



**Pastor, Elder Rachel R. Howell**

## **January Leader of the Month**

***You can't get tired working for Jesus!***

Elder Rachel R. Howell is the pastor of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Wilmington, Delaware, USA, since 2007, and the wife of Suffragan Bishop Joseph A. Howell. They have been married for 26 years and have three adult children. Pastor Howell holds a BA degree in Business Administration and a MS degree in Nonprofit Management. Elder Howell also completed a paralegal Certificate program at Widener University, in order to be able to assist the President/CEO of THAT United International with maintaining a balanced ethical and legal structure, within the organization.

At the Wilmington church, Pastor Howell created the Love-In-Deed Food program, a food closet that provides food and clothing monthly to residents in the greater city of Wilmington area. Nationally, she serves as the Vice President of Regulatory Compliance and advisor to the National Young People's Convention Coordination of her church's shepherd organization, THAT United International. Elder Howell was also the CEO for THAT United, prior to her appointment as pastor of the Wilmington congregation.

She is also an Administrator in the North America Business Office at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, and a business partner of SoLight Consulting, LLC, a company

created to aid churches and other nonprofit religious organizations in exemption compliance, business and church administration, and leadership development.

Elder Howell was filled with the Holy Ghost at the age of 12 at True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Silverton, Ohio, which is located outside of the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. This is when she began her leadership training, under the tutelage of her late Overseer, Bishop Eddita Tolber until her home going in 1992. That is when Apostle, Bishop Larry Smith became her pastor. Ever since she joined the church, she eagerly served in the Pastor's Chorus, Nurse's Guild, Usher Board, Sunday school teacher, steward in the Holiness Young People's Union, church musician, and director of the New Generation Mass Choir for several congregations in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region.

In 1989, at the age of 21, she preached her first message. In 1995, she was ordained Evangelist. In the work of evangelist, she assisted Apostle Smith in establishing an outreach ministry that later became known as the Harvest Ministries. In this work, she and other ordained ministers preached each month at prison facilities and nursing homes, to bring hope and the message of salvation.

While yet an evangelist, she also developed the Young Christians Leadership Academy and Parent College for the shepherd organization and, in 1998, established and directed the Bishop Eddita D. Tolber Memorial Scholarship Fund.

In 2000, Evangelist Howell and her family moved to the state of Delaware and she assisted her husband in establishing True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Wilmington, Delaware. In the Wilmington church she taught doctrinal studies, ran church revivals, and set up an east coast district office in Wilmington, Delaware for THAT United International. In 2007, Evangelist Howell was ordained to the office of



elder and appointed to Pastor the Wilmington church, while her husband took on greater national organization responsibilities.

## **[The following is an interview with Elder Rachel Howell.]**

### **What do you think prepared you for the role of a Pastor?**

It was a culmination of things. When I was filled with the Holy Ghost at the age of 12, I never had the goal to be a pastor. In fact, my passion was music—singing in the choir, playing the organ, and directing choirs. That was all I wanted to do for the rest of my saved life! But God had a different plan for me. It was using my musical abilities, working in auxiliaries, working with youth, and evangelizing in neighborhoods, that set me on the course for leadership. I also received formal instruction through attending doctrinal study classes, minister's staff teaching sessions, and evangelist and eldership training courses, in the national Ministers' Alliance and through the Leadership Development Institute.

### **What particular challenges do you face as a woman in leadership? Do you believe these challenges are different from those faced by men?**

I believe, for the most part, challenges are the same for all people. In the Lord, you can only be successful if you are a leader led by the Spirit of God. The difference that women may face; however, is the female stereotype that women are not called by God to be in leadership, especially as a Pastor or Bishop. I have experienced this in arenas outside of our organization, but I don't let it dissuade me. You have to know and understand the scriptures, and are assured that you are called by God, with all the subsequent signs. I am also grateful for the examples that went before me, from the Scriptures and modern day examples like my first pastor and overseer, Bishop Eddita D. Tolber and our present Overseer, Presiding Bishop Dr. Pamela Smith,...powerful, anointed women of God!

### **You seemed like you've accomplished a lot. Do you have other aspirations do you have both personal and spiritual?**

I quote the Apostle Paul on this: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things behind, and reaching forth to those things before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:16-17) I don't want to ever get tired working for Jesus!

My personal and spiritual aspirations are intertwined. I want to work full-time for myself at SoLight Consulting, so I can advise faith-based nonprofit organizations how to make their administrations more effective and efficient. Also, I would like to open the Covenant of Peace Community Development Corporation in the state of Delaware, so that the church can have access to resources that will boost its capability to serve the needy in a greater way. Lastly, I look forward to traveling outside the country, as THAT United International plants churches on international soil. *You can't get tired working for Jesus!*