



MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION CLASS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OWCM STATEMENT OF FAITH	3
THE VISION OF OWCM	4
MINISTRY HISTORY	5-6
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	7-8
SALVATION	9-10
TITHES, OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING	11-12
SERVANT LEADERSHIP	13-16
SPIRITUAL GIFTS	17-21
OWCM STANDARDS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	22-24
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	25-28
OWCM ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN	29-30
OWCM CORE VALUES	31
BAPTISM DATES	32
PASTORAL CARE CONNECTION MINISTRY	

6230 Highway 92

Fairburn, Ga. 30213 - Church

6250 Highway 92

Fairburn, Ga. 30213 - Administrative Office

Phone: 770.964.3379

Fax: 770.964.3335

Website: www.owcm.org

Email: connect@owcm.org

OWCM STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible

The Old and New Testament Scriptures of the Bible are the inspired Word of God. They are the complete revelation of His Will and the final authority for all Christian faith and life.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God miraculously conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as the complete and final sacrifice for our sins, was resurrected, ascended into heaven, sat at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest and Advocate, and will one day return. It is only through Him that men may come to the Father and be saved.

The Holy Spirit

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, convict men of sin, regenerate the believer, then indwell, guide, comfort, instruct, and empower them to do the will of the Father.

Salvation

Only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ and repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy.

Marriage

Marriage is a biblical institution and covenant that is shared between one man and one woman before God. It is the representation of the relationship between God and His Church.

Baptism

Water baptism by immersion after accepting Christ as personal Savior is a commemorative testimony of death to sin and a resurrection to a new life as a born-again believer before all.

Communion

The Lord's Supper is a sacred, symbolic ceremony reminding us of the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins as the true Passover Lamb.

The True Church

The true Church is composed of those who through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been born again, and are united together as the body of Christ of which He is the head.

The Local Church

Open Word Christian Ministries is a place where people gather for edification, fellowship, and to initiate service to each other and the community under the leadership of God and the Senior Pastor.

Open Word Christian Ministries reserves the right to employ its employees, volunteers, and assets for initiatives, events, and services in line with its beliefs and reserves the right to deny any request that is not in line with those beliefs.

The Vision of Open Word Christian Ministries

To receive the vision of OWCM, you must first understand what vision means. According to Strong's Concordance, vision means: "A Dream; Revelation." Our Pastor was given the vision of OWCM. You have been called to assist him in fulfilling this vision. The vision of OWCM is an insight into God's divine purpose and will for a people whom He has chosen and called to fulfill it. You have been called, chosen, and placed into this fellowship of believers to fulfill this revelation from God. Open Word Christian Ministries, Inc., is an end-time ministry that has been called by God for such a time as this to make a visible mark of distinction in the earth.

THE VISION

HABAKKUK 2:2-3

PROVERBS 29:18

THE VISION OF OPEN WORD CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (OWCM) IS TO OPEN THE WORD OF GOD TO EVERY RECEPTIVE BEING AND BRING MANKIND TO A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ARE VESTED IN BUILDING LIVES FROM A GODLY PERSPECTIVE FOR EMPOWERED LIVING IN THE AREAS OF FAMILY, FINANCE, AND PURPOSE. THROUGH EDUCATION, TRANSFORMATION, AND APPLICATION, WE UTILIZE OUR RESOURCES TO: BUILD, ESTABLISH, AND DEPLOY DISCIPLES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

The Importance of Understanding Vision:

Vision is a clear and precise mental portrait of a preferable future imparted by God to help his chosen servants, based on an accurate understanding of God, self, and circumstances.

Vision is initiated by God, is desired by His people and is conveyed through the Holy Spirit.

Our part is to:

1. Support the visionaries through our commitment and faithfulness
2. Embrace the vision through unity (**Amos 3:3**)
3. Take ownership of the vision by using our gifts and talents

PASTOR GARY K. & 1ST LADY MAYA TAYLOR



Gary K. Taylor, Sr., is the Founder and Pastor of Open Word Christian Ministries, Inc., a full gospel, bible-believing church located in Fairburn, Georgia.

God led him to begin OWCM with seven people in November of 1991. OWCM has now increased tremendously in membership. Pastor Taylor is the husband of Maya M. Taylor and the proud father of five children: Thomas (T.J.), Shawtiel, Gary Jr., Karissa and Katherine Jovanni.

Pastor Taylor has been called to open up the Word of God and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with simplicity and understanding and to empower those he comes in contact with. His anointed teaching stresses the importance of a relationship with God: "God's creation needs to understand that without a relationship, there can be no fellowship, there is no move of God in one's life."

He also has an evangelistic heart. God has instructed him to go into the entire world to win the lost at any cost. Pastor Taylor takes the "Great Commission" very

seriously.

Maya M. Taylor was called into the ministry at the age of 19. She has a heartfelt desire to "restore, build, establish, and settle all women through the teaching of the Word of God, and bring them to an understanding of God's purpose for His creation in the form of woman."

Maya M. Taylor is also the founder of South Fulton Arrow Youth Council. She exemplifies virtuous leadership. As a teacher and intercessor, she has a compassionate heart and an anointing to minister to all women and the entire Body of Christ.

When we partner with God's anointed leaders,

God partners with us.

MINISTRY HISTORY

Pastor Gary K. Taylor, Sr., founded Open Word Christian Ministries in November 1991. Pastor Taylor is a man with a vision. God gave Gary K. Taylor a vision to open up the Word of God to every receptive being and bring mankind into a clear understanding of his relationship with God. He realized that (according to the book of Hosea) people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because of this God gave him a vision to restore, build, establish and settle through the teaching of the Word of God.

Our first worship service was November 3, 1991, at Union City Elementary School, in Union City, Georgia, with seven members in attendance. The worship was divine and the mandate heavy.

OWCM met every Sunday for about six months. The membership grew to 20. We received word that the school was closing, and we needed to evacuate within two weeks. Praise God! OWCM watched God prove himself faithful as we were seemingly running against the clock. A church in threat of not having a place to meet went from pressure to praise, as we walked into our new facility in June 1992 on Flat Shoals Road, with 20 members present. As the Lord would have it, OWCM has continued to grow.

Known as a hospital (healing center), we have seen God change many lives, resurrect many families, and heal many diseases through the teaching of the Word of God.

OWCM purchased 24 acres of land (our present location) on December 16, 1997. In June 2002, we walked into our new sanctuary with hearts of thanksgiving and praise. This property serves as headquarters for our ministry and Christian Academy. Our desire is to restore the whole person spiritually, mentally, physically and financially.

God is continuing to expand the vision of OWCM to be a lighthouse in our community. We are a shining light for so many through our Xcelling Youth Zone (XYZ) program, our Out of the Box (OOTB) Youth Financial Literacy Program, our Healing Thru Hope Domestic Violence ministry, and the Hope House Community Resource Center.

Our goal is to:

Reach the heart,

Inform the mind,

Empower the life, and

Transform the community.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- We are all necessary parts of the whole. **1 Corinthians 12**
- We are different, but we still work together. **1 Corinthians 12:26**
- Everything we say and do is based on a Biblical foundation of love. **1 Corinthians 13**
- We serve and minister as a natural way of doing things. **Ephesians 6:7**
- We who are church members are supposed to function in the church. **1 Thess 5:12-13**
- When church members *don't* work together, the church is weaker as a whole. **1 Corinthians 12:24-25**

UNDERSTANDING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

For a church body to be a healthy, growing organism, alive and functioning in proper God-given order:

1. Members must submit their lives to the source (God). You must have a devout love for God, not consumed with your place in the body, your ministry or calling; but consumed with your love for God!

2. Members must know where they fit, their place and position in the body. The scripture says to make your calling and election sure. If your election is sure, you will not fall away from the body.

II Peter 1:10

3. Members must know and understand their vow of covenant when they sign on as a member of this ministry.

4. Members must have a determination (a passion) to get the job done. God has placed you here to get the job done. When Jesus died and rose again, He passed the torch on to His disciples and left them with a commandment to GO! He took His place in heaven at the right hand of God to intercede for us and gave the Holy Spirit as our Helper to get the job done! It is on us now.

Important: Your level of anointing as a member of this church and the entire Body of Christ, is based on your level of faithfulness and commitment.

5. Members must put their hands to the plow and do not look back knowing that their commitment will be tested. Luke 9:59

6. Members must not only commit to use their talents and gifts; but also commit to financially investing their tithes (10% of their earnings) and offerings. Malachi 3:10-12

*****It Is the Testimony of Scripture That God Has A Set Place**

You can never get the maximum benefit out of your set place until you fully embrace the fact that God has your best interest in mind! The scriptures testify that there were definite assigned places that men of God were directed to. These places were critical to their destiny even though at first glance it may not have appeared to be important.

1. Paul was instructed to go to Macedonia — critical to his future. **Acts 16:9**

2. Elijah was instructed to go to Zarephath. **I Kings 17:9**

3. Nehemiah was impressed to go to Judah. **Nehemiah 2:6-8**

4. David is ordered to the battle field. **I Samuel 17:17**

5. Phillip is instructed to go to Gaza. **Acts 8:26**

SALVATION

The Bible specifically says, without any other possible interpretation, that there is only one God, one faith, one baptism, and one way to God the Father – and that is only through His Son Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death on the cross.

Jesus says that He, and only He, is the way, the truth, and the life leading to God the Father and that no one comes to the Father except through Him!

There are 5 main principles to the basic message of God’s plan of eternal salvation for the entire world. Here they are, along with all the Scripture verses to back them up.

1. Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation with God the Father

- *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*
- *Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**” (John 14:6)*

2. God Desires All Men to be Saved

God has given each man and each woman a free will to make their own choices in this life. The next 2 verses will show us that God does not want anyone to perish. However, God will not make or force anyone to accept Him and His Son and what His Son’s death on the cross really means for all of us.

- *God our Savior, **who desires ALL MEN to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4)*
- *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)*

3. We Are Saved by Grace through Faith – Not Works

The gift of eternal salvation is a free gift given by God to all those who will believe on Jesus and what His death on the cross really means for all of us.

- ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**” (Ephesians 2:8)*
- *“... knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**” (Galatians 2:16)*

4. The Gift of Salvation Now Makes Us Righteous Before God the Father

Once you become saved and born again by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, the Bible says that we are now made perfectly righteous before the eyes of God.

The righteousness of Jesus has now been imputed to us. This means that we are now free to approach the throne of God for intimate prayer and communication, and when we die, we will all go straight to heaven.

- *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him.**” (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
- *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” (Romans 5:8)*

5. How to Become Saved and Receive the Gift of Eternal Salvation

The Bible makes it very clear as to how to receive the Gift of Eternal Salvation from God the Father:

- *Admit that we are sinners, be willing to confess our sins before God, and be willing to repent and turn from those sins.*
- *Be willing to accept the fact that Jesus Christ came to our earth in the flesh to die on the cross for all of our sins, that He rose from the dead on the third day, and then be willing to formally accept Him as your personal Lord and Savior.*

Basic Salvation Prayer

Say the following prayer out loud, believe it from your heart, and you will be saved.

Heavenly Father,

I now believe that Jesus Christ is Your only begotten Son, that He came down to our earth in the flesh and died on the cross to take away all of my sins and the sins of this world. I believe that Jesus Christ then rose from the dead on the third day to give all of us eternal life.

Lord Jesus, I now confess to You all of the wrong and sinful things I have ever done in my life. I ask that You please forgive Me and wash away all of my sins by the blood that You shed for me on the cross. I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I now ask that You come into my life and live with Me for all of eternity. Father, I now believe that I am truly saved and born again. Thank you Jesus!

TITHING, OFFERINGS, AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8-12; Deuteronomy 26:2

What is the tithe? Ten percent (10%) of your required financial earnings to be given to your local church. *Malachi 3:6-12*

Why should I pay my tithes? According to *Malachi 3:10*, **10%** is set aside for the specific use of financing and supporting His house (your local church). This includes supporting outreach programs and paying staff salaries. Your **10%** then becomes holy (set aside) to God; which causes the stream of blessings to be on your other **90%** (*Lev. 27:30-32*). Giving also leads to blessings, being blessed leads to more giving - it is a cycle. It is more blessed to give than to receive, because your giving automatically positions you to receive (*Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38*).

Where do I pay my tithe? To the church of which I am a member.

When do I pay my tithe? When you receive your paycheck and/or other financial income.

Is tithing a New Testament or Old Testament issue? Both *Malachi 3:6-12; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 7*

What happens if I do not tithe? The laws that govern disobedience are set in order. This causes decrease to begin in your life, doors are locked up in your life, your prayers are hindered, and the church cannot do all that it desires to do to reach the lost. It also demonstrates a lack of commitment to the church and shows that you do not believe in your Pastors and their vision for this church. Remember, God supplies needs thru people.

What does it mean to be a covenant tither? A covenant is a legally enforceable contract or arrangement; a promise of agreement between two or more persons (you and God) operating in the law of exchange. With covenant, an exchange takes place—you do your part and God will do his. In other words, we need “every joint supplying” (*Ephesians 4:16*).

What is an offering? Any money given above the tithe.

What is a sacrificial offering? A time of additional financial support for additional programs and outreaches that the tithe cannot support.

Why do we have additional offerings? Because we do not have 100% tithers in the church. If everyone were in partnership with the Pastors as tithers, there would be no need for additional offering above the regular tithes and offering.

What if I do not have a regular income or I am on a fixed income? Give 10% of what you have. This shows God that you trust him.

What if I want to tithe, but I am afraid? Fear is not of God! As a Christian, we exercise the laws of faith—which guarantees that if we step out on knowledge from the truth of God’s word and not feelings, we will be financially and mentally free! *John 8:32*. Being a giver requires that you don’t have a wrong relationship with money. A wrong relationship with money causes you to fear giving, because you think you will be left without nothing.

What if I miss paying my tithes, what should I do? *Leviticus 27:30-31*.

Old Testament References

- (a) Old Testament tithers: Jacob (*Genesis 28:22*); Children of Israel. *II Chronicles 31:4*
- (b) Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek the High Priest. Jesus Christ is our High Priest (*Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 4:14,15; Hebrews 5:5; Hebrews 5:10*). Remember, we are the seed of Abraham.
- (c) Is tithing a New Testament Practice? Yes! *Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:5-11*

Why does God want to prosper me?

1. To empower me to be a blessing
2. To enable me to minister to the poor
3. To further His Kingdom

BECOMING A SERVANT LEADER AT OWCM

We train our servant leaders to first and foremost pursue the Word of God with a heart to please Him. When this is the chief motivation, our commitment and zeal is not about personal gain or public gratification.

The servant leaders at OWCM are the consolidation of various groups of born-again, spirit-filled individuals. Servant leaders are called to serve the Kingdom of God at OWCM in the following ways:

- They meet the operational demands of the ministry
- They meet the spiritual needs of those who participate in the worship and social activities offered by OWCM.

Servant Leader Requirements

Consistency and faithfulness to regular church attendance, servant leader training, meetings, rehearsals, functions, etc. is mandatory. Exceptions will be handled per guidelines. Volunteers who are unable to keep their commitments to the service should notify their Leader in advance in accordance with guidelines.

- Make-up session is given on the following Tuesday for those who work on Saturdays or have other excused absences on the day of the scheduled quarterly training. Only one absence is allowed for the year.
- You must have read, signed and agreed to adhere to all written standards of the ministry and the department in which you serve. (Department leader or the Administrative Office will provide a complete statement of the ministry standards.)
- As a new Servant Leader, we are asking that you do not serve in more than ONE ministry or department, initially.
- Faithfully abide by the Standard Operating Procedures for the department in which you volunteer.

TEN INGREDIENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE SERVANT...

- ◆ Willingness to serve-starts in the heart
- ◆ Accountability-being responsible for your assignment
- ◆ Diligence-not quitting until the job is done at all cost
- ◆ Consistency-Compatibility and agreement with the set standards
- ◆ Submission-Under another's mission
- ◆ Commitment-A willingness to change your plans to meet the vow
- ◆ Boundaries-Operating where God has placed you
- ◆ Prayer-Receiving from God as you give to God
- ◆ Standard-Completing the task in excellence without compromise
- ◆ God's Word-yield yourself to God's divine purpose

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SPIRITUALLY EMPLOYED

The word membership means belonging to or forming a working or active part of an organization. You are strategically placed in this local church to achieve and carry out a particular function, which causes the whole body to function without lack. *I Corinthians 12:27* says, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular". We all have a part and function in the Body of Christ -no one else can do what you can do. That means if you are not doing what you are supposed to be doing, the "Body" is lacking.

We need every member doing his/her part so that there will be no lack in the body. The only way that you can do this is to get in agreement with this vision. *I Corinthians 12:18* says, "...God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him". When we do what we are supposed to be doing, God is pleased; on the other hand, if we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing, He is not pleased. God has given us an awesome vision to reach the masses, but we cannot do it if we don't have working members helping us do this. We have so many ministry areas that need your gifting and talents to minister to the masses. God holds us accountable when we withhold our gifting and talents from the people who need us. Someone is missing out when you do not use your God-given abilities and talents.

You do have a part in this body. As stated earlier, once you take the new member's class, you are free to become a "working member" in any area of this ministry. We admonish you to fulfill the vow that you made to God and this ministry. Souls are depending on your gifting and talents.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL EMPLOYMENT?

- God calls you to an appointed time for a specific work. It is up to us to find out what work God wants us to do within the Body of Christ.
- God has a special assignment for each person called to this ministry.
- *Exodus 35:35, 36:1* God fills His people with wisdom, understanding and ability to know how to work all manner of work for the building of the tabernacle and the service of the sanctuary.

WHY BE SPIRITUALLY EMPLOYED?

- Everyone will give an account of what God has told them to do and to accomplish. *II Corinthians 5:9-10* says, "Wherefore we labor, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in His body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad".

- God has called us to be faithful (committed, dependable, loyal) to another man's ministry. *Luke 16:12* ...“And if you have not been faithful in that which is another man's who shall give you that which is your own.”
- You are eating (or receiving) the word, it is equally important to obey what you hear and do the work of the ministry. *James 1:22* ...“But be doers of the word, and not hearer only, deceiving your own selves. *II Thessalonians 3:10*“... if any would not work, neither should he eat.”
- *Romans 11:29* “...For the gift and calling of God are without repentance”. *Romans 12:4-8*
- God has placed a gift in you to be a blessing to others. God has placed in each person a gift to glorify Him. This gift given to you should be used for His honor and glory.
 - Example: If someone gave you a car as a gift and you abuse the car by driving carelessly and causing a wreck, the gift is still operable and can be used by somebody. You just lose the power, the privilege and the legal right to operate that gift.
 - *Ephesians 4:11-12* “And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (building) of the body of Christ.”
 - God has given the church gifts to perfect the saints, to do the work of the ministry and build up the Body of Christ.
 - God calls different people to complete different tasks. God does not call everyone to be a Pastor or Apostle. He calls some to usher, to attend the parking lot, to sing, etc.
 - Example: *Acts 6:2-4*

GOD HAS CALLED EVERY MAN TO SERVE

- A servant is one under subjection, authority and submission. All God's people are under his authority. ...Jesus is the Shepherd, Governor and Lord. Every work should be done as unto the Lord, not man.

- You are to be faithful to God's earthly ministers, but you are serving and working for the Lord Jesus Christ. *Colossians 3:22-24* says, "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ."
- God's calling on your life is the work that God wants you to do. God has personally chosen you for a particular task. You should strive to be the best at what God has called you to do. *Isaiah 43:10* says, "You are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant who I have chosen".
- The work that is completed and dedicated unto the Lord produces everlasting fruit in the Kingdom of God. *Romans 6:22* says, "But now being made free from sin, and becoming servant to God, you have your fruits unto holiness and the end everlasting life".

GOD HAS CALLED US UNTO HIS PURPOSE, NOT OUR OWN

- *II Timothy 1:9* "Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. "

TEN INGREDIENTS TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SERVANT

- Willingness to Serve – Starts in the heart.
- Accountability– Being responsible for your assigned tasks.
- Diligence– Not quitting until the job is done at all cost.
- Consistency– Compatibility and agreement with the set standards.
- Submission– Under another's mission.
- Commitment– A willingness to change your plans to meet the vow.
- Boundaries– Operating where God has placed you.
- Prayer– Receiving from God as you give to God.
- Standard– Completing the task in excellence without compromise.
- God's Word– Yield yourself to God's divine purpose.

God has called you to OWCM for a special task and purpose. That task and purpose is to help fulfill the vision that God has placed in our leader. The Bible says in *Ephesians 4:1* "walk worthy of the vocation (job) wherewith you are called". God has anointed and equipped you to accomplish the work that He has placed in your heart.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TO WHOM AND HOW ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN?

1. Every believer is spiritually gifted (I Peter 4:10, I Cor. 12:7, Eph. 4:7-8)
2. When he or she becomes a Christian (I Cor. 12:13).
3. With the gift(s) that God chooses for him or her (I Cor. 12:11,18).

Note: No one Christian has all the gifts nor is any one gift common to all Christians (I Cor. 12:12-18).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1. To bring glory to God in His church – I Peter 4:10-11
2. For the building up of the body of Christ – Eph. 4:12
3. For the unity of the body – Eph. 4:13
4. For the maturity of the body – Eph. 4:14-15
5. For the growth of the body – Eph. 4:16
6. For the common good (for the good of the whole) – I Cor. 12

**WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
TALENTS AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

<u>TALENTS</u>	<u>GIFTS</u>
1. Inherited from forefathers	1. Given by the Holy Spirit
2. Present from natural birth	2. Present from New Birth
3. God-given to all members to all members of the human race	3. God-given to members of Christ's Body
4. For human activities	4. For ministry of the body
5. Can be operated independent of the Holy Spirit	5. Dependent on the Holy Spirit
6. Ministers primarily on natural	6. Ministers on spiritual level
7. Effects are usually temporal/finite	7. Effects are eternal/infinite
8. Glorifies self	8. Glorifies God

SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT LINK TO SERVING

ADMINISTRATION

**Boards and Committees
Church office worker
Departmental Admin. Assistant
Church Historian**

**Organizer of Special Events
Financial Secretary**

DISCERNMENT

**Board Member
Recruiter
Counseling
Divorce/Recovery**

**Altar Counselor
Visitation
Youth Worker**

FAITH

**Intercessory Prayer Ministry
Altar counselor**

Prayer Partners

MUSIC

**Choir
Band
Choir Leader
Children's Choir Helper**

**Instruments
Orchestra
Worship Leader**

MIRACLES

**Altar Ministry
Mission Work**

**Intercessory Prayer Ministries
Anointing of Believers**

CRAFTSMANSHIP

**Handyman
Poster Artist**

**Arts and Crafts
Church Ground
Maintenance/Bldg. Repair**

HEALING

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Altar Prayer

GIVING

Support Missionaries

**Construction
Projects Fund Raisers**

MERCY

**Altar Counselor
Divorce Recovery
Drug and Alcohol
Shut in Ministry**

**Bereavement Ministry
Hospital Visitation
Deaf Ministry
Prison Ministry**

KNOWLEDGE/WISDOM

**Youth Work
Marriage Enrichment
Altar Counseling**

**Teaching
Counseling
Visitation**

EXHORTATION

**Visitation
Greeters
Ushers**

**Children's Ministry Counseling
Youth Camp Counselors**

TEACHING

**Children's Church
Outreach**

Youth Worker/Teacher Visitation

PASTOR/SHEPHERD

**Discipleship
Visitation
Training
Youth Work**

**Outreach
Follow-up
Children's Work**

APOSTLESHIP

**Missionary/Evangelist
Outreach**

Church Planter

MISSIONARY

**Outreach
Missionary Financial Support**

Evangelism

PROPHECY

Evangelism

EVANGELISM

**Outreach
Shelter Ministry
Prison Ministry
Door-to-Door Visitation**

**Visitation
Altar Counselor**

INTERCESSION

Prayer Partner

Prayer Ministries

OWCM STANDARDS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Open Word Christian Ministries, Inc. is a business and we operate as such. As with any business, there must be standards, ethics, policies and procedures. Listed below are some standards, and policies/procedures and common questions that are asked by members.

1. Funeral Procedures

- Home going/Funeral services are performed for members only and Immediate family members (at the discretion of the Pastor).
- The Pastor will not necessarily perform all funeral services, but another staff minister may perform the service.

***Note:** Please notify the office when there is a death in the family so that we can pray for your family.

2. Weddings

- We have a wedding ministry that will direct you in every aspect of our policies and procedures concerning weddings here at the church.
-
- The Pastor will not necessarily perform all weddings, but another staff minister may perform the service.
- In order for the Pastor (or staff ministers) to perform the wedding ceremony, the couple must have completed Pre-Marital Classes at OWCM.

3. Pre-Marital Classes

When a “couple” has an idea that they want to ***tie the knot***, call the office to find out when the next Pre-Marital class will start. Our marriage ministers/advisors will then contact you and give you detailed information about the sessions. Couples that are considering marriage should attend these sessions. The sessions are designed to instruct and impart, but mostly to allow you to identify the areas that need fine-tuning in your life to allow for a God-ordained marriage. We must stress that it is important that you go into the sessions with an open mind.

4. Baby Dedications

- The parent(s) or guardian(s) must complete a baby dedication questionnaire and meet with a minister to discuss the baby dedication. You may contact the office to receive a questionnaire.
- The appointment with the minister involves talking with the parents about biblical parenthood, etc. After the session, the dedication will be scheduled. Dedications are done on 3rd Sundays.

5. New House/Business Dedication:

- We **do not** conduct new house or new business dedications. However, we admonish you to declare the blessings of God over your new house and new business utilizing the Word of God.
- Although the Pastors love and care for every member, they are not under obligation to attend showers, house dedications, parties, graduations, or any other milestones in your or your family's lives. They are extremely busy, and with over 1,000 members, it is impossible to attend even a portion of the membership's functions. This has nothing to do with a member personally; it is just a policy that our Pastors have decided to adhere to.

6. Procedure for Spiritual Advising:

- Call the office for an appointment.
- At that point, the secretary/receptionist will ask the nature of the counseling appointment.
- At this point you will be mailed an agreement and questionnaire for spiritual advisement with the standards and guidelines attached. Once you fill out and sign the agreement, an appointment can be scheduled. No appointment is scheduled until the agreement form and waiver are returned and signed.
- The Pastors or Administrator will determine if the situation warrants an "emergency" session.
- You will not always have a session with Pastors Gary and Maya Taylor. (Acts 6:3 says, "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word.) It is virtually impossible for them to counsel over 1,000 members, and oversee the flock and ministry as well. For this reason, they have appointed the Pastoral Care Ministry representatives who are anointed and well capable of assisting you. The bottom line is, if you are drowning, it makes no difference who throws you the life jacket~ as long as you get it. So many times, people are hung-up on personalities or positions; however, no matter who ministers to your need, it is up to YOU to make the decision to do the things you have been instructed to do. A Pastoral Care representative is assigned to each member of the congregation. As a new member, you will receive regular telephone follow-ups from your Pastoral Care representative. Your representative is your contact person if you have any

questions, concerns, or personal challenges. They can be reached by contacting the Administrative Office.

7. When to Contact Your Pastoral Care Rep

- Pending death or death in the family
- Pre-Marital counseling
- Extreme marital problems (before you throw in the towel)
- Hospitalization
- Accidents which lead to hospitalization
- Tragedies (flood, fire, suicide, homicide, etc.)
- Baby Dedications

8. If I am already a minister (or other five -fold ministry gifts), when can I start ministering?

You will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and have an interview with the Pastors or other delegated authority, at which time, you will receive further instructions. Typically, we would have you to register for our next opening of our Ministers in Training classes.

FREQUENCY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What do you have to offer for personal growth and development?

We have one weekly Bible infused worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

We have care group ministry gatherings such as:

◆ **Healing Thru Hope**

Domestic Violence Support Ministry is designed to help bring understanding, help, and healing for those who find themselves involved with domestic violence. Dates and times of meetings to be announced.

◆ **We have monthly or bi-monthly family life fellowships which consist of:**

Couple's Ministry
Single's Fellowship
Women of Distinction
Men of Purpose and Distinction

◆ **MIT – Ministers in Training School of Ministry**

◆ **Grief Share Recovery Support Group**

This is a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. This group is offered to comfort and encourage during the difficult time of loss. It is designed to help you successfully travel the journey from mourning to joy. Dates and times of meetings to be announced.

How do I make the transition from where I was before coming to OWCM to where I am now?

I become comfortable in my new church by: Forgetting those things which are behind and pressing toward those things before you. We cannot go forward looking back! If you have never been a member of a church before, your new church family welcomes you as an important part of our vision to restore, build, establish and settle people through bible-based instruction and great fellowship. We accept you as an honored individual with great talents and gifting. We invite you to use the above-mentioned resources here at OWCM to enhance your life. We only ask in return that you allow us to take advantage of all the great personal resources you must help us to continue to help others (your time, talents, and tithes). We are committed to your success!

If you were a member of another church before coming here, please make sure that you've done the following:

- ◆ Communicated with your former Pastor(s) by letter or in person concerning your decision to leave.
- ◆ Make sure there is no bitterness or unforgiveness harboring in your heart as you leave.

Is my new church family perfect? NO!

We do not profess perfection. We profess to be a place of healing. We are like a spiritual hospital. Some of us are in emergency care, some are in long-term care, some are in recovery, some are in outpatient care, and some are in surgery. Howbeit we are all healing in some aspect.

However, the general atmosphere of our church is that everyone is accepted with honor and respect as we all grow personally and develop into the character and nature of Christ. We are witnesses of his divine love and grace. This causes us to be a great witness to a hurting world offering hope of a successful and joyful human existence.

What are my new Pastors like?

Pastor Gary Kevin Taylor, Sr., grew up in Connecticut where he stayed until moving to Georgia in the late 1980's. Pastor Taylor came to Georgia with only a high school education and worked on various jobs, from local schools, to a hospital, and other places. He knew however, that God had a greater calling on his life. During this time, he met Maya, and shortly thereafter, they were married. Pastor Taylor and Pastor Maya have allowed God to "order their footsteps" which has caused them to be where they are now. Has life always been easy? No, they are normal, down to earth folk who have experienced the challenges of life like everyone else. However, they allow God to turn those challenges into triumphant victory.

What is the chain of command for the ministry?

- ◆ If I have a question, what should I do or whom should I go to?

If you are a volunteer, go to your ministry leader. If your leader cannot assist you, the ministry leader will then go to their leader. If you are not a volunteer, simply call the church office and you will be directed to the proper person. However, please note that our Pastors have appointed certain leaders to handle various aspects of the ministry. When those leaders are speaking, they are speaking for the Pastors. To dishonor, disrespect or rebel against any leader in the ministry is to dishonor the Pastors.

Our Pastors are committed to feed the flock, and to lead the flock into green pastures where they can find rest from a troubled world.

How often should I come to my church and why?

- ◆ Sundays and any other time we have programs, outreaches and care groups available to assist in living a successful life.

Why? To grow personally and display support for the entire body! When we come together collectively, we learn so much from the teaching of the Word of God and from the fellowship with each other.

As a member, I want to support my church, share my faith and be a good witness of Jesus Christ in the earth. What are the enemies to the vision of my church and to my personal growth and development?

- ◆ Gossip, murmuring, complaining about the Ministry Leaders, members and decisions made. This destroys your personal witness, causes discord, and displays disunity. There will definitely be times you will not understand certain things about your new church, however, please know and remember we are a hospital. Therefore, everyone is working on something. As far as your new Pastors and leadership is concerned, decisions are made based on the overall health of the church, not individuals. That is why it is very important to make a commitment to pray for those in authority so that they will be divinely directed by God in all decisions they make. We value, honor, and respect in highest regard, honor for God, our Pastors, leaders, and members. *Hebrew 13 & Romans 13.*
- ◆ Maintaining conversation with disgruntled members.
From time to time members & leaders may leave the ministry in dishonor and without integrity. Please maintain your focus on God and your assignment.
- ◆ Lack of financial support. Without adequate income, we are not able to minister (serve as many people as we would like).
- ◆ Lack of volunteer support. Volunteer means: a person who freely offers himself to undertake a service or carry out a duty.
- ◆ It takes people to help other people. Use your talents, and gifting to help us help others. All members of a human body must work properly and add support in order for the body to function to its fullest.

What if I decide I no longer want to be a member of this church?

- ◆ We understand that OWCM is not for every person and sometimes people will become members only for a season. Therefore, we ask that you contact our office by letter to remove your name from our database. If you are a leader, you should schedule an in-person meeting with the Pastor to discuss your resignation. If you are a volunteer, you should schedule a meeting with your leader to discuss your resignation.

- ◆ Do not spread lies about our church. This spoils your personal witness and can stop others from potentially becoming members of our church.
- ◆ Continue to pray for our Pastors, leaders and members. Allow us to also add that should you decide to leave – you may always come back home!

What if I do leave with the lack of honor and integrity and I want to come back. What should I do?

- ◆ Repent to God first and if you offended, harmed, hurt or torn others before, during or after your departure, repent to them then come on back home. Our church teaches us to forgive because God forgives us every day of our lives!
- ◆ Contact us if you relocate to another city or state.

As a member, what should I do if all hell is literally breaking loose in my home?

- ◆ First, and foremost do not stop coming to church. Call us, let us pray with you, direct you, or just encourage you. You matter to us.

OWCM ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN

Senior Pastor:	Gary K. Taylor, Sr.
1st Lady:	Maya M. Taylor
Associate Pastor:	Pastor Antonio Long
Board of Directors:	Pastor Gary K. Taylor, Sr Jeff McGhee Pastor Lee Jenkins Dr. Eric J. Echols Pastor Antonio Long Bro. Archie Banks
Ministers	Minister Zandra Jones Minister Teresa Blake Minister Betty Mitchell Minister Barbara Stallings Minister Cheryl Menefee Minister Andre' Westfield
Deacons/Deaconesses:	Deacon Jimmy & Deaconess Linda Herring Deacon Harold & Deaconess LaRita Reid

OWCM DEPARTMENTS

Family Enrichment Ministries

Children's Ministry (12 mos-12yrs)
EPIK Student Ministry (ages 13-18yrs)
Married Couples Ministry/Wedding Ministry
Singles Ministry
Spice of Life (50+)
Paragon International Women's Ministry (WOD)
Nursing Home Visitation

Outreach Ministries

Domestic Violence (Healing through Hope)
Door-to-Door Evangelism
Prison Ministry
Storehouse Ministry (Food and Clothing)
Pastoral Care (Appointed by the Pastor)
Health Ministry

Sanctuary Worship Ministries

Doorkeepers and Greeters

Intercessory Prayer

Ministry of Helps (Servants of Christ, Building, Grounds, Parking Lot, Security, and Transportation)

Music & Arts Ministry (Audio, Dance, Drama, Choir, Praise Team)

Media/Marketing/Business Ministries

Marketing & Communications Ministry

Shepherd's Call Bookstore

Media Ministry

OWCM Core Values - What Matters Most

Purpose-We are fulfilling God's purpose for the existence of this church by empowering our members to fulfill their purposes.

Prayer-We acknowledge God in all of our ways.

Evangelism-Every program and service is designed to reach others with the life-empowering message of Christ.

Faith-We walk by faith not by sight. We see life from God's perspective. We are a church of visionaries.

Excellence-We are demonstrating corporately as well as individually the above average, superior and excelling mind and power of God through how we serve in His Kingdom. We do everything to the best of our ability.

Love-We are demonstrating God's love toward one another. For love is of God and every one that loves is born of God.

Character-We demonstrate a godly lifestyle to impact the world. "Be holy for I am holy!" (I Peter 1:16)

Teamwork-We are supportive of one another. **Together Everyone Achieves More.**

Sacrifice-We enjoy the benefits of living a sacrificial life. "I must decrease so that you may increase."

(John 3:30)

Unity-We agree to live in harmony with one another in order to fulfill our goals. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism". (Ephesians 4:5) One corporate vision.

Loyalty-We live in steadfast allegiance, demonstrating faithful duty to the Word of God (Bible) and the set customs, beliefs and vision of this church.

Commitment-We have been entrusted and obligated to follow through with said tasks or services until we see the job done to completion. "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

Honor-We conduct our lives as a human representative of respect and distinction.

Affectionate giving-We give of our resources affectionately as unto God. Knowing that every seed sown shall cause a great harvest to take place in our lives. The love for seeing God's Kingdom in action on the earth generates a passionate desire to give of our time, talents and our finances.

Responsibility-We react positively and favorably and can be trusted and relied upon when called to serve in every area of our lives.

Growth-We are a body of believers committed to grow, develop, improve and succeed steadily in every part of our lives which will cause Kingdom growth.

Legacy-We will pass down to generations to come all that God has empowered us to do in order to improve the human existence of those that will run this race after we are long gone. We intend to leave a lasting legacy.



2019 Baptism Dates



Water baptism is communicated through the church announcements. Candidates should sign up for water baptism at the Information Table in the foyer at the designated times.

March 23, 2019

October 26, 2019

Please contact the Administrative Office at 770-964-3379 for more information on water baptism.

PASTORAL CARE REPRESENTATIVES:

PC Director: **Robert Jones**

PC Co-Director: **Minister Cheryl Menefee**

A-B-C -Representatives: **Mickey and Jacqueline Hollis**

D-F, L -Representative: **John Reed**

G-I -Representative: **Linda Sanders**

K-S-M- Representatives: **Mack & Margaret McCarthney**

T-Z- Representative: **Min. Zandra Jones**

