form by mail, call us at (410) 747-8153.

What's Happening

Share information on conferences and special ministry programs. Submit information to abrown@msbcministries.org by the 28th of each month. Also, if you have a suggestion for a ministry spotlight email us or contact Reverend Brown at 410-747-3417.

Covenant Partners Make the Difference

Call the Office of the State Bishop at 410-747-3417 or go to www.fullgospelbaptist.org for more information.

Commemorative Consecration Recording Now Available

"You were born to change a generation, sent forth to declare to every nation – that Jesus Christ, gave his life, on Calvary." These are a few of the lyrics from the Commemorative Consecration recording, "Change a Generation," which was introduced at the January Consecration Banquet. The song, written by Reverend Lisa Weah, the State Director of Cultural Arts and Worship, and Brother Rodney Harris, was dedicated to Bishop Debnam.

The song declares that despite what you've been through, God has called you to change a generation. Produced and recorded here in Baltimore, the song features Reverend Anthony Brown, Sister Julie Felder, and Baltimore City District Overseer Reginald Thomas. A special extended track features saxophonist Isaac Parham and his wife, vocalist Minister Minnette Parham. Copies of the recording can be purchased at the State Headquarters. Request your copy by calling (410) 747-3417.



Pastor Leah White, Lady Carla Debnam, and Lady Patricia Thomas are shown at the banquet.

Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship State of Maryland *Doing Our Part To Change A Generation*

The Full Gospel Baptist Church Newsletter is produced quarterly by the Office of State Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam. To submit stories or obtain answers to questions regarding the Fellowship, contact Reverend Brown at 410-747-3417 or abrown@msbcministries.org.

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