



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

November 2022 Newsletter

## 2022 GCJ Conference: “Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace”



**In the Photo:** Youth Choir singing at the 2022 Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – The Gulf Coast Jurisdiction (GCJ) held its annual conference November 18-20, at Promise Church, which is the headquarter church for the jurisdiction. The GCJ includes churches in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Those who could not make it to the conference were able to participate via Zoom.

The theme was "Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" (Ephesians 4:3; John 17:26). The message throughout the weekend was that of working together in the unity of the Spirit to add souls to Kingdom of God. “Unity of the Spirit is for Christ’s sake not ours,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, the GCJ Bishop.

Over the three-day conference, preachers spoke the Word of God concerning being in unity to fulfil God’s plan. Elder Adrian Hines, Carrollwood Bible Study, Tampa, Fla., opened the conference on Friday night and encouraged the saints to please God (Ephesians 4:1-6; Mark 12:29-34). “We must learn how to obey and follow and do those things that please God. We also must love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves,” said Elder Hines.

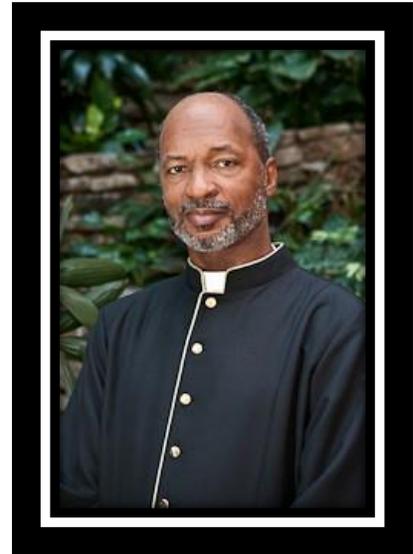
(Continue on page 3)

## The Bishop's Corner

### *How well do you know God and Jesus?*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Then Job answered and said: ‘Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God? If one wished to contend with Him, he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand. God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who hardened himself against Him and prospered? He removes the mountains, and they do not know when He overturns them in His anger; He shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; He made the bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number. If He goes by me, I do not see Him; if He moves past, I do not perceive Him; if He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’ God will not withdraw His anger, the allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath Him. How then can I answer Him, and choose my words to reason with Him? For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge” (Job 9:1-15, NKJV).



God chose Job to be tempted because of Job's intimate knowledge about God. Who can argue with God and win? Job loved God more than anything else, and he testified about how much he knew God. The Word of God had to sustain Job, and he knew that all good and perfect things come from above (James 1:17). The Word of God must sustain us as well; therefore, we must learn the Word of God and hide it in our hearts. The Holy Ghost can't bring the Word of God back to our remembrance if we don't know it (John 14:26).

We must let the Word of God dwell in our hearts richly so that when we're tempted of the devil it will come to our mind (Colossians 3:16-17). We're not strong in God if we don't know the Word of God. The fullness of God as mentioned in Ephesians 3:18-19, is the Word of God. When we get saved, we must stay in God long enough to learn God and Jesus through the scriptures.

Trials come before blessings; and during trials is the time to draw nigh to God and we will come out of the trial stronger. “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you” (1 Peter 5:10, NKJV). How quickly we come out of a trial is determined by how we pray to God and allow Him to change us. God expects us to grow and mature in Him through every trial.

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.”*

## 2022 GCJ Conference continued from the front page:

Elder Augustus Russell, Pastor of New Covenant in Montgomery, Ala., was the second speaker on Friday night of the conference. He encouraged the saints to love one another and walk in unity (Ephesians 4:1-6). “We must forbear one another in love and let nothing be done in vain glory, and we must make every effort to be in the unity of the Spirit,” said Elder Russell.



Saturday morning of the conference started with a business meeting followed by afternoon seminars. Elder Chuck Latham taught the first seminar, and Minister Felicia Godbolt wrapped up the seminar portion of the conference. Minister Tyrone Brinkley, GCJ Minister of Music, also held a music workshop and practiced with the choral singing group that performed throughout the conference in place of the usual jurisdictional mass choir.

Elder Latham encouraged the saints in his discipleship seminar to assist others to grow and become like Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23-25; Luke 14:24-35; Exodus 3). “We are called as Jesus’ disciples to teach and disciple others. You cannot effectively disciple someone beyond your own experiences,” said Elder Latham.

Minister Godbolt conducted sensitivity training for clergy and encouraged the saints to identify and recognize the signs of various kinds of abuse and harassment. “This topic is very broad, but I am giving you a few examples so you can identify the types of abuse and harassment,” said Minister Godbolt. She provided reporting laws for the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, which covers the churches in the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction.



**In the Photos:** Elder Adrian Hines and Elder Augustus Russell, bottom, Elder Chuck Latham and Minister Felicia Godbolt.

**2022 GCJ Conference continued:**

Elder Bob Garcia, Pastor of Spirit of Christ Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., was the first preacher on Saturday night. He told the saints, “There shouldn’t be a problem between us because we all have the same Father. We’re one in the Spirit.” Elder Garcia encouraged the saints to, “Be happy and praise Jesus until He comes because we’re going to heaven” (Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13-14).

Elder Deborah Sewell, Co-Pastor of Lily of the Valley Church in Thonotosassa, Fla., was the final speaker on Saturday night. She encouraged the saints to have unity. “When we have unity, we have joy. There’s power in unity,” said Elder Sewell. She encouraged the saints to be not just a good player but also a team player (John 17:10-13, 17-23).



Bishop Royshel Richardson, Northeast Jurisdiction, and Elder Sharon Alston, CLGI Directions of Missions, gave closing comments and encouraged the saints to continue to work in the unity of the Spirit and fulfil the great commission of Jesus Christ.



**In the Photos:** Elder Bob Garcia, Elder Deborah Sewell, Bishop Royshel Richardson and Elder Sharon Alston.

The service on Sunday morning began with baptisms followed by Bishop Smith delivering the conference’s final message. The Conference ended with communion, a baby dedication, and presenting of ministerial certificates, licenses, and appointments.

**2022 GCJ Conference continued:**

Bishop Smith encouraged the saints to walk worthy of their vocation (Ephesians 4:1-3, 23-32). “There’s a difference between a job and a vocation; a vocation is a dedication and calling,” said Bishop Smith. “Unity of the Spirit comes from above (James 3:14-18); unity among the saints is defined by the Spirit, and peace holds the unity of the Spirit together,” said Bishop Smith. Bishop Smith concluded by saying, “When we come among the people of God, we’re supposed to be in peace with one another” (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

The conference ended with Bishop Smith thanking everyone for coming, being a part via Zoom, and supporting the conference.



**In the Photo:** Bishop Charles D. Smith, preaching.



**In the Photos:** (Top) GCJ Elders’ meeting on Friday at the GCJ Conference. (Bottom) Musicians for the GCJ Conference.

**2022 GCJ Conference photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

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**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and baptisms at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

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**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and taking communion at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

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**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and taking communion at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

**2022 GCJ Conference photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference, taking communion, and witnessing a baby dedication at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

**2022 GCJ Conference photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and a baby dedication at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

**2022 GCJ Conference photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and receiving ministerial licenses and appointments at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

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**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying the 2022 GCJ Conference and receiving ministerial licenses and appointments at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

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## More November stories

### Category: Events

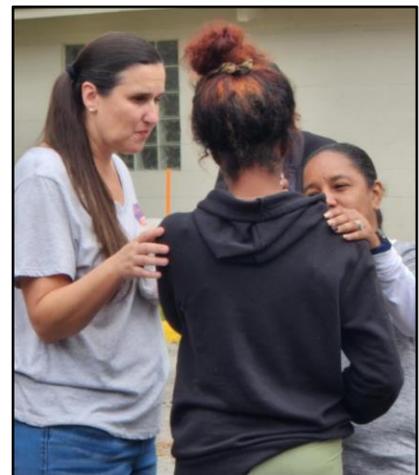
*During the month of November, one church had an annual Brown Bag Blessing to feed and clothe those in need, and another church hosted a winter coat drive to support people in the community.*

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- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle (HHT):** The annual Brown Bag Blessing was a success. This year HHT provided a hot meal and a sack lunch to go. In addition, HHT handed out clothing and toiletries. HHT also offered free haircuts for men, and hair styling and make-up for the women.

*Minister Kim Mastin:* “Special thanks to Elder Adrian Hines and Minister Tabitha Hines for joining us to serve the community.”



**In the Photos:** HHT saints serving the community with brown bag blessings of food and clothing.

**HHT Brown Bag Blessings photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** HHT saints serving the community with brown bag blessings of food, clothing, and haircuts.



- **From New Covenant:** On November 27, New Covenant Church partnered with Destiny Driven Inc. to host, "Coats and Quotes" - a Winter Coat Drive. Members, families, and friends came together to fill over 40 jackets with motivational quotes, gift cards, and hat and scarf sets. The coats were donated to the Mary Ellen's Women and Children's Center.

*Elder Bonita Russell:* "We are honored to have the opportunity to show kindness to our neighbors during their time of need and pray God continues to bless all that came together to help."



**In the Photos:** New Covenant Church and Destiny Driven Inc., participating in a winter coat drive.

## Category: Prayer Request

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*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 avails much" (James 5:16b NKJV).

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)  
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 and Stepfather (Healing)  
Minister Kourtney Littlejohn's Sister (Veronika) (Healing)  
Elder Treani Thompson (Healing)  
Elder Lakesha Sewell (Healing)  
Brother David Hawkins (Healing)

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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 her availability.

1. Elder Ruth Latham
2. Minister Crystal Derico
3. Minister Shaundra Smith

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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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