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*December 2020 Newsletter*

## **Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Saints bring in the New Year 2021**



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “We get new mercies every day from God,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Friday night, December 31, 2020, during the New Year’s Eve service.

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

Saints from throughout the jurisdiction tuned in via Zoom to bring in the new year, 2021, with Bishop Smith and the Promise saints.

Bishop Smith preached before communion from Lamentations 3:21-23, which reads: “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassion fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.”

“We can be new every day because we need the Lord to wash us by His word, which is a well of water springing up in us,” said Bishop Smith. “We all need God’s compassion and mercies, which He gives to us every morning. When God speaks to us and leads and guides us, it is His mercy. We’re going into this new year and we will get new mercies. We never deserve mercy; that’s why it is called ‘mercy.’ Justice is what we deserve, but God gives us mercy,” he added.

Bishop Smith said that God had already prepared the saints to go through the pandemic of 2020 so that they would make it through. “You can let the pandemic destroy you or you can turn to God and let him work things out for you,” he said.

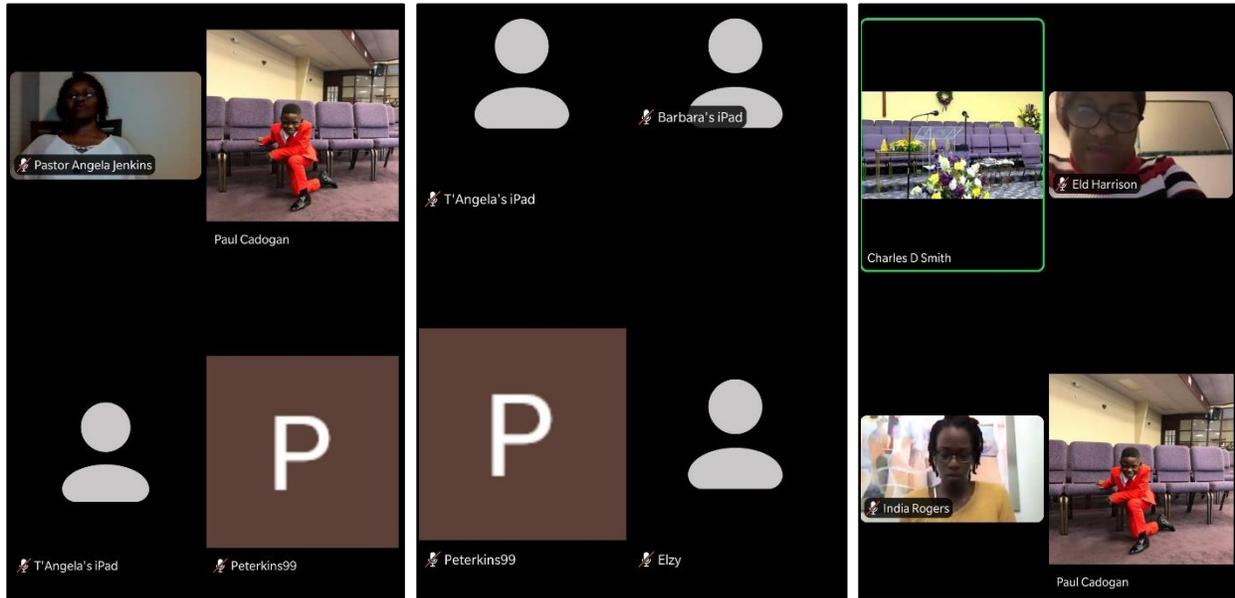
“God is right all the time, so as you grow in Him, never find yourself in a comfortable place; always continue to draw nigh to Him and desire to go to higher heights and deeper depths, not dwelling on the sins of your past. When the Holy Ghost brings something to your mind that you have done wrong, repent at that moment; don’t wait,” said Bishop Smith.

The saints at Promise took communion, and Bishop Smith encouraged them not to feel guilty again over sins that God has forgiven. “When God blots out our sins, they are gone forever.”

**In the photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, preaching via Zoom at Promise Church, during the 2020 New Year’s Eve service.

Elder Augustus Russell, New Covenant Pastor, Montgomery, Ala., was the keynote speaker, and he encouraged the saints from Isaiah 43:18-21, which reads: “Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing: now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wildness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. This people have I formed for myself: they shall shew forth my praise” (Isaiah 43:18-21 KJV).

“We must forget the old things of 2020 because God will do a new thing in 2021, so bring in the new year praising Him,” said Elder Russell.



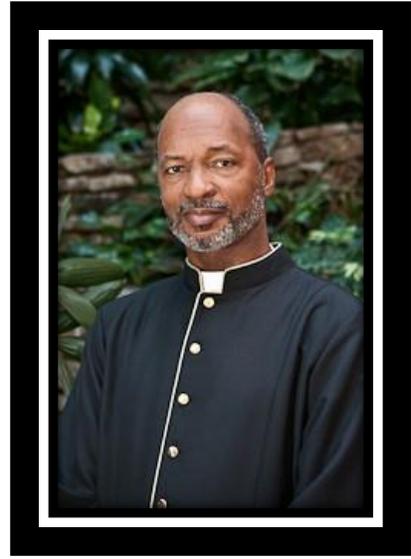
**In the photos:** Saints in various locations enjoying the New Year's Eve service via Zoom at Promise Church on Dec. 31, 2020.

# The Bishop's Corner

## *Sanctify God's name*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But I have pity for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God: I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them: and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God” (Ezekiel 36: 21-28 KJV).



We come into the house of God to glorify and sanctify Him. When we live holy and righteous, we sanctify God. God has to sanctify His name so He cleanses us and gives us a new heart so that the world will know that He is a good God, and He's not like any other god.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9 KJV).

We're chosen because we have gone along with God's program. When we ask God to save us, He chooses us. Our king is the king of heaven and we are peculiar because God has sanctified and set us apart from the world. We in turn should sanctify the Lord's name in our daily lives.

The way of salvation was chosen before the foundation of the world, not individual people. It is by God's grace that we are saved. I am so glad that God chose to save me. People who have the Holy Ghost are part of Christ's church; and in the church, ministers have a calling to serve the people, and they must sanctify the Lord's name.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

## More December stories

### Category: Events

*During the month of December, one church welcomed a new baby and celebrated a newly engaged couple; two churches had outreach projects, one fellowshipped at a local restaurant; and another church celebrated birthdays and a promotion, decorated for Christmas, held a wedding ceremony, streamed live on Facebook, and held its first New Year's Eve service.*



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Lily of the Valley saints would like to introduce to everyone our newest member, Brother Hezekiah Mastin. He was born Nov. 6, 2020, to his proud parents Deacon Christopher and Sister Chantha Mastin. We are waiting to see what great things God has in store for their precious baby boy.

*Sister Sereese Davis: “We’re so happy for them!”*

**In the Photo:** Deacon Christopher and Sister Chantha Mastin with their new baby, Hezekiah.



- **From Lily of the Valley:** Lily of the Valley saints are proud to announce the engagement of Deacon Derek Dutton and Exhorter M'Khayla Franklin. We are excited for this young couple. They are both saved, sanctified and running hard for the Lord! We congratulate them wholeheartedly.

*Sister Sereese Davis:*  
“Congratulation to the newly engaged couple!”



**In the Photos:** Deacon Dutton proposing to Exhorter Franklin at Lily of the Valley.

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** The saints of Holy of Holies Tabernacle celebrated Christmas 2020 fellowshipping with the community and providing food and clothing to those in need. “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore, I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land” (Deuteronomy 15:11 KJV).

*Minister Kim Mastin: “We thank God for the ability to give to others.”*

**Holy of Holies Tabernacle Photos:**



**In the Photos:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints blessed people in the community with food and clothing during the Christmas Holiday Season.

**More Holy of Holies Tabernacle Photos:**



**In the Photos:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints blessed people in the community with food and clothing during the Christmas Holiday Season.



• **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints supported an area pastor who owns Steph's Soul Food Restaurant. We were glad to bless them by filling their restaurant as they blessed us with good down-home cooking.

*Minister Kim Mastin:* "It was a festive and joyous time for all."

**In the Photos:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints fellowshipping at a local restaurant during the Christmas Holiday Season.



• **From New Covenant:** With the organizing efforts of Sister Crystal Russell, the saints of New Covenant presented care packages to the residents of Mary Ellen’s Hearth, a shelter for homeless women and children. With the help from community members and in collaboration with a local nonprofit, Destiny Driven, Inc., we managed to fill 60 totes with blankets, hats, hygiene products, gift cards, and other needed essentials.

After Sunday service, December 20, 2020, everyone gathered and worked diligently, in the spirit of unity, which made for, not only a seamless effort, but also a wonderful team-building experience and beautiful fellowship. Despite practicing social distancing, we filled bags, listened to Christmas music, laughed, and

enjoyed refreshments. Being together made us remember just how important it is, in these uncertain times, to come together in the spirit of charity and unity, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Upon receiving our charitable contributions, the program director graciously accepted them and posed with some of us in a brief photo opportunity.

We also thank Minister Crystal Derico for letting us know about Mary Ellen’s Hearth as this was our second consecutive year having the opportunity to bless the women and children who reside there. We thank Sister Crystal Russell for organizing this event and we thank everyone who helped make this endeavor possible with their donations and time. The Christmas season is truly “the most wonderful time of the year” when we are doing God’s work and in the service of others.

*Elder Bonita Russell: “We enjoyed the fellowship as we blessed others.”*



**In the Photos:** (Top) Elder Bonita Russell, Mrs. Glenda Jackson, who is the shelter program director, Sister Crystal Russell, and Brother Edwin Aryitey. (Bottom) New Covenant saints preparing care packages for a local women’s shelter.

**More New Covenant photos:**



**In the Photos:** New Covenant saints preparing care packages for a local women's shelter.



- **From Spirit of Christ:** The saints of Spirit of Christ congratulate Exhorter Tonya Calix on receiving her Exhorters license at the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional conference.

*Elder Debbie Calix: "We are very proud of her."*

**In the Photo:** (L to R) Elder Debbie Calix, Pastor Tom Calix, Exhorter Tonya Calix, Minister Stephen Calix, and Brother Jaylen Reid.



- **From Spirit of Christ:** The Spirit of Christ saints celebrated three birthdays to include Pastor Tom Calix, Brother Jaylen Reid, and Brother Greg Slagle.

*Elder Debbie Calix: "We pray the Lord will bless them with many more."*

**In the Photo:** Brother Greg Slagle, Jaylen Reid and Pastor Tom Calix enjoying their birthday celebration at Spirit of Christ.



**More Spirit of Christ Photos:**



- **From Spirit of Christ:** Our annual Hanging of the Greens was enjoyed by the Spirit of Christ Saints as we decorated the church for the celebration of Christ's birth.

*Elder Debbie Calix: "We had a wonderful fellowship."*



**In the Photos:** Spirit of Christ saints decorating the church for the Christmas Holiday Season.

## More Spirit of Christ Photos:



**In the Photo:** The fully decorated sanctuary at Spirit of Christ.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ streamed its Christmas service on Facebook. Minister Stephen Calix, Minister of Music and the SOC Audio-Visual department, provided anointed Christmas music. Elder Thomas Calix, Pastor of Spirit of Christ, gave a special Christmas message.

*Elder Debbie Calix:* “Join us for any of our services on Facebook @spiritofchristlgi.”



**In the Photos:** Minister Stephen Calix and Pastor Tom Calix doing a live feed on Facebook.

- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ hosted a beautiful December wedding for Brother Lazava and Sister Shannay Lockhart.

*Elder Debbie Calix:* “We'd like to say, Congratulations to them.”



**In the Photos:** The wedding party of the newly wedded couple at Spirit of Christ.



• **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ had its first ever New Year's Eve service. The Lord came in and blessed. The service started with a Spirit-filled praise and worship, which was followed by a wonderful communion, and ended with a special musical program of solos, duets and the choir.



**In the Photos:** New Year's Eve service.

*Elder Debbie Calix:* "Everyone was full of so much joy going into the New Year of 2021."

**More Spirit of Christ Photos:**



**In the Photos:** Spirit of Christ saints enjoying their first New Year's Eve service in their church.

## 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)  
Minister Norma Taylor's Mother (Healing)  
Minister Joseph Johnson (Healing)  
Brother Joshua Henderson (Healing)  
Elder Paulette Harrison (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)  
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)  
Exhorter Travis Sewell (Healing)  
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn (Healing)  
Bishop William Lee III (Healing)  
Elder Carolin Taylor (Healing)  
Minister Janice Spivey (Healing)  
Elder Deborah Sewell's Mother (Lois Franklin) (Healing)  
Elder Deborah Sewell's Sister (Loretta Green) (Healing)  
Minister Monique Pullin's Uncle (George Pullin) (Healing)  
Minister Lynn Knox's grandson (Elijah) (Healing)  
Minister Crystal Derico (Healing)

Sister Frankie Ware (Healing)  
Elder Kim Chisolm (Healing)  
Brother Arthur Thompson (Complete Healing)  
Elder Gary Watson, Jr. (Healing)  
Elder Jacqueline Terrell (Healing)  
Pastor Luther McCaskill's Uncle (Rickey Golden) (Healing)  
Pastor Luther McCaskill's Mother (Janice McCaskill) (Healing)  
Minister Janice Spivey's Father (Brother Leon Motley) (Healing)  
Minister Keta McCaskill's Mother (Louise Knox) (Healing)  
Sister Eleanor Rogers' Mother (Ms. Rosa Welcome) (Healing)

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**Category: Testimony**

*The saints are grateful to God for prayer and the love of the saints.*

Saints,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, condolences, messages of love, and support as we said goodbye to my mom Carolyn Skipper. Words cannot express our deepest gratitude.

Waiting on the rapture,

Evangelist CoTinna S. Harris  
Assistant Pastor,  
New Life, CLGI

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Praise the Lord Saints,

We are so thankful to have the love of God and the love of the saints. We are so thankful to all of you who remembered us in prayer and also in your many expressions of condolences and love. It is such a blessing to have heard from so many of our CLGI family from around the world. We are encouraged that as we enter the new year that God has mighty things in store for each of us. Let us all continue to hold on to the promises of God and continue to look steadfast for His appearing.

With heartfelt gratitude,

The Elzy's

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Saints,

**Thank you! Thank you!**

I want to take this time to thank the saints of the Gulf Coast and CLGI abroad, for the overwhelming support shown to me during the loss of my mother. Thank you for the countless cards, calls, texts, e-mails, donations, flowers, and your prayers. Words cannot express my sincere gratitude for a church family that cares. God is answering your prayers daily; he continues to strengthen, comfort and keep me as I am still handling the closing of my mother's affairs.

Sincerely,

Elder Treani Thompson

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

### **The 2021 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Jan 4	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
<b>Jan 16-17</b>	<b>G CJ Youth &amp; Young Adult Conference</b>	<b>Gulfport, MS</b>
Jan 22-24	Southeast Jurisdictional Conference	Augusta, GA
Jan 27	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
<b>Feb 6-7</b>	<b>Bishop Smith Anniversary &amp; B-Day</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
Feb 13-14	Southwest Jurisdictional Conference	San Antonio, TX
Mar 18-21	Bishop White's Anniversary	Columbus, OH
<b>Apr 9-11</b>	<b>G CJ Elect Ladies/Brotherhood Conf.</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
Apr 9-11	Northeast Jurisdictional Conference	Waldorf, MD
<b>May 1-2</b>	<b>Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Thonotosassa, FL</b>

Jun 1	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
<b>Jun 5-6</b>	<b>Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Jacksonville, FL</b>
Jun 23	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 25-Jul 4	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
<b>Jul 14-25</b>	<b>Elder Russell Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Montgomery, AL</b>
Aug 6-8	First Jurisdictional Conference	Columbus, OH
Aug 19-22	South American Jurisdictional Conference	Paramaribo, Suriname
<b>Sep 4-5</b>	<b>Elder Calix Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
Sep 17-19	International Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
<b>TBD</b>	<b>GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Oct 9-10</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle</b>	<b>Holiday, FL</b>
Oct 8-10	PNW Jurisdictional Conference	Honolulu, HI
Oct 22-24	European Jurisdictional Conference	Rodenbach, Germany
Oct 29-31	Central States Jurisdictional Conference	Kansas City, MO
<b>Nov 19-21</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Dec 4-5</b>	<b>Elder Thompson 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 [eldruthlath@gmail.com](mailto:eldruthlath@gmail.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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