

The logo for IOTLA Baptist Church. The word "IOTLA" is in a large, black, serif font. A stylized cross is integrated into the letter "T". Behind the letters "O", "T", and "L" is a light gray silhouette of a mountain range. Below "IOTLA", the words "BAPTIST CHURCH" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

JANUARY 1, 2023
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As I met with some of our ministry leaders this morning (1-2-23) we had a discussion about personal and ministry goal setting as we look toward the new year. I had the opportunity to share 3 questions with them that I believe could serve as a sort of goal-setting guide, if you will. I'd like to share them with you, too. Here's what they are:

In other words, what's my motivation? It's ok, even great, to have personal goals. But, as Christians, we want everything we do to glorify our Father who is in heaven. So, as we set goals, whatever they are, it will prove helpful to us to set them with this question in mind; is it my desire, in the pursuit and accomplishment of this goal, to ultimately bring glory and praise to the name of Jesus?

It's vital that we be flexible and open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as we set goals for and pursue constructive, Godly lives. But, constructive Godly, Spirit-led living flows out of intentional prepared living. Effective ministry doesn't happen apart from Godly preparation. We have to be personally prepared, from the inside out, as instruments for kingdom use. And, growth and goals are seldom met without hard work and determination. Be led by the Spirit, but be laboring with His energy that works mightily within you.

No matter how much I long for God's praise, and I should, He desires it more. No matter how much I plan and prepare, and I should, I can never plan enough for all that God can and wants to do in and through me (and us as a church family). Ultimately, He is far more than able to do far more than all I (we) can ask or even imagine. May He, by His great providence, bring glory to Himself in ways I (we) can never take the credit for.

One of my goals is to make these truths a filter for my goal setting and decision making in this new year. If you believe it'll be a helpful guide for yours, I encourage you to ask the Lord to help you recall and utilize these same guiding principles. Happy new year, dear church family!

For His Glory: Pastor Brandon

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from lotlaKids!

lotlaKids are looking forward to ways they will serve God in 2023!



YOUTH

The youth have been busy the past couple of months working with our younger children making decorations for the Christmas trees they made. However, they had some time right before Christmas to work on their Santa look! On December 28th three of our church families opened up their homes for a "progressive dinner" for the youth and their leaders. First we had a stop at the home of Margaret and Hayes Snyder for

appetizers then on to Sam and Lisa Sangregory's for the main course and to top it off a yummy, delicious dessert at Carol and David Tippet's home. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you for having us in your homes!!!

We are looking forward to getting our youth room decorated in the first part of the new year, doing mission trips, a youth retreat and so much more!

Submitted by: Youth Leadership



YOUTH SANTA GAME



OCC in Atlanta



A BIG Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We have gone over our \$4,500 church goal by collecting \$6,040. FANTASTIC!

Let's Celebrate BIRTHDAYS

◆ CAYDEN ENGERT	01/01
◆ HEATHER STAMEY	01/03
◆ BRIAN STAMEY	01/04
◆ TINA CROMBERGER	01/06
◆ CHRIS DILLS	01/08
◆ LAUREN SHULER	01/10
◆ DENISE TIPPETT	01/12
◆ MAGGIE BUCHANAN	01/13
◆ EMMA LOVETT	01/15
◆ WAYNE LYNCH	01/15
◆ JOAN JENKINS	01/19
◆ KELLI TIPPETT	01/20
◆ SUE SMITH	01/23
◆ GAVIN ROWLAND	01/31
◆ SPENCER ROWLAND	01/31

Christmas Committee

I know I say this every Christmas but I must say it once again. It never ceases to amaze me of the wonderful support that we have in our church family! Once again our church was able to provide a wonderful Christmas with clothes, shoes, coats, toys, and more to five families! The gifts donated were just awesome, the help we had from our wonderful committee and the many volunteers who helped us. There are not enough words. We also provided a delicious Christmas dinner to our families and sent spiral hams home with them to have for their Christmas dinner.

Thank you committee; Melissa Leatherman, Beverly Penland, Sandy Breedlove, Lisa Sangregory, Wanda Ledford and Carmen Penland for all your help with planning and coordinating the activities.

Thank you to the Joy Group for all the work they did preparing baskets for the sick and shut in's. They did a fantastic job as well!

Happy New Year!

Submitted by: Tammy Dills, Christmas Committee Chair

THE CLOSING OF 2022...

As 2022 comes to a close, we look back on it and reflect. It has been a wonderful year and we feel blessed to be a part of the life of Iotla Baptist Church. We pray that 2023 will be a year of abundant blessings to this church.



PRAYER LIST

Church Members

Teresa Ammons
Mildred Asby
Sharon Bennett
Jim Fouts
Dickie Gibson
Rose Lillard
Christy Mathis
Diane Pangle
Bob Peters
Bethany Reeves
Charles Swafford
Margaret Willoughby
Barbara Wilson
Janis Wilson

Family and Friends

Annette Bergman
Noah Carpenter
Brenda DeHart
Sharon Gravett
Lisa Leatherman
Kevin Ledford
Chuck Mallonee
Jeni Marotta
Norma Midado
Jerry & Connie Reily
Carson Rowland
JoAnn Runyon
Evan Smith
Patsy Stanley
Jeff Tate
Josh Tate
Tommy Watterson
Bruce Wilson, Jr.
Terry Wood
Cade and Lanie