

January 2024



# OAA MONTHLY *NEWSLETTER*

*Visions 2024: Visions of the Bridegroom*

## CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly to lift the fallen, visit the sick, strengthen the weak, encourage the faint-hearted, comfort the feeble-minded, and point the lost to the way of salvation. We urge all people to seek a SPIRIT-FILLED life and to prepare for the coming of the LORD.

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## CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly to demonstrate the Light of CHRIST in the Metro-East area by inviting the unchurched into our Christian family and loving each member unconditionally.

# VISIONS OF THE BRIDEGROOM

Greetings to all of the precious Saints of God, who worship at O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly. It is a blessed privilege to commune with you in this the first month of 2024.

As many of you longtime members of this church family will recognize, we have historically taken this first month of the year to consecrate ourselves anew in our Lord's service. We are in worship service almost every day in church. We take this as a time of personal devotion in fasting and prayers throughout the entire month.

Additionally, this is our opportunity to share the vision of direction and focus for the new year. The vision this year, which also will guide our Annual Visions Conference, is Visions of the Bridegroom, from **Matthew 25:6**, "*And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*" The Lord has been teaching us about how we are to live as we prepare ourselves for our soon coming King.

Our church is heavily invested in the teaching of eschatology, the study of the 'Last Days'. Our view is that God has shared these precious truths with His church through the scriptures because He wants us to know what He is going to do and to keep ourselves prepared to avoid being judged with the world. **Revelations 1:3** says, "*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*"

The scripture from which this thought is drawn concerns ten virgins who represent the church at the hour of His return. Five of the virgins are accounted wise because they maintained an ample supply of oil for their lamps. They understood that the Bridegroom for whom they wait may not come in the daytime, which is convenient for us. He may in fact come in the darkest time, nighttime. We must never try to make God to conform to our schedule or our expectations. Isaiah says, "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). The other five virgins are called foolish because they did not keep enough oil to light their way when the Bridegroom suddenly appears. It is interesting to note in the narrative that when the announcement of the approach of the Bridegroom is made, all were sleeping. We are scripturally told to remain awake. "*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober*" (**1 Thessalonians 5:6**). This is spiritually so. Let us remain alert. However, naturally, sleep and fatigue is natural. It happens to us all. The lesson here is that we must remain prepared. Keep our souls right before God. Keep our hearts pure from evil. We must be found "looking for Him" in terms of how we live. The scripture says, "*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation*" (**Hebrews 9:28**). We must purpose to be found prepared, keeping our lamps trimmed and burning. "*For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*" (**Matthew 24:44**).

Let us remain vigilant in expecting the imminent return of the God called Jesus.



# ***MIGHTY WOMEN OF GOD***

## WOMEN'S SEGMENT

### **Psalm 139:14**

**I will Praise thee; for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.**

To my beautiful sisters: God hand grafted and  
picked each of us for his purpose. So for 2024 I  
encourage you to ***love the skin you are in!***

*Evangelist Thelma King*

*OAA MCWA President*



# CONNECTION CORNER

EVANGELIST BRENDA HARRIS



As we end this year with grateful hearts, we contemplate and renew our dedication to the Lord. Despite whether this past year brought you success, fulfillment, joy, or you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, God is still blessing us!

Prayer is a wonderful way to give thanks for the past year as we seek guidance for the coming year. From the ashes of 2023 we will enter into 2024 still standing because of God. He carried us through it all, and he did not get tired or give up; he stayed right there with us. Let us remember God's perfect way. We must walk in his holiness, righteousness, and lean not to our own understanding.

## **Let us have a word of prayer:**

Heavenly Father as we enter into the unknown and uncertainty of this coming year (January 2024), we need your instructions, direction, guidance and wisdom. I pray that you will illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your perfect ways and make choices that align with your will for our lives. Help us to keep our focus on the kingdom, trusting that all other things will be added unto us. Lord, we pray that our minds, hearts and souls be transformed - letting go of the past and embracing what the future holds for each of us according to your will, plan and purpose. Lord help us as we face difficulties and challenges. Give us the strength and courage to hold on, knowing all power is in your hands, and you have the last word concerning all things pertaining to us. Help us to continue to be steadfast in our faith. God you are our rock and fortress in whom we put our trust always. Lord, we are lifting up our loved ones, communities, and the world. Let your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. We pray for healing in the land and reconciliation. We end this with grateful hearts. Amen!





## CONNECTION CORNER

SISTER TRACY ISLEY

### Love or Locked Horns?

Have you ever seen two adult deer with large antlers, heads down, locked in competition? If the battle is prolonged, the horns aren't the only point of contact. In their struggle to keep their position, they puncture, cut and bruise each other. The 'loser' walks away with a broken spirit (if not killed), pushed out of the territory. The trial I found myself in involved a person I met when I was newly saved. This person's path crossed mine heavily causing great conflict. Still inexperienced in the ways of God, I responded by asserting myself and showing my disapproval. As God would have it, neither of us was removed from the conflict. Stalemate. Locked horns. For years.

Being patient with me, God sent good preaching and teaching, causing me in repentance to lift up my head and leave the struggle. He gave me full assurance that He always has, and always will, stand the ground **He** has appointed for me, **as long as I walk in His will**. Now that I've left the conflict, I feel remorse. I've apologized, but I see the fruit of my actions: cuts and bruises on both of us, tolerance but no fellowship. I did not edify her. My prayer is for God to help me go back to fix broken relationships.

On a recent flight home, I saw the short film *Sons of Toledo*. It's a true story touching on gun violence and young black men. The ending was a real gut punch. The music sang, "I will make room for you. I will prepare for two, so you don't have to feel like you can't live here. Please live in me." As I thought about "please live in me" I realized it's another way of Jesus saying we are to carry one another in our hearts, to love one another. How sad it would be for a saint of the Most High God to look back and see their saved years as years of unresolved conflict with others, never truly edifying, always keeping people at arms length and never really loving them.

When you look back, do the relationships you see bear the fruit of love or locked horns?



# January 2024

Fruit Meet For Repentance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b> New year's day—no svc</p>	<p><b>2</b> Fasting / Prayer</p>	<p><b>3</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Min. M. Baskin Evg. S. Byas</p>	<p><b>4</b> Fasting / Prayer Roundtable 11:30a Mother's BC 645p</p>	<p><b>5</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Eld. T. Harsley</p>	<p><b>6</b> Women's Mtg 10a</p>
<p><b>7</b> Missions Sunday</p>	<p><b>8</b> Fasting / Prayer Prayer 6:30p</p>	<p><b>9</b> Fasting / Prayer</p>	<p><b>10</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Evg. B. Clark Min. K. McCray</p>	<p><b>11</b> Fasting / Prayer Roundtable 11:30a Mother's BC 645p</p>	<p><b>12</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Bishop E. Coleman</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Fasting / Prayer MLK Day</p>	<p><b>16</b> Fasting / Prayer</p>	<p><b>17</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Evg. A. Tart Min. K. Pugh</p>	<p><b>18</b> Fasting / Prayer Roundtable 11:30a Mother's BC 645p CTC 7p</p>	<p><b>19</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Bishop L. Brown</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Fasting / Prayer Prayer 6:30p</p>	<p><b>23</b> Fasting / Prayer</p>	<p><b>24</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Min. B. Harris Mother S. Jefferson</p>	<p><b>25</b> Fasting / Prayer Roundtable 11:30a Mother's BC 645p</p>	<p><b>26</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Eld. Q. Clay</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> Fasting / Prayer Prayer 6:30p</p>	<p><b>30</b> Fasting / Prayer</p>	<p><b>31</b> Fasting / Prayer Svc 7p Bishop G. Wells</p>			



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**GO** MISSIONS **SUNDAY**  
1st Sunday of each month



THURSDAY NIGHT  
**BIBLE CLASS**  
6:45PM (CST)


**OAA Mothers**  
JOIN US FOR  
*Bible Class*

(712) 770-4010  
MEETING ID: 445166



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

2nd Sunday at 9:30a



**Continuing The Conversation**

Third Thursday of each month at 7pm at OAA



*Sister-2-Sister*  
**CONNECTION**  
Presents  
*"Empowered Women Empower Women"*

"THE POWER OF THE SECRET PLACE"  
PSALM 91:1  
Missionary and Christian Women Auxiliary

SATURDAY JANUARY 6TH 10:00 AM  
Evg. Thelma King President

zoom

SPEAKER: ELDER MONICA ALLEN  
O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly 409 S. Lincoln Ave -- O'Fallon IL

Consecration month: Wednesday Bible class will be replaced by services. And Friday night services will be at 7pm.

Fasting/Prayer is daily except the weekends



O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly

**CONSECRATION SERVICES**

EVERY FRIDAY IN JANUARY  
7:00PM

MONTHLY THEME: FRUIT MEET FOR REPENTANCE



## PRAAYER LIST

## ROUNDTABLE ZOOM

Bishop & First Lady Gregory Wells	Dial In: (312) 626-6799
Bishop & First Lady Larry Jones	
Bishop & First Lady James Ware	January 4, 2024 11:30 AM
	Meeting ID: 869 0754 6562
Mother Mary Brooks	Passcode: 808162
Mother Sallie Jefferson	
Mother Sarah Rodgers	January 11, 11:30 AM
	Meeting ID: 838 5887 2806
Sis. Alicia Jennings	Passcode: 538991
Sis. Candice Jennings	
Sis. Gwen Gardner	January 18, 11:30 AM
	Meeting ID: 841 0855 4649
LeSane Family	Passcode: 022617
Pearson/ Wells Family	
	January 25, 11:30 AM
1st Responders	Meeting ID: 881 7660 7427
Bereaved families	Passcode: 132300
Backsliders/ The Lost	







To all those who  
celebrate January  
birthdays  
including Dr. King

