



Truth of God Times

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

September 2023 Vol 2. No. 2

APOSTLE

SPOTLIGHT

FOOD

STORY

TESTIMONY

THE LONG AWAITED RETURN



Brother Ricky Johnson
Manager
Headquarters Temple

From the time our beloved pastor walked through the doors, the widened eyes, standing ovation and warm welcoming hug from Minister Steve Williams to the presentation of gifts and beautiful expressions of joy of seeing Pastor Jennings by Sis. Wednesday Lane (representing the sisterhood) and Bro. Micheal Douglas (representing the brotherhood) show how happy we were to see Pastor Jennings return to church.



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

He said he began feeling a sharp pain in his right collar bone along with some other symptoms that made him feel like he had pneumonia — a sickness that he was all too familiar with that he last encountered 27 years ago when we were on Frankford Avenue. That experience kept him out of church for four months.

He expressed his feelings to his doctor who later confirmed his instincts were correct.

While Pastor Jennings was out, it didn't take long for rumors to spread. Some speculated that he became ill after taking "the jab" (COVID-19 vaccine), while others threw around false notions about him dying. Pastor Jennings stated that it was his third time having pneumonia, which some say is a death warrant, but he noted that God is in control. If it were His will, it could have happened the first time he had it.

One sign that let us know that he was coming around is when he stated he was on his iPad looking for churches – something that he loves to do. Nevertheless, he expressed his gratitude for all the prayers that went up on his behalf, and as you can imagine, he did what we all were expecting: preach the Word of God.

Welcome Back Pastor!

A MINISTER'S TESTIMONY

35TH HOLY CONVOCATION

JUNEAU, ALASKA

SPOTLIGHT TEMPLE



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

SPOTLIGHT TEMPLE FC CANADA

The History & Growth of FC Canada: We've Come This Far by Faith

First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. in Canada was always a part of the Vision given to Pastor Gino Jennings. It was just a matter of time before the Lord acted. For decades, prayers have been made to God to give us a temple in Canada. God began to work in the year 2013. Connections were made with First Church Headquarters, and Pastor Jennings provided clear instructions for his planned visit. The first meeting was held in March 2014, when six souls were baptized and added to the congregation.

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35TH INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION

A Synopsis



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson



Bro. Douglas Imaralu
Editor
Portland, OR Temple

“..Upon this Rock, I’ll build my Church!”

Matthew 16:18

It has been a few weeks since the closing service of the 35th International Holy Convocation of the First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. hosted at the Sheraton Convention Center, Greensboro, North Carolina. But I still hear the voice of God within the Apostle, Pastor Gino Jennings, loud and clear.

“One of the orders that God gave me: do not deviate from My word,” thundered Pastor Jennings. His remarks on the first day of the convocation quickly transformed into a poignant lesson about building the Church according to the Scriptures and not the traditions of men. Moreover, Jennings made clear his intention to stick to the Bible and not the methods of religious organizations as the Church enters the second phase of the Vision God has given to him.

“Respect the blueprint that the boss laid for the Church,” said Jennings, reemphasizing the pertinence of building the Church according to the Bible despite the seeming shortage of faithful men. That theme continued throughout the convocation.

Day One: Thursday, August 3, 2023

On the first day of the 35th International Holy Convocation, there were a limited number of supplementary events. The main service began with selections from the Pine Bush and the Bronx Temple Choirs coloring the opening service. After Jennings’ opening remarks, he called upon Evangelist Taj Utsey, who delivered a powerful message.

Utsey expounded on the importance of building on the foundation of the Scriptures, drawing examples from the natural and spiritual processes of building. The message revolved around building the House of God on the tradition of Holiness and not the traditions of men.

Day Two: Friday, August 4, 2023

Day Two started with a variety of additional conference seminars to encourage the saints to engage and participate in events on the sidelines. Saints were able to fellowship and participate in different events, including the National Conventions Committee’s Meet & Greet, Business Fair, Kid’s Corner, Race & Cultural Awareness Seminar, Girl Talk, Real Talk with Brothers and Being a Minister’s Kid amongst other options.

The evening service started with selections from the International Children’s Choir, the Canadian Choir and the HTX Spanish Choir. The congregation was pleasantly surprised when Jennings announced Media Director, Elder Dan Thompson, as the speaker for the night. By God’s permission, our beloved elder delivered a strong message. He detailed the fall of the first Adam, the rise of the second Adam, the Lord from heaven, for the salvation of our souls.

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A MINISTER'S TESTIMONY



Minister Moices Torres
Contributor
Rockford, IL Temple

I thank God for having mercy on me. This is part of my testimony of how I discovered Pastor Jennings, the Apostle for these last days.

I was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ in a small congregation in Mexico. I lived in Mexico for about 12 years.

When I moved to the USA when I was 24, I joined a Oneness Pentecostal church. After 13 years, I was selected and sent to pastor a church in Illinois. I remember when I started pastoring, the district supervisor, who was also my pastor, told me to preach and teach only soft and loving messages to the church because they were a 'hurt' group.

I later learned it was a family-run church that had previously and unsuccessfully attempted to link to other church groups while still trying to maintain their controlling

independence. They were very arrogant and high-minded. My overseeing pastor did not become aware of this until the group became totally out of control.

I frequently question myself and ask God why, in my own organization, everyone is treated so differently. The different churches within the organization did different things depending on the status of the individual; people were not treated equally. In frustration, one day I asked God, why do different churches believe different things?

Along with the many things that popped up, a fiery black preacher appeared. He caught my attention, so I decided to listen to him and said to myself, "Let me see what this man is talking about."

“ IN FRUSTRATION, ONE DAY I ASKED GOD, WHY DO DIFFERENT CHURCHES BELIEVE DIFFERENT THINGS?”

I clicked on the YouTube video and a loud mouth man was preaching the Truth and another man was making it rain scriptures. After about 10 or 15 minutes, I started shouting, "That's it! That's it!"

I tried to introduce the Holiness teachings to the congregation that I was pastoring in



Photo Credit: Anonymous

the Spanish United Pentecostal church (IPUH), but the members rejected the message. After a while, I could not stay at that place any longer. My priority was saving myself. I decided it was time to leave; I returned the instruments and bank accounts and left that place.

I recalled trying to talk to my pastor about the Holiness doctrine on various occasions. The last time I spoke with him I remember him saying, "You can't come in preaching that in my church." I reminded him that no man was the owner of a church because the church belongs to Jesus Christ. He had nothing to say. We hung up, and I have not looked back since.

It is an honor and privilege, and I am humbled daily, knowing that the one true God, Jesus Christ, chose me before the foundation of the Earth. I thank my God first and foremost, and I thank him for the man of God, Apostle Gino Jennings, that has been called for this time to edify the church.



Photo Credit: Brother Moices Torres

SPOTLIGHT TEMPLE FIRST CHURCH CANADA



Sister Ester Williams
Contributor
Toronto, Canada Temple

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On April 27, 2014, First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. in Toronto, Canada began with weekly services held at the Northwood Community Centre. Humble beginnings with about 20 members assembled on Sundays with teachings from a guest minister. Not too long after, Pastor charged a faithful young brother to lead and preach the Word. To God be the glory for the minister's faithfulness, always reminding the saints of the doctrine of Holiness.

As time progressed, God added more souls and blessed the Church to move to the Domenico DiLuca Community Recreation Centre on January 4, 2015. On July 26, 2015, the Truth of God telecast aired on cable stations across Canada. The ministry expanded to other provinces, drawing people from many nationalities. On various occasions, services and baptisms were organized across Canada, which required the minister, along with brothers and sisters, to travel to cities in Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Ontario.

With over 100 members by 2019, we soon realized the need for a local temple. So, the saints united and contributed to a CA\$1,000 building fund sacrifice and

other fundraising activities to save towards a deposit whilst Pastor sought a building. But in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the momentum as saints had nowhere to assemble because of government restrictions across the country and the world. However, the Lord made a way through social media, Zoom and YouTube live streams. In fact, services were online every day, so saints had no excuse.

The world was going through a crisis, but the Church continued to grow. As prayer meetings continued, 93 souls were gained through cross-country baptisms. At the end of Dec. 2021, almost 200 members were striving and waiting for Canada's restrictions to be lifted.

Here Comes A New Year

January 2022 came with good tidings! The good news was circulated about services to commence at the Tall Pines Academy - Middle School in Brampton, Ontario. On Jan. 16th, the doors were opened. It was a day filled with rejoicing to assemble and see everyone in person.

Thanks be to God for how much has been achieved. The Church in Canada had 98 baptisms there and many souls received the Holy Ghost through the years. We have also recorded over 300 members, convened a combined Choir and structured most of our auxiliaries. Bi-weekly services are being held in Edmonton and Alberta.

Overall, saints in Canada have never been comfortable. They have been desirous for more, specifically to settle in a temple of their own.

God had a plan. On Sunday, April 30, 2023, we marked the last day at the Tall Pines Academy.

Two days before, our local minister called for a corporate fast, asking the congregation to take the relocation petition before the Lord. The morning of that last Sunday, a property was brought to the minister's attention. It was submitted for the Pastor's consideration. The Man of God didn't hesitate with approval and negotiations. To the best of our knowledge, the processing has since started. God's will, the saints await the good news of a new, more permanent location.

Oakville, ON, June 17th and 18th

A milestone occasion. Two days of celebration at the Canadian First Holy Convocation. Joy unspeakable with hearts of thanksgiving, all glory and praise to the Lord Jesus our King. The Church expresses thanks to the Lord for the Apostle, for the dedication over the years and for being a true Leader. The Vision is truly for an appointed time, so the Saints will continue to work and wait, trusting and thanking God for bringing First Church Canada this far by faith!

First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. Canada: 2013 - 2023



Photo Credit: Anonymous



Photo Credit: Brother Michael Mathis

ALASKA THE LAST FRONTIER



Brother Ricky Johnson
Manager
Headquarters Temple

The slogan “Alaska—The Last Frontier,” is colloquially used to describe the vast, expansive land in regions that have not yet been explored. Despite the challenge, the Truth of God went soul-exploring in June 2023 in the virgin lands of Alaska.

Unfortunately, our beloved Pastor Jennings could not attend First Church’s initial meetings in this location due to illness. So, he selected Elder Ethridge to attend on his behalf. A man of few words but able to get his point across, Ethridge kept it short, sweet and to the point.

Ethridge fulfilled two roles during the meeting: the musician during praise and testimony and the key speaker. Although the turnout was not enormous, the attendees were blessed. One family reported that they traveled from Anchorage, Alaska, while several traveled from different parts of the United States. One of the visitors, who has listened to the broadcast for many years, shared how much she loved the songs of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ that went up before God. She said, “We don’t get much of that out here.”

Ethridge commenced his message with humble opening salutations and remarks, where he informed the audience that he is not God-called or sent but given permission by Jennings to address the audience, so he refuses to accept any of the credit.



Photo Credit: Brother Ricky Johnson

Ethridge taught about being a disciple for Christ and how when we follow and submit to the Word and Will of God, people will witness a difference in our behavior from those who just profess to be followers. A significant key point that he made was that we are required to listen until we understand, not just to respond because when we respond, it may be out of emotion and not from the understanding of what is being said. He also stressed the importance of cooperation, working together and not competing with one another.

Another topic Elder Ethridge focussed on is being prepared to meet God in peace. He illustrated this by relating the details of a tragic event that occurred prior to Saturday’s service. To attend the service, everyone had to pass a particular location where a fatal vehicle accident took place.

Everyone that passed by this location was able to witness the body laid out on the ground, covered with a white sheet wet from the rainfall. Undoubtedly, this individual had no idea that this would be his or her last day in the land of the living. How precious and fragile we are.

At the end of the evening, a total of four souls were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. One of those baptized came to the meeting following an invitation from a brother renting his Airbnb property. The brother later testified he was glad to have given someone the correct information and being wise enough to win him over.

Jennings thanked Etheridge on a subsequent broadcast for bringing forth the Word in the areas that he was unable to attend and that he would reschedule a visit at a later date to Juneau or Anchorage, Alaska.

35TH INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION

A Synopsis

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Day Three: Saturday, August 5, 2023

The third day at the Holy Convocation also featured a variety of events, including The Emmanuel Entrepreneurship Community's Workshop, Business & Multicultural Fair, Investment 101, Baptismal Process, and Gut Health & Nutrition among others. The most important of events for the afternoon was the Church Business Meeting Jennings facilitated.

At the Business Meeting, Pastor Jennings explained his plans for the church expansion project and reemphasized his vision for the next phase of the Church: self-sufficiency. Jennings' detailed delivery admonished the Church to pool resources together to liquidate all outstanding mortgages and church debts and widen the vision to develop businesses to support the saints and the church expansion project.

The Haitian Choir, First Church Band, and First Church's International Mass Choir rendered wonderful selections before the feast on Saturday. The Haitian Choir sang beautifully as they rendered the bilingual selection, "Avek Jezi Nou Asire (In Jesus We Are Sure)." This was followed by the mass choir's rendition of the song "Take It to the Lord in Prayer" which got the saints and ministers on their feet, rejoicing and praising God. It was truly a wonderful time in the Lord and a fitting precursor to the pertinent message on "spiritual climate change" preached by the Apostle immediately afterward.

"Climate change has brought a spiritual drought in today's church world," preached Jennings, as he detailed how the doctrine of men justifies sin. He expressly warned the Church to beware of the devil's doctrine, which operates alongside the will of man. He also admonished the Church to continue in the doctrine of the Lord. "Hate what you enjoy!" said Jennings, in the context of hating those things that are contrary to God's way.

Day Four: Sunday, August 6, 2023

The last day of the 35th International Holy Convocation was truly one of rejoicing. The ever-improving International Mass Choir rendered the song "One More Chance" beautifully to the glory of the Lord God before Pastor Jennings thundered a timely message from the pulpit to the whole world.

"You bear in mind, warning is a[n] act of mercy – it is the forerunner before judgment," the Apostle preached, exhorting the world to take heed to God's Word. He also admonished the saints to believe and walk with God now, instead of waiting until the eleventh hour. "Human family, the judgment of God is tarrying upon the world," he warned.

The evening worship was colored by selections from The Harris Sisters and the Jamaican Choir. This was followed by closing remarks from Pastor Jennings and a concise but pertinent message from Elder Etheridge. "You owe God your time, your talent and your treasure," Etheridge preached, reminding saints of the duty to serve and invest in the building of God's Church.

Moving Forward

Overall, I am persuaded that the 35th International Holy Convocation was a blessing and a challenge. I join my brothers and sisters from all over the world to give thanks for another chance to assemble and worship. The feast was spiritually refreshing - it was, indeed, a great feeling to feast on sound doctrine and see the smiling faces of saints praising God in heavenly places. Moreover, we were reminded to be steadfast in the Faith as the Church enters the second phase of the vision.

Now, we look forward to another opportunity to fellowship with the saints at the End of the Year (EOY) Convocation slated for Thursday, December 28 – Sunday, December 31, 2023. As announced by Pastor Jennings, the EOY Convocation will be held at First Church's Headquarters Temple in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Lord willing, we shall also witness the dedication of the newly renovated Headquarters Temple on the last day of the EOY services.

In addition, Jennings announced that the 36th International Holy Convocation scheduled for July 2024 will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC. So, after two consecutive years of convening in Greensboro, NC, we say goodbye with grateful hearts, memories of great rejoicing, and plenty of food that is convenient for our souls.

CHILES RELLENOS ESTILO MEXICO

Mexican Style Chiles Rellenos



Sis Joanna Walker
Contributor
Los Angeles, CA Temple

Ingredients to prep the peppers

- 10 poblano peppers
- 1 1/2 cups cacique cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese 🧀
- Chorizo (optional)
- 1 1/2 cup of flour
- 6 eggs
- 2-3 cups of vegetable oil for frying
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt

Ingredients for the salsa

- 2 guajillo peppers/roasted 🌶️
- 6 chilis/roasted
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic 🧄
- 3 tomatoes/roasted
- 1/2 small onion 🧅
chopped/roasted
- Cilantro
- Pinch of oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon Knorr Chicken Flavor Bouillon or until you reach your desired taste

yum!

Greetings, everyone! I am sharing an authentic recipe called chile rellenos. I grew up eating chile rellenos in my childhood. I remember as a young kid, I wouldn't eat the peppers but relished the cheese inside. But as I have grown, my taste buds have changed. Now, it is one of my favorite dishes.

Chile rellenos tastes like meat, but it isn't meat. You can stuff it with whatever you like, and it tastes delicious! They also remind me of my parent's hometown in Jalisco, Mexico, where my mom was born.

I learned how to make chile rellenos from watching my mom, who always cooked and never complained. I remember helping her out while she cooked it. Preparing the dish was more than just cooking. It was also a time for family bonding: when my mom makes chile rellenos, she has everyone in the kitchen either shredding the cheese or peeling the chiles. Good family time!

Although I give my mom credit for the recipe, it first came from my Abuelita Tirbucia (Grandma Tirbucia) and has been passed down for generations! However, I have added some extra ingredients like the oregano, onions and cilantro. See the list of ingredients and directions to make Mexican-style chile rellenos below. I've also added pictures of the final product.

enjoy

Salsa Directions

1. Add roasted guajillos, chilies, minced garlic, onion, cilantro, 1/2 teaspoon or 1 tablespoon of Knorr Chicken Bouillon in a blender and add 3 cups of water. Also, add a small pinch of oregano. Blend all together.
2. Pour into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and let it simmer. Stir occasionally. You can add your chile rellenos onto the saucepan so they can soak in or just pour on top of your chile relleno.
3. You can now enjoy your delicious chile rellenos. I also usually make Mexican rice for the side, but you can make any side item to go with it.



Photo by Joanna



Photo by Joanna

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CHILES RELLENOS ESTILO MEXICO

Mexican Style Chiles Rellenos

Directions

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1. Roast the poblano peppers. Line up aluminum foil on a griddle and place poblano peppers on top. Cover them with a foil on top. Flip them about every 5-6 minutes until they are blackened or blistered.
2. Put poblano peppers in a large ziplock bag and let them sweat in the bag for about 5 minutes.
3. Peel the peppers - try to peel as much of the loose skin as you can.
4. Cut a small slit down the middle of the peppers with a knife. Remove the seeds from the inside, or leave them in if you like.
5. Stuffing the inside of the peppers, add shredded pepper jack cheese and cacique cheese mixed together; only stuff enough in each pepper so that it's not over-stuffed. Peppers will be a bit fragile, so you have to be careful. (Optional: You can also stuff them with chorizo for more flavor! The chorizo doesn't need seasoning; just cook it until it's well done).
6. Seal the peppers after stuffing. You'll have to seal them with toothpicks the best you can. I usually use about 3 toothpicks per pepper so that the ooze from the cheese doesn't come out while frying them.
7. Heat 2 cups vegetable oil in a pan or as much as you would like for frying. Heat up on medium-high, and prep your batter during this process.
8. Separate the egg whites from the yolks. Beat the egg whites with a hand mixer or electric mixer until it starts to foam up and get a bit firm but not too firm. Use the lowest setting. Then start adding the egg yolks one at a time until fully mixed. The batter should be smooth and fluffy, not thick.
9. Mix flour with salt in a bowl. Roll the stuffed peppers in the flour mix, dip them into the egg batter and place them in the hot frying oil.
10. Fry the chile rellenos until golden brown, then set aside on a plate.



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QUOTE OF THE DAY!



Apostle Gino Jennings
Overseer
Headquarters Temple



**"What's a woman? Your mama!" -
Broadcast 1797-1798 July 16th, 2023**