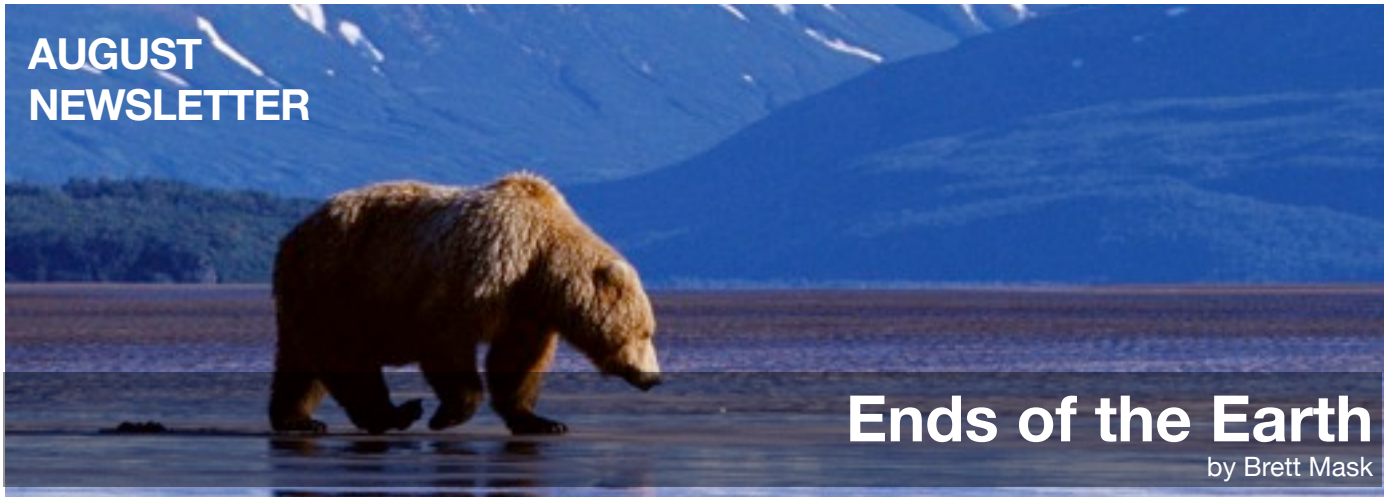


# FROM OUR PASTOR

**AUGUST  
NEWSLETTER**



## **Ends of the Earth**

by Brett Mask

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Alaska Mission Trip report last Sunday. There were a couple of things that I wanted to share with you about the trip, and then give you some info about the upcoming Homecoming Celebration and the schedule for August Meeting.

One of the things that surprised me was the diversity of the people living in Alaska. Every person that we came in contact with was a resident of the state of Alaska, but very few of them actually were originally from Alaska. I met children that were from the Ukraine, and could speak 3 different languages. One little girl, about 10 years old, told me that she had never heard the story of the prodigal son, and I had no idea where she was from because I didn't recognize the name and wouldn't even try to pronounce it. There are actually over 100 different people groups that live in Alaska. That is part of the reason that Alaska is the least evangelized state in the U.S..

Many will ask, "Why go to Alaska?" The simple answer is that God called us to Alaska, but what most people want is a logical reason why we would fly clear across the country to do something that is needed in our county, state, and region of the country? One logical reason is because of the lack of access to the Gospel and the lack of the witness of believers. We live in the Bible Belt, and most of the people that live in our county know someone that is a Christian and that person should be living out

their faith at home, work, or school. That isn't the case for all Alaskans.

The truth is that none of us should ever have to give a logical reason for going on a mission trip, because God's Word makes it clear in Act 1:8. We are to be a witness in our community, beyond our community, and to the "ends of the earth." That leads me to what is upcoming in the life of our church.

Our Homecoming Celebration will be Sunday, August 14th. Sunday School at 10:00am, worship at 11:00am, and a covered dish meal following the service. Please bring a guest and your favorite side dish. Our speaker will be our own Rev. Brody Bearden. Please pray for Brody as he shares God's Word with us.

August Meeting will start with a meal each evening at 6:00pm, and our service will begin at 7:00pm. Pastor Brett will share messages our mission during the services on Monday and Tuesday, and the rest of the week will be spent hearing about local, national, and international mission opportunities. If you want to know what we are going to do to fulfill our purpose and mission as a church, please don't miss August Meeting.

Excited About What God is Doing,

Pastor Brett

# back to School

# Those Three Words

By Brody Bearden

Back...to...School...

You can almost hear the children across Oglethorpe County cringe even as I type them now. It's that dreaded day where the carefree-ness of summer turns into the scheduled productivity of classrooms and lunchrooms and clubs and grades.

Growing up, I despised those words. "I'm not ready to go back," I would plead. "I just got used to staying up past midnight and sleeping until noon." School always started too soon. Those summer days would fly by, but when confined to the walls of the school building, they would just drag on.

But that was then...

Now, when I hear the words, "back to school" I get excited (sorry students). Not because of my own learning endeavors, but because it means a fresh start. New students enter the youth ministry and older students move on to college and other life stages. There's a new gaggle of high schoolers trying to figure things out, fit in, or stand out. There's a fresh bushel of middle schoolers wandering the halls balancing responsibility, hormones, and awkwardness. It's great.

Because the big picture is that each of us (whether we are in school or not) have renewed opportunities every day. Opportunities to take what we know, take what we have, take what we are...and use it for the cause of Christ. Each student and adult has a fresh new year to make an impact and point people towards Jesus. To me, that's exciting.

I want to challenge you with something I shared to the youth recently. We were studying John 4, focusing specifically on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. It was a very common occurrence to go gather water each day at the community water source, and it was no exception for this woman. What she encountered, however, was a whole lot more. She encountered Jesus in a way that changed her life forever. Her response? Tell everyone she knows.

Every day, you and I encounter ordinary situations. At school, at work, at home, and anywhere in between, we have friendships and relationships and acquaintances and just people in general that we brush elbows with in very ordinary ways. Our mission is to take what is ordinary and point it towards the spiritual...point people towards Jesus.

The saddest thing that you and I could ever do is engage people in relationships that revolve around sports, fashion, television or the weather, but fail to tell them about the ONE who has changed us from the inside out.

Connect the ordinary with the spiritual.

And when we do that, perhaps we'll see how powerful those three words are. Just three words.

Jesus...

Loves...

You...

Peace, Love, Christ  
Brody



# Alaska Mission Trip **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for all of your support  
in helping our Mission Team take  
the gospel to Kenai, Alaska.



## **Wedding Shower**

On August 7th, there will be a drop in shower from 3-5pm for  
Ben Adkins and Rebecca Nichols.

### Children's Church Schedule for August

August 7 - Gloria Peterman  
August 14 - Laray Mask  
August 21 - Brody and Trisha Bearden  
August 28 - Kelli Smith

## **Choir Practice**

### **REMINDER:**

CHOIR will practice for  
upcoming August Meeting on  
Sunday, August 7th  
from 6:30 - 7:30.

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

David & Gloria Bridges - 8/3  
Gladys Slay - 8/5  
Amanda Gordon - 8/6  
Emily Power - 8/8  
Gail Davis - 8/8  
Jimmy & Jean Hayes - 8/10  
Dan & Fay Fuller - 8/14  
Lisa Power - 8/16  
Shannon Peterman - 8/16  
John & Carol Faz - 8/16

Faye Day - 8/18  
Janice Gilbert - 8/18  
Jeannette Hemphill - 8/20  
Melanie Sanders - 8/20  
Kim Yearwood - 8/21  
Mason Mendez - 8/21  
Robert Wilson - 8/24  
Murphie Davis - 8/25  
Jean Hayes - 8/31

*To Salem:*

*You are Invited to the Wedding of  
Ben Adkins and Rebecca Nichols*

*Saturday, August 27th at 3pm  
at Salem Baptist Church*



SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
694 Salem Church Road  
Lexington, GA 30648