



Ben & Wendy Burks

MINISTRY UPDATE

October 2025

Greetings to our dear friends!

After a hectic and fruitful season, Wendy and I have gone from running non-stop at high speed to a casual, slow pace for the next couple of months! Wendy sees it as a fresh “break”, whereas I tend to be anxious with time on my hands! But looking back at the 4,000 miles of travel that we just completed within one month, we are blessed to have a period of rest and reflect on all that God has done!

Let me share with you some of our recent ministry highlights:

- Calvary Road Baptist Church, Indian Head, MD — A young man fresh from Bible college is mobilizing a team to reach addicts in his area, and their weekly outreach is already underway. We rejoiced with the pastor, leaders, and servants who are laboring faithfully.
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hebron, IN — Wendy and I met with the pastor and a handful of men who share a single vision – to begin a recovery ministry. Our encouragement was warmly received, and we look forward to seeing the direction these men choose to take for the Kingdom.
- Shawnee Baptist Church, Louisville, KY — This neighborhood is heavy with stubborn habits and addictions born of local housing and government programs. The church, pastor, and laborers are focused on redemption, not just rehabilitation, and training servants to reach these families for the cause of Christ. Exciting things are happening here once again!
- Iglesia Bautista Betel, Bartlett, IL — We worshiped and urged boldness for the gospel the Sunday after Charlie Kirk was martyred; the message called believers to be unashamed witnesses for Christ, and the altar was filled! Wendy and I always enjoy fellowshiping with this great church.
- Fellowship Baptist Church, Trafalgar, IN — What an honor to “fill in” while Pastor Ron and his wife took some much-needed rest! We were grateful to serve and give them space to recharge.
- Lamont, IL — We took a little trip to see where Charlie Kirk’s work began and paid our respects. We saw a clear example of a man repeatedly giving the gospel plainly and faithfully to young people hungry for truth.
- Faith Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA — So blessed to join nine couples sold out for the cause of Christ at our Missions Conference! We are so thankful for Pastor Kurt, Pastor Josh, and a congregation that loves foreign missions.
- Valley Baptist Church, Mesa, AZ – Wendy flew to Arizona and spoke to around 300 ladies who gathered for a time of rejuvenation and revival as they learned to RISE ABOVE in all of life’s circumstances.

Recovery Work Continues: Voice, Truth, and Redemption

Wendy and I continue to volunteer to help churches start recovery programs. Small churches can reach people who already sit in their pews or who reside in their community. We supply training, guides, and a practical starting framework so leaders can shepherd sufferers into lasting change.

For 25 years, recovery ministries have thrived where people were given a voice, not silenced. We all need to learn to welcome the stubborn and the habitual, let them speak, then turn every conversation toward the truth of the gospel. This is not merely rehabilitation; this is redemption—the transforming work of Christ that changes the heart and the life.

Can we also share some personal praises?

In our last letter, we shared the celebration of our daughter and her now husband (Josh Harris) as they were married in Lynchburg, Virginia. Today, we praise God for the joyful, Christ-centered wedding of our son, Caleb, and his sweet wife, Andi! Caleb and Andi were married on September 13 in Rockford, Illinois, and we couldn't be happier! Please pray for their new life together, as well as our daughter and her new husband.

Be aware, be bold, and be ready!

Have you noticed? People, especially young people, are searching again! No matter “which side of the aisle” you stand, you can see that there is an excitement on campuses and in communities for clear answers and for truth to be presented boldly and clearly. Charlie Kirk's life and witness remind us that true evangelism not only “proclaims truth” but also hands a microphone to the lost. We all need to take the time to LISTEN, care for the confused and hurting, and then lovingly give truth WITH scripture. The time is NOW! We must not shut people up because we disagree; instead, we must invite conversation, let voices be heard, and then—gently, consistently—point them to Christ. Let's “preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). And remember...it's God's job (not ours) to bring conviction, which is a Spirit-given awareness of sin that leads a person to repentance and dependence on Christ

Prayer Requests & Next Steps

1. Pray for the new recovery teams forming at Calvary Road, Emmanuel, and Shawnee.
2. Pray for Caleb and Andi, as well as Hannah and Josh, as they begin married life and ministry together. Please also pray for Josh and Cara and their two children (our sweet GRANDS!)
3. Ask God to raise more laborers who will patiently and plainly give the gospel to a generation searching for truth.
4. Please pray for more churches to open (or re-open) their doors to addiction recovery programs.
5. We are also sincerely praying for more monthly supporters to allow us to expand our mission of addiction recovery abroad. Would you consider taking us on for monthly support?

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We are humbled to serve with you.

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PS – Call us at 708-882-6085 if we can come and encourage your church! Let's get it on the calendar!