

Monthly Prayer Letter - August 2026

Dear Church Family,

I've loved VBS since I was a kid. Even after I aged out from attending, I continued to serve as a Teen Helper. When Lindsay and I started ministry in 2005 at our church in rural Iowa, one of the first things we did was VBS. Every summer, we transformed our Sanctuary into an archeological dig site, a tropical paradise, the Australian outback, or whatever that summer's theme called for. Our three daughters, now in their early 20s and late teens, still know *all* the words to the VBS songs they learned when they were little.

One of the things I love about VBS is that it's a ministry where everyone can participate regardless of age, life stage, or experience with kids. Before you say, "No thanks. VBS ain't for me," let me tell you about Phyllis.

Our church in Williamsburg, Iowa was small. We averaged 40-50 people on a Sunday, including those in the nursery. When VBS came around, it was all hands on deck—including Phyllis. At the time, Phyllis was in her late 80s. She couldn't sit on the floor with the kids. She didn't volunteer to help with crafts or snacks, or learn the motions to the VBS songs. In fact, whenever we put out the call for volunteers, she would say, "At my age, I can't do much."

She wasn't making excuses. What Phyllis actually said was

"At my age, I can't do much, **but I can pray.**"

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16b, NIV)

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Don't underestimate the power of prayer. Prayer is powerful, not because we're so good at it, but because God loves to answer it. God is glorified when we ask and he answers.

You've heard us talk about VBS for a while now. In just a week (August 9-12), Kingdom Quest VBS will be here. So for the next week, would you join me every day in praying for VBS?

Pray for kids and families from our church and from the community that will be here for VBS. Pray for all of our volunteers—those serving up front, with kids, and those helping behind the scenes. Pray that the gospel would be shared, sung, lived out, and believed. Pray with us for VBS on August 9th at Second Sunday Prayer. Church family, let's pray this week for VBS.

In Him,

Pastor Eric