

**PRESIDENT 1st INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE OLIVER GIBSON ANNUAL
GLOBAL GOSPEL MUSICAL CONVENTION**

In the City of Philadelphia the State of Pennsylvania

June 24-26 2022

Deliver By:

Dr. Samuel Deputie

President

To our Convention committee that has given us this beautiful 3 days gathering

Members of the Pastoral council here present,

Representative from the City government

To Our honorees

To the Gibson family here present can you please stand (let's applause them for sharing with us their son, brother, husband, uncle and nephew Oliver Gibson that our convention is memorializing today)

To our fellow worshippers from around the country and other parts of the world here present

To my family here present, thanks for giving me the support to serve God's people in such a time like this.

To those of you listening to us by radio or watching us on other social media platforms
Distinguish ladies and gentlemen.

These last few years have been a challenge from the pandemic that took thousands of lives including Liberians, for this reason let's pulse for a moment of silence.

I accept your decision to be your President for the next two years for this Global convention. I am a servant of God, an Episcopalian that has been involved with the Music Ministry since 1985. Today, I stand on the shoulder of great people of God that have

contemporized our Christian Music and have helped to spread it throughout Liberia, exile, and here in the U.S.; some of whom we are honoring today.

We have all gathered here from all part of our Christian Faith to invoke God's divine intervention in our Convention in the Beautiful City of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania. If the story is told, our Children and Grandchildren will say that because you and I came together, our vision of globalizing our fellowship was possible not because we are all friends and involve with the music ministry, but because we came together on Christ our firm foundation on which we are building this Convention.

Now I present to you, a "Bird's eye view" of the present and future of the Oliver Gibson Annual Global Gospel Musical Convention (TOGAGGMC) INC. This event is a culmination of an enormous collective effort which began late last year 2021 when we lost our brother Minister Oliver Gibson to the cold hands of death whom this convention has memorized today. It was during his passing that many of us musicians including myself understood that our gathering should not only be for burial alone, but rather to come together once a year to share our worship experience with one another in songs and fellowship.

At Oliver's funeral in Staten Island, we met with some of our friends we have not seen for years and we all in principle agreed to make some sense of our fallen brother's situation, the discussion was met with general consensus. Our countless efforts today-have led to the organization of this convention which has brought all of us to this city; so that for the next three days you and I can activate God's divine intervention through our worship just as he did for David in Psalm 17:43-47.

Our music, you will agreed with me, have helped us over the years even when life presented different challenges in our lives whether it was in Liberia where we could not afford to transport ourselves to and from choir practices, meal on our tables, or cloths on our back; or in exile during the Liberian Civil Crisis where we could not relate to the language and cultural norms of those countries we were in as refugees; our God still kept his promises he made before the foundation of the world and kept us alive until now. Our music was unique than because it was the combination of different faiths, from every Liberian congregation with one worship experience; and we pray that this medium will once again provide those fellowship we once enjoyed in exile.

It was at one of those fellowships in the Ivory Coast that I met Oliver Gibson, a man who never had any religious boundaries, no specific church that you would think he belongs to. I was told he was from Effort Baptist Church in Liberia, but for example, when Bro. Mappy was having a concert in the Methodist church in Danane you would think he was a Methodist because of his involvement. When Charles Reeves was having his concert at the Lutheran Church I thought this brother was a Lutheran member. When I was having mine in the Episcopal church the brother will appeared joining me and Ebenezer G.B. Brown Sr. doing “God said it and I believe it” even if he was told the day before the concert.

I know all of you that served with Oliver whether in Liberia, or other parts of the world, and here in the States, will share similar experience with me that indeed he had no religious boundaries. He was the Director for the big choir; the little choir, and the struggling groups or choirs as well. He went and preached and sang anywhere at any time for the sake of the Gospel.

It is this memory you and I shared of our brother Oliver that have brought us together from all locations agreeing to this Global initiative and have named it “The Oliver Gibson Annual Global Gospel Musical Convention,” (TOGAGGMC) INC luncheon here in the city of Philadelphia June 24-26 his birth month.

We will gather every year around the U.S and the world including Liberia which will be every November. I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation firstly to Oliver’s family for agreeing that we memorialize him annually and to you the organizers, Convention Committee, friends, sympathizers and members of all singing groups Oliver affiliated with for the enthusiasm and assistance you all have given to this original initiative.

We have made history today by establishing this convention that every year we will come together in different locations worshipping together in oneness of heart where feet may fail.

History you know is more than the path left by the past; it influences the present and can shift the future. History is not the burden of any one man or woman alone, but some are called to meet a special share of it challenges. It is a duty that you discharge with dignity, determination and distinction that are widely admired. Ladies and Gentlemen, since the birth of our vision, we have had many challenges; even so, we still have a long way to go to realize our global convention goal that will be bringing thousands if not millions of us together each year, and only through a joint effort will we be able to reach our fundamental goal.

In this sense, I consider this first convention as taking on a transcendental role for the future of the convention with this clear mission.

Our vision

Our vision for this convention is called the “2PM” Model vision. Which are:

- a) Preparation
- b) Position
- c) Ministering

In the **Preparation Model**, after the passing of our veteran Director of Music Pastor Oliver Gibson and Liberian Musicians from all over America that converged to give our brother that befitting Musical Funeral that was arranged and organized by our own Veteran Director of Music Matthew Kelvin Paye and others including me from that backdrop prepared ourselves and came together to form the Oliver Gibson Annual Global Gospel Musical Convention with Headquarters in Minneapolis Minnesota. A model we have started using for example in Liberia.

Such preparation has brought us to our 2nd model which is the **Position Model**. This model, has allowed us to go big which is Global and to travel to every state in the U.S and every country around the world where Liberian live, and where Liberian Churches and Gospel Musician are, including Liberia where we have already lunched a 100 voice choir November of Last hear. To report to you, the leadership of the Liberia’s convention is working to increase the number to 200 voices convention choir. Their convention will be every November because of the weather; November is in the dry season than June here which is raining season in Liberia. So, different countries and states convention will be held according to their weather condition.

In the U.S, the convention have decided that our gathering will be for three days beginning with a Friday meet and greet, Saturday business section in the morning, choir rehearsal early afternoon, and dinner ball at night. The Sunday service will be at a local church and Sunday

night the worship night. We selected June because as I mentioned earlier, is our falling Hero's Birth month. Our convention every year will bring together Directors and choir members from across the U. S and around the world which will bring about the **Ministering Model** of worshipping our 3rd model.

In 2024 November, our convention will be breaking ground on a 2 acres of land near the Morris's farm on the Kakata highway about 20 minutes' drive from Parker Paint little outside of the city of Monrovia in Liberia, for the biggest Performance Art Center in the history of Liberia which will consist of a 2500 seated hall, a gospel radio station, a television station, a gym, a swimming pool, a hallway of gospel musical legends that contemporized our music with their pictures and biography for viewers to know their accomplishment, and a parking lot for every concert goers. The Center will provide job opportunities as well for Liberians that will provide housekeeping for the facility.

This facility will provide support for struggling choirs, Gospel Artists, and groups with the resources to succeed.

This state of the act facility when build will be the first of its kind for our act since it was introduced in our country's history. So you and I have an obligation to this vision and pray for your continue contribution and support to this cause. Details of the cost and floor plan will be disclosed in our upcoming retreat in September in ----- to our executives and you.

For what we have accomplished so far since our coming together last year is, we have structured our ideas by calling our gathering "Convention." Our 2nd accomplishment is our meeting every year in every state in America and around the world. Our 3rd accomplishment is our convention is headquarters in Minnesota, and is registered and certified with the State of

Minnesota as an organization. As I speak to you, we are working to deliver our convention as a 501c3 organization, with a solid bank account, and a constitution that guarantee our administration for two years, and a one more final two years term if re-elected.

We did all of these because you step up and made it happen. And as we are planning to do our official lunching and grand breaking convention in 2024 in Liberia, we will need your commitment to join the trip and for your financial contribution if you will not be able to travel with us; and also we will be happy if we can get a good turnout for the trip.

Finally, as we prepare for our next convention, in ----- I know that our experience on this year's convention this weekend was a great one in the Lord and will cause you to come and bring someone with you next year. As all of you will be returning to your various countries, states, towns and villages, we will want to hear from you about your feelings and experience at this convention. Share it with us on our WhatsApp, Facebook page, which is coming up, which will help strengthen our operation.

To you that have follow this convention through social media I want to say we deeply appreciate your effort and please share the news of this convention with your friends and love ones. We are here to stay, and it is our prayers to see all of you next year. Please take the good news that the Oliver Gibson Annual Global Gospel Musical Convention is the name and have vision to go to every corner of the globe where Liberians are and welcome them to be a part of this convention just as Oliver went to every church possible and sang with just any group.

As your president, I want to pledge my administration for the next two years our unflinching service and plan to travel anywhere to establish this convention and what you will ask us to do.

Our vision has started expanding into Canada where we are engaged and working With Pastor DD Dennis of the Solutions Chapel International Ministries of Edmonton. Also Pastor Sampson is working with Australia to get us settle there as well. If you know of anyone in any country, or state that you think we can work with to get settled there, feel free to reach out to us as we are praying that our next convention will bring delegations from other countries around the world including Liberia.

There is a miracle in the works, and I can feel it; and there is a revival and I believe it, and ask the breath of God to come and continue to breathe on us as we do this together. To all of you that I have come to meet at this convention this weekend for the first time, and to you that I have met and been working with over the months, and to you we have asked to pay a little more and you did we owe you our gratitude and will not fail you. To you my fellow worshippers, thanks for believing in me and our vision, and to my vice president and leadership team, let's fasten our seatbelts to fly everywhere, drive everywhere that this mission and vision have call us to.

This is our oceans now; let all of us present here today, present this convention in our prayers as we embark on this huge task. My prayer is, "Lord this is that place you will lead us, faith without borders; Lord I pray tonight in Jesus Name as we step out into all that you have for us, we should have the courage sometimes to step into the unknown there we will meet Jesus, to meet the will of God, to meet the purpose of God, and there we can meet the promise of God, and we can meet the goodness of God. Lord gives us the courage; give us the spirit of boldness to keep on trusting you to walk on those waters. Lord to go into the great unknown but knowing the God of all knowledge, omnipotent, omniscience God that you will lead us and take us. Lord we thank you for what you accomplished here tonight, Lord it is only a start, we are Excited in Jesus name."

May God bless our Convention and bless the works of our hands in Jesus Name.

I thank you.