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Many Voices

1. Meeting Minutes of Old Fort Baptist Church Annual Church Conference 2022. 'Many Voices' highlighted the necessity of Vital Connections within the Church.

Letter from the Pastor

2. An encouragement from Pastor Eric about 'Missional Living'.

Updates

3. New and exciting things are happening at Old Fort Baptist Church. New Ministries and members to the team!

OFBC Basics

4. Become familiar with the staff at OFBC.



Nice pic! Send in photos you took at ofbc events to see it on our socials. media@oldfortbaptist.org

Where in the world?

6. Our Passion for Missions is grounded in Scripture. Learn more about the missional living of the Church in Summerville, the United States, and the 'ends of the Earth'.



Acts 1:8

- 7. Jerusalem | Summerville; the on going Missions in our area.
- 11. Judea & Samaria | The Nation; the on going Missions in our Community and Country.
- 13. 'Ends of the Earth' | International Missions; the on going Missions in the Global Church

Stay Connected

14. Be apart of what the Church is doing to follow the great commission.

Business

15. Nominations 16. 2024 Budget







Many Voices

Annual Church Conference Minutes 12/4/2022

5:32pm

Eric welcomes and opens the annual conference with prayer and opening

- Thanked Jason and Adriana for the book of reports
- Gave a heartfelt thank you for the success we had in 2022
- Spoke about our daily staff devotions
- "There is more to success in the local church that numbers
- "We are holding firm" to Biblical truth
- "Connecting with believers and non-believers alike"
- Difference between Angel tree and Connections of Hope

Eric mentions Bronson as our new Next Generations Pastor since June.

Bronson (& Wren) step up and share about his new job

- wanted to make relationships in the first 6 months
- in 2023 leaning into Sunday nights with the students
- add a small group time on Sunday PM
- expanding Sunday PM to 500-630
- Wednesday nights lacks the momentum and wants to expand Sunday PM instead
- Podcast on family discipleship
- · summer mission trip on the docket

Molly

- I've been in ministry 3 years, this year as the kid's director
- · Connections of Hope
- Feb 1 kids baptism sunday (7 confirmed so far)
- VBS June 19-23
- Victoria
- My first full year as preschool director
- we have new volunteers
- 9 new babies in 2022 moving into 2023
- Preschoolers were involved in our missions day in September for the first time.
- Preschool Rally will start 2023 to teach the preschoolers how to engage in a church setting
- Parker was student interim before Bronson came; she and Parker were blessed because of it; "it was a blessing"

Missions

- Eric speaks about TZ 3 sites for pastor training
- 70 pastors being sponsored by OFBC families
- Mentions Baltimore
- · Talks about CIFC dissolving

Roc

- speaks about the new ministry in spring of 2023 (March ??)
- 5+2 Pantry (emphasis on food only)
- took questions about the new ministry Charles
- Discipleship
- men
- women
- book store starts Jan 1
- new Bible studies starting in February Senior adult ministry
- Woodrow addresses his resignation as director
- Volunteers at Harmony are the key to keep it going
- Senior Bible study Tuesdays
- YAH monthly
- Eric thanks Woodrow and Ray
- Eric addresses the new director

Eric addresses CDO and GT Jason - Music & Media

- Music in front of the church all the time. New faces. Desire to continue to add new members (singers, musicians)
- Choir performance next Sunday PM, bring favorite Christmas goodies
- Media: "The people you never see, but are completely vital to all you see." The unsung heroes. Acknowledged Adriana – the best at recruiting people to help do things.
- Continue to strive for excellence in everything we do in music and media.

Comments from the church family

- John Williams: encouraging participation on Wednesday night.
 Prayer time a sweet time.
- Mason VanTassel: Dorchester Community Outreach. Men's homeless shelter
- Also women's homeless shelter. Miles Jamison road area to begin building new center for men's homeless shelter.

- Stacy Green: LowCountry Pregnancy Center. Baby bottle support. Focus on Crisis pregnancies to give women options other than abortion. Bible studies for women struggling in this area.
- Eric Lethco: Changed Lives Ministries.
 Rehabilitation for men and women.
- Nominations
- Stewardship: Brian Knight presented to be added to Committee. No objections. Stand approved
- Personnel: Tim Vance presented to be added to Committee. No objections. Stand approved
- Deacons: Nominations will be presented, but not tonight. Still some vetting and interviewing to do.

Budget

- Proposal of two options.
- Property agreed to be sold for \$595,000.
- Bond debt \$509,000.
- Proposal to take debt payment out of our budget.
- Top option is with a refinance of the bond debt.
 Contingency for if the sell of the property falls through.
- Bottom option is for debt free budget assuming property sells immediately.
- Bottom option is for debt free budget assuming property sells immediately.
- Jason and Mason VanTassel, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee.
- Mason moves that we adopt both budgets with the emphasis that the first option is only in effect until the property is sold and the bond is paid off.
- Questions. Music ministry drop. Jason explained it got shifted to building and grounds. Concern of giving less to missions. Eric addressed that we give less to missions because we do a percentage based giving. As we give less to the church, unfortunately that means we give less to mission. Woodrow challenged the congregation to give more. Question on administrative decrease. Question on income number and its impact on projecting next years numbers. \$1.2 million for 2022 a decrease from \$1.4 in 2021. What are terms on refinance? As long to get payments as low as possible.

Motion to present two budgets. Motion carries. Eric dismisses with prayer at 7:00pm

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Church Family,

Once again we find ourselves coming to an end of another year serving our Lord together here at Old Fort. And I must say it has been an incredible year of ministry and serving together with each of you. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippians where he stated,

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5 ESV

Our theme for the Annual Church Conference this year is "Where In the World"; remembering that our core values of Biblical Truth, Missional Living, and Vital Connections are all taken directly from the pages of scripture and reflect our desire to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.



We are called to go into the world sharing God's love and the truth of the gospel. As we look back over the past twelve months, we can clearly see our desire to be on mission both here at home and around the world. From the bush country of Tanzania to the inner city of Baltimore; from behind prison walls and in rehabilitation centers; by sharing food with the underserved here in Summerville or sending Christmas Boxes to needy children around the world, our mission has been clear. By going, praying, giving, and supporting, you have been with us in all these places. Thank you.

Only heaven will record the final tally of lives touched by our efforts throughout this past year. But of this one thing I am very sure. "Where In The World" is ultimately "Wherever God Leads".

l love you all, Fric







What to read: Missions



Updates

Need regular updates? sign up for our weekly newsletter at oldfortbaptist.org/events



5&2

The 5&2 Food Pantry opened in July 2023. We have been able to provide groceries to 122 households so far this year. Many heartfelt thanks have been shared from the families served. Because our pantry is a choice style pantry we have time to get to know the families we serve and are able to pray and share the gospel with them. Starting in January 2024, the 2nd Saturday morning Farmer's Market will provide another opportunity for food to reach the community. Thank you to all of those that serve in this ministry!

NEW TO THE TEAM

- Susan Dack | Director of Senior Ministries
- Anne Redner | Director of Kids' Ministry
- Sydney Masten | Director of PreSchool Ministry



LYDIA BAPTIST

Old Fort Baptist Church has embarked on a meaningful partnership with Lydia Baptist Church. At the helm of this collaboration is Elder Bobby Bailey of Old Fort Baptist, who is the interim pastor. This partnership represents a new chapter for Lydia Baptist Church, one filled with renewed vigor and a shared vision for the future. Both churches look forward to witnessing the positive transformations this collaboration will bring, not just within the walls of Lydia Baptist Church, but across the wider community we serve.

ofbc basics

Our Team







































Our Values

In a post-truth culture, we value the Truth as recorded in God's Word, personified in Jesus Christ, and revealed by the Holy Spirit.



As members of God's family, we value one another and the relationships that encourage, support, equip, and enhance our journey through this life.





As ambassadors of Christ, we value God's call to be on mission with Him by sharing His love and telling His story.



Where in the world?



Where in the World is God in this: war, hurt, healing, lost child, or any moment we experience? This may be an easy question to answer but a difficult one to grasp wholeheartedly because God is on His throne. Passages like Isaiah 6 and Job 38-41 make it clear that, in this world, God rules from the macro to the micro. If God rules this world, then why do we continue to experience the unpleasant reality that is pain and trial? Jesus addressed this to His disciples right before his arrest, saying, "I have told you these things so that you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." John 16:33 Soon after, Jesus died a cruel death that looked a lot like defeat - not conquering. But, on the third day, forever, He defeated death for all those who, "...confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

This is the good news! Jesus lived and taught the salvation he died and rose for and the truth He commissioned His people to share. In His final moments on earth, Jesus gave us, His people, a mission, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirt has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth." Acts 1:8 Many do not know Jesus, and they act like it. The suffering of this world is all many people know, and they live according to their way, which leads to death. But God gave us a task: to be the light in the darkness, salt in the world, and witness God's goodness. Where in the World is God in this...He is in the heart of every believer who has accepted the salvation of Jesus, and He has given us a mission. Go.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" Acts 1:8 ESV

Missions Council

The goal of our missions effort is to win individuals/souls to the Lord, equip them in the faith and assist in establishing churches that have the same aim wherever the occasion presents itself. The Missions Council shall seek to guide OFBC in light of this purpose statement. OFBC endeavors to support local, regional, national and international missions programs.

Jerusalem

Summerville

WOMEN

Women's Ministry worked to host events to help our ladies grow in their Christian walk as well as get to know each other better. We heard testimonies at some of our events that helped equip and encourage our women. The Fall Women's Retreat was a special time for some of our newer ladies to get to know others in our church. It was a sweet weekend growing new and old friendships. We're looking forward to the monthly meetups planned for 2024.



CDO

Child's Day Out is a preschool that meets four days a week during the school year. As a para-church ministry of Old Fort Baptist Church, we strive to follow the core values of the church. We provide these to both children in our care and the parents in which we come in contact daily. For many of our families this is the only connection to church and to God. While our main focus is teaching and training the children, we also want to be the light of Christ to the family as a whole. Our daily purpose is to provide an atmosphere that encourages social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual growth and development of each child. We do this through many avenues such as Bible stories, center and play time, music, and recreation. We also seek to make sure that the children feel safe and loved. We have an enrollment of 175 children and a staff of 21. God is blessing our staff and through them they are a blessing to our families. We have children registered that have moved here recently from all over the country. Our reputation is as a great place for preschoolers.

MEN

The men of Old Fort Baptist Church visited The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina for the annual Men's Retreat. The men also sponsored and assisted the church by helping cook for outdoor activities and sponsoring a church-wide trip to watch the Charleston RiverDogs. The Men's Ministry closed out the year with Man Camp, where the men of the church went to Givhan's Ferry State Park and learned key survival tactics and Biblical wisdom.





SENIOR ADULTS

Greetings from our Senior Adult Ministry! This year, we've primarily served our cherished local community. From our uplifting local Bible studies and the camaraderie of our monthly Young at Heart meetings, to the spirited hymn sings, we've been an active group. We've gone out on delightful excursions with our Lunch Bunch, we made a grand visit to the lovely Biltmore House in November, and a merry escapade to The Charleston Christmas Show. Additionally, some of our senior adults ventured to Tanzania, Baltimore, and beyond, serving outside our community, while we also supported missions financially as a collective group. As we gather, laugh, learn, and explore, our Senior Ministry remains a place where hearts are encouraged and friendships thrive, echoing the spirit of service and togetherness not just locally, but around the world.









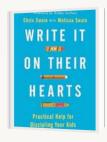
GREATER THINGS

Where in the world is...

Greater Things began their 2023-2024 school year this past August. We currently are in our second year with 43 students in grades K5 - 5th grade. All students are tuition-paying students and come from three area public schools: Beech Hill. Flowertown, and Sandhill. The students arrive at 2:30 each day from their perspective bus, and partake in the daily schedule of eating a meal, Bible Study with praise and worship, homework hub, and enrichment (enrichment includes cooking classes, sports, art, science, woodworking, to name a few). Our mission statement sums up who we are: Greater Things provides the opportunity for spiritual growth, academic success, and enrichment development to elementary school students, in partnership with their families, by offering a quality, extended learning program, one that recognizes Jesus as LORD of all.



LYDIA BAPTIST CHURCH



Write It on Their Hearts: Practical Help for Discipling Your Kids By: Chris Swain and Melissa Swain

What to read: Family Discipleship

FAMILY MINISTRY

The family ministry has been out-and-about in 2023! Youth spent the weekend in Rincon, GA for a fall retreat, camped in North Carolina for Mission-Fuge, and could be found all over Summerville for our summer 843 serve projects! Kids participated in food drives and reaching the community through an amazing Vacation Bible School! Stay tuned in 2024 for a new mission opportunity for youth and families to Puerto Rico! We are excited about how God is training the next generation to love him with their heart, soul, strength, and mind. Do you have grandkids, friends, or neighbors who lack the hope of Jesus? We want to introduce them to Jesus! How can we help you get them connected?



KAIROS

For over three decades Kairos Prison Ministry Team has been doing ministry at Lieber Correctional Institution. Twice annually we lead a three day retreat at the prison with a new group of forty-two inmates. After the weekend we follow up weekly with Bible Study and discipleship. This October, because of various situations at the facility, we had to work over 4 weekdays. We are grateful for Old Fort allowing us to use its facilities on Saturdays for training and the use of the kitchen and dining room for meal prep and sorting of cookies.



MUSIC & MEDIA

The experience on Sunday mornings is exciting and heart felt and I love joining you in worshipping our Lord. I say often, 'there is always room for one more' so if you are a musician, singer, or techie please join us in the music/media ministry. We need you!

Next Sunday at 5:00 pm in the Ministry Center the OFBC Multi-Generation Choir will share our Christmas musical, "Hope Awakes in Bethlehem," as we celebrate our Savior's birth. You have a role to play, so please join us. Last year we packed the place; let's do it again. -Jason



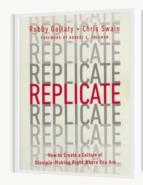
Discipleship

IN THE WORD

Old Fort Baptist Church placed an emphasis on Biblical Truth in 2023 as the church worked through the majority of the New Testament during Sunday morning Bible studies. In addition, EQUIP classes provided opportunities for growth in spiritual disciplines, Biblical knowledge, and training to live out our faith in all aspects of life. The church has begun offering season of life specific gatherings once a month to aid in the establishment of Vital Connections throughout the congregation.



What to read: Discipleship



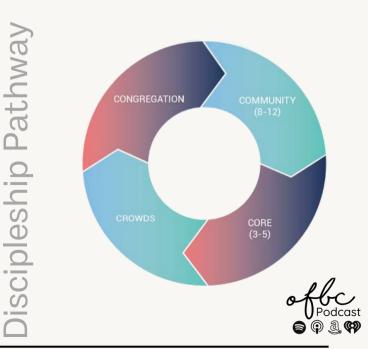
Replicate
By: Robby Galaxy
and Chris Swain



THE BOOK STORE

In 2023, the church officially launched a bookstore on campus to help provide pastor endorsed resources to assist your discipleship. Whether vou're looking for your next Bible, or a book to help you with a particular topic, the church's bookstore exists to assist you on your discipleship journey. Oh the places you can go when reading! But as the sign in the bookstore reminds us, "Visit many good books, but live in the Bible."

- Charles Spurgeon



Sudea Samaria

The Nation

"Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" Psalm 117 ESV

PUERTO RICO

This year leaders in the Student ministry took a short vision trip to Aguadilla, Puerto Rico on the west coast of the island that is an area that fairs better than most during hurricane season but still holds the scars of past storms. Exploring missions partners for the student ministry in 2024, the team met with local missionaries and a local pastor. Coming home with promising results and a more global perspective of the Kingdom of God. Christ is working in Puerto Rico and being a part of that mission will be a blessing.

BALTIMORE

The Old Fort team was able to help represent Broken Wall Community Church at North Bend Elementary & Middle School in Baltimore, MD. We helped the teachers clean, paint and setup their classrooms, helped build and install "free little library boxes" around the school campus and passed out school supplies to families at their open house.

CHANGED LIVES MINISTRIES

Old Fort baptist continues to support Changed Lives Ministries; a rehabilitation organization for men and women. Through prayer, Bible study, and physical support God has grown the partnership between Changed Lives Ministries and Old Fort Baptist Church.

Know of a local or national ministry that others at OFBC can be involved in? Let us know! office@oldfortbaptist.org







NAMB

Through the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong, and Church partnerships the North American Mission Board is dedicated to share the Gospel, make Disciples, and plant Churches here in the US. An estimated 281,000,000 people in North America do not have a relationship with Jesus. Every relationship is an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus. www.namb.net

North American Mission Board



CHURCH PARTNERS IN THE NATION

Jonathan and Rebecca Edney

 Former IMB missionaries currently leading 'Comunidade Batista De Charleston' a Brazilian Church based in North Charleston.

Lydia Baptist

 We began a partnership with a fellow Baptist Church in Summerville, in the hopes to share the Gospel to even more in our community.

Luke and Emily Lethco

Starting a new Church planting journey in Wake Forest,
North Carolina through NAMB. OFBC is proud to send and
support this family. They have a partnership with Providence
Church in the area and are excited about where God is
leading.



THE LOCAL

A mother and her children are trying to cross the road, and no this is not a lead into a joke that ends with 'to get to the other side'. Out of need a small family attempts to cross Dorchester Road in the hope of groceries for the week. Once safely on our campus they are greeted and given more food than they can carry. This is a problem because they have to cross the road again, this time with arms burdened with groceries. I leaped into action, I was unable to stop traffic for this family but maybe I can give them a ride back home. The only problem, the mother is a native Spanish speaker, and I am only confident

"MI CASA ESTÁ ALLÁ", SHE SAYS POINTING ACROSS THE STREET."

speaking Spanish with my dad for fear of failure. By the grace of God enough comprehensible Spanish escapes my mouth and she accepts the ride. Loaded with enough food for a small army and having no clue where I am going, I get ready for a long drive. "Mi casa está allá", she says pointing across the street. Thirty seconds is the total drive time. A Peruvian family with a truck load of needs is that close. God made it clear to me through this moment that reaching the nations for God's glory is as simple as reaching our neighbors. Do not let fear of failure hold you back from crossing cultural lines. Instead be motivated by the Gospel because what happens here on earth does matter when we, 'get to the other side.' [A. Meléndez]

'Ends of the Earth'

International Missions

INTERNATONAL MISSION BOARD

As a part of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB exists to serve Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Southern Baptist churches support thousands of missionaries and missionary teams who are making disciples and planting churches around the world. www.imb.org





"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)



Tanzania

We continue to travel to Tanzania East Africa twice a year. In 2023 we took a team of eight people in January and nine people in July. These teams visited our Bible Schools in all three locations, visited many churches, visited in Boma's (peoples homes) and went into the local children's school. We had many opportunities to share the gospel and to encourage believers. This continues to be an excellent way for our church to share in the Great Commission. The Old Fort family has been very generous in giving to the continuing efforts in Tanzania. We will continue to go, give and support this good work.

www.oldfortbaptist.org/discipleship/missions

Stay Connected

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oldfortbaptist.org

PRAY

We have teams regularly serving on mission trips in the US and Internationally. Find a team or individual to pray for and let them know you are praying for them.

GO

Across the street or across the world follow the call of Christ to share the Gospel. Visit our website for a Gospel sharing tool.

oldfortbaptist.org/about-us/following-jesus

GIVF

Through the tithes of this Church mission trips, church plants, Discipleship, and Gospel sharing happens. God is using His church to reach and teach a lost world. www.oldfortbaptist.org/give

Need more Bible in your life? Stay connected to God's Word with our podcasts

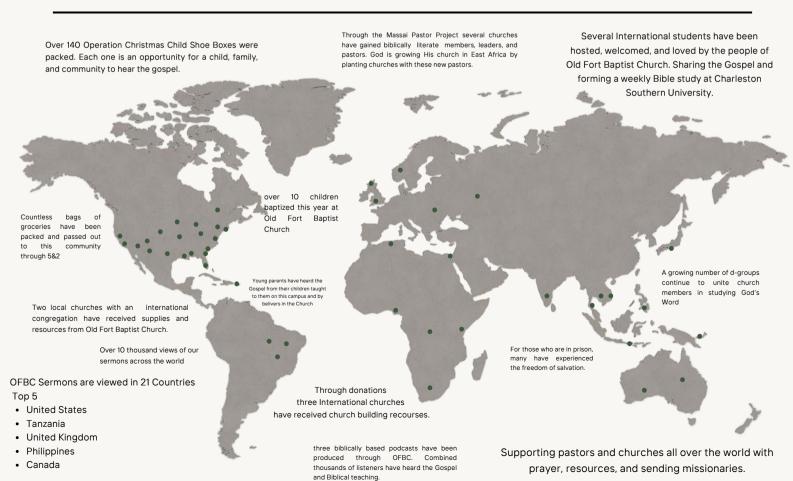






Biblical Truth

Sermons | Old Fort Baptist Church



Nominations



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for financial promotion throughout the year, including the planning, subscription, and administration of the annual budget. All checks written by the church financial secretary shall be counter-signed by one of its members. The treasurer's report shall be audited annually by an auditing committee or public accountant. The treasurer shall be bonded. (OFBC Constitution & By-Laws 3/14/18).

Committee	Nominations
Brett Green ('22) (chair)	<u>Kimberly Rhoton</u> ('24)
Vince Costanzo ('22)	(′24)
Brian Knight ('23)	

PERSONNEL/CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

The Personnel/Constitution & By-laws Committee assists the church in matters related to employed personnel administration. Its work includes areas such as recommending staff needs, employment, salaries, benefits and personnel services. It will also be responsible to recommend to the church any changes, revisions or additions to the constitution and/or by-laws. (OFBC Constitution & By-Laws 3/14/18)

Committee	Nominations
Mike Creighton ('22) (chair)	Jim Rushen('24
Kim Williams ('22)	('24
Tim Vance ('23)	

DEACONS

In accordance with the meaning of the work and practice of the NT, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to serve with the Pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministries; proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for the church members and other persons in the community; lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, and ministry. While deacons may serve in administrative and managerial functions of the church, their primary function shall be spiritual leadership and service. (OFBC Constitution & By-Laws 3/14/18)

Deacons

Dennis Bowe (chair)

Boyd Moore

Shajuan Braxton

Larry Cheslek

Lee Chase

Carl Coleman

Landon Patteson

Paul Romeo

Leonard Wilkinson

Leonard Wilkinson

Quincy Williams

Budget

2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL

LINE ITEM	2023	2024	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Personnel	\$766,975.78	\$770,319.80	\$3,344.02	0.43%
Adult	\$18,400.00	\$20,400.00	\$2,000.00	9.80%
Music &Media	\$34,740.00	\$32,990.00	-\$1,750.00	-5.30%
Family Ministry	\$58,559.00	\$52,825.00	-\$5,734.00	-10.85%
Building and grounds	\$186,000.00	\$192,000.00	\$6,000.00	3.13%
Administrative	\$152,300.00	\$164,548.00	\$12,248.00	7.44%
Sub Total	\$1,216,974.78	\$1,233,082.80		
Missions	\$121,697.48	\$123,308.28	10% of Subtotal	
Total	\$1,338,672.26	\$1,356,391.08	\$17,718.82	1.31%

OFBC MISSIONS BREAKDOWN 2024

Sub Total	\$123,308.28			
Cooperative Program (5%)	\$61,654.14			
Screven Association (2%)	\$24,661.66			
OFBC Missions (3%)	\$36,992.48			
OFBC Missions Breakdown				
5+2 Food Pantry		\$12,000.00		
Maasai Pastor Project		\$6,000.00		
Jonathan Edney		\$6,000.00		
Benevolence		\$6,000.00		
Other		\$6,992.48		



