

Graduates Refuse to Attend Graduation Ceremony on Sabbath

Whoever said teens don't stand up for their faith and beliefs these days? Kudos to three members of the Mt. Zion Church, Kissimmee, Fla., who took a bold stand for their faith in God.

Shane Clarke (Osceola County School for the Arts), Shenelle Frederick (Osceola High School), and Court-

bath, three additional high school graduates, Adrien Francois, Deland James, and Monique Norris, also members of Mt. Zion, chose to walk down the graduation aisle in support of their friends.

The commencement service was held on Sunday, May 30, 2010, at the

address was given by Kevin Bryan, pastor of Bethel Church, Gainesville, Fla.

Bryan challenged the graduates to become all that God would have them to be, and to pursue a higher education.

Maxwell Berkel, pastor of Mt. Zion, proudly gave the prayer of dedication and

Lorenzo Grant Dies at 76

Lorenzo Grant, D.Min., 76, former church administrator, pastor, and professor, died July 6, 2010, at his home in Sebring, Fla.

In 1965 Grant received a bachelor in theology from Washington Adventist University (formerly Columbia Union College).

In 1975 he received a master's degree in religious education from Howard University. In 1976 he received a doctorate degree in ministry from Howard University.

Grant served as a professor of ethics and philosophy at Southern Adventist University (formerly Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists), director of trust services for the Allegheny East Conference, and director of African-American ministries for the Southern California Conference.

Grant also pastored churches in the Allegheny East and Southern California conferences.

He is survived by his wife, Grayce Nelson Grant, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and six children: Penny Loren, Grayce Grant Wood, John Patterson, Meredith Grant, Michael Marshall, and Angela Grant.

A memorial service was held July 25 at the Ridge Area Church, Avon Park, Fla.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY



Shane Clarke (left), Adrien Francois, Shenelle Frederick, Deland James, and Courtney Hunt celebrate their graduation from high school during a special service at Mt. Zion Church, Kissimmee, Fla.

ney Hunt (Osceola County School for the Arts), chose not to graduate with their graduating class of 2010 because it was being held on Sabbath.

When Pauletta DaSilva, a high school teacher and the education director at Mt. Zion, heard about the unselfish and courageous stand these individuals made, she took it upon herself to organize a commencement service that was like none other for these graduates.

Although their graduations were not held on Sab-

Mt. Zion Community Center Complex.

With "Pomp and Circumstance," the Pathfinder color guards led the processional as proud parents, families, friends, and church members witnessed this auspicious event. From beginning to end, the program was "outstanding!"

One highlight of the ceremony was the precious memories section where a multimedia presentation of each of the six graduates was presented.

The commencement

words of encouragement to the graduates.

The junior-senior dean of Osceola High School, Charlene Lackey, and the principal of Osceola County School for the Arts, Jeanette Rivers, were also participants during the commencement program.

Lackey and Rivers presented the three graduates with their high school diplomas — thus making the graduation official.

—BY BRENDA HUNT AND
PAULETTA DASILVA