



# ISSA Chronicle<sup>©</sup>

**April 2026**

*Volume IV, Issue IV*

**Our Motto:** One Lord, One People Pursuing the Vision

**Our Theme:** Preparing God's People Through the WORD

**Vision:** To be the Model Apostolic Pentecostal Church of the Twenty-First Century



*Elder Charles E. Bright Jr. - Superintendent*

*Elder Donald Searson - Assistant Superintendent*

*Sister Amelia Daniels - Recording Secretary*

*Sister Janice Saulters - Corresponding Secretary*

*Sister Martha Collins - Treasurer*

*Elder Reginald Condry - Chaplain*

*Brother Julian Antoine - Sergeant-At-Arms*



# Greetings from the International Sunday School Superintendent

thankful

Greetings,

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I sincerely hope and pray all is well with you and your family. We are very grateful for our Leadership Conference that was held in the beautiful city of Baltimore, MD. It was amazing how the Renaissance provided a safe environment for fellowship, and our COOLJC Leadership exemplified spiritual guidance. We hope and pray that the Lord Jesus Christ blessed you and your family during the 86th iCONGRESS. I would like to give a special thanks to the iCONGRESS President and his entire staff for another year of a successful conference. The IABYPU President and her entire staff definitely fulfilled the next level praise and congratulations. We always saved the best for last the ISSA entire staff did an awesome job and opened the doors of opportunities for a better Sunday school around the world.

We serve an awesome God and He has blessed us to experience a phenomenal conference. There are many times in our lives when we need to talk to someone about certain matters and Bishop Henry Davenport and his staff opened that window of opportunity. The ISSA commends the professional experiences



## Greetings from the International Sunday School Superintendent

you all shared and we say thank you. May God continue blessing the work you all are doing. As ISSA continues to move forward, we hope and pray that the *ISSA Chronicle* keeps you informed, refreshed, and in tune on your biblical journey in Sunday school.

We are in the process of scheduling our annual teachers/superintendent training session which will be very informative, exciting, and uplifting, so please mark your calendar to be in attendance on June 6, 2026, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The days are closing in for graduation, and you may apply for the ISSA scholarship funds. If there are no graduates applying for the scholarship in your local ministry, please let us know so we can place them on our prayer list as they move forward with their educational journey.

Please review the ISSA Essay & Oratorical topics and prepare the scholars for a dynamic experience in Jesus Christ. The ISSA Arts & Crafts has been very creative and innovative, so let's take it a step higher by showcasing your best work this year. The ISSA is very excited about the "Bible Bowl Competition," as always prepare your team for an inspiring biblical journey. As we draw near to our 107th International Holy Convocation, please



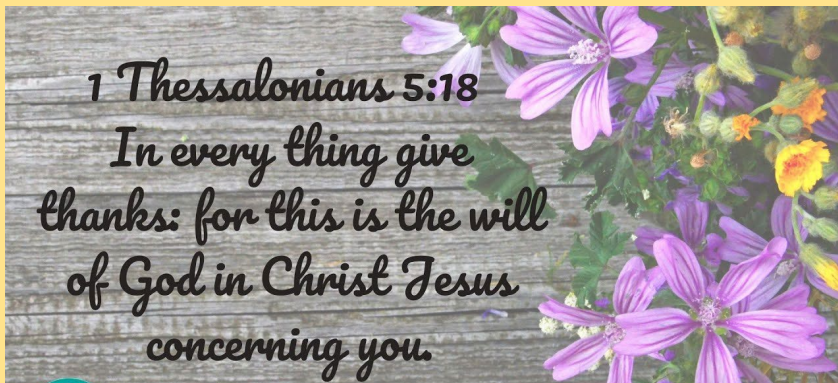


# Greetings from the International Sunday School Superintendent

register and prepare yourselves, scholars of all ages, for a wonderful Sunday school session. May God continue blessing you with His love and peace! Be safe and we hope to see everybody in Richmond VA.

Blessings,

Elder Charles E. Bright Jr  
International Sunday School Superintendent





# Greetings from the International Sunday School Superintendent

**A special thanks to our 2026 “Family Feud”  
participants and a job well done!**

**A special shout out to every team leader for a job well done in preparing  
your team in a challenging Bible Competition.**

**Bible Blasters-** Region 6, Nashville, Chole Meneese,  
Daniel Barker, Darius Barker and Cidney Meneese

**Faith Warriors-** Region 8, SC Upstate, Ean Airline,  
Emma Airline, Zoe Grant, Catelyn Hall, Camile Hall,  
Tre’ Garrett, Bre Garrett

**Bible Brainiacs-** Regions 1 & 10 Larry Sheilds,  
Alyssa Parrott, Isaiah Forehand, Tavion Rogers,  
Jaylon Lennon, Olivia Smith and Isaiah Smith



**Please register your team or participant in advance.**

**This will allow the ISSA staff to prepare for  
the activities as well as the awards ceremony.**

Age Group Category for Oratorical and Essay competition:

Pre-K	Ages 3-4
Beginners	Ages 5-9
Pre-Teens	Ages 10-12
Teens	Ages 13-15
Young Adults	Ages 16-19
Adults	Ages 20+

**Facilitators: Elder Donald Searson and Sister Janice Saulters**



## July 2026 Oratorical and Essay Topics

We attach a link below with the Bible Bowl information. Please share with your scholars that the Bible Bowl information and registration will be in this month's newsletter. We will also

have **Arts & Crafts** on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at the ISSA session. The scholarship app was in last month's newsletter, and you can access the app in this [link](#).

We updated the *100 Year Sunday School Souvenir Journal* and currently have them at \$30.00. Also, our purple and gold polo shirts are \$25 and tee shirts, \$20. A portion of the sales of these items will be earmarked for the scholarship recipient(s). We will have our Teacher of the Year, Superintendent of the Year, Diocese and Local George T. Ray Award, Hall of Fame inductee and so much more. Please remember that the criteria and grading rubric for all awards will be forthcoming. Please register your team or participant in advance.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oIRQCeePMIEkab8L2m0W\\_VAm68ERn13pllYiv64TGaw/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oIRQCeePMIEkab8L2m0W_VAm68ERn13pllYiv64TGaw/edit)

## July 2026 Oratorical and Essay Topics

### Essay Topics

1. I'm Pressing for the Mark (Philippians 3:14)
2. Called To Be Different (1 Peter 2:9)
3. Understanding the Time (Ecclesiastes 3:1)
4. Reflecting on God's Love (John 3:16)

### Oratorical Topics

1. I'm an Heir of the Promise (Acts 2:39)
2. I'm Destined to be Blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)
3. Trusting in My Shephard (Psalms 23:1)
4. I'm Going to Let My Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,  
and by the word of their testimony; and they loved  
not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11

## ***“God Has Someone Waiting to Hear Your Voice”***

*Submitted by: Elder Donald Searson*



*You may think your words are small  
Like echoes fading down a hall  
You may fear they won't rejoice  
Yet God gave you a living voice*


*Not every call comes wrapped in light  
Or thunder rolling through the night  
Sometimes' Heaven's gentle choice  
It's simply you – and simply a voice*

*Somewhere a heart is torn in two  
Quietly praying, searching for truth  
They do not know your face or name  
But God still sends you, just the same*

*Your story carries hidden grace  
A light for another soul to trace  
The words you fear may heal their pain  
Like thirsty earth that drinks the rain*



*Do not silence what God began  
A whisper placed in the heart of man  
For faith is often Heaven's choice  
To reach the world through one small voice  
So, speak with love, let courage rise  
Though doubt may cloud your hopeful skies  
For in this world of broken noise  
God has someone waiting to hear your voice*



# Verses for the Journey: “Reflections in Faith, Leadership and Purpose”

Elder Donald Searson, ISSA Vice Superintendent

## God's Got Someone Waiting to Hear Your Voice

There's a quiet but powerful truth woven throughout the spiritual journey; your voice matters more than you think. Not because it is perfect, polished, or universally admired, but because it is “assigned.” Somewhere in the fabric of human experience, God has positioned people whose hearts will only open in response to the sound of your voice, your story, and your obedience.

Scripture constantly affirms that God works through individuals in deeply personal ways. In Romans 10:14, the Apostle Paul ask, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him

Scripture consistently affirms that God works through individuals in deeply personal ways. In *Romans 10:14*, the Apostle Paul asks, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without

a preacher?” (KJV). While “preacher” may sound formal, the deeper implication is broader: every believer is entrusted with a message. Someone’s ability to hear truth, hope, or direction is often tied to another person’s willingness to speak.

Too often, people silence themselves out of fear, fear of inadequacy, rejection, or imperfection. Yet 2 Corinthians 12: 9 reminds us that God’s strength is made perfect in weakness. This means your hesitations, your past, and even your perceived flaws do not disqualify you, they may actually, be the very element that makes your voice relatable and powerful. The person waiting to hear from you may not connect with eloquence, but they will recognize authenticity.

Consider the calling of Moses? In Exodus 4:10-12, Moses expresses insecurity about his speaking ability, saying he is “slow of speech.” God’s response is not to replace him, but to reassure him; “Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.” This exchange reveals something profound; God does not require perfection, He requires participation. Your voice becomes effective not because of your ability alone, but because of your divine partnership.



**How beautiful are the  
feet of those who bring  
good news**  
Romans 10:14-15



There is also a timing element to this truth. Ecclesiastes 3: 7 speaks of “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.” Many people remain in seasons of silence longer than necessary, mistaking hesitation for wisdom. When God prompts you to speak, whether it is encouragement, truth, correction, or testimony, there is often someone on the other side of that obedience whose life may shift because you chose courage over comfort.

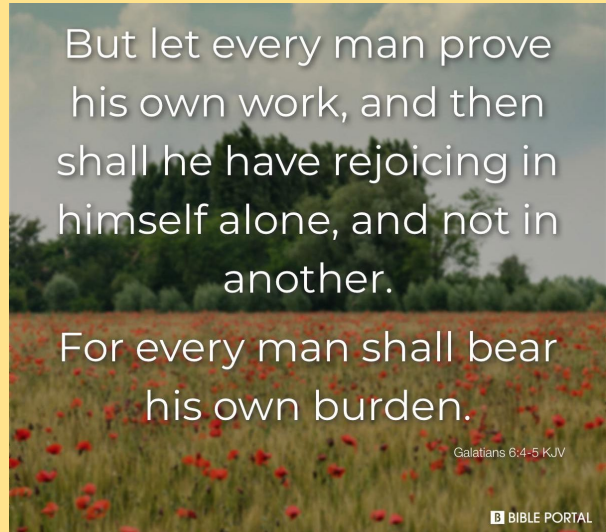
Even Jesus’ ministry demonstrates the intentionality of divine encounters. In John 4, the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well was not accidental. It was a moment orchestrated for transformation. Afterward, her testimony led many others to believe. One voice, activated at the right time, became a ripple effect of impact.

The same principle applies today. Your words may not reach crowds, but they are meant to reach someone. A friend struggling in silence. A stranger who needs reassurance. A community waiting for truth. God does not waste voices, He assigns them.

This is why comparison is so dangerous. When you measure your voice against others, you risk silencing the very message entrusted uniquely to you. Galatians 6:4,5 encourages individuals to examine their own work rather than comparing themselves to others. Your assignment is not to sound like someone else; it is to be faithful to what you’ve been given.

Ultimately, obedience in speaking is an act of trust. It means believing that God knows where your voice is needed, even when you do not see the full picture. Isaiah 55:11 declares that God's Word will not return void but will accomplish what it was sent to do. When you align your voice with His will, your words carry purpose beyond your understanding.

So speak. Not recklessly, but faithfully. Not arrogantly, but confidently in the One who sends you. Because somewhere, in ways you may never fully realize, God has someone waiting, specifically waiting, to hear your voice.



### Works Cited

The Holy Bible: King James Version. Cambridge University Press, 1769.

In-Text Scripture References Used:

Romans 10: 14

2 Corinthians 12: 9

Exodus 4: 10 – 12

Ecclesiastes 3: 7

John 4: 1 – 42

Galatians 6: 4 - 5

# COOLJC Sunday School Abroad!

*By Brother Julian Antoine*

## This Month's Sunday School Abroad is Yankee Refuge Temple – St. Ann Parish, Jamaica

### Introduction

Giving honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to all apostles, bishops, missionaries, and Sunday School staff around the world—we greet you in the matchless name of Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy that we announce the COOLJC Abroad Sunday School Department Church of the Month for April 2026: Yankee Refuge Temple of St. Ann Parish, Jamaica, under the leadership of Pastor Prince White, with Sunday School Superintendent Sister Tanesha Stewart faithfully serving.

### St. Ann Parish

Nestled along the northern coast of St. Ann Parish—the largest parish in Jamaica—this region is often referred to as the island's "Garden Parish" due to its rich landscapes and natural beauty. Surrounded by neighboring parishes and stretching across lush terrain, St. Ann is known for its red soil, mineral-rich land, and distinctive features such as caves

and rolling hills. The area is steeped in history, as it was one of the first places where Christopher Columbus set foot on the island in 1494, marking it as a place of both natural and historical significance.

Today, St. Ann continues to attract visitors from around the world with its breathtaking attractions, including the world-renowned Dunn's River Falls, the serene and hidden Blue Hole, and the adventurous Mystic Mountain. From cascading waterfalls to lush rainforest views, the parish offers a glimpse of paradise. Yet beyond its scenic wonders, St. Ann remains a place where spiritual seeds are being sown, as ministries like Yankee Refuge Temple continue to impact lives within the community.

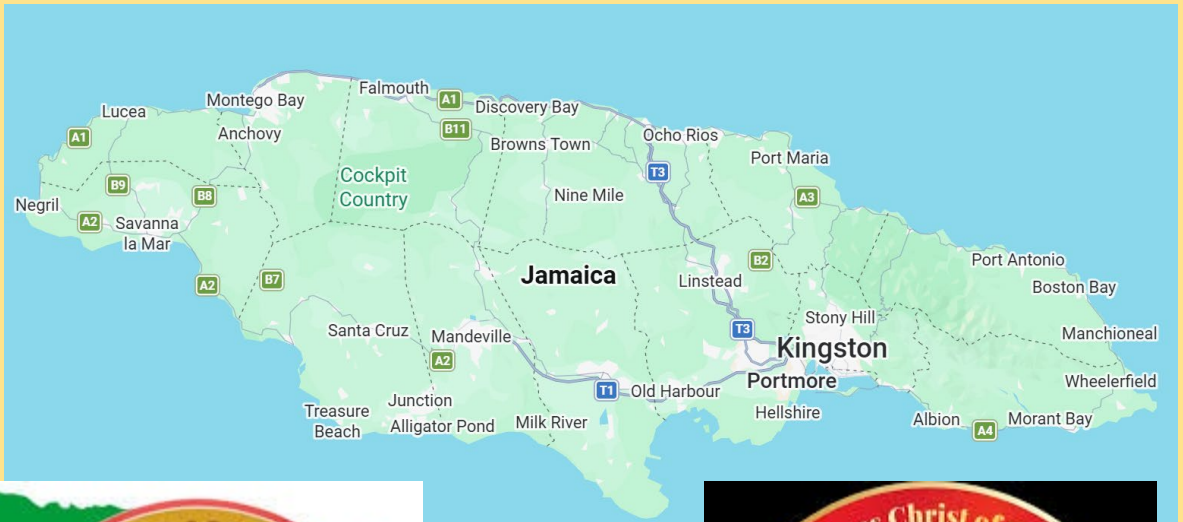
### **Yankee Refuge Temple**

Though modest in size, the church is growing and thriving, supported by a committed and consistent Sunday School department. Sunday School convenes each week at 10:30 a.m., offering structured classes for all age groups: ages 1–6, 7–14, 15–18, and 19 and above. This intentional approach ensures that every scholar has the opportunity to learn and grow in the Word of God.

The church also extends its reach beyond the sanctuary through regular street services, where members gather within the community to lift up the name of Jesus Christ. These services create meaningful opportunities to connect with others, share the gospel, and demonstrate the love of Christ in a tangible way.

## Praying for Jamaica

Let us continue to keep Yankee Refuge Temple lifted in prayer, believing God to bless, strengthen, and increase their efforts as they labor faithfully in His vineyard. As the nation of Jamaica continues to recover from the effects of recent storms, let us also remember the people of the land in our prayers—that God would restore, provide, and bring comfort to every community impacted. May His hand of protection remain upon the island, and may His Spirit move mightily throughout, strengthening both the churches and the people. In Jesus’ precious name.





# Sunday School Teachers Pastoral Agents of Discipleship

*By Deacon Alexander C. Stewart*

## The Azusa Street Revival's Impact on the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

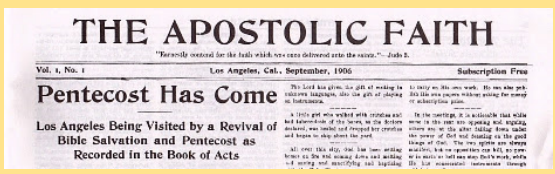
This month is the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Azusa Street Revival. In honor, AzusaFest was held in Los Angeles, CA from April 9-11, 1906. We as Oneness Pentecostal Sunday School teachers and leaders should know the spiritual roots that shaped our establishmentarian, Bishop Robert Clarence Lawson. The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (COOLJC), Inc. is directly tied to two transformative events--the Azusa Street Revival and the Arroyo Seco Pentecostal Camp meeting of 1913. Astonishingly, these two events occurred in the month of April. These two events shaped the fundamental teachings of COOLJC. It was through the Azusa Street Revival, from 1906-1909, that Pentecostalism became national and international under the ministry of African-American, William Joseph Seymour (1870-1922). However, the impetus of the movement began in Topeka, Kansas on January 1, 1901, under the ministry of Charles Fox Parham (1873-1929). It was Parham who developed the initial evidence doctrine of "speaking in tongues" as the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This was viewed by



Parham as the restoration of the apostolic faith. Viewing the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a distinct Christian experience, He prorogated his doctrine through revivals in Galena, Kansas and in 1905 in Houston, Texas. It was in Houston that Seymour met Parham through Lucy Farrow (Burgess and vander Mass 2002, 955-956).

Parham started a Bible School in Houston. There Farrow served as cook and was Parham’s children’s caregiver. And it was through Farrow Seymour attended Parham’s school. While in Houston, Seymour was invited to Los Angeles to speak at a holiness church pastored by Mrs. Julia Hutchins. When Seymour preached on speaking in tongues, Hutchins, at that time, rejected his message. After he was invited to minister from the home of two Hutchins’ members, and that lead to property being bought at 312 Azusa Street, officially name the Apostolic Faith Mission, but was called by its location, the Azusa Street Mission. Dr. Cecil Robeck (Robeck 2006, 5) notes, “From 1906 through 1907 the Azusa Street Mission became the focus of attention not only of Los Angeles, but of thousands of people around the world as news spread about the mission at the heart of revival.”

Two fundamentals doctrines that continued in COOLJC from the Azusa Street are (1) that the only initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and (2) that only death breaks the martial vows (Sanders 2006, 80-84).



Lawson believed that speaking is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit but differed with Seymour’s Wesleyan view that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a third work of grace, not necessary for salvation. Lawson held that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the new birth Jesus mentions in John 3:3-5. And that speaking in tongues according to Acts 2:4 is the witness that an individual has received Christ as their personal Savior. He saw the baptism of the Holy Spirit as that baptism that places one into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

Lawson concurred with Seymour and held that death alone breaks the marriage vow. In a *Bible Teaching on Marriage and Divorce* in January 1907, Seymour states,

In regard to the divorce question and remarriage, we believe simply what the scripture teaches all through the Bible. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” According to Rom. 7:2-3, “For the woman which hath a husband is bound to the husband so long as he liveth: but if the husband he [be] dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband; so that if while her husband liveth, she shall be married to another man, shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband be dead, she shall be free from the law of her husband, so that she is not adulteress though she be married to another man (Sanders 2006, 65).



Lawson's understanding parallels that of Seymour's. This is seen in his open to Elder Dunlap Chenault, who he appointed to pastor the Lincoln Park Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith, San Antonio, Texas. In his letter Lawson acknowledges, "Finally, there is no grounds for divorcing and remarrying; the only dissolution of marriage is death. What God has joined together let no man put asunder" (Lawson n.d./2019, 202).

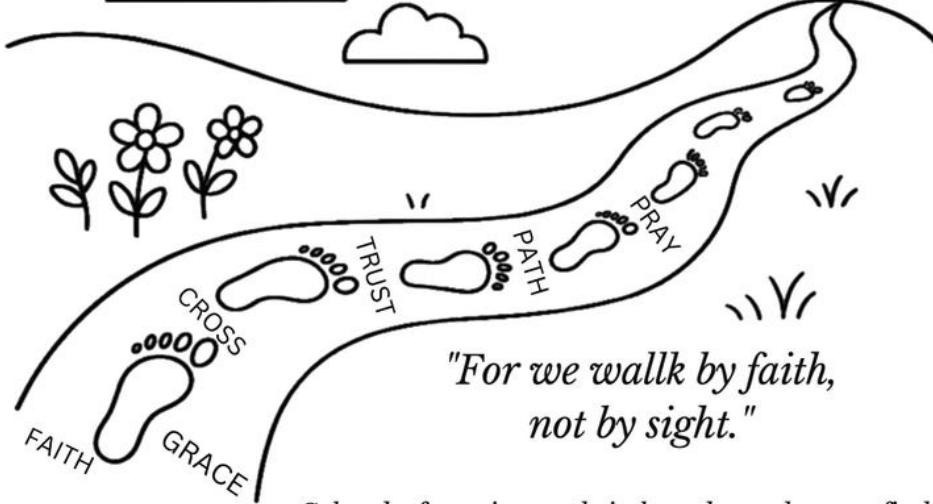
"Line upon line, and precept upon precept" (Isa. 28:10), Lawson through dependency of the Holy Spirit acquired spiritual truths by a step-by-step process. With an incremental continuous study of God's Word. Speaking in tongues and "no" to divorce and remarriage while one spouse lives are seen as archaic or absurd by today's societal standards. However, to Lawson it is the Word of God, and he stood firmly to those teachings. His teachings and faith produced COOLJC to be among the oldest African American Oneness Pentecostal denominations, whose doctrinal legacy which shaped the early movement is being disputed today.

### References

- Burgess, Stanley M, and Eduard M vander der Maas. 2002. *International Dictionary of Pentecostal Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.
- Lawson, Robert C. n.d./2019. "An Open Letter on the Burning Question on Marriage and Divorce." In *Add Thou To It The Selected Works of Robert Clarence Lawson*, by Alexander C Stewart, 191-253. Capitol Heights, Maryland: Seymour Press.
- Martin, Larry. n.d./2000. *The Doctrines and Discipline of the Azusa Street Apostolic Faith Mission of Los Angeles, California by William J. Seymour*. Joplin, Missouri: Christian Life Books.
- Robeck, Cecil M. 2006. *Azusa Street Mission and Revival The Birth of the Global Movement*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.
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# WALK BY FAITH

2 Corinthians 5:7



*"For we walk by faith,  
not by sight."*

*Color the footprints and circle each word as you find it!*



# The Fruit of the Spirit

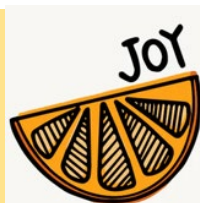
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**Self-Control**  
**Galatians**  
**Patience**  
**Spirit**  
**Paul**

**Faithfulness**  
**Goodness**  
**Letter**  
**Fruit**  
**Love**

**Gentleness**  
**Kindness**  
**Prison**  
**Peace**  
**Joy**





# Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

## International Sunday School Association

**Motto:** “One Lord, One People Pursuing the Vision”

**Theme:** “Preparing God’s People Through the Word”

**Vision:** To be the model Apostolic Pentecostal Church  
of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



***Isaiah 40:8***

***The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God stands forever.***



### ISSA Chronicle<sup>©</sup> Newsletter Staff

**Elder Charles E. Bright, Jr.**

**Elder Donald Searson**

**Deacon Alexander Stewart**

**Brother Julian Antoine**

**Sister Kathy Russell**



# Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

## Leadership

Apostle Ronnie Parson, Presiding Prelate

Apostle James A. Maye, Apostle to the Youth

Apostle Reginald Davis, Director to the Youth

Bishop RC Lawson, Establishmentarian

**Blessings to all COOLJC leaders  
and church families!**



**ISSA Newsletter Request for Submission**



Title of Article: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Category (Choose one below)**

Local Level	Thanksgiving (Testimony)
Diocese Level	Prayer Request
Youth Corner	Announcement
Auxiliary Level: Please provide name of auxiliary	Sunday School Specific
	Other:

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent of Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Diocese \_\_\_\_\_

Diocesan Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

Region Number \_\_\_\_\_

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