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*March 2021 Newsletter*

## **Bishop encourages the GCJ Saints that God reasons with them**



FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “God is reasonable because He reasons with us and is easily entreated (Isaiah 1:18-20 KJV),” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Friday night, March 12, 2021

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 Deuteronomy 28:1-19 and said that we should love the Lord more than the temporal things on the earth. “Troubles that come our way on the earth, God will bring us out. God is reasonable, and we can have careers in this life and still be saved. If we put God first, He will cause our plans to succeed.” He encouraged the saints to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things will be added

unto them (Matthew 6:33 KJV). He further added that, “We must have God first, and we can’t pretend because God looks at our hearts, and He knows who is truly seeking Him first.”

In Deuteronomy 28:1-2, God promises the people if they would obey Him, He would bless them. “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt harken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.”

Bishop Smith told the saints that they need God because He is the basis of their mortality. “If we have God and a career, we get the blessings and we will know when something is coming into our lives that will take us out of God. There’s no going forward unless we are in God—money is not the answer to peace. God hasn’t given us the greatest blessing yet, which is eternal life. Why would you leave God before you get eternal life?”

In conclusion Bishop Smith said, “What is the point of having all the things on the earth if you don’t have God? We must have God, or we will lose everything. Everybody who dies is broke. What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul (Mark 8:36 KJV)? God wants everyone to be saved.

“For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye” (Ezekiel 18:32 KJV).

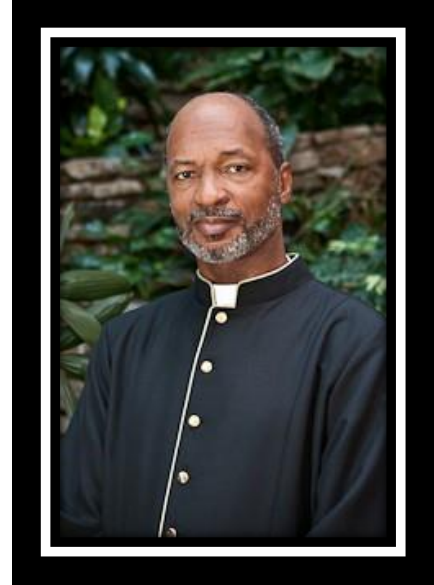
**In the Photos:** Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., March 12, 2021.

# The Bishop's Corner

## *God is Our Advantage*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hands of Median seven years. And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, ‘Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us?’ And where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the Lord looked up him, and said, ‘Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?’ And he said unto him, ‘Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ And the Lord said unto him, Surely, I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man” (Judges 6:1, 11-16 KJV).



God is the advantage that we have over the devil. God always gave Israel another chance no matter how many times they did evil in His sight. Gideon had faith in God and defeated the Midianites with only 300 men because God was with them. Just as God was glorified in Gideon’s victory, we should want to see God glorified in our lives. The earth is the Lord’s, and we can never say that we have done anything on our own; we always need God’s help.

Have faith in God (Mark 11:22 KJV) because everything we need is in Jesus Christ. If we wait on God, things will work out because He is our advantage, and He will be glorified in everything we do. If we’re sick, God heals us, and it’s to the glory of God.

Sinners need to know that God is their advantage, and we need to tell them that we have found the savior as Philip told Nathaniel. “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45 KJV). When people come to our church, they need to hear about the savior; they can learn everything else about the church later. We need to tell them to try God. Jesus showed Nathaniel the power of God, which caused him to believe (John 1:47-49 KJV). When we were sinners, God said something to each of us to cause us to believe and come to Him. My prayer for sinners is that God will cause them to need Him.

We need to talk more about Jesus because He is only way to God and heaven. Without Jesus we remain sinners and are lost. We must keep our name in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Repent if you need to, but make sure your name is in the Book of Life. Is there any good thing that comes out of Nazareth? Yes, there is, Jesus!

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

## More March stories

### Category: Events

*Two churches had birthday celebrations, another started music and voice lessons and the last church honored a member for her community achievements.*



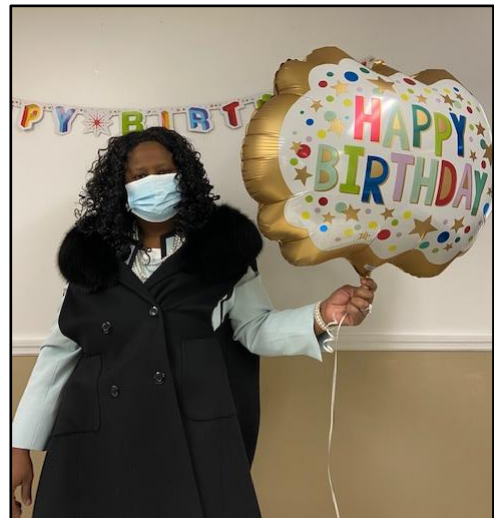
- **From Spirit of Christ:** Spirit of Christ would like you to say "Happy Birthday" to Minister Dorothy Negley and Sister Shannay Lockhart who celebrated birthdays in the month of March.

Elder Debbie Calix: "We celebrated with cake, gifts, laughs and great fellowship."

**In the photo:** Minister Dorothy Negley, photo not available of Sister Shannay Lockhart.



- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer's very own First Lady, Elder Treani Thompson celebrated her birthday in the month of March. Elder Thompson is such a great example of a woman of God. I thank God for her and her love for the people.



*Minister Kourtney Littlejohn:* "I pray that God blesses her with many more years."

**In the photo:** Elder Treani Thompson, First Lady and Assistant Pastor of Christ the Redeemer Church in Gulfport, Miss.



**March stories continue:**

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Minister Tyrone Brinkley provides music and voice classes every fourth Thursday of each month at Christ the Redeemer Church in Gulfport, Miss. via Google Meets: <https://meet.google.com/ihw-xedr-etr> .

*Minister Kourtney Littlejohn:* “Please contact Minister Tyrone Brinkley for more information.”



**In the photos:** Participants in the music and voice classes held at Christ the Redeemer Church in Gulfport, Miss.



- **From Spirit of Christ:** This year, the theme for International Women's Day (March 8th) was "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World". Spirit of Christ celebrates the achievements of Exhorter Tonya Calix. Tonya is an integral part of our church, working with the children as a Christian Education teacher, assisting in the Finance department as a Trustee, and sharing her beautiful voice during

services, singing solos with the choir and leading praise and worship. Pastor Tom Calix said, "We're all very proud of Exhorter Calix." She was recently highlighted by Beach Bank for her leadership, initiative, experience, and volunteerism. See the Beach Bank article below:

*Tonya Calix is the Senior Vice President of Human Resources & Diversity at Beach Bank, with over 19 years of banking experience in the Northwest Florida Community. She launched Beach's first ever leadership program (L.E.A.D.) and volunteerism program (OneBeach Cares).*

**In the photo:** Exhorter Tonya Calix and her family.

## SOC's story continues:

*Tonya is Beach's first ever African American Senior Vice President. She began her banking career as a Bank Teller and has held positions in Branch Operations Management, Consumer Lending, and Credit Analysis.*

*Tonya graduated from the University of West Florida with an M.A. in Applied Behavior Analysis and specialization in Organizational Behavior Management. She is a SHRAM Senior Certified Professional as well as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Tonya frequently volunteers working with children and teens on the Autism Spectrum.*

*She also enjoys working out, hiking, and photography. Her favorite food is pizza and favorite quote is, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."—Albert Einstein*

*Elder Debbie Calix: "Congratulations Tonya!"*

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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 KJV).

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)  
Elder T'Angela Rogers' Mother (Healing)  
Elder T'Angela Rogers and Family (Condolence)

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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</b>	<b>GCJ 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>CANCELLED</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>CANCELLED</b>	<b>GCJ 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
<b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly</b>	<b>Mobile, AL</b>
<b>Jul 24-25</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 Anniversary</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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