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*April 2020 Newsletter*

## **Bishop encourages the GCJ Saints on Resurrection Sunday**

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “Jesus is risen!” These were the words of Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church on Resurrection Sunday, April 12, 2020, to the saints who tuned in on the Zoom Cloud Meetings App.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Smith has been teaching, using Zoom, on Sunday morning, Tuesday and Friday nights, during these times of stay-at-home orders in effect in many states.



Teaching from 1 Corinthians 15:1-36, he told the saints that they must come to point where they believe and not doubt the Word of God. “Today we need to consider the bible as a reliable source for our salvation, and we need to make a decision to have a life with or without God. We must believe in the resurrection of Jesus.”

“We needed someone not under the penalty of death to die for us. God caused us to be able to share in Jesus’ death and resurrection so we could be saved. Resurrection is a newness of life and when Jesus was resurrected, everything changed—no more sacrifices of lambs because Jesus became our lamb,” said Bishop Smith.

He continued in 1 Peter 1:3-5 by saying, “We glorify God who has begotten us again from the dead by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We need to make up our minds that we are resurrected from the dead with Christ, let go of our old ways and do something new. We must have a resolve to obey God even though we might not change immediately.”

Bishop Smith concluded by saying, “When we come to God, we’re born again and become children of God. He answers the prayers of those who are His because He is trying to build us up to be more spiritual and productive people so we can make it to heaven.”

**In the photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise, teaching with the Zoom Cloud Meetings App in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

# The Bishop's Corner

## *Effective Prayers*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:14-16)

The easiest thing we can do is pray, and it is the cheapest fix because it doesn't cost us anything. We like to talk about prayer, but we do not want to do it. I encourage everybody to pray at least 15 minutes each day. Faithful people pray, and prayer is not positive thinking. If you learn how to pray and seek God, you will know what to do when the devil comes. The devil trains every day for battle with the saints; therefore, we need to train our minds to pray each day.

It takes practice turning our mind toward God. We have to spend time in the Word of God and learn God through the Holy Spirit. When we have a good relationship with God, we sense when we need to come before God in prayer. Prayer establishes a strong relationship with God.

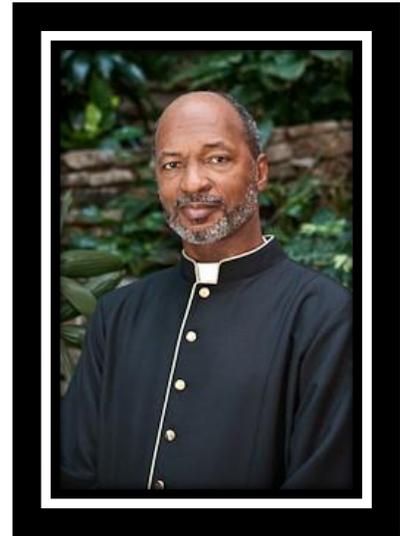
In the case of Hannah, she prayed to God often and made Him a vow if He would answer her prayer. “-O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but will give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.” (I Samuel 1:11)

Faith in prayer means expecting God to move. God will answer a righteous man's prayer because he will pray according to God's will. There are things God wants to perform on the earth, but He is waiting on us to ask Him so He can do it.

An effective prayer is believing that God is God, and we are praying according to His will. We have to pray from our spirit; this type of prayer takes time, and it refreshes us and brings relief. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, so when we pray, we must believe.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



## More April stories

### Category: Events

*During the month of April, one church celebrated the wedding anniversary of their pastors.*



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Pastors Tony and Deborah Sewell celebrated 44 years of marriage on April 3, 2020. These pictures reflect their time together throughout the years. The Lily of the Valley saints were happy to help them celebrate this occasion.

*Sister Sereese Davis: "We at LOV congratulate Pastors T and D on their anniversary."*



**In the Photos:** Elders Tony and Deborah Sewell throughout the years as they celebrate 44th of marriage this year.

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## Category: Testimony

Precious Saints,

I want to thank those of you who prayed, sent cards, texts and kind words of encouragement. The Lord kept me through a difficult battle with stage 3 Metastatic Breast Cancer, which is a very aggressive form of cancer. By God's grace, I made it through chemotherapy and surgery (which involved a mastectomy and removal of 5 lymph nodes under my left arm).

I am so happy to say that my pathology report came back **NEGATIVE** for any more cancer!!! This means no more chemotherapy and no need for radiation!! Because of the goodness and mercy of the Lord I am **CANCER FREE!!**

Due to the serious nature of the stage 3 breast cancer, I still have to undergo two more surgical procedures which involve several months of healing and recovery.

Please continue to keep me, Elder Eric, Heaven and Faith in your prayers. The enemy has attacked us in many different ways, but the Lord brought us out as a family. It is such a comfort to know that the Lord is still on our side!

Again, thank you for your continued prayers!

Elder Christiana M. Russell

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## 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)  
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 (Complete 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)  
Minister India Rogers (Healing)  
Elder Paula Smith (Healing)  
Elder Deborah Sewell (Healing)  
Minister Eartha Howard (Healing)  
Elder Bonita Russell (Healing)  
Sister Barbara Cooper (Healing)  
Howard and Teresa Jenkins II (Elder Paula Smith's Sister/Brother-in-law) (Healing)  
Exhorter Travis Sewell (Healing)  
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn (Healing)  
Sister Carolyn Skipper (Evangelist Cotinna Harris' Mother)  
Elder Diana Sankatsing and Family (Condolences)  
Minister Lakiesha Toney and Family (Condolences)  
Bishop Royschel Richardson and Family (Condolences)

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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 Desiree Walker

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**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
<b>Jan 6</b>	<b>CLGI Consecration Begins</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Jan 18-19</b>	<b>GCJ Youth &amp; Young Adult Conference</b>	<b>Thonotosassa, FL</b>
Jan 24-26	Southeast Jurisdictional Meeting	Augusta, GA
<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>CLGI Consecration Ends</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Feb 8-9</b>	<b>Bishop Smith's Anniversary &amp; B-Day</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
Feb 15-16	Southwest Jurisdictional Meeting	San Antonio, TX
<b>Mar 14-15</b>	<b>GCJ Missions Conference</b>	<b>Gulfport, MS</b>
Mar 19-22	Bishop White's Anniversary	Columbus, OH
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>GCJ Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>Elder Sewell/Sewell's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Thonotosassa, FL</b>
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>International Elect Ladies Conference</b>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b>
<b>Jun 1</b>	<b>CLGI Consecration Begins</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>Elder Harrison's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Jacksonville, FL</b>
<b>Jun 24</b>	<b>CLGI Consecration Ends</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly</b>	<b>Mobile, AL</b>
<b>Jul 25-26</b>	<b>Elder Russell's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Montgomery, AL</b>
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
<b>Sep 4-6</b>	<b>Elder Calix's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Oct 9-11</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary</b>	<b>Holiday, FL</b>
Oct 9-11	PNW Jurisdictional Meeting	Oceanside, CA
Oct 23-25	European Jurisdictional Meeting	Rodenbach, Germany
Oct 30	Central States Jurisdictional Meeting	Kansas City, MO
Nov 6-8	Northeast Jurisdictional Meeting	Indian Head, MD
<b>Nov 20-22</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Meeting</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Dec 5-6</b>	<b>Elder Thompson's Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Gulfport, MS</b>

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*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](mailto: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*

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