

Truth of God Times



INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

THIS IS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE VISION: SELF SUFFICIENCY



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

Brother Demetrius Dillard -
Lead Staff Writer
Baltimore, MD Temple



In a jam-packed auditorium at the Koury Convention Center in December 2022, Pastor Gino Jennings thoroughly outlined the second phase of the vision that God gave him.

Before the end-of-year services gathering in Greensboro, N.C., Jennings hinted at the direction that the First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ was going. He has made it abundantly clear that he envisions the church becoming a self-sustaining entity.

Where there is a vision from God, there is a mission from God, Jennings said to preface his message to the congregation.

"I will never forget where God brought us, and you should never lose focus on where you're headed," Jennings declared in his opening remarks of the message recorded on Dec. 30, 2022.

When I look at what God [has] done and is doing, He's fulfilling the vision that I have been telling people for years."

Jennings began the message by laying out a timeline of how God dealt with him. He detailed when the Lord first appeared to him when he was 15 years old, which was about 45 years ago.

As a young adult, when Jennings went on a seven-day fast, God first spoke to him concerning the present, visible work of the organization he shared.

God's work is conducted and guided by a vision, Jennings accentuated, frequently quoting Proverbs 29:18 ("Where there is no vision, the people perish...") as a guiding principle for his message.

Through Pastor Jennings' personal experiences as a visionary and overseer, he has learned patience and endurance, among several other valuable lessons that have led to overwhelming success.

"Vision lays the foundation, and vision gives the plan for the work," he continued before expounding upon another familiar passage of scripture in Habakkuk 2 that says to "Write the vision and make it plain."

"There are benefits to following God, and I am reaping those benefits."

Koury Convention Center's auditorium, which holds 5,000 or so occupants, "can't even hold the vision," Jennings told the audience.

First Church's diverse membership consists of medical professionals, financial experts, entrepreneurs, transportation industry professionals, academic professionals, media practitioners and industry leaders from various sectors of the corporate world.

The Truth of God followership also comprises many nationalities, languages and cultural backgrounds.

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FOOD SECTION



*Sister Antoinette Morrison
Chef - Portmore Temple
St. Catherine, Jamaica*

Greetings, my name is Antoinette Morrison, and my food blog is @Soulfoodmorrison on Instagram.

This is one of my special and favorite sauces to make and eat. The idea is from my former job at Patsy Lyn Caterers where I worked for 7 years, and I added my own additions and tweaks to it. Though it's a barbecue sauce, it's even better to make Jamaican Barbie Fried Chicken, which is fried chicken coated in barbecue sauce and then placed in the oven. You can do your regular fried chicken wings (or any part) with your usual recipe before coating with the sauce.

The recipe is as follows:



Ginger Garlic Barbeque Sauce

- ✓ 1 tbsp mustard
- ✓ 2 cups ketchup
- ✓ 2 tbsp fish and meat sauce
- ✓ 1/2 to 3/4 cup brown sugar (according to sweet preference)
- ✓ 5 pegs grated garlic
- ✓ Hot sauce (amount used is according to the individual's heat tolerance level)
- ✓ 1 knob grated ginger (n.b. more or less used also helps determine heat level)

Directions

- Whisk all ingredients until combined. You should see specks of ginger and garlic which adds a nice feel to the fried chicken.
- Coat cooled fried chicken wings (you can use fish or any protein of choice).
- Place in sparsely oiled baking tray. Bake for 15 minutes at 350°F or until sauce clings to the chicken.

Enjoy! Peace be.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHOSE YOU ARE

They plan your demise behind closed doors
Not realizing that your Father sees what is done in secret and responds in public
They plot your downfall to bring you to your knees
Not knowing that your Father taught you how to fight while on your knees
They strike your weak spots with hope to defeat you
Not knowing that your Father's power is made perfect in your weakness
They wonder how you are still standing
Not realizing that your Father is renewing your strength
They don't know whose you are

**May grace and peace be multiplied unto us through the knowledge of
 Jesus Christ, and the knowledge of who we are in Christ -**

**Sister Jean Mashiyane,
 Johannesburg, South Africa**





GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: FCOOLJC INTERNATIONAL ADULT MASS CHOIR



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

**Sister Rochelle Walker -
Staff Writer
Houston, Texas Temple**



Being told about a vision one has is a delight to hear. Being able to witness that vision come to pass is marvelous to see. The augmentation of the First Church International Adult Mass Choir is a fulfillment of Pastor Jennings' vision.

On February 13, 2022, Pastor Jennings announced, "We are forming the Truth of God Adult Mass Choir...the mass choir will incorporate members from everywhere. I don't care if it's 100, 200, 300, 4. We're formulating our mass choir."

The mass choir's formation was unique in that it would consist of Truth of God members from around the world—diverse languages and multiple nationalities of one faith, singing with understanding to the glory of one God.

After a meeting during the youth conference in April 2022, Pastor appointed directors Ruth Hurd, Gino E. Jennings and Denny Mack over the choir.

As imagined, much hard work and dedication put forth by the directors and choir members has contributed to the choir's progress which includes but is not limited to studying a song, recording and sending parts of a piece, having the choir director of the branch temples

conduct rehearsals and send their recordings, Zoom meetings, and rehearsals during convocations.

During the 34th Holy Convocation in July 2022, the First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ International Adult Mass Choir rendered their first selection, "The Stone."



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

When asked what the expectations of the choir during the conception phase were, Mack stated his initial thoughts were, "How in the world are we going to be able to manage hundreds of people." Despite his initial thoughts, he asserted his expectations were high because he knew the Truth of God had many talented, committed people and that everything would go well if it was done for God's glory.

What contributed to the growth of the mass choir?

Commitment, determination, dedication and desire all are conducive to the growth and development of the choir—not only from the choir directors but from each

choir member, whether from Jamaica, England, Africa or any other part of the world.

"If we continue working in unity, we will continue to see growth," said one of the directors.

The choir has grown and developed not only in number but also by the quality of the offerings that are given; striving to keep holy standards and singing with understanding as regards the direction the church is heading.

During the 2023 'Beyond the Hype, Holiness is Right' Youth Convention, the choir sang "How I Got Over" per Pastor's request. The choir was even asked to sing an encore for Sunday morning's service of the convention.

When asked what the expectations were for the choir moving forward, Mother Hurd asserts, "To God be the glory. That's my expectation...and to have 500 voices [sing] with one voice."

Gino E. Jennings, choir director, encouraged those who desire to be a part of the mass choir to be willing to do their best, learn how to take constructive criticism, and just have fun.

Although the choir has endured many challenges and will have to overcome many more, they are encouraged to work hard to ensure the production of one voice—one sound, singing to glorify one God, Jesus Christ.





THE DREAM



When people ask me how I found out about my condition, I tell them the truth: “I dreamed it.”

Of course, most people, including some doctors, look at me in disbelief when I say that. So, I tell them about the dream.

Sometime in October 2011, which is observed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I recall watching a movie and thinking about breast cancer for a hot minute. I didn’t give it much thought. I was up to date with my mammograms and other tests. They had always resulted in the everything-is-fine result: no lumps, bumps or growths. So, as usual, I drifted off to sleep. But I had a peculiar dream that night.

I dreamt that I felt a lump in my breast and sprung out of bed. As you may know, dreams seem so real at times. So, I woke up anxious and started feeling around the same area I had felt the lump in my dream. There was nothing, or so I thought.

In that moment, I was so relieved. “Thank you, Lord Jesus,” I remarked.

It was just a dream. A terrible dream.

But for a couple of days, I couldn’t shake off the dream. I would examine myself a few times, but there was nothing out of place. Then one evening while watching TV, I was prompted by, as you may have experienced, something to check. That something impressed upon me to feel it again. So, I did.

www.breastcancer.org

I felt it all over and there was a lump. Not exactly in the same area as in my dream, but it was there. I had a lump. I sprang up, feeling it, but disbelieving. What was happening to me?



This was the beginning of my situation.

I was diagnosed with a malignant tumor breast cancer circa October 2011. I underwent surgery, radiation and chemotherapy per my doctor’s recommendation. But the cancer came back in my lung. Had I known then what I know now, I would not have agreed to radiation and chemo, or at least not without looking into the more natural remedies.

I was told by my oncologist that because it came back in my lung, it was automatically stage 4 breast cancer. Then, before going through radiation again to, as they say, zap the small spot on my lung, I was introduced to Bill Young, a holistic coach. Bill teaches a class at Temple University, titled “Sick of being Sick.”

He helped open my eyes about the poison that had been pumped into my body and how it kills off the bad cells, but at the same time, is killing off the good. By this estimation, the probability that the treatment was leaving me at greater risk of a compromised immune system was high.

After learning these things, I changed my diet. I started and I am still taking quite a bit of vitamins daily. Lord willing, I’ll add another treatment that entails minerals to help at the cellular level.

Although the last few years have been a huge struggle, I have so much to thank God for. The Lord has truly been good to me and my family. I am convinced we can all attest to the magnificence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I do not know when, where, or how I would take my last breath. But I am praying that my soul is right with the Lord, and that He will find me worthy when He sees fit to call me out of this life. Please keep me in your prayers, and I will do likewise.

God forbid, but if anyone is diagnosed with cancer, please thoroughly research your options before deciding on a treatment. Pray and ask God to show you what to do.

In Memory of our Dear Sister,
Sister Gina Gordon
Philadelphia, Pa





THE DEVIL

**Brother Ricky Johnson -
Editor in Chief
Headquarters Temple**



When we hear about an upcoming convention, many things come to mind, like looking up the dates to see if you are available and there are no work commitments, reserving a room or figuring out how you are going to get there along with hoping for a spiritual blessing(s).

This was the case with Sister Kimberly Smith and her biological fraternal twin Sister Alesia Smith, not knowing this would be one convention they would never forget.

Sis. Kim grew up in a religious household with her twin sister, a younger sister, a brother, and both parents in Detroit, Michigan. They were taught to love and fear God early on. After a few minutes of talking with the sisters, you can feel the bond they share by how they complete one another's sentences, for one, and secondly, how in tune they are with each other. They came to the knowledge of the truth back in 2021 when Kim and her sister came upon Pastor Jennings while flipping through the religious channels on TV.

While they found Pastor Jennings (and Minister Steven Williams) funny, they knew Pastor was speaking the truth as he supported everything with scriptures. Sis. Kim stated she knew something was missing in her walk with God but could not figure it out then.

It was not until she heard the Truth of God Broadcast on YouTube and heard how Pastor was breaking down the scriptures and answering so many questions that she realized what she was missing: the Truth Of God.

They soon began regularly attending our Detroit branch temple.

Like so many from the Temple, they attended the Youth Convocation in April 2022 and the International Convocation in July 2022 and were preparing for the End of The Year Convocation that was scheduled to be held in Greensboro, N.C.

In addition, the National Convention Committee had a host of events and seminars planned for those who wanted to participate during their free time.



One of these events was the prayer sessions in which Sis. Kim and her sister attended every day. On Dec. 31, Sis. Kim stated that about 15 to 20 minutes into her prayer, she heard a rushing wind; and came through speaking in tongues. Her sister, Alesia, said she heard somebody speaking in tongues and began rejoicing but did not know at the time that it was her sister because Kim had entered the prayer room 10 minutes after Alesia and had sat on a seat at the end of an aisle to avoid distracting her. Upon learning it was her sister, she rejoiced even more.

After about 10 to 15 minutes of speaking in tongues, Sis. Kim said she felt another rushing wind that felt evil and dark, and she immediately began to panic.

It was at this time that Sis. Alesia said she felt the rows of chairs where they were sitting begin to shake.

Sis. Kim stated that she felt like a tug of war was happening within her body of good versus evil. She was conscious that she was rocking back and forth fiercely and roaring and making biting gestures. It was then that Sis. Alesia said, her eyes looked like terror. Sis Kim's body began to flex and bend like a contortionist, her face distorted, and she began to roar and bite at people.

Sis. Alesia held Sis. Kim and encouraged her to keep calling on the Lord Jesus while chanting for the devil to leave because he didn't belong there.

Others were concerned that, Sis. Alesia was in danger because she was not yet filled with the Holy Ghost. There were a few prayer warriors in the room who prayed for Sis. Kim and one sister tried to help, but the devil didn't like her.

Sis. Alesia and others witnessed when Sis. Kim extended her arms forward, and a row of chairs fell forward on both sides. Afterward, many who saw this began to panic and rushed for Minister Etheridge, who got Pastor Jennings in return.

Pastor Jennings spoke briefly about the encounter on the Truth of God Broadcast 1732-1733, published on YouTube on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

Pastor Jennings stated he went to check it out to see if this was an actual possession; after seeing her, he declared it was.

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THE DUBLIN STORY



Photo credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

**Sister Peggy Beckford -
Staff Writer
London, England Temple**



The growing local congregation in Dublin, Ireland, as well as brothers and sisters from surrounding European temples, eagerly anticipate, welcome and support meetings in the area.

Ireland, colloquially known as the Emerald Island, draws its name from famously lush green territories. Unfortunately, it is also a region with a long history of religious conflict that resulted in 1922, being divided into two distinct regions: Northern Ireland (which remains part of Great Britain) and Southern Ireland (a break away independent region, known as the Republic of Ireland).

Simplistically, the Protestants are based in the north of the island, while the majority of Catholic believers are based in the south. Much of the “troubles” associated with the 70s has diminished in recent years following the truce brokered during the Good Friday agreement.

Apostle Gino Jennings’ strict, bible-based teaching emerged, offering a Scriptural

alternative amid these entrenched divisions. Jennings sent Evangelist Taj Utsey to Dublin, the capital city of the Republic of Ireland, to respond to the many Macedonia followers’ cry requesting to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Soon, the good news of the Truth of God spread so widely that at the first church conference of 2022, followers from both Northern and the Republic of Ireland brought family and friends from all walks of life who shared testimonies. Saints from many parts of Europe also attended to celebrate the historical event, planting the Truth of God in the fertile grounds of Ireland.

The Good News continued during the follow-up meetings held on January 21-23, 2023. Utsey hosted a weekend of meetings in Dublin again.

One brother presented an inspirational testimony, sharing that while testifying to a passenger in his vehicle, the passenger requested that he wanted what the brother had. The brother responded to the passenger, “God is on your side man; they are here in Ireland.”

Then, the brother immediately drove the passenger to the meeting. The passenger made the best life decision and was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ!

Witnessing the local saints’ commitment to relentlessly contending for the faith was a blessing. An older farmer and his wife, who access services via UK Zoom meetings, testified that they travelled three hours each way from their farm (leaving their livestock) to fellowship with the saints in Dublin.

Their dedication creates a strong case for conducting a future summer meeting in the lush farm regions of County Tipperary to make it easier for other locals to participate in the best hope of salvation available in our generation.

Get your wellingtons and agricultural hats ready and keep watching this space; you could well be singing God’s praises in the middle of a cow field!





THE DEVIL

Continued from Page 2

Pastor Jennings said he kneeled beside her, grabbed her by the face, looked into her eyes, and spoke to the devil, saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ in whom I preach, come out of her."

Finally, after some time, the spirit came out of her, but not without vigorous resistance. Eventually, she began speaking in tongues again.

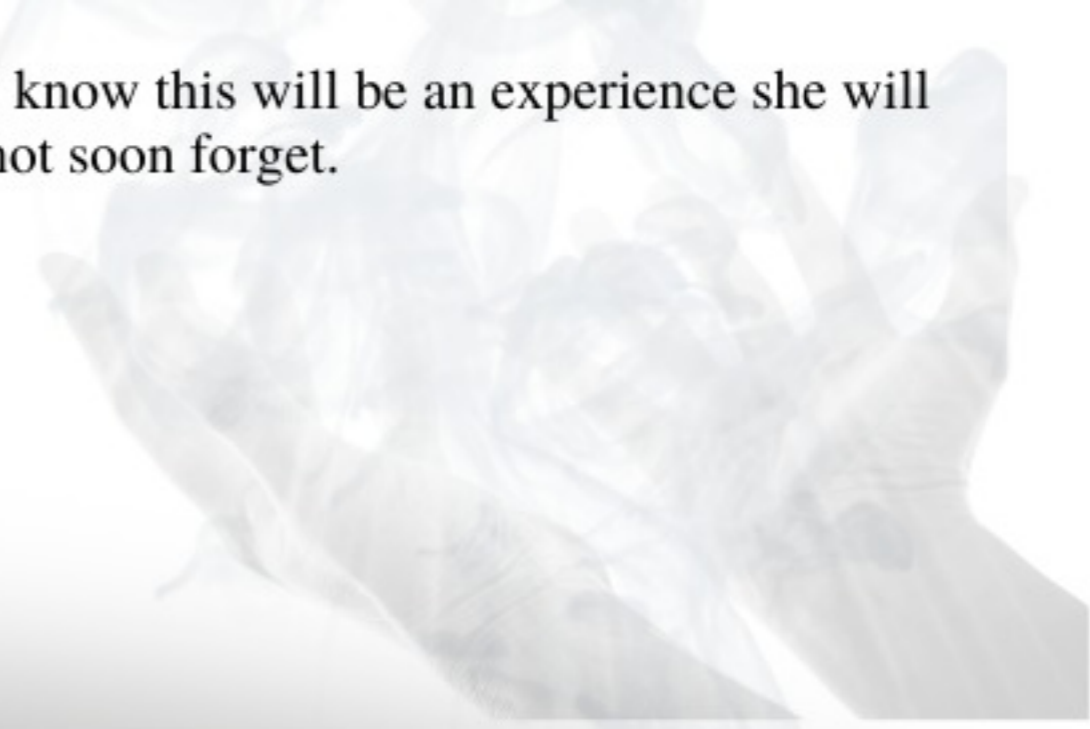
Finally, Sis. Kim was able to reunite with her sister, Alesia, with open arms.

Pastor Jennings said this was the first time a possession occurred during a convention and warned the congregation it wouldn't be the last.

Sis. Kim was happy, and so was her sister, who stayed by her side until Pastor Jennings cleared the room. One of the other sisters who witnessed the event humorously stated after everything was calm and settled, "I never knew you were that flexible."

Sis. Kim thanked Pastor Jennings, who, by God's permission, was able to cast the spirit out of her, her sister, who stayed by her side until Pastor's arrival, and all of the saints praying for her.

I know this will be an experience she will not soon forget.



GRATITUDE

*Sister Tatiana Smith -
Staff Writer
Headquarters Temple*



As 2022 is coming to an end, we often look back and ponder on where the time went. In many cases time passes us by, and we never get the chance to accomplish all we planned since the beginning of the year. However, this is not the case for Shayla Smith. Even though Shayla's weeks tend to be busy, being a mother of three children, she continues to educate herself and strives to accomplish each of her goals.

This year Shayla was faced with many adversities, but she managed to pull through and turn an unfortunate situation into a positive one. Subsequently, one of Shayla's biggest challenges led to a career change.

Shayla stated, "Switching careers was the best choice for me. My job was stressful, and I needed more flexibility. A lot of things must be done with the kids, and I wanted to make a decent income to support my lifestyle."

As a result of Shayla's career change, she finds she is less stressed and has more flexibility with her work and home life.

Apart from the various adversities, Shayla has also had some memorable moments. Shayla affirms, "I got a new car which now allows me to travel safely without my car breaking down randomly. Another thing I was able to accomplish, was passing my real estate course program."

Shayla is most pleased with passing her real estate course as it has been a goal for quite some time.

"Who knows what life holds, I hope this blossom into other things. Right now, this is the start of me working toward a new career to sell homes, get into property management and eventually own my own properties," iterates Shayla.

As human beings it is in our nature to look back over the past year and think could I have done better, or did I do better than I anticipated?

As for Shayla, it's the contrary. She claims, "I have no regrets for this past year, but there were mistakes made that I have learned from."

As Shayla continues to persevere with her passion for real estate and one day owning her own business, she understands the importance of consistency and hard work as this has pushed her into accomplishing many of her goals.

Overall, Shayla hopes this upcoming year will be a good year. She says, "I hope to purchase property this upcoming year and start my career in real estate, that's my goal." One thing Shayla would like to do this year is take more time out for herself. More importantly Shayla declares, "It's hard to do things for myself. Sometimes you get so wrapped up in your children you lose sight of yourself."

Nevertheless, I will continue to make the best out of years to come. It was a great year of learning!" As Shayla continues onto her next chapter in life, she looks forward to a promising year filled with success and positivity as she ends her year with gratitude.





THIS IS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE VISION: SELF SUFFICIENCY



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

“After acknowledging some of First Church’s multilingual ministers, Jennings expressed the need for language translation software to cater to a broader audience, thereby furthering the growth of the church.

"We want to have captions of the different messages come across the screen in German, in Hebrew, in Latin, in Greek, in Portuguese, in Spanish, -- every language under the sun," Jennings said.

"Every single language on this planet, we want the people to hear it, and see it, and use it for God's glory."

Before going into detail about First Church's self-sufficient model, Jennings encouraged all to achieve personal development. He also urged the fathers in the crowd to have a vision for their families as the leaders and providers for their households.

The expansion of the church will involve the establishment of businesses and the implementation of a variety of programs, services and initiatives that would serve numerous purposes.

We want to expand all around the world, not just in setting up churches, but businesses," Jennings asserted.

"Where we have churches, we set up businesses. That way those that are unemployed can be employed. We want to do this without borrowing one dime from any bank. I want to rid the church of borrowing from banks."

Jennings pictures the church buying vacant schools and converting them into churches and businesses -- from barbershops to laundromats, to clothing stores, to bakeries. First Church having its own educational institutions, agricultural system and trucking network is included in the vision, too.

"The Truth of God wants to be totally self-sufficient," Jennings said confidently, drawing applause from the crowd.

"We want to be able to buy all property cash, whether it's church or business. And I can tell you how we can do it."

Pastor Jennings then pointed out an effective method to accomplish this feat. The Truth of God has more than 10,000 followers, he said. Therefore, every member sacrificing \$1,000 a year toward the newly launched First Church Expansion Program would enable the organization to build and purchase churches, establish businesses and so forth without the aid of a bank and ongoing fundraisers.

“We are talking about the Truth of God being totally dependable upon God as God works through us,” Jennings said. “We, the First Church of the Lord Jesus Christ – we have a strong purchasing power.”

Per his expressions, Minister Steven Williams read a passage of scripture in Deuteronomy 28 highlighting the success of the children of Israel as long as they were obedient.

“We don’t only believe in meeting our spiritual needs, but we want to balance it and meet our spiritual needs and natural,” Jennings stated. “Read your bible. Israel never had to go outside of Israel to do nothing.”

To conclude his remarks, Jennings alluded to creating senior citizens’ homes, a music school and a recording studio.

As he approaches his 40th year as pastor and general overseer of the First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, he has full assurance that the vision will come to pass with the church’s full cooperation and willingness to follow the vision.

“This is the next phase of the vision,” Jennings said in conclusion. “I want the best for God’s people, and I want the best out of God’s people.”

