

IOTLA

BAPTIST CHURCH

Volumn 7 Issue 8
February 1, 2024

Knowing God
Growing in relationship to Him
Going into the world in His name and with his message
Showing others how they can do the same.



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

When the world was seeking to make sense of the uncommon pandemic of Covid, one word became more common than ever before. It's the word "essential". For example, we began to hear all about "essential workers". There was even information on official platforms for the purpose of defining who qualified as essential workers. The fact is some roles are indeed essential to effective, efficient functioning of society.

There is a similar truth helping to guide the life of healthy churches. It should be said that while no member of any church is essential in the sense that God must utilize them to fulfill His purpose, each and every member of every church is invited and commanded to join Him in His mission through that church. This is precisely why the Holy Spirit led Biblical writers like Paul to describe servants within the Body of Christ who have been entrusted and equipped with God-given gifts and skill sets. If you're a Christian and you look closely at the lists, you'll likely see your role(s) in there. Take, for example, Romans 12:6-8 where Paul names such actions as serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Or think of the

equipping spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12, where messages of wisdom and of knowledge, faith and healing are said to have been present in the life of that early church.

These are not the only occurrences of such works and workers in the scriptures. However, for each of these, whether in the life of the earliest New Testament churches or this one, three words of purpose and priority are in order: Every effective work and worker in the life of the church must be exercised for the glory of God. Every effective work and worker in the life of the church is to be exercised for the good and growth of the church. Every effective work and worker in the life of the church is to be exercised, not in our power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

For His Glory: Pastor Brandon

"God often works in the unseen. Just because we can't see it or feel it doesn't mean He isn't working."

Lysa TerKeurst

Let's Celebrate

Anniversaries

- ◆ Charles & Crystal Stamey 2/14
- ◆ Matt & Sara Taylor 2/22
- ◆ Rodney & Tiffani Vanhook 2/28

Birthdays

- ◆ Linda Gregory 2/06
- ◆ Brandon Breedlove 2/07
- ◆ Jim Huggart 2/07
- ◆ Judy Christensen 2/09
- ◆ Frances DeWitt 2/10
- ◆ Elizabeth Sprinkle 2/10
- ◆ Josh Lynch 2/15
- ◆ Betty Penland 2/17
- ◆ Kason Lynch 2/20
- ◆ Adrienne Watts 2/25
- ◆ Steve Tippett 2/28

IOTLA BAPTIST AMBASSADORS

The student ministry has, through a democratic vote, elected to take on the name Iotla Baptist Ambassadors. This name comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20, where the Apostle Paul states, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." We feel this fits well with our God given mission to make disciples of all peoples. Please continue to support our Ambassadors with prayer as they seek to Know Him, Grow in relationship to Him, Go into the world in His name and with His message, and Show others how they can do the same.

Our Ambassadors will be traveling to Atlanta on Saturday, February 10th for a time of wor-

ship and fellowship at the 2024 Winter Jam festival. There will be more activities coming that are currently in the planning stages because we have the opportunity to partner with the Macon Baptist Association to host their 3rd annual Pastor's banquet at Iotla Baptist on February 9, the banquet that the youth have traditionally done for Valentine's Day will be moved to March. Thank you all for your love and support. Studies have shown that if students have 5 Godly people pouring into them, they are 80% more likely to maintain a life of faith into adulthood. Please continue to wrap our students in with your love, prayer, and kindness.

Trevor Trammel, Student Pastor



Iotla Baptist Church
1537 Iotla Church Road
Franklin, NC 28734
Phone: 828-524-7167
iotlabaptist@dnnet.net



Upcoming Mission and Prayer Opportunities

- Pray for the team leaving from Macon County for Guatemala in March.
- Continue to pray for pastors and churches located in Usphantan, Guatemala.
- Pray for missionaries located in the United States.
- Get ready for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Happy Heart

Here are some fun facts about Valentine's Day.

- ◇ In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14 a holiday.
- ◇ About one billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.
- ◇ More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold.
- ◇ On average, there are 220,000 wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.
- ◇ \$23.9 billion is the total amount last year that Americans spent on Valentine's Day gifts—including for their pets.
- ◇ 1916 is the year that Hallmark's Valentine's Day greeting cards first appeared on store shelves. The company's founder, J. C. Hall began selling Valentine's Day postcards earlier in 1910.

Can We Impact Lostness Through Prayer?

Simple Answer...Yes

To follow Jesus we can **Go, Give and Pray**. Without the prayer there would be little giving and going. Missionaries around the world and right here in the United States depend on our prayers to fulfill the work that God has sent them to do.

Lostness is growing every day. I urge you to pick up the new **18-month International Mission Board prayer calendar** and commit to praying. The calendars are in the vestibule and on the table downstairs.

Start by praying the January prayer below and then pick up your calendar and start with the month of February!

Ask the Father to capture your heart, breaking it for what breaks His, and helping you avoid silence at all costs. Ask Him to prompt you daily to remember the lost in your prayers...

Mission Trip to Guatemala

A team from Macon County will be serving in Guatemala from March 9th through the 16th. This team includes Iotla members Trevor Trammel and Melissa Leatherman. We will be serving in a village called Hoya Lago with work building a wall to protect the church, working with the village children and the women in the village. Hoya Lago is one of the villages that the Vision Team visited last year and has since felt the need to go back and start work and a partnership with the precious people of this village. Please be in prayer for this trip. If you would like to participate in the mission work to be done, there are several items needed:

- ◆ Small gifts (for the women in the village as we work with them). Items such as very small bottles of lotion, chap stick, even small and lightweight items they can place in their homes!
- ◆ Crayons and small items for the children (hair bows, etc.) for the girls and maybe socks or something for the boys.

Submitted by: Melissa Leatherman

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Wednesday Night Supper will have a new look. On the last Wednesday of each month beginning in February, the meal will be provided by a combination of the kitchen crew and church members. The church will provide the meat, bread, and drinks for these meals and will be asking church members to help with casseroles, salads and desserts. There will be sign-up sheets passed around for each meal. Please help us give this a try.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The seminar on Identity Theft that the JOY Group was sponsoring and had to cancel has been rescheduled for Friday, March 8th at 10:30. Mark your calendars!
2. We have CDs from 2012 to 2022 that we are getting ready to discard. If you would be interested in having any of these, please call the church office.
3. If you have not received your contribution statement for 2023 and would like it, please call or come by the church office.

PRAYER LIST

Church Members

- Mary Jo Campbell
- Virginia Fickling
- Edna Huggart
- Charlie Leatherman
- Emma Lovett
- Pat Smith

Family and Friends

- Barbie Clute
- Marcia Crawford
- Max Crawford
- Richard & Bea Perry
- Ann Wood