



REMARKS

**The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis
Prime Minister**

**25th Anniversary
New Jerusalem Kingdom Ministries**

Sunday, 8 March 2020

Carmichael Road

Nassau, Bahamas

Reverend Gregory Minnis

Other members of the clergy

Congregants

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is my privilege to congratulate New Jerusalem Kingdom Ministries on its Silver Anniversary and its journey of faith over the past quarter century.

I bring you prayerful and fondest greetings on behalf of the Government of

the Bahamas, as well as on my own behalf,
and that of my wife, Patricia.

I extend congratulations to Senior
Pastor Bishop Gregory Minnis, Sr., and the
ministry team of this community of faith and
love.

Over these many years he has given
spiritual support and guidance to many of
his congregants.

I join you in praying for God's continued guidance for Bishop Minnis, and that God may grant him always the gifts of discernment and wisdom.

The mustard seed of New Jerusalem Kingdom Ministries has grown root and branch to a mighty witness to the God of hope and new beginnings.

Twenty-five years is an important milestone and a time to reflect on your accomplishments and on the road ahead.

It is an opportunity for self-reflection and for renewal.

What more can you do in the work of evangelization?

What more can you do as a witness to the power of God's mercy and love?

How can you reach out more to the unchurched and to those who need to

experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Faith is a gift that is nourished, restored and replenished within the community of faith.

Our journey of faith, our commitment to love one another, our spiritual life, is not a path that we can walk alone.

We must trod the way of the cross together.

No man or woman is an island.

In the Gospels, Jesus is often found with his disciples and with other men and women of faith like Lazarus, and Mary and Martha.

He demonstrated the power and the necessity of a strong and vibrant community of faith, healing, hope and love.

Dear Friends in Christ:

No matter the times, the demands of the Gospels of Jesus Christ remain the same.

They are as timely as ever.

They are never out of season.

We are commanded in Matthew 25:

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

³⁶ “I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ “When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

As you celebrate your 25th anniversary, I invite you to continue to meet the demands of the Gospel in helping to minister to God’s people, in mind, body and soul.

You are also called to a great spiritual ministry.

Some time ago I was talking to one of our elders.

She told me that she thought that too many older people complained too much about younger people.

She went on to say that too many adults did not take enough time with or did not properly mentor the young people in our Bahamas.

Her lesson to me was this:

Instead of complaining too much about our young people, let us help do all we can

to nourish and encourage them in the faith
and as citizens of the Bahamas.

As you embark on your next 25 years as
a community of faith, let me offer you these
words of Isaiah 40:31:

“...Those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Continue to dwell in the strength and the house of the Lord as you continue your ministry of love and hope and healing and reconciliation.

Allow me to offer as my closing prayer, these words from a well-known hymn.

This is my wish for you as continue to grow from strength to strength.

“You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, ‘My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust.’

“And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

“The snare of the fowler will never capture
you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.”

May God continue to bless your pastoral team and your community of faith as you grow stronger, go deeper and reach higher.
