

FALL 2024

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES
OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH INTERNATIONAL

VOIC THE ICE

A Digital Magazine

*Worshippers enter the presence of the
Lord at GROWTH Conference 2024 in
Dallas, Texas. **More inside!***

News, Photos, Stories, Articles, Inspiration

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THE VOICE

FALL 2024 | VOL. 114, NO. 1

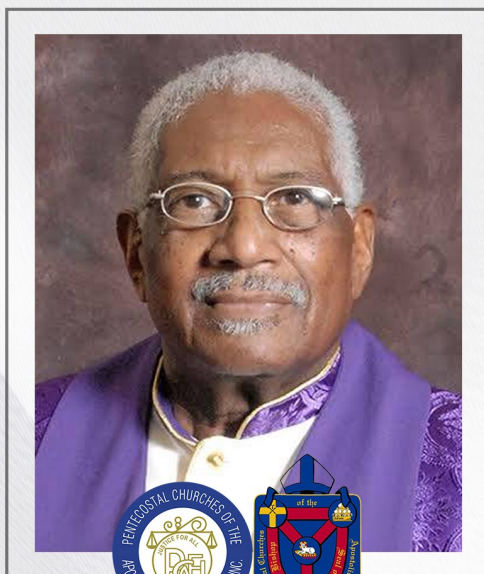
EDITOR: ANITA FRANKLIN PREDDIE

The Voice is the official publication of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International (PCAFI), and is published as a free, digital-only source. The mission of this magazine is to promote the life of the PCAFI through news, photos, stories, articles, and inspiration. *The Voice* is a historical publication, founded in 1910 by Bishop Garfield T. Haywood as *The Voice in the Wilderness*.



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LIFE AND LEGACY

BISHOP GENNIE E. SHERIFF, SR. **1938-2024**

Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr., and the PCAFI join the Sheriff family of Mississippi in mourning the loss of Bishop Gennie E. Sheriff, Sr. He was the pastor of St. Peter Apostolic Church in Magnolia, Mississippi, and a state bishop in the Southeastern District Council. Please keep his church and family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Funeral arrangements will be announced as they become available.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. —Rev. 14:13 KJV



STATE OF THE UNION

THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

DALLAS, TX | FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024 • 10:00 AM CST

Today, I greet this august body in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What an honor it is to stand before the beautiful saints of God as we celebrate our 67th annual Holy Convocation and Growth Conference of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith International, in the great city of Dallas.

I give honor today to our presiding bishop emeritus, the honorable Bishop J.E. Moore. He continues to amaze me with his love, humility, and agility in aiding his spiritual son in directing our great church. I shudder to think about where our organization would be without this anointed apostolic father's insight, sagacity, and keen spirituality, and I want to appreciate him as a beacon of light and source of continued inspiration.

I also thank God for our general treasurer, Bishop John T. Leslie, Jr., who is unable to be at this meeting due to an accident suffered by his wife, Lady Louise Leslie, but we are happy to report that Lady Leslie is on the mend, and they are both undoubtedly taking part in this opening session virtually. Finally, I honor the rest of our Executive Bishops Cabinet in the persons of our general secretary, Bishop James Chapman; our assistant general secretary, Bishop T. David Dockery, Sr.; and our assistant general treasurer, Bishop Gary W. Frazier, Sr. These men are stellar servants of the Lord and I certainly couldn't do my job without them. We augment and complement one another. To the Board of Bishops, the Executive Board, and the delegates and constituents of this great and growing body, I also salute and honor you. Your dedication and service are not plainly important, but they are the driving force behind the growth and success of the PCAFI. I am humbled to serve as your presiding bishop, and I am proud of what we have achieved together through the Lord Jesus Christ.



Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.

I am also truly grateful for my family's unwavering support, and I certainly want to pause and honor my dear wife, Sister Nancy Gates. I thank God for my two wonderful sons, Lambert, Jr. and Cameron, my daughter-in-law, Erika, and my two beautiful granddaughters, Teagan and Elyse. All of them collectively are my pillars of strength and their love and support are invaluable to me. I also must acknowledge with a heavy heart that my dear sister-mom, Missionary Mother Shirley Dew, who served in my life as both a mother and a sister, is now home with Jesus. May she rest in peace as we cherish her memory. This is also a good juncture for us to remember all of the beloved among our PCAFI constituency who have gone on to be with the Lord since our last annual gathering. Let us bow our heads in a moment of silence for all of them. Amen.

STATE OF THE UNION

THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

As we gather here in the vibrant city of Dallas, I am reminded of Caleb's bold spirit and request to Moses as recorded in Joshua 14:12 (NIV): "Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day." These words speak to us of the courage and faith needed to claim God's promises. In the same way, we are called to rise to the challenges of our times with unwavering faith and determination. The hill country is not just a physical territory. It is also the spiritual and societal heights we are destined to conquer. I am hopeful that as we transition across this week, we will let Caleb's example inspire us to seize the opportunities before us. During this conference, may our fellowship in the corridors and in the restaurants, and our discussions and deliberations in our meetings be guided by the Holy Spirit. And as we leave this place at the end of the week, may we be empowered to claim our hill country for Christ to advance His Kingdom and transform our communities. I am afraid that fear could undo the PCAFI if we are unwilling to act courageously. I challenge us not to be like Israel and become intimidated by our success. When we observe the children of Israel, it was dithering and indecisiveness that paralyzed them in the wilderness of Kadesh Barnea. They celebrated their victory with timbrel and dance, led by Miriam and her sisters upon crossing the gruesome waters of the Red Sea, only to be stymied by the paralysis of fear on the cusp of Canaan, standing on the far side of Jordan. They did not understand that God had brought them out to take them in. In 2 Timothy 3:7 (NKJV), Paul speaks of foolish women, "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." That paragraph really contains what I would call my state of the union address.

God has been good to the PCAFI. A lot of doors have been opened for us. But it's not just Bishop Gates. I have been blessed with a remarkable group of bishops to work with; remarkable boards, offices, pastors, and auxiliary leaders. It takes team work to make the dream work. We also understand that it's "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," saith the Lord of hosts (Zech. 4:6).

And so, wherever we have been and wherever we are going, we give God all the glory. Let us not become intimidated by our success. Israel got out of Egypt. They got delivered. But they couldn't get in, because they forgot why they were delivered. Lord, help us remember!

“

Holiness is still holiness. It instructs our morality. But it is not our peccadillos and the idols of yesterday to which we have erected shrines.

”

I want to lead as boldly as Bishop Moore and his predecessors led. I want to lead, along with this Board of Bishops, with the vision and strength of our first presider and founding father, Bishop Samuel Nathan Hancock. I don't know where my colleagues stand, but I am persuaded that God did not cease to deal with His church in August of 1963 when Bishop Hancock went home to be with the Lord. I believe the same God that was with him is with us. *Emmanuel. God with us.* If you search the Hebrew text, as it is arranged there, "with" is not even between God and us. It is "Us, God, With." God says I want to be so close to you, I don't even want a preposition to separate us! Bishop Hancock and Bishop Haywood were maverick leaders and visionaries. They stood up in their hour and flowed against the grain, because they weren't afraid to lead. Some of us think that God doesn't give any more revelation, but He still talks to us. God gave orders to Joshua and He has orders for us today. "As I was with Moses, so shall I be with you" (Joshua 1:5).

STATE OF THE UNION

THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

I say to our pastors: most of our members were not alive when Bishop Hancock was here. They don't know Bishop Hancock. They know *you*. Where are you going to lead them? Get up and cross the Jordan River and when you get across the river, don't be afraid to claim what's yours!

As a young man, I thought Canaan was heaven. Canaan is not heaven. It's the place of cultivation of the promises of God. But we have been so fixated on heaven that we have forgotten how to live in this present world. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12). I know all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but there should be some joy between the seasons of suffering! Stop allowing the devil to prognosticate your future. The power of death and life is in the tongue. Do not be intimidated. Do not be afraid to lead. Some of us hurt our leadership because we're trying to clone the previous leadership. The dynamics of every generation changes and leadership must be willing to change its methodology to reach the current generation. What I love about Bishop Moore is that he understands the nexus of fatherhood and sonship. He has the spirit of my pastor, the late great Bishop Nemiah Smith who said, "I don't want you to clone me. I want you to climb upon my shoulders and see farther than what I saw." [Sometimes] we are married to our traditions more than we are to God. Holiness is still holiness. It instructs our morality. But it is not our peccadillos and the idols of yesterday to which we have erected shrines. We have to be willing to change, and we can change without moving the boundaries of holiness. While I've been entrusted to be the leader, that is where I'm trying to lead us. If you have to put a name on me, label me "progressive holiness." I refuse to be stagnant. And I refuse to make you my clone. When

we're all the same, the body is not beautiful. Let us have the spirit of Captain Jean-Luc Picard: "To boldly go where no man has gone before" (Star Trek catchphrase). Let us open our church doors wide enough to let this new generation in and give them enough room to express themselves in the context of their generation. Growing is bridging the generational gap. Let's stand back and allow God to perform his work in our midst. I pray all our leaders will be Kingdom-minded and we will grow, not just numerically, but spiritually. I pray that God will give us the key to the heart of this generation. Holiness is still holiness. Boundaries are still boundaries, but there is a better way for the church to articulate those messages for today. It is not with hardness or meanness. What will the world do when the church refuses to be God's hospital? When Jesus saw the multitude, His heart was filled with compassion. So, we can preach a message of holiness, yet one of compassion. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 3:35). He that winneth souls must be wise. God bless you!





PRESIDING BISHOP GATES ENTERS HISTORIC 3RD TERM IN OFFICE

Congratulations to Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr., on his third term in office, marking a historic second time that his position has been extended. In 2020, the Executive Board voted to forego the elections in the interest of organizational stability during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Last year, Bishop Gates made a request to the Board to defer the elections until 2028 due to the unprecedented momentum that the organization is experiencing in this hour. The motion to accept the requested deferment and slate of officers was received through boardroom protocol and passed by a unanimous vote. The move is reminiscent of the unusual vote in the early 1970s that extended Bishop Elzie W. Young's term to a life term as president. He served 25 consecutive years before his death in 1989. The approved slate of 2024-2028 general officers include some members entering their own historic 3rd term and others added in new positions. In addition, members of the Board of Directors and the auxiliary leaders have retained their positions.

"I am grateful for the opportunity and the vote of confidence from the brethren to continue what we have established the last eight years," said Bishop Gates. We've made significant progress through and by the grace of God and we plan to build upon that and finish it. Hopefully, understanding of our ethos is infused throughout so that there will be continuity and sustainability of the various programs that have been established."

Let us pray for our presiding bishop, general officers, board members, and auxiliary leaders as they continue in their Kingdom assignments! *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.* (I Tim. 2:1-2)

MEET OUR GENERAL OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE BISHOPS CABINET 2024-2028



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Presiding Bishop



Bishop J.E. Moore
Presiding Bishop
Emeritus



**Bishop
James Chapman**
2nd Assistant
Presiding Bishop



**Bishop
T. David Dockery, Sr.**
3rd Assistant
Presiding Bishop



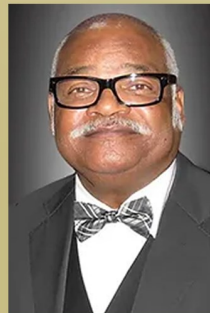
**Bishop
Jerry Baldwin, Jr.**
General Secretary



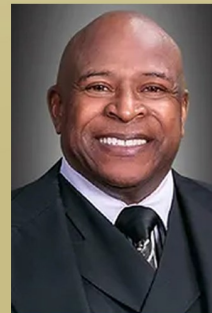
**Bishop
Jonathon L. Pulliam, Sr.**
Assistant General
Secretary



**Bishop
John T. Leslie, Jr.**
General Treasurer



**Bishop
Gary W. Frazier, Sr.**
Assistant General
Treasurer



**Bishop
Vernon Spinks**
2nd Assistant
General Treasurer



Presiding Bishop
Lambert W. Gates, Sr.
"I'm Bound"



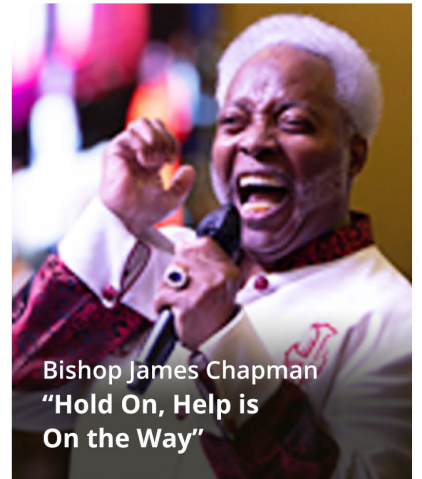
Pastor
Timiney
Figueroa
"Work
with Me
Until I
Grow"



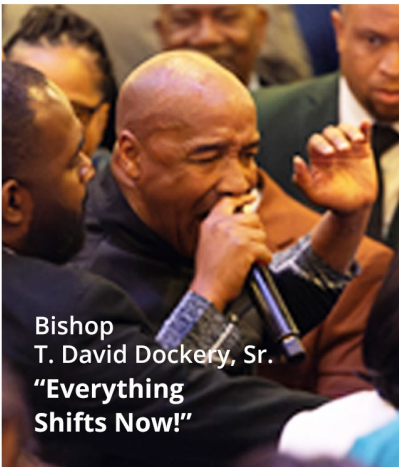
Apostle
Dana Carson
"Under-
standing the
Mystery of
the Kingdom"



Bishop
John
Francis
"It's
Time
Well
Spent"



Bishop James Chapman
"Hold On, Help is
On the Way"



Bishop
T. David Dockery, Sr.
"Everything
Shifts Now!"



Pastor
Sheryl Brady
"Suffering
grooms us
and grows
us . . ."



**A WEEK FILLED
WITH THE ANOINTED
WORD OF GOD!**



Dallas
CONVOCATION 2024
RECAP



Bishop Michael Blue
"The Cost of Growth"



Pastor
Brandon
Clack
"It's time
to Grow"



On Thursday, July 18, the day before GROWTH 2024 was set to convene in Dallas, Texas, Presiding Bishop Gates, Deacon Stephen Leslie, and Elder Aaron Porter joined reporter Jane McGarry on the set of WFAA-TV's Good Morning Texas, for an interview promoting the conference and related highlights. McGarry opened the interview with these words:

“Thousands of believers from across the United States and around the world will be in Dallas this weekend for the 67th annual GROWTH Conference. It’s a significant event in the Pentecostal community and will focus on themes of spiritual growth and community building,” and Bishop L.W. Gates, Sr., Deacon Stephen Leslie, and Aaron Porter join me this morning to share more about their new music project. Good morning, great to have you in the studio!”



To watch the full interview, scan the code or visit the Good Morning Texas show on YouTube at WFAA-TV. Look for the July 18 segment titled “GROWTH Conference Comes to Dallas.”



Deacon Leslie and Elder Porter shared details of the PCAFI’s new music project titled *Our Apostolic Heritage*, and played a snippet of the song *Consistent*, from the album. Bishop Gates shared a little PCAFI history, the purpose of the conference, and a summary of what he would like his input as presider to be: “I want my contribution, specifically, to participate in upgrading our ministry and also broadening our community impact—in the United States and around the world. Lift lives, both naturally and spiritually.” The interview provided a lively boost to the event and set a tone of excitement as the conference prepared to get underway.

PCAFI Releases Music CD

The PCAFI Music project titled “Our Apostolic Heritage: Live in Chicago” is out! Released July 19, 2024, this CD pays homage to the rich musical history of the Apostolic Church, and features a collection of hymns, gospel medleys, and contemporary worship songs. A project of this magnitude could not have come together without vision, money, skills, talent, and time. Kudos to everyone who played a part in bringing this project to pass!

Featured Artist

Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.

Executive Producers

Presiding Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.
Deacon Stephen Leslie, Sr.
Elder Aaron Porter, Sr.

Producer

Dr. Myron Williams

Mixed and Mastered

Dr. Myron Williams

Label

PCAFI Music LLC

Distribution

The Orchard

Graphic Design

Lerico Britton

Photography

Aaron Porter, Jr. and
Spencer McClenty

Choir

Anjelah Evans
Ashley Moore
Ayanna Porter
Dana Blackmon
Darius Brown
James Brown
Patrick Farmer
Tecola Campbell
Veronica Bell

Overdub BGVs

Ariel Campbell
Charlotte Rogers
Christopher Parker
Emerald Campbell
Isaiah Templeton & Friends
Kevin Stewart
Taylor Rogers

Musicians

B3: Devin Watkins and
Christian Bishop
Bass: Lacy Comer, Austin
Blackmon, and Aaron
Mayfield
Drums: Lacy Comer, Andrew
Porter, and Josh Mayfield
Guitar: Jeremy Venable
Horn: Leo Saenz
Keys: Terrance Ruffin and
Aaron Mayfield
Lead Guitar:
Jonathan Dubose Jr. and
Christian McCorkle
Piano: Matt Simmons and
Aaron Mayfield



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District Elder

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Jackson, Mississippi

William Henley
Chicago, Illinois

Arthur M. Ingachi
Nairobi, Kenya, E. Africa

James L. Jenkins, Jr.
Randallstown, Maryland

Edward Jones, Sr.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Jeffrey L. Lomax
Madison, Wisconsin

Rudolph A. S. McEwan
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

District Elder

Posian M. Nzumi
Mwanza, Tanzania, E. Africa

Pamela R. Reed
Louisville, Kentucky

Joshua C. Shelton, Sr.
Chicago, Illinois

Honorary Bishop

Merlin Jerome Williams
Louisville, Kentucky

Suffragan Bishop

Harvey Lee Hale, Sr.
Converse, Texas

Benjamin A. Jones
Madison Heights, Michigan

Jeremiah M. Jones, Sr.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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Dustin Clark
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James Crawford
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Elder Erika Duncan
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Darryl English
Baltimore, Maryland

Talisha Goodwin
Stockton, California

Elder Duane Goree
Leemore, California

Elder Janeen Goree
Leemore, California

Pastor Michael Hannah
Lancaster, California

Minister Wanda Watts-Jones
Stockton, California

Cathrica Shanelle Joseph
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Evangelist Teresa Law
Woodford, Virginia

Minister Princess Martin
Stockton, California

Cassandra Rockward-O'Saben
Woodford, Virginia

Cheryl Poole *ADVANCED COURSE*
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Shanin Reynoso
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Marilyn Richardson
Baltimore, Maryland

Kathryn Ross
Stockton, California

William Smith
Stockton, California

Artis Stanley
Stockton, California

Vanessa Campbell-Stanley
Stockton, California

Evangelist Rosalind Tarkington
Dallas, Texas

Elder Orlinza Washington
Stockton, California

Antanaye Wilkins
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

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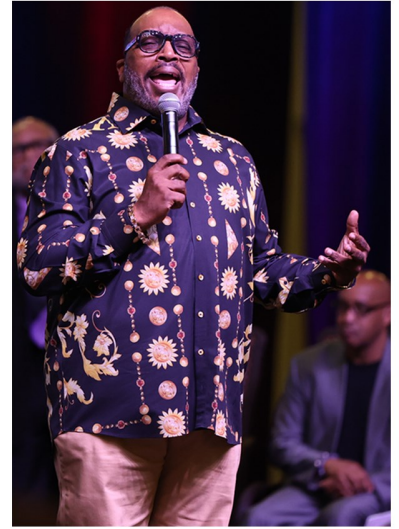
Malcolm McDowell, Jr.
Baltimore, MD

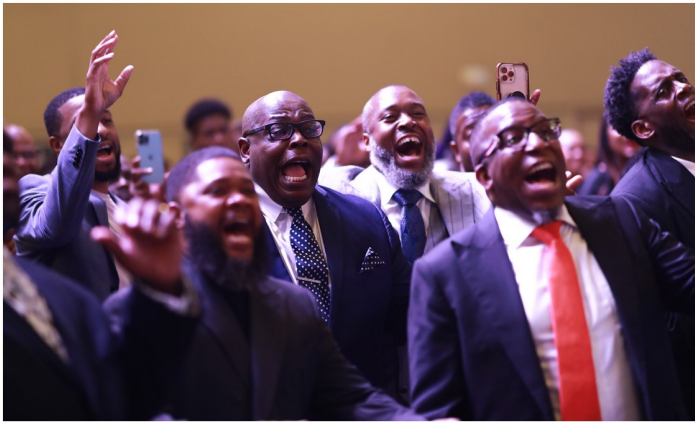
.....

Maya Morris
Indianapolis, IN

.....

Drenisha Thurman
Phoenix, Arizona







Dallas CONVOCATION 2024 RECAP



SAVE THE DATES



INTERNATIONAL **MISSIONS DAY**

SUN, OCT 6, 2024

A FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS EFFORT FOR

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HOW CHURCHES CAN PARTICIPATE:

- Schedule Missions Day for Oct 6 at your local assembly. Set aside a few minutes to talk about how your dollars support PCAFI initiatives and programs that help those in disastrous and less fortunate situations.
- Encourage your congregation to wear international attire on that day.
- Encourage your congregation to give or pledge via the forms on the missions page at www.pcafintl.org.



Download these images from pcafintl.org/missions and share them across social media.

SAVE THE DATES



NOV 21-23, 2024

GREATER BETH-EL TEMPLE MINISTRIES | OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.
Presiding Bishop
Evening Worship Service Speaker

Pastor Rashall Hightower
Morning Power Service Speaker

Bishop Jonathon Pulliam
Evening Worship Service Speaker

Elder Aaron Porter
Morning Power Service Speaker

Bishop George Dawson
Evening Worship Service Speaker

Minister Tecola Campbell
Morning Power Service Speaker

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SAVE THE DATES



THE 68TH ANNUAL
**BISHOPS BOARD MEETING
AND LEAD CONFERENCE**
MARCH 5-8, 2025

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THE 68TH ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION

GROWTH

CONFERENCE

JULY 25-30, 2025

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TRAVEL INFORMATION MEETING



THU, OCT 10, 2024

- 9:00 AM EST ZOOM
- 8:00 PM EST FB LIVE

Open to all

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Passcode: 087756

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You can also find important information on our Passport and Travel page at pcfafintl.org

OPPORTUNITY

BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

The PCAFI is launching a national-level initiative that engages ambassadors to help promote awareness about events, disseminate information, and help foster engagement within the PCAFI community. Come and find your place in the Kingdom!



Watch for details on how you can become an ambassador, coming to our website soon at

www.pcfafintl.org

Introducing . . .

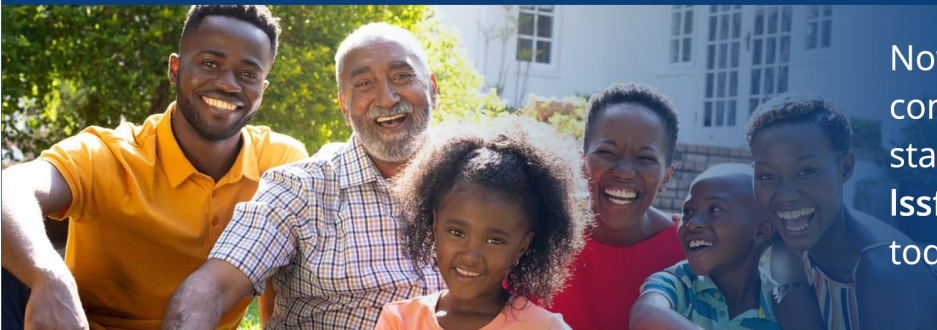


The PCAFI media department recently launched a new digital resource called PCAFI TV. This community-based channel features livestreams, Bible classes, shorts, replays, and other original and innovative content. The platform gives churches, councils, ministries, and other voices in and around the PCAFI an opportunity to share their programs with the masses. Check it out on [youtube.com/@PCAFITV](https://www.youtube.com/@PCAFITV)!

Interested in getting your content added to PCAFI TV? Send an email to MIT@pcafintl.org for consideration.

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Pray and Vote

Excerpted reprint

To my colleagues in the PCAFI and to my fellow Christians throughout the United States of America, I am writing this letter to you with urgency for all of us to exercise our right to vote! The state of political turmoil permeating our country is incomprehensible. Racial disparity and unrest, social injustices, and immorality are at an all-time low. We have an opportunity to make a difference. Voting is one of the most important responsibilities we have as U.S. citizens. It is our chance to select political leaders who understand current issues and are motivated to make sound, moral decisions around those issues. Hopefully, we have educated ourselves and are acquainted with the candidates in the race and understand their policies. This is necessary for us to make our own sound judgment for whom we will vote. If you have not yet taken advantage of this civic right and responsibility, I am asking you to clear your calendars and make your way to the polls on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Your voice in voting and in prayer matter at the highest level. Let us rise to the occasion and be heard!

—Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr.

While the above message particularly addresses the elections in the United States, it is applicable across the world to those living in free countries where voting is a privilege. Globally this year, more voters than ever in history will head to the polls in at least 64 countries (plus the European Union)—representing a combined population of about 49% of the people in the world. In Scripture, Joseph, Moses, Mordecai, and the disciples of Jesus, to name a few, desired to have a voice in their nation. If you are living in a free country and have been provided a right to vote, don't neglect to act on that freedom!

10 Reasons Christians Should Vote

1. Voting publicly recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nations as established by God. (Romans 13:1-7)
2. Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. (Deut. 10:17-19)
3. Voting is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nations as a whole. (Jer. 29:5-6)
4. Voting shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are, as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. (1 Tim. 2:1,2)
5. Voting is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nations. (Psalms 34:14).
6. Voting makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. (Matt. 5:13)
7. Voting is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Voting has biblical precedence. For example, Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
9. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.
10. *Not* voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. (Luke 10:25-37).



FOR INTERNATIONAL UNITY:

FAST & PRAY

Fasting every first Wednesday
Midnight-4:00 p.m.

Join the prayer call every Wednesday
6:00 a.m.

Dial-in: 844-992-4726

Access: 132-913-0943