



Onward to Pentecost: I WANT IT ALL!

From the Pastor's Desk...

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

In the coming weeks, we will hear this verse quoted more frequently as we approach Pentecost – the day the Spirit of God fell on the disciples and the 120 early Christians who were tarrying for His arrival as Christ had commanded.

Long before the Lord called me to start a ministry, He impressed upon me the great disadvantage the Church faced because the importance of the believer being filled with the Spirit was becoming less of a command and more of an option.

Jesus first commanded the disciples to go back to Jerusalem and remain there until they received His Spirit. They were not to do anything before they

received "...the other Comforter." Because they were obedient, the Lord sent His Spirit and filled the entire house. The empowered saints left that upper room and set about to turn the world upside down.

In the early twentieth century (1906), Elder Charles Harrison Mason, while attending a revival in Los Angeles, California, was filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance – just as it says in the scriptures.

Already excommunicated from the Baptist Church, Elder Mason soon found himself distanced from his friend, Elder Charles Price Jones, who refused to accept the doctrine of being filled with the Holy Spirit. More than 100 years later, the Church Of God In Christ stands at the forefront of the Pentecostal movement in the world – all because one man, Bishop Mason, decided to seek the Lord for the "complete experience."

For the next seven weeks at Holiness Tabernacle, we are going to do what Jesus commanded the disciples



and all believers to do – wait or tarry for the filling of the Spirit. Each Sunday evening service has been designated as "Tarrying Service." In addition, we have also been led of God to go a little further and beginning Wednesday, April 14, Holiness Tabernacle will embark on a 40 day fast, all culminating on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday evening May 23.

The Lord has spoken mighty things concerning our ministry. During the past several weeks we have seen tremendous growth numerically, financially and spiritually. However, we are not content. We know there is more God has called us to do. We are not satisfied with seeing the seats filled and

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Special points of interest:

- *Congratulations First Lady Pruitte!*
- *East Regional Rally*
- *Church Maintenance*

ANOTHER LEVEL: First Lady Pruitte Appointed Assistant Dean of Workshops for First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Virginia



As told to Sis. S. Danielle Benjamin

Wife, mother, teacher, prayer warrior, first lady... and now Assistant Dean of Workshops for the First Jurisdiction. Despite her busy schedule, I recently had the opportunity to sit with Mother

Vivian Pruitte and congratulate her on her recent State appointment.

“Yes, it sounds very technical doesn’t it?” First Lady Pruitte said with a playful laugh. And thus began our conversation where she shared her excitement over her new role and revealed some of the lessons she hoped to carry with her.

S. Danielle Benjamin: First off, congratulations! How did it feel to know that Bishop Thomas and Mother Townes selected you for this position?

First Lady Pruitte: Mother Townes called me two weeks prior and told me she really wanted to make me the Assistant Dean. Well, let me back up a bit. First, she talked to Pastor to make sure it was okay with him. And to be honest, I was a bit concerned with how I was going to do this with my class

schedule. At the same time, I feel a little young in the sense that there are so many older women [in the Jurisdiction] that could’ve been chosen. In the end, I was glad that I was able to talk it over with Pastor first because he helped give me the confidence to accept the position when Mother Townes officially approached me later – I was very honored that she chose me and had observed that I had been helping with the workshops for some time now.

SDB: What are your responsibilities as the Asst. Dean?

FLP: I work with Dean Gatlin to develop the curriculum, workshops and classes that are offered for three events during the year: the Women’s Day of the Worker’s Meeting, the three days of the State Women’s Convention and the Women’s Day of the State Convocation.

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Words To Live By: The Race

By Sis. Danieth Pryce

Life is a journey which presents many obstacles, but with Christ in you there is power to overcome.

Track and Field is my passion; hence I endeavored to perform exceptionally when it mattered most. Without persistency, dedication and motivation throughout my track and field career I wouldn’t have achieved success in that field. I appreciate the talent God gave me and I certainly did not hold it in stagnation. Not only that, but I have transferred the knowledge I gained on the field and am learning to apply the same principles as I walk with Christ.

Imagine having to run a race such as the 4x100 meters. In this event, it requires four individuals with somewhat of the same speed to complete the race successfully. There is an object that connects all four individuals which is the ‘baton.’ The first person starting the

Race has to run 100m then passes the baton to the next person until it gets to the last person to take it to the finish line first. Before this happens, there is the conditioning phase, the preparation (training) phase and finally the competition phase. In the conditioning and preparation phase some hurdles may present themselves such as not finding the chemistry with the team members and adjusting to the different speed levels; needing to develop mental and physical strength which could cause injury in the process; or learning to follow and adhere to the coach’s instructions even when they may not seem very realistic. But as you humble yourself and follow the coach’s principles and instructions, you have the potential to endure phases one and two and be well equipped to experience victory in winning the race.

As saints, we are running a race to

achieve that heavenly goal. The common object is our ‘Bible’ which will teach us about *the way, the truth and the life*, to be a winner. We need to encourage each other to gain knowledge about the Word by being consistent and staying prayerful. There will be obstacles, trials and temptations but if we are with one accord, praying, fasting and fellowshiping together, and following the instructions of our leader we can get through the competition phase and be victorious.

So I encourage everyone to hold steadfast, be consistent and be persistent in the race to become a winner in Christ, *for the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong...* Ecclesiastes 9:11. God bless!



HTC Youth Enjoy an “OMG” Experience at the East Regional Rally in Maryland

I thought the services were good. The speakers were great – that lady [Chairlady Rogers] was on point!

Rina Goodwin

This year's Rally was by far the best that I have attended! I thank God for

His awesomeness and for the fellowship of His Spirit on those nights.

Michael Benjamin

I thought it was good. I liked the church service... it was pumping!.. it was energizing!
Deion Moses

The evening sessions were very enjoyable. The Spirit moved in the midst of the young **and** the old.
Minister McCown

For me personally, it was uplifting to see so many young Christians worshipping and praising God together. Regardless of age, there was something for everyone.

Keyotta Sanford

I really, really, really, really, really enjoyed the Rally!

John Mabry III

The Lord moved mightily during the service! Souls were saved and the Lord touched our youth. It was inspiring to see young people praising and magnifying God... a thirst and hunger for the move of God in their lives.

Missionary Mabry

If you were looking for another *business as usual* type of service, you shouldn't have come to the COGIC 2010 East Regional Rally held in Maryland Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Holiness Tabernacle youth made the springtime trek to the much anticipated Rally. Often promoted as a mini-AIM, the Regional Rally is packed with workshops, a basketball tournament, a young ladies' Fireside Chat and the Midnight Musical. But if you thought the Rally was only fun and games – you've got it all wrong! The evening services are jammed with youth (and adults) eager to hear a Word from the Lord through our International Youth Department leaders, President Dillard and Chairlady Rogers. To see hundreds of young people come to the altar because they have a true hunger for God and a desire to live righteously before Him is a scene one won't soon forget.

While their expectations vary, all will attest to the fact that though a bit tired by the end of the weekend, they are enthused, excited and encouraged to live for Christ. In the words of Evangelist Joyce Rogers, it is truly an *Oh My God* experience.

But don't just take my word for it. Check out the testimonies of some of the HTC youth and youth workers that attended and maybe next year we'll see you at the East Regional Rally!

I really enjoyed the workshops. Teaching was a new experience!

Delia Pruitte

It was pretty good. I liked the preaching – it really touched me! I liked the activities too.

Paul Cox

I thank God for confirming some things in me during the Rally and I really appreciated the “real talk” of the YWE Fireside Chat.

S. Danielle Benjamin

I enjoyed [the Rally]... but I was supposed to get a room upgrade!
Deloris Pruitte

I enjoyed the fellowship with the youth.
Dymond Starr

It was a God-filled experience chalked up with loads of fun and great fellowship. I was happy to see HTC boys carry their own on the football field with larger opponents.
Andre Powell

We got to play outside... different types of games and sports.
Eryck McCown

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

As told to Sis. Dayan Araujo

Although 'cleanliness is next to godliness' is not found anywhere in the scriptures, it is a perfect example of how God is a God of order.

Having a clean and orderly-looking church is not only aesthetically appealing but it's spiritually appealing as well. And Brother Morris Rowe is charged to see that our facility stays at its best.

"I'm the facilitator in charge of the whole of church," said Bro. Rowe. "I ensure that anything within the church that needs to be done is tended to."

Bro. Rowe believes that it's important to have a clean facility both inside and outside because clutter can be a distraction and shows disorder.

"Having a neat and orderly place contributes to us freely blessing the spirit," explained Bro. Rowe. "An unclean church can have a poor reflection on the pastor and give the impression that we are out of order."

Although he oversees the maintenance of the church, Bro. Rowe says anyone in the church can volunteer by simply asking what needs to be done.

"The men are going to do the major chores like vacuuming the floors, cleaning the toilets and maintaining the

grounds, but there are other tasks that need to be done as well such as dusting, cleaning the windows and ensuring the pulpit receives special attention."

Anyone interested in volunteering can find a group of men cleaning every Saturday.

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THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN THEY ASKED IF I ENJOYED WORKING ON CHURCH BOARDS

"We have four groups now. Each group has a weekend to come in. This is a great time for anyone to volunteer and help us get things done."

The groups were established to eliminate the need for major cleaning projects once or twice a year.

"The four groups ensure that there will always be continuous cleaning every

week. The more people that come out during one of these Saturdays the quicker we can get in and get out," said Bro. Rowe.

For Bro. Rowe, volunteering serves more than just one purpose. "I think it will bring us closer as a church," he insists. "It's another opportunity to fellowship and work together as a family."

Our church steward also believes that by working together in keeping the Lord's house resplendent, people will see not only the love that we have for the church, but also the love that we have for one another.

"I think this will bring more visitors to the church, because they will see that we are united."

Pastor Eddie B Pruitte has mentioned on more than one occasion that Holiness Tabernacle has been called to be a light to not only the corner of Old Bridge and Occoquan Roads but to the entire community of Woodbridge. Getting there is going to take some elbow grease and teamwork.

"There are a lot of things that need to be done that people may not want to do," says Bro. Rowe. "But you can't help but be blessed by cleaning the House of the Lord."

I Want It All *continued from page 1*

acquiring property – we want the fullness of God!

The Lord continues to impress upon me to encourage the saints to seek Him as He told the disciples and our founder, Bishop Mason. We long for the signs and wonders of the Church. We long for the type of anointing that causes evil spirits to flee. We seek after the power of God that causes men and women to change their lives of sin. We understand it takes a power greater than us (but

available to every believer) to see God's work being manifested through us.

I invite you to join us during these tarrying services and days of fasting. We are contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Our theme for these next few weeks is, "I want it all!" Many are satisfied with a dance or an occasional touch. Some are satisfied with a nice song or a feel good sermon every now and then. We, however, want everything God has planned for us. We want the praise, the

dance, the tongues, the wisdom, the fruit, the signs, the wonders, the gifts, the talents, the increase, but most of all we want the POWER of God in us.

I bless you in the name of the Lord and remain your humble servant.

Assistant Superintendent
Eddie B Pruitte, Jr.
Pastor and Founder,
Holiness Tabernacle COGIC

Holy Week Observed at HTC



The holiest week in the Christian faith, Passion Week, was observed at Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ this past April.

“This week is very important to Christianity, because if there was no

resurrection, there isn’t a church,” said Pastor Eddie B Pruitt. “The fact Jesus died and rose three days later is the basis of our faith.”

The church followed the last days of Christ. On Maundy Thursday or ‘Holy

Thursday, the church paid homage to this special day by reenacting the last supper and washing each other’s feet, two of the three ordinances of the COGIC. Seven members of the church brought the last seven words of Jesus to life, the evening of Good Friday.

On Resurrection Sunday, Pastor Pruitt encouraged members to rise above their trials and tribulations just as Jesus rose above death and now sits at the right hand of our Heavenly Father.

The church is currently observing a 40-day fast which will end the day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23

Word Of The Month: Avoid The Way Side

By Bro. Michael Benjamin

My favorite parable in the Bible is the “Parable of the Soils.” I am always in awe of the fact that the scenarios in this parable are still prevalent today, in the church. Jesus gives us three scenarios of how hearers of the Word of God have a hard time grasping what they have heard. Let me break it down for you one at a time.

1. The Way Side: In the parable of the soils, Jesus teaches about one who was out sowing. As he was sowing, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured it. Jesus likened this to those who hear the Word, but Satan comes immediately, and takes the Word out of the people’s heart. How can I avoid this from happening? Coming to church regularly is a perfect start. I think of the way side as unfamiliar territory. A place where nobody can direct you, you just happen to come across it. A place afar off from civilization. You don’t want to be isolated from other seeds (Saints), so Satan can get you all alone.

2. Stony Ground: Jesus also taught how some seeds fell on stony ground. There was no earth for the seeds to be rooted, so the plant sprung up immediately due to lack of depth. Unfortunately, the sun

rose up and scorched the plant, and it withered away. Jesus likened this to those who heard the Word, and immediately receive it with gladness. “I’m telling everybody that I got saved!” “I’m going to read the whole Bible tomorrow!” “I wonder if I can walk on water, too?” Sound familiar?



Unfortunately, trials and persecutions came about, and since there is no root to hold them, they endure only for awhile. Well, how can I avoid this? First off, it is a good thing to be excited about receiving salvation. It is truly awesome! However, before we start on our “save the whole world” expedition, let us first become “rooted” in our Word, in our praying and fasting, and in our relationship with Jesus. That way when trials and tribulations come about, we

will not be easily offended.

3. Thorns: Jesus teaches about some seeds falling among thorns. The thorns grew and choked the growth of the plant, so that it yielded no fruit. Jesus likened this to those who hear the Word, but the cares of this world, the deceit of riches, and lustful desires choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. “I want to go to Sunday’s service, but the game comes on at 1 o’clock.” “Paying tithes!? All they want is my money!” “Go to church on Friday!? No sir, that’s the only day I get to rest.” **THORNS!!!** How do we avoid this scenario? First thing that I do is measure what is important to me. Do I choose temporary pleasure for eternal damnation? Or do I choose patience and temperance for eternal life? I realize that everything on this earth will pass away one day. We must “lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven.”

Though the previous three scenarios may leave one worrisome, Jesus gives us blessed assurance. He explains how some seeds fell on **Good Ground**, which did yield fruit that sprang up and **INCREASED!** Amazing! What does Jesus liken this to? Those who hear the Word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and

Way Side continued pg 7

ANOTHER LEVEL *continued from page 2*

SDB: Now First Lady, you stay busy! Are you worried about finding the right balance to handle everything?

FLP: My biggest concern has been my schedule with school. But, I am happy to announce that after four challenging years, I will be graduating (praise God!) which should free up some of my time to get busy again (laughing).

SDB: Sounds good. What do you enjoy most about teaching and what classes have you taught before?

FLP: It's funny because before my husband became pastor, I was at another church for about 11 years and *never* taught! I worked with the purity class, but never saw myself as a "teacher." But when [Elder Pruitte] became Pastor and it was just he and I, I had no choice but to teach! I started teaching the young adult Sunday school class and I thought, "hey, I like this and I'm actually good at this!" Then I began to develop a love for it.

SDB: I didn't realize you used to teach the Purity Class! Would you ever go back to teaching kids?

FLP: No.. I don't think so (laughing)! At some point I felt a transition as God moved me from working with the purity class to working with adults... especially the women. I love teaching the women.

SDB: I can understand that. Now, I know you've developed a nickname for yourself: "Old Testament Junkie." Can you explain that one?

FLP: Oh yes, my nickname! Well, I developed an insatiable appetite for the Old Testament (OT).

When the Lord was calling me to be a missionary, He had me get in my Bible and read, read, read. I decided, instead of starting from the New Testament (NT) I wanted to start from the beginning and read cover to cover. So I would start reading and would have my dictionary, a notepad, my Bible... and then one day, the stories clicked! As I read through the OT, I made the connection that there is a story to the Bible and I just love stories! I enjoy reading the Bible cover to cover, but I find myself getting stuck in the OT. That's how I learned the stories so well. I love it and I read the stories over and over again.



It's funny because before my husband became pastor... I never saw myself as a "teacher." ~ First Lady Vivian Pruitte

SDB: And we all are reaping the benefits of your OT knowledge, First Lady! Speaking of benefits, I'm sure you've reaped and learned many lessons from various people as you prepare to take on this new role. Can you name a few of them?

FLP: There have been many, but if I were to name a few... Mother Thelma Gatlin has been one of my role models; she has such a sweet way about her and is a great organizer. Mother Thelma Vaughan is another mentor who taught me a great life-lesson that I have patterned – enjoy this saved life and have fun! I love to use humor when I teach just as she did. I tremendously admired

Mother Rosalyn Short. She had what I call a quiet strength. She wasn't a woman of many words, but she was a woman of prayer. When I would talk to Mother Short about something that was bothering me, in the middle of talking, she would just go into prayer. I loved that about her! She would just pray. Even now I tear up when I think of her... I remember when she was getting ready to pass, she asked Pastor and me to come see her and I felt a pressing that we needed to see her right away. As we were with her in the hospital, I prayed that God would give me a double portion of her anointing. I began touching her hands... they were very cold.

And I started praying that prayer. I wanted that quiet, praying spirit... that powerful anointing.

SDB: That sounds like a powerful anointing indeed – and I'm trusting that God will give it to you! Before I let you go, did you have any last thoughts that you wanted to share?

FLP: Well, I did have a question for you.

SDB: Oh really? What's that?

FLP: What great OT story have you read lately?

SAVE THE DATE!

Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ

Annual Women's Weekend!

Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18

Guest Speaker: Mother Nellie Townes, State Supervisor VA #1

Women's Tea

Sat July 17 ~ 10am

Early Bird Registration

before June 15

\$20 ~ Adult

\$10 ~ Child (12 and under)

Regular Registration

after June 15

\$25 ~ Adult

\$15 ~ Child (12 and under)



Women's Day

Sun July 18

11am ~ Morning Worship

First Lady Vivian Pruitte

6pm ~ Women's Day

State Supervisor Nellie Townes

1440 Old Bridge Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

For more information contact First Lady Pruitte at 703-497-7928

www.HolinessTabernacleCOGIC.org

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some one hundred. Luke 8:15 says those with "an honest and good heart" heard the Word, kept it, and brought forth fruit with "patience." When trials and temptations arise, we must persevere and hold onto the Word of God. Paul reminds us "not to grow weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

In parting, I encourage us to continue to be hearers AND doers of the Word of God. We'll know where we stand in God by the fruit that we produce. Let's find a good spot to grow!

Happy Birthday

May

Elijah Araujo - 16

Eryck McCown - 16

June

Morris Rowe - 3

Delesia Graham - 5

Vivian Pruitte - 8





HOLINESS TABERNACLE COGIC

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We're on the Web!
holinesstabernaclecogic.org

Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ (HTC) is located in Woodbridge, VA a suburb of Washington, D.C., in eastern Prince William County. HTC is a chartered branch of Church Of God In Christ, Inc. The Church Of God In Christ is a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in which the word of God is preached, ordinances are administered and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized as being essential to salvation of mankind.

Our mission is to preach the gospel and to spread the message of holiness such that men's lives will be changed and become living tabernacles; that God may have a place to dwell.

Upcoming Events

Church Anniversary Services	May 7, 14, 16 & 21	First Lady Day	June 13
Mother's Day	May 9	GND Adult Rehearsal	June 14
GND Adult Rehearsal	May 17	GND Youth Rehearsal	June 19
GND Youth Rehearsal	May 22	Father's Day	June 20
Int'l Women's Convention	May 31 - Jun 4	VA #1 Women's Convention	June 23 - 25
		GND Sunday School Union	June 27

Schedule of Services

Sunday		Tuesday		Friday	
Sunday School	9:15 AM	Prayer and Bible Band	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (1st/3rd)	7:30 PM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM	Youth Night			
1st Holy Communion	6:00 PM	Thursday		Saturday	
3rd Evangelist Service	6:00 PM	Pastoral Instruction	7:30 PM	Purity/Sunshine Band (3rd)	9:00 AM

Prayer Schedule

Sunday Morning Prayer	9:00 AM	Thursday Early Morning Prayer	5:30 AM
Tuesday Early Morning Prayer	5:30 AM	Friday Noonday Prayer	12:00 PM
Wednesday Early Morning Prayer	5:30 AM		