



<http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org>

*August 2023 Newsletter*

## **Bishop Smith attends South American Jurisdictional Conference**

**SURINAME SOUTH AMERICA** – Speakers affirmed that God’s house is “A Great House” to the saints in attendance at the 28th Annual South American Jurisdictional Conference held August 24-27.

During the conference, The Church of the Living God International, Inc. (CLGI) saints from the U.S., Europe, South America, and the Caribbean came together to worship and praise God. The services, which included worship, praise, seminars, and fellowship, were held at Eben-Haëzer church in Paramaribo, where Elder Philemeen Mangal is pastor and at Jesus the Cornerstone Church in Commewijne, where Bishop Alfred Majo, South American Jurisdictional Bishop, is pastor.

The preachers spoke from 2 Timothy 2:19-12 which reads: “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

Bishop Charles D. Smith, Gulf Coast Jurisdictional Bishop, and Pastor of Promise Church, said, “We must all strive to be vessels of honor in God’s house and be shining lights in the world to lead others to Christ so that we can build up this Great House.”

Bishop Majo closed the conference on Sunday morning, August 27, and encouraged the saints to be vessels of honor so they could be used by God.



**In the Photos:**  
(Above) Bishop Charles D. Smith preaching. (Left) Bishop Dr. Joseph White, CLGI Presiding Bishop, praying for the church leaders. (Right) Bishop Alfred Majo preaching on Sunday.

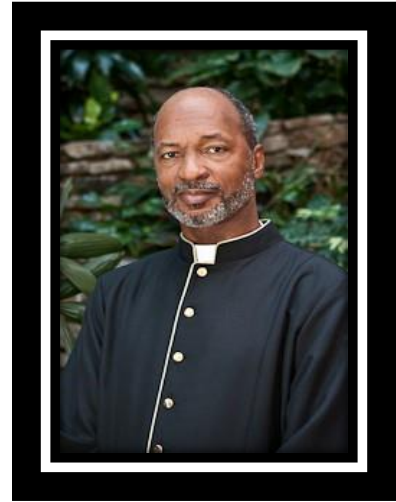


## **The Bishop's Corner**

### ***Do you have a relationship with God?***

Praise the Lord Saints,

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us--that which we have seen and heard and declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:1-7, NKJV).



We know a lot about God, but not all of us have established a meaningful relationship with Him. Establishing a relationship with God relies on our personal transformation because we are born in sin and shaped by iniquity (Psalms 51:5). We sometimes have to experience our world being turned upside down so the Lord can change us and bring us into a relationship with Him, for God's most precious gift to us is eternal life in His presence (Romans 6:23). Jesus had to die to free us from the power of sin, and by repenting and accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we enter a relationship with God. We are welcomed into His family and become His children (Romans 8:14-17).

The presence of the Holy Spirit within us enables us to commune with God the Father (John 14:16-17). To connect with God in the spiritual realm, we must first have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us (John 4:24). The depth of our relationship with God reflects the depth of our faith in Him through His Son. Just as Jesus placed complete trust in God, enabling Him to endure the cross, we too must have faith in God to endure. Without a relationship with God, we cannot genuinely pray for His will to be done, as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-45).

It is so important that we allow God to establish a relationship with us so the Holy Spirit has free reign to mold us into the likeness of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). God can only have as much of a relationship with us as we are willing to have with Him. As stated in James 4:8 (NKJV), “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” In essence, our relationship with God is a two-way connection, and the extent of its richness is determined by our commitment to draw closer to Him.

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.”***



**South American Jurisdictional Conference Photos Continued:**



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying themselves at the South American Jurisdictional Conference.



## South American Jurisdictional Conference Photos Continued:



**In the Photos:** Saints enjoying themselves at the South American Jurisdictional Conference.



## More August stories

### Category: Events

*During the month of August, one church donated school supplies to a local elementary school and celebrated wedding anniversaries, and another church had a family retreat.*

- **From Christ the Redeemer:** The Missionary Department of Christ the Redeemer sponsored Ms. NeKajia Smith's first-grade class at West Elementary School in Gulfport, Mississippi. The church generously contributed various supplies, including markers, pencils, folders, backpacks, and more. Ms. Smith expressed that her students were filled with excitement upon receiving these supplies.

*Missionary Hannah James: "We were happy to be a blessing to these students."*



**In the Photos:** Recipients of the school supplies donated by Christ the Redeemer's Missionary Department.



- **From Christ the Redeemer:** Christ the Redeemer organized an anniversary celebration for the married couples, during which they engaged in games, shared nostalgic moments through a slideshow featuring photos from the past and present, renewed their vows, and enjoyed a ceremonial cake-cutting event.

*Missionary Hannah James:* “Everyone had a good time.”



**In the Photos:** Christ the Redeemer’s couples enjoying their wedding anniversary celebration in Gulfport, Miss.



- **From New Covenant:** The members of the New Covenant congregation came together for a family retreat and had a fantastic experience at the 4H Center in Columbiana, Alabama. During the retreat, they enjoyed a variety of games and engaged in numerous activities.

*Elder Bonita Russell:* “We had fun, fellowship and bonding time.”



**In the Photos:** New Covenant members enjoying themselves at the family retreat in Columbiana, Ala.

---

### Category: Departmental Announcements

- **From the GCJ Women's Department:** Women of Faith and Power will meet every first Wednesday at 7 p.m. CST for bible study on Zoom (**Meeting ID: 858 6960 1852, Passcode: 058828**). The women of the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction are encouraged to join

these sessions. If you would like the notes or audio recording of any of the Women of Faith and Power Bible Study lessons, please notify the GCJ Women's Department Director, Minister Shaundra D. Smith: **Shaundanae@gmail.com**

### **Women of Faith and Power Bible Study Schedule**

September 6, 2023 (7 p.m. CST)

**October 4, 2023 (7 p.m. CST) (Women's Conference planning meeting)**

November 1, 2023 (7 p.m. CST)

December 6, 2023 (7 p.m. CST)

- 
- **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
- 

### **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 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)

---

### Category: Upcoming Events

- From the Administrative Department:

#### *The 2023 Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Calendar*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
<b>Oct 7-8</b>	<b>Holy of Holies Tabernacle Anniversary</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.**



---

*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*

---