

# Special One Ministries, Inc.

*"A Peculiar People for a Peculiar Cause"*



Day 1 ~ Tuesday, November 24, 2015

My journey began early this morning. I arrived at the Memphis airport at 4:00 am. Our flight takes off at 6:00 am. I am extremely excited because the nervousness I felt is gone. My sister, Tasha King, called me yesterday to check in with me and prayed a special prayer for me. It was beautiful. She kept saying, "Sis., I know my prayer is not elaborate or anything but I wanted to cover you." What she did not realize is that God let her say the most comforting words. It was such a beautiful prayer and it was just what I needed. God always knows what He is doing. We should never count what He does through each of us as small. I was finally able to relax.

I always end up going through something when I arrive to the airport. This time (the first time I bring carryon luggage) I had to be searched by security. She kept accusing me of denying that something was in my luggage. She unpacked my entire suitcase only to realize that my 6 cans of tuna was what she saw on her scanner. I was so embarrassed but I did not allow my spirit to become disturbed. She finished her job and then walked off for me to repack the luggage. Of course I could not repack the luggage properly. I did what I could, grabbed all the extra bags I now had to carry, and headed to my gate. I stopped by the restroom to freshen up when I looked up and saw a baby changing table. Praise God, I was able to take everything out and start over. I repacked my luggage and then scurried to my gate.

I arrived there 20 minutes before my flight left. Evangelist Foster walked in about 10 minutes after I got to our gate. We greeted each other and got in line to board the plane. She was blessed to get an upgrade to First Class on both flights because she joined sky miles. She has also received a free ticket. I think I will go ahead and join sky miles. I said it was not worth it until she began to receive all these perks. Once on the plane they told us that our flight was 2 hours and 45 minutes to the Dominican. It was odd because all the information I received said it was a 4 hour flight. I set there wondering and the guy sitting next to me said, "I thought this was a 4 hour flight..." I said, "me too..." I leaned back and woke up a "few minutes" later to the sound of the captain's voice letting us know we would be landing in about 20 minutes.

Once we arrived in the Dominican, I was extremely excited. I have never traveled for missions without Bishop and Mother Sims so I made sure to follow Evangelist Foster very closely. We paid for our travel card and went through customs to get registered to enter the country. It went pretty smoothly. The airport was a little more modern than Ghana's airport. The people were not as aggressive in trying to help us either. At this point I decided to get my Ghana experience out of my head. I whispered a quick prayer to God that He would help me fully engage in this experience so that I could learn of Him and grow on even the more. Pastor Mercedes' and Pastor Nelson's son Fausto met us at the airport with our transportation for the week. Genesis is our driver. We went to our hotel and got everything settled there. We went to the store for water and a few supplies. Evangelist Foster debriefed with Brother Fausto and Brother Genesis about our itinerary and we came back to wait on Mother Van Zandt's arrival.

Mother Van Zandt arrived about 10:30 pm and we went to eat dinner right away. We had a very late dinner because we knew mother would probably be hungry from her long day of travelling (she had long layovers). Once we settled at the hotel, everyone went to bed.

I am excited about tomorrow, our first day to start the work of this mission.

Day 2 ~ Wednesday, November 25, 2015

We began our day at 10:00 this morning. Our first stop was at Pastor Mercedes school and church. I was so excited about visiting the school. When we arrived, Brother Fausto gave us a little tour. Her school and church is located in a very poor area so the people live in little tin homes and shacks. It was very sad to see their living conditions. When we walked in we saw many of those families coming in and out of the gate. Brother Fausto explained that her school/church provides clean water for the people of the community because their well is contaminated.

When we first walked in the school, the children were so excited. They were posing for pictures and asking us to take pictures of the work they were doing. It was so cute. The smaller children here only speak Spanish. The older children learn English on Mondays and Fridays. However, they only knew little English words. Most people don't speak any English. Pastor Mercedes and her children speak some English but her husband Pastor Nelson only speaks Spanish. After seeing the first part of the school, Pastor Mercedes came in to greet us. She has a powerful presence and such a beautiful spirit. As she finished the tour of the school and the church, I began to realize we were in the presence of one of God's powerful vessels. She has such a heart for the people and the children of the community.

After we left the church, Pastor Mercedes took us to see another COGIC church in the area. It was exciting to see the words "Iglesia De Dios en Cristo, Inc." It was a very small building but they were so thankful to God for this church. Pastor Mercedes worked with a group that built five houses for some of the people in this area. One of those houses was built for the pastor of this church and his wife and family. It was one block from the church. Pastor Mercedes knocked on the doors of the church and a young lady let us in-she was playing music and sweeping the floor. The song was Judith McAlister's Praise. The atmosphere was so powerful. I was overwhelmed. At first I did not want to say anything but finally I had to say something. Mother Van Zandt said, "I was thinking the same thing." We all began to rejoice in the Lord. Then, the pastor said he and his family and church family have been fasting and praying all week and that his daughter was in the church praying before we came. We could feel the anointing of God in the

place. He told us that he supervisor, who is his neighbor, was sick and needed prayer. We walked to her house. We stopped first at his house and Mother Van Zandt prayed then we went on to her house and prayed. It was a great moment of blessings.

Later, upon our return to Pastor Mercedes school, we noticed the children coming home from school. Many of the children were starting to gather up in the field right in front of the church. Pastor Mercedes said, "They are gathering with purpose." We noticed they were arguing (because of hand gestures and body movements.) Pastor Mercedes said, "I need to get out." She got out of that van and went over to that group of children (nearly 100 boys and girls) and shut it down. She stood in the middle of those children and told them all they had to go home and then spoke to the two children fighting. To God be the glory. This mighty woman of God is a force to be reckoned with in the Kingdom—bold for Jesus.

We went to dinner with Pastor Mercedes, her husband Pastor Nelson, their son Fausto, their daughter Ruth, and our driver Genesis. Evangelist Foster and the pastors debriefed about the program she is bringing to the Dominican for the next two years as the Church of God in Christ field missionary. It was so amazing to be in this meeting. It was even more amazing to hear the vision and hear and see how God specifically designed what He put in her for this people. After dinner we stopped at a store to get more supplies because tomorrow we will be visiting the prison. I am overwhelmed to spend my first Thanksgiving away from my family and my first Thanksgiving truly showing God how much I thank Him for blessing me.

## Day 3 ~ Thursday, November 26, 2015

Happy Thanksgiving! I am extremely excited. I have to minister at the men's prison. I am excited. I am not afraid. I am ready to give the word!

We were picked up at 1:00 PM by Genesis. We picked up Pastor Mercedes, Pastor Moreno and his daughter Muriel and went to the prison. This was the most amazing experience of my life. I know I say that about every experience but God always "WOW's" me! I love HIM! We were blessed for two hours to enjoy the prison staff and the prisoners. The staff just bonded with us and we truly tried to represent the Lord Jesus well. We also blessed 25 prisoners with toiletries and needed items such as medicine. They were so happy to receive the items. "Dios te Bendiga!" They each greeted us with "God bless you!"

After fellowship and pictures with our prison staff family, we journeyed to take everyone back to their homes, churches, cars/motorcycles. Then, we went to dinner. Fellowship at dinner was great!

Tonight we went to church. It was an amazing experience. Mother Van Zandt preached an awesome word, "Greatness is Inside of You..." (Psalm 71:21; Deuteronomy 28:1). The altar call was awesome. Mother ministered to a woman who had been in an accident. She walked in church on a walker but she left out carrying the walker. Glory to God! The doctor's prognosis had nothing on God's word and declaration of healing on her life! God is...

LOL... We ended this night by eating ice cream from McDonalds. It was very enjoyable. Plus a taste of America on Thanksgiving Day! ☺

We go to the orphanage tomorrow and I am so extremely excited. I am praying for God to move in the lives of these children. ☺

Day 4 ~ Friday, November 27, 2015

Today was a beautiful day. We ate brunch and got a late start. When Brother Fausto and Brother Genesis picked us up for the orphanage we were well rested and had eaten well. Upon our arrival to the Orphanage, we noticed two things: 1.) It did not look like an orphanage but a resort; and 2.) There were not an abundance of children on the grounds of the facility.

Much to our surprise, this work was started by an organization in America, Score International, and turned over to a church Grace Chapel of Franklin, Tennessee. Grace Chapel is 15 years old, has 5000 members, sponsors two families to care for and house about 14 children. They are self sufficient: raising chickens for eggs, goats for meat, tilapia for an aqua-farm, vegetables and fruits, and much more. It blew my mind being a member of a 6 million member worldwide church seeing that one church sponsors and facilitates the functions of this amazing "orphanage".

The most amazing part is that God has given Evangelist Foster this amazing vision which will give Church of God in Christ a physical presence in a country with this type of mission. Though she is going on assignment from God she is giving respect and honor to our church in her approach to this assignment. My ministry will definitely be backing her ministry.

After the visit to the orphanage, we ate at McDonalds and went to pick up more water and supplies for the rest of our stay. This has been amazing.

Mother Van Zandt asked me today, "Where do you see your ministry going?" It made me smile because only two people have ever asked me that—my mentor and my pastor friend. They have truly shown verbal interest in the dream, vision and work of Special One Ministries, Inc. It really blew my mind. I told Mother Van Zandt what God gave me just one day before I left for this mission and I believe it shall and will come to pass. God is... We get to rest tonight and I am about to take full advantage of the rest. Blessings to all and good night...

## Day 5 ~ Saturday, November 28, 2015

Today was a wonderful and exciting day. It is our tour day. We woke up to lots of rain and Brother Fausto had to push our tour back so Mother Van Zandt sat and poured into me and Evangelist Foster. It was so amazing to sit under her wisdom and teaching. She is so funny but so powerful.

Though it did not stop raining Brother Fausto and our driver picked us up. We took a tour of San Pedro de Marcoris and saw the neighborhood where Evangelist Foster will be living. It is one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in San Pedro but costs about \$300.00 to rent per month. It was nice. We stopped at a souvenir shop. They sold different items that were typical souvenir prices. They had a few items that were authentic to the nation and I bought two of those items. I bought some handmade maracas and a ring that has a stone called "Larimar" that is specific to the Dominican. After that we ate our last dinner together before going to their special meeting. It was a youth service.

When we arrived at church we expected it to be laid back. It was Central Church of God in Christ another COGIC church in the Dominican. When I say, the Holy Ghost swept through that church like a windstorm. From the beginning to the end, the power of God was evident. Praise and worship was absolutely amazing. The young man that spoke the Word of God preached under the anointing of God. I did not understand anything he said, his message was completely in Spanish. However, I know He was preaching and my spirit agreed with his spirit. He preached until we all began to worship God in spirit and truth. Brother Fausto tried to give us highlights when the Lord began to sweep through but it was so heavy in the room that he could not get it out... We had a time in the Lord. That man of God prophesied to Evangelist Foster and it blew our minds because he had no idea... He said through Brother Fausto in English, "This year is about to be a huge year for you. You are getting ready to minister to the women and children. You are about to change some lives in this nation!" We were so taken aback. Brother Fasuto interpreted for Evangelist Foster as the man of God ministered. We did not even know until the service was over but I was crying like a baby because I felt God moving and I knew in my spirit that it was just confirmation to Sister Felecia's assignment.

I am still overwhelmed as I type. I cannot believe how God moved. It was amazing. I thank God for blessing me to be here to experience this... 😊