



GULF COAST JURISDICTION
August 2018

Bishop Smith and Elder Calix fellowship with the saints in Suriname



In the photo: Elder Tom Calix on Sunday morning of the conference and Asst. Pastor Michaël Ricketts, with the Suriname saints.

PARAMARIBO, SURINAME – Speakers encouraged the people to seek and serve God at the Annual South America Jurisdictional conference Aug. 17-19. The South America Jurisdiction includes churches in Surinam and French Guiana.

During the three-day conference from Friday through Sunday, The Church of the Living God International, Inc. (CLGI) saints from the Conus, Europe, South America and the Caribbean came together at Eben-Haëzer church in Paramaribo, hosted by Pastor Philemeen Mangal, South American Presidium Chair.

Numerous preachers encouraged the saints to endure to the end and continue to fight the good fight of faith until Jesus comes, to include Elder Tom Calix, Pastor of Spirit of Christ in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

“This was my first trip to Suriname. It was great to see the saints and be part of spreading the Gospel internationally,” said Elder Calix.

“The nightly preaching by the South American Jurisdictional pastors and elders was powerful and people were delivered and saved,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. “Pastor Calix culminated the preaching on Sunday by greatly encouraging the saints to choose the right church,” he added.

The Bishop's Corner

Take up your cross

Praise the Lord Saints,

I praise God from whom all blessings flow. When we make up our mind about the resurrection, we will run to the cross instead of avoiding it. The way to God is through the cross. We are no stronger in God as we are in our assurance in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We cannot be saved unless we believe that Jesus' resurrection is absolute.

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angles; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” (Matthew 16:24-27)

Jesus told the people he was going to the cross willingly. We must do two things. Know the will of God and do the will of God. Jesus submitted his will to God and told the disciples he was going to suffer, be killed, but will rise again on the third day. When we go through things, we do not remember the part that Jesus said about rising on the third day, because we do not want to suffer. The reason we go through tribulations is to test our faith. (James 1:2-8)

When Jesus saved me, he quickened my spirit, but my soul must die, so I can be a new me. All of us must take up our cross and we must die. The only reason we are in the House of God is to make it to heaven. We should not be running from hell, but running to heaven. Jesus knew the purpose of his death, but he also knew that his Father was going to raise him from the dead.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we should also in the likeness of his resurrection.” (Romans 6:3-5)

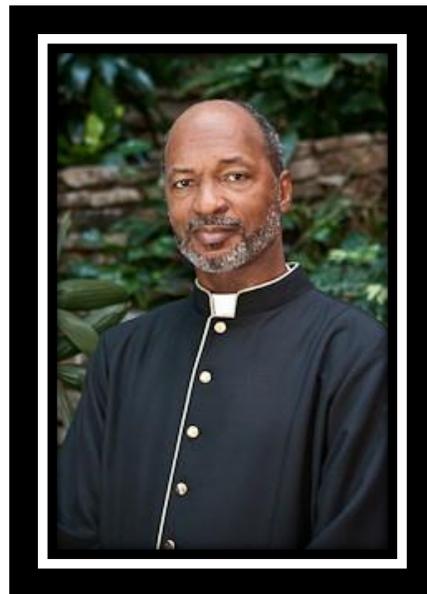
We must stay on our cross and let God work out our troubles. There is a difference in waiting patiently and waiting because of restraint. In every situation, there is a resurrection. We must patiently wait for God to deliver us. Everything that happens in a saint's life is to bring him to the resurrection and eternal life with God. Jesus is our example of how to suffer and wait on God to deliver. (1 Peter 2:21-25) If we get off the cross, we must get back on where we got off. The nails and beatings must come again.

God is aware of us and has something for each of us to do. However, before we can do it, some things in us must change. We have to know God's will for us and work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12) When we step into God's light, how does he see us? When the disciples saw Jesus on the Mount of transfiguration, they saw him as God sees him. Jesus knew when he was bearing the cross and our sins upon him that he was doing the will of God.

Have faith in God, because he will never fail us. When difficult times come, drop everything else and go back to preaching the cross of Jesus. When we have faith in God, we can go through anything!

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More August stories

Category: Events

Four churches share the Word of God through revivals and one had a farewell fellowship, a baby dedication, welcomed a new member, gave a facelift to the church's exterior and held a district missions weekend.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The members of Christ the Redeemer were truly blessed by Elder Ruth Latham, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Team Coordinator, when she came for her annual revival August 7-8. Elder Latham really encouraged the saints to hold on in the Lord.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “God is good to us for giving us such wonderful blessings.”



In the photo: Elder Ruth Latham preaching at Christ the Redeemer during the annual church revival.



- **From Promise:** At Promise, August 9-10, Elder Ruth Latham, Gulf Coast Evangelistic Team Coordinator, preached the Word of God with power, conviction, and life.

The first night, Elder Latham encouraged us with her message “Jesus, The Good Shepherd.” She took her texts from Psalm 23 and John 10, encouraging us that we should be more like sheep because Jesus, The Good Shepherd, will take care of us if we let Him. Through scripture, she showed us that Jesus was willing to lay down his life for his sheep because he loves us. She encouraged us to follow the Shepherd who has everything we need and not worry about anything. Elder Latham went on to inspire us to “take God at His word because He never breaks promises.”

The second night, Elder Latham’s message was “Jesus, The Only Way to Heaven.” Spanning the book of John and culminating in I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4, the second night, Elder Latham proved through several scriptures that Jesus was born to die for the sins of the world and that He was willing to make a way for us to have eternal life. She proved that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us and through Him—and Him alone—we have a way to Heaven.

Minister Shaundra Smith: “Elder Latham was truly a blessing. It was a privilege to have her in our midst.”

In the photo: Elder Ruth Latham preaching at Promise during the annual church revival.



- **From Prince of Peace:** At Prince of Peace, on Sunday, August 19, Minister Shaundra Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Team Member and Minister of Music, preached the morning message. The main text was Titus 2:11-14, a text in which Paul encourages that grace, unhidden, is available to all who will take advantage of God's benefits through Jesus Christ. Grace (salvation) teaches that we should live holy, waiting on the blessed hope that is eternal life.

Through this portion of the word of God, she expressed that holiness, a way of life rather than a law, should not be viewed as "running FROM hell, but rather running TO heaven." As Paul encourages us to be "zealous unto good works," his notion can be likened to David's admonishment that we "delight ourselves in the Lord." (Titus 2:14; Psalm 37:4) David also said that we should, "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put [our] trust in the Lord." (Psalm 4:5)

So much more than a list of do's and don'ts, she preached that life in Jesus Christ, holiness, is casting our care on Him, committing our way to Him, having peace, receiving light in darkness, enjoying safety, hiding in a secret place, being forgiven of all wrongs, getting relief from shame, and having eternal life.

Elder Paulette Harrison: "We were blessed and encouraged to stand until Jesus comes."

In the photo: Minister Shaundra Smith preaching at Prince of Peace during the youth revival.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** The saints at Lily of the Valley had a fun, Spirit-filled month with a few workshops and revivals. To kick off the month, our very own Jurisdictional Bishop Charles D. Smith came and blessed us with two days of teaching on the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity on Wednesday-Thursday August 15-16.



Sister Sereese Davis: "The saints that were unable to attend the class at the General Assembly were blessed by this teaching."

In the photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching a seminar at Lily of the Valley.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** On Tuesday, August 21, Elder Ruth Latham, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Team Coordinator, graced the saints at LOV with her presence and gave a powerful revival about Fighting the good Fight of Faith and why we have to appreciate God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Sister Sereese Davis: "The saints left feeling uplifted and ready to fight the good fight!"

In the photo: Elder Ruth Latham, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Team Coordinator.

- From Lily of the Valley:** To end the month out right, we had Elder Jeffrey Johnson come and lead a wonderful revival on Friday, August 24. Then Saturday, August 25, Exhorter Tyrone Brinkley, Gulf Coast Assistant Minister of Music, taught a seminar and held a hands-on music session. During that session, he explained the impact that musician have on helping the Holy Spirit move during service. On Sunday morning, August 26, Elder Johnson came back and preached an amazing sermon that left the saints filled with joy. Elder Lawanda Johnson also blessed us with a spirit-filed praise and worship with two members from the LOV praise team.



In the photos: (L to R) Elder Lawanda Johnson, Exhorter Tyrone Brinkley and Elder Jeffrey Johnson.

Sister Sereese Davis: “The revivals and seminars in the month of August refreshed and refilled us.”

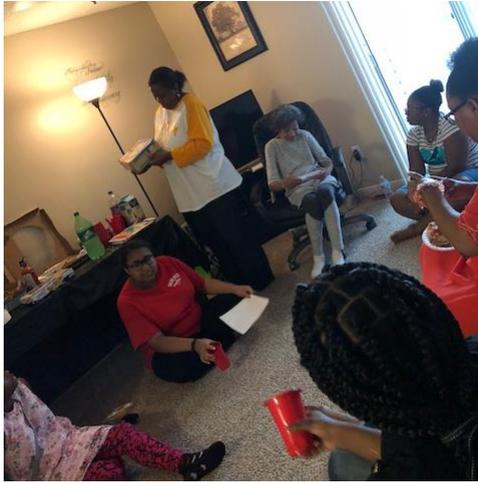


- From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ along with Promise held their annual District Missions weekend this month. Elder Treani Thompson our Gulf Coast Missions Director took us back to basics during our Saturday morning breakfast. She reminded us that lost souls need to know Jesus to be saved.

Elder Debbie Calix: “We had a wonderful time in the Lord at our missions training and fellowship with the saints.”

In the photos: Elder Treani Thompson and saints from Promise and Spirit of Christ.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** As a farewell to Missionary Hannah James' going away, Christ the Redeemer's Elect Ladies hosted a game night. The saints enjoyed a fellowship of food, fun and games in the Lord.



In the photos: Elder Treani Thompson and Christ the Redeemer's Elect Ladies to include Missionary Hannah James.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "We enjoyed each other in the Lord as we played games and fellowshiped."



- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ would like to welcome into our church family and the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Brother Josh. He came to us by way of Victory Bible study at Hurlburt Field led by Minister Cory Cook.

Elder Debbie Calix: "We are so happy that Brother Josh joined the Spirit of Christ Family."

In the photo: Brother Josh at Spirit of Christ.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ's exterior building is getting a facelift this month. We want to thank the saints in our Brotherhood department and their very skilled and resourceful project manager, Minister Stephen Calix, who had the vision for all their hard work. They have been grinding wall surfaces, stripping doorframes and soffits, caulking windows, adding a protection barrier and painting and sealing the walls. The goal is to have the project completed by the pastor's anniversary in September.

Elder Debbie Calix: "We are very proud of the work they are doing to beautify God's house."

Photos of Spirit of Christ's exterior church facelift.



In the photos: Members of Spirit of Christ's Brotherhood department doing exterior work on the church.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints at Christ the Redeemer bid farewell to Missionary Hannah James as she left to start college in Missouri. It was sad, but also a time of rejoicing as we get to see our sister go higher in God.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "We are very proud of Missionary Hannah."



In the photos: Minister Cheryl James, Pastor Carlos Thompson, Missionary Hannah James and Minister Shaneika Brinkley.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The Madamidola Family dedicated the life of their son Jason Madamidola to the Lord. They promise to raise him in the way of the Lord all the days of his life.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “Congratulations to the Madamidola family and welcome to Jason.”



In the photo: The Madamidola family.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** Pastor Tom Calix had the honor of accompanying Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction, to the South American Jurisdiction Conference in Paramaribo Suriname. He especially wants to thank Bishop Smith for his gracious invitation and the Mission's departments of the Gulf Coast and Spirit of Christ for their financial support. The Saints were very welcoming and happy to see the delegation from the United States. Pastor Calix was humbled when asked to bring the Word of God to the congregation in Suriname.

Elder Debbie Calix: “We are happy that Pastor Calix was able to go to Suriname this year.”



In the Photos: Elder Tom Calix, Bishop Charles D. Smith, Bishop William Lee III, Elder Philemeen Mangal, Elder Alfred Majo and Bishop Joseph White.

Category: Condolence

Elder Carlos Thompson and Family,

On behalf of the Saints in the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction, I offer my sincere condolence for the passing of your mother. I pray that the Lord will comfort you and your family during this time, hold you in his everlasting arms and hide you under the shadow of his wings.

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalms 34:15, 18)

If you or your family need anything during this time, please let me know. I pray that God's blessings will continue to be upon you all.

Your Servant in Christ,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Evangelistic Team:** Below is the 2018 schedule of revivals throughout the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction. Please pray for the Evangelistic team that the Lord will use them mightily to speak words that are Spirit and life and confirm His Word by miracles, wonders and signs. If you need a revival at your church, please contact one of the evangelist listed below to check his or her availability.

2018 Revival Schedule

Sep 12 (Wed) *Prince of Peace*, Jacksonville, Fla. (*Confirmed*)

Oct 25-26 (Thur-Fri) *Spirit of Christ*, Ft Walton Beach, Fla. (*Confirmed*)

The Evangelistic Team Members

1. Elder Ruth Latham
 2. Elder Tom Calix
 3. Minister Crystal Derico
 4. Minister Shaundra Smith
 5. Minister Sirita Loiseau
 6. Minister Desiree Walker
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- **From the Editorial Staff:** Saints please be mindful of the below upcoming events for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction.

The 2018 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

Date	Event	Location
Sep 21-23	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.	FWB, Fla.
Oct 13-14	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	Thonotosassa, Fla.
Nov 16-18	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, Fla.
Dec 1-2	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.	Gulfport, Miss.

2018 GULF COAST JURISDICTIONAL RECREATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018
11:00AM - Meet and Greet

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018
10:00AM - Morning Worship

Lily of the Valley, CLGI
9812 Harney road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop

POC: Elder Tony Sewell
813.304.8906
tsewell42@aol.com



*Come enjoy food,
fun and fellowship!*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing is very much LIMITED! Please prepare to stay in one of the accommodations listed below.

<p>HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 13294 Telecom Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33637 1 813-972-9800</p>	<p>HILTON GARDEN INN 13305 Tampa Oaks Blvd Temple Terrace, FL 33637 800-276-7415</p>	<p>HAMPTON INN & SUITES 8210 Hidden River Pkwy Tampa 33637 1-800-426-7866</p>	<p>EXTENDED STAY 12242 Morris Bridge Rd, Tampa, FL 33637 1-800-398-7829</p>	<p>RAMADA INN 11714 Morris Bridge Rd Tampa 33617 1-800-272-6232</p>
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GULF COAST Jurisdictional Meeting

Promise CLGI, Jurisdictional Headquarters
716 Edge St.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Friday, November 16, 2018

10:00am - Seminars
6:30pm - Prayer
7:30pm - Evening Service

Saturday, November 17, 2018

10:00am - Seminars
6:30pm - Prayer
7:30pm - Evening Service

Sunday, November 18, 2018

10:00am - Morning Service

That We May Be One
John 17:21-23

Hotel

TownePlace Suites Fort Walton Beach-Eglin AFB
843 Eglin Parkway
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
850-315-6000
(\$99.00 + tax)
Group code: Gulf Coast CLGI

The last day to book a room under the group code is October 15, 2018.

For more information e-mail: gulfcoast.jurisdiction@gmail.com