

# OWCM'S BABY DEDICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please write clearly.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Boy or Girl (Please circle)      Are there any other siblings? (Please list name(s) & age (s)) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**(Daytime)**

**(Evening)**

Members of OWCM:    Both Parents                      Yes \_\_\_      No \_\_\_

One Parent                              Yes \_\_\_      No \_\_\_

Members Elsewhere                  Yes \_\_\_      No \_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Define Spiritual authority

Are the parents:    Single           

Married           

Divorced          

Separated         

Are both parents born again? \_\_\_\_\_

Are both parents submitted to the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

Define the word submission.

Define the word dedication.

Are you dedicated to the Lord? Explain.

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What does dedicating your child to the Lord mean to you?

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What is the general atmosphere of your home at this time?

**(Check one)**      confusion \_\_\_\_\_      peace \_\_\_\_\_

Define the word agreement.

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Are the parents in agreement with this dedication?

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Define the role of the father.

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Define the role of the mother.

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Are you a tither?

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If you are a member, have you completed New Member s Classes? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_      If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you attend church on a consistent basis (Wednesday & Sunday)?

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## Baby Dedication Process

Open Word Christian Ministries believes children are a gift from God, and we are very excited that you are investigating dedication your child.

Baby/Child dedication is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to express publically your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, so your child will develop a desire to love God and love others.

The scriptural root of a baby/child dedication is found in **1 Samuel 1:27–28 (NASB)**, where a godly woman named Hannah prayed year after year for God to give her a child. He answered her prayer and she gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel. When Samuel was born, Hannah prayed these words:

***"For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord."***

In Luke chapter 2 of the New Testament, following the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple and dedicated Him.

In both Scripture passages, the parents entrusted their child completely to God.

The writings of Moses found in **Deuteronomy 6:5–9** describe God's plan for how a parent should raise up a child:

***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."***

One key step in marking your desire to nurture your child in the ways of God is to dedicate him or her to God publically, through a baby/child dedication ceremony.

Baby dedications are performed at OWCM every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. To be considered for the a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday baby dedication, application must be received in the Administration office by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. For example, to be considered for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February dedication, all paperwork must be completed and in the office no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>. All forms received after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month will be considered for the following month. For example, a form received January 17th will be considered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in March baby dedication. You may submit your form by fax, email or you may bring it into the Administrative Office. Once your form is received in the Administrative Office, it will be forwarded to your Pastoral Care Rep. The Pastoral Care Representative will contact you to go over the form with you. Once your Pastoral Care Representative contacts you, the

Administrative Office will send you an email at least 2 weeks PRIOR to the baby dedication Sunday. You MUST confirm receipt of the email in order for us to officially prepare for the dedication. The email will confirm the date and the spelling of your child's name. In addition, you may be contacted via telephone to confirm the pronunciation of your child's name.

**Here are other pertinent guidelines for the Baby Dedication:**

1. We will display your baby's picture on the screen if you submit a picture to the Administrative Office no later than the 2nd Sunday prior to the dedication.
2. Please note that because of the size of our congregation, multiple babies may be dedicated on a given Sunday.
3. Typically we have the ceremony BEFORE the message for the day. However, occasionally, Pastor Taylor will feel led of the Lord to go right into the service. If this happens, your baby/child will be dedicated at the end of the service.
4. We ask that you arrive at service no later than 10:00 a.m. Please let the Ushers know that you are present. If you arrive after 10:00, we will reschedule your baby for following month.
5. Parents may also invite family and friends. At the designated time, the family will be called forward. The parents and baby/child and other siblings will be asked to come on the stage. Families and friends will remain on the floor.
6. During the dedication service, parents express vows before God, their family, and the church, declaring their desire to raise their child in a God-honoring way. Because parents are the key role models for their children, they play a primary role in the dedication service. Parents will be asked to affirm the following commitments:
  - 1) *Do you promise to uphold the Word of God in your house, making it the final authority on all decisions concerning your family?*
  - 2) *Do you promise to train your children, teach, provide for, nurture, control and love your children according to the Word of God (Bible)?*
  - 3) *Do you promise to be that example of Christ in word and deed showing your children that Jesus is truly the center of your family?*
7. After the affirmations, your Pastoral Care Representative will pray over you and your baby/child, anointing you with oil.
8. Finally, you will receive a certificate signifying you dedicated your baby/child to the Lord.

**NOTE: You must be a member of OWCM in order for us to dedicate your child.** Why? In dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and your local church to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions. If you have not decided to commit to making OWCM your local church, it would be very difficult for us to keep our end of the partnership in helping to lead and guide your baby/child (and you) with the programs and services we offer to children and parents alike.