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October 2020 Newsletter

Bishop Smith encourages the GCGJ Saints to draw nigh to God

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “We need to pray and fast so that we would draw nigh to God (James 4:8),” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Friday night, October 23, 2020.

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.

Bishop Smith taught from Isaiah 31, focusing on verse 1 (KJV), which states: “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!” Jesus is the only one who can deliver the people on the earth, so we should put our trust in God, said Bishop Smith. During these times, we really need to turn to God so that His will would be done on the earth.

No matter how hard things got, David always knew that God would hear and answer his prayers as stated in Psalms: 20, verses 1-2 and 7 (KJV): “The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

We must remember that Jesus has a name above every name and every knee is going to bow, in heaven, in earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that He is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11), “So we cannot allow ourselves to get wrapped up in worldly affairs to the point where it takes our minds away from the Lord,” said Bishop Smith.

As closing remarks, Bishop Smith encouraged the saints that Jesus is coming back soon, so trust in God and draw nigh to Him, because Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33).



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

The Bishop's Corner

The Rapture is coming

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:3 KJV).” “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words (I Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV).”

Jesus promised that He will come back for us. If we are not prepared to meet Jesus when He comes in the rapture, then we are probably not ready to meet Him when we die. This is a good time to get saved so we can be sure when Jesus comes because we are not being persecuted directly by anyone for serving the Lord, praying, reading our bible or coming to church; we have freedom of religion.

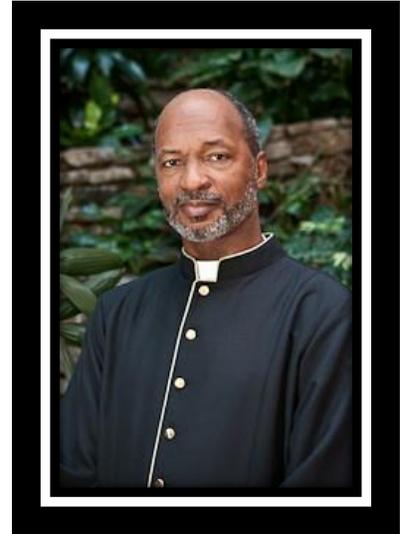
We must be honest with ourselves and see where we are in the Lord. John tells us that those that have the hope of Jesus' return will purify themselves. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we should be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure (I John 3:2-3 KJV).”

The rapture will precede the tribulation. The church is the only thing that's holding back the tribulation, the antichrist, and lawlessness from coming into the world; after the church is raptured, all these things will come to pass. “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (I Thessalonians 5:8-11 KJV).”

In I Corinthians, Chapter 15, Paul talks about the rapture, and he sums up his teaching by telling the saints not to draw back but to hold on to God because Jesus is coming back for them. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (I Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV).” We must all endure to the end so that we can be caught up to meet the Lord on a cloud in the air.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



More October stories

Category: Events

During the month of October, one church had a pastoral anniversary, birthday celebration and a baptism, and another decorated for autumn.

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Holy of Holies Tabernacle celebrated its 3rd Church Anniversary, October 9-11, 2020. We were so grateful to God that despite limitations caused by the pandemic, we were still able to come together as a church body and celebrate the goodness of the Lord. Our theme was Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). We broadcasted the anniversary using Zoom, and we were encouraged by our speakers Bishop Charles D. Smith, the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise church, Elder T'Angela Rogers, Elder Carlos Thompson, Pastor of Christ the Redeemer church and Elder Franklin Hollie. We were also blessed by a wonderful, uplifting virtual praise and worship led by Minister Shaundra Smith. Our celebration concluded with birthday celebrations and a church cookout. The grand finale was the baptism of four church members.

Minister Kim Mastin: "The Lord blessed us during our church anniversary."



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the Holy of Holies Tabernacle church anniversary.

More Photos:



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the Holy of Holies Tabernacle church anniversary and a birthday celebration.

More Photos:



In the Photos: Saints enjoying the Holy of Holies Tabernacle cookout and a baptism of four church members.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Lily of the Valley wants to acknowledge and thank our faithful interior decorator Minister Shahara Franklin. She takes the time to decorate the church for every season and holiday. Lily of the Valley members, as well as visitors always comment on how beautifully the church is decorated. Minister Franklin's decorating skills are outstanding.



Sister Sereese Davis: “We thank Minister Shahara Franklin for her hard work and dedication.”

In the Photo: Minister Shahara Franklin showing the decorations.

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 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)
Sister Carolyn Skipper (Evangelist Cotinna Harris' Mother) (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 Deborah Sewell's and Family (Condolences)
Sister Theresa Crisp and Family (Condolences)

Category: Testimony

The saints are grateful to God for His healing power.



Praise the Lord Saints!

As many of you know, about a year ago I was diagnosed with Stage three metastatic breast cancer. It had spread to my lymph nodes and began the process of creeping into my bloodstream. Metastatic breast cancer is a very aggressive form of cancer, and I immediately began to undergo chemotherapy treatments.

After five months of chemotherapy, 17 rounds of hormonal suppressive cancer treatments, and five extensive surgeries, the Lord has given me the VICTORY! As of today, October 7, 2020, I am CANCER-FREE! My last scans, blood tests, and pathology reports revealed, NO-MORE EVIDENCE OF DISEASE!!! God is a good God! It has been an extremely difficult year for Elder Eric, me, and the girls, but the Lord kept us. In the

midst of COVID-19, and all the unrest and uncertainty in the country, the Lord kept me by His power!

Time would not permit me to tell it all, but one day I will share what the Lord has done for me. Thank you to those who prayed, called, sent texts and encouraged me along the way, I sincerely appreciate it.

Again, God is a good God and He has been good to me. All of my doctors and medical team marvel at the goodness of the Lord. My oncologist said to me, "I have never seen anyone look this good so soon after everything that you have gone through," all I could say was, "God is good."

With sincere gratitude,

Elder Christiana M. Russell

Praise the Lord,

This is an update on Minister Rebekah Thomas. When she was first admitted to the hospital, the doctors said she had preeclampsia and would stay in the hospital until they delivered the baby since they didn't think that they could get her blood pressure to normal levels. The doctor's made it very clear that it was highly unlikely that she would be able to go home without delivering the baby early.

The Lord moved for us and gave Minister Thomas a healing in her body causing her blood pressure to return to normal. They discharged her on Friday, October 30, 2020, so that she can spend the rest of her pregnancy at home until it's time to deliver the baby.

We want to thank all the saints for their prayers, and all the emails and texts of love and encouragement that we received. The prayers of the righteous truly do avail much. The Lord was truly on our side.

Thank you all and God Bless,

Minister Zach Thomas

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 2020 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nov 6-8	Northeast Jurisdictional Conference	Waldorf, MD
Nov 20-22	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference	FWB, FL
Dec 5-6	Elder Thompson's Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS



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 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*
