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April 2022 Newsletter

Bishop Smith told the GCJ Saints to Be in God's Plan

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “When our first priority is to do the will of God, He will bless us,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church via Zoom on Sunday morning, April 2, 2022, at Promise Church. Those who could not make it to the church were able to participate via Zoom.

Bishop Smith taught from the first chapter of 2 Chronicles focusing on verses 7-12, which state, “In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, ‘Ask what I shall give thee.’ And Solomon said unto God, ‘Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O Lord God, let Thy promise unto David my father be established: for Thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this Thy people, that is so great?’ And God said to Solomon, ‘Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge My people, over whom I have made thee king: wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like’ (KJV).”

Bishop Smith encouraged the saints that when Solomon's heart was pure and untainted by the world, he prayed the right prayer. “When God saw that Solomon's purpose was right, He gave Solomon what he asked for and also riches and honor because Solomon was going to carry out God's plan,” said Bishop Smith.

“We must seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first (Matthew 6:33) so that all other things will be added unto us. In addition to that, our affections should be set on things above and not on things of this earth (Colossians 3:1-3), so that God can give us wisdom and knowledge to lead his people. We all want to be in God's plan as Solomon was,” concluded Bishop Smith.



In the Photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith, GCJ Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church, preaching in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

The Bishop's Corner

My Mind is Made Up

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.’ Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serves Me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serves Me, him will My Father honor. Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify Thy name.’ Then came a voice from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, ‘An angle spake to Him.’ Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice came not because of Me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.’ This He said, signifying what death He should die (John 12: 23-33 KJV).”

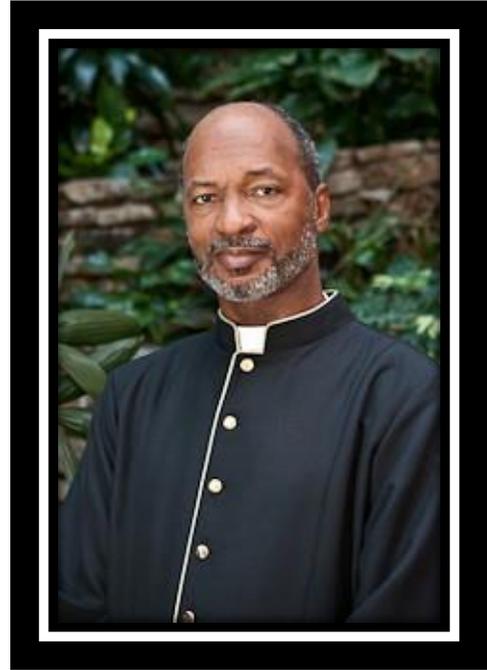
Jesus had a made-up mind about going to the cross. We can have a made-up mind and the pleasures of this world can change our mind. We don't want to be the kind of person that God stops, but the one who God sends. Somewhere along our walk in God, we must make that trip alone and bear our cross (burdens) by ourself. All of our burdens are on our cross that we must bear each day. Don't give up on God because there is a resurrection. Anything that drew us from God when we were in sin will draw us away from God if we go back to it. The world is stronger than us because even Jesus needed the Holy Ghost to make it through the garden of Gethsemane and the cross. We need to know when to say to God “I need help,” because whatever is pulling on us from the world is too strong.

We can't make a treaty with the devil. If someone is trying to keep us from going to heaven, he/she does not love us, and we should be offended by anything that tries to stop us from obeying God, because it is of the devil just as Jesus rebuked the spirit behind Peter's statement trying to get Him from going to the cross (Matthew 16:22-23). Our top priority must be to do the will of God and make it to heaven. There's a way that seems right to man but the end is death and destruction (Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 16:25). When people in the world try to tell us to come out of God, we need to tell them that they don't know the God that we serve and where He has brought us from.

By the time Jesus is on His way to Golgotha, He is battered, bruised and torn, which is the way we were in the spirit before God saved us from sin. We must not forget where God brought us from and that He made us new. Unless we die to ourselves, we won't do anything to glorify God. We must get to the point where we don't like this life. We made a covenant with God and God keeps His part, so we must also keep our part. We know that God keeps and sustains us. We're not in God to die in sin but to conquer and live.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."

More April stories

Category: Events

During the month of April, one church got a new member and had birthday celebrations; five churches celebrated Easter Sunday, one church had a foot washing, and one church had a 2nd Chance Sunday event and attended a reentry roundtable summit.



- **From Promise:** Oh Lord, I ain't no stranger now — Sunday, April 3, Sister Chanel Finney rededicated her life to God and returned the following Sunday. The Spirit of God moved mightily through Bishop Smith, Pastor of Promise Church who preached from John 3. We know that all of Heaven rejoiced as we rejoiced that day.

Elder Donna Reed: “God is moving by His power. We welcome Sister Chanel with open arms and are praying for her success in serving God.”

In the Photo: Sister Chanel Finney at Promise Church rededicating her life to the Lord.

- **From Promise:** Because He lives, we can face tomorrow – April 17, Easter Sunday, Promise Church hosted its Resurrection Sunday to celebrate the risen Savior. The celebration began with a sweet awareness of God's presence in which the saints at Promise celebrated with singing and praise because Jesus is alive and in Heaven today. Pastor, Bishop Charles D. Smith expounded on Calvary and Christ's accomplished work, emphasizing celebration of life. “We have a reason to celebrate our life through believing fully that God raised Jesus from the dead—there is no greater celebration of life,” said Bishop Smith. “We know that the resurrection of Christ from the dead is God's greatest demonstration of power through the Holy Ghost. So, for those of us who have been saved through Christ's life, we have no doubt that no matter what our need, the power of God will work in our lives continually just because Jesus lives—there is no stopping the power of the resurrection,” Bishop Smith said. Following his sermon, Bishop Smith led the saints through a ceremony of communion. Following service, Promise Church hosted its Resurrection Celebration with food and fellowship—the youth hunted for Easter eggs.



In the Photo: The Promise Church youth enjoying Easter Sunday service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on April 17.

Promise Church's Easter Service continued:

Elder Paula Smith: "Oh, how good and how pleasant it is for the saints to be together in unity. It was a lovely service, and a wonderful time of fellowship with the saints. I am so glad that Jesus lives!"



In the Photos: Promise Church saints enjoying the Easter Service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. on April 17.

Promise Church's Easter Service continued:



In the Photos: Promise Church saints enjoying the Easter Service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. on April 17.

Promise Church's Easter Service continued:



In the Photos: Promise Church saints participating in communion on Easter Service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on April 17.

Promise Church's Easter Service continued:



In the Photos: Promise Church saints participating in communion on Easter Service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on April 17.



In the Photos: Promise Church saints enjoying the fellowship following Easter Sunday service in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

- **From Promise:** Birthdays in Christ-- She's expecting more great things from God – April 20, Minister Shaundra D. Smith celebrated her 44th birthday, thanking God for another year of life. Minister Shaundra spent the day surrounded by those she loves— Son, Jr. Deacon Paul Timaeus; Dad, Bishop Charles D. Smith; Mom, Elder Paula Smith; and God Mother, Elder Donna Reed.

Running for Jesus a long time, and not tired yet – April 22, Elder Donna Reed celebrated her 73rd birthday, praising the Almighty for another day's journey. She and her family (those previously mentioned) celebrated at Sealand Restaurant, Fort Walton Beach, Bishop Smith's treat.



Promise Church's birthday celebration continued:



“God has truly been good to me. I just can’t thank Him enough for my relationship with Him, my life in Him, and my miracles from Him. I am expecting more great things in the years to come until He sends His son to take me back with him.”— Minister Shaundra D. Smith

“I thank God for all the years He’s been with me. He’s been my keeper, protector, provider, and friend.”— Elder Donna Reed

In the Photos: Minister Shaundra Smith, Junior Deacon Paul Timaeus and Elder Donna Reed.



In the Photo: Prince of Peace Church Saints participating in a foot washing ceremony on Easter Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla.

- **From Prince of Peace:** Sunday, April 17, Prince of Peace Church hosted its Easter Sunday service. Following service, the church celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ through the washing of feet. The Bible says that, “Jesus before the feast of the Passover, when He knew the Father had given all things into His hands, [rose] from supper and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself...[poured] water into a bason, and began

Prince of Peace Foot Washing continued:

to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He had girded (John 13:1-5 KJV abbreviated).” Pastor Paulette Harrison, following Jesus’ example of humility before His going to the cross, took turns with the saints, washing each other’s feet as Jesus did with the disciples after the Last Supper.

Pastor Paulette Harrison: “We had a blessed time.”



In the Photos: Prince of Peace saints enjoying Easter Sunday service in Jacksonville, Fla. on April 17.

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** Easter Sunday, April 17, HHT hosted a joyous Resurrection Day service to celebrate our risen Savior. HHT debuted its Children’s Choir who started the celebration with two selections: their new song titled, “Celebrate Jesus – Celebrate” followed by “Jesus Loves Me” which they sang both in English and Spanish, celebrating the diversity of the church. The excited youth ushered in the Spirit, bringing joy, and blessing the saints with their energy. That Sunday HHT also unveiled its newly remodeled sanctuary. The Saints’ being able to see their accomplished work together on Resurrection Day ushered in a spirit of unity that all the more increased their joy in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Minister Kim Mastin: “We were all blessed.”



In the Photos: Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints enjoying Resurrection Sunday in Holiday Fla., on April 17.

Holy of Holies Tabernacle Resurrection Sunday continued:



In the Photos: Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints enjoying Resurrection Sunday in Holiday Fla., on April 17.

Holy of Holies Tabernacle Resurrection Sunday continued:



• **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** HHT hosted its first 2nd Chance Sunday event giving three dynamic speakers the opportunity to share their stories of how they were formerly incarcerated but have now overcome through Christ Jesus. The speakers were Chantay Clark, Transportation Specialist; Frederick Godfrey, Entrepreneur and Construction Contractor; and Julia Pauls, Director of End Recidivism Project Extreme. Not only are these precious people productive citizens but they are also successful, serving the Lord, and serving others.

Each speaker discussed the importance of churches working within the prisons and working with the newly released as they begin their journeys as those coming back into society. The saints were encouraged by their words because HHT is currently being trained in prison ministry and preparing to support those in and out of the prison system. HHT is

now a Prison Fellowship ministry partner. Prison Fellowship showcased HHT's 2nd Chance church service in its collateral and website notices, spotlighting what HHT is doing in the community.

Minister Kim Mastin: "Their testimonies were a blessing to us."

In the Photos: HHT saints, guest speakers, and visitors enjoying the 2nd Chance Sunday event in Holiday, Fla.



Holy of Holies Tabernacle 2nd Chance Sunday continued:



In the Photos: HHT saints, guest speakers, and visitors enjoying the 2nd Chance Sunday event in Holiday, Fla.

- From Holy of Holies Tabernacle:** As 2nd Chance Month/National Re-entry Month ended, Pastor Christopher Mastin of HHT was invited to the 2022 Tampa Bay Re-entry Roundtable Summit, hosted by Julia Pauls. Julia Pauls is well known for working with stakeholders in the Tampa Bay area to assist those who were formerly incarcerated to make a better life for themselves. Pastor Mastin and his wife, Minister Kim Mastin, are honored to be amongst dignitaries within the government and community, working together

TAMPA BAY REENTRY ROUNDTABLE *Summitt*

April is National Reentry Month. Join Federal, State, Local, Grassroots, and Faith-based agencies as we discuss the unique dimensions, challenges, and opportunities to improve the success rate of returning citizens transitioning back into society.

Register at Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tampa-bay-reentry-roundtable-summit-tickets-30093370477019-030308152848>

Thanks to Our Partners:

**APRIL
28th**
8³⁰ AM - 12^{PM}

Prominent Speakers Include:

SENATOR DARRYL ROUSON
 BRUCE BARTLETT, STATES ATTORNEY
 HONORABLE JUDGE SHAWN CRANE
 SARA MOLLO, PUBLIC DEFENDER
 ROGER HANDBERG, U.S. STATES ATTORNEY
 SHERIFF CHRIS NOCCO PASCO
 NEIL VOLZ, FRBC
 ...AND MORE

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Toniace "Nick" Walker
 Recruiter | Administrator
 TakeCharge WellnessCenter Extreme Inc.
 The End Recidivism Project Extreme

Holy of Holies Tabernacle Reentry Roundtable Summit continued:

toward solutions that help end the cycle of recidivism (the tendency to reoffend). Pastor Mastin and his wife are networking with fellow community pastors in an effort to better serve the community through personal support and church ministry.

Ministry Kim Mastin: “The Lord is moving by His Spirit through us in ministering to others.”



In the Photos: Pastor Chris and Minister Kim Mastin enjoying the participants at the Tampa Bay Reentry Roundtable Summit.

- **From Lily of the Valley:** Easter Sunday, April 17, Lily of the Valley hosted a wonderful Easter Service after which the Lily of the Valley youth each received an Easter Basket and participated in an Easter egg hunt. Youth Director, Exhorter M'Khayla Franklin and Assistant Director, Deacon Derek Dutton did an excellent job creating the baskets—all could see how excited the youth were about them.

Sister Sereese Davis: “The Lord blessed all of us.”



In the Photos: Lily of the Valley Youth enjoying their Easter baskets on Easter Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

- **New Covenant:** Easter Sunday, April 17, New Covenant hosted its Easter Sunday breakfast and worship service, celebrating Christ’s resurrection with saints, visitors, and friends. The saints spent the day thanking the God for all He has done and commemorating Christ’s resurrection.



In the Photo: New Covenant Church members and visitors on Easter Sunday in Montgomery, Ala., April 17.

Category: Prayer Request

The saints need healing 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)
- Elder Paulette Harrison (Complete Healing)
- Minister Sirita Loiseau (Healing)
- Minister India Rogers (Healing)
- Elder Paula Smith (Complete Healing)
- Elder Deborah Sewell (Healing)
- Minister Eartha Howard (Healing)
- Elder Bonita Russell (Healing)
- Sister Barbara Cooper (Healing)
- Minister Kourtney Littlejohn (Healing)
- Bishop William Lee III (Complete Healing)
- Elder Jacqueline Terrell (Healing)
- Elder Angela Jenkins (Healing)
- Sister Nancy Torres (Healing)

Sister Eleanor Rogers' Mother (Ms. Rosa Welcome) (Healing)
Elder T'Angela Rogers' Mother (Healing)
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn's Sister (Veronika) (Healing)
Sister Omekia Whitney (Healing)
Elder T'Angela Rogers' Step Dad (Healing)

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

Revival Dates

June 12: Lily of the Valley
August 12-14: Holy of Holies Tabernacle

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

The 2022 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 27-29	International Elect Ladies Conf.	Atlanta, GA
Jun 6	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 4-5	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniv.	Jacksonville, FL
Jun 29	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 24-Jul 3	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
Jul 23-24	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniv.	Montgomery, AL
Aug 5-7	First Jurisdictional Conf.	Columbus, OH
Aug 25-28	South American Jurisdictional Conf.	Paramaribo, Suriname
Sep 3-4	Elder Calix Pastoral Anniv.	FWB, FL
Sep 2-4	North Carolina Pre-Jurisdictional Conf.	Columbus, OH
Sep 17-18	GCJ Missions Conf.	Gulfport, MS
TBD	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	TBD
Oct 8-9	Pastor Mastin Pastoral Anniv.	Holiday, FL

Oct 7-9	PNW Jurisdictional Conf.	Honolulu, HI
Oct 21-23	European Jurisdictional Conf.	Rodenbach, Germany
Oct 28-30	Central States Jurisdictional Conf.	Kansas City, MO
Nov 18-20	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conf.	FWB, FL
Dec 3-4	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniv.	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*
