

AIPM at Zion Baptist Church, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, 2007 to 2008

Zion Baptist Church learned about AIPM while we were serving at nearby Milnsbridge Baptist Church in Huddersfield from 2003 to 2005. Mollie Jackson, Zion Church Secretary, got in touch with us in late 2006 and learned the protocol for partnering with AIPM to provide candidates for short-term volunteer pastors. The proposition was taken to a church meeting and the church voted to have our help. We sent profiles, videos of sermons and videos of interviews of candidates to Molly. Zion chose to invite Darrell Grice (wife Faith) to be their first American short-term pastor. Darrell and Faith began ministry at Zion in January 2007. They had previously served at Milnsbridge.

We had 3 additional couples serve our Lord at Zion. Each couple served one-half year and handed over the ministry to the next couple. Great care was taken to do a good job of orientation of the incoming couple both at the McComb's home in Texas during brief visits by the candidate couple and the outgoing pastor and wife departing Zion.



We prepared the a flyer to communicate with folks in the USA the opportunity to serve our Lord in Mirfield, Yorkshire (See flyer below).

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

MIRFIELD YORKSHIRE ENGLAND

For Retired American Ministers and Lay Leaders

Retirees serve in a series of six-month assignments as volunteer Interim Pastors as the Lord grows His church and they can afford the salary of and locate a British Baptist Pastor.

Mirfield is a village at the edge of Huddersfield and is about 175 miles northwest of London.

CHURCH HISTORY

Zion Baptist church started in 1830 and built a special building for Sunday school in 1854. In 1974 the main church building proved too large and costly to run and was demolished. Since then the Sunday school building is used for worship and activities.

CURRENT SITUATION

Zion Baptist has 17 members. Attendance at Sunday morning worship is around 20. Their women's group has 20 to 22 attendees. Since their pastor left in July 2005, they have not had a Bible study group or a youth ministry. A community group for over-fifties meets at the church and is led by a church member. This group has about 70 in attendance.



WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES CENTER



ZION BAPTIST MAIN ENTRANCE

Church facilities are used by a preschool, a school of dance, and a sports class. Church social activities are limited by the fact that many members are elderly, and the work falls on a few. They hold coffee mornings and plan a Christmas Fayre to reach-out to the community. These functions are well attended.

THE ARRANGEMENT

Zion will provide airline tickets for the interim pastor and spouse, a house with utility bills paid and a car with insurance, taxes and repairs paid. The interim pastor will receive no salary or any other compensation. Assignments are normally 6 months; however, it is possible to obtain a visa for a 12 month stay which would provide greater continuity.



THE MANSE

A 4 bedroom home a few minutes walk of the church.

THE COMMUNITY

Mirfield is a town of 20,000. Several apartment buildings are under construction which will substantially increase the population.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact American Interim Pastor Ministries, Inc. (nonprofit) c/o Chuck McComb, 412 Carriage Creek Lane, Friendswood, TX 77546; email: mccombch@aol.com; telephone 281-992-1695 or visit our web site: www.americaninterimpastors.com
Chuck is a retired Mechanical Engineer from Monsanto Chemical Company and has had 3 assignments as interim pastor in the UK.

Mirfield is surrounded by beautiful countryside.



Zion Cemetery and Church Building