



the







ENVOY

AREA MINISTER'S MEETINGS

REGISTER @ INDIANAAG.ORG

**DINNER 6:30PM
DRESS IS CASUAL**

2024

-  **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 | CENTRAL #1**
REALIFE CHURCH
5151 W US HWY 40, GREENFIELD, IN
-  **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | CENTRAL #2**
CROSSROADS CHURCH
7209 E COUNTY RD 100 S., AVON, IN
-  **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | SOUTHWEST**
OAKHILL CHRISTIAN CENTER
4901 OAK HILL RD., EVANSVILLE, IN
-  **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | SOUTHEAST**
MADISON ASSEMBLY OF GOD
1636 CLIFTY DRIVE, MADISON, IN
-  **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | NORTHEAST**
SWEETWATER ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2551 STATE RD 114 E., NORTH MANCHESTER, IN
-  **FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | NORTHWEST**
LIVING HOPE CHURCH
9000 TAFT ST., MERRILLVILLE, IN





SUPERINTENDENT CHAD MCATEE

MOVING FORWARD: THE FUTURE OF THE INDIANA DISTRICT

This new assignment started out at a dead sprint, as we completed our past assignments of doing the Executive Secretary role and the NextGen Student Ministries role. Leading all the summer camps that came along with it made me realize I am not made to stay up past midnight every night for weeks on end. But praise God, we survived and have been working hard at learning our new role as your District Superintendent.

A few weeks ago we had our staff retreat. It was the first time that our staff and spouses were able to sit in the same room together since everyone had been hired. I posed the questions, “Why do we exist? Why does the Indiana District Assemblies of God exist, beyond the fact that Springfield says we need to?”

We got a big white board out and began to write information and ideas on it. We spent a few days praying, dreaming, and trying to nail down who we are and what we want to become as a district. We were not trying to come up with the reasons why we have a district or why we have church or churches, but why the district office exists. Why do we all have leadership roles? Where are we leading? And why are we going that direction?

So, I want to share with you what we came up with. Understand we are still working through this. It is fluid. We know that we are not these things yet, but need to work hard to get there. So please give us patience as we work to be all that God has for us, so we can be who you need us to be.

Why do we exist?

Resourcing: Legal issues, education, networking, financial education, ministry tools (Ministry Groups)

Accountability: relational (moral, doctrinal), safety net, community support, care

Coaching/Mentorship-Leadership Development

Inspiration: conferences, communications, encouragement

Collaboration-initiatives (missionary work) - The AG is the strongest missions movement in the world and we don’t want to slow it down, but strengthen it and take the Gospel around the world.

Administration- structure, process, ministerial placement, systems and oversight

Strategy- visionary, generational leadership

We desire to develop great pastors and leaders with a passion to see the gospel go around the world, from rural Indiana to rural Africa or from Indianapolis to the largest cities in Europe or Asia. When we gather as a district, we want to help equip you to touch your communities and have a passion for souls across the sea. In this

dispensation of time that we have been called to lead, we want to set things up well for the next generation, if the Lord should tarry, so they can run further than we have run and they can achieve what we were dreaming of achieving.

Indiana is a fertile place for a move of His Spirit, for pastors and missionaries to receive the call, and for the next generation to raise the standard, so the name of our King can be made known everywhere.

Our team at the district office is here to serve you and His Kingdom to the best of our ability. The Lord has given us an amazing team and I am thankful to serve them and you, our Indiana District.



IDAG



CLICK “SUBMIT” RECONNECTING TO OUR FELLOWSHIP

Recently I was in Springfield, Missouri at an orientation for newly elected executive secretaries where one of the speakers was Kentucky District Superintendent Joseph Girdler. He was tasked with addressing credential renewals and something he said resonated with me. He said, “When a pastor goes online to renew their credentials, it is more than just an administrative task being accomplished; they are reconnecting to our fellowship.”

Since 1998, I have been renewing my credentials with the Assemblies of God, yet I don’t think that I have ever considered it in those terms. This November, for the 25th time, I will click submit and choose once again to reconnect with our fellowship. Why do I click “Submit”?

In John 15:5 (NLT), Jesus said: “*Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*”

Jesus is the ultimate champion of connection. In fact, He teaches that without connection there is no growth. When we determine to align ourselves with a fellowship of believers who share our core doctrine and values the potential for growth rises exponentially: “*Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.*” - Ecclesiastes 4:9

Why do I click “Submit”? Because there is tremendous value in connecting

with ministers of like-minded faith. The Apostle Paul instructed the believers in Ephesus in this way: “*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*” - Ephesians 4:16

Spiritual health and growth are by-products of a strong corporate connection which is centered around Christ. As iron sharpens iron, we glean from and strengthen one another in ways that make us stronger as a Body.

“*What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*” - 1 Corinthians 14:26

When I click “Submit,” I am connecting to those things that will bolster and sharpen me spiritually. Yet, the value of that connection does not end there. The lifelong friendships that I have made have also been an invaluable source of encouragement. The Apostle Paul, addressing the believers in Rome, said it this way: “*When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.*” - Romans 1:12

When I click “Submit,” I know that I am gaining a tribe of pastors who can, and often have, come alongside me during times of struggle. They have rejoiced with me in my victories and

comforted me in my losses: “*Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*” - Galatians 6:2

Nevertheless, that’s not all. When I click “Submit,” my ministry and leadership potential has been enhanced, in everything from Minister’s Conference to Prayer Summit, by both our district leadership, as well as from other seasoned pastors in our fellowship. The Apostle Paul declared: “*Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.*” - Colossians 3:16

Clicking submit does more than validate you as an Assemblies of God minister for another year. It reconnects you to a life-giving fellowship that is committed to seeing you and your ministry flourish. Beginning November 1st, you can tap into the resources, networking, encouragement and friendship that our fellowship has to offer. Just visit <https://ministerrenewal.ag.org/> and click “Submit.”



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NAVIGATING YOUR INDIANA SALES TAX EXEMPTION

As a non-profit in the state of Indiana, your church or ministry can save a significant amount of money through state sales tax exemption. This applies to items you would buy at the store, some online purchases and many services. In Indiana, this exemption does not apply to things like dining at restaurants or hotel bills, payroll taxes or the taxes your church would owe for unrelated business income. It also should never be used for purchases that are personal or not related to your non-profit purpose.

Unfortunately, not many churches fully utilize this exemption when making purchases for the church. Even if the amount of tax seems small, the dollars of all purchases add up over time. By working ahead and having the right systems in place, your ministry can conserve those dollars for ministry.

In November 2022, the State of Indiana sent out a letter to all non-profits in the state to explain the changes made to this system by the Indiana General Assembly. These changes took effect in 2023. While many vendors and stores were unaware of the changes early on, an increasing number have adopted the new system and will no longer accept the blanket FORM ST-105 at checkout. **Now you must have a Form NP-1 for every individual vendor and request it from INTIME at www.in.gov/dor/online-services/intime-tax-center.**

To learn more about the changes made by the General Assembly or to obtain forms necessary for managing your sales tax exemption, read the INDOR information page at www.in.gov/dor/taxforms/non-profit-tax-forms.

Checklist for Your Church Indiana Sales Tax Exemption

❑ If you do not have a sales tax exemption, you must file a Form NP 20A with the Indiana Department of Revenue requesting it.

❑ Set up a login and password with INTIME through the Indiana Department of Revenue. This is the main portal through

which your church will pay payroll tax and other taxes due. It is also the portal for managing your sales tax exemption requests under the new system established by the General Assembly.

❑ In INTIME, you will request a FORM NP-1 for every vendor with whom you wish to present a sales tax exemption.

For example, if you buy supplies at a store, you will login to INTIME and under the “Nonprofit” section, select “Request Indiana Sales Tax Exemption (Certificate NP-1).” Once you have selected this, fill in the information and submit. This will process typically by the same evening, and you’ll receive an email letting you know your Form NP-1 is available in INTIME. You can find that completed form in INTIME under “Requires Attention.” Print it and have it signed and dated by the authorized agent. Also, the items to be purchased (generally) should be mentioned on the form. Once signed, the form is ready to be used at the store.

❑ Inquire with the vendor if they have a special system for managing sales tax exemptions. If they do, you will need to work with them to set this up before you are ready to make a purchase. This is also true for online vendors. AmazonPrime, for example, has its own system and website for non-profits. At Lowes or Best Buy, once you’re set up, you use an authorized phone number and name at the register. Some stores ask for the physical Form NP-1 every time a purchase is made. So, be aware of what the store requires before you shop, to avoid issues or frustrating delays.

❑ Have a system for keeping these NP-1s on file and for renewing them when they expire. With all these individual forms for every vendor, we recommend having a system to maintain them. You can go old school and keep the physical papers on file in the church office. Or you could create electronic files to store PDFs securely on the cloud or in your computer. When creating these, we

recommend keeping them in alphabetical order for easy reference. We also recommend keeping a list with expiration dates so that you know when they expire. In addition, if a store issues the church a sales tax exemption card within their internal system, keep those cards secured in a designated place along with the NP-1s. Give access only to authorized persons.

❑ Appoint someone to manage your INTIME account, NP-1s and NP 20R.

Know who is responsible for keeping your sales tax exemption active. They will also be responsible for filing the report NP 20R when it is due. Keep reminders of important due dates in your calendar. Please read the instructions carefully at www.in.gov/dor/taxforms/non-profit-tax-forms.

❑ Use one secured church business email for church business correspondence and keep (securely) a record of login and password information for sites like INTIME. Churches that don’t do this risk difficult transitions where they cannot get into important systems like INTIME or INIBIZ. Trusted persons should know where this is kept and how to access it. Routinely change passwords for added security.

❑ Set a clear policy regarding sales tax within your church or ministry. Make sure that buyers for your church or ministry understand that the ministry does not generally permit paying state sales tax and that they are expected to present an NP-1 or work with an existing qualifying vendor when making purchases. Also, make sure they understand that it is illegal to use this exemption for any purpose other than church-related purchases.

Taking these steps will save valuable resources that can be utilized for other ministry purposes. Please give this article to your church treasurer, bookkeeper or business administrator.

If our office can be helpful to you in any way, please contact us!



EQUIPPING NEXT LEVEL LEADERS

Ladders come in many shapes and sizes, but they all have the same function. Each ladder incorporates a series of steps that enable us to ascend new heights and experience new levels. Although, education is but one rung on the leadership ladder, it is vital to ensuring we reach the full potential of ministry that God has in store for us.

The Indiana School of Ministry provides three tiers of classes (ISOM Levels 1-3) that are designed to meet the educational requirements for credentialing with our fellowship. These educational criteria must be met before a candidate can begin the credentialing process.

ISOM has been instrumental in equipping churches and ministries by helping educate and nurture local lay leaders, ministry staff and pastors. This past month we were privileged to see three of our current ISOM students continue to make progress in their leadership journey. ISOM Coordinator Toni Mosburg and I were privileged to recognize their amazing accomplishments.



Josúe Quirindongo serves as associate pastor at Roca Eterna Centro de Adoración in Columbia City. He is an avid worshipper and just completed ISOM Level One (Certified Level).

Erin Cox attends Grace Tabernacle-Crawford where she serves on both



the worship and leadership teams. Her ministry extends into the Crawford County Sheriff's Department where she visits weekly to minister to the ladies who are incarcerated. Erin just completed ISOM Level Two (Licensed Level).

On that same weekend, Rev. Linda Sell was installed as the new pastor at Faith Fellowship Assembly of God in Loogootee. Church Development Director Tim Davis and I were honored to be a part of her installation service. Pastor Linda, prior to accepting this new assignment, served faithfully for over seven years as the worship

leader at Alfordsville Assembly of God, alongside Rev. James Goepfner. She and her husband, Doug, joined district leadership on Thursday, Oct. 12 for our New Pastor Orientation. Linda completed ISOM Level Three (Ordination Level) in September just prior to stepping into this new leadership assignment.

Over the past 15 years, ISOM has helped equip 65 lead pastors, 135 staff pastors and 88 missionaries/ missionary associates for their prospective assignments. ISOM Español was launched in August 2020 and has hosted 37 students. 199 Assemblies of God Churches have been represented at ISOM and over 1,756 students have attended at least one class. Since 2009, we have had 76 students who have graduated all three levels.

In addition to our education for credentialing, ministers within our District can take part in ISOM+ classes. These classes are designed to help ministers in a variety of areas including pastor/board relations, worship, missions, school outreach, special needs ministry, church security & safety, church bookkeeping, and pastoral counseling.

We are excited to participate in raising up leaders at every level to further the Gospel in Indiana and throughout the world.





WELCOME HOME!

I remember hearing those two words from my family when I arrived home after my first weeks away at college. I recall saying them to my daughter and sons when they arrived back from college and military assignments. Most recently, I have coached local church hospitality teams to offer this same expression to those entering church for worship. There is something powerful about being and knowing that you are “home.”

Having had the opportunity to personally experience and hear first-hand the powerful stories of the Holy Spirit using those two words to create a life-giving culture of belonging, initiate healing, and restoring hope is nothing short of miraculous. It’s a verbal greeting that can introduce a spiritual operation!

My wife, Angie, and I are experiencing the power of an authentic warm welcome from our Indiana District family as we settle into our new role as your Director of Church Development. Never did I dream in a million years that we would ever be serving in this capacity. I remember pulling into the parking lot of Greencastle First Assembly (The Storehouse) in 1992 as a candidate to become the youth/associate with Pastor Phil and Shirley Applegate. We were able to serve with him until becoming his successor in 1996, shortly after his home-going. Then in 2004, God directed us to help someone do something great for Him and we joined the staff of Pastor Wayne and Traci Murray at Greenwood Grace. We were honored to prayerfully be able to say ‘yes’ to Pastor Chad McAtee’s invitation to join the Indiana District team just a few short months ago.

First, I want to honor Pastor Jeff Carlson, our predecessor, for his strong leadership in this role. We were able to feel the solid foundation of his vision under our feet as we stepped into the

church development office. Thank you, Pastor Jeff!

Secondly, we feel that God has called us to this place, at this time, to offer practical and effective encouragement, equipping, and empowerment in the areas in which this office provides influence.

1. Church health has been, and will continue to be, a primary focus. This area is especially vital, but not limited to our district affiliated church leaders. It has been, and continues to be, a great joy for us to meet and grow in relationship with these men and women across our state. I look forward to serving with them and others to develop strategies for even greater church health throughout Indiana.

2. Church planting is an exciting and key component to our vision. It was an incredible experience to be with Pastor Paul and Lola Adeyemo at the official launch of Brownsburg Flair of Hope Church on Sunday, September 24th. We celebrate with this new community of believers! Also, we are already poised to start several new Parented Affiliated Churches in 2024. Further, the resources and training available through the Church Multiplication Network are a dynamic part of the future of church planting in Indiana. Our growing relationship with CMN is helping to stir a fire of passion for new churches in our state. Let’s Go!

Our heartfelt goal is to create a biblical culture of hopeful faith that will help to encourage and empower every ministry leader to believe that their best days are still ahead and to practically equip each of you with simple and clear strategies for personal and church health and growth. So, please know, we are here for you! WELCOME HOME!





WHAT HAPPENS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD!

The great soccer player Pele said, *“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”*

This quote sums up my last 2 ½ years as the Indiana District Campground Director. I have learned a lot; mostly that it takes an army of people to run and operate a campground. It takes great staff, volunteers, contractors, and a lot of prayer warriors!

2023 has been a phenomenal year at Lake Placid. We have seen over 3,000 students attend summer camps and have had 54 groups or events, reaching over

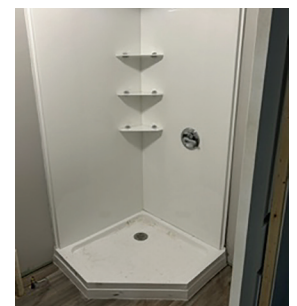
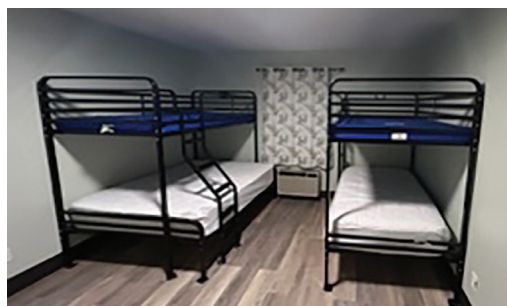
7,000 people (in total), who have visited Lake Placid this year! People have been saved, water baptized, filled with holy spirit, called to the ministry, and healed as a result of the ministry taking place at Lake Placid!

We were also able to make several improvements this year. Here is a short list of projects we have worked on:

- Grounds improvements to landscape and tree stump removal
- New roof installed on A-frame cabin
- Speaker’s Cabin - updates
- Pongratz Cabin - updates
- Beach Cabin - updates
- Maintenance barn - new roof

- WM Cabin - complete remodel and new furnishings
- The Place - complete remodel, new furnishings, and new siding
- Retreat Center - extensive updates throughout
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Cabin - new bathroom, kitchen and living room remodel

My prayer is that the Lord would continue to let Lake Placid be a place where His glory dwells; that He would continue to provide and bring in laborers for us to keep the campground beautiful and thriving!





WHAT A SUMMER AT LAKE PLACID!!!

Eight weeks of camp (five youth and three kids) marked a historic first for Indiana, boasting all-time record attendance!

As we look back on these weeks of camp, we are filled with gratitude and awe at the spiritual, life-changing experiences we get to witness and be part of. Let's be honest, spending any part of your summer at Lake Placid makes for a great summer, because what happens here changes the world!

First and foremost, we want to extend a huge thank you to all the individuals

who played a role in making this camp season a resounding success, especially our Youth and Kids Leadership Teams. We could not have done camp without them! Their dedication and support were instrumental in creating an environment where God moved mightily. We also want to thank our youth camp speakers, Ricky Spindler, David Dodd and Justin Smith, and our kids camp speaker, Kyle Jorris.

One of the most exciting things to look at each year are the tangible ways we can see God moving among the

students. This year we saw 694 students make a decision to follow Christ, 425 students baptized in the Holy Spirit, 367 students experienced healing, and 92 students were called into full-time ministry.

The encounters and transformations that occur through our summer camps at Lake Placid every year are nothing short of powerful and life-changing. I already have a stirring and anticipation in my spirit for what God wants to do in 2024 at our Indiana summer camps!





November
11-12
 SATURDAY | SUNDAY




indianaag.org/ministries/youth-convention

NG NEXT GENERATION LEADERS CONFERENCE

MARCH 11-13, 2024 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Go to nextgen.ag.org or scan QR code for more information

February 16-17, 2024
at Fort Wayne First Assembly
1400 W. Washington Center Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46825


REGISTRATION
 Early registration cost is \$35 per child. This is an overnight event and includes a late night snack Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The cost for a leader is \$15.

Early registration price is valid until January 17.





Scan to register now!

NEXTGEN RESOURCES



Hydrate offers practical digital training from veteran leaders that's affordable and flexible for both kids and youth leaders. When you go through a Hydrate course, your confidence as a leader will grow, and you'll be inspired to try new things in your ministry.







Bible Engagement Project has made it their mission to provide free, quality discipleship curriculum that is focused on anchoring people in the Word of God. No church, regardless of size, budget, language, or location, should have to compromise on discipleship.





Get ready for an unforgettable three-day conference designed for kids and youth leaders, in Orlando, FL March 11-13. With tailored breakout sessions and impactful worship services, you'll be equipped to lead and inspire the next generation.





We are excited to offer our first annual NextGen One Day conference for the Indiana District. NextGen One Day is a conference offering equipping, training, and networking for NexGen kids and youth leaders in the fall of 2024.

Registration coming soon

NextGen 2024 Summer Camps:

- Teen 1 - June 3-7
- Teen 2 - June 10-14
- Teen 3 - June 17-21
- Teen 4 - June 24-28
- Teen 5 - June 29-July 3
- Kids 1 - July 3-6
- Kids 2 - July 7-10
- Kids 3 - July 10-13



INDIANA FINE ARTS 2024

April 13, 2024
at Lafayette River City Church



IT'S NOT THE HOW, IT'S THE WHO!

Jesus did it again!!! Vital Conference 2023 was a powerful time of presence! I love it when women come together with one heart, one purpose, and a whole lot of expectation. God faithfully meets us where we are and takes us to a new place in Him! We had 888 women register, which was an 80% rate of growth over last year. Here's the stats: 4 women were saved/rededicated their lives to Christ. That's enough, but there is more... 12 women were baptized in the Holy Spirit for the first time ever; 13 women testified of healing - some emotionally, some relationally, some physically, but God showed up and is so faithful! So many reported they were renewed and refreshed in their spirit as well.

Martha Tennison preached an amazing message at Vital on Friday night. Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT, *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."*



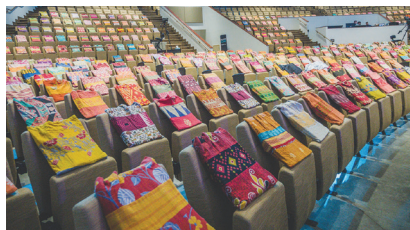
She used examples from the Bible: Abraham - "How at our age can we conceive a child?" David - Saul asked, "David, how will you be able to face the man of war?" Mary - "How can this be since I have not known a man?" Peter - "We have fished all night and caught nothing. Nevertheless..."

So often our focus is on how the promises of God are going to be fulfilled. The truth is, we will never figure it out. God is God!

Isaiah 55:9, NLT, *"For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so*

my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

The truth is GOD CAN!!! Whatever He says, He will do! He can make a way in our lives where there seems to be no way. It's the trust factor. We have to totally trust Him. You are on the high dive. When you jump your hair is going to get wet! All in! We can't hold back. God will take care of every detail. He can and will do amazing things when we quit worrying about the HOW and totally trust the WHO!



SAVE THE DATE:

Women in Leadership ISOM+ - Saturday, February 24, 2024

Regional Encounters - Saturday, April 27, 2024

Vital Conference - September 27-28, 2024



WORSHIP CONFERENCE RECAP

We had another AWESOME year at our Indiana District Worship Conference! New Palestine Church52 hosted the conference again this year and many lives were impacted for the Kingdom. The conference started on Friday night with an explosive Evening of Worship where the Lord really moved! Lives were changed, hearts renewed and callings ignited as we worshiped the King together!

Saturday’s Worship Conference exceeded our expectations as we listened to several worship leaders from across the state speak on varied topics of worship. Perry Meade and Brent Oliver also spoke into the worship teams’ lives and hearts and they each did an amazing job with very timely words from the Lord!

God really showed up in the final



session where each attendee was anointed and prayed over to be even more “filled and skilled” in their area of service. This year’s conference was very impactful and we praise the Lord for such a special time of Holy Spirit visitation.

It is our prayer that the work which the Lord began at the conference will keep manifesting across our wonderful state! May God bless our Indiana AG churches everywhere with a fresh wind of His Holy Spirit, and may each of us Experience God in a new and deeper way!



STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

Ministry to men is more crucial today than ever before! Therefore, it is imperative that we STAND and not allow the enemy of our souls to deceptively lull us to a place of passivity. The biblical attributes that identify a man of God are scarce in 2023! The Apostle challenges us in 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV) *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.* The time is now, and the need is great. Thank God, He is mighty in battle and well able to empower men of God to STAND, reject passivity, and actively take up the responsibility of expressing the heart of our Father before a world that is starving for spiritual fathers. Together we can make a difference! The Indiana District men experienced our largest men’s gathering in our history in 2023. Let’s keep the momentum building. Please, mark your calendars now for STAND 2024, Saturday, April 20th at Greenwood Grace Assembly of God. It’s time to STAND!

REJECT PASSIVITY | ACTIVELY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

APRIL 20, 2024

STAND

MEN'S CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE



REDEEM | RESTORE | RECONCILE

Ebony Babydoll is what they called her.

Her eyes, as dark as the night sky, were always fixated on some distant point as if she was looking through you rather than at you.

Her tiny frame, just four years old, seemed fragile and vulnerable, yet a stoic resilience spoke volumes of her strength.

Fight, flight, or freeze; for her, freezing was the typical response. Whenever confronted with an overwhelming situation, she would become completely still, with a vacant look in her eyes and no discernible emotions on her face. She was staring right through you, lost in her own world of fear and pain.



Four years old, and the extent of her trauma was unknown. After being removed from a horrific home life and being placed into multiple foster homes, she was just trying to survive.

Ebony Babydoll was born into a life plagued by generational brokenness.

But God was writing her story.

Since the beginning of time, when sin entered the world, perfect creation was shattered. We can look and see the depravity of humankind everywhere. But God has a plan; he always has a plan.

God entrusted his creation to be part of his mission. The mission of God came first, and the church was created for the mission of God.

His mission is to redeem, restore, and reconcile his creation back to him. He chose his people to participate in his mission.

We have generations of broken families and hurting kids. The church is the solution to the fractured family.

When the family breaks down, the children break down, society breaks down, and the outcome is children, thousands of them, hundreds of thousands of them, longing to find wholeness. However, true wholeness is only found in Jesus.

We have this incredible opportunity to engage in the lives of hurting and vulnerable families and kids. The foster care system is a place where good people must get involved. It's not just about foster care. It's about preventing the family unit from ever falling apart. It's about engaging the older teens that exit foster care without any support system; it's about wrapping around a foster family and offering support, from meals, to prayer, to babysitting. It's about running toward the brokenness and not away from it.

The plan of God echoes throughout scripture: Redeem. Restore. Reconcile.

Ebony Babydoll stood frozen in her emotion, but God. Through hard work, grit, and determination, Ebony Babydoll found wholeness. She found Jesus. She found a foster home where she was shown the love of Christ, and eventually, a family that adopted her. She's no longer frozen in her emotions. In fact, she is just the opposite. She is happy and overflows with joy.

She now sings worship songs that echo throughout her forever home, and she laughs without fear of the future because she knows that Jesus redeems, restores, and reconciles his creation back to him. Ebony's story is a testament to the power of God's plan and his transformative power.

Ebony is one of the thousands of kids representing so many families that are hurting and broken, waiting to find wholeness. When local churches and believers get involved, Jesus is made known and lives are forever changed.

Need help figuring out where to start? Email Shauna Whidden SWhidden@indianaag.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Foster Family Camp
(Best Weekend Ever!)
May 24-26
2024

AG Great Lakes
Foster Care Conference
July 19
2024



A VISION FOR SENDING: INTRODUCING JOHN L. EASTER

On Oct. 1, John L. Easter began his duties as Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) Executive Director, succeeding the retiring Gregory M. Mundis. Delegates elected Easter to the position this past August during General Council in Columbus, Ohio.



“We learned how precious the missionary family is, and we want to ensure that they feel supported, valued and loved,” Easter says. *“We want to strengthen their arms, remove hindrances, and release them to focus their time and energy to do the work of ministry.”*

Easter has been a theologian throughout his ministry career. The deep thinker started the Intercultural Studies Master of Arts program at All Nations Theological Seminary in Lilongwe, Malawi. For a decade, Easter also served as Executive Director of the Association for Pentecostal Theological Education in Africa. Easter worked as Executive Director of Africa’s Hope, an organization that supports educational initiatives within 46 countries on the continent through 380-plus schools equipping more than 23,000 students annually. In 2021, Easter became director of AGWM’s newly created Partnership Development.

- Excerpt from, *“A Vision for Sending: Introducing John L. Easter, AGWM’s New Executive Director,”* by John W. Kennedy on October 3, 2023, posted on www.influencemagazine.com.

Easter’s Partnership Development role for AGWM has involved staying engaged with the sending base—congregants in AG churches across the U.S. He expects that will remain a focus in his new role. *“We need to increase the missionary sending capacity of the local church,”* Easter says. *“Missionaries don’t fall out of the sky. They are nurtured within the community of faith. Congregations participate by praying, giving, and releasing their sons and daughters to establish the Church among all peoples everywhere.”*



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Easter is optimistic the number of AG world missionaries can exceed the current 2,640. *“Local churches are the seedbed where new generations of young people respond to the call of God to be missionaries,”* Easter says. *“The local church is the lifeblood making it possible. Giving and praying are the backbone of what we do.”*

Advancing to new regions with the gospel is another priority for Easter. Even with the growth of Christianity in Africa, for example, there are still 867 unreached people groups in sub-Sahara nations. Mundis says Easter is well qualified to succeed him. He lauds Easter’s missiologist bent, noting his unifying missionaries and training Bible school leaders in Africa. “John is a gifted communicator who will bring an increased dimension of creativity to the office,” Mundis says. “He is humble, and a presence of integrity is evident in his personal and public life.”

Supporting and encouraging missionaries on the field will be another significant cause for Easter. He and Cheryl raised three sons (Kevin, John-John, and Mitchell) in Africa and understand the challenges of missionary family life.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Pastor Seth and Britta Burgan were consecrated as the new pastors of Owensville Dayspring Community Church on September 10, 2023. Superintendent Chad and Julie McAtee were there to help lead the consecration ceremony.



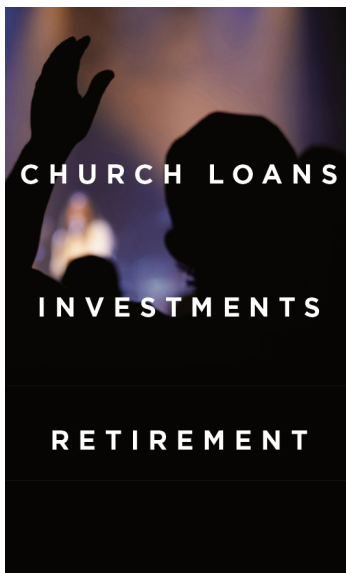
East Chicago Harbor Lighthouse Pastor Moses and Ruth Paez, dedicated their new facility on July 16, 2023. Pastor Don and Diane Gifford were there to help celebrate with them. Pastor Moses Paez has been the pastor for 33 years.



On October 15, 2023, Pastor Linda and Doug Sell were consecrated as the new pastors of Loogootee Faith Fellowship. There to help with the consecration service were Pastor Scott and Tandy Burr, Pastor Tim and Angie Davis, and Pastor Carolyn Slaughter.



On July 9, 2023, Pastor Matthew and Brandy Foster were consecrated as the new pastors of Logansport LifeGate Church. Pastor Ron and Joy Hawkins were interim pastors to this congregation for a year and passed the baton on to Pastor Matthew. Pastor Don and Diane Gifford also made special presentations to the Fosters.




Church Extension Plan
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DISASTER RELIEF THROUGH CONVOY OF HOPE

On August 30, Hurricane Idalia hit the Gulf Coast of Florida with Category 4 force winds. It flooded, damaged and destroyed many homes in several cities throughout the region. Convoy of Hope, a Christian ministry that assists in times of disaster, went into action and was on the ground within hours, providing vital relief supplies to storm victims. Carl Lamb (staff pastor at Anderson Faith Church) had the privilege to be a part of the Convoy of Hope team and assist with their ministry.



During Convoy of Hope's time in the Perry, Florida area, Lamb's team had the opportunity to minister to hundreds of families. Jamie was one of those people. "As we approached her home, we notice that her yard had been filled with several inches of seaweed. Her home had been filled above her waist with sea water and she had lost most of her possessions," Lamb said. Lamb offered her food and supplies, but soon learned what she needed most was someone to listen and empathize with her. As the team stood in her yard, God's presence ministered to her in a precise, sweet and tender way. The team was able to give the hope of JESUS during this time of loss and trauma. Jamie represented one of the hundreds of families that the team was able to demonstrate and share the love of JESUS with.



Thank you Indiana District family for your prayers and encouragement during these opportunities for ministry. Please keep the Gulf Coast and Convoy of Hope in your prayers as the ministry continues.



On Sunday October 1, 2023, Pastor Don Gifford presented Pastor Greg Carter with an engraved acrylic trophy for serving as Southeast Executive Presbyterian for the Indiana District from 2008-2023. Pastor Greg and Ronda Carter have the longest tenure as lead pastors in Indiana, having served at Laconia Grace Tabernacle, for 44 years.



Men's Pastors' Prayer Summit was held at Lake Placid on September 25-28, 2023, with 61 men in attendance. Worship was led by Nathan Whidden, Dusty Taylor and Aaron Brockman. Superintendent Chad McAtee, Executive Secretary Scott Burr, and Pastor Bob Fairchild facilitated the sessions.



The catalyst for our first, and certainly not last, Indiana District Ordained Women's Prayer Retreat, began in July of 2022 when the Lord placed the phrase, "Today is a day of new beginnings!" upon my heart. When meditating upon this phrase the image of the dove returning to the ark caught my attention. I asked Pastors Jodi Green, Rhonda Haslett, Debra Taylor, Anna Tunin and Carolyn Slaughter to take the next 8 months to meet via Zoom and in person to plan, pray, and prepare for our prayer retreat. Everything came together a few weeks ago when 26 ordained women from the Indiana District joined together on the property of the Lake Placid Conference Center for 3 days of prayer! There were times of weeping, sitting in complete silence, joining one another around the communion table, and resting in 'The Father's Arms.' Jesus met with each of us in unique and life-altering ways. Thank you to every pastor and church that sponsored an ordained woman of God to attend this retreat! Their hearts are full and ready for a 'New Beginning!' - By Teresa Trout



Superintendent Chad and Julie McAtee hosted a New Pastors Welcome at the district office on October 12, 2023. The new pastors in attendance were: Paul and Lola Adeyemo (Brownsburg Flair of Hope), Linda and Doug Sell (Loogootee Faith Fellowship AG), Ken Seher (Evansville Calvary Temple), and Ed and Evelyn Garcia, (Lafayette River City Spanish Church).

With Christ...



Rev. Johnny Garrison, 84, passed away on July 22, 2023. He was born August 3, 1938, in Larue, Arkansas. He was the son of Ray and Neta (Brown) Garrison. Johnny attended Pea Ridge High School, graduating

with his class of 17, in 1956. He then attended Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri, from 1956 to 1960, where he was the class speaker at his commencement exercises. Shortly after graduation he married Elizabeth (Betty) Moulton of Perth, Ontario, Canada. They were married for nearly 63 years. Johnny was a minister with the Assemblies of God. He pastored churches in Evansville, Harrison, Ohio, Indianapolis, Marion, and Greenwood, with a time as the Youth Director for the Indiana Assemblies of God. He also served as a Home Health Care Chaplain for several years. In his later years, he worked with churches across the state as an interim pastor and advisor. He was best known for his piano playing, recording four albums during his career. Johnny was preceded in death by his parents, and his two younger brothers, Larry Garrison and Sammy Garrison. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his son, Bruce (and Deborah) Garrison; his daughter, Rhonda Garrison; and grandchildren, Coen (and Alyssa) Garrison, Josiah (and Tanvi Doshi) Garrison, and Bethany Garrison.



Rev. Rosie Viola Deckard (maiden: England; first married: Cole), 75, passed away on September 29, 2023. Rosie was born in Greene County, Indiana, on December 7, 1947, to Lonnie and Margaret England.

She married her high school sweetheart, James David Cole and they had a son, David Christopher Cole. They were happily married for 42 years until he passed away in 2008. Rosie earned her cosmetology degree in the mid 70's and was a beloved hair stylist for over 50 years. In 2014, she married Pastor Richard Deckard. They were happily married until he passed away in 2020. Rosie had a strong, life-long faith in God that shaped her entire worldview and was very active in her church, Highland Faith Assembly of God, where she sang in the choir and led the women's prayer group. After four years of study through Indiana School of Ministry, she obtained her minister's license with the Assemblies of God. She was preceded in death by her brother Ivan, her husbands, and her parents. She is survived by her son David Christopher Cole, her sisters Diana Burch (Randy) and Janice (Jim) Eddy; her four brothers: Pete (Paula), Russell, Dean and Wayne, and by her cat Lucy and many loving friends.

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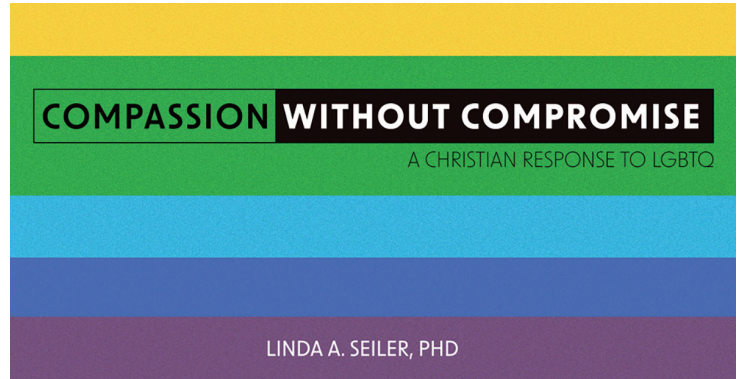
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NEWS AND VIEWS

ENCORE ADULT RETREAT



The theme for this year's Encore Retreat was "New Things." So many things happened leading up to the weekend that we honestly had no clue how it would go. But God, in His grace, was working behind the scenes to bring all things together for His glory. It is good to remind ourselves that God is always in the process of bringing new things into our lives and using us in new ways. Tim Lovelace, a gifted Christian comedian, brought, not only laughter, but a poignant word from God. Between the food, fun and frivolity, God's Presence was gloriously felt. People from all over the state came together for a time of relaxation and ministry. From the Corn Hole competitions to the "Tricky, Tricky Bear" contests, people proved again that fun is not just something for the youth. Hosted at our Lake Placid Conference Center, we always find that this is a highlight of the year for many people.



Over 200 people attended Compassion without Compromise: Equipping Believers to Respond to LGBTQ led by Dr. Linda Seiler on October 6-7. After sharing



her testimony of transformation, Dr. Seiler offered a biblical theology of sexuality followed by an explanation of common pro-gay revisionist interpretations of Scripture. She then addressed scientific and psychological theories behind LGBTQ feelings, explaining how such desires develop and what the process of transformation looks like. She also addressed the spiritual warfare behind the LGBTQ phenomenon. Parents found her sessions on transgender trends and navigating relationships with LGBTQ-identified loved ones especially helpful.

Friday night featured Revs. Russ and Nan Trahan, who shared insights from pastoring Linda during the most difficult years of her transformation journey. They also shared from their current experience parenting a child who adopted an LGBTQ identity and "married" a same-sex partner. After the Trahans spoke, prayer teams ministered at the altar to parents and concerned believers who received hope and encouragement from the Lord.

Dr. Seiler will be converting each of the conference sessions into an online video series to accompany her newly-published book TRANS-FORMATION, which she wrote specifically to equip AG leaders how to respond to LGBTQ from a Pentecostal perspective. Each Indiana Minister's Conference registrant received a complimentary copy of Dr. Seiler's book as a gift from Linda, who is grateful for Indiana churches that make her ministry possible.

Next year, Greenwood Grace Assembly will be hosting ReStoried24, a national conference featuring Dr. Seiler and other ReStory Ministries colleagues to equip pastors, parents, and concerned believers how to respond to LGBTQ. Early-bird registration for the October 2024 conference is now open at restoryministries.org. ReStory encourages each pastor to consider sending key leaders and parents to the conference to get equipped and share what they learn with their local congregations.