

## The Truth of God Times

FCI  
GOD IS ONE

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Official F.C. International Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 5

TRAVEL

SILVER LINING

HEALTH & WELLNESS

LIFESTYLE

TESTIMONIES

EVENT CALENDAR

### TEMPLE SPOTLIGHT



Thus far, it has been a year of epic proportion within a 6-month period. The Lord has truly blessed First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Inc. There has been a surge in baptisms.

We have been blessed to get results everywhere we go in times past; but the numbers have been staggering since the video of Pastor Jennings referring to the apparel of women

### TOP STORY

## From Viral Video, To 'Certain Water'



### TESTIMONY

#### Dirty Dishes Ain't Just for Moms

*A man renewed in fatherhood*

In order to talk about my relationship with my son, I must go back to my relationship with my father which was nothing at all.

My father was always into making money to better the life of our family until the money was no longer to better us but to pay for his addictions. They were booze and prostitutes.

As a kid, I travelled with my

father to Baja, California to smuggle parrots from Tijuana to sell. When I was not doing that I stayed in a run-down apartment with his gay brothers where I remained in one of the rooms alone. My father partied in the streets of Tijuana.

During my stay, I was scared and hated that my father would do the things that he

*(Continued on page 2)*

went viral: The debate with Mr. Vegas which lead to songs being made, cartoon clips, and very catchy headlines in the press and social media.

This really turned out to be a blessing in disguise. With all the attention, it has led to people asking the question, "who is this Pastor Gino Jennings and what is 'Holiness'?"

This has been not just confined to Jamaica but global. I have seen this first hand! I have been blessed to travel with Pastor Jennings quite a bit and I took notice of this great change when we went to High

*2018 International Holy Convocation*

Wycombe England.

I have been going there ever since 1996 and have been accustomed to the saints that have been faithful members; the visiting churches, few visitors and maybe the occasional baptism. But I have never witnessed what took place in this past convocation in the month of June.

A total of twenty-eight (28) souls went down in the name of Jesus Christ.

Some may say, "I have known Pastor Jennings to go to other

*(Continued on page 6)*





**TRAVEL**

**So, You Want to See the World?**

*12 Travel Tips for the First Time Traveler*

Is traveling abroad on your agenda? Is it something that you've always wanted to do? Awesome! But sometimes your dreams of circling the globe can be crushed with many uncertainties and concerns.

Well, allow me to help you with some of your travel woes. I've explored nine international destinations so far and counting. I've climbed the Eiffel Tower in Paris and swam in the Arabian Sea. I've had the opportunity to fellowship with

many saints around the world and explore many historical sites. Take it from me, traveling is very rewarding.

Here are 12 travel tips to guide you in successfully completing your first international trip:

**Don't Be Afraid**

You must get your mind right first. Be positive. Do not allow thoughts of terrorist attacks and civil unrest to discourage you. Turn off the television and ignore most of what people say. After taking that first leap these

thoughts will soon dissipate. You'll realize that not everything you hear about foreign countries is true. Any geographical location is susceptible to danger.

Don't live in fear, get out and see the world! Now, maybe you're just afraid to fly. It is safe; pray and hop on that plane! Some flights are also loaded with amenities such as meals and free movies. You can also use that time for meditation or rest.

**Get your Passport**

A passport is your key to the world. Without one you cannot travel abroad. The process is simple and cost efficient. When purchasing your

passport, think of it as an investment: money well spent. However, even with a passport some countries require a visa, special permission to visit their country. Visit [PASSPORTS.STATE.GOV](http://PASSPORTS.STATE.GOV) to learn more about how to obtain a U.S. passport first.

You can also use the same website to learn about visas, and if a specific country requires one. For subscribers in foreign locations, visit your country's official state website.

**Save Money**

It takes money to travel. Though it can be expensive, it doesn't have to be! Don't

*(Continued on page 6)*

**I Am . . .**

What purpose is there here?

Sometimes, to me, it's not really clear: the pull and tug of life is a strain that is difficult to comprehend: to understand.

The crazy thing is, that, if you look long enough, it all looks the same [vanity].

Feels like I've been through it all, seen it all, but still have so far to go.

The mirror doesn't lie.

I see where I've been.

A bruise here, a scar there

A tear and a smile - "once upon a time . . ."

But there, in the corner of my eye, I see . . .

. . . I see the center of my mind.

I see that, I . . . I am . . .

I am a SOLDIER; and still fighting.

I am a QUEEN; and still governing.

I'm a tree **STANDING**, suffering silently through the wind, snow, rain, and the blade.

I am **CRYING**; internal, external. I am only mortal.

I am a **WOMAN**.

I am **ALIVE** and vibrant; not letting a moment of life slip by without a smile.

I am **IMPERFECT**; but still striving for perfection.

I am **BROKEN**; but still whole.

I am **AFRAID**; but I am fearless.

I am **LIVING**, and I cherish it.

I am **A GEM**; and still shining.

I am **DEPRESSED**; but I'm still smiling.

I am an eagle on the wind: despite my wounded mind, I fly.

I am an unspoken testimony.

I'm still fighting; and life, I ain't done.

I'm still here.

I'm still here!

Until my dying day I will be.

I am here, and I am . . .

I am **STRONG!** (bring it on!)

- By: "Your Sister in Christ"  
(written 2007)





... ALL OVER THE WORLD ...

**"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."**

**- Isaiah 43:6 & 7 (KJV)**

*"Shalom to the truth of God broadcasts. [M]y name is Shalom Ikemere and I am 16. I wanted to know if it is okay pastor that you open a church here in Glasgow, Scotland[?] [T]hank you so much, God bless."*

**- Shalom Ikemere  
(Glasgow, Scotland)**

*"Good day pastor Jennings. I live in Trinidad and I would like to know is there any church on my island that preaches the holy scriptures as you do? If not when will you be able to come to my country I need to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. I don't want to die being baptized the wrong way. Please visit my country soon and don't let them charge us a pound and a crown to see you and be baptized. Thank you."*

**- Anesha Gomes  
(Trinidad)**

*"Good day beloved Brother Gino Jennings and the other faithful ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ, please I have written to know if "First Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ" has a branch in Ghana? I and my family are in dare need to have the right fellowship after listening and watching your sermons on YouTube."*

**Hope to hear from you soon."**

**- Nana Anthony Ofori  
(Accra, Ghana)**

*"Greetings is there a First Church of God in Guyana, South America. [I]f so I would be happy to attend and also tithe."*

**- Zatrice Best  
(Guyana, South America)**

*"Hi All in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I love this Program and I can't wait to visit the church that's side, here in South Africa we wish that God will extend his hand so that we can have Truth of God Church here in South Africa. Thank you."*

**- Victor Mohapeloa  
(South Africa)**

*"Greetings First Church, [I] enjoy the Truth of God Broadcast on YouTube, [I] would kindly request if Pastor Jennings would come to Nairobi, Kenya to preach the message of Holiness. I don't know if [I] am the only one who has seen or heard about the Truth of God Broadcast in my country. Also[,] if there is a First Church Temple in Nairobi, Kenya kindly point me to the right direction. I want to hear the TRUTH OF GOD[,] by all means. PLEASE HELP!!! I believe that God will make a way & that those willing to hear the TRUTH shall be saved. Peace be with you all."*

**- Arnold Hawi  
(Nairobi, Kenya, Africa)**

*"Good morning [Pastor] Gino J, my name is Moli Kaufusi living in Australia. I'm interested in the full, complete bible you got if I can have info-s of how to get one or two, [please] let me know and thank you for being a strong light bearer of Christ to this falling world."*

**- Moli Kaufusi  
(Australia)**

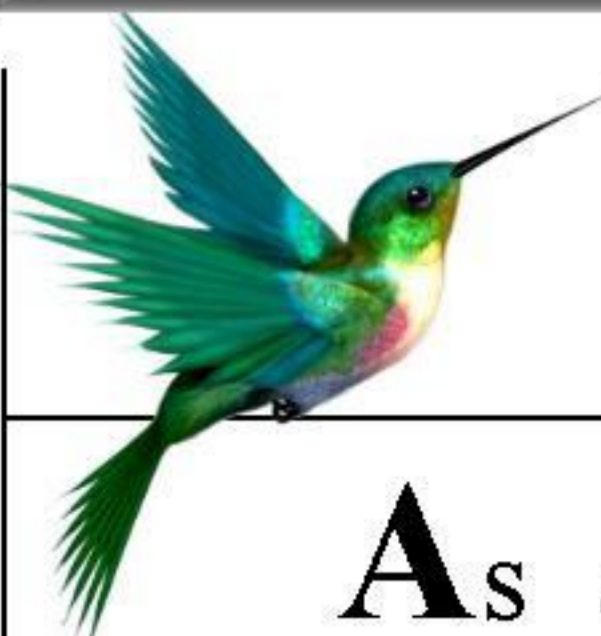
*"I live in Okinawa, Japan and desire to be baptized according to Acts 2:38."*

**- Malcolm Turner  
(Okinawa, Japan)**

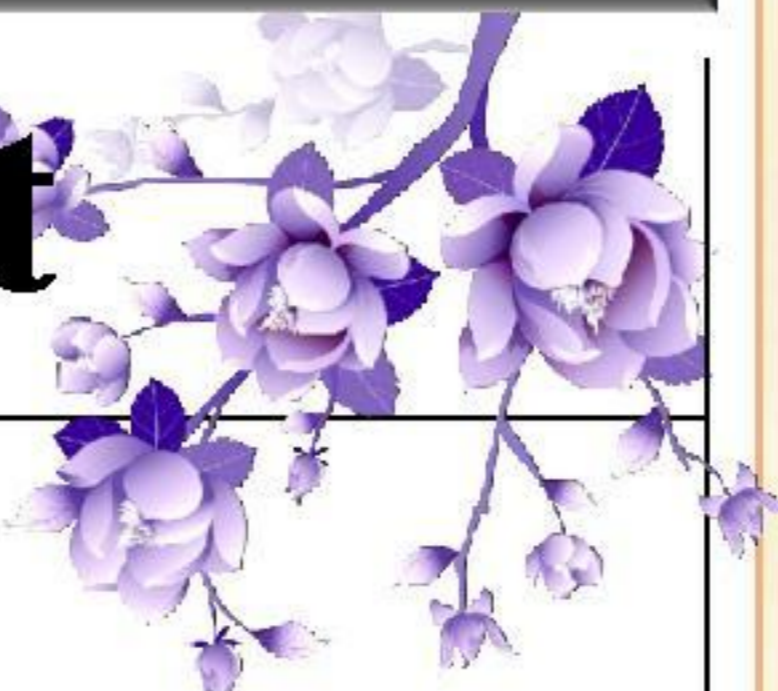




Silver Lining



# When the Aged Rest



As a young person, the value of a wise God-fearing elder is invaluable. The presence of times past, in the form of testimonies, memories, old photos, and words of wisdom, shared with us by our elders – irreplaceable and encouraging.

I am blessed in that I, from my early childhood, had the opportunity to know such an elder: My spiritual mother & natural grandmother, Mother Virginia Flint.

She welcomed many with open arms. Her inviting and tender nature, led many to treasure her as their own mother or grandmother.

Her sound words offered security, guidance and even chastisement when necessary. I recall one of our most recent conversations one night on

August 1, 2018. We marveled at the world and the passage of time as we often did and she had this to say:

*“[People] always busy... too busy sometimes. [Some] need to slow down- slow right down and take a little time out for the Lord.”*

One of her demonstrations of this could be heard when she sang. Old hymns as well as songs of her own creative talent still ring in our memories.

However, those songs were not only songs of encouragement for the present moment but gave a renewed sense of purpose and hope for the future.

During that same evening, she left me with this:

*“Ooh if only [we] would fear God more, fear Him much much more, He will have great things in store for us.”*

At evening time, on August 25th, 2018, Mother Flint passed on into eternity.

She was 88 years of age.

She would often sing, *“When I’ve gone the last mile of the way/ I shall rest at the close of the day/ And I know there are joys that await me/ When I’ve gone the last mile of the way”*.

Truly, she passed on with the hope of eternal life. A teacher of good things, she was one of the cornerstones of my childhood and a godly example for my life.

Being so, though she is at rest, I continue to carry her words of wisdom and memories with me.

- By: Sis. Michelle Thompson  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

### EDITOR’S NOTE:

My heart ached for many days after my grandmother’s passing.

But now, through & by the comfort of The Holy Ghost, the love & support of family (both natural and spiritual) my heart is beginning to heal.

Thus, the memories of my dearly beloved grandmother and friend, prevail over the agony and sorrow of her departure out of this life.

I do & will miss her, tremendously.

- Sis. Kimberly Jorden  
TOG Times Editor & Production Designer  
(New Castle, Delaware, USA)

## WE ARE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES

*WE ARE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES*

*THE WAY GETS HARD TO US SOMETIMES*

*THROUGH TROUBLES, TRIALS, HEARTACHES TOO;*

*BEHOLD THERE IS SOMETIMES A LITTLE STRIFE!*

*ALL BECAUSE WE ARE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES*

*RUNNING TAKES TIME; DON'T DARE TO RUSH!*

*TAKE IT SLOWLY, STEP BY STEP*

*WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE MUCH FUSS*

*IT IS A PATIENT RUN; MUCH PRAYER IS NEEDED*

*BY THE OL' DEVIL, WE DON'T WANT TO BE DEFEATED*

*HE'S SNEAKING AROUND TO GIVE YOU ADVICE*

*ALL BECAUSE WE ARE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES*

*KEEP LOVE IN YOUR HEART FOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS*

*YOU CAN LOVE YOUR ENEMIES TOO; BUT JUST DON'T*

*LET THEM TURN YOUR HEART, SO YOU WANT TO*

*DO WHAT THEY DO*

*KEEP LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART*

*OBEY, FOLLOW LEADERSHIP*

*NOW THAT'S SMART*

*GIVE UP YOUR OLD WAYS AND FOLLOW THE WAY OF CHRIST*

*RUN, RUN KEEP ON RUNNING BECAUSE*

*WE ARE RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES*



- BY: MOTHER JOSEPHINE  
JENNINGS  
(PHILADELPHIA,  
PENNSYLVANIA, USA)

*Mother Josephine Jennings*





UPCOMING EVENT

# 2018 END OF THE YEAR SERVICES / 29TH MEN'S & 31ST WOMEN'S HOLY CONVOCATION

***"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."***

**- 2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)**

**Healing? . . . Deliverance? . . . Strength? . . . The gift of the Holy Ghost?**

. . . Whatever you need from The Lord Jesus; come, in faith, with us to the house of prayer!



**ALL DAY PRAYER TIMES:**

- Thursday, December 27th @ 10am - 7:45pm
- Friday, December 28th @ 10am - 7:45pm
- Saturday, December 29th @ 9am - 5:45pm
- Sunday, December 30th @ 9am - 11:45am
- Monday, December 31st @ 10am - 6:45pm

**SERVICE TIMES:**

- Thursday, December 27th @ 7pm
- Friday, December 28th @ 7pm
- Saturday, December 29th @ 5pm
- Sunday, December 30th @ 11am & 6pm
- Monday, December 31st @ 6pm

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

***"Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."***

**- Psalm 27: 7-9 (KJV)**





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## So, You Want to See the World?

see everything.

Pin point the major sites that you would like to visit and means of transportation to these places.

Create a schedule for each day prior to your trip: it saves time.

### Choose a Main Airline Carrier

Try to stick with a specific airline, like *American Airlines* for example, and take advantage of carrier rewards programs. If you will travel to Europe often, *British Airways* and *Lufthansa* are great airlines, too.

Basically, every time you fly with that airline you'll accumulate points that can eventually be used to purchase FREE flights and/or hotels! Many airlines have this program.

### Here's a Big Travel Secret

YOU CAN PUT A FLIGHT ON LAYAWAY MONTHS IN ADVANCE! Yes, I have used this site method. Of course, there's an extra small fee, but this is still AMAZING! Visit AIRFORDABLE.COM for more information.

### Don't Overdue Accommodations

You really don't need to stay at the "Ritz Carlton", or any overpriced hotel for that matter. After all you're traveling to see another country, not a hotel. Most of your time will be spent exploring the destination.

When it comes to hotels, my favorite search engine is BOOKING.COM. Keep in mind that you only need a place to sleep. The experience is being in another country, not so much the hotel.

### Pack Lite

Don't pack your entire wardrobe! Usually, one carry-on and one

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## India's Hospitality

During the services we met the rest of the congregation including the many pastors that came from various locations in India.

The services were very lively. We were blessed by the many songs, and messages preached by Bishop Samuel. After the *Karapa* convocation ended, we traveled to *Kerala, India* for their convocation.

In *Kerala*, Bishop P.C. Johnson is the presiding Bishop. The hospitality shown to us by our brothers and sisters in *Kerala* was also excellent. For this we are grateful!

The brothers and sisters took us to many locations (including a boat trip to an island, the zoo, the moun-

tains, and the beach).

We were also welcomed into several church members' homes for meals during our stay in *Kerala*. We were blessed to participate in the church services as well as see how our brothers



Children of India enjoying a hot meal—Min. Samuel (far right)

and sisters worship in *Kerala*.

During the services in *Karapa* and *Kerala*, we were given the opportunity to give a brief testimony and greet the congregation.

We helped give awards to the youth during an awards ceremony, as well. We were blessed to witness the baptism of souls in the name of

Jesus Christ in both locations.

The fellowship with our brothers and sisters of the First Church of our Lord Jesus Christ in India was truly a blessing that I will never forget.

I thank The Lord, Pastor Jennings, and all our brothers and sisters in India that allowed us to visit. We are truly thankful for all the

love and kindness shown to us during our stay.

We hope to have the opportunity to return.

I thank The Lord for keeping us on our journey and allowing us to return home safely. I had a wonderful experience during my travel to India in 2018!

- By: Bro. Renauld Williams  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

checked bag is allowed on flights, anything more requires an extra fee.

Pack clothing that you can pair together in multiple ways; making multiple different outfits.

For example, a pair of pants that you can wear maybe two days with a different shirt. Take the essentials. You can purchase more clothing and hygiene products abroad.

### TRY NEW FOODS!

You will see KFC, McDonalds, and other fast food chains in the foreign countries. Do not live at these chains, or on American foods

only.

One of the best ways to immerse yourself in the local culture is through their food. If you're not one to try different cuisines, it's time to broaden your palate. I

n fact, in some countries you will be forced to eat their foods because it would be considered rude if you didn't.

EAT the local cuisine!

### Be vigilant

You will be in another country. Just like anywhere else, be alert! Have the U.S. Embassy (or your Embassy, for foreign subscribers) and local

authorities contact information on hand.

Do not involve yourself in political demonstrations, ever!

Do not flash cash or valuables. Bottom line use common sense and be cautious.

For more travel advice visit TRAVEL.STATE.GOV for all U.S. citizens.

Look for more exciting tips and travel stories to come!

- By: Bro. Dion Lacey  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)





TEMPLE SPOTLIGHT

# India's Hospitality

## The Travelers' Tale

I strive to give the highest possible honor that can be given to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by whom all things are possible. I give honor to the former Holy Prophets and Holy Apostles. Certainly, I give honor to my Leader, the man of God, Pastor Gino Jennings. I am truly thankful for all The Lord's many blessings.

Greetings, to all the precious people of God around the world and to my extended family and friends throughout the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala!

I remember first hearing Pastor Jennings speak about the growing work in India

back in 2007, around the time when I first began visiting First Church on Frankford Avenue, in Philadelphia, PA. I was already captivated by Pastor's peculiar preaching as well as hearing how this powerful message of Holiness was impacting different places around the world.

It's amazing how years later, I was blessed with this great opportunity to witness the work of God in this foreign country for myself.

For the 2018 Holy Convocations held in the subcontinent of India, I was happy that Pastor Jennings permitted Brother Renauld Williams and I to go and show our support.

We departed from JFK International Airport in New York on Monday, January 22, 2018. We arrived where the first convention was held on the following

*"Welcome, from India!"*

*"Indiavilirundthu varverkkirrom"*

—Tamil

*"Barat se swagat he aapka"*

—Hindi

*"Bharat ru swagata"*

—Odiya language

*"Indiadhinda nimagellarigu*

*Vandhanegalu"* —Kannada language



Wednesday afternoon.

The trip consisted of a total of eight flights over the duration of the trip. It made me consider and begin to

understand what our pastor endures while traveling the

trees, cows and farm animals everywhere. Also, many roadside vendors sold fresh fruits and merchandise.

Hinduism is the official religion of India. Its influence was evident throughout the cities that we visited in Andhra Pradesh. However, amid a society whose religious views are totally different, the Truth of God is still

I had the privilege of being immersed in some of the cultures and two of their languages. They speak *Telugu* in *Andhra Pradesh, East India*; and *Malayalam* in *Kerala, South India*.

At both locations, during the worship services I didn't understand the lyrics, but the songs and music sounded great. The people enjoyed themselves and I enjoyed their praises unto God.

After we arrived at Rajahmundry Airport, in *Andhra Pradesh*, Bishop K. A. Samuel (who attended the 2017 International Holy Convocation in Philadelphia, PA) gave us an official welcome to India by placing fra-



Children of India with Minister Samuel (far right) being preached, and world to save souls. The scenery from the airport to *Kakinada* city (where we stayed) was astonishing.

The sights were very colorful; overrun with tropical coconut trees, banana trees, papaya

grant garlands around our necks. I had never experienced anything like this before: I just smiled.

The town where the main temple in *Andhra Pradesh* is comprised of many cultures and has 22 major languages.

grant garlands around our necks.

I had never experienced anything like this before: I just smiled.

The town where the main temple in *Andhra Pradesh* is

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LIFESTYLE



# Perfect Blends for the Perfect Dish



Hailing from the upper west end of New York City is a line of products that's putting authentic Haitian cuisine on the map! Perfect Blends, founded by our very own sister Tamara Deguerre, offers some delightful homemade sauces that can be used to add amazing flavor to your table.

Deguerre featured her products and live cooking demonstrations at the 2nd Annual Multicultural & Business Fair during the 30th International Holy Convocation & 34th General Assembly & Pastoral Anniversaries. Customers were very satisfied with her delectable sauce blends and tastings and I became a true fan.

When I first laid eyes on her display, it was love at first sight. Her signature blends: Mango Piña Chutney, Savory Pesto, and Zesty Cilantro incorporate fresh herbs and spices. Everything at the table was PERFECT, just as her brand name implies!



Sister Tamara Deguerre, and son at 2nd Annual Multicultural & Business Fair

Almost every culture uses a base blend of seasonings for their dishes. "Epis" is to Haitians what sofrito is to Latinos, or the "trinity" to Cajuns. This blend is used for everything, from marinating meats, rice dishes, and stews. Perfect Blends offers a time-honored Epis passed down

to Deguerre from her beloved grandmother who taught and inspired her to cook.

My favorite blend was the "Pikliz." It's a fiery slaw that accompanies many Haitian dishes. I like it best with Haitian style

chunks of deep-fried fatty pork. Sounds delicious doesn't it? Well, Perfect Blends also offers catering! Seize this opportunity to tantalize your taste buds at your next event.

What are you waiting for? Perk up your meals with a Caribbean flare. Visit PERFECTBLENDS.COM to purchase some amazing blends to get cooking!

## Epis Marinated Sautéed Chicken Breasts

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon of Perfect Blends traditional epis seasoning
- 2 large pieces of skinless chicken breast (4-6oz)
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon of sea salt

Directions: Heat oil in a large to medium skillet over medium heat. Marinate chicken with Epis, coating evenly and add salt. Add chicken to hot pan. Cook evenly, turning a few times for 5-minutes on each side, till golden brown and firm. Done! Serve with your favorite side, or pair with this amazing simple recipe below.

## Savory Pesto Penne\*

Ingredients:

- 3 cups of water
- 2 tablespoons of Perfect Blends Savory Pesto
- 1/2 teaspoon of sea salt
- 12oz box of Penne pasta
- Shredded mozzarella
- Fresh basil for garnish

Directions: In a large pot bring water to boil. Add salt and penne to boiling water. Reduce to medium heat and let simmer to preferred tenderness (I use Barilla 10-minute cooking time for tenderness). Drain pasta. Put pasta in large serving bowl. Add pesto sauce mix evenly. Garnish with mozzarella and fresh basil!

\*Can be served warm or cold. Cold serving (let sit to cool then put in fridge for 15min) and serve.

Look for more recipes and foodie enthusiast stories to come!

Courtesy of: Perfect Blends

Courtesy of: Perfect Blends

(Continued from page 7)

**Herbs: "... For the service of man"** fruit, vegetable, seed, etc.).

You can mix many of these supplements and natural products into a smoothie or add some of them to your favorite meals.

Keep in mind that while many of these herbal and natural remedies can aid our health in many ways, beyond what we

have discussed in this article, they also have possible side effects and can interact with over-the-counter and prescribed medications.

You also must be mindful of taking the proper daily dosage of certain herbal and natural products. Discuss some of these natural remedies with your doctor prior to use, especially if you already have a medical condition(s) and are taking prescribed medications regularly.

The Holy Scriptures inform us that herbs were made for the service of man. Consider making herbs and natural health products a routine part of your health maintenance.

- By: Bro. Renauld Williams  
Nurse Practitioner  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

RESOURCES:

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\*\*\* Always consult with your Personal HealthCare Physician before partaking in and/or pursuing any health & wellness regimen and/or program\*\*\*





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## India's Hospitality

Upon arriving at the church, they threw flower petals up in the air as we walked in and placed more garlands around our necks. The people were very excited to meet us.

There we were introduced to over twenty-five (25) pastors in First Church who serve in many

located, is called *Karapa*.

played with them during our time there. That made them very happy.

Later, Brother Sam, Pastor Rajan, and Bishop P.C Johnson picked us up at Cochin Airport in *Kerala*. Again, we were warmly greeted. We spent our



Saints of India receiving the words of Truth

towns and villages throughout *Andhra Pradesh*. Some couldn't speak my language, and I couldn't speak theirs. They just grabbed my hand, held it and smiled, and I could understand that.

Bishop Samuel and his family invited us into his home almost every night, and his wife cooked for us during our stay; delicious curries, fish patties, and rice dishes with crabs and prawns. I appreciated it much.

We also visited the orphanage which is located on the first level of the church building (the temple is upstairs). There are about forty (40) children - to whom Bishop Samuel has become a father - that reside at the orphanage.

They showed us the place where they sleep. They don't have beds. They sleep on floors, but they never stopped smiling.

They also sang for us and we

time in the city of *Kottayam* and explored the surrounding cities.

We ate in the homes of Bishop Johnson and family. Pastor Rajan and his family; Brother Jose and his family; Brother Sam and his family as well as Renauld and I feasted on traditional *Kerala* food including their official dish, a spicy chili fish, and tapioca (a starchy root like potatoes).

They also showed me two (2) of the First Church temples

**"The hospitality shown to us by our brothers and sisters in Kerala was also excellent. For this we are grateful!"**

besides the main temple. Renauld and I met a host of ministers.

I also must mention Mister Boban Thoppil, a politician

and supporter of the First Church in *Kerala*, who was an excellent tour guide, and comedian during our time in South India. He also took us to his home, paid for many of our activities, and meals.

I enjoyed the beef biryani, a popular rice dish, and the fresh fruit juices.

I really enjoyed fellowshiping with my brothers and sisters in India. They made me feel like family; the hospitality was overwhelming!

The saints introduced us to their families, opened their homes, cooked for us, and



Saints of India singing praises unto The Lord

gave us beautiful gifts.

I hope to repay their generosity. I made so many new friends and connected with many of them via Facebook.

Some are still checking on me from time to time.

They say India is a third world country, but that's not what I saw. The saints painted a picture that I will always cherish.

They demonstrated what it means to be thankful; to be happy; to smile profusely; to never lose hope; to always have faith in God.

It's a blessing to have family all around the world. They

asked us to return next year with our beloved Pastor Jennings. If the Lord will, I shall see all their smiling faces again. I'm already counting down the days.

Peace be unto You All!

- By: Bro. Dion Lacey  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

Traveling to India was one of the most interesting experiences of my life. It was an honor and privilege to participate in the services during the January and February 2018 convocations that took place in *Karapa* and *Kerala*, India. The travel time was about 16 hours to India and 18 hours for the return home; but it was worth it.

The first convocation took place in *Karapa, India* where Bishop K.A. Samuel is the presiding Bishop. Bishop Samuel, his family, and the brothers and sisters of the church took very good care of us during our entire stay.

The hospitality and love shown was and is truly appreciated.

Bishop Samuel transported us to wherever we needed to go (including a tour of *Karapa*). His family cooked many meals for us at his home.

Also, Bishop Samuel showed us the orphanage that he operates. We were blessed to meet the wonderful children that live there.

(Continued on page 10)





(Continued from cover page)

### Dirty Dishes Ain't Just for Moms

did. However, my love towards

him remained regardless of the physical abuse he inflicted on my sisters, my mother, and me.

I still saw him as a father regardless of the violence. My father taught me to degrade women. I learned from him that they were just objects to serve us. I could not help my mother wash dishes because that was the job of a women.

After witnessing the years of beatings my mother and sisters endured, I grew up with a horrible mentality that women didn't matter. After all that wild living my father no longer had control of his life. He abandoned us.

In disbelief that he would choose to leave us, I blamed my mother for my father's abandonment. Years after my father left us, I rebelled against my mother. Additionally, I insulted her, hit my sisters, and any women that crossed my way.

At the age of 28, I met the woman who gave birth to my son despite my verbal and physical abuse. She thought her pregnancy would change me, but it did not.

I became so frustrated with her demands for me to change. So, I abandoned them after her second month of pregnancy.

For the next 7 months, my anger and depression spiraled.

I barely ate or drink water for 2 months. I was going through so much but God dealt with me during the worse days of my life. I always wanted God to allow me to feel his forgiveness and his love.

Also, I wanted to die because of all the harm that was done to me and the harm I did towards others.

I wished for a second chance in life. When I felt God's forgiveness it renewed my mind. I never went back to my old ways of thinking or doing.

Sometime after I returned to see my son: I felt different. I knew that God had given me a second chance to raise my son in the ways of God. The very



Bro. Richard & son

first day I saw my son I took him to a church. I knew the new way of living, thinking, and acting could only be found through obedience to God.

I wanted my son to be free from the influences of this world. I wanted him to be guided by God knowing that peace can only be obtained through Him.

Now I have such a beautiful relationship with my son. He does his chores. He helps my mom with dishes. He takes out the trash. He respects and

*"When I felt God's forgiveness it renewed my mind. I never went back to my old ways of thinking or doing."*

honors his mother with love. My son and I enjoy every minute we are together. I go to his school plays. I interact

## A Note From the Editor & Chief

By the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are celebrating our first-year anniversary of publishing the Truth of God (T.O.G.) International Newsletter. We thank The Lord Jesus Christ for His mercy and grace that He has extended unto us in this work and throughout our day-to-day existence.

I thank our Pastor, Leader, Teacher, and Guide, Apostle Gino Jennings for permission to proceed with our quest to produce this quarterly



Bro. Ricky Johnson, ToG Editor & Chief

publication. I thank my dedicated and talented team members: Without them we would not be able to produce an aesthetically-appealing, well-structured, and informative piece.

Finally, I thank all parishioners, friends, and viewers for their support, words of encouragement and sharing such intimate, heart-felt, encouraging, compelling stories.

As I stated in our very first journal, our main goal and objective is to share the growth and diversity of First Church and its surrounding communities ; to lift-up the name of Jesus Christ through your sto-

ries and accomplishments, and to update everyone on the progress and scheduled services of the church. We also stated that we had have some big plans!

This year we were able, by the grace of God, to engage 11 very talented, accomplished, and experienced team members. We are in the process of re-vamping the EDC prison newsletter. Additionally, we are working on creating a bi-annual magazine.

We have created several pieces of literature for marketing. In the near future, we want to create our own social media site dedicated to the TOG newsletter, which would include interactive videos and serve as a portal for submitting stories.

I hope that you continue to find the Truth of God Times newsletter informative, inspiring and motivating. Please keep us in your prayers and we will do likewise. (Stay tuned we have even more plans in store!)

- By: Bro. Ricky Johnson  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)

with him through sports. He knows that I love him. There is not a day that he is with me that I do not tell him that I love him. He tells me that he loves me also.

We read books as well as do his school work together. Though I am not in his mother's life, she knows I would never again abandon my son. Eight (8) years of love and being there for my son has eliminated the 1 (one)

year of my absence. My son has never seen me smoke, drink alcohol, or say one bad word. He is well-behaved and demonstrates love towards others. Every time I hug and kiss him on his cheek, I tell him that I love him.

I thank God for all this. If not for God, I wouldn't be in the life of my son.

- By: Bro. Richard  
(Alhambra, California, USA)





er'  
e!

nationalities and backgrounds, young and old, were in attendance. When the call for baptism went out, nearly the whole room stood up.



Illinois, USA

ord will make  
though we  
place to hold  
every week, the  
ty where the  
ferred the use  
need it! Ser-  
very week in  
ea!

Chicago, IL.  
o of different



Baptism candidates exiting for baptism—Chicago, Illinois, USA

a protein in important in the prevention of  
have been heart disease. As well *Gingko bi-*  
community and *loba* (an herbal remedy from the  
colds and ginkgo biloba tree) has been used  
in the treatment of peripheral and  
cerebral vascular diseases (Elitok,  
2014).

immunity- of many  
of many  
remedies, Hawthorne (an herbal remedy also  
known as *crataegus*) has been  
used for the treatment of heart fail-  
ure and has anti-arrhythmic capa-  
bilities relative to the heart (Elitok,  
2014).

*Guggul* (a gum resin from certain  
trees) has been beneficial in reduc-  
ing cholesterol. *Arjuna* (extracted  
from tree bark and common in  
India) has shown to be effective in  
treating heart disease, hyperten-  
sion, and heart failure (Rastogi, et  
al., 2015).

Many of the discussed herbal and  
natural remedies for colds, viruses,  
and cardiovascular health can be  
found at your local health store in  
various forms (pills, powder, or in  
their original form as an herb,  
*aid*) that is

(Continued on page 8)

(80) were baptized during the Chicago  
meeting!

Pastor Jennings meet with a family  
from Mongolia. The husband was a  
minister who was about to move to  
California and wanted to share this  
message of Holiness with his people  
across his organization.

It was beautiful to see the many come  
up after the benediction to meet Pastor  
Jennings; share their testimonies, get  
clarity and receive directions. Many  
people came with tears in their eyes  
thanking God for Pastor Jennings and  
the message of  
truth.

So many had  
questions an-  
swered in one  
meeting that  
they needed an  
answer to for  
over 20 years;  
or understand-  
ing of some-  
thing they be-  
lieved most of  
their life. As one  
minister stated, he prayed over forty  
(40) years to meet someone who still  
believed in old fashion Holiness.

The next stop was Detroit, MI; where  
a total of one hundred (100) souls  
went down in water in the name of  
Jesus Christ! Even some Hebrew Is-  
raelites came to debate him, but  
through the power of the message of  
Holiness, they went down in water in  
the name of Jesus Christ!

Most recently was our 30<sup>th</sup> interna-  
tional Holy Convocation, where the  
entire gym, three (3) overflow rooms,  
and the hallways between them, were  
bursting at the seams with people. A  
total of forty-four (44) souls went  
down in the name of Jesus Christ.

Many viewers are tuning in and they  
are listening to the services over  
YouTube and Facebook. Some have  
stop going to false churches; and some  
have started congregating in their  
homes with other viewers.

It has truly been a humbling experi-  
ence to witness so many people from  
around the world attending the meet-  
ings and conventions looking for  
hope, answers, and guidance; and we

are blessed to have a leader that by the will  
of God is able to provide answers for them  
and us.

- By: Bro. Ricky Johnson  
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)



Bro. Ricky Johnson

(Continued from opposite page)

**So, You Want to See the World?** India, Germany,  
just to name a few.

Some find solo travel rejuvenating; but  
traveling with others is better. Many  
don't travel simply because they have no  
one to travel with.

If you travel during church anniversaries  
and convocations, you will connect with  
other "Truth of God Travelers" and make  
new friends in the various locations.  
These are the perfect times to travel and  
show your support.

**Research the Destination First**

Never travel blindly. Learn the history of  
the place you're traveling to. Be aware  
of areas that you should steer clear of  
while exploring a country.

Familiarize yourself with the language,  
learn basic phrases such as various greet-  
ings and "thank you." You'll find in  
many places English is spoken, but it's  
always a perk to know some words from  
the indigenous language(s).

Also, learn local customs. Most im-  
portantly, research the currency conver-  
sion rates and required vaccinations.

**Create an Itinerary**

You don't want to over plan, but you do  
want to have some guidelines. You can't

(Continued on page 10)





(Continued from page 5)

### So, You Want to See the World?

look at the over-all cost.

Create a travel fund. Set aside a small amount every week.

You can start with maybe \$25 per week; it will add up. Monitor your spending habits to see where you can save. Eliminate unnecessary purchases. Think of it as suffering now, to enjoy yourself later. If you start a small travel fund it may not cover the entire trip, but it will greatly supplement it.

### Take advantage of First Church's International Events

First Church is an international organization. We have a treasure trove of international destinations to choose from: England, Jamaica, Bahamas, Mauritius Island,

(Continued on opposite page)

# From Viral Video, To 'Certain Water'

## Baptisms across the globe: Salvation in no other name!

(Continued from cover page)

places and there be more baptisms than that".

But it is not just about the amount that was baptized. First, England is mostly dominated by the church of England (*Anglicanism*) and they're established church of the state whose supreme governor is the Monarch of England; which means it is governed by the country.

The doctrine of Holiness is not constrained by governmental ruling.

was so amazing about the twenty-eight was the different nationalities and backgrounds that were represented.

Candidates encompassed individuals from the Philippines, Iraq, Italy, Trinidad, Eritrea, Holland, Nigeria, just to name a few. One brother was born Muslim; but after hearing the words of God went down in water and choose to walk with Holiness.

The next stop was Harrisburg, PA where a total of thirty-four (34) were baptized. To



Baptism candidates—High Wycombe, England



Congregation—Chicago, Illinois

show you how The Lord room for you, even were looking for a permanent services even director of the facility meeting was held, offices of their facility if we services are now held even the Harrisburg, PA area The next stop was C Eighty plus souls, also

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### Herbs: "... For the service of man"

#### Herbal options for improved overall health

\*\*\*Always consult with your Personal HealthCare Physician before partaking in and/or pursuing any health & wellness regimen and/or program\*\*\*

What medication do you take when you develop cold or flu-like symptoms? Do you keep your closet stocked with Mucinex, Dayquil, Robitussin, and Tylenol? Do you visit the doctor's office right away for a prescription? While over-the-counter and prescription medications have their place, natural and herbal remedies can be a better solution for your symptoms?

The Holy Scriptures inform us that herbs were made for the service of man (Psalms 104:14); so why not utilize them?

Consider the licorice root that contains the active ingredient *glycyrrhizin* which works as an anti-inflammatory substance. It also increases *interferon-gamma* production (that improves our immune response) and limits viruses from spreading to our cells

(Mousa, 2017). North American ginseng has demonstrated the ability to decrease cold and flu respiratory symptoms in many patients (Mousa, 2017). The extract of berries contains *polyphenols* which help support our immune response to colds and the flu virus. Elder berry and cranberry are a few to mention among the many berries that are loaded with antioxidants, anti-inflammatory capabilities, *phytonutrients* (nutrients that plants use to maintain health), fiber, and vitamin C.

*Echinacea* is a commonly used herb that studies have demonstrated effective in treating the flu and common cold. In some studies, it has worked just as well as Tamiflu (which is commonly prescribed for the flu).

Pomegranate, Guava tea, and Bai

Shao (a traditional Chinese herb) are commonly used and have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing the flu as well (Mousa, 2017).

Consider taking vitamin C supplements (i.e. Emergen-C) when you feel the onset of a cold to boost your immune system.

Probiotics such as *lactobacillus acidophilus* are not only important for our digestive system but also help prevent and eliminate acute respiratory infections (Mousa, 2017). Many yogurt products contain probiotics.

Zinc oxide (an inorganic compound), *selenium* (an essential element for humans), and *mekabu fucoidan* (found in certain types of seaweed) have also been effective in the prevention of the flu virus (Mousa, 2017).

Garlic and *lactoferrin* (a human and cow milk) has shown to increase immune help our bodies fight viruses.

In addition to the enhancing capabilities of herbal and natural health, many of these alternatives are beneficial to our and cardiovascular systems. For example, garlic has shown able to reduce cholesterol, decrease atherosclerosis (plaque accumulation in the arteries), reduce blood pressure and benefits (Elitok, 2014).

Pomegranate, as discussed, has anti-inflammatory capabilities, and improves blood pressure, and contains antioxidants. All improve our cardiovascular health. Green tea is known to have a variety of health benefits including antioxidants and disease prevention (Elitok, 2014).

Flaxseed contains omega-3 acid (*alpha-linolenic acid*)