



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

*February 2023 Newsletter*

## The GCJ saints celebrate Bishop Smith's birthday

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA.— Saints from around the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction came together for dinner on Saturday, February 11, to celebrate Bishop Charles D. Smith's birthday at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Bishop Smith is the Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop and Pastor of Promise Church.

Bishop Smith and his family hosted and cooked the dinner for the saints, and it was free for all those in attendance.

The saints presented Bishop Smith with birthday gifts and shared words of appreciation and love for him. Bishop Smith had neighbors, and a visiting Bishop and his family, who traveled from Crestview, Fla., to attend and celebrate with him. Bishop Smith thanked everyone for coming to the dinner and showing their love to him. Some people stayed and attended church on Sunday to finish off the weekend of celebrating.



**In the Photos:** Bishop Charles D. Smith enjoying his birthday weekend celebration at Promise Church in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

**Continue on page 3.**

## The Bishop's Corner

### *Eye Have Not Seen*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those, who love Him.’” (1 Corinthians 2:9, NKJV)

We can't have a casual attitude about going to heaven because God has given us divine and precious promises (2 Peter 1:2-4). We can depend on God because He keeps His promises (1 Corinthians 1:20).

When we're saved, God gives us a new mind and a new spirit, but the devil makes some saints feel that what God has given them is not enough and they become discontented and feel like they are in bondage. On the contrary, being in God is easy (Matthew 11:28-30) and there's a satisfaction in knowing that we're going to spend eternity with God. Saved people know for sure that they are going to heaven. After the Lord saves us, we must live differently and come out from among the world and let go of our worldly minds (2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 7:1). The word of God has power (Hebrews 4:12) to change our minds and deliver us. When the Holy Spirit comes into our spirit, He takes His time to work with us to make us more like Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). We must call to remembrance when we were first saved (Hebrews 10:32) and realize that Jesus is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1 Peter 2:25), and He is the only advocate that we have in heaven (1 John 2:1).

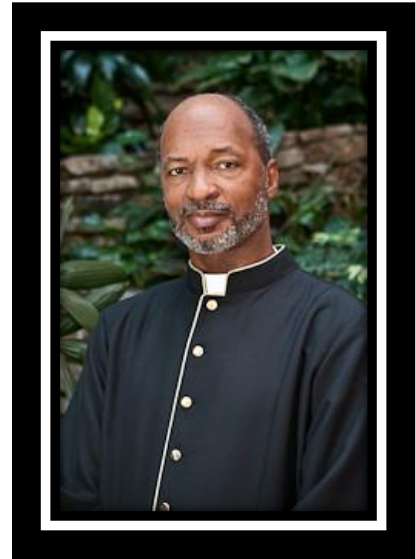
When saints go into depression and they lose their joy, it's probably because they're not spending enough time with God and have become weak. Not spending time with God is like not eating, which will eventually lead to death. We must allow the Lord to help us, and we must not give up, but give Jesus a chance, because in Heaven there's righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. In God we have joy. Happiness is temporal but joy is forever.

The Holy Ghost is the greatest mentor on the earth and we need to allow Him to lead and guide us. There're many benefits for us that are in God because He has everything that we need. The devil will never stop trying to hinder us from going to heaven; therefore, we must make up our mind that we're going to be in God. There're no winners in hell only losers, and there're no losers in Heaven only winners.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law, he meditates day and night (Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV).” When we come to God there're two great blessings that we get and they are the new birth, and the assurance that we're going back with Jesus when He comes in the Rapture (Romans 6:3-4; John 3:16; Galatians 2:20; John 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58).

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."*

## **Bishop Smith's Birthday Celebration Continued from the front page:**

Bishop Smith's birthday celebration wrapped up on Sunday, February 12. Bishop Smith taught the saints in Christian Education that there's no miracle more important than being born again. "The only miracle that God gives you in this life that you're going to take into eternity is salvation," said Bishop Smith. "Jesus defeated the power of Satan, so miracles in this life are to show us God's power." Bishop Smith said that we all need God because He sustains our life and will give us eternal life.

"You can't educate yourself of how to be saved, you must ask God to forgive you and to save you. People walk out on God after they are saved because they don't recognize that their blessings from God are not the greatest miracle, but its salvation," said Bishop Smith.

The guest speaker, Bishop James M. McLain II, wrapped up the preaching for the birthday celebration weekend. He encouraged the saints to stay committed to the work of the ministry because payday is coming after a while. "Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together, and you must remain faithful to the house of God and serve before you preach. Be faithful over the little and God will bless you with big things," said Bishop McLain.

Bishop Smith's closing remarks included thanking everyone for helping to celebrate his birthday weekend, and a special thanks to Bishop McLain for the morning message.



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying Bishop Charles D. Smith's birthday celebration at Promise Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.



### Bishop Smith's Birthday Celebration Continued:



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## More February stories

### Category: Events

*During the month of January, one church celebrated Black History month, and another church had a wedding ceremony.*

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer's Black History Month started with putting up a wall of quotes from historical black figures. There were flags representing the different ethnicities of all the saints. Throughout the month, there were presentations of pivotal moments in Black History. Christ The Redeemer ended the month with a Diversity Potluck featuring the foods of the African Diaspora.



*Missionary Hannah James:* "Everyone had a blessed time."



## Christ the Redeemer Black History Photos Continued:



**In the Photos:** Christ the Redeemer saints enjoying Black History Month celebrations in Gulfport, Miss.

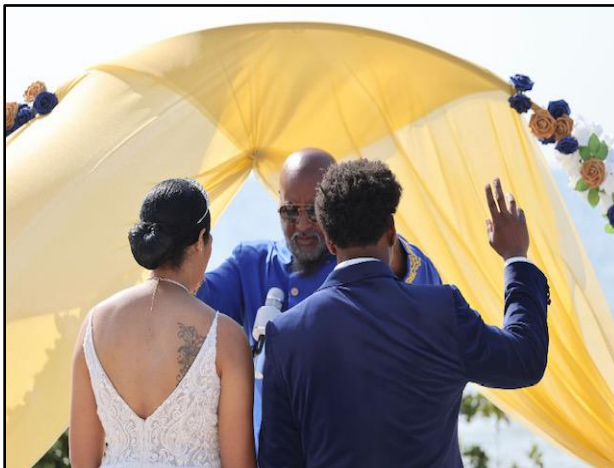
- **From Holy of Holies Tabernacle (HHT):** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Xavier Hood in their union of marriage. It was a great day for HHT saints to celebrate this wonderful couple. Pastor Christopher Mastin was honored to officiate the marriage ceremony for his son and daughter-in-law.

*Minister Kim Mastin:* “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.” (Proverbs 18:22 NIV)



**In the Photo:** Deacon Gulley escorting his daughter, Sister Cierra Gulley down the aisle on her wedding day.

**HHT's Wedding celebration photos continued:**



**In the Photos:** HHT saints enjoying the wedding ceremony for Sister Cierra and Brother Xavier Hood.



## HHT's Wedding celebration photos continued:



**In the Photo:** Mr. and Mrs. Xavier Hood on their wedding day.

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### Category: Departmental Announcements:

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- **From the GCJ Youth and Young Adult Department: You Have to Start Somewhere**

You have to start somewhere. I will say it again... You have to start somewhere.

As the new Youth and Young Adult Director, my desire is that every youth would have a true relationship with God for themselves, and this includes knowing who He is and the heart of Jesus, as well as how to talk to Him. It's time to get back to the basics. Back to the heart of Jesus. Long gone are the days of going through the motions.

That being said, I want to start with Prayer. Prayer is a conversation with God, and I want our youth and young adults to know how to effectively come before the Throne of God, not just when we need something but daily. This may be difficult at first and may even seem boring. You may be tempted to fall asleep, get distracted, or even wonder if you're really talking to someone. All of these things may cause you to become discouraged or want to give up. But like anything else, prayer takes practice and the more you do it the better you get. And like I said at the beginning, "You have to start somewhere." You didn't learn to ride a bike in a day and likewise you won't learn to pray in a day. But ultimately remember, prayer is just a conversation with God and you have conversations daily with those you encounter. So don't focus on the mechanics, just focus on talking to God.

**Here are some additional tips that can help you in your prayer:**

- Make a prayer list. This is a list of things you want to pray about. You can jot things down throughout the day as they come up and bring them with you to prayer. Because there may be times when you forget what you wanted to pray about by the time you get to prayer.
- Pray from the Scriptures when you don't know what to say (you can ask your parents or your pastor to help show you how to do this). Psalms 51 and Luke 11 are good places to start.
- Find scriptures to support the things you want to pray about, and pray from those scriptures.
- Ask God to show you how to pray.
- And lastly, PUSH— pray even when you don't feel like it because you can almost always count on experiencing opposition during prayer because the devil doesn't want you to get closer to God, so he will try to distract or discourage you. Push through and know that even if it doesn't seem or feel like something is happening God is hearing your prayer.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” - 1 John 5:14

Growing together in Christ,

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

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- **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 – *Revival at Prince of Peace Church, Jacksonville, Fla. (March 19, 2023)*
  2. Minister Crystal Derico
  3. Minister Shaundra D. Smith
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### 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)  
 Bishop Martha Edwards (Healing)  
 Minister Tyrone Brinkley (Healing)

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### 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
<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>GCJ YYAD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Jan 20 -22	Southeast Jurisdictional Conference	Augusta, GA
Jan 25	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
<b>Feb 10-12</b>	<b>Bishop Smith Pastoral Anniv. &amp; B-Day</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
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
<b>May 5-7</b>	<b>Elder Sewell/Sewell Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Thonotosassa, FL</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>GCJ Elect Ladies Conference</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>TBD</b>	<b>GCJ Brotherhood Conference</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Jun 5	CLGI Consecration Begins	N/A
<b>Jun 3-4</b>	<b>Elder Harrison Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Jacksonville, FL</b>
Jun 28	CLGI Consecration Ends	N/A
Jun 30-Jul 9	IYYAC/Brotherhood/General Assembly	Mobile, AL
<b>Jul 22-23</b>	<b>Elder Russell Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Montgomery, AL</b>

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
<b>Aug 11-13</b>	<b>GCJ CE Recreational Fellowship</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Sept 15-17	CLGI Missions Conference	Columbus, OH
<b>Oct 7-8</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Church Anniv.</b>	<b>Holiday, FL</b>
Oct 6-8	PNW Jurisdictional Conference	Lithonia, GA
Oct 20-22	European Jurisdictional Conference	Rodenbach, Germany
<b>Nov 17-19</b>	<b>Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Conference</b>	<b>FWB, FL</b>
<b>Dec 2-3</b>	<b>Elder Thompson Pastoral Anniversary</b>	<b>Gulfport, MS</b>
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Service</b>	<b>TBD</b>

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

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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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