

Saints encouraged to please God



GULFPORT, MS – Bishop Charles D. Smith, Presiding Bishop of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction and Pastor of Promise Church, encouraged the saints during the New Year’s Eve service at Christ the Redeemer, Church, in Gulfport, Miss. on Dec. 31, 2019.

Bishop Smith, talked about being the sons of God and pleasing Him. He used the scripture from John 1:12, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

“When you try to live saved without the Holy Ghost, you have a hard time because you do not have the power to do it,” said Bishop Smith. “The only people who can live saved are those whom God has put His Spirit in. The Holy Ghost changes you into a person who is going to heaven. God has the power to change us to become a son of God. You cannot become a son of God without the power,” he added.

Bishop Smith continued to encourage the saints by saying, “People struggle trying to make it as a child of God without the Holy Ghost and eventually get tired and give up. Meanwhile, the saints stride along because they have been changed and have the Holy Ghost to help them. We do not give up because we have the Spirit and we have been changed.”

In his conclusion he said, “Some people, when the Lord comes in and changes them, want heaven but not all the changes that are necessary. In 2020, we need to let the Lord continue to change us so we can be more pleasing unto Him.”

In the Photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith, Presiding Bishop of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction and Pastor of Promise Church giving comments at Christ the Redeemer, Church, in Gulfport, Miss.

The Bishop's Corner

I've got to believe in God!

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Moreover, the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord.’ And he said, ‘Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:10-14)

In these scriptures above Ahaz the king of Judah had stopped believing in God and refused to ask Him for help when the kings of Israel and Syria were planning to make war with him. We too sometimes stop trusting in God and believing in miracles and settle for the way things are. We've got to trust God enough to continue to pray, come to church and fellowship with the saints. The word of God is so complete, and He put it together to help us believe that He can do anything, and there is nothing too hard for Him. When we pray the devil stands before God to accuse or hinder us (Zechariah 3: 1) to cause us to doubt, but we've got to continue to believe God and not give up because God is a just God. You can tell when people stop believing God because they stop coming to church.

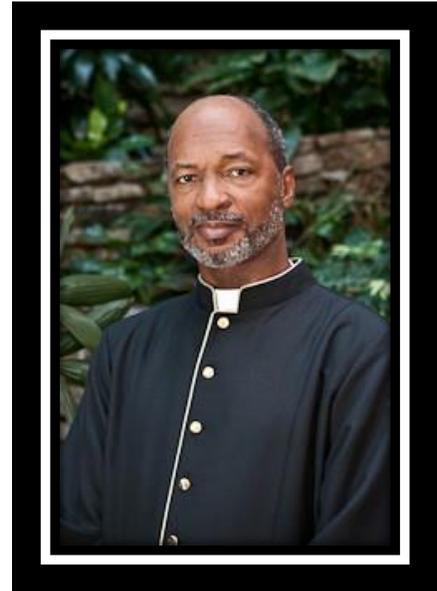
We've got to continue to trust in God because He is faithful. The bible saints like David, Jehoshaphat and Gideon trusted God. David goes to battle and God fights for him (I Samuel 17:37-51); Jehoshaphat doesn't even have to go to battle because God win the battle before he gets there (II Chronicles 20:15-24); Gideon doesn't even take any weapons to battle, only trumpets, empty pitchers and lamps and God delivers the Midianites, Amalekites and all the nations of the east into his hands (Judges 7:15-23) We can never say that God is not a man of His word because David said, “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.” (Psalms 37:25-26)

We must continue to go to God so that our blessings do not stop. We cannot take it for granted that His blessings will continue when we do not pray and stop coming to Him. Because, with God all things are possible, and He can change hearts and rearrange situations. Jesus can lift you up and change things where you are, but you've got to believe that God is real, and He will work it out for you.

You've got to start saying that you believe and trust in God. You've got to remind yourself who God is and of His power and that He can do anything. Moses asked God what to tell the people of Israel if they ask the name of their God? “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” (Exodus 3:13-14) Trust God!

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More December stories

Category: Events

Church members honored a saint, had a holiday party, a pastoral appreciation, a birthday celebration, and New Year's Eve Services. One church gave Christmas donations to needy families.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Minister Shahara Franklin received honor for creativity and decorating skills. She showed her love for God and the House of God by making Lily of the Valley reflect the joy of the holiday season. Pastor Deborah Sewell said she really loved how the church looked.

Sister Sereese Davis: "Thank you Minister Franklin!"



- **From Lily of the Valley:** The Lily of the Valley saints celebrated the Christmas holiday season with a party. This year Minister Lynn Knox's grandson Kevin Knox, who plays for the New York Knicks, was generous enough to sponsor our holiday party. All who attended received a gift and had a great time fellowshiping. Minister Knox said, "It was such a blessing that he was able to give to the House of God as well as to the saints." We, the saints at Lily of the Valley, truly thank him for thinking of us.

Sister Sereese Davis: "We all had a wonderful time!"

In the Photo: Kevin Knox.



In the Photos: Saints at Lily of the Valley enjoying the Christmas party sponsored by Kevin Knox.

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- **From New Covenant Church:** Christmas Eve was an evening of giving as we went to the Mary Ellen’s Hearth, which is a home for homeless women and children. Minister Crystal Derico arranged for us to blessed them with donations of needed supplies. It was a blessing to see how happy the director was to receive the items and thankful that they were remembered at this time of giving.
 - On Sunday we had a great Christmas service and enjoyed the poems the youth recited about celebrating Christmas because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - Our New Year’s Eve service was a wonderful time with Minister John Hinson encouraging the saints from the word of God, that “The Lord is our Shephard” and to know that the Lord will take care of us. Elder Bonita Russell said that this will be a New Year without fear and to forget those things which are behind and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling. Pastor Augustus Russell then gave us a word going into our communion service and reminded us to examine ourselves—repent if we needed to—because God will forgive us if we are sincere. We enjoyed the fellowship of the saints after service, which helps us bond and strengthen each other. We are looking for the Lord to do great things in 2020.

Elder Bonita Russell: “We are stronger together.”

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints of Christ the Redeemer celebrated Elders Carlos and Treani Thompson’s 19th Pastoral Anniversary on December 7-8. Elder Jeffrey Johnson came to preach and support the Thompson’s. He encouraged the saints to have and seek more of the “Fruit of the Spirit.”

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “The Lord blessed us through the word of God.”

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The Brinkley family had a surprise “Sweet 16” birthday celebration for Sister Gabby at The Yard Milkshake Bar. She was so excited and surprised. She was also very happy to see her close friends and loved ones.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “Happy Birthday Sister Gabby! We had a great time.”



In the Photos: Sister Gabby and the saints having a great time at her “Sweet 16” birthday party.



In the Photo: Sister Gabby and the saints having a great time at her “Sweet 16” birthday party.

In the Photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith



- From Christ the Redeemer:** The saints at Christ the Redeemer held a New Year’s Eve service on December 31. The saints from Promise, CLGI came to fellowship and help us bring in the new year. There was a communion and a baptism during the service. Bishop Charles D. Smith, Presiding Bishop of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction and Pastor of Promise encouraged the saints to get more in the Spirit and keep doing more of what they have been doing in the Lord. “If you have been seeking the Spirit, keep seeking the Spirit. If you love the Lord, keep loving the

Lord. If you are seeking more of the gifts of the Spirit, keep seeking the gifts.” He also encouraged the saints to be more like JESUS.

Minister Kourtney Littlejohn: “We were all encouraged to go higher in the Lord in 2020.”



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the New Year's Eve service at Christ the Redeemer Church on December 31, 2019.

Category: Prayer Request

The saints need healings and comfort.

- **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).

- Elder T'Angela Rogers (Healing)
- Elder Kim Montgomery (Healing)
- Minister George McFadden (Healing)
- Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)
- Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)

Brother Joshua Henderson (Healing)
Elder Paulette Harrison (Healing)
Minister Ricketa 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 Royschel Richardson's Mother (Healing)
Minister Tina Martin's Father (Healing)
Sister T'Shaura Gay's Mother (Healing)
Minister Sirita Loiseau (Healing)
Mother Dorothy Harrison (Healing)
Minister Lajoya Shelly (Healing)
Elder Christiana Russell (Healing)
Jeffery Byrd (Elder Angela Jenkin's Uncle) (Healing)
Deaconess Lisa Gibson (Healing)
Minister Leslie Allen (Healing)
Mother Judy Jones (Healing)
Minister Priya Luchmun (Healing)

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- **From the Russell Family:** Saints, on behalf of the Russell family, we would like to thank you all for your expressions of love and condolences with the passing of Mother Carolyn Russell. We appreciate all the cards, prayers and messages of comfort. Also, please continue to keep Dr. Christiana Russell in prayer as she is currently going through chemotherapy treatments. Please continue to pray that the Lord will give her a complete healing.

Exhorter Heaven Russell: "Thank you and God Bless."

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From Promise:** In celebration of Bishop Charles D. Smith's birthday and appreciation this year, Promise, Church will host a semi-formal reception and dinner, which will serve as the singular event of the weekend. While all are certainly welcome to worship with Promise on the Friday evening prior and the Sunday morning following, we formally request the honor of your presence on February the 8th at 4 o'clock in the evening for a fellowship, icebreaker reception where hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and coffee will be served with dinner following in our Fellowship Hall. Dress is semi-formal. Information concerning prices for dinner is forthcoming. Please RSVP by February 3, 2020. We respectfully request payment with response.

*Pastoral Appreciation Committee
Promise, Church*

- **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 Desiree Walker

28 Feb (*Fri*) **Carrollwood Bible Study Center**, Tampa, Fla. (*Elder Ruth Latham*)

29 Feb- 1 Mar (*Sat-Sun*) **Prince of Peace**, Jacksonville, Fla. (*Elder Ruth Latham*)

19-20 Mar (*Thur-Fri*) **Holy of Holies Tabernacle**, Holiday, Fla. (*Elder Ruth Latham*)

4-5 Aug (*Tue-Wed*) **Christ the Redeemer**, Gulfport, Miss. (*Elder Ruth Latham*)

6-7 Aug (*Thur-Fri*) **Promise**, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. (*Elder Ruth Latham/Elder Tom Calix/Minister Shaundra Smith*)

(TBD) - **Lily of the Valley**, Thonotosassa, Fla. (*Minister Desiree Walker*)

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

The 2020 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 6	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jan 18-19	GCJ Youth & Young Adult Conference	Thonotosassa, FL
Jan 24-26	Southeast Jurisdictional Meeting	Augusta, GA
Jan 29	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Feb 8-9	Bishop Smith's Anniversary & B-Day	FWB, FL
Feb 15-16	Southwest Jurisdictional Meeting	San Antonio, TX
Mar 14-15	GCJ Missions Conference	Gulfport, MS
Mar 19-22	Bishop White's Anniversary	Columbus, OH
TBD	GCJ Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.	TBD
Apr 17-19	Northeast Jurisdictional Meeting	Waldorf, MD
May 2- 3	Elder Sewell/Sewell's Pastoral Anniversary	Thonotosassa, FL
May 22-24	International Elect Ladies Conference	Atlanta, GA
Jun 1	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 6-7	Elder Harrison's Pastoral Anniversary	Jacksonville, FL
Jun 24	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 26-Jul 5	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
Jul 25-26	Elder Russell's Pastoral Anniversary	Montgomery, AL
Jul 31-Aug 2	First Jurisdictional Meeting	Columbus, OH
Aug 20-23	South American Jurisdictional Meeting	Meerzorg, Suriname
Sep 4-6	North Carolina Pre-Jurisdictional Meeting	TBD

Sep 4-6
TBD
Oct 9-11
Oct 9-11
Oct 23-25
Nov 6-8
Nov 20-22
Dec 5-6

Elder Calix's Pastoral Anniversary
GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship
Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary
PNW Jurisdictional Meeting
European Jurisdictional Meeting
Central States Jurisdictional Meeting
Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting
Elder Thompson's Pastoral Anniversary

FWB, FL
TBD
Holiday, FL
Oceanside, CA
Rodenbach, Germany
Kansas City, MO
FWB, FL
Gulfport, MS



GULF COAST JURISDICTION YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

January 18-19, 2020

Lily of the Valley CLGI
9816 Harney Road
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Saturday
9:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting
10:30 am-12:30 pm: Lunch (free)
1:00-3:00 pm: Seminar
7:30-8:00 pm: Evening Prayer
8:00 pm: Evening Service with Concert

** \$15 Power March**

Sunday
10:00-11:15 am: Christian Education
11:30 am-1:30 pm: Morning Service
2:00-5:00 pm: Youth Outing (Grand Prix Tampa) - \$5

Hotels:
Hilton Garden Inn Tampa North (813-342-5000)
Hampton Inn & Suites Tampa North (813-903-6000)
Courtyard by Marriott Tampa North/I-75 Fletcher
(813-978-9898)

For more information contact:
gulfcoast.jurisdiction@gmail.com

WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE IS POWER EPHESIANS 1:17-19

If you read this Gulf Coast Jurisdictional monthly newsletter and enjoy the articles, please help us keep it going by submitting articles and photos to eldrlatham@yahoo.com so we can enjoy reading and seeing the activities at your church.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully support the newsletter with your monthly inputs.

*Very Respectively,
The Editorial Staff*
