



**HOLINESS TABERNACLE COGIC**

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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.*

**HTC Upcoming Events**

HTC Turkey Give Away	Nov 21	HTC's Women's Christmas Dinner	Dec 11
GND Union Meeting	Nov 22	Men's Fellowship	Dec 14
Thanksgiving Day	Nov 26	HTC Youth Christmas Outing	Dec 18
		HTC's Official Grand Opening	Dec 19
		HTC Christmas Program	Dec 20
		Christmas	Dec 25
		HTC Watch Night Service	Dec 31

**HTC Services**

Sunday	Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Sunday	Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
1st Sunday	Holy Communion	6:00 P.M.
3rd Sunday	Evangelistic Service	6:00 P.M.
Tues.—Thurs.	Early Morning Prayer	5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	Prayer and Bible Band	7:30 P.M.
Thursday	Pastoral Instruction	7:30 P.M.
Friday	Noonday Prayer	12:00 P.M.

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November—December 2009



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**Pentecostal News**

**VA #1 Historic Jurisdiction 25th Celebration Donates to Save Africa's Children**

*More than \$40,000 donated with more financial support to come*

**By HTC's PR Department**

Chesapeake, Va. – In an unprecedented and historic show of support for the non-profit organization *Save Africa's Children*, Bishop Ted G. Thomas presented presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake with two checks totaling more than \$40,000 during Bishop Thomas' 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Celebration held September 25. Bishop Thomas also outlined his plan to raise an additional \$10,000 by December.

"I heard the Lord say to me, 'I'm hungry and you're not feeding me,'" said Bishop Thomas, prelate of Virginia's First Jurisdiction, as he stood before the packed banquet hall of the Chesapeake Conference Center. It was that encounter that prompted the prelate to generously donate all of the proceeds from his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala to the organization and support the cause of his leader.

Bishop Blake served as the honored guest speaker, focusing on the story of Joseph and how God ele-

vated him from bondage to ruling authority. Comparing Joseph's plight to that of black Americans in the United States, Bishop Blake noted that despite our struggles we have been "blessed in abundance" and therefore have a responsibility to lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in Africa.

To the sound of thunderous applause, Bishop Blake presented Bishop Thomas with a framed photo of an African mother and her child, representing the countless families he and the entire First Virginia Jurisdiction would bless through their support of *Save Africa's Children*. He also presented a Church of God in Christ Resolution, recognizing Bishop Thomas' 25 years of leadership as prelate.

*Save Africa's Children*, an initiative of the Church of God in Christ presiding bishop, Charles Blake, provides direct support and care to orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty and war throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. SAC

partners with individuals, churches, grassroots and organizations, government and corporate sectors, endeavoring to build a dynamic, diverse movement to restore hope and a future for Africa's children.

Born in Raeford, N.C. on October 19, 1935, Bishop Ted G. Thomas, Sr., married Charletta Thomas and is the father of six sons. His educational accomplishments include, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics, a Master's of Science Degree in Mathematics and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree. In 1984, Bishop Thomas was appointed Bishop of the First Historic Jurisdiction, after the death of the preceding Bishop David C. Love. Under his leadership, he has ordained pastors, increased the number of jurisdictional churches from 18 to over 55, made expansions to the initial jurisdiction headquarters facility and built a new jurisdictional headquarters and Christian Center.

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**Special points of interest:**

- VA #1 Jurisdiction's bishop celebrates 25 years
- Hallowed One's Day big hit with community
- MLK Oratorical and Poster Scholarship

# I just have something to say

By Sis Nicole A. Jones

“God’s silence does not mean God’s absent” a preacher once said. As followers of Christ, just because we don’t feel God or hear Him does not mean He is not present with us. Sometimes, as believers, we become so overwhelmed with the pace and pressure of this life, until our path to God becomes unclear and we feel like God has disappeared. Often times, it is experiencing such lack, that creates an inner longing for God and draws us closer to Him. We know God is calling us for a conversation with Him when our hearts are heavy and we don’t know why we are hurting but we don’t know where; we became disappointed but we don’t know when; someone bothered us but we don’t know who; we feel a difference but we don’t know what. We just feel weighed and confused. We don’t necessarily see God’s plan right before us or we don’t feel His spirit within us and suddenly we feel alone. All we have is His word to stand on and a promise that “He will never leave us or forsake us;” so we gravitate towards him and in faith, some kind of way we know we need to have a sincere conversation with God, a heartfelt prayer; not because its 7:00 in the evening, but because at 3:06 in the morning my soul has something say to God!

Prayer is a multipurpose system. It is the requested remedy for salvation, comfort, guidance or anything we need. It is the message, which expresses our inner most point and desires to God. However, prayer is only the message, but faith is the mechanism that carries the message to heaven and delivers our prayer to God. It is a request coupled



with faith, in knowing that God is listening. Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Prayer is not only talking and communicating with God but also believing that He hears and will answer. Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him (God): for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” If I have no faith to support my request then my prayer has gone nowhere. As helium is to a balloon, ( gas that sends a balloon into the air ) so is faith to our prayers, words that flows upward and touches God; and as air is to the same, so is arrogance and prestige to our prayers, words spoken but never reaches heaven. God is multilingual and even if our expressions come out in the form of a groan or a tear drop, God understands the conversation. Prayer is both a verbal and non-verbal form of expression and has nothing to do with our eloquence or length of speech. It is

ensuring that God hears our message. Sometimes we become so desperate for change until we cannot pinpoint the specifics of our cry, but when asked our request, we reply, Lord Just Bless My Soul!; Lord, Just Give My Soul Some Relief! Jesus said in Matthew 28:10-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” In this passage, Jesus did not place limitations on who can come or specify the type of heavy loads we can bring to Him. He just said come and I will give you rest; which means God is concerned with every-one one of our issues. Jesus later provided a future solution to preventing excessive loads when He speaks in Luke 18, Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Prayer is the answer to our problems and whether we are believers or sinners, God has the ability to relieve any load and give rest to our souls. God longs for us to talk with Him in faith and as we continue to go to Him in prayer, we will find that our prayers will change. One day, when God opens our prayers to listen to them, He will hear that they are gifts of gratitude, songs of appreciation for all the works He has performed in our lives; for the days He has never left us; for the love and concern He has always shown towards us; for the doors He has opened and the ways He has made. Soon we will share with others the confidence that, God is greater and it matters not the situation or the problem God makes everything alright, in prayer.

## 1st annual HTC Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical & Poster Scholarship



Holiness Tabernacle Church of God in Christ is proud to begin

a new and lasting tradition with the first annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical and Poster Scholarship**. The purpose of the Scholarship is to give students the opportunity to realize the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reflect on how his legacy continues to shape the course of history today, and recognize and give an opportunity for

students to grow in their writing, artistic and communication skills as they pursue academic excellence.

**Full time students in various grade categories may apply. Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded to the winners. The deadline for all submissions is January 3, 2010.**

# HTC Announcements

## Announcements

- ♥ Bishop Ted Thomas will officiate the grand opening of Holiness Tabernacle at its new location , December 19.
- ♥ Please see Sis. Howard to place your orders for the December October SHARE menu by December 6.

## HTC Prayer List

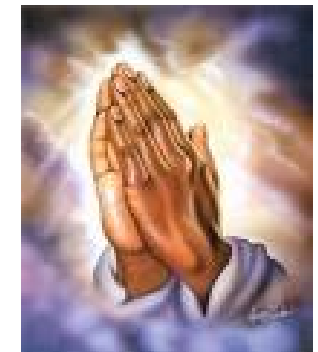
### Armed Forces & Families

Mother Frank Smith

Ms. Williams-Wilson & Family

Gregory Family

Ms. Rafaela Garcia



## November—December Birthdays

### November

John Mabry Nov 2  
 Danieth Pryce Nov 4  
 Danielle Benjamin Nov 12  
 John Mabry III Nov 29



### December

Danielle Hammond Dec 3  
 Mother Cassidy Dec 15  
 Andrea Mabry Dec 20  
 Eugene McCown Dec 26



'TIS THE SEASON

"TO GIVE  
THANKS!"



**FREE TURKEYS!**

*While supplies last!*

November 21, 2009

Beginning at 12 pm

Holiness Tabernacle COGIC

1440 Old Bridge Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22192

(703) 497-7928

holinesstabernaclecogic.org

### A Class Act

Pastor Eddie B Pruitte and Mother Pruitte enjoy a quick photo at the 25th Anniversary of Bishop Ted Thomas. Pastor Pruitte later celebrated his 11th anniversary with Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ.



Prayer  
...it  
works!



## Don't Compromise Just Capitalize

By Minister Eugene C. McCown, Jr.  
HTC Men's Ministry

As Christians today, we're in a battle. The Bible says in Job 14:1, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." If we're honest with ourselves, we have to admit that the world is full of trouble. We're in a spiritual battle for our lives, our children's lives, our friends' lives, and the lives of those that are lost. The enemy is pulling out all the stops to deceive as many as he can. As we know, babies are having babies. Children are killing children. Mothers AND fathers are killing their children. The African American male is on his way to extinction as there are more African American males in prison than there are in college. Men are marrying men. Women are marrying women. The financial institutions of America have severely failed. But even in the midst of all this trouble, be encouraged and **DON'T COMPROMISE, JUST CAPITALIZE.** One may ask, "How do I not compromise when the odds are so stacked against me?" Well 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 tell us that "We are troubled on every side, yet not in distress; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." If we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then we have the victory over everything that comes up against us.

In the first book of Corinthians, Paul spends a lot of his time encouraging them to hold on to

their faith. The church at Corinth was a church with many gifts, but they were also full of issues. They were in trouble and began to lose focus on the task at hand, similar to many of our churches today. So he encourages them in 1 Corinthians 15:58 to be "steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord."

To be **steadfast** is to be 1) fixed in a direction; 2) firm in purpose and faith; and 3) unwavering. Don't lose focus on the mission. Philippians 3:14 states "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The prize is Jesus, so we can't get caught up in trivial fleshly things that don't give us a reward! There is no middle ground. It's heaven or bust. You can only serve one master. You can only have one goal and our goal must be heaven!

To be **unmoveable** is to be 1) reliable; 2) loyal; 3) persevering; and 4) unflinching. 2 Timothy 2:19 tells us "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." Isaiah 28:16 tells us "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." And Matthew 16:18 tells us "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Knowing that Jesus is our sure foundation, we can be

unmoveable and don't have to waiver with every wind and unsound doctrine that blows our way.

To **abound** is to be 1) be alive; 2) be thick with; and 3) flourish. To "always abound in the work of the Lord" simply means to be up to your necks in the work of the Lord. Why? The end of 1 Corinthians 15:58 states "forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." In St. John 9:4, Christ tells us to "work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." And Ephesians 4:11-13 explains that God has given us all special gifts that can be use "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

When life doesn't seem fair and things are not going your way and you're ready to lash out at the world, I'm here to tell you to be steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. When your money is funny and your change has become strange and cutting corners is the best way to make ends meet, I'm here to tell you to be steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. When your boss is acting up and it looks like your permanent job may soon become temporary and you're ready to curse out your boss, I'm here to encourage you to be steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord! There's no time for compromises. We have to capitalize on the promises of God!

## Hallowed One's Day kicks off HTC's community outreach

By Sis S. Danielle Benjamin

The boisterous sounds of children laughing, the sizzle and aroma of smoked ribs and hot dogs on the grill, and the constant stream of visitors were all evident at Holiness Tabernacle Hallowed One's Day community outreach event, this Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

"This is our first outreach event for the community since we've settled into our new location," said Pastor Pruitte, Jr., "and we want it to be big! We want to let this community know that we're here for them and we're here to stay."

The morning started early with a season of prayer as volunteers gathered to prepare for the full day event. Everyone had a part to play – whether it was working with the vendors to get the games set up, organizing the registration and ticket booth or corralling the groups of kids who eagerly awaited the start of the activities.

Even a forecast of scattered showers couldn't deter the youth – or their equally excited parents – from the prospect of test driving bumper cars, performing acrobatic feats in the moon bounces or winning stuffed animals and



Local community members enjoy the bumper cars during HTC's Annual Hallowed Ones Day

other fun prizes at the carnival games. It was truly a fun-filled day for the entire family!

In addition to free bags of candy, members of Holiness Tabernacle used the opportunity to interact with visitors, sharing the love of Christ through simple conversation and inviting many to come to one of the weekly services. "No matter what happens today," remarked Brother McCown, "this is about ministry!" Perhaps the greatest indicator that the Hallowed One's Day event was a success was the

packed pews the following Sunday morning as visitors from the previous day came in to enjoy the worship service. It was a spirit-filled day with a powerful Word – made even more special by the celebration of Christ's work on the cross with Holy Communion. The 2009 Holiness Tabernacle Hallowed One's Day has set the stage for future outreach opportunities within the Woodbridge community. The bar has been set high – and the church has given no indication that it will come down any time soon.



## The Easy Way Out

By Sis DeAnna Pruitte

Have you ever thought about cheating? Maybe on a test or in a game when it looked like cheating was an easy way to win? It may not have been the *only* option, but definitely a much easier way. But we've all heard the saying "cheaters never win and winners never cheat."

Well it's the same way in our walk with Christ. Sometimes due to our surrounding circumstances or tests and trials we want to quit. Maybe not commit suicide or anything drastic like that but just give up. Sometimes trying to keep up the 'godly' image that everyone expects you to have gets tough when you're about to blow. Sometimes when you continuously fall into the same trap time, after time, after time, it gets so frustrating that you even ask God to give up on you. And sometimes like Elijah we feel ready for God to take us home because we're tired of doing it "alone".

I can definitely attest to all of the above. The way we talk about Heaven it seems like such a better place to be. No problems, no worries, having the best time worshipping our Father at His throne with the other angels. Where EVERYONE is a believer! It sounds so much sweeter than my life: such an easy way out.

But then Jesus asks me, "What would happen if I took the 'easy way out'?" If I would have said,

"You know what, you all are right. I *am* the King of the Jews.



Matter of fact, I'm the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and I am more than able to come down off this cross and prove it. Yes these thorns and nails hurt. So do the bite marks and my scourged back, not to mention I haven't slept all night and I'm sore. But besides the physical pain I'm in, how about my own *dad* had to turn His back on me. Do you know how that feels? Well that's ok because I bore it all for you and REFUSED to

take the 'easy way out.'"

WOW! I told myself, He *did* do all that for me and I'm more than grateful. I'm ok with living for Him and I can keep going on, although times get hard, because He did. But I still feel like I'm the only one sometimes.

He said that's alright for a couple of reasons. Number one—I'm not; number two—He's there; and number three—even if it wasn't for numbers one and two, THAT'S WHY HE SAVED ME! To go win *other* souls! So I'll never be alone even when I get to heaven. I was placed on this earth for other people, NOT for myself. Everything I go through is for someone else besides myself. And imagine, for every one person I touch with my life, they touch someone else's so now that's two!

Imagine if every *one* person touched another *one* person, how many people could we save? So I'll endure hard times like a good soldier, not just so I can tell God when I get there that *I've* kept the faith, but because I know that I'm not going up there alone. I am going the way God intended me to go and I'm not going to take the easy way out. Thank God *He* didn't take the easy way out either!

## Holiness Tabernacle Celebrate Pastor Hackett: 14 Years in Pastoral Ministry

By Sis. S. Danielle Benjamin

"I not here to preach to them," said Assistant Supt. Eddie B Pruitte, Jr., pointing to the congregation. "I'm here to encourage and uplift you." And with those words, the message for the evening proved simple and easy to remember: "Hackett – He's The Man!"

The Sunday evening began with food and fellowship as The Lion of Judah (TLOJ) extended the warmest hospitality to the members of Holiness Tabernacle (HTC). Immediately afterwards, Missionary Pennix, an anointed woman of God, presided over the last, September 13 celebratory service in honor of Pastor and First Lady Hackett.

"Catch on because the Spirit of God is in this place!" she proclaimed. "I don't want to leave you, but I will if I have to." Fortunately, she didn't have to for there was truly a spirit of corporate worship in the atmosphere. Members of HTC and TLOJ served as ushers, lead the congregation in praise and worship and genuinely felt free to give God the glory. While words of appreciation and love were free flowing, the faithfulness of Pastor and First Lady Hackett was most evidently shown through the testimonies of two young women.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer," one young mother of four remarked, "but Pastor Hackett prayed for me and when I went back to the doctor's office, they told me that all of the cancer was gone."

"I went in for my regular sonogram check up," said another young lady. "Little did I know that I would spend the next two months in the hospital. My doctor said that if I hadn't come when I did, I may have delivered my baby too early." This wife and mother of a young daughter said it was the prayers and visits of Pastor and First Lady Hackett that brought her

through. "And I still check in with the Hacketts," she continued. "I consider them like my parents." Pastor and First Lady Hackett weren't just blessed with words, however. Both HTC and TLOJ gave sacrificially to bless the man of God.

"Some people are anointed to prophesy, others are anointed to speak in tongues... God has anointed me to raise money!" proclaimed Pastor Pruitte and he was only too happy to help bless Pastor Hackett in this way.

When the time came for the message, everyone eagerly awaited to hear the prophetic Word through God's manservant. Pastor Pruitte was quick to point out, however, that what he brought might not elicit the hoops and hallelujahs of some messages.

"Stop me if I'm lying," Pastor Pruitte said, directing his thoughts to the Hacketts, "but I bet you've given your own money to help pay someone else's bills, you've let other people stay at your home, you've missed out on your children's school events because you were taking care of or visiting a member across town..."

Recognizing that the hardships endured by pastors and their wives begin to take a toll on the body and the spirit, Pastor Pruitte endeavored to encourage his brother in the faith and exhort TLOJ to build up and not tear down their God-appointed leader.

At the conclusion of the service, Pastor and First Lady Hackett took the time to reflect on the past fourteen years in pastoral ministry.

"When the Lord told me that my husband was going to be a pastor I cried out 'No!'" said Lady Hackett, chuckling, "Now, don't you'll act like you've



never told God 'No' before." She is now thankful that her husband obeyed the voice of the Lord, with her serving by his side.

With obvious love and adoration, Pastor Hackett took the time to honor his wife and the many sacrifices she'd made on behalf of the ministry. "I know it had to be God... taking this unsaved boy from the ghetto and putting him in the path of the young woman with the pretty smile." He went on to express thankfulness to God for carrying him to this point in pastoral ministry.

Then in an endearing act, Pastor and First Lady Hackett made special presentations to their four children. "Mommy and Daddy love you," Lady Hackett told her children, and she and her husband hugged and kissed each of them.

With a reminder for all to continuously pray for our leaders, members of both HTC and TLOF were spurred to do their best to lift the burden from the shoulders of their pastors so that they may effectively preach the Word of God. Most memorably, "Hackett – He's The Man!" will forever ring in the hearts of the people, for indeed Pastor Kenneth Hackett has been anointed as God's choice man for this day.



# HTC's Hallowed Ones Day

## HTC's Hallowed Ones Day

