



Holiness Tabernacle COGIC

# Pentecostal Times

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: Transformed



### Romans 12:1-2

*1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

For the past several weeks the Lord has been dealing with me on this topic – transformed. Our Church recently went on a forty (40) day fast (from Resurrection Sunday through Pentecost). It was challenging and yet rewarding. I felt so blessed to see the saints calling, emailing and texting one another as we went through. Then it ended. We

had a great service that Sunday, but the next day it appeared as though everything was back to normal – what happened? Some of the saints called and asked, "Pastor, now what do we do?" At first I did not have a response, but the Lord prompted me with this thought.

Are you familiar with the caterpillar and the process by which he becomes a butterfly? The Lord showed me that was what he was doing amongst the saints at HTC. At first the caterpillar is very worm-like. It is often fat, moves very slowly and doesn't see well. He eats nearly everything in sight and is easy prey for other animals. Then something happens – he spins a cocoon and disappears. I am not an entomologist so I am not sure how long he stays in the cocoon; I don't pretend to know what happens in

the cocoon, but when the caterpillar re-emerges, he is no longer a slow moving, near-sighted meal for other animals. He has become a butterfly. He is colorful, he is light and he can even fly. What happened? He was transformed. How is that applicable to us?

I have literally seen a transformation in myself, our congregation and, I believe, in the body of Christ. We were expecting and looking for an instantaneous change after our fast, but that is not what happened. However, over the past several weeks I am beginning to see God working in a marvelous way. I cannot identify when it happened. I cannot define what He did. All I know is I am not the same, the saints are not the same and neither are our services. God has worked a transformation in us.

Pastor's Desk continued pg 3



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- > HTC honors Mo. Pruitte on First Lady's Day
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## HTC Honors Mo. Pruitte on First Lady Day: A Chosen Woman of God!

*"You've been faithful, you've been true... it's your time!" said Mother Benjamin*

Closed door meetings planned months in advance. Invitations sent to extended family and far away friends. Even a long distanced phone call to the west coast were all part of the undertaking to surprise and celebrate Mother Vivian Pruitte on First Lady Day, Sunday, June 13 – a first at Holiness Tabernacle!

*"You've been faithful, you've been true. And you've done all that you can do. Don't the lyrics to that song describe our First Lady?"* Mother Benjamin asked the congregation, already nodding their head in agreement. "We may be 11 years behind," she continued turning to Mother Pruitte, "but for your faithfulness, it is your time!"

Surprises were the order of the day and the first came with the entrance of Pastor Frank Smith and the entire New Hope Church Of God In Christ church.

"It's nice to see you Elder Smith!" exclaimed Pastor Pruitte as the congregation came through the door and Mother Pruitte looked on in awe. Unbeknownst to her, Mother Thelma Gatlin, member of New Hope and Dean of Workshops for the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Virginia, was the invited guest speaker.

While the Sunday morning service may have been to show love to First Lady Pruitte, all glory and praise for the day belonged to God! Aspiring Missionary

Howard invoked the presence of the Lord through prayer and the Praise Team led the church in collective worship and adoration of our King.

Next on the program came an opportunity for saints and friends to share recollections on experiences shared with the First Lady.



First Day Lady continued pg 4

## WOMEN'S DEPT. WORDS TO LIVE BY: Living the Great Life!

*By Asp. Missy. Myrna Howard*

What is life? Some people believe that life is the way we choose to live our destiny.

When we single out a person's life based on how they live, even the type of job that a person has will speak of what kind of life they have. For example, someone in the armed forces has a "military life." When we ask what kind of life a person has, we often hear them say, "I have a dog's life. I have a crazy life. I don't have a life." Others may say, "This is my life and I'll live my life the way I want to."

Webster's dictionary defines life as the time a person or things exists; one's manner of living or the people and activities of a given time, place. In other words, a time frame or what they experience day by day that it is.

One may say their life is going to work every morning, coming back home, preparing dinner and taking the kids to sports or school activities and nothing more. We may even see many get depressed, give up and, sadly unable to cope, take their own life.

But for us as Christians, life has another meaning. Our lives have a purpose and are of great value.



Jesus is our life. He already let us know that we are in the world but we are not of this world.

Yes, we might go through many things right now, but it does not matter to us because we know that He is able to keep us. We don't walk this life alone. We're living a Christian life where God is in control – He is our source. Yes, we will face troubles. But our trials and suffering are not in vain. That's the way we'll grow and there is joy in our journey. John 10:10b states, *"I come that they might have life, and they might have it abundantly."* John 5:24 reminds us that *"they that believe on him have everlasting life."* Our lives do not have to end. I John 5:11,12 lets us know that God "hath given eternal life... this life is in his Son and he that hath the Son hath life." Our lives have style – we are living a great life!

## YOUTH DEPT. SPOTLIGHT: Kids Celebrate With Ice Cream Social

Pre-school and elementary kids running around with silly grins on their faces. Middle school-aged boys and girls discussing plans to stay up late and sleep in even later. High school students talking about their lazy afternoons at the pool. All of this can only mean one thing: summer is officially here!



The kids at Holiness Tabernacle were welcomed with a pleasant surprise during their normal Tuesday Youth Night service – an ice cream social to celebrate and recognize all of their hard work throughout the school year.

“I’m really glad we had this!” exclaimed Deion Moses, a rising 7<sup>th</sup> grader.

“Yeah,” echoed John Mabry an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. “We should do this more often!”

While ice cream cones were piled high with scoops of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry, paper bowls were equally plastered with caramel sauce, sprinkles and cherries. Sticky tables, hands and faces were all that was left, but it was a refreshing treat for everyone.

“We’re having this ice cream social to celebrate the end of the year!” announced Delia Pruitte, one of the nursery-kindergarten youth leaders. “So give yourself a hand with your pinkies,” she went on as the fellowship hall of nearly 30 attendees lifted pinkies in the air and started to... well, pinkie clap!

**“I’m really glad we had this!” exclaimed Deion Moses.**

Each Tuesday night is Youth Night at HTC – a time for kids to learn more about the Bible and themselves in a safe, exciting and fun environment. Incorporating spiritual lessons in the games and activities, youth leaders show kids how to live out Christian virtues and apply Biblical truths to their everyday lives.

**Ice Cream Social** continued pg 6

## Transformed (continued from page 1)

In the text the Apostle Paul admonishes us to give ourselves totally to God – and we should not think of this as a big sacrifice. He continues to say in order for us to accomplish this, we cannot be like the world, but our minds must be transformed by becoming brand new. Much like the caterpillar, in his current state, flying is out of the question. However, after his cocoon experience, flying is part of his nature.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord has called us to a great work. There are feats He wants to accomplish in us, but until we are transformed we will not see it. We have witnessed people being delivered from Crohn’s, strokes and back injuries, and others being filled with the Holy Ghost. We have learned we have the ability to transform our services into upper room experiences.

We have learned we have power to transform others around us. However, it first begins with us – until we are transformed in our minds, we will be near-sighted and easy prey. After spending some quality time with God (our cocoon experience) we can soar to heights unknown in Him.

## First Lady Day (continued from page 2)

Representatives from several church departments, as well as family and former students, offered words of expression and love.

"She has a lot to do with my growth in the church," began Brother Rowe on behalf of the Men's Department. He went on to say that her influence in his life helped to draw him closer to his own pastor.

Mother Cassidy, head of the Mother's Department, spoke next on behalf of the Women's Department.

"Our First Lady is a virtuous woman!" she exclaimed. "She forgets about herself and tends to the needs of HTC. She is a blessed woman of God... I needed to be here today to [support] my first lady!" Indeed, both Mother Cassidy and Mother Brown changed personal travel arrangements just so that they could participate in the festivities.

Sharing words on behalf of the youth and several of the young women, Sister Danielle Benjamin spoke about how they appreciated her wisdom and spiritual guidance. Next Sister Delia Pruitte, the second eldest Pruitte daughter, offered her appreciation through prose.

"To my mother, the one who beautifies our house," she began, "...the one who, like an octopus, can be in eight places at once!" With her familiar touch of humor, Delia shared why her mother meant so much to her and the immediate family.

Though her extended family wasn't able to attend, her older brother, Michael "Gus" Valdez, wrote a letter to Mother Pruitte on behalf of their family.

"My sister is the epitome of motherhood," the letter began. Bro. Valdez went on to tell of his appreciation of his childhood playmate, noting that he was glad that she, "made good choices in life." With the knowing sensitivity that only a sibling could give, he ended his letter by sharing how much he loved her.

If you know First Lady Pruitte, you know that she loves the Old Testament scriptures and teaches a class as part of the C.H. Mason Bible College. In an open letter Mother Ruby Carter, a former student, called First Lady her, "mentor, scholar and a great woman of the Lord. I asked God for a teacher of His Word," the letter continued, "and He sent me your way."

Just when it seemed all words of appreciation had come to an end, it was a special call made from the sunny coasts of California that really took First Lady's breath away.

"I want to extend commendations to Pastor and Holiness Tabernacle for honoring their First Lady," said Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis, Jurisdictional Supervisor for the First Jurisdiction of Southern California, over the speaker phone.

With a shaking hand gripping the receiver, it was apparent that Mother Pruitte was shocked and excited beyond words. For the next few minutes, the entire congregation listened in on a conversation between the two women - the elder asking about the daughters, offering heartfelt congratulations and dispensing godly counsel to the younger.

"My word for you is to stay in that secret place," Mother Lewis encouraged before she said goodbye. "May God bless you richly!"

With ease, the order of the service continued with a nod toward First Lady's appreciation of various cultural expressions.

First Lady Day continued pg 5



## MEN'S DEPT. WORD OF THE MONTH: Praise Ye The Lord!

By Min. Eugene McCown

*"Praise ye the Lord. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 150:1a, 6*

I'm the type of person that likes to give you a fully researched Word for the Word of the Month. I must include a number of Scriptures, follow my main points and lay it all out. That's how I write . . . and that's how I preach. But as I sat at my work desk on Thursday, July 1, 2010, a spirit of praise overwhelmed me and the Lord gave me a simple Word to encourage you today: Praise Ye The Lord!

On this day, I had a lot on my plate. Between my family, government job, web business and church responsibilities, I had a full list of action items to complete. I wasn't fretting

or frustrated, the day was going good, and I knew that I had to get going. So I prayed, turned on my iPod and began to work. I have 500+ songs on my iPod and I generally listen to it on random, but for some reason, it began to play by albums.

The first song I remembered was "Sweet Jesus" by J. Moss. The words *I love to praise your name, I life to life you uphit* me like a ton of bricks:

*Sweet Jesus, when I was lonely*

*Sweet Jesus, when no one else could understand*

*Sweet Jesus, when I hit the lowest point*

*Sweet Jesus, when I had no one else to talk to*

*Sweet Jesus, it was you the Redeemer*

*Sweet Jesus, it was you that came to my rescue*

In the midst of my cube that I share with six other people . . . when I had a lot of work to do . . . I couldn't help but lift up my hands and begin to bless the name of the Lord. I got up, ran upstairs and continued to bless His name. He reminded me that He IS sweet and that He has always been there for me and that He was worthy to be praised!

**"A spirit of praise overwhelmed me and the Lord gave me a Word... Praise Ye the Lord!"**



Praise the Lord

Praise Ye The Lord continued pg 6

## First Lady Day (continued from page 4)

Bringing a unique experience to the service, Sister Dei Nikoi brought the role of the Queen of the Night to life through an operatic performance of Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

Known throughout the Jurisdiction and beyond for the awesome way they minister through song, the New Hope Choir prepared hearts with "He Touched Me." Indeed, the saints were more than ready by the time Dean Gatlin stepped to the pulpit with a prayer that she would hide behind the cross and allow God to simply use her as the vessel to speak to His people.

"My thought for today is 'The Last of the Giants: The Lord Said Fear Him Not,'" began Dean Gatlin. "Giants may be in our home, on our job, in our church or on the street, but regardless of where we encounter them, we shouldn't be afraid of them."

Dean Gatlin went on to say that when saints are easily discouraged by the cares of this world, there is something lacking on their part. "We need to stop pretending," she said. "Stop putting on a show and be a saint!"

It was truly a day of rejoicing as the people

of God came together to honor the lady of the house and at the conclusion of the service, Mother Pruitte offered her heartfelt thanks. "Everything that went on today was such a surprise!" she exclaimed. "You went over and beyond anything I was expecting."

First Lady's Day at Holiness Tabernacle was a great success! As the Lord continues to use Mother Vivian Pruitte as His chosen and elect woman of God, her church family will continue to show their love and support at every opportunity in the years to come.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: Ice Cream Social (continued from page 3)

Gaining popularity among the kids and teens, it is not unusual to see lots of new faces at Youth Night. Many students, like Rina Goodwin, often invite their school and neighborhood friends to the services.

"I brought five people to church with me," Rina, a rising senior, gushed. "I'm an evangelist!"

With the summer months underway, it is expected that Youth Night will continue to grow in leaps and bounds. Already, youth workers have begun planning lots of events and field trips

to keep the kids engaged in positive activities. But while it is obvious they enjoy the fun and games, one concern of many church youth programs is whether the kids are really getting anything out of it.

"Jesus was the most fun!" replied Elijah Araujo, 5, when asked what he

did during Youth Night. "He healed people."

Jesus and ice cream. In a nutshell, that is what the HTC Tuesday Youth Night Ice Cream Social was all about. And really, could you ever think of a more perfect combination?



## WOTM: Praise Ye The Lord! (continued from page 5)

After several other songs passed, I remember hearing "Now Behold the Lamb" by Kirk Franklin. The words *the precious Lamb of God, born into sin that I may live again, the precious Lamb of God* again stopped me in my tracks:

*Holy is the Lamb,*

*The precious Lamb of God*

*Why you love me so*

*Lord I shall never know*

*The precious Lamb of God*

*New life can begin*

*For you washed away every one of my sins*

*Whom the Son sets free*

*Is truly free indeed*

*I claim you to be the Lamb of God*

For a second time, in the midst of my cube, I had to take another praise break. Tears welled up in my eyes and I had to no option but to bless His holy name.

*Why you love me so, Lord I'll never know* kept ringing in my ear. Even in the midst of my frailness, He loves me. Not loved in the past tense, but love in the present tense. He again reminded me that He was worthy to be praised!

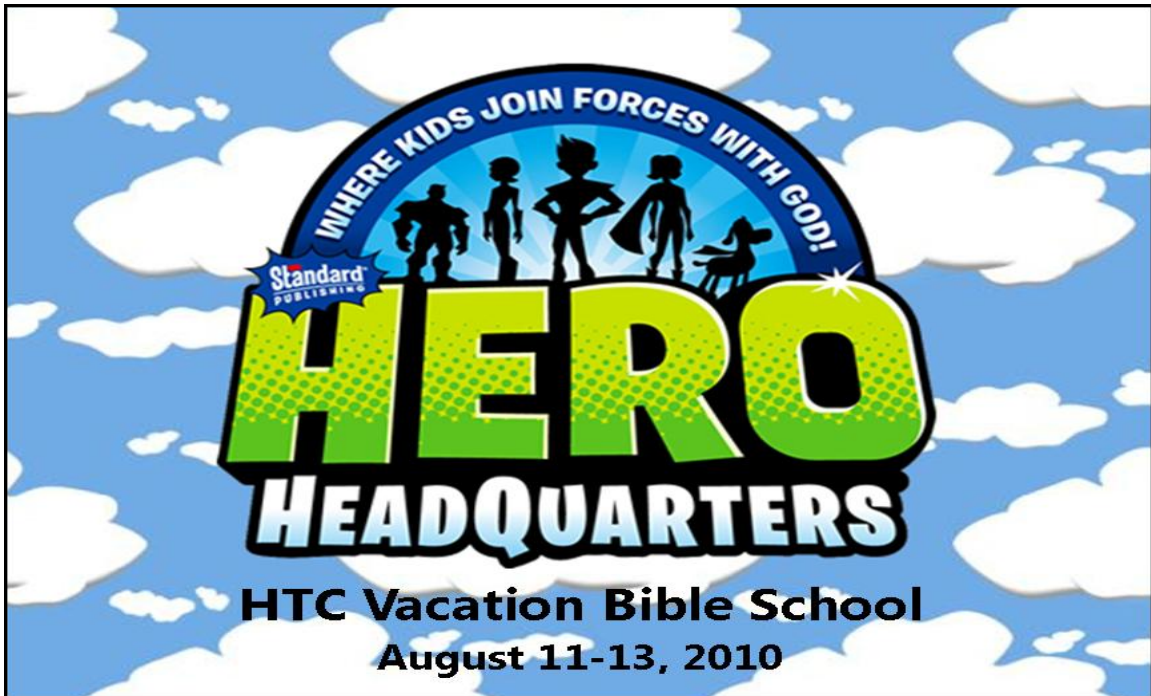
I guess I had a spirit of praise on that Thursday. "Sweeter" by Lakewood Choir told me that *every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before*. "You Are Holy" by Lisa McClendon reminded me that He IS holy. "Be Exalted" by Marvin Sapp got me

singing *Lord I love you, Lord I praise you, Lord I life your name on high!* I can go on and on as God blessed me to praise Him throughout the day.

In the midst of your long day; while you're dealing with the kids; while you're sitting in traffic; while you're standing in a long line; while you're dealing with trouble on every hand; or while you're enjoying a good day, take a praise break and Praise Ye The Lord! He is Holy. He is Righteous. He is Worthy. He deserves ALL the praise. In season, out of season. Bless the name of the Lord, and watch him change your environment, no matter where you are.

I encourage you to **Praise Ye The Lord!**





## Happy Birthday!

### July

Asha King - 1  
Myrna Howard - 13  
Crystal McCown - 13  
Jeff Howard - 18  
Andre Powell - 18  
Arianté De La Cruz - 23  
Michael Benjamin - 28  
Deloris Pruitte - 30  
**Pastor Pruitte - 30**

### August

Nevaeh Wheeler - 8  
Keyotta Sanford - 9  
Deion Moses - 12  
Miss Pennie Simpson - 18  
Mary King - 22  
Ahjiauna Grady - 27





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*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**

Int'l AIM Convention	Jul 5 - 9
Annual Women's Weekend	Jul 17 - 18
State AIM Convention	Jul 19 - 23
State Picnic	Jul 24
GND Union	Jul 25

State Choir Rehearsal	Aug 7
Vacation Bible School	Aug 11 - 13
Youth Annual Day	Aug 15
Jurisdictional Holy Convocation	Aug 16 - 22
Women's Retreat	Aug 27 - 29

**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