

# Ogeechee Missions Visionary

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

## From Our Missionary

In his book *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*, Kenneth Osbeck reminds us that one of the most familiar Christmas carols, “Joy to the World” by Isaac Watts, was intended, in Osbeck’s words, “to be a New Testament expression of praise.” Watts originally titled the hymn “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom” when he wrote it in 1719. Without mentioning the typical themes of Christmas—like shepherds, angelic choirs, or wise men—Watts aimed to direct the listener’s attention to the arrival of the promised Messiah and His mission to undo the curse brought about by Adam’s fall. Christ’s coming and His redemptive work remain humanity’s true reason for praising Him.

“Joy to the World” is, in fact, a paraphrase of Psalm 98, where the psalmist writes:

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

4 Shout for joy to the Lord, all  
the earth, burst into jubilant song  
with music;

5 make music to the Lord with  
the harp, with the harp and the  
sound of singing,

6 with trumpets and the blast  
of the ram’s horn—shout for joy  
before the Lord, the King.

7 Let the sea resound, and eve-

rything in it, the world, and all  
who live in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their  
hands, let the mountains sing to-  
gether for joy;

9 let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in right-  
eousness and the peoples with  
equity.

Compare this to Watts’ lyrics:

1. Joy to the world; the Lord is  
come; let Earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and Heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior  
reigns; let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains repeat the sound-  
ing joy.

3. No more let sins and sor-  
rows grow, nor thorns infest the  
ground; He comes to make His  
blessings flow far as the curse is  
found.

4. He rules the world with  
truth and grace, and makes the  
nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love.

As you, your family, and your  
church prepare to celebrate Christ-  
mas, the true wonder lies not in  
the date of December 25<sup>th</sup>, but in  
the reality that Immanuel, “God  
with Us,” came into the world.  
Born of a virgin, He lived a sinless  
life, died a sacrificial death, rose

victoriously on the third day, and  
now lives to intercede for us at the  
right hand of the Father.

On behalf of Mrs. Sandra, our family,  
and the staff of the Ogeechee River  
Baptist Association, we wish you and  
your family a very Merry Christmas.

~ Jeff

### Highlights for December & January:

#### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

100% of your gifts directly supports  
missionary presence around the world  
so lives can be transformed through  
the gospel.

#### Third Thursday Minister Roundtables, starting January 2025

According to Lifeway Research, 64%  
of pastors feel a need to strengthen  
their relationships with other pastors,  
and many are open to guidance from  
those who have faced or are facing  
similar challenges. Our first Third  
Thursday Minister Roundtable will be  
on January 16 at 10 AM. This time is  
set aside for prayer, fellowship, and  
peer learning among the ministers of  
ORBA.

#### Disaster Relief Information and Interest Meeting:

Thursday, January 23, 6:30 PM, South-  
bridge Community Church (12376 U.S.  
Highway 301 South, Statesboro.) This  
meeting is open to any and everyone  
who has an interest in establishing a  
Disaster Relief team in our associa-  
tion.

For unto you is born  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior, which  
is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



### Member Churches & 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  
Metter FBC  
New Life  
Oak Grove  
Old Fellowship  
Olive Branch  
Pine Grove  
Portal FBC  
Pulaski  
Register  
Salem  
SonLight Community  
Southbridge Community  
Statesboro FBC  
S’boro Mision Bautista...  
Bethel  
Statesboro Korean Mission  
Temple Hill  
Trinity  
Union



## News from the W.W. Mann Retreat Center

As she did for so many, Hurricane Helene left behind a great deal of damage at the Mann Center, forcing us to close for the months of October and November. Coach and Duane have worked hard to get the fallen trees chopped up and removed, and some building repairs have been made.

God has blessed us, and the front part of the property is now reopened. Last weekend, we had the first scheduled event in two months. The chapel, Sarah Miller Cafetorium and Bowen Dining room are all now available should your family or congregation be looking for a location for a gathering.

Yes, there's still much to do, and if your youth, men/women/mission's ministries are looking for winter projects, Coach and Duane would welcome the help. Please call Coach (912-531-2946) to set up those arrangements.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Deborah Gay
2	Amanda McCreary
5	Janice Jones
8	Joshua Crocker
9	Yvonne Parker
9	Jennifer Sherrod
10	Hillary Howard
17	Mallory Howard
18	Kay Abercrombie
23	Dave Parker
27	Susan Allen
29	Mike Marotte
31	Sarah Fowler

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Bill Vasant
4	Ginger Crocker
7	Ben Gay
11	Lindsay Boyett
12	Tim Traywick
13	Edna Vasant
14	Lynda McCoy
15	Tim Huffingham
17	Tommy Crocker
18	Will Griffith
18	Sue Page
24	Ricky Allen
25	Martha Green
27	Tony Pagliarullo

## News from the Churches

**ELDORA**—NEWS: (1)We have had 3 people baptized in the last 2 weeks—Praise the Lord! (2)Our congregational traditional Christmas fellowship was December 1st. \*\*We pray for everyone to have a blessed Christmas and a safe and joyous New Year! And thanks to all the organizations, churches, and individuals who helped out after Hurricane Helene passed.



**(Nevils) TRINITY**—(1)Sun., 12/8; 11am: *Stargazers* (Christmas Production/Drama Ministry). (2)Sun., 12/8; 5:30pm: *Cake Auction* (for Lottie Moon). Sponsored by our Women's Ministry—The offering supports international missions. Soup & Sandwiches will be served! (3)Sun., 12/15; 11am: *The Christmas Cupcake* (Christmas Play/ Children's Choir). (4)Sun., 12/22; 11am: *Because of Bethlehem* (Christmas Concert/Sanctuary Choir). (5)Sun., 12/29; 11am: Christmas Communion.

**MOVE Conference** is the largest winter evangelism conference for teenagers in Georgia, and the absolute best place to bring your youth group for their retreat this winter!

For more info, go to <https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/nextgen/573163>





**Georgia Baptist**  
Disaster Relief

***Bringing Help, Hope, & Healing!***  
***Transforming lives with the Gospel.***

**TRAINING**

**MARCH 22, 2025**

**Southside Baptist Church, Savannah**  
**Registration coming soon!**



GENESIS 3:14-15 >> So the LORD God said to the serpent: "...I will put enmity / Between you and the women, /  
And between your seed and her Seed; / He shall bruise your head, / And you shall bruise His heel."

...the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary....the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord is with you; blessed *are* you among women!"

...she was troubled at his saying... Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ~Luke 1:26-33

After...Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit...."

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him... ~Matthew 1:18-24

...in those days...a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered....

Joseph...went up from Galilee...into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child....while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son...

JOHN 19:17-30 >> And [Jesus], bearing His cross, went out to...Golgotha, where they crucified Him...

...the gospel...by which [we] are saved...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and...He was buried, and...He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures... ~1 Corinthians 15:1-4



Join us January 24-25 at First Baptist Church Jonesboro for Student Worship Weekend (REELfest). REELfest an event for students, 6th grade-college, who come together to worship the Lord with the gifts they have been given. Students have a choice in which "team" they would like to learn and lead: Choir, Orchestra, Praise Band. Please note: the Praise Band/Team is limited due to space. Students, in all teams, will work together to present a worship service on Saturday afternoon. We desire to help students develop their God given skills in the area of worship and equip them to be leaders in their local church.

**WHEN & WHERE**

First Baptist Church Jonesboro  
**126 South Main Street**  
Jonesboro, GA  
Jan. 24-25, 2025

**INDIVIDUAL  
REGISTRATION**

<https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/reelfest-2025/582990>

**GROUP  
REGISTRATION**

<https://brushfire.com/gabaptist/reelfest-2025/584131>



## Ogeechee River Baptist Association

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Assn. Missionary: Jeff Parmer  
Email: [orbamissionary@orbalife.org](mailto:orbamissionary@orbalife.org)  
Admin. Assistant: Debbie Marotte  
Email: [orbaoffice@orbalife.org](mailto:orbaoffice@orbalife.org)

## W.W. Mann Retreat Center

2171 Prather Road  
Statesboro, GA 30461  
Phone: 912-842-2460  
Fax: 912-842-2464  
Website: [www.mann-center.org](http://www.mann-center.org)  
Director: Mike Sparks  
Email: [bradwellalum69@yahoo.com](mailto:bradwellalum69@yahoo.com)

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

27 Mike & Debbie Howard  
28 Bob & Genia Crosby

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Lee & April Collins  
9 Fred & Lynda McCoy



Dates: Feb 6-7, 2025  
Location: Jekyll Island Club Hotel  
Address: **371 Riverview Dr, Jekyll Island, GA 31527**

Begins: 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 6, 2025  
Ends: 3:15 PM on Friday, February 7, 2025  
Cost: \$89 per person thru January 6, 2025; \$129 per person beginning January 7, 2025

The Kids Ministry Summit is designed to gather children ministers from across the state for a special time of growth and retreat. During our time we will worship together, learn from our speakers, network with each other, encourage one another, and get rejuvenated in our call for ministry. This is a two day event that you don't want to miss.

For lodging, please contact 912-635-5191 or 800-535-9547 for a Reservation Agent and ask for the **Kids Ministry Summit Rate**.

#### **Schedule:**

#### Thursday, February 6

01:00 PM – Registration & Fellowship  
01:30 PM – Large Group  
03:30 PM – Break  
04:00 PM – Large Group  
05:30 PM – Dismiss for Dinner (on your own)

#### Friday, February 7

09:00 AM – Large Group  
10:30 AM – Break  
11:00 AM – Large Group  
11:45 AM – Break for Lunch (on your own)  
01:30 PM – Large Group  
03:15 PM – Dismiss

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Staton at [kstaton@gabaptist.org](mailto:kstaton@gabaptist.org) or (770) 936-5224.

## CALENDAR 2024

### DECEMBER (Focus on International Missions)

1-8 Week of Prayer & Mission Study for IMB/Lottie Moon Offering  
2 **Pastors and Wives Christmas Banquet**  
23-31 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed (reopen January 2)  
25 Christmas Day

## CALENDAR 2025

### JANUARY

1 New Year's Day Holiday  
2 **ORBA Office re-opens for new year**  
7 **Associational WMU Team Meeting; Location TBD, 6:30 p.m.**  
14 **Camp "I AM" Planning Meeting; ORBA Office, 7:00 p.m.**  
20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; ORBA Office Closed  
23 **Associational Executive Council Meeting; ORBA Office, 9:00 a.m.**

### FEBRUARY

11 **Camp "I AM" Planning Meeting; ORBA Office, 7:00 p.m.**  
14 Valentine's Day  
17 President's Day  
28 - **BCM's DNow; Location TBD**

### **WE'RE NOW ON FACEBOOK!!!**



## **Ogeechee River Baptist Association**

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