

2013-K1126

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating May 4, 2014, as Pastor Appreciation Day in the State of New York, in honor of Gateway World Christian Center's contribution to the citizens of New York

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center started as an auxiliary service of a church in Elmont, New York, which primarily served the Indian Christian community in the New York area in 2003; the idea was to provide church services to the second generation immigrants from India in a language that they could understand and appreciate; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Sunny Philip soon realized a need to open the services to the community-at-large, thus inviting other immigrant communities in Elmont and surrounding areas to attend services; a simple banner announcing services in English began to bring people from different backgrounds to this service; soon the church started growing and now has 14 different nationalities represented among its members; and

WHEREAS, The need for a unique identity was soon evident and the service was registered as a new church with the name Gateway World Christian Center in 2005; the name Gateway partially pays homage to Elmont, where the church was birthed, as Elmont is known as "Gateway to Long Island"; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center is organized to serve as a ministry to promote the spiritual, social and economic development of the most vulnerable human beings from the child to the senior citizen in the community by inculcating the children with basic principles of life, as well as moral values in order to empower the youth with critical life experiences; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center also provides senior citizens with information and resources regarding finding decent and affordable places to live; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center, a multicultural, interdenominational, full Gospel church, was able to purchase its beautiful facilities in 2008 in Valley Stream; the facility is also used by dozens of small churches in the New York area to hold services, receptions and weddings, and has truly become a community center; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center is a growing and thriving fellowship which serves people from many different backgrounds; everyone is welcome in Gateway; it is truly a loving, caring community of faith; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center supports the communities' Pre K children with their cultural adjustments, as they attempt to assimilate into their new American environment and bi-lingual assistance is made available; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center administers to a dynamic youth ministry, where guidance and counseling are provided, by a certified Social Worker church member, with supervised meetings held weekly; the objective of the program is to help to prevent and restrict any of the negative influences of drugs, alcohol and street violence; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center has a live 24/7 radio and television ministry where they provide social services while spreading the Gospel; Gateway World Christian Center has ministries in Haiti, Zimbabwe and India where they conduct clothing drives for those affected by natural disasters and for those in financial need; and

WHEREAS, Gateway World Christian Center has aligned with an accredited academic institution, with under-graduate, graduate and post-graduate curricula to provide continuing academic support, guidance and supervision to those interested; this gives the members of the church-community, and interested members of the community-at-large, an opportunity

to achieve post high-school academic certificates and religious studies degrees on the associate, bachelor, masters, and even to the doctoral levels of competence; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize those important days which remind us of the contributions made to our great State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate May 4, 2014, as Pastor Appreciation Day in the State of New York, in honor of Gateway World Christian Center's contribution to the citizens of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gateway World Christian Center.