



Truth of God Times

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Vol. 3 No. 1

SPECIAL EDITION SERIES



CELEBRATING *40 Years* OF LEADING GOD'S PEOPLE



@truthofgodtimes / truthofgodtimes.com

5105 N 5th Street Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 455-8100
truthofgod.com



RENDERING HONOR

An Elder That Rules Well



Bro. Demetrius Dillard
Lead Writer
Baltimore Temple

Not many pastors can say they've successfully led a ministry for 40 years.

From humble beginnings in the basement of a North Philadelphia rowhouse to an international ministry that has impacted millions all over the globe – undoubtedly, Pastor Gino Jennings has remained obedient to the heavenly vision given unto him nearly a half-century ago.

For Pastor Jennings' faithfulness and diligence toward the work of the ministry, God has blessed First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Truth of God religious program tremendously down through the years. Followers of Pastor Jennings – and his many detractors – cannot deny the growth and emergence of the Truth of God, a broadcast that has become one of the most influential of its kind in recent history.

Over the course of the earth-shattering COVID-19 pandemic, the world saw many ministries and churches either decline, discontinue operation or suffer some form of adverse effects.

Conversely, First Church saw unprecedented growth, development and advancement during the pandemic. This is the result of scripturally sound leadership from a God-sent man.

The Truth of God International Newsletter and Magazine staff would like to congratulate Pastor Jennings on reaching a noteworthy milestone: 40 years of leading God's people.

As he has explained on several occasions, being an overseer is an arduous task and has had its share of ups and downs. But with Pastor Jennings' perseverance and faithfulness, the Truth of God has, and will continue to, experience massive success – most recently with the dedication of the new upper auditorium at the headquarters campus in Philadelphia.

Thus, it is with immense pleasure for the TOG Times to use its platform to acknowledge this extraordinary milestone.

For each of the quarterly newsletters that will be published this year, TOG Times will feature a series of articles, photos and more highlighting some of Pastor Jennings' achievements in recognition of his 40-year anniversary as a pastor.

Each edition (March, June, September and December) will also include a 10-year timeline that will spotlight historic moments and turning points over the course of Pastor Jennings' ministry.



*Leader
Teacher
Guide*



Photo by Brother Ricky Johnson

BELIOW IS THE TIMELINE FOR

THE FIRST

10 Years

OF FIRST CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, INC.
(1984-1994)



MAY 17, 1984

At the age of 21 Pastor Jennings heard the voice of God telling him to “come out from amongst them and be ye separate.”

MAY 21, 1984

First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of The Apostles Faith, Inc. was established in the home of Pastor Jennings' parents' basement (Bishop Jennings and Mother Jennings) with 12 to 15 members.

The first auxiliaries formed: Brotherhood, women workers, Daughters of Zion, the ushers, senior and childrens' choir, prayer band and Tape Auxiliary.

The First Ordination was Bishop Jennings as the national bishop and Bro. Tyrone Jennings as Deacon Jennings.

APRIL 2, 1989

Headquarters moved to 7485 Briar Road in Philadelphia, Pa.

APRIL 15, 1989

Pastor Jennings married Sis. Darlene Gayman.

YEAR 1990

The Truth of God radio program was established. The first international radio station was WWCR, and the first broadcast station was WTMR of Camden, N.J.

APRIL 12, 1991

Pastor Jennings' father, Bishop Ernest Jennings, passed away.

NOVEMBER 21, 1991

Settlement was made on First Church's former headquarters temple on 2431 Frankford Ave. in Philadelphia.

FEBRUARY 2, 1992

The first floor of the Frankford Avenue headquarters temple was dedicated.

USHERING IN A MILESTONE YEAR

35th Men's and 37th Women's End-of-Year Services



Brother Ricky Johnson
President
Headquarters Temple, PA

The First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., under the leadership of Pastor Gino Jennings, celebrated its 35th Men's, 37th Women's and End-of-Year services at the Headquarters Temple in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 28-31, 2023.

The dedication of the upper sanctuary was a highlight of the End-of-Year services.



This was the first convocation held at headquarters since the EOY services in 2021. Due to overcrowding, we traveled to the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C.

This convention was one for the books in many ways. Not only were the sanctuaries standing room only, but so were the gym and classrooms.

December 28, Day 1 of the convention, was a good indicator of what would come.

Usually, the first day of the conventions is somewhat slow, with crowds typically trickling in closer to the weekend.

People arrived early taking heed to Pastor's warning that "you're going to want to get here early if you want a seat."

The dedication of the upper sanctuary was a highlight of the End-of-Year services.

Some people came as early as 4:30 a.m., and by noon they were already being escorted to the gym because the main sanctuary was filled.

The saints came from far and near. Many attended from all over the United States, Australia, the Netherlands, London and Germany, to name a few.

Pastor spoke a very encouraging and powerful message addressing the ministers to preach Acts 2:38, but with emphasis on water and Spirit, telling the candidates to believe in God enough that they can receive the Holy Ghost before going down in water.

He also stressed to the candidates that after hearing Acts 2:38, believe it and ask God for the Holy Ghost presently and not as far off. Even before they are baptized, he said they should look to God to receive the Holy Ghost at that very moment.



Pastor emphasized the importance of seeking God while it is fresh in their heart and mind because to put it off, you will have to deal with distractions. He also pointed out to the believers not to get comfortable with not having it because we do not know how close death may be.

Saturday was the first day that service was held in the main sanctuary, and again, everyone was extremely early. Hearing the excitement in the voices—from the wows, the smiling faces and wide-stretched eyes, to gazing stares and the many selfies everyone took was undeniable.



The cries unto God echoed throughout the sanctuary, seasoning the atmosphere with a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

Pastor Jennings was overjoyed with tear-filled eyes and smiles. I could only imagine what was going on in his head seeing this day but also looking forward. He opened up the service with prayer and a selection of "What a Mighty God We Serve."

With a big smile, he addressed the crowd saying, "It is good for us to be here," asking everyone to stand and applaud God for what He has done.

USHERING IN A MILESTONE YEAR

35th Men’s and 37th Women’s End-of-Year Services

Pastor Jennings informed us that earlier that day, he ordained the following Elders:

- James Wright of Newport News, Virginia
- Tyrone Singletary of Fredericksburg, Virginia
- Gerald Martin (Shabazz) of Mobile, Alabama

Pastor Jennings also appointed the following as overseers:

- Elder William Ethridge as overseer of the Midwest region
- Elder Tyrone Jennings as overseer of Minnesota
- Elder Darrel Jones as overseer of North and South Carolina
- Elder James Fletcher as overseer of Virginia

Pastor took this time to reflect on the basement and how he sought out our present headquarters location in 2014 but did not have the money to purchase it. He asked God to reserve it for us. As you can see, God answered his prayer.

Sunday was the day that everyone was looking forward to the dedication.

Many songs and testimonies went up before the Lord and a heart-moving rendition of “It Is Well with My Soul” was sung by our Holy International Mass Choir.



Pastor gave a beautiful prayer dedicating the sanctuary to God. He went on to announce that for 2023, 8,471 souls were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (an updated total of 151 souls were baptized during the convention bringing the final count to 8,622).

He thanked all the ministers for their hard work and dedication. He also announced the ordination of Bro. Baker of Jamaica as an Elder. Along with the formation of the International Construction Team, he also updated us on how the Expansion Program raised \$1,090,736.67 in our quest to be independent of relying on any financial institution.

Pastor continues to make mention of the basement and how far we have come. He stated how God granted him exactly what he asked for down to the square footage with plans for a future temple that he has envisioned. He’s even sketched its appearance.

As you can imagine, we were having too much of a good time before the devil rose and disrupted the service by entering two individuals there and someone watching the possession on television. Pastor had the footage taken down because he did not want the devil to use the broadcast as a portal to take others over.

But we are thankful for Pastor Jennings who labored and fought to cast them out. Many of Pastor’s critics spoke too soon because it appeared as if the spirits were still in them, but he later reported that they were delivered and that casting a spirit out is not an easy task, especially when the spirits are rebellious and do not want to come out.

We thank God for allowing us not only to have the opportunity to usher in a new year but also to live to see it. Truly God’s plan is unraveling before our eyes and the devil isn’t happy about it. Here’s to a new year and seeing what this year will bring!

Peace Be.



All photos by Brother Ricky Johnson

TO BE MARRIED IN HOLINESS

Longevity and Happiness



Sis Peggy Beckford
 Editor and Writer
 London Temple

Following the approval of the wedding plans of Brother Gino Uiterloo and Sister Monique Uiterloo by Evangelist Taj Utsey (the presiding Minister for the Netherlands), their union was blessed by Pastor Gino Jennings during the European Convocation in September 2022. One week later, on September 15, 2022, they were married to the joy of their family and the congregation.

Their joy was added, too, by the decision of their eldest son Justin Uiterloo, to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ during the same convocation in 2022.

One year later, at the same European Conference, the eldest son of the couple, Brother Justin Uiterloo, also took the decision to announce his upcoming marriage. On January 17, 2024, he and his wife Julia Uiterloo were married. Hearts rejoiced at the decision of two young people in Holiness starting their lives together in accordance with Scripture. We pray the Lord blesses them and grants them longevity and happiness!

It is worth noting that three of their other children within their household are walking in Holiness: Brother Jason Uiterloo, Sister Priscilla Uiterloo and Brother Mason Uiterloo.



All photos by Anonymous

SOUTH PACIFIC

To Build a Temple

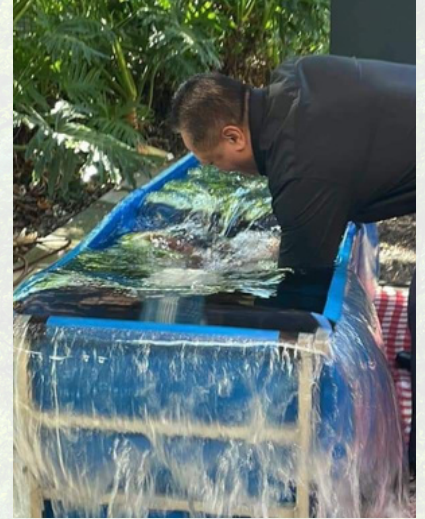


Brother Ricky Johnson
President
Headquarters Temple, PA

Pastor Marama Terea officiated services held in Samoa, Savaii Waterpool, January 24-29, 2024, where a total of 26 souls were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.



In addition to the wonderful service, a family donated an acre and a half to First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. South Pacific to build a temple.



May God continue to bless the candidates that were baptized, Minister Mars and all the saints in the South Pacific.



All photos by Anonymous

FAITH AND WORKS

Q&A Interview



Brother Ricky Johnson
President
Headquarters Temple, PA

Two sisters, Shirlee Scott and Adenike Wright, came together to go out and show love and hospitality to strangers in the community.

I was sitting up front in a somewhat secluded area off to the side by the piano during a Sunday service when I saw two unfamiliar sisters sitting there.

After service, Sis. Wednesday Lane came over to introduce and inform me that they were the “Caring Companion Group,” a new group that was created by the sisterhood in an attempt to assist the mothers of the church.

I responded with a raised eyebrow, chuckling and asking “Caring Companion Group, what’s that?” Lane said they were hand-picked to sit up front and close to the mothers so they could assist them in whatever they may need.

It did not take long to see why they were chosen. Not long after they were assigned this new task, I received some pictures of the same two sisters who volunteered to visit a mother in a nursing home.

The expression of gratitude on the mother’s face spoke volumes, but I was intrigued to find out more. I was raised around older adults and have been known to visit and assist them in any way that I could because it gave me a level of satisfaction.

I’m grateful for the ability, strength and opportunity to help with hopes that someone would do the same for me if I’m ever in a similar situation one day.

I asked Sisters Scott and Wright a series of questions about their experiences as mothers’ assistants and why the capacity is so meaningful. Sister Scott’s responses are labeled “SS” and Sister Wright’s responses are labeled “AW.”

Q: What made you want to go to a nursing home to assist with a mother instead of letting the staff or their family members take care of them?

SS

I have always felt the need to help the elderly and the sick, as I do my mother. I believe it helps them mentally/emotionally to have someone to care for them and know that they are loved.

AW

My dear heart mother’s name was Ida Wright. She was in and out of nursing homes, and I stayed with her all day until visiting hours were over; I was there so much that the staff thought I was a staff member. I saw how they treated the people who had no family visiting them, and I’m sure if I hadn’t taken off of work to see after my mom, she would have gotten the same treatment.

Q: What was the mother’s initial reaction to you assisting her and afterward?

SS

Upon walking into Mother P. Bibbs’s room, I couldn’t help but notice the joy and happiness in her eyes as she smiled at us so gracefully as we entered her room. Mother P. Bibbs was complaining of pain when we first arrived. During the visit, we talked with her, did her hair, changed her bed and cleaned the room. But what was so shocking, at the end of the visit, Mother P. Bibbs stood up and said, “I’m not in pain, and I can walk you to the elevator.” That touched my heart!

AW

When we walk into the room, the mothers are usually lying down in a dark room doing nothing, and when they hear our voices, they get excited and a burst of energy and smiles light up the room. We pray with them, sing songs, style hair, talk to them about whatever they want to talk about and the list goes on. Afterward, the mothers are happy and want to know when we’re coming back. I’m truly blessed to be able to put a smile on anyone’s face but the mothers – they have a special place in my heart.



FAITH AND WORKS

Q&A Interview

Q: What kind of satisfaction did you get, if any, from assisting the Mother?

SS Knowing that we all can make a difference in assisting that person with their overall wellbeing and with or without family there we make a difference as though we are family.

AW The satisfaction is God smiling on me in everything I do.

Q: How has this act of kindness affected you and your relationship with one another?

SS Helping others allows us to become closer because we work together and learn from one another to do the best that we can do!

AW Every night I reflect on how I spent my day and whether it was pleasing in God's sight. And I ask God to forgive me if I did anything that was not pleasing in his sight and to bring it to my attention so I won't make the same mistakes again. I just want to please God.

Q: Did your faith play a part in your volunteering to assist mothers, or is this something you have done before?

SS Throughout my natural life, I've been raised to help people, and my faith also plays a very important part because HOLINESS conditions me to do things according to the Lord's standards so that He may be pleased with our works!

AW I helped take care of both of my grandmothers and my mother, so I have done this before. I also used to have a business called Quick Styles. I would go to the elderly women's home and do their hair and talk to them and most of them were lonely and just wanted companionship. The difference in being a part of the First Church Caring Companion Group is I get to fellowship with the sisters because two of us go visit the mothers together and we pray with them and laugh a lot; the mothers always feel good and uplifted.

Q: What do you want others to know when it comes to being a Mother's helper?

SS Being a mother's helper takes love, care, concern, prayers and patience. This is a job that is not for the hard-hearted but for those who have a desire to take care of others to the best of their ability!

AW I want others to be more kind-hearted period, but especially when it comes to the mothers, a lot of mothers don't have anyone they can depend on to take care of them truly and some families need help, and if I can be a help, Lord willing I will continue to.



All photos by Anonymous



SPRING FLOWERS

Rooted



Sister Rachel Fuentes
Lead Graphic Designer
Houston, Texas Temple

Greetings church family. My name is Sister Rachel Fuentes from the Houston, Texas Temple.

I am a fellow striver after our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a wife of almost 23 years, a mother of seven — four of whom we adopted — and a grandmother of four.

A little bit more about me is I love growth.

I love growing primarily spiritually, then physically, educationally, and in all aspects of life. Growth is a beautiful and painful process. New life is beautiful, but death is a big part of life, including in spring flowers.

Spring flowers come after the process of death from the same flower.

Once a flower dies, it dries up and has a seed or seeds. The seed is then either gathered, packaged and sold in a store, or saved and planted in the spring.

Afterward, it would go through a burial process of entering the ground and taking itself to the next step of rooting.

The seed first must first fall on good ground where rich soil of compost and minerals are.

Once they have started to sprout, you will begin seeing new life.

It is an extremely amazing process as you see something that was dead start to grow again.



Rooted

Once the roots have grown at least three to five inches, then you know you have successfully grown a spring flower. Roots are especially important in planting anything in the ground.

If your flowers do not have healthy, long, hair-like roots, then they do not get the proper nutrients needed to continue to grow and sustain through puberty to produce a colorful flower.

Spring flowers are special and aren't something you can get year-round. This is why we call them "spring" flowers.

What kind of flowers are spring flowers?

Spring flowers are very colorful, bright and bring a very pleasant scent to any area where they bloom.

Here are the names of common spring flowers here in Texas I grow and enjoy:

- Petunias are very bright, colorful, easy-to-grow flowers that are also easy to maintain. The colors they have are pink, white, purple, blue, red, and yellow. These spring flowers come to bloom in February and will last till around mid-June, and they love full sun.
- Another spring flower that is a favorite is the Star Hibiscus. This flower is known for its bright colorful and tropical area.

However, it does very well almost anywhere if it gets the light and food it needs and is stored in a hot, warm or damp area.

SPRING FLOWERS

Rooted

These big petal flowers come in yellow, multi-colored, red, orange and pink. These flowers/plants love the full sun and add a beautiful display in your spring flower gardens. They grow best in May and can last till last summer.

Best Planting Tips: The best way to plant these spring flowers is under full sunlight exposure where they can get the morning dew and vitamin D they need to grow strong.

Caring for your spring flowers

After you have gotten through the planting, rooting and blooming stages, you must maintain the flowers so they can last as long as possible. They are quite easy to maintain.

In your spring flower garden keep little animals out of the area such as rabbits, moles, cats and dogs that can go and knock the planters down, eat the flowers or dig them up. If you have a planter that you use, be sure to stabilize and secure it.

If they are in the ground, then you might want to fence the area so that it is not accessible to animals that can tear them up or dig them out.

Weeding your flowers is always good because any weeds that tend to grow will take away the water and nutrients from the root of the flowers and stall them from growing and fully blooming.

Again, spring is such a beautiful time of year when we physically get to see new life coming after death.

Each flower brings its own color and size and comes at its own perfect timing, relying on full sunlight and water. Spring flowers are cared for and maintained by physical hands.

Most will read this story as a pretty picture of colorful flowers. Others will read this and understand how similar we are to all of God's creation and how we all need the full sun and water that the Lord Jesus provides every morning (new mercies).

I pray you get to plant your spring flowers and see them in full bloom.

Peace Be!



All photos by Sister Rachel Fuentes

Dedication Prayer

Eternal everlasting God, God of the Prophets and the God of the Apostles whom we thank and praise for your divine wisdom. We thank you for your perfect understanding of all things. We thank you for bringing us thus far, fulfilling your Word. We thank you for the way of Holiness that you revealed to your servants for our learning.

You are a God that have no errors, and you're a God that makes no mistakes. We thank you for manifesting your will, establishing your Word in the hearts of men. Eternal God, we ask you to look down upon us all. Let your blessings and your peace be upon us. We can never thank you enough for bringing us from darkness into the marvelous light.

Eternal God, we thank you how you brought us from Jerome Street, and you've seen fit to take us to Briar Road. Then you have blessed us to go to Frankford Avenue. You saw fit now to bring us to this place.

Eternal God, we don't have words to express our gratitude. When many false prophecies has went out many years ago up to now, you have beated all of our enemies under your feet. We thank you for giving us victory time after time. You stood by us, you stood with us, and you stood for us.

Not one word that you have spoken have fell to the ground, but you have manifest yourself in these last and evil days. Now, Eternal God, as we call upon thy name, we ask you to look down from heaven.

Eternal God, dedicate this place. Consecrate this house that the Word of God may continue to be preached, that souls may be filled with the Holy Ghost, that the sick might be healed and the eyes of the blind may come open.

We thank you Lord God Almighty for your goodness, your patience, your long, longsuffering, to usward, for the many victories that you've given us. Eternal God, look on them that are watching and them that hear this prayer. Wherever they are, make provisions for them. Give healing to the sick; bind up every broken heart. Help them that are weak; make them strong.

Look upon all the ministers that are here and those that could not be here. We ask you to strengthen them; keep them; preserve them that the Word of God might be preached to every creature that is under the heavens.

*N*ow, God, we're forever grateful. We are forever thankful for you living up to your Word. These blessings we ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God Almighty.

Let every heart say,

Amen