



May 2019 Newsletter

## Bishop Smith encourages the saints to believe in Jesus



**In the Photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching a seminar at Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell's 30th Anniversary celebration.

THONOTOSASSA, FL. – Saints from across The Church of the Living God International and throughout the Gulf Cost Jurisdiction gathered in Thonotosassa, Fla. on May 4 to hear Bishop Charles D. Smith teach a seminar. Bishop Smith is the GCJ Presiding Bishop and Pastor of Promise in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

At the 30th pastoral appreciation for Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell, held at Lily of the Valley Church May 4-5, 2019, Bishop Smith encouraged the saints to believe in Jesus as their personal savior. “Jesus Christ is the only savior of the whole world. Jesus saves! You have to be able to define the difference between what you know and what you believe,” said Bishop Smith.

“Jesus only saves when we come to Him. We have to make Him our personal savior. Until we make him our personal savior, we are not saved,” he added. “It is our fault if we claim that Jesus is our personal savior, and we don’t let Him save us and remain in sin. We are liars! The only way to stop sinning is to die. The thing is how do we die and keep living? Jesus did it for us. You’ve got to make up your mind about whether you are saved.”

Galatians 2:20 states, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

Bishop Smith also encouraged the saints to allow the Lord to save them because no one escapes God’s judgement. “Once we die, then it is the judgement.” He said that God gets around to judging everyone who is right and wrong. “We must stop being wrong.”

## The Bishop's Corner

### *I needed a Savior*

Praise the Lord Saints,

Jesus saved us from the power of sin, and I needed a savior that was holy in mind, desires and emotions. “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens” (Hebrews 7:25-26).

We need everything the Holy Spirit gives us. We must stop preventing the Holy Spirit from doing his work in us. We are only as saved as we allow the Lord to change us. He wants us to be mature. We should want all the saints in the house of God to grow up. We would have so much more if we allow the Holy Spirit to do a complete work in us. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18).

Some people like to have those around them who will not reveal their sins. I needed someone (a preacher) who could reveal God’s holiness to me. I needed to be saved to the point where I could see a break between my old life and my new life. God had to deal with my affections so that I could love the Lord and His word. The problem was not what I was holding onto, but what I needed the Lord to work out of my affections. It is not about what we are going to give up when we are saved, but what we are going to gain.

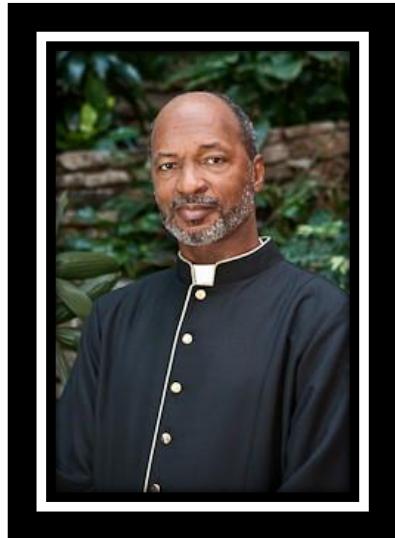
When God saves us, He has to give us the mind to see how sin destroys us so He can deliver us. After I came out of sin, I needed life. God has a problem with sin because Jesus died for sin. God does not dwell in the places in our mind that have darkness. I do not know of anyone who has never committed a sin after salvation—that is why we need the blood of Jesus. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (I John 2:1).

The greatest blessing that we have is salvation. When I was a sinner, I needed peace, but I did not know it; I just knew something was wrong. Jesus is the only one who can give us peace. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

I am saved not because I am running from hell, but because I am running toward heaven!

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



## **More May stories**

### **Category: Events**

*Churches across the jurisdiction had a pastoral appreciation, celebrated Mother's Day, high school graduates and a surprise baby shower.*

- **From Lily of the Valley:** On May 4-5, 2019, Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell celebrated their 30th Pastoral Anniversary. It was such a blessing from start to finish. It was also a blessing to see other people blessed during the anniversary. I was truly encouraged that God can move for you even when you do not expect it. The speakers were Bishop Charles D. Smith, Bishop Jay Johnson and Elder Jeffrey Johnson.

*Sister Sereese Davis: "It was a great time and fellowship in the lord."*



**In the Photos:** Co-Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell along with saints from throughout CLGI enjoying themselves at the 30th Pastoral Appreciation at Lily of the Valley Church in Thonotosassa, Fla. on May 4-5, 2019.

Website: [gulfcoastclgi.org](http://gulfcoastclgi.org)

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** The Holy of Holies Tabernacle (HHT) Brotherhood department hosted a wonderful breakfast and program for Mother's Day. They truly honored the mothers as they served breakfast and gave them words of appreciation and encouragement from their husbands and children. All of the mothers received gifts of special personal treats to enjoy. Pastor Mastin gave an encouraging word that no matter what your experiences are as mothers or children, you can trust in the Lord to heal the hurts and fill any voids. “We are complete in God!” In addition to the blessings of the service, HHT was blessed to have two new members, Brother and Sister Gibson, join the church.

*Minister Kim Mastin:* “We all rejoiced and welcomed the new members to our church family!”

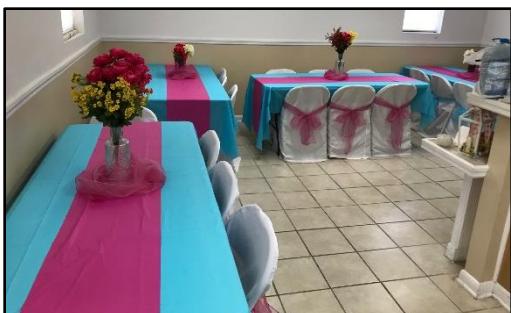


**In the Photos:** Saints at Holy of Holies Tabernacle enjoying the Mother's Day celebration. Also included the two new members of HHT, Brother and Sister Gibson, pictured above in the top row, the fourth photo on the right.

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints at Christ the Redeemer surprised Minister Tracy Ann-West with a baby shower for her first baby girl. Saints from throughout the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction came to support this grand occasion. Minister West appreciated the gifts and party. She thanked everyone for the love and support.

*Minister Kourtney Littlejohn:* “We had a good time of food, fun and fellowship.”





**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the surprise baby shower for Minister Tracy West at Christ the Redeemer Church in Gulfport, Miss.

- **From Prince of Peace:** Princeton Rogers graduated from high school with honors (Cum Laude) and received a scholarship to attend Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Fla. He aspires to be a pilot.

*Pastor Paulette Harrison:* “We are very proud of Princeton!”

**In the Photo:** Princeton Rogers and his family following his graduation.



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### Category: Prayer Request

*The saints need healings.*

- **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 saints' answered prayers in the newsletter. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

Minister Xiomara Rivera (Healing)

Website: [gulfcoastclgi.org](http://gulfcoastclgi.org)

Elder T'Angela Rogers (Healing)  
Elder Kim Montgomery (Healing)  
Brother Simeon Tanner (Healing)  
Minister George McFadden (Healing)  
Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)  
Minister Cory Cook's Father (Complete Healing)  
Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)  
Brother Joshua Henderson (Healing)  
Elder Paulette Harrison (Healing)  
Sister Carolyn Russell (Healing)  
Minister Ricketta Hurdle (Healing)  
Brother Anthony Burrell (Complete Healing)  
Elder LaToya Smith's Father (Complete Healing)  
Minister Chemiese Hall's Niece (Healing)  
Minister Chemiese Hall's Sister (Comfort)  
Sister Francesca Di Chiaro (Healing)  
Sister Alyssa (Minister Desiree Sewell Walker's daughter) (Healing)  
Minister Danni Garcia's Mother (Healing)  
Bishop Roysel Richardson's Mother (Healing)  
Elder Tony Sewell and Family (Bereavement)

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### **Category: Upcoming Events**

- **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**

- 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*)  
24-25 Oct (*Thur-Fri*) **Spirit of Christ**, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (*Confirmed*)
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- **From the Administrative Staff:** Saints please be mindful of these upcoming events.

**The 2019 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Jun 3	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 26	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 28- Jul 7	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, Ala.
<b>Jul 27-28</b>	<b>Elder Russell Pastoral Anniv.</b>	<b>Montgomery, Ala.</b>
<b>Sep 6-8</b>	<b>Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.</b>	<b>FWB, Fla.</b>
Sep 20-22	International Missions Conference	TBD
<b>Oct 11-13</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniv.</b>	<b>Holiday, Fla.</b>
<b>Nov 22-24</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting</b>	<b>FWB, Fla.</b>
<b>Dec 7-8</b>	<b>Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.</b>	<b>Gulfport, Miss.</b>