



***GULF COAST JURISDICTION***  
*September 2016*

**Gulf Coast Saints recognized at 2017 international missions convention**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Several Gulf Coast Jurisdiction saints received honors at The Church of the Living God International Missions convention, held September 21-24 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North-Worthington Hotel.

“Preparing laborers for the harvest” was the theme and saints from around CLGI attended the event. The CLGI missions department propagates the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while promoting unity among the saints and supporting them spiritually, financially, materially and physically.

Gulf Coast saints receiving awards included - Elder Debbie Calix, International Missions Finance Secretary and First Lady of Spirit of Christ, Fort Walton Beach, FL, received a 10-year appreciation award as the outgoing international missions finance secretary.

- Elder Paula Smith, GCJ Elect Ladies Coordinator and Assistant Pastor of Promise, Fort Walton Beach, FL, received the annual Silver Award for her missions work and sacrifices made to bless the saints.



- Elder Treani Thompson, GCJ Missions Director, and Assistant Pastor of Christ the Redeemer, Gulfport, MS, received the award on behalf of the GCJ for being the first jurisdiction to pay the 2016 missionary allotments.

- Sister M'khalya Franklin from Lily of the Valley, Thonotosassa, FL, received a medallion and certificate as the Junior Missionary of the Year runner up.

Elder Debbie Calix had the opportunity to preach the Word of God at the convention and Minister Dorothy Negley, Spirit of Christ Missions Director, taught a seminar, both encouraging the saints to reap the harvest in the mission field.

Elder Earnestine Green, International Assistant Director of Missions encouraged the saints on Saturday night that, “The Lord will give you the boldness you need to do what He told you to do.”

Elder Sharon Alston, International Director of Missions preached on Sunday morning to culminate the convention and told the saints that, “Before the Lord came into your life, you were already chosen, even before the foundation of the world.”

She said that chosen means, “Selected, picked out and the best choice for what you do.”

In the photos: Top right: Elder Paula Smith, Assistant Pastor of Promise; bottom left: Elder Deborah Sewell, Pastor of Lily of the Valley, Sister M'khalya Franklin, Jr. Missionary of the Year runner up and Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop.

**More CLGI International Missions photos: All photos submitted by Elder Debbie Calix.**



**In the photos:** Minister Dorothy Negley, seminar presenter; Sister M'khalya Franklin, Junior Missionary of the year runner up; Elder Treani Thompson, GCI Missions Director receives award for the first to pay the 2016 missions allotments; Elder Debbie Calix, International Missions Finance Secretary bringing the Word of God and Elder Debbie Calix receives 10-year appreciation as outgoing international missions finance secretary.

## More September stories

### Category: Events

*Churches enjoyed food and fellowship through revivals, birthdays, a retirement and a wedding.*



- **From Lily of the Valley:** We celebrated the wedding of Deacon Wayne Walker and Minister Desiree Sewell on September 30 at 1:30 pm. The wedding took place at Lily of the Valley. The ceremony was absolutely beautiful! Minister Sewell will be leaving the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction on Saturday, October 14 and moving to the Southeast Jurisdiction in Georgia with her husband and will attend the Atlanta Metropolitan Worship Center under Pastor Richard Leary. Pastor Leary also officiated their holy union.

*Sister Sereese Davis:* "I am so sad to see my friend and sister leave, but I was happy to be a part of her special day as a bride maid and see her marry her best friend."

In the photo: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Walker (Minister Desiree Sewell and Deacon Wayne Walker) newlyweds. Pastor Richard Leary and Deacon Charles Walker in the background.

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- **From New Covenant:** During the month of September, we had a Brotherhood revival with our International Brotherhood Director, Elder Ronald Talley, September 15 – 17. Elder Talley preached



Friday Night, taught a seminar Saturday afternoon, taught Christian education Sunday morning, and brought forth the Sunday morning sermon. To say we put Elder Talley to work is an understatement. Although it was a revival, the brothers took time on Saturday afternoon for a bowling fellowship. We were pleased to have some of the brothers from Christ the Redeemer, CLGI in Gulfport, Mississippi to attend the seminar on Saturday and the fellowship.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* "Elder Talley brought many blessings to the saints through the Word of God."

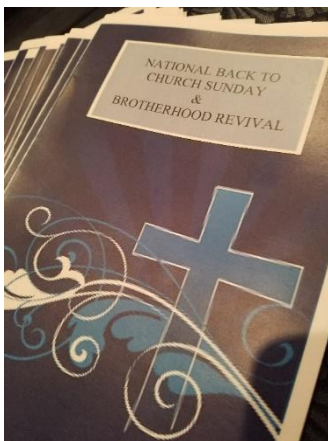
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- From Promise:** Elder Paula Smith’s birthday and retirement celebration, held September 1-3, was a weekend filled with laughter, food fun and fellowship. Saints from around the jurisdiction as well as family and friends came from as far as Alaska and Rhode Island to help celebrate her birthday and 30-years retirement from civil service. The saints and family members gave gifts and shared their appreciation for Elder Smith and all that she means to them. Elder Smith commented that she was happy that many of her siblings were able to attend her birthday/retirement weekend and that it had been a long time since they had all been together. Minister Shaundra Smith, her daughter and Minister Beretta Elzy hosted the event. Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop as well as Elder Smith thanked everyone for coming and helping her to celebrate her birthday and the great milestone of a 30-year retirement.

In the photos: (left) Elder Paula Smith, center with her husband Bishop Charles D. Smith, her children, siblings, mother, sister and brother-in-law and grandson. (right) Elder Paula Smith standing with her birthday cake.



- From New Covenant:** It just so happened that “National Back to Church Sunday” was September 17, the same weekend as the Brotherhood revival. Pastor Augustus Russell and Assistant Pastor Bonita Russell spearheaded the event. We canvassed and invited people to the church for the Brotherhood revival weekend and for the National Back to Church Sunday.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “Our labor was not in vain, we had a few visitors for the revival weekend.”

- **From New Covenant:** Held September 17, the birthday potluck celebrated saints born in that month, which included Mother Ida M. Hill, Brother Jalan Howard and Exhorter Anthony Means, Sr.

*Exhorter Maurissa Spriggs:* “As usual, we had great food, fun and fellowship with the saints.”



### 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*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oct 6-8	PNW Jurisdictional Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
Oct 13-15	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniversary	FWB, FL
Oct 20-22	European Jurisdictional Meeting	Zaltbommel, the Netherlands
Oct 27-29	Central States Jurisdictional Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Nov 4-5	Elder Grandberry Pastoral Anniversary	Gainesville, FL
Nov 17-19	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, FL
Dec 2-3	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS
Jan 13-15	Gulf Coast Youth & Young Adult Conf.	Melbourne, FL