



GULF COAST JURISDICTION ***May 2018***

Bishop Smith encourages the saints to endure to the end

THONOTOSASSA, FL. – Saints from across The Church of the Living God International and throughout the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction, gathered in Thonotosassa, FL to hear Bishop Charles D. Smith, GCJ Presiding Bishop and Pastor of Promise, in Fort Walton Beach, FL preach and encourage the saints to endure in the Lord to the end.

At the 27th pastoral appreciation for Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell, held at Lily of the Valley CLGI May 4-6, 2018, Bishop Smith did the Sunday morning sermon.

“There is a balm in Gilead that can heal, deliver, save and set people free and it is Jesus,” said Bishop Smith.

“We must give the people Jesus, because he is the only answer and is able to do all things but fail,” he added.

Reading from 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13, Bishop Smith said, “God has begotten us again unto a lively hope and has promised us an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and fadeth not away, reserved for us in heaven.” “We should do our best to obtain that inheritance by living holy and being steadfast in the Lord.”

“No one can take away your inheritance or stop you from serving the Lord, but you,” he added. “So we should gird up our minds, be sober, continue to forgive, follow peace, live holy and hope to the end until Jesus comes,” said Bishop Smith.

Bishop Smith concluded with the scripture in 1 Peter 2:1, which tells us to lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisies, envy and evil speaking. “We must maintain unity, and pray for one another, so that the will of the Lord can be done through us.”



In the Photo: Minister Shaundra Smith singing prior to Bishop Charles D. Smith’s sermon on Sunday morning at Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell’s pastoral anniversary at Lily of the Valley on May 6, 2018. (Photo taken by Brother Matthew Galarza.)

The Bishop's Corner

Instructions

Praise the Lord Saints,

I thank God from whom all blessings flow for each of you. We are ambassadors for Christ and God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18) However, we must first reconcile those within the church, before we try to reconcile the world. When reconciling people to God, we can all meet at the same place and be on one accord.

We have the light of this glorious gospel of Christ, which is a reflection of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4) If anything gets between God and us, it will put out that light. We must not let thing in our affections make us not want to hear the Word of God, because that would be idolatry.

There is a balm in Gilead and it is Jesus. (Jeremiah 8:22) When the people are sick or need peace, deliverance, guidance and a way of escape, we must give them Jesus. Let us continue to preach the Word of God, which is the only answer for the world today. The Word of God is quick, powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to divide asunder the soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

We all needed a high priest who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate for sinners, and made higher than the heavens. Jesus is holy and will not do us any harm. He is undefiled and has nothing low, base or unbecoming in His life and conduct. He is separate from sinners and is not yoked together with them in their sinful ways. (Hebrews 7:26) He is higher than the heavens, because God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name. (Philippians 2:9)

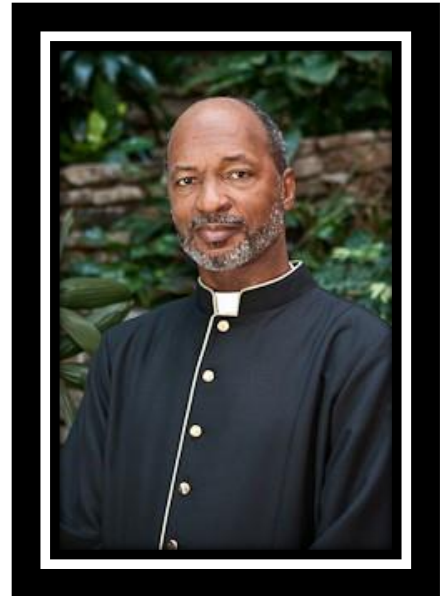
We must have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8), live each day with the goal to become more like Him and let the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance) shape our character. (Galatians 5:22-23) We should also forgive daily as Jesus said, "Until seventy times seven." (Matthew 18:21) When we stop forgiving, we are no longer in God.

I pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to bless and keep you in Him until the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Only then can we get the inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and fadeth not away, which is reserved for us in heaven. (1 Peter 1:4)

Please register and plan to attend the upcoming International Youth and Young Adult Conference, the International Brotherhood Conference and the General Assembly, scheduled for June 29-July 8, 2018 in Mobile, Ala. Pray with me that the Lord will meet us there and pour out His Spirit and blessings abundantly.

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More May stories

Category: Events

Churches across the jurisdiction held revivals, fundraisers, celebrated Mother's Day, a pastoral appreciation, birthdays and congratulated high school and college graduates.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Saints at LOV celebrated their pastors' 27th pastoral anniversary May 4-6, 2018. The theme "Up on the wall doing a great work" from the scriptures in Nehemiah 6:1-15. The speakers gave good Word at each service, starting with Elder Jeffery Johnson from North Carolina on Friday night; Bishop Jay Johnson, Pastor of Augusta Worship Center and South East Jurisdiction Presiding Bishop. Bishop Charles D. Smith, GCJ Presiding Bishop culminated the events on Sunday morning.

Sister Sereese Davis: "We were all blessed and had a wonderful time fellowshiping with the saints."



In the photos: Lily of the Valley saints singing during the 27th pastoral anniversary for Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell. (All photos taken by Brother Matthew Galarza.)

- **From Prince of Peace:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, Pastor of Promise and GCJ Presiding Bishop blessed the saints at Prince of Peace in May. He encouraged us to preach Christ and continue to look for His coming.

Pastor Paulette Harrison: "We were truly blessed and lifted up by the Word of God he spoke to us."

- **From Promise:** On May 5, Minister Shaundra D. Smith Cadogan graduated from the University of West Florida in Pensacola. That same weekend, Bishop Smith preached the Sunday morning sermon at Pastors Sewell and Sewell's annual appreciation.

Other events at Promise included the following: On Mother's Day morning, Bishop Smith prepared and hosted a Mother's Day celebration breakfast for all the mothers of Promise.

Promise hosted a "church parking lot" yard sale that was not only profitable for the church but also a chance for the saints to interact with members of Fort Walton Beach's local community.

Teaching extensively about the benefits of us being begotten again unto a lively hope, Bishop Smith focused on 1 Peter 1:3-5 for the entire month. The last Sunday of the month culminated with an end-of-the-month Christian Education review and discussion session in lieu of our traditional Christian Education format. This session was (and is) an opportunity to engage and encourage the saints through discussion and by reviewing what we have learned during the month about the Word of God. The session was a success and a blessing, in that, it showcased how the saints have grown in the Lord and how the Word of God that went forth during the month, has affected them.



Minister Shaundra Smith: "The month of May was filled with blessings from the Lord."



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Sister Perrion Franklin graduated from Spoto High School on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 1:00 pm. We celebrated with her that following Tuesday after bible study and had a small fellowship at the church. She is excited about graduating and said, "It always seems impossible until it is done".

Sister Sereese Davis: "All the saints at LOV are proud of her!"

In the Photo: Sister Perrion Franklin following her high school graduation.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** On Sunday May 27, we had an early birthday celebration at the church for Pastor Deborah Sewell (her actual birthday is May 29). The saints brought food and gave her cards and gifts. After fellowshipping and hearing the kind words from the saints, Pastor D was so excited.

Sister Sereese Davis: It is the big "60" for Pastor D and she was happy as you can see!



In the Photos: Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell celebrating her birthday at Lily of the Valley May 27, 2018.

From Christ the Redeemer: Christ The Redeemer celebrated the women of God with a Mother's Day brunch and fellowship held at First Lady Treani Thompson's home.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "The women relaxed and had a great time in the Lord!"



In the Photos: (L to R) (1) Elder Thompson, Sister Madamidola, Minister Brinkley and Minister James (2) Minister Brinkley and Elder Thompson.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Minister Tyrone Brinkley, Christ the Redeemer's Minister of Music started a class consisting of music composition; the importance and purpose of praise and worship; instrument lessons (drums, keyboard, organ and guitar) and also voice lessons with Minister Lindsey Griffin. The class is on Thursday at 6:30 pm each week at the church.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "Members, church family and friends are welcome to attend, learn and fellowship in the Lord."



In the Photos: Christ the Redeemer saints in music class.

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- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints at Christ the Redeemer celebrated three graduations this month. Missionary Hannah James and Brother Allen Johnson graduated from high school and Brother Isaiah Brinkley graduated from pre-school.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “We are so proud of our youth and we can’t wait to see the great things that the Lord has in store for them!”



In the Photos: (1) Missionary Hannah James and her mother Minister Cheryl James (2) Minister Shaneika Brinkley, Brother Allen Johnson and his mother Minister Lorelle Johnson (3) Brother Isaiah Brinkley

- **From the Evangelistic Team:** Elder Ruth Latham, GCJ Evangelistic Team Coordinator, represented the team at a revival at Life in Christ Church May 10, 2018. She encouraged the saints by telling them that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost work together for their good. She reminded them that they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, holy nation and a peculiar people. Therefore, they should walk in what the Word of God says about them.

Elder Ruth Latham: The saints said, “We got many blessings that we can use daily to encourage us and help us to stand.”

Category: Upcoming Events

- **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

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*)

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

The 2018 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
<i>Jun 4</i>	<i>CLGI Consecration Begins</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Jun 9-10	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniv.	Jacksonville, Fla.
<i>Jun 27</i>	<i>CLGI Consecration Ends</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Jun 29- Jul 8</i>	<i>IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly</i>	<i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Jul 28-29	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniv.	Montgomery, Ala.
Sep 21-23	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.	FWB, Fla.
Sep 29-30	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	Thonotosassa, Fla.
Nov 15-18	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, Fla.
Dec 1-2	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.	Gulfport, Miss.