

2025

MISSION TRIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

January

Sanctity of Human Life
2-7: Bogota, Colombia

February

Registration for August
Toronto, Canada Trip
8: Reach the Nations Here
(SBCV Conference)

March

Registration for July
Vermont Trip
15-25: Tbilisi, Georgia
28-29: Send Relief Tour
Virginia Beach

April

Annie Armstrong Offering
(North American Mission Board)

Monthly, Year-Round: Serve 757 Community Missions Challenge

*For information about all our upcoming mission trips
& opportunities, go to bbcYorktown.org/missions*

May

Thrive Food Drive
CareNet Walk4Life
& Baby Bottle Campaign

June

Community Fun Day
BBCS School Supply Drive

July

13-19: Vermont
Registration for
Family Mission Camp
(Date TBD)

August

Registration for November
Tanzania Mission Trip
7-12: Toronto, Canada

September

Registration for January
2026 Colombia Trip
Family Mission Camp
(Dates: TBD)

October

Vision Virginia Offering
(SBCV)

November

Registration for March
2026 Tbilisi, Georgia Trip
Early November: Tanzania

December

Peninsula Rescue Mission
Christmas Donations
Lottie Moon/IMB



Bethel

ON MISSION

Equip ~ Send ~ Go

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Reaching Our Neighbors and The Nations



Bethel ON MISSION

A Note from the Missions Pastor



Dear Church Family,

As followers of Christ, we are called to a mission greater than ourselves. The Bible makes it clear that missions are not just a part of the Christian life—they are central to it. Jesus' final words to His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission, command us to "go and make disciples of all nations." This is not a suggestion, but a mandate to take the Gospel to every corner of the world.

The heart of missions is rooted in God's love for all people (John 3:16) and His desire for all to come to know Him (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus demonstrated this by crossing cultural and social boundaries to reach the lost, and He calls us to do the same. In Acts 1:8, He empowers us to be His witnesses "to the ends of the earth." We do missions because the Gospel is for everyone, and

God's kingdom is for all nations, tribes, and tongues.

As we carry out this mission, we are not just offering a message, but inviting people into the abundant life that only Jesus can give. Whether near or far, local or global, our calling is to share His love and truth with those who have yet to hear.

Here at Bethel, it is our desire to provide opportunities to serve on mission for all Christ followers who call Bethel their home church. These opportunities range from going immediately outside our doors and initiating gospel conversations with our neighbors to hopping on a 19-hour flight to proclaim the gospel to those who have never heard. As you read through this and future editions of our missions newsletters, it is my prayer that you will ask the Lord to show you where He wants to use you on His mission.

Thank you for partnering with us in this eternal mission. Together, we are advancing God's kingdom—one soul at a time.

All for Christ!

Brian Parker

Pastor Brian Parker
Discipleship & Missions Pastor
Bethel Baptist Church

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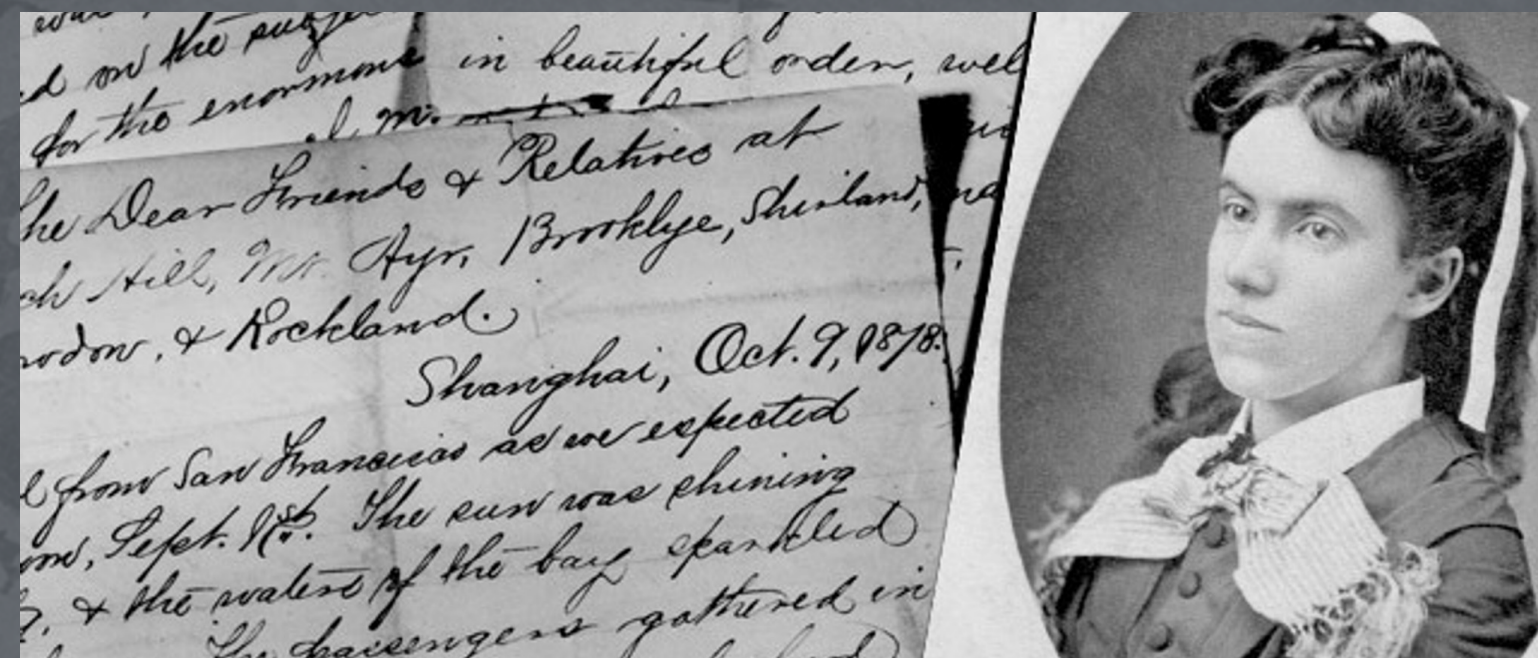
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WHO WAS LOTTIE MOON?

From the International Mission Board (www.imb.org)

Lottie Moon — the namesake of Southern Baptists' international missions offering — has become a legend. But in her time, Lottie was anything but an untouchable hero. In fact, she was like today's missionaries. She labored tirelessly so her people group could know Jesus.

Born Charlotte Digges Moon, December 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Virginia, Lottie rebelled against Christianity until she was in college. In December 1858, she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lottie attended Albemarle Female Institute, female counterpart to the University of Virginia. In 1861, she was one of the first women in the South to receive a master's degree. She stayed close to home during the Civil War but eventually taught school in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia.

Edmonia Moon, Lottie's sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there. Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China's Shantung province. She taught in a girls' school and often made trips into China's interior to share the good news with women and girls.

Lottie Moon was passionate about people knowing Christ. She didn't hesitate to speak her mind.

Today's China is a world of rapid change. It's home to 1.4 billion individuals — one-fifth of the world's population. Village dwellers flock to

trendy mega-cities with exploding populations. And China holds its own in the world's economy. It's very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the 1800s. But one thing hasn't changed: China's need for a Savior.

When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home and family to follow God's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a Savior.

For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her Savior.

Lottie wrote letters home detailing China's hunger for truth and the struggle of so few missionaries taking the gospel to the 472 million Chinese in her day. She also shared the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists to support them through prayer and giving.

She once wrote home to the Foreign Mission Board, "Please say to the [new] missionaries they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial."

Disease, turmoil and lack of co-workers threatened to undo Lottie's work. But she gave herself completely to God, helping lay the foundation of what would become the modern Chinese church, one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world. Lottie Moon died at 72 — ill and in declining health after decades ministering to her beloved Chinese. But her legacy lives on. And today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.

Lottie frequently sent letters back home detailing Chinese culture, missionary life and the physical and spiritual needs of the Chinese people. Additionally, she challenged Southern Baptists to go to China or give so that others could go. By 1888, Southern Baptist women had organized and helped collect \$3,315 to send workers needed in China.

In 1918, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) named the annual Christmas offering for international missions after the woman who had urged them to start it.



For more information about Lottie Moon and the International Mission Board, go to www.imb.org.

You can donate to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering year round at our website: www.bbcyorktown.org/giving

"HONORING MY HERO: A HEARTFELT MINISTRY TO THE ELDERLY AND HOW YOU CAN HELP"

By Bob Bonta



In June 2023, my Mom would have been 92 years old. She always told us (me and my 5 siblings) that she was blessed six times over... when, in fact, we were richly blessed by her as our Mom. To me, she was my hero – and I reminded her of that often. In January of 2023, my hero found herself in the presence of her Savior, Jesus Christ. All of her ailments, which she reminded us of – often, are now healed and she has been donned with a new, perfected, sin-less body, rejoicing before her God.

I share this about my Mom because she is the reason why I am so endeared to the elderly – a club to which I am quickly approaching. In May 2017, I began a ministry at The Harmony on the Peninsula, under the umbrella of BBC Missions. The residents there have captured my heart. I have held chapel services there each Sunday... I have sat with, cried with, laughed with so many of them there. Each Sunday, we meet for singing hymns and for a message from the Lord – and during the week, I try to make

some visits with folks after their dinner time.

If I were asked what could Bethel do for this ministry, I would ask for two simple things...

First, **Prayer!**

I know, that's the Sunday School answer (either Jesus or prayer). Nonetheless, I covet your prayers not so much for me, but for them. Oftentimes, they are left on their own to do things to occupy their days and that leads to much discouragement. As I shared in a different forum that this is a difficult place in which to live. Please pray for God's Spirit to sweep through and bring more joy and laughter.

Second, **support.**

Not financially, but physically. If you are able, we would love to have more Bethel members visit during our service time (3pm-4pm). The residents love it when visitors come in and interact with them.

Thank you for taking the time to peek at this ministry through this highlight in our Newsletter.

BETHEL BAPTIST HONORS VETERANS AT HARMONY

By Christina Brandal



The Bethel Baptist Church Military Ministry brought together many of our churches military service members (active and veterans) to honor and serve the Veterans at Harmony on the Peninsula alongside Pastor Bob Bonta.

While Bob serves the residents of Harmony each week (see the other article on this page) this was a special service on Veteran's Day that was especially meant to honor those who had served.

Many of our Bethel members participated, including families of those who have served or are serving.

Thank you Bethel for your ministry to our military service members past and present!



BETHEL HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 'COMMUNITY FUN DAY' IN NEWPORT NEWS, DRAWING HUNDREDS FOR FOOD, GAMES, AND GOSPEL OUTREACH

By Christina Brandal

Bethel members converged on Riverview Farm Park in Newport News to host a 'Community Fun Day' on Memorial Day weekend.

This free event served as an outreach to our community on the Peninsula, with free food, games, inflatable bounce houses, crafts, and more!

The park outreach, which was advertised primarily through social media, ended up a huge success with several hundred community members in attendance!

Around 800 hot dogs were handed out, along with bags of chips, bottled water, fresh popped popcorn, and lots and lots of cotton candy!

Even the rain couldn't keep away the community as children continued to jump on the inflatables through the drizzling rain that came down for about an hour of the event.

As children bounced and played, church members engaged their parents and family members in friendly and intentional gospel conversations.

Volunteers taught Bible Stories with a puppet show, as well as 'gospel wheels' that led children through the gospel in a friendly colorful way.

At the shelter that held the craft stations, volunteers also made balloon animals for the children.

Hundreds of invitations for our Vacation Bible School were handed out during the outreach and it is anticipated that several in attendance at our VBS in June had attended the Community Fun Day.

We look forward to hosting future local outreach events like the Community Fun Day and hope that more Bethel members will participate! There are areas for all ages and all skill levels. At this event we had volunteers ranging from 5 years old to 92 years old!

Keep an eye out for future opportunities and join us as we endeavor to make the name of Jesus known to our neighbors with local events such as this!



FALL FROLIC EVENT FOSTERS FAITH, SERVICE, AND GENEROSITY: FILLING 65 SHOE BOXES FOR OCC

By Traci Hendron



In October the Missions Team partnered with Bethel's Women's Ministry to host the first ever Fall Frolic. This fun event was a combination of faith, service, food, and friendship. Attendees were treated to a delicious autumn inspired meal including a soup bar, breads, salads, and specialty desserts. Afterwards the focus of the evening turned to the subject of missions and helping others.

The guest speaker of the night was Lyda Giedd, originally from Cambodia. She shared a moving account of how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoe box in her life. Lyda described the hard life she experienced in Cambodia after years of war and genocide. She experienced poverty and extreme vulnerability as a child. At 12 years old she received a shoe box gift at her uncle's church. This gift from a stranger made a huge impression on her. Lyda's story of faith and

forgiveness was a testimony of the difference Christ can make in someone's life.

One of the goals of the event was to highlight Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Everyone who attended the event was asked to bring donations to fill shoe boxes designated for children in the Operation Christmas Child program. The program gifts shoe boxes to children all over the world as a means of sharing the Gospel.

Attendees filled the shoe boxes with the donated items and then prayed over each individual box that a child would receive. The goal set for this first-time event was to fill 25 shoe boxes, so it was a wondrous surprise to discover that 65 shoe boxes were filled at the end of the evening! There was also a large number of extra toys left over, which were shared with a Bible fellowship class who planned to fill even more shoe boxes.



BETHEL PACKS 304 SHOE BOXES AND 58 BACKPACKS FOR CHILDREN

By Jane Bates

Many thanks to Bethel members and friends for your generous participation in our efforts for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and the SBCV Backpacks.

We are helping 58 needy children in Virginia with the backpacks we filled for the SBCV. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes go all over the world.

Our students from Bethel Baptist Christian School decorated the insides of 100 shoe boxes.

At the "Fall Frolic" packing party sponsored by the Women's Ministry (see article on this page) Bethel women and some of their children packed 65 boxes.

The Senior Adult Bible Fellowship Class led by Ken Hertzler, Jay Noble, and Rick Loveless packed 125 boxes at their annual packing party.

Additional individuals and families also filled shoe boxes, so this year we had a grand total of 304 shoe boxes (compared to 264 last year). Let's keep praying for these gifts to bless the children as well as the senders, that many will come to know the Lord.



BBCS SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

By Traci Hendron

Bethel Baptist Church held its third annual school supply drive this summer to support Bethel Baptist Christian School.

The drive was a huge success as church members brought in large quantities of pencils, crayons, glue sticks, and markers. This year the drive also incorporated art supplies into the requested items, such as canvases and paint.

The donations were dropped off inside a yellow cardboard school bus in the Missions Foyer. Each year the amount of school supplies donated seems to get larger until the little school bus is busting at its seams.

The church has made a concerted effort to support BBCS, a school that strives for excellence in education while remaining true to providing the students with a Gospel message.

Sandra Chambers, Executive Director of the school, expressed her sincere gratitude for all of the donations. The generous gifts of BBC members will go a long way towards the educational success of many students.

BBCS is a missions partner of Bethel Baptist Church. The school's mission is to partner with families in the spiritual, academic, physical, social,

and emotional growth of their children. Their goal is to instill a life-long love of learning and a life-long passion for Christ. They desire that this generation of children will grow in faith, knowledge, right living, productivity, and joy in Christ!

Our church members can support the school through ongoing and special fundraisers during the year and by making a special additional financial gift at any time via the church online giving platform. In addition, beginning in 2025, Bethel Baptist Church will begin providing financial support to the school on a monthly basis.

Other Opportunities to Support BBCS:

- **Papa Johns Fundraiser**
Online Promo Code: BBCS
- **Kroger Rewards**
NPO #: 93733 or "Bethel Baptist Church Yorktown"
- **Box Tops for Education**
Select BBCS from the app
- **Direct Financial Donation**
Choose "BBCS Sponsorship" at bbc yorktown.org/giving



BBC SUPPORTS RESCUE MISSION

By Traci Hendron



The Peninsula Rescue Mission (PRM) has long been a beacon of hope to those facing homelessness on the Peninsula. The mission operates a men's shelter that is open 365 days a year to provide food, shelter, and spiritual guidance. PRM is also in the process of completing the renovations on a newly acquired building to transform it into a women's shelter.

Bethel Baptist Church has been supporting PRM throughout the year in numerous ways. Volunteers from the church cook dinner for the men at the mission on the first Thursday of every month. The crew from BBC donate the food for dinner in addition to preparing it. Most importantly, volunteers also talk and pray with the gentlemen who are staying at the shelter that night.

In addition to the monthly dinner church members have also donated in various ways to meet the physical needs of those PRM helps as part of their ministry. Volunteers from the church have gone down to the mission to help decorate for holidays. In November church members donated food

items for Thanksgiving meal boxes. A few church members also went to PRM to help pack the boxes. In December, church members donated watches, gift cards, and hand warmers as Christmas gifts to mission residents. Bethel Baptist Church is constantly reaching out to show the love of Christ to those in our community.



Since 1966, Peninsula Rescue Mission has been serving our community.

BBC partners with PRM as a local ministry outreach to share the gospel message to those who are in their most difficult times in life. The Peninsula Rescue Mission looks to serve the practical & spiritual needs of those who are struggling through the difficulties of homelessness and poverty, here on the Peninsula.

If you have a heart for the homeless and are willing to serve, contact Rob & Traci Hendron at pentree5@aol.com for more information!

Or go to the Peninsula Rescue Mission website for further details about their ministry to the community: www.prm.info



LEE STROBEL HEADLINES PENINSULA4LIFE DINNER

By Traci Hendron



Care Net Peninsula held its annual Peninsula4Life Benefit Dinner on October 11, 2024, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. This year was especially exciting because the guest speaker was Best Selling New York Times author Lee Strobel. Mr. Strobel, a former atheist, is best known for his book *A Case for Christ*, which was made into a major motion picture. The movie ranks as one of the top twenty faith-based films. Mr. Strobel gave a very compelling presentation titled *A Case for Life*.

Bethel Baptist Church was well represented at the banquet. Multiple tables at the banquet were hosted by different church members. Each member who hosted a table was asked to invite nine other people to fill the table for the night. The banquet was a huge success with over 900 people in attendance. This was the largest attendance in the history of the ministry. As a result, over \$530,000 was raised at the event. These funds will be used to provide needed medical and supportive care to women in crisis.



Women with unplanned pregnancies often feel scared and alone. When they're alone in crisis, abortion can feel like the only way out.

CareNet Peninsula is a safe space they can process and learn the truth about their pregnancy. They provide options: counseling, ultrasounds, and parenting support. All for FREE so women don't default to abortion.

When Pregnant Women Have The Help & Hope They Need, They Choose Life For Their Baby!

For more info, go to: cnpenninsula.org or to our missions page for ways you can join Bethel in supporting CNP.



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH SUPPORTS NEBC HOUSING PROJECT

By Seth Griffin



In 2024, 18 members from Bethel Baptist Church and two from Little Falls Church came together to make an impact at Northeastern Baptist College. Our mission was to further the student housing project and support the growing NEBC community.

One of our key achievements was the completion of House #9, where we installed tiles in the kitchen and bathroom, and finished cabinet installations. Additionally, we installed stair railings, finished outdoor siding and finished painting both units in House 9. The home was ready just in time and passed inspections to welcome new students for the fall semester.

Teams also worked tirelessly on House's #7, #8 and #2, tackling

tasks such as siding, drywall, roofing and installing flooring in student dorm rooms.

In addition to construction, a team of four volunteers focused on the library and office. This group made significant progress towards cataloging books and organizing material to better support NEBC's academic resources.

Our mission wasn't all work though. We had the opportunity to host a cookout in partnership with Mountain Impact, sharing fellowship and fun with the local community.

We were also blessed with inspiring talks given by Gensis and Christian, whom are two students attending NEBC. They shared with us what a blessing the work we are

doing is and how it is impacting the students.

Dr. Mark Ballard, President of NEBC also came and spoke with us one evening after dinner to share updates for the future of the College and hoping to break ground in 2025 on two more housing units. He also shared exciting news that this year brings the largest freshman class in the school's history. This growth underscores the importance of continuing this vital housing project to meet the needs of the expanding student body. Let's keep this momentum going as we plan for future projects to support the mission of NEBC.

For more information about the mission of NEBC, go to: nebcvt.org

FALL FESTIVAL BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN JOY

By Christine O'Shields



This year's Fall Festival was a tremendous success, drawing nearly 1,800 families, friends, and neighbors together for an unforgettable day of fun, fellowship, and faith! The crisp autumn air provided the perfect backdrop for a festival filled with laughter, joy, and celebration.

From decadent s'mores to exciting carnival games, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Children's faces lit up as they climbed aboard the hayride, frolicked with the animals, and tried their luck at winning prizes. One of the most heartwarming moments of the evening was watching our prayer team work lovingly, offering prayers for our community and sharing the gospel with open hearts.

The trunk-or-treat event showcased incredible creativity, with over 20 cars



beautifully decorated with themes ranging from biblical stories to whimsical scenes. Thank you to all who participated—you made this event truly magical for the children and families alike!

We were also blessed by an incredible team of volunteers who worked with such care and devotion to ensure the event ran smoothly. From setup to cleanup, and every detail in between, your servant hearts were a true testament to God's love in action.

As we reflect on the day, we are reminded of the abundant blessings God has poured out on our church and community. Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, or lifted up this event in prayer. We can't wait to come together again next year for another season of fall fun and fellowship!

BETHEL COMMUNITY AIDS HURRICANE HELENE VICTIMS

By Christina Brandal

Hurricane Helene devastated the Southeast United States in September of 2024. In addition to the damage in Florida and South Carolina, the storm caused catastrophic rainfall-triggered flooding, particularly in western North Carolina, East Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia, and spawned numerous tornadoes.

In addition to financial donations to the SBCV Disaster Relief fund, Bethel members responded to a call for supply donations from the SBCV to assist with Disaster Relief in southwestern Virginia. Bethel and our surrounding community answered the call and filled a 20 foot box truck to the brim with the requested supplies, such as toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene supplies and more!

In addition, Bethel members sought to assist those impacted in the western North Carolina region where many members have family and friends. Members of our quilting & crochet group got to work, and the crochet group from Liberty Live Church also pitched in. Several hundred quilted and crocheted blankets were delivered along with other relief supplies to Cedar Mountain Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist church in WNC, to be distributed to those in need in the community.

Many thanks to the Bethel community for supporting those in need during this time!



BETHEL BAPTIST FAMILIES STRENGTHEN BONDS AND MISSION AT SECOND ANNUAL FAMILY MISSION CAMP

By Jonathan McBride

Over Labor Day weekend, families from Bethel Baptist Church gathered for our Second Annual Family Mission Camp at the serene Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg, Virginia. Our time together strengthened our commitment to God's mission and deepened our bonds as a church family.

This year, our team partnered with Bedrock Church Madison Heights to support their pre-launch block party event. Bedrock Church Madison Heights was launching as a new church plant from two other congregations that are dedicated to glorifying God and making disciples within this community.

The block party was one of the final events in a series of outreach efforts to connect with the local community leading up to their launch day the following Sunday. Our volunteers played a pivotal role in ensuring its success of the event. Whether setting up, painting faces, or assisting with activities, our church family embraced the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ, freeing the new church members to connect with

their community directly. Several visitors committed to attend the new church plant and some opened up about their lives, their challenges, and their faith.

In addition to the block party, the weekend was rich with fellowship and spiritual growth. Pastor Brian led the group in study sessions that explored effective mission approaches, equipping participants with practical tools to share the gospel and build lasting connections. The Henrich's helped lead the group in worship and praise moments. Families also enjoyed meaningful relationship-building time through games, hikes, and meals together.

The Family Mission Camp is more than just a weekend away—it's a chance to serve together, grow in faith, and inspire one another to live on mission in our daily lives. As Proverbs 27:17 reminds us, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." This time together strengthened our commitment to God's mission and deepened our bonds as a church family.

God has blessed the ministry of Bedrock Madison Heights since we were there. On their launch Sunday, they had over 180 people in attendance. They are starting to launch a student ministry and others as they move forward with purpose. Let's continue to pray for Bedrock Church Madison Heights as they move forward in their launch and pray for the spiritual seeds that were planted during our time there.

We hope this experience inspires you to join us next year! Family Mission Camp is a wonderful way to step out of your comfort zone, see God at work in new ways, and make a lasting impact for His kingdom. Whether you're a seasoned mission worker or considering your first trip, there's a place for you at Family Mission Camp.

As we look ahead, we invite you to prayerfully consider being part of the team for next year's camp—together, we can continue to shine Christ's light in communities near and far.