



**GULF COAST JURISDICTION**  
*June 2017*

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**Bishop Smith encourages the saints to be utility players for God**

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. – A number of church congregations came together to hear Bishop Charles D. Smith speak at the tenth pastoral anniversary for Elder Paulette Harrison at Prince of Peace Church of the Living God International, Inc. on June 10-11.

Bishop Smith is the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise CLGI in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

“Jacob loved God and Esau didn’t care one way or the other. You can tell how you love the House of God by how you come to the house of God. If you come in casual, you’ll have a casual attitude,” said Bishop Smith.

He encouraged the saints to trust God. “People, who know about God, do things on their own and people, who know God, trust God.”

As Jacob wrestled with God in Genesis 32:24-32 and would not let go until he got a blessing from God, Bishop Smith said, “This is the way you’re supposed to do in prayer, decide that you’re going to pray until you get an answer.” He said that God knew that it was Jacob wrestling with him, but he needed a changed Jacob and he changed Jacob’s name to Israel. “I need a new name. I need to be known for something new in God,” said Bishop Smith. “You don’t ever want to lose the power of your position in the church,” he added.

“When the people are in distress, the pastor must turn to God and pray,” said Bishop Smith. “If you come to prayer and there’re many distractions, you must get rid of the distractions.”

He said we must sacrifice ourselves to God and be as a utility player, one that can play any position in a sports game. “Pastors are utility players, because the work of the Lord must go on and if there’s no one to do it, the pastor must do it,” said Bishop Smith. “God needs us to be utility people, but he cannot use us until we yield.”

Bishop Smith concluded in Hebrews 5:1-3 talking about the duties of a high priest. “Pastors must love the people, have compassion on them and pull them back into the right way.”



**In the photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop prays for Pastor Paulette Harrison at her pastoral anniversary.

## **More June stories**

### **Category: Events**

*One church held a pastoral appreciation, while others had birthday and Father's Day celebrations, book club activities and IYYAC graduations.*

- **From Prince of Peace:** The saints honored Pastor Paulette Harrison at a two-day appreciation held June 10-11, which included a luncheon and two services, each with guest speakers. The theme was "My labor is not in vain" (1Corinthians 15:58).



At the luncheon on Saturday, Elder Carol Chisolm, District Superintendent for the Atlantic District, encouraged the saints that, "We must continue to come to church and pray and abound in the Lord."

The saints received encouraging words at the Saturday evening service from Elder Charles Latham, New Covenant in Montgomery, Ala. that, "We're not wasting our time, because Jesus did not waste his time on the cross, because we're all here."

Elder Augustus Russell, District Superintendent for Tallahassee, Fla., said, "Don't let the devil talk you out of your blessings; your labor is not in vain."

Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop, culminated the anniversary celebration on Sunday morning by encouraging Pastor Harrison to continue to pray, seek the Lord and love and have compassion on the saints.

*Pastor Paulette Harrison:* "I was so very encouraged by the Word of God. I truly believe that the Lord is on my side and my labor is not in vain in the Lord!"

**In the Photos:** Saints who attended Pastor Paulette Harrison's anniversary June 10-11 at Prince of Peace in Jacksonville, Fla.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Pastor Deborah Sewell's birthday was on May 29, but we showered her with love and gifts in June. The saints came together and had a wonderful celebration to show their appreciation of her love and labor in the Lord.

*Minister Desiree Sewell:* "The saints showed her how much, each year with her, keeps them grounded and full of laughter."

**In the Photos:** The birthday celebration for Pastor Deborah Sewell at Lily of the Valley CLGI in Thonotosassa, Fla.



- **From New Covenant:** The month of June ended with a bang as we had the monthly birthday celebration on the 25. Minister Ronny Fleming along with others had birthdays in June and the saints gathered around to help them celebrate. The day, filled with food, fun and fellowship, was a blessing to the birthday saints.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We are very excited when it’s birthday celebration time!”



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying fun, food and fellowship at the June birthday celebration at New Covenant CLGI.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Father's day is a great time to reflect on how merciful our Heavenly Father is. It is also that time of the year where we tell our earthly fathers what they mean to us. "It was very nice to have not only my children, but the saints to express to me how grateful they are for the part I play in their lives both in the natural and in the Spirit. It just reminded me that my labor is not in vain," expressed Pastor Tony Sewell.

*Minister Desiree Sewell:* “We had a wonderful time celebrating and honoring our fathers!”



**In the Photos:** LOV saints enjoying Father's Day with their dads.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** June's theme for the Lily of the Valley Elect Ladies book Club was "Health and Wellness". Led by Sister Amber Thompson and Sister Sereese Davis, they taught us how to stay fit in the natural and how to be fit to fight in the Spirit!

*Minister Desiree Sewell:* "Sister Amber and Sister Sereese did a marvelous job in putting together this event. I left ready to put on my whole armor of God and do squats!"

**In the Photos:** Two LOV young hand maidens and health and wellness displays and goodies.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Exhorter Patricia Jean said, "I always enjoy going to the CLGI International Youth and Young Adult Conference graduation ceremony, because just like most of the youth in the church, my closest friends are in CLGI. Unfortunately, most of us do not live in the same area, so we cannot make it to each other's graduation. Being able to be a part of the graduation ceremony was amazing and I cannot wait to do it again in a few years! There is nothing like hearing some of the great examples of saved youth encouraging us with what helped them make it through each academic level in their life. It is even better hearing all those cheers, when they call your name, from people that you know genuinely love you. Also being able to shake the hands of officials, who actually know your name, just makes it all worth more. I am still accepting all graduation gifts until May next year!"



*Minister Desiree Sewell:* "We're very proud of all the LOV graduates!"

**In the Photos:** LOV saints who participated in the CLGI IYYAC graduation ceremony.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints at Chris the Redeemer celebrated several birthdays in June. Missionary Lorelle Johnson, Brother Allen Johnson, and Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn had birthdays this month. The CTR congregation serenaded them with the Happy Birthday song and they had a fellowship!

This month we also celebrated Father's Day. Minister John Williams II preached a powerful message Sunday Morning. Christ the Redeemer's Mission's department cooked the Mighty Men of Valor a Sunday dinner!

*Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn:* "We all enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship at the birthday and Father's Day celebrations.

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### **Category: Hails and Farewells**

*One church had a farewell celebration for two military members who PCSed to other locations*

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** This month was a joyous occasion for Christ the Redeemer as we celebrated the departing of a few faithful Members, Deacon Martin Githui and the Williams Family. It is a blessing to know that everywhere we go that there is a CLGI church. Deacon Martin PCSed to San Antonio, TX and the Williams family PCSed to Japan. Sister Jill Gibson surprised the William's with a going away fellowship at Minister Dawana Brickhouse's home. Saints came from as far as Melbourne, Fla. and Auburn, Ala. to show their love!

*Exhorter Kourtney Littlejohn:* "We're happy to have had the opportunity to spend time with them and pray God's blessings on their travels and new endeavors."



**In the Photos:** (left to right): Deacon Martin Githui, Sister Taylor, Sister Talia, Brother John III, Minister Tanoa and Minister John II Williams.

More photos from Christ the Redeemer's farewell celebration.



**In the Photos:** (Top) Sister Jill Gibson. (Middle, left to right) Minister D'Ambria Williams, Brother Jalin Lucas, Assistant Pastor Zavien Williams, Deacon Martin Githui, Minister Kimmel Chisolm, Minister Tanoa Williams, Assistant Pastor Treani Thompson, Pastor Carol Chisolm, Minister Kimmaya Chisolm and Sister Amoni Loiseau. (Bottom, left to right) Minister Kelvin Bartholomew, Minister John Williams II, Minister Cheryl James and Deacon Tony Berrian. Christ the Redeemer saints enjoying the food and farewell fellowship.