



GULF COAST JURISDICTION

March 2017

GCJ Missionaries commissioned to reap the harvest

Annual Missions Conference filled with seminars, Bible in the Know and awards

GULFPORT, MISS. – The great commission Jesus gave us is to go out into the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. With a theme of “Reaping the Harvest”, preaches reminded the saints of that commission at the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction’s Annual Missions Conference.

The conference, held March 11 and 12 at Christ the Redeemer Church of the Living God International in Gulfport, Miss., kicked off with an awards breakfast.

The breakfast speaker, Elder Sharon Alston, The Church of the Living God International Missions Director, said, “We’ve got to go out, witness and bring souls into the church.” She further added, “A kind word will be enough to hold them, because a kind word held me.”

The breakfast wrapped up with Elder Treani Thompson, Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Director of Missions presenting awards for the “Early Bird”, which went to Christ the Redeemer Missionaries for being the first to meet all of their missionary financial obligations. Minister Tabitha Hines, who is the GCJ Assistant Director of Missions and the Lily of the Valley CLGI director of missions, won the local missionary of the year award.



In the photos: Saints at the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction’s annual Missions Conference, held March 11-12 to include the choir, local missionary directors and Elder Carol Chisolm leading praise and worship.

The seminar session followed the award breakfast and Elder Charles Latham started the seminar session by encouraging the saints on the importance of witnessing and winning souls for Christ in evangelism. He went through the seven feast in Leviticus 23 to show how they fit into our everyday lives and God's plan to save the lost.

"God intended for His people to **demonstrate mercy and compassion** on the poor and those who were strangers to God. Trumpets is the fifth feast; five denotes the number of mercy in the Bible. So if God called them to provide for the poor and show compassion, the same God requires the same for His saints today," Elder Latham said. "Don't invite them to your church, invite them to Jesus."



Bishop Charles D. Smith, GCJ Bishop, wrapped up the seminar session. He started by commending Elder Latham on his seminar and encouraging the saints to read the Old Testament scriptures so they can understand the New Testament.

He further encouraged the saints to reap the harvest by saying, "When you go out witnessing, you have to be led by the Holy Spirit. Anything that does not have a move of the Spirit is a waste of time."

Min. Tabitha Hines, assistant GCJ missions director, who spoke on Saturday night, encouraged the saints to know the scriptures so they can be effective witnesses for God and draw souls to Christ. She said some pastors today are misleading people and telling them that heaven and hell do not exist. She shared how she had to explain that God, heaven and hell were real to someone of another denomination. "We should not preach another Jesus, but that He came, died was buried, rose again, ascended into heaven and is coming back for us," she added.

"I am afraid for the CLGI saints; it seems as though they are satisfied with their small churches," said Elder Alston, who was the keynote speaker on Saturday night. "The Lord gave me the idea for community service as a channel, so the saints could go out and witness about Jesus and add to the church." She said that God chose us and we should not have any doubt about that. "The Lord saved us to send us back to get the sinners. We that have the Holy Ghost have words of life and light that can drive out darkness."

The Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Missions Director, Elder Treani Thompson, who is also the assistant pastor at Christ the Redeemer in Gulfport, Miss., wrapped up the preaching at the conference on Sunday morning by encouraging the missionaries that the harvest is plentiful, but the labors are few. "God is calling us to go out and reap the harvest." She said she was satisfied with Jesus and this gospel and was not looking for anything else. "The gospel of Jesus Christ is living water and the evidence is that we have the Holy Ghost." She added, "When we see sinners, we need to be moved with compassion, like Jesus was with us. We cannot wait to reap the harvest, because harvest time is now!"

The theme "Reaping the Harvest" made room to recognize the young missionaries for their knowledge of the Word of God in the Bible in the Know competition. The award recipients are in the photos below.

Bishop Smith closed the conference by thanking everyone for coming and saying, "He that wins souls is wise and God will give you the wisdom you need if you ask Him."

In the photos: At the GCJ Missions awards breakfast, Elder Treani Thompson, GCJ Missions Director presents local missionary of the year award to Minister Tabitha Hines, who is the local Missions Director for Lily of the Valley as well as the GCJ Assistant Missions Director.

More Missions photos: All taken by Elder Debbie Calix



In the photos: Elder Sharon Alston, International Missions Assistant Director and Elder Treani Thompson GCI Missions Director presenting awards to the Bible in the Know competition winners (Sister Gabby Burton, Sister Keynia Westerman, Sister Hannah Hines, Brother Franklin and Sister Hannah James). Bishop Charles D. Smith in worship with other saints at the conference. Elder Charles Latham, GCI Executive Officer, teaching a seminar on evangelism at the GCI Annual Missions Conference held March 11-12 at Christ the Redeemer Church in Gulfport, Miss. **Photos taken by Elder Debbie Calix.**

More March stories

Category: Events

Churches across the jurisdiction spend March in spreading the gospel through revivals, Bible study, fellowships, birthdays and even an engagement.



- **From Promise:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional bishop and pastor of Promise CLGI was the keynote speaker at the “Faith, Family and Friends Weekend” revival held March 3-5 at the Auburn Opelika Worship Center in Auburn, Ala. The theme was “Changed is good. Transformed is better” (Rom 12:1-2). “We must preach and teach in such a way that people would receive the Holy Spirit.

Changed is good, transformed is better,” said Bishop Smith. “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. The key is “in Christ,” you cannot talk your way into it. You want the Holy Ghost, because you will never be a new creature without the Spirit,” he added.

Other speakers for the weekend included Minister Ronny Fleming, local brotherhood coordinator at New Covenant CLGI in Montgomery, Ala. and Minister Antonio Wilcher, assistant pastor at New and Living Way CLGI in Warner Robins, Ga.

- **From New Covenant:** Supporting One Another... Our sister church, Auburn Opelika Worship Center (AOWC), held their second Faith, Family, and Friends Revival March 3-5. The New Covenant family went to AOWC on Friday night to show our support, and were excited to do so because AOWC is always supporting us. Our very own, Minister Ronny Fleming was a guest speaker for the Friday Night Service as well.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “He truly brought a blessing along with Assistant Pastor Antoine Wilcher.”



- **From New Covenant:** Adding Souls to the Kingdom... During our Gulf Coast Missions Conference, Elder Chuck Latham taught a seminar about reaching the community and adding souls to the kingdom. Elder Latham not only taught how to do this, but also acted upon his own words. On Thursday, March 30, the first session of the Bible Study Series took place at the Alfa Insurance Home Office in

Montgomery, Ala. In the first session, 46 people attended. God is good!

Elder Latham had the attendees look at Leviticus 23, where God outlines seven critical steps in His plan. Now, he is walking them through each one and demonstrating how God has fulfilled the first several steps in the ministry of Christ. He is bringing the New and Old Testaments together.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “Being one of the attendees, I can truly say it is an eye-opening and faith-increasing study!”

From Spirit of Christ: During the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Mission's Conference, Spirit of Christ honored Minister Dorothy Negley our outgoing Mission's Director for over 10 years of dedicated service to the Lord. It was also a special day for her as it was her birthday and we celebrated her with flowers and a chorus of Happy Birthday from all in attendance at the Awards Banquet.

Elder Debbie Calix: “We are so proud of Minister Negley!”



- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer had the honor of hosting the 2017 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Missions Conference March 11-12. Saints from around the jurisdiction can to learn about Reaping the Harvest, which was the theme for this year's conference. The event included an awards breakfast, seminars and a Bible in the Know competition for the young missionaries.



Minister Tanoa Williams: “The Lord blessed us all during the conference.”





In the Photos: Picture #1: Elder Sharon Alston, The Church of the Living God International Missions Director speaking at the Awards Banquet. Picture #2: BIK winning team: (Left to right) Sister Gabby Burton, Sister Keynia Westerman, Sister Hannah Hines, Elder Sharon Alston, Elder Treani Thompson, Brother Franklin and Sister Hannah James. Picture #3: Minister Hines and Elder Thompson. Picture #4: All of the Bible in the Know teams.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** LOV is truly the place to find love. Sister Esence Hines is a virtuous woman and “Boaz” found her. The saints at LOV had the privilege to witness her engagement with Minister Lester Garris from the Northeast Jurisdiction. They are due to wed in 2018!

Minister Desiree Sewell: “Congratulations to both of them!”



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Spring Break is a time of rest and fun for our youth. This year our Pastors (Elder Tony and Deborah Sewell) took the young people to Busch Gardens as a treat to encourage them that in the Lord we can do all things through Christ, even have fun!

Minister Desiree Sewell: “They all had a great time!”

- **From Prince of Peace:** Sister Deshalya Harrison, who is pursuing a nursing degree, made the Dean’s List at Florida State College at Jacksonville for the Fall 2016 semester. She received her congratulatory letter from the Dean of Academics, who said, “This honor is reserved for students who earn between a 3.50 and 3.74 GPA in a term and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.



Making the Dean's List is a shorthand way to let people know that you are a serious and accomplished student." Sister Deshalya is scheduled to graduate at 2:00 pm on May 8 at the Florida Times Union Performing Arts Center, Jacoby Hall.

Pastor Paulette Harrison: "We are very proud of Sister Deshalya!"

- **From New Covenant:**

A Day at the Park...

Our local youth director, Minister Crystal Derico, organized an afternoon fellowship at the park. We fed the ducks and geese, played red light-green light, Simon Says, threw a football around, and mostly just ate and relaxed in the shade.



Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: "It was absolutely a beautiful day!"



- **From New Covenant:** The Elect Ladies Department held a revival March 4-5 with our in-house evangelist, Elder Ruth Latham, who is also the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Team Coordinator. The theme for the revival was "The Power of a Transformed Woman". The ladies started the weekend with a tea at the Gazebo Tea Room followed by a seminar at the church.

The seminar was about time management, which is something we all need. The highlights of the seminar were: There's time to do everything (Ecc 3:1); Our times are in the Lord's hands (Ps 31:14-15); We must set daily priorities (Matt 6:31-34); Do not procrastinate (Matt 25:1-13); and share your experiences with others (Tit 2:1, 3-5, Rom 5:1-5, Rev 12:10-11).

The weekend concluded with Sunday morning worship service. Minister Crystal Derico, who is a member of the GCJ Evangelistic Team preached from (Rom 12:1-3) and said, "We must give our whole self to God, so we can be transformed in our mind. The Lord wants to make our hearts pure."

Elder Latham wrapped up the preaching by saying, "A transformed woman is steadfastly minded and has faith." She used the examples of Ruth and Rahab; both were in the lineage of Jesus. Ruth was David's great grandmother. Heb 11:31- Rahab was a harlot, but she had enough faith for transformation. Ruth 1:14-18- Ruth was a Moabite, but she became converted and transformed. She closed by saying, "Those of us who are filled with the Holy Ghost and adopted into God's family had to come the same way as these women, have faith like Rahab and cry out to God like Ruth and be steadfastly minded to get the Holy Ghost."

Because of the sermons, two new souls joined the New Covenant Family on Sunday, but most importantly to the Kingdom of God. Our new members are Brother David West and Sister Earnestine Hamilton.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: “We’re happy to have our new members.”

Category: Testimony

God demonstrates his miracle working power in saints throughout the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Pastor D. Sewell wanted to share that during one of our Spirit-filled services the Lord met many of us at the altar. "We were honored to witness the filling of three of our young people ages 9 and 10 and one of our missionaries! The Lord is mindful of his people!" Additionally, Brother Cameron Franklin testified about how the Lord opened the door for him to attend culinary college, and it will cost him nothing!

Pastor T. Sewell said, "How much of a blessing it is to have men with all types of talents in the ministry with us." Brother Demetrius took time after a long workday to come to the church and provide us with new ramps into the classrooms. They were outdated and in need of some TLC. We are improving the grounds of the church so it will be fit for God's people.

Minister Desiree Sewell: “Thank the Lord for always knowing what we have need of!”

- **From New Covenant: God is Our Protector...** On the morning of Saturday, March 4, Pastor Russell and Minister Maurice Spriggs participated in the Enlisted Heritage 5k. All was well until Minister Spriggs attempted to drive home. His legs began to severely cramp until the point where he could not drive. By the grace of God, he made it home but was unable to walk into the house. His daughters, Exhorters Maurissa and Dominique, assisted him but nothing they did was soothing the pain. They took him to the emergency room. Because the ER doctor was a runner, he knew the issue right away. The doctor diagnosed him with Compartment Syndrome. He need to have surgery to relieve the pressure building up in his lower right leg to avoid muscle death. They took Minister Spriggs to another hospital to have surgery. We thank God for protecting Minister Spriggs and for leading and guiding his daughters through this experience. The Spriggs Family would like to thank all those who prayed for them during this time.

Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs: Minister Spriggs is still recovering but he is now able to walk without assistance. Praise God!