



# Joshua's Journal

## Feliz Navidad



## Joshua's Mission Statement

Joshua Baptist Church is a Christian Church under the direct leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are also a Missionary Baptist Church committed to the salvation of the lost, conversion of the unregenerate, and the spiritual growth of the saved. We seek to follow Christ as He leads us, cultivate a bond of Christian love, one with another; and to truly and tangibly care for those in need. As Christians, we covet a consistent holy and liberated lifestyle that testifies to our being a born again believer in Jesus Christ, as we strive to fulfill our purpose of *Reaching People For Christ*. Remember, GOD First, we walk by faith and not by sight. -

### Adopted

September 24, 1998

### Amended

July 30, 2005

### Amended

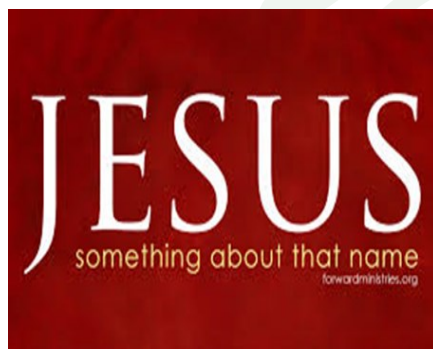
May 9, 2012

*Reaching People For Christ*

*GOD First!*

## PASTOR'S CORNER ~ REV. DR. ROBERT. L. GROVE

May the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be yours this holiday season! My brothers and sisters, we have so much to be thankful for this year. Blessings after blessings have come our way. And, our Father is not finished with us yet. As the Apostle Paul says at Philippians 3:13b -14; "... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I (we) press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Members, we must, **'Stay the Course.'** We must **stay** before the Lord in prayer; **stay** committed to giving our tithes and offerings; **stay** in the Word of God; and, **stay** in church. If we do our part, God will absolutely do His part. Our building committee is working very hard on the plans to grow and expand our church family- pray much for them! Finally, a moment of thanks to our Brotherhood Ministry for a wonderful retreat held in Savannah Ga. (Nov 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>). And, we were so wonderfully blessed by the outstanding anniversary programs presented by our Missionary Ministry, and the W.E. Huger Male Choir. May God bless all our ministry leaders with His divine strength. Remember, our Master loves you and I do too.





## *From Our Pastor's Wife*

*To God be the glory for the great things He has done, great things He has taught us this year! I am still rejoicing and thanking the Lord for His many blessings to Joshua and us. Joshua, you rock! Pastor Grove and I thank the Lord for your support. Pastor's Aide Ministry, officers and members, thank you for a beautiful tea and anniversary this year.*

*The Marriage class is growing, and with the start of the YWA under the helm of Rev. Albertha Isler, Deaconess Sonya Jenkins, Sis. Dianne Smith and Sis. Mary McNeal, they will be encouraging the younger married women and single women to attend classes. The Seasons (singles) Ministry is doing great. This year, we talked about being content where we are in life, so as we move forward in life, we would have learned how to be content. In Philippians 4:11, Paul talks about how he learned to be content in whatever state he finds himself. The women's retreat is growing more and more each year, Praise God, our key word is commitment.*

*For the coming year, I am praying as we grow and new members join, we make them feel welcome. Remember, we all need to feel like we are a part of Joshua; with no clicks, just a church working together, we could accomplish a lot. Let us also be mindful to give respect and honor. In other words if you are a part of a ministry, honor and respect your president. They work hard to keep things together.*

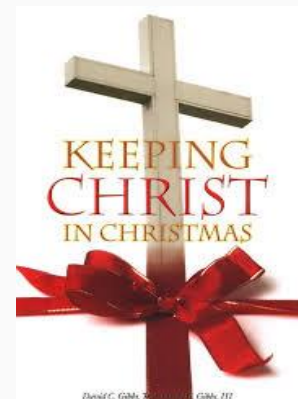
*Our Pastor believes in giving, and I do also. Let 2014 find us giving more, we can't beat God's giving. I love you all and pray you have a "Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."*

*Lots of Love,*

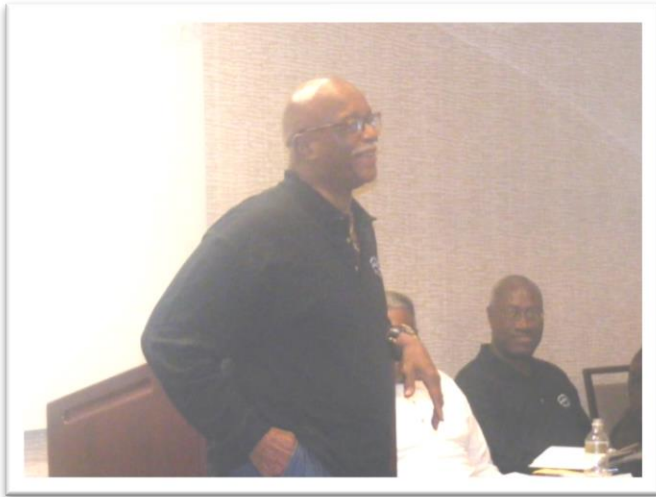
*Sis. Pauline Grove*

*Sis. Pauline Grove*

*First Lady of Joshua Baptist Church*



# Brotherhood Goes to Savannah



Guest speaker, Dr. Thaddeus Bell gives men straight talk on health concerns and issues.

During the retreat, Pastor Grove answered a few open forum questions, Deacon Glover set our vision for 2014 letting the brothers know we have higher highs to obtain, and Deacon Brown outlined our Daily Bread lesson. Bible trivia was a hit as always. We discussed several options for next years retreat and departed for home on Saturday afternoon.

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133*

Thirty-five men joined together in Savannah, GA for our 2013 men's retreat. The 2-day program included words from Dr. Grove which covered our theme, **"Men Of Standard, Moving Forward, No Reverse!"** We dined together Friday night and returned to fellowship with one another for the 10th consecutive year of retreats. Bro. Joshua Roberts joined his grandfather, (Bro. Jackie Pratt) for his first men's retreat.



Everyone listens to Brother Alphonsa McCutchen giving inspired words on, "Looking Forward from the Past."



Brotherhood President, Deacon Tony Glover gives, "State of the Brotherhood" address.



Brother Zach Oree talks, "Violence in our Communities."



# Do You Know Who Birthday Is Coming?!



As you well know, we are getting closer to My birthday. Every year there is a celebration in My honor, and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated.

During this time there are many people shopping for gifts; there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world, everyone is talking that My birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of Me. As you know, the celebration of My birthday began many years ago.

At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in My honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite, and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want

I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor, and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for Me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in My face, and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

to know something?

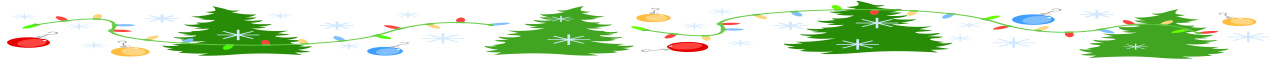
In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years ALL close their doors to Me. Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time.



To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying:

"Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor!





At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know, no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for Me.





What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me.



I would like this Christmas that you allow Me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give My life for you, on the cross, to save you.



Today, I only want that you believe this with all your  and I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite Me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a *spectacular* party.

 I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations, and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend, and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party.

Those who don't answer the invitation, will be left outside. Do you know how you can answer this invitation?

It is by extending it to others whom you care for. I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year.

See you soon .... I love you!  
- Jesus





Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.



## Why Jesus is Better Than Santa Claus



Santa lives at the North Pole... **JESUS is everywhere.**

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... **JESUS has a heart full of love**

Santa rides in a sleigh... **JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO... **JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

Santa comes but once a year... **JESUS is an ever present help.**

Santa says "You better not cry"... **JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

Santa fills your stockings with goodies... **JESUS supplies all your needs.**

Santa's little helpers make toys... **JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.**

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited... **JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.**

Santa may make you chuckle but... **JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

You have to wait in line to see Santa... **JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

While Santa puts gifts under your tree... **JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.**

Santa lets you sit on his lap... **JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

**We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas. *Jesus is still the reason for the season.***

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"... **JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.**

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

## ~Christmas Quotes~

### GIVE THE FOLLOWING GIFTS:

To your enemy . . . forgiveness,  
To your opponent . . . tolerance.  
To a friend . . . your heart.  
To a customer . . . service.  
To all men . . . charity.  
To every child . . . a good example  
To yourself . . . respect  
-Author Unknown

*This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.*

- Frank McKibben

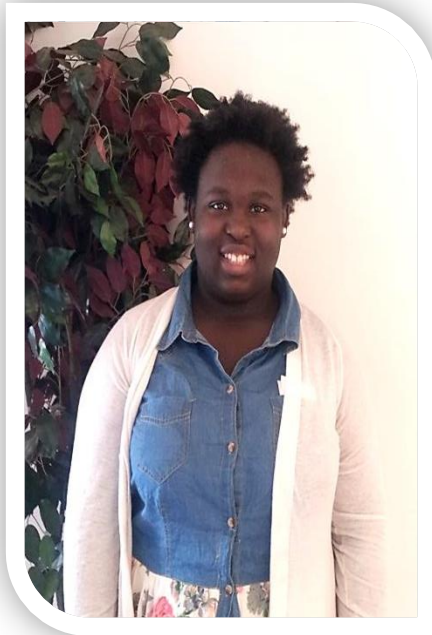
Where there is faith, there is love;  
Where there is love, there is peace;  
Where there is peace, there is God;  
And where there is God; there is no need.  
-Leo Tolstoy

*The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God.*  
- C.S.Lewis (Mere Christianity)

# IBC Students of the Month for December

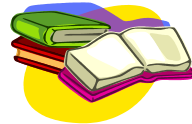


## Congratulations to O'Keenya Desaussure For Making the "Honor Roll" at Oakbrook Middle School



O'Keenya attends Oakbrook Middle School and is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her hobbies are drawing, playing the clarinet and stepping. She is the daughter of Sis. LaTonia Robinson.

O'Keenya is a good student and enjoys school. She puts God first before anything. She loves fashion and loves to put together new ideas. She enjoys art, music, dance, literature, styling and graphic art. Her love for her family and church is very important to her. She is also a member of the Step team at Oakbrook Middle School. They are called the "Royal Diamonds" Steppers.



## Congratulations Tyler Simmons!!!



### NORTH CHARLESTON

#### ELEMENTARY

Where SMART Dolphins Learn



Citizenship Award  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Principal Honor Roll  
Reading Achievement Award

Tyler Simmons is the son of Donnetia L. Simmons. Tyler attends North Charleston Elementary School and is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. He is also a member of the Lord's Angels. Tyler likes to playing sports and reading.

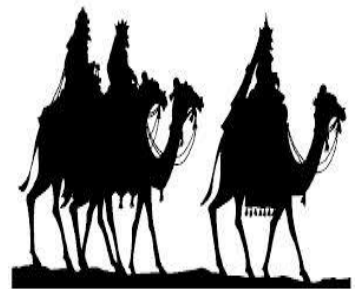
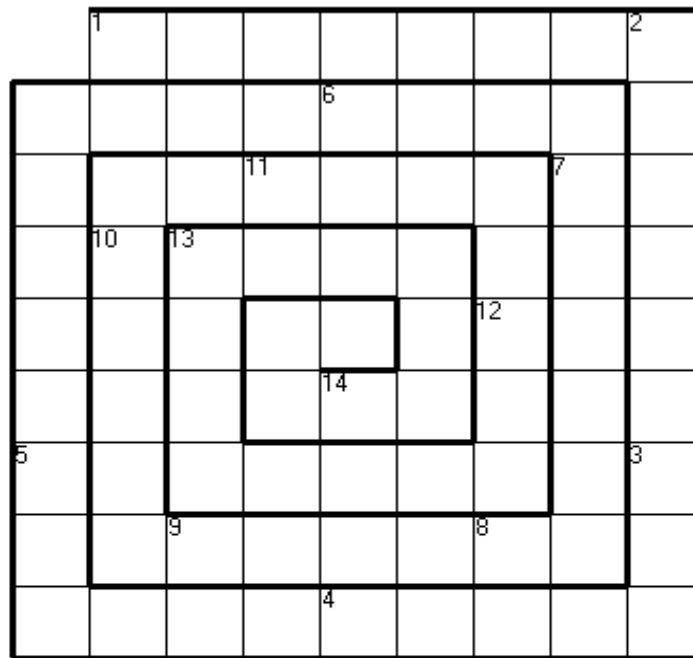


He is truly a blessing to all he encounters. Tyler is always willing to lend a helping hand. Tyler is a cub scout, has a "Terrific Kid" and is currently reading on a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade level. His mother is truly proud of him.





## Spiral Puzzle



1. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus
2. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem
3. Earthly father of Jesus
4. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds
5. Watched their flocks
6. It led the wise men to Jesus
7. Where the baby Jesus was laid
8. An infant
9. He saves people from their sin
10. There was no room there for Jesus
11. The wise men brought these to Jesus
12. City where Jesus was born
13. A place where animals sleep
14. The mother of Jesus



Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?



- A. He was Ruthless.  
A. German Shepherds.

If you need a little help, here is a list of the words used in this puzzle.

Mary, star, stable, angels, baby, donkey, Joseph, manger, shepherds, inn, Jesus, Bethlehem, worship, gifts,





**1 White Oak Manor at 2:00**

**7 Families Helping Families Gift Drop Off 10:00-2:00**



**8 Sunday School Breakfast at 9:15**

**15 Christmas Cantata at 10:15**

**30 Church Budget and Calendar Meeting at 7:00**

**31 Watch Night Service 9:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.**



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM**

Marquise Bryant  
Amiyah Lawkins  
Audrico Miguel Planter

**CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

Eric Wright

**RESTORATION**

Shavon Young

- 1 Denesha Williams
- 2 Joe Pugh
- 10 Leroy Brown
- 17 O'Keenya Desaussure
- 18 Gregory Salley
- 18 Lynette Witcher
- 20 Jocelyn Roberts
- 20 Katrina Simmons
- 21 Danielle Capers
- 27 Lakesha Hill
- 27 Shelley Brown
- 31 Promise Drayton

*Happy Anniversary!*

- 7 Bro. Sammy and Rev. Hester King
- 22 Bro. Charles and Sis. Christine Rollinson
- 24- Bro. Ernest and Sis. Betty Rouse