

# Our History

Written by Administrator

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## Zion Healing Temple Church History

Zion Healing Temple began as a vision given to the late Mother Elma Hampton that her children would be saved and that a church would be formed. God had given her the name long before its existence.

**In 1978**, a Christian Prayer Band began in the kitchen of Mother Edward's home at 13917 S. Kedvale in Robbins, IL. The band met every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12 noon and prayer last for one hour. The Band, at that time, consist of three people; Mother Velma Edwards, Mother Elma Hampton and Bro. J. W. Hampton, son of Mother Hampton. With the three meeting and praying faithfully, word began to travel fast about the good things God was doing and others began to join the prayer.

To accommodate the increase of people, the band moved to the basement of mother Edward's home in **January 1979**. It was in the basement that Zion Healing Temple Church was born and organized. The only need now was a Pastor to lead it. Bro. J.W. Hampton was appointed Pastor of Zion Healing Temple and Bro. Dave Hampton, who also joined the prayer band, was appointed Assistant Pastor.

Within a few months, Zion Healing Temple grew and Pastor Hampton built a small pulpit and brought in more folding chairs. Six months after becoming a true church, the congregation had outgrown the basement and moved to 9320 S. Halsted. A lot of work had to be done, members pitched in to make the building suitable for worship. Zion was blessed with benches and in **July 1979** Zion officially moved in and rejoiced over its new home. Zion Healing Temple is a Bible teaching, believing and preaching church. Pastor Hampton declared before all saying, "If we don't grow and move from this place in five years, I will step down as Pastor of this church."

As would be, five years later **In 1984**, Zion Healing Temple had burst at the seams and was on the move again. Pastor Hampton found Zion's new home at 433-37 E. 111<sup>th</sup> Street while driving by. Having obeyed the Lord, with little money and plenty of faith, the Pastor and six of the members walked into the bank to negotiate the purchase of the land. By the time the meeting was over and with only two signatures, the Pastor and six members walked out with the keys to our current location. It was a joyous time and we praised the Lord for a place to grow.

Zion was not without its losses. Mother Velma Edwards, one of the original Prayer Band and church matriarch died in the faith, followed by her sister, Mother Elma Hampton, another original member of the Prayer Band and church matriarch in 1992. Zion's scholarship fund was renamed in her honor as the Mother Hampton Memorial Scholarship Fund. With the loss of these great women of God, who loved their church, a legacy was left behind to be remembered by all.

On **August 30, 2001**, Zion Healing Temple had a mortgage burning service after having paid it off in seventeen and a half years. Zion was debt free! Later, plans were underway for our Banquet Hall. But in **January 2005**, Zion would deal with another great loss, our own Ambassador Clementine Barnes. A true example of ambassadorship who never met a stranger and loved the people of God. Upon completion of the banquet hall, it was dedicated in her memory and named The Ambassador Barnes Banquet Hall; a picture hangs in her honor.

The Bible states in 1 Timothy 3:1, "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." After many years of faithful service to our Lord and his church, Pastor J.W. Hampton was ordained Bishop in **August 2005**.

While approaching another milestone in the life of this church, we pray that God will continue to be with us spiritually, physically and financially. Though many faithful warriors have gone on, we who remain are bound together by the love of God and each other. Our journey continues with faith-filled optimism and commitment to the Kingdom of God and glorify Him in everything we do.

"Dwelling in Unity"