



GULF COAST JURISDICTION *August 2017*

Unity and God's will led the Christian Education fellowship

The annual event was held the last weekend in August

THONOTASSASSA, FLA. – The saints were encouraged to hold on to God and endure to the end at the jurisdiction's Christian Education Recreational fellowship.

The two-day annual fellowship was the last weekend of August at Lily of the Valley. The Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Christian Education Superintendent and Co-Pastor Elder Tony Sewell and Co-Pastor Elder Deborah Sewell hosted the events, which drew saints from around the jurisdiction.

Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop told the saints to be fitly joined together as our joints in the body and do not let the devil in. He said, "The room in the joints is the lack of fasting, prayer and faith."

Bishop Smith and pastors exhorted attendees, while anointed singers led the congregation in worship and praise.

In addition to ministering, the fellowship displayed unity through a number of fun-filled activities, such as, basketball, inflatables, video games, magic show and the annual softball game.

The fun and fellowship culminated with Christian Education, followed by regular service, on Sunday morning.

In his Christian Education teaching, Bishop Smith said, "The flesh will always give you a reason to do something contrary to the Holy Spirit." He encouraged the saints out of Hebrews 12:11-17 and said, "Chastening yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness to all those who allow the chastening to humble them and cause them to obey." "We must ask God to give us his desires, mind and affections to do his will," he added.

In the Sunday morning sermon, Elder Tony Sewell, CE Superintendent encouraged the saints that God will take care of them. "Let the will of the Lord be done. His will is his Word. If you learn how to have faith in God, you will make it," he said.

Bishop Smith wrapped up his comments by encouraging the saints that it takes a willing mind in everything we do for the Lord. "Even if you say you want to change, you need to ask God for a heart to change," he said.



In the photo: Saints clap their hands in praise at Lily of the Valley's pavilion during the jurisdiction's annual Christian Education Recreational Fellowship held the last weekend in August.

More photos: (All photos taken by Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn)



In the photos: Saints enjoying themselves at Lily of the Valley during the jurisdiction's annual Christian Education Recreational Fellowship.

More August stories

Category: Events

One church gave to support hurricane victims, celebrated birthdays, and a wedding anniversary and enjoyed the Word of God from guest preachers.

- **From New Covenant:** New Covenant is a caring congregation. In lieu of our building fund offering, the Holy Spirit led Pastor Augustus L. Russell, Jr. to take up an offering for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The church raised \$300.00 and Assistant Pastor Bonita Russell and Minister Eartha Howard presented the check to the Alabama American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We all were very happy to give!”



In the Photo: (L to R, back row) Assistant Pastor Bonita Russell and Minister Eartha Howard Alabama American Red Cross representatives.

- **From New Covenant:** New Covenant celebrated the birthdays of all the August babies on August 6. Those saints born in August included Sister Caprice Walters, Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs, Exhorter Crystal Russell and Elder Ruth Latham.



Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We were celebrated with good food, fun and fellowship.”

In the Photo: New Covenant saints helping to celebrate the August birthdays.

- **From New Covenant:** Happy Anniversary! Pastor Augustus L. Russell, Jr. and his wife Assistant Pastor Bonita P. Russell celebrated 36 years of wedded bliss on August 9!

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We congratulate our Pastor and First Lady on enduring for 36 years of marriage.”



In the Photo: Pastor Augustus L. Russell, Jr. and Assistant Pastor Bonita P. Russell.

- **From Life in Christ:** Bishop Smith visited Life in Christ on August 3 for bible study, teaching God’s Word on how God chose Abraham, because he knew that Abraham would not only believe what he said about “The word” but, he was someone who would teach his children and who would then teach their children. Bishop Smith talked about how Abraham was someone who believed in God without a doubt in his mind and how we should do the same. He spoke about how healing and money are “perks” of having the Holy Spirit and living right, but it is not abundant life. The end goal and true reward is to have eternal life in heaven with God.

Brother Ayrton Canahualpa: “Bishop Smith brought us many blessings and encouragements through the Word of God!”



In the Photo: LOV class members making craft projects.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** One Sunday during Christian education, Pastor Deborah Sewell told the class make a clay person as well as build a totem pole. Her lesson was about how God made man, but man chooses to serve other Gods. "It was very enlightening to have it explained in such an elementary way. I realized that we are God's creation, but when we choose other things, be it an idol or anything we put before God, it makes God angry to see his creation neglect him for something they made themselves and then turn around and call it a god," said Exhorter Patricia Jean.

Minister Desiree Sewell: "We need to be careful of what we put before our savior. He gave us life he can also take it away eternally!"

- **From Life in Christ:** Elder Augustus L. Russell, Jr., District Superintendent of the Tallahassee, Fla. District visited Life in Christ on August 13, sharing the Word of God during Sunday service about how it is impossible to please God without having faith and belief. He preached about the hunger Jacob had for God, which is the same hunger we need to have and show by diligently seeking him. We went over the account in the book of Mark 4:35 of how Jesus said, “Let us pass unto the other side,” only to later be awoken by his crewmembers, who questioned if they could make it to the other side. After Jesus commanded the great storm, “Peace, be still,” he asked his crewmembers, “Why are ye so fearful; how is it that you have no faith?” This account shows that we need to have faith in God’s Word and believe that everything will be alright. Elder Russell gave a special back to school prayer for everyone returning to school this semester.

Brother Ayrton Canahualpa: “Our district superintendent truly blessed us!”

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** This month the Youth and Young Adult Department hosted a game night. The local YYAD coordinator Minister Shaneika Brinkley began the evening with a meeting to discuss upcoming events, her vision for the department, as well as what everyone in the YYAD desires to do/be in the House of the Lord. She encouraged the youth and young adults to step out and let the Lord use them! We ended the evening with food, games, and fellowship.

Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn: “The youth and young adults had loads of fun!”



In the Photo: Christ the Redeemer youth and young adults having fun during game night.

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- **From Life in Christ:** Pastor Tony and Pastor Deborah Sewell visited Life in Christ on August 31 and led bible study, starting with Pastor T. Sewell, who led praise and worship. Pastor D. Sewell was our guest preacher for the night with the theme was “The more you know about God, the more you will love him.” Pastor D. Sewell encouraged us to spread the Word of God by giving the example of how when people get something good they want to tell someone else. Therefore, when we get Jesus we should want to tell somebody else about Him. She then closed by reminding us that, if we are righteous then God will bless us.

Brother Ayrton Canahualpa: “We received a double portion with the Sewell and Sewell duo!”

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer held its annual revival with Elder Ruth Latham on August 19-20. Evangelist Latham came and encouraged the saints that, “Everything is going to be alright because of what Jesus has done! Jesus destroyed the devil. The devil has been destroyed in your life.”

Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn: “We all had a wonderful time in the Lord!”





In the photos: Elder Ruth Latham preaching the Word of God and saints during praise at the revival at Christ the Redeemer.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The members at Christ the Redeemer celebrated the quarterly Birthday's this month. Food and fellowship followed the morning service. The Fourth of July theme brightened the fellowship hall.

Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn: "The birthday saints were truly blessed!"



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the July, August and September birthday celebration.

Category: Testimony

One saint continues to receive blessings from the Lord.



- **From New Covenant:** The Lord is truly leading, guiding and elevating Exhorter Crystal Russell. During the summer, she was the assistant principal for a middle school. A position that she did not apply for, but the Lord caused the Principal to seek her out. Her work with her debate team at Brewbaker Jr. High has made her stand out from the rest in Montgomery.

A principal at a new high school wanted Exhorter Crystal to come to his school, teach junior and senior students, and start a debate team. Although the offer was tempting, Exhorter Crystal decided to stay at Brewbaker. Little did

she know that, if she had accepted that job offer, her classroom would have been a portable cart.

Additionally, outside of the school arena, Exhorter Crystal received a financial blessing. During the month of June, she was involved in a wreck, which would have cost her \$7,000.00 to fix her car. Through the advice of her father, Pastor Russell, she decided to purchase a new car. They went to the car lot on the last day of the month, the day where sales representatives are trying to make that end-of-month sale. The Lord worked it out so that she could purchase a 2017 2-door Honda Civic with monthly payments equal to what she had paid for her previous car. God is good!

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We’re so very proud of Exhorter Crystal Russell!”

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Editorial Staff:** Saints please be mindful of the below upcoming events for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction and CLGI.

The 2017 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sep 1-3	Elder Paula Smith’s Ret/B-Day Celeb.	FWB, FL
Sep 8-10	Elder Chisolm/Chisolm Pastoral Anniv.	Melbourne, FL
Sep 21-24	International Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
Oct 6-8	PNW Jurisdictional Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
Oct 13-15	Elder Calix Pastoral Ann.	FWB, FL
Oct 20-22	European Jurisdictional Meeting	Zaltbommel, the Netherlands
Oct 27-29	Central States Jurisdictional Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Nov 4-5	Elder Grandberry Pastoral Ann.	Gainesville, FL
Nov 17-19	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, FL
Dec 2-3	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS
Jan 13-15	Gulf Coast Youth & Young Adult Conf	Melbourne, FL