

Praise God from  
whom all blessings  
flow!

# Ogeechee Missions Visionary

“Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me...” Acts 1:8

JULY 2024

## Member Churches and Missions

Agape  
Bethel  
Blitchton FBC  
Brooklet FBC  
Cedar Street  
Christ  
Clito  
Eastern Heights  
Eldora  
Elmer  
Emit Grove  
Excelsior  
Fletcher Memorial  
Friendship  
Iglesia Cristiana Hispana  
Lawrence  
Leefield  
Lighthouse  
Macedonia  
Merrywood  
Metter FBC  
New Life  
Oak Grove  
Old Fellowship  
Olive Branch  
Pine Grove  
Portal FBC  
Pulaski  
Register  
Salem  
Southbridge Community  
Statesboro FBC  
Statesboro Korean Mission  
S'boro Mision Bautista Bethel  
Temple Hill  
Trinity  
Union

## Visionary SPOTLIGHT: Faith ...

“So Jesus answered and said to them,  
*‘Have faith in God.’*” (Mark 11:22)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know we should have faith, but do we have it? Do we have that genuine, unwavering faith, which is passed down from generation to generation like Lois, Eunice and Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5)?

We all have our story of faith, but I'd like to take a moment to share this one...

At the end of 1946, a young couple with four children (6, 5, 3 and a newborn) were settling into their post-WW2 life, anticipating a bright, blessing-filled future. In February of 1947, an accident left the housewife widowed, with the five-year-old comatose in a hospital, fighting for his life. He lived, but lost an eye, a portion of his skull and brain. Many surgeries and issues lay ahead!

The woman could have rejected God, cursed him like Job's wife encouraged him to do (Job 2:9). However, she and her children (including the five-year-old once he was able) moved to be near her family. She prayed, trusted the Lord, worked multiple jobs and raised her boys in church, teaching them about the love of the Savior. She went to school and became a nurse, continuing to provide spiritual guidance and encouragement for her children and grandchildren—four of whom grew to serve the Lord as a preacher, worship leader and two youth/children's leaders.

The injured son grew up, married an amazing, God-fearing woman and had two children. The couple prayed, trusted the Lord, and raised both children in church, teaching them about the love of the Savior. Their son is the worship leader mentioned above, and their daughter is one of the youth/children's leaders.

Relying upon faith, the daughter, surrendered her lifelong-desired career when God called her to retire, be a youth leader and homeschool her child. She prayed, trusted the Lord and raised him in church, teaching him about the love of the Savior.

That child grew up, got married, led worship in church and soon became a dad. His son made a profession of faith at 5-years-old and now plays the guitar for numerous church events. Sadly, the boy's mother chose to leave the family to pursue the LGBTQ lifestyle, and the courts mandate that she gets visitation, at which she takes every opportunity to thwart any Christian teaching.

Why would God allow this evil influence? Well, why would God allow His faithful servants to be thrown into a fiery furnace? Why would God allow Betsy and Corrie ten Boom to be incarcerated in a concentration camp for helping Jews during WW2? Through their trials, the faithful served as Christ's ambassadors, and countless lives were changed!

It's easy for us to get focused on

the here and now, the comfortable, but God sees the bigger picture, and He has a plan!

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise...but is [extremely patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9) *“...in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Everyone who repents and accepts the salvation provided by the shed blood of Jesus Christ will face obstacles, just like their Redeemer (John 15:20). Yet, through the darkest hours of our lives, we get the privilege of being witnesses—ambassadors—for the King of kings. This is not easy; we must rely entirely upon Him! We must trust that He will provide all the guidance and protection we need!

Faith **saves** (Lk. 7:50), **forgives** (Lk. 5:20), **heals** (Mt. 9:22), **purifies hearts** (Acts 15:9) and so much more! Take up the **Shield of Faith** today! God has prepared it, made it battle-ready, fully capable of quenching ALL the fiery darts that the wicked one can throw your way (Eph. 6:16)!

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This is but one story. Yours may be even more dramatic, more harrowing, but remember, it's NOT about us, what we've been through. It's ALL about HIM, standing/shining for HIS GLORY! That's the blessed result of FAITH!

## Prayer Requests:

- ~ Our churches without pastors
- ~ All summer activities scheduled at Mann Ctr.
- ~ Our summer Mission Trips
- ~ ORBA's August 24th Celebrations Day and vote for Associational Missionary (info to all churches forthcoming).

## W.W. Mann Center

Well, well!!! S-U-M-M-E-R has officially arrived!!! Blistering temperatures and very high index numbers are upon us. It looks as if we might have to enforce our Heat Policy on a regular basis this summer!! We have the same Heat Policy as the Georgia High School Association uses for athletics, which prohibits certain outdoor activities after the heat index reaches a certain temperature.

Duane and I are the keepers of the heat index and we have the say so to curtail activities if need be. We regularly (every 30 min.) check the heat index and relay that information to the camp director. If outside activities are curtailed we will hoist a red flag up the flag pole. We hope to have an extremely busy and active summer here at the Mann Center.

We are continually blessed and grateful to be able to serve the association in the positions you have entrusted us with.  
GOD bless you all!

Mike Sparks, Director  
(Cell#912-531-2946)  
Duane Davis, Maint. Supervisor  
(Jeremiah 32:17)

## Clinical Pastoral Education Course

Enrollment for Fall 2024 Clinical Pastoral Education is OPEN.

Deadline for Application is August 5, 2024. Semester begins on September 2, 2024.

Ogeechee Area Hospice is working with Clinical Pastoral Education International (CPEI), to offer opportunities for local pastors, ministers & lay-leaders to participate in CPEI's CPE training program. CPEI is affiliated with the American Association of Christian Counselors (aacc.net). Chaplain Nick Spletstoser (MDiv, MS, BCC), of Ogeechee Area Hospice, serves as the Supervisor Educator for OAH's CPE program, and we are currently enrolling students for the Fall Semester. Internship sites can include your location of ministry. High School diploma required. Master's Degree in ministry required for Board Certified Chaplain (BCC).

To learn more about CPEI and our training program visit <https://cpe-international.org>.

To learn more about this opportunity to expand your pastoral counseling and care skills and certification, contact Nick Spletstoser at 912-764-8441 or [nspletstoser@oahospice.org](mailto:nspletstoser@oahospice.org).



Building a "Bible Wall" and learning more about Jesus!

## Camp "I AM" is here!

We are asking for your prayers for our children's camps this summer, for the staff and for the children participating. We pray that these children will come to know the Lord or will learn how to live life more fully in Christ.

Camp "I AM" Junior (grades 1-3) will be July 1-4, and Camp "I AM" Senior (grades 4-6) will be July 8-12.

The theme for this year is: "JESUS: the Way, the Truth, the Life!" We are focusing on how we can be strong and courageous in the light of knowing Jesus Christ as the ONLY Way to the Father, the ONLY complete Truth, and the ONLY provider of eternal Life.

Camp "I AM" is a children's camp designed to provide our youth with the opportunities to

grow physically, mentally, socially, and (most importantly) spiritually. We have developed a strong program that challenges all of our campers to grow in these areas. Camp "I AM" promises to impact each and every camper that attends.

### Church News

**FRIENDSHIP**—Fill-A-Truck Event for GA Bapt. Children’s Home (Baxley location) Kicks-Off on July 1st. For more info, contact Martha Brown at 912-865-4165. (\*see below for list of items)

**MERRYWOOD**—Tuesdays, 6/4-8/6; 3pm: Summer Bible Reading Club. For any member of our sister churches & anyone in the community. Our focus will be on the Gospels & the impact they truly have on our father & the text as a whole.

**NEW LIFE**—Fri, 8/16; 7:00 pm: Gold City in CONCERT! A love offering will be collected

**ASSOCIATION-WIDE**—Many of our churches are without Senior pastors. A few have called Interims, but a few are currently calling Supply preachers on a regular basis. We do have a Pulpit Supply List on our website, should yours be one of these congregations. I’ve also enclosed a

copy of the list in this issue. Please keep the following congregations in your prayers regarding this particular need: Excelsior, Pine Grove, Pulaski, Temple Hill & Union; (Interim) Clito, Lighthouse & Register.

**Register now!**  
www.thesparkconference.com

# SPARK

CONFERENCE

**Southeast Region**  
KEYNOTE:  
Dr. Mac Brunson  
-  
First Baptist Church  
Brunswick, GA  
Sun, Sept 8

# ANNUAL TRUCKLOADING

benefitting



The Ogeechee River Baptist Association is collecting:  
Salsa, Cooking Oil, Cream of Chicken/Mushroom, Salad Dressing (Ranch, French) Paper Products, Ziplock Bags (Quart, Gallon), Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Back-2-School supplies.  
Gift Cards are always Welcome!

Contact & Drop-Off Information:

July 1-26, 2024

Friendship Baptist Church  
4025 Friendship Church Rd  
Statesboro, GA 30458



Questions? Please contact Martha Brown 912.865.4165 or 912.682.9186; friendshipbaptiststatesboro@gmail.com

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 Moderator:  
 Tony Pagliarullo  
 Associational Missionary:  
 none at present  
 Administrative Assistant:  
 Debbie Marotte  
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 orbaoffice@orbalife.org  
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**W.W. MANN CENTER**

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 Director:  
 Michael Sparks  
 Email  
 bradwellalum69@yahoo.com



**The W.W. MANN CENTER is getting a NEW WEBSITE ...**

**See our August newsletter for specifics.**

**Independence Day**  
 On July 4th, pray and give thanks to God our Creator, celebrating the freedom He provided this nation 248 years ago!



**July Birthdays**

- 1 Ben Roberts
- 5 Margie Griffith
- 6 Michael Williams
- 7 Gene Currin
- 14 Chris Fowler
- 17 Martha Brown
- 21 Joe Eason
- 22 Taek Goo Kang
- 22 James Stansbury
- 28 Christie Berry
- 29 Jeffrey Howard

**July Anniversaries**

- 1 Gene & Mary Currin
- 6 Ted & Sue Page
- 9 Mike & Debbie Marotte
- 9 Juan & Debbie Vallejo
- 14 Jody & Bobbie Jo Nasworthy
- 21 Ricky & Susan Allen
- 24 Bryan & Katie Bulmer



*Mission Statement of the Ogeechee River Baptist Association:  
 We exist to help our churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.*

**Praise the LORD ... GREAT NEWS!!!** Many of you have been praying for ORBA's former DOM, Ed Johnson & his wife Joyce. Here's a recent update (email on 6/5) from him:  
 "I went to the surgeon for my first post-op visit. His words were that he had taken 126 nodes from the area and all were clear of cancer. Just as a precaution, I will undergo several chemo treatments to make sure there was nothing overlooked. Healing is not complete; that will take time. The 10-hour surgery involved moving things around by robot.  
 "Joyce's hemoglobin is back up to 12.2 from a low of 6.7.  
 Your prayers were heard and honored by our Lord. Thank you for your faithfulness. Please continue to remember Joyce and me in your prayers."

**Calendar**

JULY (Focus on Christian Citizenship)

- 1-5 **Camp "I AM" Junior, W.W. Mann Center**
- 4 Independence Day, Office Closed
- 8-12 **Camp "I AM" Senior, W.W. Mann Center**
- 8-12 Camp Pinnacle Younger Girls Week, Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, GA
- 25 ~~Associational Executive Council Budget/Calendar Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.~~

AUGUST (Focus on Christian Service)

- 1 **Associational Executive Council Budget/Calendar Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.**
- 4 Send Relief Sunday
- 5 **Associational WMU Team Meeting, Sue Page's Home, 6:30 p.m.**
- 25 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day
- 25 Global Hunger Sunday
- 24 **Annual Associational Celebration at the W.W. Mann Center**

SEPTEMBER (Focus on Next Generation Ministries)

- 2 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 26 **Associational Executive Council Meeting, ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.**