



December 2018 Newsletter

Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Saints bring in the New Year!

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – Promise Church of the Living God International, the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction headquarter, hosted a New Year's Eve service on Dec. 31, 2018.

Among the saints from the jurisdiction who attended were Pastor Carlos Thompson and Assistant Pastor Treani Thompson from Christ the Redeemer church in Gulfport, Miss., along with a couple of their members, and a handful of saints from Pastor Tom Calix's church, Spirit of Christ in Fort Walton Beach.

Bishop Charles Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise, opened the service, thanking God for keeping him another year. He briefly shared his testimony that he had been attending New Year's Eve services since 1982 and has yet to miss one. He said that not only had he never missed one but also that no one ever had to call him up and beg him to show up for one; he never experienced having to drag his way out to a service. He expressed his great joy in being there and being in God. He then encouraged the people that everyone who was there that evening should give their testimony of something the Lord had done for them during 2018.

Elder Donna Reed read the opening scripture, Romans 10:9-13 and Elder Treani Thompson prayed the opening prayer. Minister Shaundra Smith and Minister Courtney Littlejohn led the saints in worship and praise.

After a couple of musical selections, Bishop Smith brought the evening's message. In light of Holy Communion that would follow his sermon, he spoke about how God gave the Law to the Jews to show them what sin was, but the Law could not save them. Just as we cannot expect to "keep a law" and be saved by it. He encouraged the saints that they must have God's Spirit and



do God's will in order to go to Heaven. For those reasons, God gave the world a savior, Jesus Christ. Such that when Jesus showed up, He changed everything. He was better than the law because men and women could believe on Him, be saved and have eternal life.

Taking us to the 10th chapter of Romans, beginning at the ninth verse, he read all the way down to where Paul speaks about people needing to hear a preacher to believe (verse 14), thus, our whole purpose for doing all that we do in God. Bishop Smith entreated us saying, "We have to preach the Gospel to the point that people will be saved. Every person who sits in church and is not saved is being cheated and cheating themselves."

Bishop Smith proclaimed that in 2019, he would preach the Gospel like never before. He said he is determined to get people saved in the New Year and encouraged every believer in the service to do the same.

The New Year's Eve service culminated with Bishop Smith leading the saints in Holy Communion, laying hands on them as they came forward to receive communion.



In the Photos: (Front page) Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church preaching during the 2018 New Year's Eve Service. (Above) Some of the saints who attended the service.

The Bishop's Corner

The Roles of a Pastor

Praise the Lord Saints,

I thank God for Jesus who is the good shepherd and giveth his life for the sheep. (II Peter 5:4; John 10:11)

As we close out 2018 and enter into 2019, let us remember that in order for us to be good pastors (shepherds), we must first be good members and followers. Pastors have the responsibility to teach the people and must be responsible for their churches.

The roles of a pastor are these:

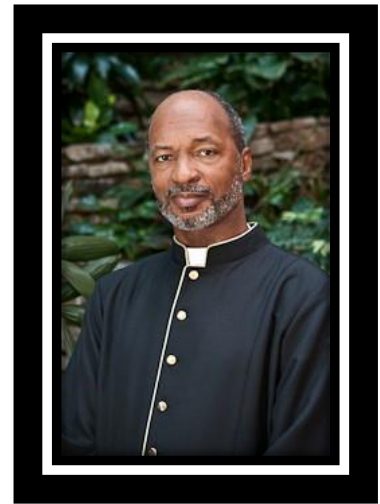
- Must establish a time and place for worship. (Matthew 18:20)
- Must set up the church with auxiliaries. (Acts 6:1-7)
- Must act with charity. (I Corinthians 13:1-8,13)
- Must do all things in moderation. (Philippians 4:5)
- The Word of God must become his character. (Galatians 5:22-23; James 1:22-25)
- Must teach and direct the people. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Must teach the people how to live holy. He cannot rebuke the people into living holy. (I Peter 1:15-16)
- A pastor's greatest asset is his example to the people. (I Peter 5:3)
- Must show the people that he knows how to repent. (I John 1:9)
- Must work within the framework of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26)
- Should not try to give the people what he does not have, stay simple. (Romans 5:1-5)
- Must walk in the light first, then he can lead the people. (I John 1:7)
- Must settle his emotions so that the people have confidence to come to him for help. (Matthew 5:5,8; Romans 12:10,12; James 1:19-20; Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 16:32)
- Must admit his shortcomings and stop comparing himself to others, because that is not wise. (II Corinthians 10:12)
- Must know that the will of God is to seek and save the lost. (John 6:40)
- Must teach and preach Jesus saves. (John 3:16; Acts 5:42; Hebrews 7:25)
- His goal must be to satisfy God (do His will) and not the people on the earth. (John 6:38-40)
- Must learn to follow the Holy Spirit. (John 10:27)
- Must get the people to heaven. It is two-fold: God brings the people and gives the pastor what to say to keep the people. (John 10:10)

The Church is the people and the only thing that appeals to me in church growth is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There could be 400 people in the church, and if only five are saved, then heaven sees only the five as being the Church. If we as pastors are not getting people saved, then we are not doing the will of God. We are here to give people life and that more abundantly (eternal) (John 10:10).

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (I Peter 5:2-4).

God bless you all,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More December stories

Category: Events

Church members held a pastoral appreciation, Christmas cheers, birthday celebration and New Year's Eve Services.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer saints celebrated the 18th Pastoral Anniversary of Elder Carlos Thompson and Assistant Pastor, Elder Treani Thompson on Dec. 1-2, 2018. The theme was "And he gave some apostles..." (Ephesians 4:11-13). The anniversary began with a seminar from Bishop Charles D. Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. After the seminar, the saints had a lunch fellowship for Pastor Thompson and Elder Thompson at a local seafood restaurant. Elder Adrian Hines and Minister Tabitha Hines were the guest speakers and blessed us with the Word of God. Saints from throughout the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction came to show appreciation for the Thompson's faithful service.



Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "Pastors Thompson and Thompson are great examples of a good Shepherd."





In the Photos: Saints who attended Pastor Carlos Thompson's pastoral anniversary celebration to include Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer's Youth and Young Adult department hosted a Christmas service because Jesus is the real reason for the season. The saints sung songs, read poems, and played instrument solos. Immediately following service, First Lady Treani Thompson surprised Minister Cheryl James with a birthday celebration.



Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: "The saints had a great time of food, fun, and fellowship in the LORD!"



In the Photos: Minister Cheryl James enjoying her birthday celebration with Christ the Redeemer saints.



• **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints hosted their annual Christmas celebration in Holiday, Fla. It was a good gathering of friends both old and new. Carrollwood Bible Study Center's saints joined us for the festivities. It was another wonderful fellowship!

Minister Kim Mastin: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity!" (Psalms 133:1)



In the Photos: Holy of Holies Tabernacle and the Carrollwood Bible Study Center saints enjoying a Christmas party.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Lily of the Valley members attended a Christmas Party sponsored by Kevin Knox. The saints were very blessed this year. The catered food was delicious and everyone received a nice gift. There was a singing contest, where LOV saints performed Christmas songs and the winners of it were the Franklin Family members. The saints played games such as reindeer ring toss and bible trivia and won prizes for their efforts.

Sister Sereese Davis: “It was a great fellowship and all the saints left with a smile on their face!”



In the Photos: Lily of the Valley saints enjoying food, fun, fellowship and games during their annual Christmas party.

Category: Prayer Request

The saints need healings and some are bereaving the loss of loved ones.

- **From the Editorial Staff:** The saints below need prayer. If you have a prayer request, please submit it to the monthly newsletter. We will run the testimonies of saint's answered prayers in the newsletter. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

Minister Xiomara Rivera (Healing)

Elder T'Angela Rogers (Healing)

Elder Kim Montgomery (Healing)

Minister Janice Spivey (Healing)

Brother Simeon Tanner (Healing)

Minister George McFadden (Healing)

Minister Luv Johnson and family (Bereavement)

Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)

Minister Cheryl Blanding's Father (Horace Walker) (Healing)

Minister Taliah Whitmire (Healing)

Minister Cory Cook's Father (Healing)

Elder Angela Jenkins's Sister and Brother (Healing)

Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)

Category: Testimonies:

The saints give testimonies of God's goodness and blessings throughout 2018.

- **From Promise:** During the 2018 New Year's Eve Service at Promise, almost everyone gave his or her testimony; a theme of God's keeping power throughout the year emerged. Elder Carlos Thompson testified of how God kept him in spite of his losing a loved one. Deacon Tony Berrian testified of how he had not made the best decisions during the year, but God kept him regardless and brought him out, making his end better than his beginning. Elder Paula Smith testified of how the Lord kept her saved and full of the Holy Ghost all year long. Elder Donna Reed testified of how the Lord kept her and helped her make her transition from Philadelphia, Pa. to Fort Walton Beach and that the Lord has given her joy in being in Florida with her family. Elder Treani Thompson testified of how the Lord kept her and her family and specifically how the Lord worked things out so that she and her husband could sell their old house and be free from renters. Sister Tonya Bloxson testified of how God gave her a miracle in her career. He made it so that she has had the opportunity to get a position that she was not qualified for, to receive substantial raises, and ultimately to end up with two potential employers having a bidding war over her salary, allowing her to choose which job she will take and the best salary. Minister Dorothy Negley testified of how the Lord kept her and made her the head and not the tail in her career field. She also testified of how the Lord stretched her income and oversaw her and her husband's finances all year long while her husband was not working, pursuing his degree. Brother

Jeff Negley testified of how the Lord made a way for him to register for the master's program at the University of West Florida despite his drastically missing the deadline to enter the program. Bishop Smith followed up by saying that, in 2018, he had faced the hardest trials he had ever faced, but that "God is good." Bishop Smith added that his trials brought him "tremendous spiritual insight, growth, and closeness to God."

Minister Shaundra Smith: "We enjoyed the testimonies from the saints!"

Category: Upcoming Events

2019 Gulf Coast Youth and Young Adults Conference Schedule

Saturday, Jan 19, 2019

10:00 am- Business Meeting
11:30 am- Seminar
1:00 pm- Lunch
3:00 pm- Seminar (Elder Eric Russell)
5:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm- Registration
6:30 pm- Prayer
7:30 pm- Evening Worship Service

Sunday, Jan 20, 2019

10:00 am- Christian Education (Bishop Charles D. Smith)
11:15 am- Morning Worship Service (Minister Kourtney Littlejohn)
3:00 pm- Pizza Fellowship (New Covenant)
5:00 pm- Sound Check for Concert (Soloists, Groups and Musicians)
6:00 pm- Registration
6:30 pm- Prayer
7:00 pm- Concert, Exhortations and Poems

Schedule is subject to change

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- **From the Evangelistic Team:** Below are the Evangelistic team members for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction. Please pray that the Lord will use them mightily to speak words that are Spirit and life and confirm His Word by miracles, wonders and signs. If you need a revival at your church, please contact one of the evangelists listed below to check his or her availability.

1. Elder Ruth Latham
2. Elder Tom Calix
3. Minister Crystal Derico
4. Minister Shaundra Smith
5. Minister Sirita Loiseau
6. Minister Desiree Walker

2019 Revival Schedule

22 Feb (Fri) **Carrollwood Bible Study Center**, Tampa, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
23-24 Feb (Sat-Sun) **Prince of Peace**, Jacksonville, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
21-22 Mar (Thur-Fri) **Holy of Holies Tabernacle**, Holiday, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
6-7 Aug (Tue-Wed) **Christ the Redeemer**, Gulfport, Miss. (*Confirmed*)
8-9 Aug (Thur-Fri) **Promise**, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
20-21 Aug (Tue-Wed) **Lily of the Valley**, Thonotosassa, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
22-23 Oct (Tue-Wed) **Emmanuel**, Parker, Fla. (*Tentative*)
24-25 Oct (Thur-Fri) **Spirit of Christ**, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (*Tentative*)

- **From the Administrative Staff:** Saints please be mindful of the upcoming below events.

The 2019 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 7	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jan 19-20	GCJ Youth & Young Adult Conference	Montgomery, Ala.
Jan 30	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Feb 9-10	Bishop Smith Anniv. & B-Day	FWB, Fla.
Mar 16-17	GCJ Missions Conference	Gulfport, Miss.
Mar 28-31	Bishop White's Anniversary	Columbus, Ohio
Apr 5-7	GCJ Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.	FWB, Fla.
May 4-5	Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniv.	Thonotosassa, Fla.
Jun 3	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 8-9	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniv.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Jun 26	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 28- Jul 7	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, Ala.
Jul 27-28	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniv.	Montgomery, Ala.
Sep 6-8	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.	FWB, Fla.
Sep 20-22	International Missions Conference	TBD
Oct 5-6	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	Thonotosassa, Fla.
Oct 11-13	Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniv.	Holiday, Fla.
Nov 15-17	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting	FWB, Fla.
Dec 7-8	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.	Gulfport, Miss.