



GULF COAST JURISDICTION
January 2018

GCYYA Conference: Youth encouraged to live holy and endure to the end



In the photo: GCJ Youth who received academic awards. (L to R, back row) Derrick Dutton, X'Zavion Burrows, De'Onte Burrows, Perrion Franklin, Gabrielle Burton, DeVon Kitt and Minister Curtis Bell. (L to R, front row) Alyssa Lynn Richardson Sewell, Toriana Sewell, Isaiah Donevan Sewell and Jedidiah Madamidola. (All photos taken by Minister Kourtney Littlejohn)

MELBOURNE, FLA. – Live holy, have faith in God, pray, follow the Holy Spirit, work out your own soul salvation and endure to the end were the messages during the annual Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Conference held Jan. 13 to 14 in Melbourne, Fla. The theme was “Youth wholly holy” and the conference speakers supported it with their topics.

Minister Shaundra Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Minister of Music, opened the conference on Saturday with a seminar about tattoos, piercings, markings, worldly trends. She said that, “Worldly trends are designed by the devil as points of contact that attract evil spirits and



those such as tattoos and odd piercings are dedicated to the worship of idol gods. When a trend changes your behavior, it is worldly.” She further admonished the youth and young adults that, “God has a standard for His people (be holy) and there has to be a difference between God’s people and those of Satan.”



Dr. Eric Russell, Director of the International Youth and Young Adult Department (IYYAD) for The Church of the Living God International, Inc. (CLGI), taught the afternoon seminar on Saturday. He encouraged the youth and young adults to make sure what they do in the church is for the most High God, because that is what keeps him stable.

“You cannot become a great person without great events that shatter, trouble, and pull a part,” he said. “A great leader is one who pulls things back together. When people leave or will not do the work, this is the window of opportunity that gives a person a chance to be great and to shine. If you don’t want it you will never be great,” he concluded.

The edification and exhortation to the youth and young adults continued in the Saturday night service as various youth and young adult speakers gave powerful words of encouragement. Dr. Christiana Russell, Assistant Director of the International Youth and Young Adult Department for CLGI finished the service with wise council.

In encouraging the youth and young adults, she said, “Have faith in God and press!” “Everything I do is because I believe in the true and Living God. We’ve got to work out our own soul salvation. Pressing toward the mark sometimes is difficult and requires some effort,” she added. At the end of her exhortation, she prayed for the youth and young adults



that they would be faithful, stand, live holy for the Lord and be separate from the world.

The “Bishop’s Blessing” came on Sunday morning during Christian Education from the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop Charles D. Smith, who is also the pastor of Promise in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He encouraged the saints to endure chastening and follow the Holy Spirit. “To be spiritual means to be led by the Spirit,” he said. “Anyone who cannot control his emotions is immature. A sign of maturity is being able to control your emotions. We must learn to obey the Spirit.”

He admonished the youth not to be like Esau, a profane person. “Esau never liked the things of God,” said Bishop Smith. “You can become a profane person



and the results are the same as Esau. We must yield to the Spirit and allow the Lord to chasten us, so that we can receive the peaceful fruits of righteousness—eternal life,” he said.

Bishop Smith continued to say, “Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Anybody who is wrong, must repent and



those who are wronged, must forgive, if they want to go to heaven.”

At the Sunday morning service, GC Jurisdictional Youth and Young Adult Director Minister Curtis Bell, who is also the Pastor of Life in Christ in Tallahassee, Fla., said, “When we pray, God hears us and He can fix what is wrong.” “We have heaven and an immortal body to look forward to. Because of Jesus, we have an inheritance that is incorruptible. God tells us to live holy and equips us to do it,” he said. “I am supposed to be like God’s Son, holy, so He can use me, but I have to do my part,” he concluded.

A pizza fellowship followed morning service at New Hope CLGI, where the youth played games and had fun. On Sunday night, youth, who excelled academically throughout the year, received certificates to recognize their accomplishments. They are as follows:

Jaylen Reid is a member of Spirit of Christ CLGI, 6th grader, who won the President’s Education Awards Program for Outstanding Academic Achievement, 2017 Soccer Champions for the City of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. and chosen for the Fort Walton Beach All-Star Team.

Gabrielle Burton is a member of Christ the Redeemer CLGI in Gulfport, Miss., 8th grader, who maintained A Honor Roll.

DeVon Kitt is a member of Christ the Redeemer, 6th grader, who maintained A-B Honor Roll.

Jedidiah Madamidola is a member of Christ the Redeemer, 5th grader, who maintained A-B Honor Roll.

The remaining youth are members of Lily of the Valley CLGI in Thonotosassa, Fla.

Toriana Sewell is a 6th grader on the Principal Honor Roll, with advance classes and participates in soccer and Gymnastic. She is in a youth singing group, praise and worship leader, youth usher, an offering counter and has perfect church attendance.

Isaiah Donevan Sewell is a 5th grader on Honor Roll, chosen as best student and mayor of Biz Town and plays soccer. He is in a youth singing group, on the praise and worship team, assistant to the pastor, a youth usher and has perfect church attendance.

Alyssa Lynn Richardson Sewell is a 4th grader on Honor Roll and the most valuable player on her soccer team. She is a member of a singing group, a youth usher and has perfect church attendance.

De’Onte Burrows is a 7th grader on Honor Roll, a Junior Deacon, usher and a choir member.

X’Zavion Burrows is an 8th grader on Honor Roll, a Junior Deacon, usher and a choir member.

Perrion Franklin is a 12th grader on Honor Roll and a choir member.

Alanna Walker is a 5th grader in the President's Beta Club, usher, youth soloist and a member of a singing group.

Derrick Dutton is an 11th grader on Honor Roll, usher, Junior Deacon and member of a singing group.

A concert and more youth and young adult exhortations followed the award presentation on Sunday night, which wrapped up the conference. In closing comments, Bishop Smith said, "We've had a good conference and I thank Minister Bell and his staff for their hard work."



More GCYYA Conference photos: By Minister Kourtney Littlejohn



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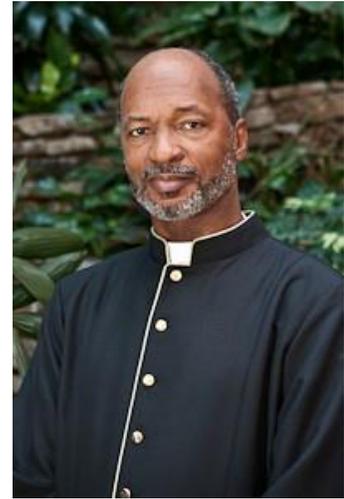
Bishop's Corner

Appreciation

Praise the Lord Saints,

Thanks to all of you for attending and supporting our Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Conference held in Melbourne, Fla. January 13-14. A special thanks to Minister Curtis Bell, the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Director, for his hard work in arranging and directing the conference.

Additionally, special recognition and appreciation must be given to his staff, Minister Crystal Derico, the treasurer, Minister India Rogers, the secretary and Exhorter Crystal Russell, in charge of academic achievements and the ushers. Thanks also for the critical support of Elder Debbie Calix (financial), Lily of the Valley (sound equipment), and New Hope (hosted the pizza fellowship). It was truly a commendable effort by everyone working together in unity to do the Lord's will in executing this conference. Thanks to all of the Gulf Coast members and saints from around CLGI who attended and pitched in to help make this conference a success and blessing to everyone.



The Lord came in, blessed us and met our needs! Minister Shaundra Smith's seminar alerted the youth of the dangers and evils of tattoos and excessive piercings with both scriptural and practical examples. The Word of God was rich, coming from The Church of the Living God International, Inc. Youth and Young Adult Director, Elder Eric Russell and Assistant Director Elder Christiana Russell, as well as all of the speakers, and it indeed edified, exhorted and comforted us. Minister Shaun Linsey was key in the success of the concert; working with every participant who was afforded musical accompaniment.

Let the Word of God you received during this conference dwell in you richly and allow it to change your heart, strengthen you, increase your faith and ensue that nothing will be able to separate you from the love of God that is in Christ.

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

More January stories

Category: Events

One churches has a baby dedication and another welcomes a new baby into the world.

- **From New Hope:** During the 2018 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Youth and Young Adult Conference, Bishop Charles D. Smith did a baby dedication for Missionary Kenga Bivens and Missionary Camera Bivens.



In the Photos: Missionary Kenga Bivens, Missionary Camera Bivens, Minister Tarell Loiseau, Minister India Rogers, Exhorter Frantz Loiseau, Minister Sirita Loiseau, Sister Amoni Loiseau, Elder Carol Chisolm, Elder Carlos Thompson and Bishop Charles D. Smith.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** We gained a new member to the church this month when Minister Travis and Krystle Sewell welcomed to the world their new baby, Liliana Gracelynn Sewell on Jan, 16 2018 at 1:06 am. She was 6 pounds 2 ounces and 17 inches long. She is beautiful and we can't wait to see her grow in the House of God. And maybe even join her big sister and brother Tori and Isaiah singing and preaching in the church.

Sister Sereese Davis: “Welcome to our newest church member, baby Liliana and congratulations to Travis and Krystle Sewell!”

In the Photos: Minister Travis Sewell, Alyssa, Toriana, Isaiah and baby Liliana.

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From Promise:** Hot off the press is the event schedule for Bishop Charles D. Smith's anniversary and birthday celebration. An official flyer is forthcoming, but below is a preview of the schedule. The celebration will be held at Promise CLGI, 716 Edge Street, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 32547

Minister Bretta Elzy: "Please spread the news!"

Friday, Feb 9, 2018

Prayer - 6:30 pm

Service - 7:30 pm

Saturday, Feb 10, 2018

Seminar: 10:00-11:30 am - Church Structure - Bishop Charles D. Smith
(Local pastors, district superintendents, and department heads)

Seminar: 10:00 am-1:30 pm - Intro to the Gospel - Elder Carlos Thompson
(Lay members, new believers and youth from 13 years and up)

Seminar: 11:45 am-1:30 pm - Preaching the Gospel - Bishop Charles D. Smith
(Everyone)

Youth class: 10:00 am-1:30 pm – 6 to 12 years

Youth class: 10:00 am-1:30 pm – 3 to 5 years

Afternoon Break

Banquet: 5:00-8:00 pm

\$15 per adult and teen

\$8 per child ages 9 and under

(Each church have attendees head count to Min Elzy (850-217-6933) by Wed, Feb 7 and bring one church check with list of attendees to the banquet.)

Service: 8:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 11, 2018

Morning Service: Time TBA

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- **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.

2018 Revival Schedule

Feb 22-23 (Thur-Fri) *New Hope*, Melbourne, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

Feb 25-26 (Sat-Sun) *Prince of Peace*, Jacksonville, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

Mar 22-23 (Thur-Fri) *Holy of Holies Tabernacle*, Holiday, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

May 8-9 (Tue-Wed) *Way of Holiness*, Gainesville, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

May 10 (Thur) *Life in Christ*, Tallahassee, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

May 17-18 (Thur-Fri) *Emmanuel*, Parker, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

Aug 7-8 (Tue-Wed) *Christ the Redeemer*, Gulfport, Miss. (**Confirmed**)

Aug 9-10 (Thur-Fri) *Promise*, Ft Walton Beach, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

Aug 21-22 (Tue-Wed) *Lily of the Valley*, Thonotosassa, Fla. (**Confirmed**)

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

- **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
Feb 9-11	Bishop Smith Anniv., and B-Day	FWB, Fla.
Mar 10-11	GCJ Missions Conference	Montgomery, Ala.
Apr 6-8	GCJ Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.	FWB, Fla.
May 4-6	Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniv.	Thonotosassa, Fla.
May 25-27	<i>International Elect Ladies Conf.</i>	<i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>
Jun 4	<i>CLGI Consecration Begins</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Jun 9-10	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniv.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Jun 27	<i>CLGI Consecration Ends</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Jun 29- Jul 8	<i>IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly</i>	<i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Jul 28-29	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniv.	Montgomery, Ala.
Sep 7-9	Elder Chisolm/Chisolm Pastoral Anniv.	Melbourne, Fla.
Sep 21-23	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.	FWB, Fla.
Sep 29-30	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	Thonotosassa, Fla.
Nov 3-4	Elder Grandberry Pastoral Anniv.	Gainesville, Fla.
Nov 15-18	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, Fla.
Dec 1-2	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.	Gulfport, Miss.

2018 Gulf Coast Missions
Reconciling the Lost at all Costs

March 10-11
New Covenant CLGI
1506 Madison Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36107

Saturday
10:00 am - Workshops and Seminars
6:30 pm - Prayer
7:30 pm - Service

Sunday
10:00 am - Service

Colors:
Saturday - Black, white and red
Sunday - Women ALL white; Men gray and White

Power March:
Saturday \$20.00

Registration:
\$10.00 Adults
\$5.00 Jr Missionaries 13 and under