

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
A Brief History
1936 – 2015

The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church (MSMBC) was organized on October 12, 1936 when a group of nine baptized believers in Christ met in the home of Deacon John and Deaconess Ida Edgerton for the purpose of finalizing plans to organize a Church. The name Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church was suggested by Deacon Edgar Forbes and was accepted by all. God called Reverend Harvey Edgar Pasley to be the first pastor and the first sermon was preached on October 18, 1936 at the 7th Day Adventist Church on 160th Street.

On January 22 1937, Morning Star was incorporated. The membership continued to expand and the congregation moved to larger quarters. The Church moved to a basement on New York Boulevard and later to South Road. With the combined efforts of the pastor, officers, members, and friends the first Church home was purchased at 104-04 164th Street in 1945. As the membership grew auxiliaries were organized to meet the needs of the congregation and it eventually became necessary to find a larger place to worship. On October 7, 1962, the property at the present location was purchased and the congregation marched into the new location on January 20, 1963. Under Dr. Pasley's leadership four deacons were appointed, seven deacons joined and served, and sixteen were ordained, six deaconesses joined and served, with twenty-one being consecrated, and thirty-two trustees were appointed.

During Reverend Pasley's tenure two ministers joined and served, a total of five were ordained, two evangelists were licensed, and eight Church mothers were consecrated. Reverend Dr. Harvey E. Pasley was called home to be with the Lord on November 5th, 1968.

1968 – 2003

A Church meeting was called on December 5, 1968 to declare the pulpit vacant and a pulpit committee was appointed, and the search began. Reverend Charles Edward Betts Sr. was ordained in 1957 and served for thirteen years as an associate minister at Morning Star. God called him to be the second pastor of the Church on June 11, 1970. He was installed on July 12th, 1970.

Under Reverend Betts' administration eight deacons joined and served, a total of twenty were ordained, ten deaconesses joined and served with twenty-five being consecrated, twenty-nine trustees were appointed, six ministers joined and served, with a total of twelve being ordained and licensed, and six Church mothers were consecrated.

Reverend Betts served as under-shepherd for thirty-two years. He was a preacher, and a teacher. His goal was to teach, cultivate, and nurture individuals whom the Lord had called to go forth and preach the gospel. He also motivated the congregants to become Bible scholars under his leadership the church mortgage was burned in 1980. Properties were purchased in four locations. Various interior and exterior renovations were made in the sanctuary and other properties. In January 2003 Dr. Betts retired and relocated to Tampa, Florida.

2003 – 2014

In February 2003 a Church meeting was called to declare the pulpit vacant, a pulpit committee was appointed and for the second time a search was launched. After much prayer and fasting, on May 16, 2005, by more than two-thirds of the votes Reverend Walter Silva Thompson Jr. was called by God to be the third pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church. He was installed on September 18, 2005. Since Pastor Thompson's arrival four ministers were licensed to preach the gospel, two ministers were ordained, four deacons were ordained, with four additional men set aside to be ordained, seven trustees have been appointed, and three deaconesses were consecrated. The following Ministries have been established: Dance Ministry for children and adults, Women's Book Discussion, Wednesday's noontime Bible study with the pastor, Women's Exercise Class, HIV/AIDS Ministry, Historical Society, and Drama Ministry. Under Pastor Thompson's administration the scholarship fund started by the Sunday Church School was reorganized and is now the MSMBC Scholarship Fund Ministry. In addition to the establishment of additional ministries, several financial and estate planning workshops were held.

It was decided that structural work needed to be done on the front of the church, so a Construction Committee was established. A new design for the front was approved and after several setbacks construction started. To God be the Glory.

2015

The approximate size of The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Jamaica, NY congregation is 300 members. The church meets weekly on Sunday morning at 10:30 am for worship, and Wednesday for mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting. On each 1st Sunday of the month the Sacrament of Communion is observed; on the second Wednesday of the month the Sacrament of Baptism of new converts is instituted. Currently Deacon John Thomas is Chairman of the Deacon Ministry.