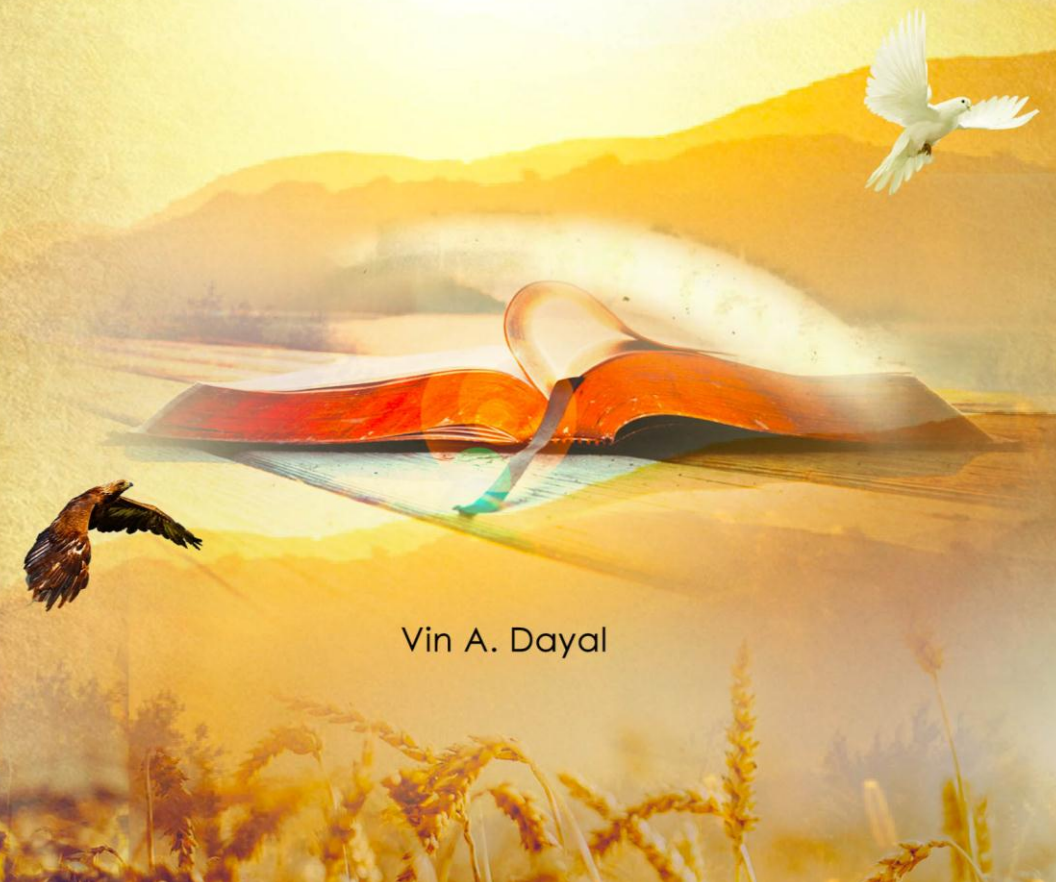

Third Exodus Assembly

Retreat With Singing, Music And Affiliated Ministries

24th September, 2004



Vin A. Dayal

Third Exodus Assembly

**RETREAT WITH SINGING, MUSIC AND AFFILIATED
MINISTRIES**

24th September, 2004

TRINIDAD

Bro. Vin A. Dayal

Excerpt:

‘And even this last convention here it has been such a great thing to see how God had used you all. The thing really is to maintain that, to carry it on, that it could be not only for a little short space of time but it will be able to work for you all to bring the deliverance and the victory in your life that is needed because I believe that as we have been taught too, that out of your placing and the gift that God had given unto you, once you understand that, that has everything locked up inside of there for you, you know, everything. Your victory lies in your position and you understand that this is not just a singing ministry but this is a position that God has given you to minister to the Bride around the world that is where your victory lies. And you capitalize on it and you’re going to see things work out in a greater way for you, you know.’ (Pages 25)

Retreat With Singing, Music And Affiliated Ministries

Friday 24th September, 2004

FOREWORD

This is a sermon preached by Pastor Vin A. Dayal and is published through the freewill offerings of the members of the Third Exodus Assembly.

It is intended to edify the reader and make clear the Bride-Promises of God, which were revealed through the ministry of God's Prophet-Messenger, Bro William Marrion Branham, for the Elect in this Day. It is not meant to promote any special doctrine or person, save, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Divine Word.

The original video and audio recording can be accessed through our website www.thirdexodus.org

We pray the blessing of God upon each reader and may illumination by the Spirit of God be each one's special portion.



RETREAT WITH SINGING, MUSIC AND AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

TRINIDAD

FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2004

BRO. VIN A. DAYAL

So you who take leadership roles, you know, in the tribe of Judah I should say and really let your revelation, your commitment and these things really become a real influence and an inspiration to many; like a little catalyst that where you see, when you have some people who believe in what they do; some people that sacrifice to see the things go forward; some people that are concerned and interested in this thing blossoming and coming forth to its fullest potential. That type of revelation in the hearts of people causes others to be affected. You know the Scripture says, “If the salt has lost its savor it’s good for nothing but be trodden under the foot of men,” but when you have people salty, then they...

[Bro. Vin addresses one of his children. -Ed.] You want to sit down there? Why you don’t get with some sisters? You find—look you have a bunch of sisters over there? You want to be around daddy? You don’t want to be around daddy now. I know daddy have a little chain here but [Bro. Vin laughs -Ed.] if you want to stay you could stay but I just, you know. I see how you by yourself there you have young girls there who want to fellowship and by God’s grace.

So as I was saying that you know, “If the salt have lost its savor its good for nothing” and I thought that some appreciation and to express it in a way collectively that this would be appropriate. And seeing we have the holiday today, then I was in kind of two minds you know, and maybe if we didn’t have to go to Grenada and come back, I would have cancelled service today and

considered this would have been part of the church and service. So instead of having like a general service, we would have service with part of the church but because we had to be away from the church and be in Grenada, then we thought it would be appropriate to still have prayer service but utilize what time we can here among ourselves.

So this is not really meant to be like a big function type thing. This was designed to be a little time of fellowship among yourselves, you know create a little atmosphere and fellowship and you know and do something together. Every time you come together you practice together, you sing together, I mean you could sit together and eat and fellowship and have a good little time and know that your labor and your sacrifice has been recognized, is being recognized; will continue to be recognize as you continue to grow in your ministry.

And I wanted to also use this little occasion to launch off something here because you know we asked the brothers who assist you all at times seasonally in the prayer services to be here as well, you know the Monday night prayer meeting that we have with the singers and so on. Then so Bro. Ellis, Bro. Steve is here. Bro. Neville is supposed to be here as well. You know these brothers help you and they exhort you and they try to encourage you in these prayer services.

Also by God's grace I want to let you know we have designated three sessions, like a three part series, to set up with you soon and that would be dealing basically with ministry, ministry in the song department of the church because this is one of the part of the church we're really getting what I should say 'attacks' and you know the kind of attacks, the kind of damage and the kind of pressure, it just seems the enemy wants to focus upon you all. And it seems sometimes too many of you all, you sing in church but you don't carry the consciousness that sometimes you need to carry with singing. Because of that sometimes you sort of put

yourself in vulnerable places and then eventually it becomes a pressure. And then you know that is the lack of consciousness of ministry and how to carry your ministry.

And since it's a lot of young people and single young people, then in this department then it's obvious there are other things that go along with it. Many of you in the mating season age and being in the mating season age you know you're attracted to the opposite sex. You have a lot of time to fellowship with each other and talk with each other and laugh with each other and relationships develop and build out of there, which is nothing wrong. That is how things happen but the thing is after a while you have no guidelines; and after a while you lose sight of church principles; and after a while everybody start to do their own thing; and after a while it becomes very visible in the church and then it kills your testimony; it destroys your influence; it undermines your ministry; and then after a while you find that we have singing but you could just be going through the motion.

For it to stay a live-wire lighting up the church, motivating the services, inspiring the people; creating greater respect for you; have admiration for you; influenced by what you do and standing in full support behind you, then there will have to be some spiritual maturity taking place because it means to say you all are the first ones the people even see in church. From the time—before the service could start, you are already up in front of the people. So people get to view you standing there. People get accustomed viewing you and after a while they remember images of you and then they see you outside of service and in service and then in their mind when they compare, if they find that it don't relate properly, then they realize you could have a church identity and an out of church identity; then you become confusing; then you create questions in people's heart, "Are you for real? Are you serious about this?"

Do you have a revelation of what you do?” And then it’s not people thinking, bad about you, it’s you have created your own world and entered into your own world and has been sending conflicting signals and confusing people.

But when people see that each day you are growing and getting more mature and getting stronger and more committed, after a while as it were, as the saying goes they would take their hat off for you. They will stand aside to let you pass because you have earned people’s respect. You have become a minister in the house of God. We can give out those titles and we can use the term loosely and say you’re ministering to the saints and when you stand up to minister and me and my ministry but ministry is a thing the devil proves a ministry. God has to loose the devil at a ministry to see if that is for real. Anything that has to stand up before the people cannot be categorized under cosmetic. It must be real. Grow out of the root. It must be pruned. It must be cultivated. It must grow strong. It must be something that people could take fruit from and eat and be nourished. It is genuine. It is living off the Life and bringing forth its own testimony.

And after a while you know, even among your own selves, you know sometimes it could get to the place where you can say, “But what’s she doing here? But what is he doing here?” And then sometimes among your own selves you have things happening and you create a place for it; you create an allowance for it; you become a protector for it and you start to protect things that are detrimental to the ministry and to the Church. And then you become now somebody who has taken a side with darkness against Light unconsciously because you see everything that is happening on a human level. You don’t see it as, “This is God’s thing. This is a ministry in the Church.” You all have special seating in the church. You all have a special area designated for you all. People could come in to the

church in other places and get other people's seat. People can't come to where you all sit and get your seats. Sometime you all sit down there and don't realize that how things are structured to give you all the identification in the Assembly.

And you know so we have to have a little time set aside for that which we would and you would be informed because we have to go through that because there's a great need to go through that at this time. As I say if I go to say fifty percent of the problems in the church right now, it's right among you all here. Things that, let us say, could stumble people, influence people the wrong way and be a certain way. So the thing is these things are not intentional problems. I'm not saying people are conspiring here. This is not about that. This is sometimes you lose sight. Sometimes a little attention, a little popularity, a little something and you have influence and you don't realize responsibility goes with that. That is a great price.

In things like church, once you have influence, that's a great price because from the moment you go and stand up before people and then a lot of things have to be pruned off. You saw the Word come there, that's a junction time Word. Anything that doesn't bear the fruit, the part of it that's supposed to bear, has to be pruned off; has to be purged. Anything that is coming on the vine to strangle or hinder the vine has to be cut off because it's either it stays so, gets hindered and the fruit starts to fall off before it comes to maturity or if this branch has the potential, this Judah branch here, in this spiritual Israel, could bring forth a certain type of fruit and we know we haven't hit that quality of fruit yet, then we want to know, let us cultivate the branch until we see that kind of fruit and the Father is glorified.

And when we come together, no matter what we do, a blessing goes out, the Presence of God, the power of God and the only way that that could really happen we have to start to contain it. It mustn't just flow through us,

we have to contain it. You know thing could flow through you and when you're finished something pass through you, you now realize, "I'm getting used. I didn't know how I'm getting used. I might never get used that way again." And it's just like something was used at the time; something flowed through you but the thing is you must have a measure of it yourself always what you live by.

So we don't just want to be used because remember God use everybody. God used Nebuchadnezzar; God used Balaam; God used Judas; God use everybody to where He can use them but God doesn't live in everybody. He say, "Abide in Me and I'll abide in you." We're talking the living in people now. So we don't just want to be used. God used Elvis Presley; God used Sam Cooke; God could use Michael Jackson; God used a lot of people but the thing is, where are they today? The blessing could fall on the just and the unjust but we want to know, "Every tree will bring forth of its kind; good tree cannot bring corrupt fruit neither could a corrupt tree bring good fruit." There are a lot of things that would like to corrupt us and when we become corrupted then we no longer have something original.

But you all have, what I should say, have been blessed greatly by God. I am just here to help you realize how much you've been blessed and what talent you have and what God have deposited in you and then to say how now can this be worked if this has brought us this far with our struggles and our trials and our discoveries and our problems, then with some overcoming inside of there, if we add overcoming to that, think of it. Think of what some overcoming can do. If I can overcome my hang ups, you could overcome your hang ups, different one could overcome their hang ups and because the things that we have to overcome are what is hindering us right now from being in the fullness where we ought to be.

And you know right now we have a big part of us that are hurting. That is the saints in Grenada that are going through a hard time. I was thinking today, you know in the services, when we have services come up, in the morning part of the services and I trust the Song Leaders will listen to me now. Let us be mindful. You see I try to do it in the preaching. You now have to try to do it with the singing; to be conscious when you stand there it goes out in the region and so there would be a selection of songs always, from our next service, that would be sang in mind to bring encouragement, to give strength for the believers there to keep looking up and to help inspire them in their time of difficulty and that when you stand up to sing...

You know sometimes you know, the Song Leader, you know can make mention you know to our precious brothers and sisters in Grenada, we want to even dedicate a song and we even want to let them know we are here encouraging them. And even to the singers, when you go to sing, and as we are singing this and you're ministering, we're singing this in mind with our brothers and sisters who are gathered this morning. They don't even have electricity and they don't even have had transport to come to church or it might be difficult or whatever it is they're going through; may not have sufficient to be able get around in their home or whatever it is but take courage. Look up you know, God is with us you know and we're going to come through this by the grace of God and we're going to overcome this because this is not our destiny and you know in other words...

But this again shows where we ought to be because out of your faith you give virtue. You strengthen others. So before we could give it out we have to possess it and we must have it that we can give it out and here now we have believers who need that kind of lift. We all can't go over there, go to their house, sit down and talk to them but while we're here in service and they are part

of the same service, we could sing a song for them. We could sing not in the sense like, “Saints in Grenada this song is for you;” not that kind of business, you know what I mean. Where your heart and mind and whatever you say, is there for them. You’re conscious part of the Body needs this right now. And even to get that it can’t be, “Well let us do something for Grenada this morning.” Somewhere in your life you have to discover a deeper place to start to see in your ministry you have to have resources to draw on. You have to have resources.

In other words, if this morning you have to start to look for this, and we have to thumb through song books, then it shows look how in our ministry we needed foresight. Foresight would have had us with all these things in our ministry because if God wants to bring in let us say, three people in destitute conditions among us, and God sends them in the house of God, “Go up there. There are some people there you could get a blessing from,” and then we don’t have something there to relate to their situation...

When that man picked up the man from the ditch and took him to the inn, he knew an inn where that man could get help and be restored. He was traveling with oil and wine that he could help a man in that condition. So we always have to have something that could help somebody. People who are called for ministry, ‘ministry’ means God in you wants to work to help other people. God wants to project His life through you; God wants to project His faith through you; God wants to project a word through you; God wants to project something that could give virtue and strength to someone through you and you want to live and stay there.

Once you are faithful in those things God will take care of all your needs. Every need you have: from companionship to your home, to your leadership in your life; providence to supply your physical needs; whatever it is because there you’re seeking first the Kingdom because you understand your place in the Kingdom and

what you're being gifted for to serve in the Kingdom. You have to start to believe if that's a gift in you, if that's a calling in your life, you have to start to believe in that. You have to start to know, "God has called me to serve here. I start to grow in understanding what is required of me to serve here. How best can I serve here?"

And then too because this is a collective ministry, we could break up this by becoming cliquish or we could be one big clan. If we become cliquish in here, we break up this for ourselves: "Not me and them; not me and she; not me and this one over here;" not by staying far from this one and we're in the same thing, we can't have that. You have to say, "I have to find a way to break this barrier. I have to find a way to get closer. If that person can't do it and I say I have the life, I have to be a little more mature to be able to rise up and go out. If they can't come to me, I can go to them."

Because if we can't minister to one another... The Token has to be to the home first. If we can't minister to one another here in this tribe, we aren't ready yet to minister to somebody outside this tribe. If we can promote division within and among ourselves, we are going to be destructive to other people we come in contact with because we're carrying the elements of the seeds of division and strive within us already. We would have to know love exists among us; we have to know unity exists among us; we would have to know understanding exists among us; we would have to know how we can self destruct or how the devil can destroy us from outside; whether he can destroy us from within or destroy us from without, these are things we have to know.

When you're in ministry and collective ministry, you must know the principle that holds you together, then we become strong; then we become blessed; then we become fruitful; then we become honoring to God; then we're going to see the Presence of God among us; then we begin to see what we do become a blessing; then we

begin to see others growing and prospering under the ministering that we are doing and then people begin to see the value for us then you would have people praying for you; then you would have people supporting you; then you could have people standing behind you; then you would have people having confidence in you when they see you stand there. They would have love reaching out to you. You won't have to be fighting through people because people know you are given to the Church to be a blessing to the Church and when you're coming there you're coming there to bless people. You already broke out self, 'me, I, myself, my ambition, what I want to do', who better than who, who prefer; you already broke out of there and then you say "Us, we, the tribe, for God, the Church, the glory of God" and begin to move there.

And I'm sure some of you are catalysts. And these kinds of things in everything, just like the human body, you have the heart; you have lungs; you have kidney; you have liver; you have a lot of main organs and some people in ministry they are gifted in certain ways. They become certain catalysts in the Church that can be sources of inspiration to others. Some of you are in the ministry longer than others; some are now coming in.

To some, they are viewing singing in the church as finding something to do in the church. This is more than finding something to do. This is more than associating with people. People go on certain blocks to lime with certain people. This could become a church block and we could get people in the church population want to get on that particular block to associate on that block and then when you get on the block, certain people wants rank in the block so then you have certain ones now wants certain rank and control on that part of the church.

This is not for that. This is a part of the house of God that perfumes the church; that brings an aroma. It brings a joy to the church. This ministry is to bring joy

and the joy is the strength and if this ministry keeps making the church a singing church, you can serve to bring joy to the people. You could make Third Exodus Assembly a happy church, a strong church; a church that could laugh, a church that could smile, a church that could sit down and laugh at their troubles; a church that could laugh at their hardships because you will have something in you to generate that.

Many of you sing in the choir and that's where you sing in the church. That's the first thing you have to understand. You're in a collective part of the ministry. You are one voice that is part of a harmony and you are one voice uniting with others and you must know the importance of unity and harmony in order to see progress. And so when we come together like that God could really, really enrich what we do. I mean you all are great, are a great blessing in singing but you know we want to grow. We want to grow, not just in singing alone; we want to grow in our life, our commitment. We want to start to know the Message; we want to start to know what the Word says because after a while it just gets shallow. There is no life behind it. Somebody comes and talks to you, you realize you don't even understand the song you sing yet you sang it so beautifully.

Sometimes you know we fail to see that for people in this kind of ministry because we sing a variety of songs, but God makes you experience pain to sing a song to heal somebody who has pain. God gives you hardship to come to sing something to help somebody out of hardship and they are getting virtue out of you. So you are going to find once ministry, it looks nice and attractive to be in it but it's a very painful thing because it means to say God will make demands on your life that He don't make on other people's life and then that is the part that wakes up a lot of people because they doesn't realize that. They think you just walk up—practice for two hours in church, walk up there for five minutes,

sing the Sunday and they're living right there. They live in a two hour practice and a five minutes singing and the rest of their life everything is not gathered to focus there and this is where their lives have to be; walking there.

I'm trusting by God's grace that we see we have entered into a season here now where even we as Ministers and deacons, we had a meeting last night and even before we left to go to Grenada, we start to realize that we have the kind of demands now and where we've entered into that, God had even taken us to Grenada to teach us things that we've never experienced and we've never passed before. And we were talking last night if you have a church that size, affected that way, what about if we have this church affected in that manner. This is trying to deal with sixty, seventy people. What if we had to deal with hundreds of people who are affected and displaced and everything else, do you know what kind of chaos that is?

But it shows God wants to train us and our Christianity has to get really serious and really focused. That doesn't mean tension and pressure you know. Because the thing is you have to enjoy serving God. You have to be happy serving God. You have to have a smile on your face serving God. This has to be the greatest pleasure and joy otherwise you'll have to leave here and find joy somewhere but this is the greatest place of joy. When you come to church, you have to be happy. When you greet your brothers and sisters, you have to be quick to cheer them up. When you go and see a church under pressure, gloomy, you have to say, "Lord, look at what's in my ministry."

A woman who makes a 'mauby' [Caribbean drink -Ed.] and a good 'soursop' [Drink made with the 'soursop' fruit -Ed.] and so on and school children or construction workers are passing for that. When she sees in the heat of that sun those men work so hard and from the time any little break they get, it's a trail heading down to that little

small parlor where there's a box or something or some ice in a styrotex [Styrofoam -Ed.] container or something and they take that and they are going back to work and work the rest of the afternoon. She sits down there and she's saying, "From small my mother taught me to make a good mauby." And those men are saying "Give me two" and a man is saying, "I'm taking a next one. I'm paying you Friday" and it's three he drinks before he goes back. Do you understand me? And next day he brings a friend. Do you know what that woman is seeing? "Look at my little soursop, look what it's doing on that construction site!"

So if your little 'mauby' and 'soursop' on Sunday morning and Wednesday night and Fridays could come out here and you can have the church happy and smiling, (do you understand what I'm saying?) you can see what little you can do spiritually really amounts to much when it's put in God's hands. That is a great thing.

So I'm finished. We want to eat and fellowship and relax. I just want to say thanks, thanks to all of you for a real sacrifice; the hours and hours of practice, coming up; sometimes going back home late and going through hard times. We're going forward. The hill is going to get steep for us. We want to be more united. We want to work a little harder by the grace of God. We want to understand a little better. We want to pray a little more sincerely and we want to see a little more deliverance in our own lives and may God make us a fruitful vine and may God bless you all individually in your ministry.

We're going to have those three meetings. We have to kind of find the right place to schedule it. It is not going to be. It was to come kind of little immediate but we have one or two little trips here causing us to get to Grenada but we promise that; I promised Bro. Bishop and them that. We'll take like three on ministry and so on to help bring awareness and an understanding and increase your faith in your anointing and your ministry

and know what God requires. And each one of you by now should learn that Scripture. That should be your memory verse. See? *A vessel of honor sanctified, fit for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work; chosen vessels to bear His Name.* [2nd Timothy 2:21 –Ed.] That is you on the potter's wheel. That is a turn; that influence in our lives. Joseph, the fruitful vine, this is what we want to be by God's grace. This is what we want to be. The Potter and the Pruner is here. The Vine-dresser is here.

So you know we understand, when we say "Potter..." In this season here God is revealing Himself to us as the Potter and the Vine-dresser. Once you know He reveals Himself as the Potter and the Vine-dresser, you know this is not sweet, sweet business. This is a little pain. Hold still a little bit. This is, bend the vine, nail it down; tie it here. It wants to run this way. Push it back because the fruit has to stay in the presence of the sun to get ripe. If this thing isn't bearing, cut it off. Let a little more energy come in the places where the energy needs to come. We can't waste some anointing here and waste some anointing here and waste some here. It has to go where the fruit can come forth. I have a nice little song for you. [Bro. Vin speaks to a sister –Ed.]

So by God's grace... We're trusting that God could really make us sensitive, lead you give you songs in this season to lift up the church, bless you in your ministry. The young brothers you all are doing a tremendous job. I like your attitude, coming out. I like your body language when you stand up to sing. I'm talking about the new crop in the men's part of the singing.

You know, something came to me. Where is Sarah? Is Sarah here today? Is Sarah around today? The last couple of days something—an idea is coming into my head about—I say you know we're making so much of CDs and MP3s and songs and video DVD, song specials and these things, I say we ought to have in this church at least a CD, a children CD with songs written on the

Message for children, sing along songs, something unique, original, Third Exodus Assembly; something really nice for the children that the children can have. You know we have some but they have a lot of the other songs and people try to do one or two from I guess, gleaning one or two songs that type of thing but I'm sure God can bless us inspire us and let us...

I know God used Sarah to write a lot of songs for the young children and so on and something real catchy and worship and singing all through the day. That would be something that I believe that would be a great, real need and a great real blessing. A need will be filled there if we get something like that by God grace. So I just say Sarah because I know she had attempted that; who ever God give—if two or three of them, Liz, Sarah, who play music and sing, sit down home and she has a little baby and you know singing along with her, whatever, God give her a little inspiration we could do something like that. I am sure it's going be a real blessing in the church and its going to even bring a great joy.

So this time we just want to pray. We want to give special thanks for our precious Sis. Williams. You know she has been so faithful to Louise, to stand by my side and anytime I want this kind of assistance she takes over and she doesn't really charge me at all. She just wants me to—she say I know this is for the saints and so and so and she doesn't make anything. We just give her the money for the basic food stuff and she puts all her labor and her time and everything.

And even I didn't expect this kind of rental thing. At first I started off saying, do some little finger things so we could walk about the place and relax. Somebody made the announcement Sunday while I wasn't here and I think it was Michael and he says no, it's going to be lunch and so and so and so and different things. And so when Louise heard that she said, "If it's going to be lunch, you know, I think we should kind of do

something a little heavier.” So you see where the hearts of some of the believers are for you.

She is in the background. Maybe you don't see her having much contact with her as the tribe of Judah, Bro. Emmette, I asked specially for him to be here because somehow he is always cooking for the whole church. I felt that he should just come and sit and eat and enjoy. He and his wife are supposed to be here and they enjoy... She couldn't make it so he will eat for the two of them by the grace of God today. [Bro. Vin laughs. – Ed.] So they have a good and wonderful time so everything goes sweet. So we just want to offer a little word of prayer to give God thanks.

Father, we are so grateful for Your children, these that we love and pride ourselves in, and take great joy because of the way that they have rallied in the church together and come forth unified and have become such a light and a blessing in the church dear God. Though they're being attacked by the enemy; though Satan, Lord, have despised them and tried to hinder them in many ways; though God some have fallen, they rose up Lord and want to keep going forward. Father, we are praying in the Name of Jesus Christ today, as we try to express our gratitude and to let them know that we have recognized their labor. We have seen their sacrifice. We have tried to give a little honor to them here today to say, “Thank you. You are such a blessing in the house of God.” And we desire to see them continue to be a greater blessing dear God. And so we ask today that Your Holy Spirit would just pour out richly into every heart Your Spirit to give strength and power and might in the inner man and bring joy and gladness and illuminate the minds and enlighten them dear God and cause Your love to make them be so closely knitted together with Godly respect for each other Father.

And dear God, those who have the responsibility over them, the Song Leaders, Lord the helps and the governments and the singing ministry, Lord, may Your

Holy Spirit bless every effort and Lord every practice and every little program and everything Lord that is being done for the cultivation, for the upliftment; for the benefit of this part of the church that it continue to be a great blessing; knowing that many of them they are on the website there and the songs on the website and people from around the world go to that place like a well and dip down their buckets and bring up the waters of salvation; sing in their homes; play in their cars and everything because something was done on this spot of ground here. Something came out of these hearts. Something Lord through the collective efforts, Lord, caused Your Bride internationally to be so blessed and to be inspired. May they be able to envision this and may it cause them to be motivated even to greater heights, to dedicate themselves even further and that You will bless them.

Bless Sis. Louise and her staff and all Lord who labored to make this sacrifice. And Lord may You bless the food and sanctify it and bless the fellowship and give us a great time in each other's company and in Your Presence together dear God and may there be freedom and may there be Lord, just a joy flowing through this place in every heart that we have good lively fellowship and we enjoy the few hours that we would have before the evening shadows would fall and we would come Lord to the prayer service.

But may You just have Your way among us. We give You thanks for all things. We love You and we look forward for the times when we would have those three little meetings Lord that You would give us the inspiration to help bring a greater anointing and a greater faith Lord for the days ahead. Have Your way among us now and may You bless us all together. We ask it in Jesus precious Name, amen.

So God bless you. Now I'd like the Song Leaders and them and the brothers who help, Bro. Steve and Bro. Ellis and they to come and take up a place at the front

here by God's grace. Amen. Sis. Louise and they said they need twenty minutes. It sounded like twenty dollars. I took out some money to give twenty dollars, but he said no, twenty minutes. So how about somebody give a little testimony or a little song or something. The mike is up here. Just step up here or put up your hand and we would bring it to you by God's grace. Come! This is your evening. This is not my evening. This is your evening. I'm just trying to express as the Pastor on behalf of the church, you know some sentiments here. But just lift your hand quickly and let me just pass this here for some of you who have been blessed. Think about the convention. You were there. We try to honor you and express our appreciation during that time. Some of you had experiences; some of you were blessed; some of you...

[Sis. Jermina testifies. -Ed.]

"God richly bless everybody. I'm not going to sing today. I'm going to talk about my experiences with the convention. I never had the opportunity to talk with everybody like this but you know, when I got the song to sing—I'm used to singing back-up. I'm used to it and after a while you get comfortable and you get in a comfy little nest, and you start to minister from that comfort zone and the increase God wants to get from you, you're not going to get it, if you get that comfortable.

And when I heard now it's time to come out from that and stand in front, I felt like packing and running, you know because I'm like 'I can't do this. This is not me.' I felt way out of my league, you know. It was a whole different scene for me and I'm wondering how do I do this? Bro. Vin was telling me, 'Jermina I want you to spend time with the song' but by that time the song was spending time with me because if you listen to the words of the song, the verse says, "Take me and mold me and use me" and you're actually asking the Lord to do this. This is not you singing, 'I want to mold me and I want to

take me. This is, 'God, You have to do this for me' and for Him to do that you have to let go.

And as a singer, I always like to know that I am the one that can make the note this high; I am the one that could make it sound this sweet. I felt comfortable doing that but to sing the Potter's Hand God took all that away. You know during practices I couldn't hit one note right and I felt as though I didn't know the meaning of the word 'sing.' You know it was really a feeling that I have never been used to before. I am usually somebody that I think that is very composed, you know and going to work I couldn't concentrate; I couldn't focus on anything because I felt totally stripped of all my self-control. All that I am, that I could do, I couldn't do it anymore. You know sometimes I would sit there and I would just break down and cry. It was really unusual for the people who saw me to see me in this atmosphere because they knew 'She is not like this. She is in control of who she is' and now I am just this weak, helpless person.

And I called Elliscia on the phone because I was out on the street looking for lunch; just couldn't find any food in the whole of Port-of-Spain and I spoke to her and I said, "Elliscia, what am I going through here? I don't understand it. I've never been in this place before. And she was saying, 'For the Potter to mold this clay how He wants it, He has to you know, break it and squeeze it in certain places.' She is talking to me like this and then the reality of that started to come to me and there in the street I am just like crying you know all wet and people were like staring 'So what is with her?' And I couldn't help it because I started thinking, 'Lord me! I mean You chose me at this time to do this to me' and I started to feel really grateful and it's like there was a dam in me that just burst and it just started to come out and I was just like, 'Thank You Lord. I don't understand it but thanks.' I'm beginning to understand what is it He wants, what it is to let go because I asked Him, I say 'Lord, how do I let go? I keep saying Lord take me and

have Your way but I don't know how to let go to let You do that.' And it's like gradually He start letting me see this is how you do it. Just let go, you know. I don't know how to explain that but I came to that place.

And coming to sing the song I was there and I'm standing on that spot where I have to sing and I'm saying, 'Lord, right now I know I can't sing it. I tried, I tried, I tried you know and if it was up to me I will say I can't do it. Get somebody to do it but You want me to do it and I'm here responding to Your call. You say You are the Potter, You want to work with this clay; You send the clay here right now, come and use the clay. Do what You want with it.' And I came with that attitude.

You know I got really close with Jeremiah 18, those first few Scriptures. It became me. You know the first three letters of Jeremiah is J-E-R, and the first three letters in my name in J-E-R. And every time I read it I would say 'And the Lord said to Jermina!' That was my Scripture going down out to the potter's house. Look at the obedience. He went. And you know God showed him what he wanted to show him. And I'm saying, 'Well the Lord said to Jermina, go down to the Potter's house. He has something to show me. So I'm going down. I'm going to be obedient. I don't know what You're going to do, how You're going to do it but I'm going to go down.' So I went and I stood there and I say, 'Lord, come. You said You'll have Your way. Let me see what You're going to do.'

So standing there and singing it was not me. Jermina is not somebody who likes to stand in front of a whole crowd and sing. I'm really comfortable doing that probably in front of four or five people or a little group but I never saw myself doing that comfortably in front of everybody. But if that is what God calls you to do, that's the best place you could be. You know the best you could do is answer when He calls. I tried running. It didn't work you know. So I'm standing here and I'm saying, 'Lord, I'm obeying You right now. You know You come

and back up Your Word.’ And when I’m singing, you know at the beginning you’re fighting to get control of it and I’m saying, ‘No you’re not supposed to be in control of the song. He is supposed to be in control’ and you just start to let go and say, ‘Lord, just take control.’

And I was really, you know blessed to hear the saints come up and say ‘Sister you blessed me’ and I’m telling them ‘No, it wasn’t me. He blessed you. You know He had to get me out of the way to bless you and if He did that, you know I’m really grateful for it.’ And you know from the bottom of my heart I’m thankful for that because that is what I wanted to come out of the song at the end of it. Not ‘Jermina sang a good song or Jermina you were wonderful.’ Jermina had nothing to do with it.

I’ve never felt so beaten up in my life doing a song. I never had so many problems with a song in my life, honestly. You know I tried all how to get this song as perfect, you know vocally and everything as I could and I couldn’t. Nothing seemed to connect and I came to the place where I had to say, ‘Jermina you can’t sing. Just step aside and let God do the song.’ And He did that and I want to say thanks and I appreciate Him very much for it. And I trust that as the song, you know is played by every believer, every unbeliever, it would continue to be a blessing because that is what He wants all the way from it.

I thank the singers for the support they gave me. I mean they have been there standing with me from day one. You know a lot of them know the times I would lock myself in the room and say I’m not coming out because I can’t go out there and practice. I don’t want to and they would come and bring back the Word to my remembrance and encourage me and say, ‘We’re standing behind you. We’re here one hundred percent with you.’ I couldn’t do it without them. You know the brothers, the sisters, they really encouraged me.

Young people could be so frail out there in the world but when you stand with young people like you all I

mean, it gives you something to live for. Seeing a lot of people your age, like yourself really convinced with what they believe, I thank the Lord very much for you all. I thank God for God's servant standing there looking over us; guiding us the right way. I appreciate you all very much. Thank you for everything and I give God all the honor and glory for all that, He is doing and will continue to do with us. God bless you all."

[Congregation applauds. The song *The Potter's Hand* sung by Sis. Jermina and saints is played. -Ed.]

Just lift your hand and we'll pass the mike. We have maybe about five or ten more minutes.

[Bro. Glaude testifies. -Ed.]

"God bless you all saints. It's really a privilege to stand before you all and say something. Okay. Alright, this year will make it about twenty years that I have been in the Assembly being part of you all, singing. I think it was last month or either this month, I'm not too sure because it was 1984 I came in the Assembly and you know Bro. Vin said something there and I'm a living witness that once you are a gifted person, once God use you or raise you up to be a blessing, you'll be attacked full force by the enemy.

But I want to give God thanks for the twenty years that I've been in the Assembly, ministering to the saints, called upon on different occasions to sing a song. I am thanking God that I could be still standing by His grace and still have the love in my heart to minister to His people because you know the Bible said, 'The fruits of your lips giving praise.' We are a bunch of people that out of the fruits of our lips we give praise and you know it is said, 'That a tree that has fruit will be the most attacked tree.' So why we get the kind of attacks we get it's because the fruits of our lips are giving praise and helping and ministering to saints. And I want to say for those twenty years, saints singing is not just the ability to put words together. It's really a ministry and God tests you to the max. Just like Joseph, a gifted son but God

tests you to the max because God doesn't just want you to bring out little fruit, God wants us to bring out much fruit.

And I want to thank God for keeping me through those twenty years and being a part of you all. Saints something I felt too that I haven't done enough for you all being part of Judah. I don't feel that I've done enough but I want to stand today and pledge my support more because when you hear that, you know, I was reading the life of Joseph, not Joseph, Judah recently and you know the Bible said, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes." When I saw—I was reading how Judah the kind of careless way he was living and how the enemy wanted to mess him up. Why? Because God said, "The sceptre will not depart from Judah." And anytime the enemy knows you will be a blessing; you will encourage somebody, you get it on all sides. I guess we have to come to the consciousness that once we are gifted; once we are blessed; once the fruits of our lips are giving praise, we will be attacked.

And I pray that for us there will be a greater consciousness even for me because growing up singing in the Assembly I'm not just singing anymore. I am going out to schools and one of the things that I'm seeing, not just... When I started singing, one of my greatest love, or my greatest love is to be in the Word, not just to sing but to spend time in the Word and to see sometimes you're going out to schools and you're seeing people who don't know 'A' about God and God could use you to talk to somebody, let them know; even this season here, this hurricane season, to minister to people. So that God could use you more, not just use you to sing but to use you to even to go to speak to somebody.

And I want to pledge my support more today. That is why I stood. I'm pledging my more support because God had given us, some of the older ones, great experience saints. Sometimes you the young ones are going through an experience; sometimes it's good. I'm open to

fellowship, to encourage because we would continue to be attacked because we are giving forth fruit. So may God continue to bless us and pray for me! Again I say, It's twenty years for me, been a rough twenty years but I thank God to be still here worshipping him, being a part of the Assembly, pressing the battle by God grace. And do we still have time there? Alright, so God bless your heart and I'm saying saints, if you all need any encouragement anyway; some things, may we become more clannish and more knitted after today! God bless you all." [Congregation applauds. -Ed.]

[The song, "Vessels of Honor" sung by Bro. Oba Walker and brothers is played. -Ed.]

[Bro. Ellis Joseph testifies. -Ed.]

"We still have a few minutes so if anybody wants to say something. God bless you all richly. I'll take the opportunity seeing that no one else really wants to say something. I don't have much to say but I'm really thankful to God to be invited here with you all this afternoon. And you know for the past few years that you know I've been with you all, even in the prayer meeting that we had, you know it's such a wonderful thing you know to see how you all had been growing in His grace, you know, in the midst of the circumstances, the hard trials and the testing times that many of you all have to go through you know but to see how God had kept many of you all and you know to stand faithful there.

You know it is always a great thing to know too that the way that you all have to stand to work with the ministry because you know when in the Book of Revelation when the Seals were being opened there in symbol form, you all there were one of the ministry that was being identified, you know inside of there you know because the Scripture says that "They sang a new song." You know and that has always affected me there because you know in the midst of all the things that is taking place, you know, God could have put in that there and to see even amongst us, as the ministry that God has

given unto us, the heights and the depths of the reality of God that is being ministered and for God to identify you all inside of there with the ministry is such a great thing you know because that is not an ordinary thing. I don't believe that.

And too, once you all even understand that in a real way of the calling that God had called you all to work with the ministry, because even I as a deacon and knowing what it takes and the sacrifice that it will take, the commitment it will take, the love it will take for the ministry, to work with the ministry and there is many times that even I think sometime I was mentioning that to you all too. Sometimes when the tapes go out into the region and different places around the world, sometimes the ushers might not be seen as significant; the deacons might not be seen; the trustees might not be seen; different ministries in the Assembly might not be seen upfront but the first people that is being seen is the Song Leader, the singers, the musicians, even before the Minister even comes onto the thing. So you know you all are like the first appearance on the tapes.

And sometimes you know many times we go out there and the people would be so affected by what they see and what they hear, you know. So it's such a commitment and a sacrifice really to stand there in the place where you all are standing. It's not an ordinary thing and you all should never, never count it as an ordinary thing. It's something that is a testimony. It's something that when people look and sometimes they are being affected so much with what is being spoken by the Word and they look to see the produce out of the Word and then what they see first is what they are being influenced by, you know. So it's a great commitment for you all to stand faithful there.

And even this last convention here it has been such a great thing to see how God had used you all. The thing really is to maintain that, to carry it on, that it could be not only for a little short space of time but it will be able

to work for you all to bring the deliverance and the victory in your life that is needed because I believe that as we have been taught too, that out of your placing and the gift that God had given unto you, once you understand that, that has everything locked up inside of there for you, you know, everything. Your victory lies in your position and you understand that this is not just a singing ministry but this is a position that God has given you to minister to the Bride around the world that is where your victory lies. And you capitalize on it and you're going to see things work out in a greater way for you, you know.

So may God bless you all and keep you all. Take all the instructions that are given; the things that the servant of the Lord has on his heart for you all. You know wherever he goes, you know, we sit together with the people, we talk to the people but he always talks about his singers; whether it's in Grenada; whether it's in St. Vincent; whether it's in Dominica; whether it's in St. Lucia; wherever he goes he always talks about his singers, you know. And when you understand that, that means he puts his ministry in the place really that the life that the people see that you all live is what he's identifying with, you know. So it's a great commitment that is to you all.

So may God bless you all and prosper you all in the gift that He has given to you all that there are many people around the world that changes lives; that changes homes; a people—that creates an atmosphere in the lives of the people. Sometimes, a person, sometimes they can't remember what is being spoken but sometimes the right song that is being sung the time when the Word is being ministered in the homes, it creates the right atmosphere. I testify about that because that happens to me. Sometimes my little children, down to the smallest little one, they will try to sing the songs that you all sing, you know and that in itself brings the atmosphere in the home.

So God bless you all richly and even hearing Sis. Jermina, even to hear her testify because I remember when she was going through that she said, ‘You know Bro. Ellis I tried to call you because I was trying to understand what was taking place with me and thing.’ She said, ‘I didn’t get you but the thing really is that now I start to understand after the’—she saw how God had blessed her, you know, to make herself available to Him. So God bless you all. The more you make yourself available is the more God could use you all. God bless you all richly.”

[Congregation applauds. -Ed.]



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