



***GULF COAST JURISDICTION***  
*July 2017*

**“Change is good, transformed is better”**  
*Churches convene for 2017 annual General Assembly*

MOBILE, ALA. – The Word of God challenged the saints in churches and Bible studies from around the world to not just be changed, but also allow the Holy Spirit to transform you at The Church of the Living God International, Inc.’s (CLGI) annual general assembly.

The general assembly, July 4-9 at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, brought CLGI congregations to one meeting place so the Holy

Ghost could lead in worship, seminars, fellowship, spiritual education and training. This year’s theme was Change is good, transformed is better.

“Everyone’s experience with being filled with the Holy Ghost is different, said Bishop Joseph White, the Presiding Bishop of The Church of the Living God International, Inc. “Depending on the depth of your experience will determine whether you will stand or not when storms come into your life. Paul was transformed immediately and how fast you grow in the Spirit depends on you,” he added.

The assembly, preceded by the annual International Youth and Young Adult and Brotherhood conferences, also included a military tribute, several seminars and classes designed for different ministerial capacities, as well as, mid-afternoon healing services – where the saints were healed of physical ailments.

“All of our spiritual battles are won or lost in prayer,” said Bishop White. “You must clear your mind so you can get in the Spirit in prayer.”

The General Assembly also included the consecration of three new bishops to serve on the CLGI Board of Directors and serve in the capacity of jurisdictional bishops. They include Bishop James Johnson, Jr., Southeast Jurisdiction, Bishop Royshel Richardson, Northeast Jurisdiction and Bishop Richard Leary, Jr., Southwest Jurisdiction.

Bishop White ended the assembly by saying, “Turn your failures into successes as Peter did when he walked on water.” “CLGI is built on the revelation that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it,” he added.



**In the Photo:** Participants in the CLGI 2017 Military Tribute.

## More July stories

### Category: Events

*Church members honored their pastor, had baby dedications, birthday celebration, international night and received the Word of God through a seminar.*

- **From New Covenant:** The saints of New Covenant honored Pastor Augustus L. Russell, Jr. and First Lady Bonita P. Russell in his 18<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary on July 29-30. Bishop Charles D. Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and pastor of Promise CLGI in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., taught a seminar Saturday afternoon. Elder Jeffery Johnson from North Carolina was the guest speaker for Saturday Night and Sunday Morning.

Our Pastor and First Lady commented by saying, “We were truly blessed from beginning to end on our 18<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Appreciation. We were lifted up, encouraged, and strengthen to go on in the Lord by the seminar given by Bishop Charles Smith, the preaching by Elder Jeffery Johnson, the love of the visiting saints and MOST of all the love of our saints at New Covenant. We have the best Saints and together we say, ‘We are small but we are Mighty. We are small but efficient. We are small but we are victorious through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ We thank and appreciate all who came to help us celebrate another year in the Lord.”

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We were truly blessed and prayerfully the Pastor and First Lady felt our love for them.”



**In the photos:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, saints from the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction, Elder Jeffery Johnson and the honorees, Pastor Augustus Russell and First Lady Elder Bonita Russell. (Photos taken by Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs and Elder Debbie Calix)



- **From New Covenant:** The New Covenant family had two babies dedicated in July. The Lord placed it upon Bishop Smith’s heart to pray for a couple of the newest members to the CLGI family. We had Baby Landon (mother: Shannon Thompson) and Baby Caroline (parents: Malachi Spriggs and Logan Hurt). Minister Andrea Spriggs, who is Caroline’s grandmother, was overcome with emotion following the dedication and said, “I was going to ask Pastor Russell if he would dedicate Caroline during the anniversary weekend, but I

changed my mind to the weekend following. I got just what I wanted and nobody knew that but the Lord.”

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We were all very happy for the babies and their families.”

**In the photo:** Bishop Smith praying for baby Caroline with her parents Logan Hurt and Malachi Spriggs.

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- **From New Covenant:** Happy Birthday New Covenant saints! This month we celebrated the July babies, which included Minister Maurice Spriggs, Sister Giselle Zawolo, Sister Hannah Means, Sister Jennifer Moore and Sister Joanna Hinson! Each person received a birthday card from the New Covenant Christian Education department.



*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “We had food, fun and fellowship at the birthday celebration!”

**In the photo:** New Covenant’s Christian Education Superintendent Elder Ruth Latham helping Minister Maurice Spriggs to find his name birthday balloon.

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- **From Lily of the Valley:** Lily of the Valley saints came together to celebrate our international roots at The Church of the Living God International General Assembly’s international night on July 9. It was nice this year to have so many of us from LOV participate and wear international attire.

*Minister Desiree Sewell:* “It reflected even the more just how much our gospel reaches many all over the world.”

**In the photo:** Lily of the Valley saints at the 2017 CLGI General Assembly, during international night.





- From Promise:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, pastor of Promise Church of the Living God International and the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop taught a seminar at the 18th pastoral anniversary for Pastor Augustus L. Russell, Jr. at New Covenant CLGI in Montgomery, Ala., on July 29. He taught from Eze 36:16-32 and encouraged the saints that, "God does all things for His name sake, to show He will deliver." He further said that, "God will find a people that will live holy and sanctify His holy name." He ended by saying that, "It's not that we wait on God but, He's waiting on us." The Word of God edified, exhorted and comforted the saints.

**In the Photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching a seminar at Pastor Russell's 18th Anniversary.

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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.

***The 2017 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Sep 21-24	International Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
Oct 13-15	Elder Calix 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