

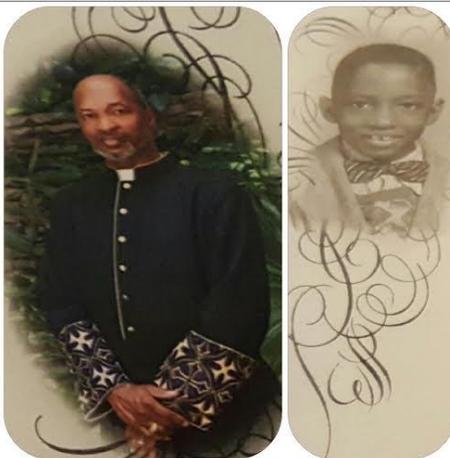


## ***GULF COAST JURISDICTION***

*February 2017*

### **A faithful and hard-working leader**

*Gulf Coast Jurisdiction celebrates Bishop Charles D. Smith's appreciation/birthday*



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – The Gulf Coast Jurisdiction celebrated the pastoral appreciation and 66<sup>th</sup> birthday of its bishop at an annual meeting.

The event, held Feb. 10-12, at Promise Church, 716 Edge St., opened that Friday night. Gulf Coast pastors encouraged the saints that there's a better life for them if they would surrender completely and believe that Jesus came in the flesh, died, was buried and raised again for their sins and is seated at the right hand of God ever living to make intercessions for the saints.

Bishop Joseph White, presiding bishop of The Church of the Living God International, Inc. encouraged the saint in the Saturday morning seminar that, their foundation of how they believe on Jesus, will determine what kind of spirit they receive. "We must not preach 'Another Jesus', but tell the people to believe on Jesus as the scripture says and they will receive the Holy Spirit," said Bishop White. He was referring to the scriptures in 2 Cor 11:4 and John 7:37-39.

Bishop White was making clear to the saints the CLGI foundation and what Jesus it believes. "Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God and He and the Father are not the same person," he added.

His message of faith in Jesus as the scripture says resonated throughout the three-day event, which included a Saturday night banquet and yoke-breaking service and baptism and regular Sunday service.

The banquet gave district superintendents, pastors, elders, ministers and lay members the opportunity to present gifts and give encouraging words to Bishop Smith... "He is a faithful and hard-working leader", "Has wise council", "He is there when you need him", and "He should be lifted up, so we can get our blessings and victory."

Bishop Smith closed the banquet by thanking everyone for coming. "I appreciate you taking time to attend this appreciation and pray that God will bless you richly for your giving and encouraging words," he said.

A yoke-breaking service followed the banquet and the pastors encouraged the people not to forget all God has done, but be thankful and run harder because of the blessings not shrink back. They also encouraged the people that heaven and Jesus are real and we should know the truth and truth would make us free.

Bishop Smith culminated his three-day appreciation weekend on Sunday morning with a word for the people. “We have to trust God enough to try Him. If you’ve been saved for 10 or more years, you’ve tried God enough to trust Him.”

“We are never in despair when we are in God, because being in despair means we have no help. When you are in God, you are supposed to come to prayer and scrape off the world and trust what His Word says,” he added.

Bishop Smith held a baptism at the end of the Sunday morning service for the newest member of Promise CLGI. Brother Melvin Brundidge made a public confession that he had repented and received the Holy Ghost and was baptized in the presence of his family and saints of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction.



(In the Photos: CLGI saints attend Bishop Smith’s birthday and anniversary celebration.) Photos by Elder Debbie Calix

## **THE BISHOP'S COMMENTS**

### *A note from the Bishop*

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Thanks so much to everyone who had anything to do with my birthday/appreciation celebration. Whether you were directly involved in the planning/program, in attendance or sent up a prayer on my behalf, I am truly thankful for the love and encouragement you have shown to me.

Thank you for the cards (which I still read), for the financial blessings, but most of all just for your love and concern. I love you all!

I am especially grateful for the presence of Bishop Joseph White during that great celebration. Truly, it is always a blessing to have Bishop White in our midst!

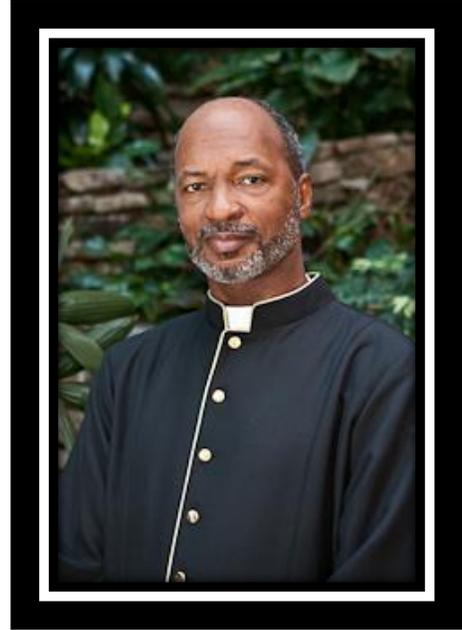
Additionally, I welcome Elder Charles Latham and the newly installed Administrative Staff. Surely, they will be a great help to both the Gulf Coast and me. Their endeavors are sure to provide the organization and efficiency necessary to and for the work of the ministry.

Please keep Elder Ruth Latham and the Evangelistic Team in prayer as they are already on the road and doing miracles.

Also, remember all those who are sick among us and pray for them daily!

God bless you all!

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Pastor of Promise CLGI and  
Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop



## More February stories

### Category: Events

*One churches had a revival, another held an academic forum and a family game day and another's members ran a marathon, had a baptism and added a new member.*



- **From Prince of Peace:** The Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Evangelistic Team had its first revival at Prince of Peace CLGI in Jacksonville, Fla. Feb 25-26. The Lord blessed and the team members were in unity, on one accord and came praying, preaching, singing and prophesying.

The Evangelistic team members at the revival included Elder Ruth Latham (New Covenant), Elder Tamela Grandberry (Way of Holiness), Minister Xiomara Rivera and Minister Desiree Sewell (Lily of the Valley). Each member

of the team preached and gave a “nugget” to encourage, edify, exhort and comfort the saints.

Elder Grandberry said, Jesus loves us and we must stay focused so we can go to heaven. “If we're led by the Spirit, we're sons of God. We've been adopted into God's family.” (1 John 3:1-3 and Rom 8:14-16)

Min Sewell said, “The blood of Jesus is the reason we're here today and why we keep coming. You have to know that Jesus is not just a story He is real.” (1 John 1:1)

Min Rivera said, “We have hope that one day Jesus is coming back for us. People today have lost hope, but Jesus is coming back.” (1 John 3:1-3)

Elder Latham preached “Who do men say that I am?” and said, “How you see Jesus will determine how you go through your trials and tribulations. It will also determine whether you stand or not. Jesus told Peter upon this rock He would build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Jesus is going to build the church He just needs us to plant and water so He can add the increase.” (Matt 16:13-19) She also said, “We must be as Abraham and have hope against hope. He staggered not at the promise of God, but was strong in faith. We too must be strong in faith, because Jesus is coming back soon.” (Rom 4:16-21)

*Pastor Paulette Harrison:* “I was so encouraged by the Word of God that was preached. The Holy Spirit told me during the revival that the gates of hell shall not prevail against Prince of Peace! I praise God for the GCJ Evangelistic Team and thank them for coming!”



**(In the photos: Top, L to R,** Elder Tamela Grandberry (Way of Holiness), Minister Desiree Sewell (Lily of the Valley), Pastor Paulette Harrison (Prince of Peace), Elder Ruth Latham (New Covenant and Minister Xiomara Rivera (Lily of the Valley) at the Prince of Peace revival. **Bottom:** Elder Tamela Grandberry leading praise and worship, while saints praise the Lord in the background during the Prince of Peace revival.)



- From Christ the Redeemer:** By the vision and leadership of Minister Taliah Whitmire, Christ the Redeemer hosted an academic forum to assist high school students and early college students with preparation for college and the working world. Minister Dawana Brickhouse facilitated an information session about Veteran Benefits and the

transition from high school to the military. She also explained several ways that the military could support education via the Montgomery GI Bill, the Post 911 GI Bill, Tuition Assistance, and a variety of other avenues. She also gave her personal testimony about being in the military as a student and being able to use her profession to help further our great ministry.

Minister Shaneika Brinkley facilitated an informational session concerning high school graduation requirements and the being in the medical field. As a Registered Nurse and former high school and community college teacher, Minister Brinkley was able to expand on detailed information concerning what schools are looking for from students, what kinds of tests they need to take to enter into college medical programs, and what benefits the medical field offers. Minister Brinkley also provided attendees with personal experiences about the kinds of high school classes she took that allowed her to progress into the medical field.

Minister Tanoa Williams presented information to attendees concerning what tests high school students need to take to gain entry into college or the military. The tests discussed were the PSAT, SAT, PACT, and ACT. She also discussed the financial requirements associated with applying to colleges and gaining entry in college. Minister Williams talked about the differences between college accreditations, scholarships, grants, and loans.



*Minister Tanoa Williams:* “Overall, the forum was a success and all attendees seemed to enjoy the presentations. Several questions were answered and the people were blessed.”

**(In the photos:** Top, Minister Dawana Brickhouse; Middle, Information and pamphlets about career choices; Bottom L to R, Minister Tanoa Williams, Minister Shaneika Brinkley, Deacon Josh Marsh, Bro. Allan Johnson, Sis Kourtney Littlejohn and Missionary Lorelle Johnson)



- From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer's Christian Education Department hosted a family game day. Families came together to compete for bragging rights as we played Bible Taboo & Bible Cranium and Bible. Minister John Williams, CE department director, organized the event and Mobile Bible Study member, Brother Sam, catered it.



*Minister Tanoa Williams:* "We had a good time of fun, games, food and fellowship."



(In the Photos: Top L to R, Brother Allen Johnson, Brother John Williams, Brother DeVon Kitt, Sister Talia Williams, Brother Orion Brinkley, Sister Taylor Williams; Second Row, Minister John Williams, Minister Shaneika Brinkley, Elder Treani Thompson, Sister Connie Robinson; and Bottom Row, Christ the Redeemer saints enjoying the game-day dinner.)

- From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ had another full Birthday month in February. The Lord blessed Mother Tala Calix, Deacon Jeff Negley, Exhorter Cory Cook and Minister Stephen Calix with another year. We enjoyed cake and ice cream after service. We also went to the nursing home to sing "Happy Birthday" to Mother Calix.

*Elder Debbie Calix:* "A good time was had by all!"



(In the Photos: L to R- Birthday cake and Exhorter Cory Cook, Minister Stephen Calix and Deacon Jeff Negley.)

- **From New Covenant:** Minister Andrea and Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs accomplished a great milestone...together! They completed their first half marathon. They ran the Disney Princess Half Marathon on February 26. Exhorter Maurissa completed the 13.1 miles in 3:12 hours and Minister Andrea completed them in 3:27.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We’re happy to have completed this milestone in our lives.”



**(In the Photos:** Minister Andrea Spriggs and Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs after the 13.1 miles half-marathon run.

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- **From New Covenant:** During the month of February, the New Covenant Family received many blessings. It started with Brother Gary Jackson baptism on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Minister Peterkins, who attends Promise CLGI in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., introduced Brother Jackson to us. He is a native of Montgomery and makes it a point to visit with us when he comes home.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “Brother Jackson has become very special to us at New Covenant.”

**(In the Photo:** Minister Ronny Fleming and Brother Henry Welch baptize Brother Gary Jackson.)

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- **From New Covenant:** Also on February 19, Brother Jaquan Johnson joined the New Covenant Family. During our evening Brotherhood service, Minister Ronny Fleming, the local brotherhood coordinator stated that Brother Jaquan wanted to get right with God, but did not know how to do it. The Lord was pricking his heart and Brother Jaquan repented and joined our church family at the service.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We are so happy to have Brother Jaquan join our New Covenant Family!”

**(In the Photo:** Pastor Augustus Russell and Minister Ronny Fleming encourage and pray for Brother Jaquan Johnson at the Brotherhood service.)

## Category: Blessing

*One family got a new addition, which confirms that God is increasing the church from within.*



• **From New Covenant:** On February 23, the Spriggs Family welcomed a new addition to their family. Minister Maurice and Andrea became first-time grandparents with the birth of their granddaughter, Caroline Mariah Spriggs. *Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We’re very excited to have little Caroline Mariah!”

**(In the Photos: L to R, Minister Andrea Spriggs and Minister Maurice Spriggs holding their new granddaughter Caroline Mariah.)**



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## Category: Testimony

*God heals a youth by His miracle working power.*

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Fourteen-year-old Anthony Bartholomew was experiencing severe abdominal pain, so his parents, Minister Kelvin & Missionary Anika Bartholomew took him to the hospital. The doctors said he had a lacerated liver, with extensive internal bleeding and blood was pooling in his stomach/abdominal area causing excruciating pain. Once the doctor at hospital in Gulfport, Miss. diagnosed and confirmed the problem, they referred Brother Anthony to a pediatric surgeon at the Children’s Hospital in New Orleans, La. When we got the news, the saints of God began to pray as they transported Brother Anthony to New Orleans, which is about an hour’s drive away from Gulfport. However, when the doctors admitted and tested him, the staff was confounded. The Lord was moving through the prayers of His people. The doctors took ultrasounds and X-rays of Anthony’s liver and stomach and found out that the blood, which had pooled in his abdomen, was gone! They looked at the liver and found that the laceration was gone! We know that only the miracle working power of the Lord, our God could have heal this young man’s body in a matter of hours. Missionary Anika said, “The surgeon didn’t know what to do.” He put Brother Anthony on bed rest for a week and sent him home!

*Minister Tanoa Williams:* “Minister Kelvin and Missionary Anika Bartholomew are ‘so grateful for the prayers of the righteous’ and thank God for working a miracle for Anthony!”

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## Category: Upcoming Events

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

**The 2017 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar**

| <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Event</u></b>                     | <b><u>Location</u></b> |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| Apr 21-23          | GC Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.       | FWB, FL                |
| Apr 27-30          | Pastors and Leadership Conf.            | Atlanta, GA            |
| 6-7 May            | Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Ann.       | Thonotosassa, FL       |
| 20-21 May          | Emmanuel Dedication/Elder Jenkins Ann.  | Panama City, FL        |
| Jun 5              | CLGI Consecration Begins                |                        |
| Jun 10-11          | Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniversary     | Jacksonville, FL       |
| Jun 28             | CLGI Consecration Ends                  |                        |
| Jun 30- 9 Jul      | IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly      | Mobile, AL             |
| Jul 29-30          | Elder Russell Pastoral Anniversary      | Montgomery, AL         |
| Aug 26-27          | GC CE Recreational Fellowship           | Thonotosassa, FL       |
| Sep 1-3            | Elder Paula Smith's Ret/B-Day Celeb.    | FWB, FL                |
| Sep 8-10           | Elder Chisolm and Chisolm Pastoral Ann. | Melbourne, FL          |
| Sep 21-24          | International Missions Conference       | Columbus, OH           |
| Oct 13-15          | Elder Calix/Elder McAuley Pastoral Ann. | FWB, FL                |
| 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           |