



Church Dedication Service, September 22, 2024

Indeed, Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised as the Winnipeg saints gathered on the weekend of September 20-22, 2024, for the dedication of a new church building. Years of prayers for a permanent church site were answered. In attendance from the global headquarters of The Apostolic Faith Church was the General Superintendent, Bro. Olushola Adesope and his lovely wife Sis. Tolu. It was a sight to behold the new Apostolic Faith church building located at 5 Routledge Avenue Headingley, Manitoba.

It is worthy of note as shared during the dedication service that the founder of the Apostolic Faith Church Sis. Florence Crawford visited the Winnipeg area in 1907 and 1917 respectively during her missionary trips to Canada.

The Dedication service began with the orchestra presenting “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise,” followed by the combined choir singing “Great and Marvelous” and then the youth choir sang “Revelation 19.” Then Bro. Samson Jimaza, the Pastor of our Winnipeg church, welcomed everyone present. As the service continued, Sis Pelumi Enejoh, led the congregation in singing selected hymns such as “All Creatures of our God and King,” “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise and Love Divine.” Rev. Akin Ajayi, a retired Overseer from Nigeria gave the opening prayer.

Bro. Samson gave the announcements and read the greetings and congratulations sent from all over the world after which the choir sang “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Oh Canada” appreciating God for the freedom of worship.

Rev. Chris Hewlett, Canadian District Superintendent, in conducting the dedication ceremony, read from 1 Kings 8:27 and gave a brief history of the construction of the building. In his words, "... on November 19th, 2020, a parcel of land, 1.57 acres, was purchased by the Apostolic Faith Church Mission. Since then, there has been a tremendous amount of work accomplished both here on site and often behind the scenes for the completion of this Church Project.

He then acknowledged those who helped with the project: there are many to thank for this great accomplishment. First and foremost, we thank the Almighty God for answered prayers, providing the means to reach this milestone today. We thank all those who supported this project with prayers, their tithes, offerings and many hours of manual labour. I personally wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Canadian Board of Directors, Rev. Rene Cassell, Pastor Vanzel, Pastor George Burton and Pastor Randy Antalan. Also, our former General Superintendent, Rev. Darrell Lee, Rev. Robert Downey (Director of the AF North American work). We appreciate Bro. Samson Jimaza, the Winnipeg church board members and the congregation for your patience, support and prayers. Bro. Samson began the Apostolic Faith work in Winnipeg with three families back in 2010 and today, I am overwhelmed to see how God has worked in the city of Winnipeg and preparing such a marvelous House of God for the saints here in Winnipeg to worship.

Thanks to Bro. Edwin Reid and his wife Pastor Marjorie Reid who managed the project, Roman of RP Project worked with Bro. Remi Ajibade, Bro. Joe Burton from across the border and his workers who laid the carpets and the flooring without receiving payments. We thank Wallace Kennedy who was our liaison to communicate with the engineer's and architects during the process of this Project. This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us desire that the everlasting God of Heaven be exalted, be present with us as we gather from Sunday to Sunday to honour, to worship and to glorify the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Bro. Chris closed with two brief verses of scriptures; “through wisdom is a house built and by understanding it is established and by knowledge the rooms are filled with precious and pleasant riches (Proverbs 24:3-4), “Now therefore arise O Lord God into thy resting place thou and the ark of thy strength let the priests O Lord God be clothed with salvation and let thy saints rejoice in goodness” (2 Chronicles 6:41).

A female choir presented a beautiful song entitled, “Hear my Song, Lord,” composed by Helen Taylor, arr. by Joseph M. Martin. Thereafter, Bro. Samson read the scripture reading from 2 Chronicles 7: 1-3. The last special was by the combined choir “Bless this House” - composed by Helen Taylor, arr. by Joseph M Martin. before Rev. Olusola brought the word of the Lord using **2 Chronicles 7:15-16**.

Bro. Olusola’s theme for his message was Functions and Purpose of the House of God. He began by stating this is a very monumental occasion today. He reminded the congregation that the House of God is not just an ordinary building but is one set apart for God’s purposes and glory. We dedicate this House of God as: 1) A place of forgiveness, **2 Chron. 6:21, 25, 27, 30, 39.** 2) A place of prayer, **Matt. 24.** 3) A house of refuge, 4) A lighthouse. We dedicate this Apostolic Faith Church as a place where the standard of God’s Word is upheld. May it also be a soul-saving station.

Rev. Olusola recited the words from the song, “Bless this House,” very fitting words to pray for God’s blessings upon this beautiful Sanctuary.

Following the message, Rev. Chris Hewlett gave the dedicatory prayer after which the congregation sang “My Faith Looks up to Thee.” Sis. Marjorie Reid gave the benediction. The service concluded with a wonderful time of around the altars as individuals rededicated and reconsecrated their lives to God. The sweet Spirit of God was present to bless and uplift each one.

Winnipeg Church Dedication

Pictures of Dedication Service, Sunday Morning









