

## Mount Calvary Celebrates Annual International Weekend

Mount Calvary Church members celebrated the cultural diversity of its congregation by conducting its annual International Weekend on April 28 and 29.

“As a people, we believe that individuals from every race, country, and social status in life are created in the image of God and have been endowed with unique talents, skills, and capabilities,” said one church member. “International weekend is our most comprehensive display of this philosophy as we ensure that each of the 29 different countries represented within our congregation is featured and celebrated throughout the

weekend.”

Hubert Morel Jr., Southeastern president, was the featured speaker for the divine worship service. It began with a parade of flags of nations as participants proudly represented their countries dressed in native garb. Participating Americans dressed in red, white, and blue ensembles reminiscent of an Olympic delegation.

The combined choirs of Mt. Calvary also dressed in national attire and led the worship experience with music. Featured songs included “Let’s Just Praise



the Lord,” sung in English, Spanish, and French; “Love in any Language,” where choir members waved mini international flags as they sang. The praise team continued worship in song with a medley of gospel/Caribbean music, including “I Got My Mind Made Up” and “I Want to Know

If You Love My Jesus.”

The International Weekend program provides a platform for individuals and groups to represent their culture, and share their various backgrounds and talents in a variety of forums.

The weekend concluded with a cultural concert and an International Food Fair. Concert artists included Kuumba Drummer and Dancers, Indian gospel sensation Padmaja Medidi, the Buchanan Family, and Native American flutist Mary Lois.

## Twenty Ordained to Sacrifice and Serve

Maxwell Berkel, senior pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Kissimmee, Fla., Poinciana Church in Poinciana, Fla., and South Lake Church in Clermont, Fla., brought 20 elders and deacons together to participate in a unique ordination service on Sabbath, April 7, 2012.

One pastor described the service as the best of its kind he has had the privilege to attend.

Carlyle Bayne, retired pastor and departmental director for the Inter-American Division, addressed the ordinands on the topic “The High Calling of Leadership.”

He described them

as “trophies to God,” a “victory parade in honor of Christ.” Deacons were called to advance the Gospel as Phillip and Stephen had. Both elders and deacons have Paul’s example as the standard for Church leadership. “Of course, Jesus is our Greatest Exemplar,” Bayne shared.

Harold Cameron, associate pastor, also challenged the ordinands to “rise to the occasion because of the crises in the world today, and grasp the challenge of the moment with vigor and determination.”

Elders ordained were Wayne Card, Lloyd Alexander, Cassette Davis, Jacqueline Hinds, Edeline Clarke, Cordell Samuel, and Junior Evans. Deacons ordained were Clinton Ramsonugh, Dickens Poulard, Lloyd Evans, Raymond Smith, Clifford Medder, Errol McCaw, Jefferson Greene, Buster C. Terry, Rodrigue Joseph,

Bakirh Minuty, Lloyd Patterson, Michael Laidley, and Andrale Loguerre.

Ancil Cordell spoke on behalf of the spouses, who were called to this dedicated platform, usually without preparation, but pledging to assist their spouses under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

—BY EDNA FRANCOIS

