

Mathetes Mission Trip August 6 - 19, 2026

Berlin Christian Church had the opportunity to take nine people to serve at the Mathetes Youth Center (YC) in the Philippines. While we were there, we experienced so much! Let me walk you through a day in the life of our team in the Philippines.

Each morning, the YC staff and our group met at 9 a.m. for devotions before the day got busy. Afterward, we had free time until the students arrived around 11:30 a.m. We enjoyed a delicious lunch made by Alma before spending a few hours playing games, having conversations, and getting to know the YC kids. Each day included a special activity, such as a movie marathon, baking, game competitions, and American Sign Language lessons. These activities brought so much joy and helped everyone grow closer together. After the daily activity, a staff member would lead a Bible lesson. We loved seeing how interested and engaged the kids were! The afternoon ended with snacks, conversations, and time to hang out. The kids would leave at 6pm to go home for the night. It was clear that the YC was a safe place for everyone. Some kids even told us how much they loved being there. The staff worked hard to make sure the kids knew who Christ was and understood the importance of having a relationship with Him. They also made sure every child felt loved, especially those who were not in a healthy situation outside of the YC. I have never seen so many smiles in one room.

We also had the opportunity to attend church in a different country. While some things were different, we were reminded that Christians around the world are united by the same faith. Digos City Church of Christ began Sunday with a devotional that anyone could join, followed by a worship song with just a guitar and everyone's voices praising the Lord. Before the service, the littles would go back to their own classes to have their Bible lesson during the adult service. During the service, there were three worship songs, a sermon, communion, offering, and one final worship song. The church was incredibly lively, joyful, and full of love for the Lord. The preacher even switched between languages to make sure everyone could understand the message. Afterward, we split into small groups by age and gender to discuss what we learned and how we could apply it to our daily lives. Everyone at church was so welcoming, and we felt incredibly blessed to worship alongside them. After the discussion groups, we got to meet and hangout with people of all ages. It was really cool to see God's people coming together and having a good time with each other. We also had the opportunity to teach a class on the 3 circles gospel presentation at church. It was so fun! People got to learn how to do it on their own so they can go share it with people they run into.

Each day, 3-4 members of our group also had the opportunity to visit the school across the street with Beverly, one of the YC staff members. We spent about an hour teaching a Bible lesson and playing games with the students. Since Americans are not common in the Philippines, we definitely caught people's attention on the walk there! The students were excited to see us but were often too shy to talk, so we usually had to start the conversations. We played games, taught Bible lessons, and even had students help demonstrate the Bible stories. We ended our time by leading a worship song, participating in a beautiful moment of worship together in a tiny, crowded room. It was always such a beautiful moment. Before the students left for their next class, they ran up to us asking us to pose for what felt like 1,000 pictures. We felt like celebrities! It was so special getting to put smiles on their faces.

We also had some free time to experience the Philippines. Most evenings after the YC, we were invited to restaurants with Andy, his family, and Boboy. They were incredibly hospitable and always made sure we were comfortable. During some free moments at the YC, a few of us visited the local market with staff members and got to see all the different foods being sold. We even got to try some of them!

Saturday was our full day to explore since the YC was closed. We traveled up a huge mountain where we went ziplining, which was a first for many of us. We also had lunch at an open-air restaurant while listening to a live band. We requested "Cotton Eye Joe" and "Church Clap" and ended up dancing in front of everyone! It was such a fun and unforgettable experience. On our way back home, we had the chance to visit the beach, where the water was super clear. After spending a little time relaxing in the ocean, we built a small "crab farm" in the sand and enjoyed a delicious lunch on the sand while taking in the views. We then discovered that snorkeling was available and decided to give it a try. Since we had never done it before, it was an incredible experience! We even got to hold starfish and explore all the vibrant marine life beneath the surface. God's creation is truly breathtaking!

Looking back, we went to the Philippines thinking we were going to be a blessing to others, but we quickly realized how much of a blessing the people there were to us as well. We made friendships, experienced a different culture, and most importantly, got to see God working through the YC, the church, the school, and the people we met. We will forever be grateful for the memories, relationships, and lessons we made.

by Abby McCann

Church at the Fairgrounds September 13th



BERLIN CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S CORE VALUES:

1. We value the Bible as God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. We value the Lordship of Jesus Christ. John 3:16
3. We value the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20
4. We value the ministry of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
5. We value Christian worship. Psalm 150:6
6. We value Christian unity. John 17:23
7. We value Christian fellowship. Acts 2:42-44

Making More and Better Followers of Jesus Christ

Staff & Leadership

STAFF

Minister: Warren Brosi

Ministry Intern: Ray Maduena

Administrative Ministry Assistant:

Jennifer Brewer

LEADERSHIP

Elders: Brad Clair & Dan Knappmeyer

Deacons: John Babbs, Scott Keck,

Blake Lucas, Kristopher Maxson,

Sam Millitello, Tony Peecher,

John Ruby & John D. Wyatt

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In-Person Worship

J.A.M. 9:00 am

Sunday 10:00am

Online Sunday @ 10:00 am

 **Facebook Live**

 **YouTube**

Phone Live Stream:

833-233-1824

Warren's Words of Wisdom --- Warren Brosi, Minister

Memories from our Mathetes Mission Trip

On behalf of our mission team who served with the Mathetes Youth Center in Digos City, Philippines, thank you for your support. Mathetes comes from the Greek word, "disciple." I'm thankful for Abby McCann's summary of our trip included in this newsletter. Below are some of my favorite memories from our trip in August 2026.

A common response to a compliment to a member of the church or Youth Center Staff is, "For the glory of God." I want to live my life for the glory of God.

Our Friday evening meal with the Youth Center staff was so special and encouraging. It was a holy moment. I read the opening verses of Philippians 1. Many of us were weepy. The Youth Center team is so encouraging and inspiring.

I enjoyed our conversations with Pastor Leo Bulilan. He asks good questions. He has a focus on discipleship and interest in Restoration History [the history of the Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ]. I'm thankful that he invited us to share the 3 Circles evangelism presentation.

We shared the gospel at the National High School in Digos three times. I enjoyed watching Hope share the 3 Circles evangelism presentation at the school and Weston led the ice breaker. When I asked Beverly, Youth Center staff member, "What theme should I teach?" She replied, "Share Jesus." Two words to keep us on mission. Lord, thank you for the opportunity to share Jesus at the high school.

On Sunday, Weston shared the 3 Circles evangelism workshop for the congregation after the pot-luck dinner. The congregation engaged in the workshop by practicing it in small groups. Then, a representative from each group shared the material.

A common thought during our trip was gratitude. I was thankful for the opportunity. It was special to share it with members of our family, our church, and our mission partners. I'm thankful for our brothers and sisters in Jesus who serve God faithfully. You can view more highlights from our trip by visiting the Facebook pages: Mathetes Youth Center and City Church of Christ Digos.

Baptisms! Praise the LORD!



Steve Richno, Jr. was baptized by Warren on June 23rd



Konnor Frank was baptized by his parents, Jerrad and Jordan Frank, on July 6th



Carlie Workman was baptized at NYR by her mom, Nikki Workman, and Warren on July 21st



Jack Wyatt was baptized at NYR by his parents, John and Kacie Wyatt, on July 24th

Men's and Women's Bible Studies

A Men's Bible Study meets at BCC on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Ben Burger is leading the study. The group meets in Room #125. All men are welcome!

A 7-week Women's Bible Study titled *Mothers of the Messiah* starts Sunday, September 20th at 6:00 pm.

This study is a video series taught by Beth Defazio. The group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

Save the Date!

A women's day retreat will be held at the Patterson Farm on Saturday, November 14th. The retreat will be led by Beth DeFazio and is for all women ages 13 and up.

Ray Maduena Serving as Part-time Ministry Intern

On Sunday, August 30, 2026, we welcomed Ray Maduena as a part-time ministry intern here at Berlin Christian Church. Ray is a 2026 graduate from Chatham Glenwood High School. He comes to us from his home church, Hope Church in Springfield, IL. Ray is a full-time student at Lincoln Land Community College. He plans to transfer to Ozark Christian College to pursue ministry training. The three areas of focus for the internship are: observation, experience, and education.

Please welcome Ray and encourage him with your prayers.

International Conference on Missions

The International Conference on Missions (ICOM) and Student International Conference on Missions (SICOM) will be held in St. Louis, MO November 12-14, 2026.

ICOM is for all ages. BCC has already registered as a church to reduce the cost for ICOM attendees.

For all **ICOM attendees** (Individual / Family/ College), register at this link: [Attendee Registration](#) and use the Discount Codes:

Family Registration: 2026STLFAMILY
Individual Registration: 2026STLADULT
College Registration: No Code Needed

To attend ICOM virtually, you can purchase Virtual Passes. The Virtual Passes will NOT BE AVAILABLE until AFTER ICOM as they will need to upload the information. Here is the link to attend ICOM virtually: [ICOM Virtual Passes Information](#)
For Virtual Passes, use this code to receive \$50 off!!
online2026

SICOM is for all students 7th grade and up. BCC will take a group to SICOM in St. Louis this November.

If you are an interested student, please see Ray Maduena. If you are an adult interested in being a sponsor/chaperone for SICOM, please see Warren Brosi. **BCC will register all SICOM attendees, student or adult.**