



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

January 2023 Newsletter

Bishop Smith encourages the GCJ saints to follow Jesus

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA. – “Jesus said to follow Him and become His disciple,” said Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church while teaching bible study on Tuesday night, January 24, 2023. Those who could not make it to the church were able to participate via Zoom.

“Jesus knew that His ministry was going to be short, so He needed the 12 disciples to be ready to preach when He went back to Heaven,” said Bishop Smith. “The difference between the disciples and us today is that they gave their whole self to God.”

Bishop Smith encouraged the saints from Luke 5:9-11, which says, “For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.’ So, when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him (NKJV).” Bishop Smith said, “Jesus chose these 12 disciples because He was going to give them a lot of power, and they needed to have Jesus’ mind. We must also have Jesus’ mind in order to get people saved today.”

In Matthew chapter 19, Bishop Smith encouraged the saints to give up all and follow Jesus because He has the power to bless them in this life and also give them eternal life. “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or fathers or mothers or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life (Matthew 19:29 NKJV).”

Bishop Smith reminded the saints what Jesus said about rich people and how hard it was for them to make it to heaven. “It’s mainly because rich people can’t buy happiness, joy and peace. They have a void that only God can fill and they can’t buy God. The devil will do anything he can to destroy or weaken saved people. If it takes money, then he will give them money,” said Bishop Smith. He concluded by encouraging the saints to follow Jesus and put Him first in their lives.



In the Photo: Bishop Charles D. Smith teaching at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

The Bishop's Corner

Preach: The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Praise the Lord Saints,

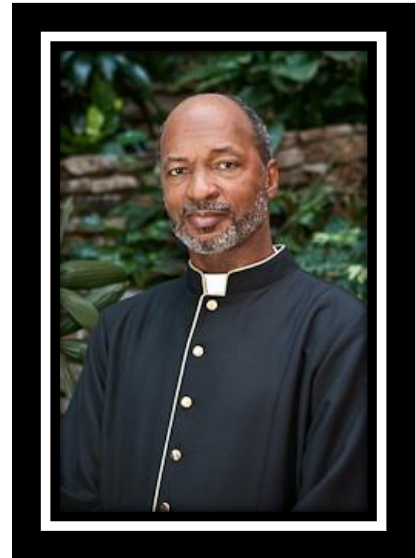
“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17, NKJV).’ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19, NKJV).”

The reason Christ came is to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15); therefore, one of the elementary things we should preach to sinners is that they need to be saved. We should see how many people God can use us to get saved this year. The most important decision people can make in the earth today is to ask God to save them. If our salvation is not that important to us or we don't have a readiness to go to Heaven, we won't witness about Jesus to others so they can be saved. To people we don't witness to, we're saying that we don't care if they go to hell. The devil has a serious campaign to get people to go to hell, and God only has us to witness and cause people to repent and go to Heaven. It is a desperate situation that people be saved because if they die and they're not saved, they go to hell (Ezekiel 18:4). We can't pretend that we're saved so we need to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10-11). “Take heed to yourselves and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself those who hear you (1 Timothy 4:16, NKJV).” Some people are not going to heaven because they're not interested in having Jesus as their Lord and Savior (John 3:17-21).

In Luke 4:18-19, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand because we have the Holy Spirit when we witness to someone to be saved. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is available now for people to be saved, “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:19, NKJV).” In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus' ministry addresses all of life's circumstances; He came to comfort the poor and brokenhearted, set the captives free, give sight to the blind, and deliver the oppressed. Deliverance is not easy, that's why we need Jesus to help us endure to the end. There's only one thing the devil wants us to give up and that's Heaven. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV).”

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."

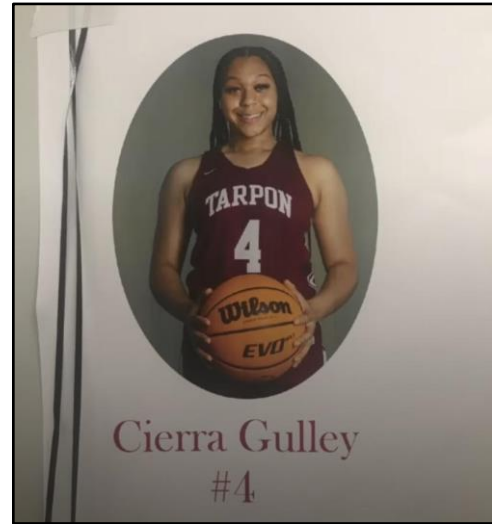
More January stories

Category: Events

During the month of January, one church celebrated its member's basketball successes.

- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle (HHT):** HHT celebrated Cierra Gulley at her Lady Spongers Basketball Senior Night. Cierra has a heart of gold, and as the captain of her basketball team, she has illustrated dedication, leads by example, demonstrated integrity, motivated and inspired her team. She is a born Leader. She also assists with our young girls at Women of Dignity and the children's class at church. HHT is proud of her.

Minister Kim Mastin: "Congratulations Sister Cierra."



In the Photos: Holy of Holies Tabernacle saints celebrating with Cierra Gulley at her Lady Spongers Basketball Senior Night.

Category: Departmental Announcements:

- **From the Administrative Department:**

Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Leadership

Bishop Charles D. Smith – Jurisdictional Bishop
Elder Carlos Thompson – Jurisdictional Bishop Assistant
Minister India Rogers – Chief Administrator
Elder Ruth Latham – Public Affairs Department Director
Elder Debbie Calix – Finance Department Director/Treasurer
Elder Donna Reed – Finance Department Secretary
Minister Crystal Derico – Missions Department Director
Minister Tyrone Brinkley – Music Department Director
Deacon Tony Berrian – Usher Department Director
Minister Crystal Aryitey – Christian Education Department Directors
Minister Travis Sewell – Men’s Department Director
Minister Shaundra D. Smith – Women’s Department Director
Minister Shaneika Brinkley – Youth and Young Adult Department Director
Elder Ruth Latham – Evangelistic Department Director

District Superintendents

Elder Augustus Russell – Alabama-North Florida District
Elder Carlos Thompson – Emerald Coast District
Elder Tony Sewell – Central Florida District

- **From the GCJ Women’s Department: “Encountering the Heart of God”**

In prayer recently, the Spirit compelled me to ask God to show me His heart. I hesitated and asked the Spirit “are you sure?” I had never asked this of God before. Who was I to make such a personal request of the almighty God? But the Spirit urged me again, and I found myself asking God to show me His heart. And when I did, God became more real to me than ever before. He said, “I’ll show you my heart if you show me yours.” I was blown away by experiencing such intimacy with God—He drew me in, and the tears began to flow. You see, no matter how much you have heard about God, until you show Him your heart, the reality of God escapes you. You might say, but wait... doesn’t the Bible say that God knows my heart already? Yes, but He doesn’t want you to show Him your heart for His sake, He wants you to show Him your heart for your sake. In the process of showing God your heart, you find out who you really are, who God wants you to be, and who God wants to be to you. So, I showed God my heart; He showed me His. When I encountered the heart of God, I was able to truly surrender all. I was able to let go of all those things that plague my mind. It was as if God reached his arms down from heaven to scoop me up and hold me close. I didn’t want Him to ever let me go. I felt so close to Him that it was almost surreal.

There is a reason God wants you to seek Him with the whole heart. The heart is the central part of you. The heart is the nature of a person, and to know the heart of someone is to know her innermost character, feelings, or inclinations.

The heart of God is the essence of who He is, what He desires, His will, and His purposes for His kingdom and for you: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:11).

Ladies, I encourage you, the next time you pray, take off the fig leaves—intentionally expose your whole self to the Father—seek Him with an open (whole) heart. And while your heart is open, pick up your Bible and endeavor to learn who God truly is. It is in these moments of seeking that you can encounter the heart of God: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13 NKJV).

During the year, I plan to get out to visit each church to learn about each of your Women’s Departments so that we can all grow together in unity and in Christ. Meanwhile, I am praying for each one of you.

Yours in Christ,

Minister Shaundra D. Smith
Director, Gulf Coast Women’s Department

- **From the GCJ Youth and Young Adult Department:** “A Message to our Young People”
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 NIV)

“It is never hopeless because we have God and the Holy Ghost.” -Pastor Carlos Thompson

Whether it’s final exams, learning to navigate “Adulthood”, a bully at school, you just lost your favorite toy, or maybe you feel misunderstood. Just know, in God there is ALWAYS hope and He UNDERSTANDS.

Young people in today’s society face many challenges, from the pressures of social media to the things going on in the schools and on the news. BUT please know that God has eyes, and He can see, ears, and He can hear and is able to reach down and keep you.

NOTHING is too far out of His reach and there’s nothing He doesn’t understand. So, reach out to Him and call upon His name and you will find help and comfort in the middle of your storm.

Helpful tips for prayer:

- Set a specific time to pray each day
- Set a specific and quiet place to pray each day, FREE FROM DISTRACTIONS. (This could be a physical closet, the church, bedroom, bathroom, car, wherever you can go.)
- Pair it with an activity you already do each day. (Ex. I brush my teeth every night so I will pray immediately after. Or, I take a shower every morning so I will pray immediately after.)
- Lastly, Be HONEST with God in prayer. He already knows anyway, so you might as well tell Him. (You can't get answer for what you don't say.)
- “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16 NIV)

Growing together in Christ,

Minister Shaneika Brinkley
Director, Gulf Coast Youth & Young Adult Department

- **From the GCJ Music Department: “Musicians’ Minute”**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the very first of many musicians’ minutes. I want to take just a moment of your time to tell you a few things the Lord has given me to give to you.

First, I would like to encourage you by letting you know that there will be good days and hard days, and there may even be times when you question the decision to serve in ministry. On those days, remember why you started. Remember your calling. Don't give up or let yourself feel discouraged. Focus on what's important and do what you know is right.

Second, I would like to introduce two things that will be coming every month. The first is the “worship song of the month,” which would be a brand-new worship song including the title and the person who sings it and if needed, the link where it can be found. Second, I will be providing the “exercise of the month” for everyone to try at home in your practice as the Lord grows you all to higher heights and deeper depths. So, without any further delay, the worship song of the month will be “The Presence of the Lord” by William McDowell.

And the exercise of the month, for all the musicians, will be to practice in your respective instrument, the C Major scale forwards and backwards without looking at your hands. Drummers, you have a break this month, but don't worry, you're next. God bless you all and remember if you need anything, you know where to find me!

Minister Tyrone Brinkley
Director, GCJ Music Department

- **From the GCJ Missions Department: Greetings Saints,**

In alliance with our mission statement, “To go into the world and preach the Gospel to everyone, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost that they might have eternal life (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19; John 3:15), I will strive to diligently serve as the Director of Missions for the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction under the direction of Bishop Charles D. Smith and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I humbly assume this position with great appreciation for the great work and efforts of Elder Treani Thompson and others who held this position before me.

As we continue to emerge from the effects of the COVID years, my hope and desire is that those of us in this department would provide even more assistance to those in need while spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being servants. "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself, servant unto all, that I might gain the more...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1Cor. 9:19, 22). There are so many people without hope and peace in this world that it is imperative that we be and do whatever is needed, except sin, to present the Gospel to some and re-present it to others now and until Christ’s appearing.

Pray with me as we go to higher height and deeper depths in service to God and the people He is drawing. I hope to see you soon!

Minister Crystal Derico
Direct, Gulf Coast Missions Department

- **From the GCJ Evangelistic Department:** Below are the members of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Evangelistic Department. 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 D. Smith
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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 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)
Bishop Martha Edwards (Healing)

Category: Upcoming Events

- **From the Administrative Department:**

The 2023 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Jan 2	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Cancelled	GCJ YYAD	TBD
Jan 20 -22	Southeast Jurisdictional Conference	Augusta, GA
Jan 25	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Feb 10-12	Bishop Smith Pastoral Anniv. & B-Day	FWB, FL
Feb 18-19	Southwest Jurisdictional Conference	San Antonio, TX
Mar 16-19	Bishop White's Anniversary	Columbus, OH
Apr 14-16	Northeast Jurisdictional Conference	Waldorf, MD
May 5-7	Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniversary	Thonotosassa, FL
TBD	GCJ Elect Ladies Conference	TBD
TBD	GCJ Brotherhood Conference	TBD
Jun 5	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
Jun 3-4	Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniversary	Jacksonville, FL
Jun 28	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 30-Jul 9	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
Jul 22-23	Elder Russell Pastoral Anniversary	Montgomery, AL
Aug 4-6	First Jurisdictional Conference	Columbus, OH
Aug 24-27	South American Jurisdictional Conference	Paramaribo, Suriname
Sep 1-3	North Carolina/Central States Juris. Conference	TBD
Aug 11-13	GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship	TBD
Sept 15-17	CLGI Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
Oct 7-8	Holy of Holies Tabernacle Church Anniv.	Holiday, FL
Oct 6-8	PNW Jurisdictional Conference	Lithonia, GA
Oct 20-22	European Jurisdictional Conference	Rodenbach, Germany
Nov 17-19	Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference	FWB, FL
Dec 2-3	Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary	Gulfport, MS
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Service	TBD

*Please note that events and dates are subject to change.

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*
