Charis Fellowship

Year in Review

2025–2026



The Charis Fellowship is a family of more than 230 interdependent churches, campuses, and ministries in the United States and Canada who are passionate about Jesus in truth, relationship, and mission.

Charis Fellowship churches and ministries are strongly committed to our shared mission to start new churches, develop leaders, and do good for the sake of the Gospel.

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Access
West Liberty
WELCOME TO
WEST LIBERTY











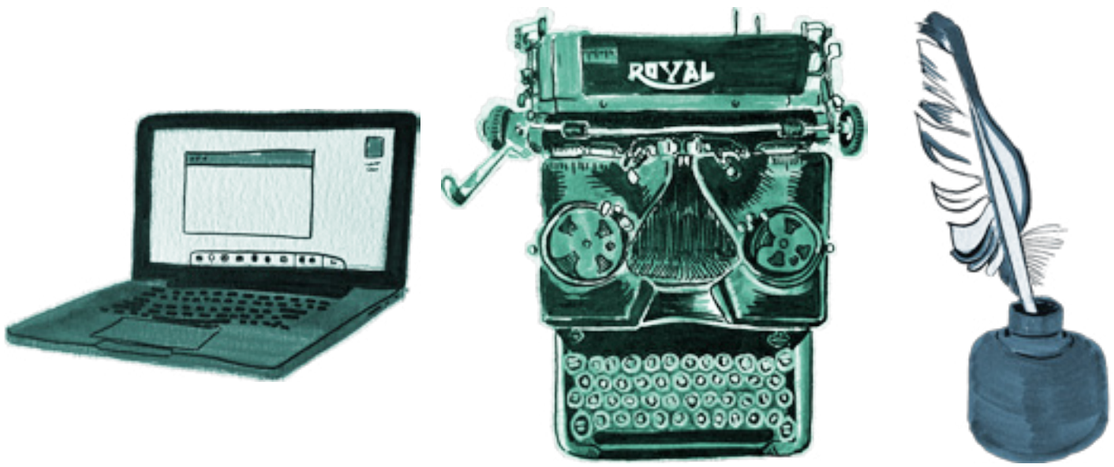

DELIGHTED











A Letter From the Editor

by Randi Walle

Grace has been the defining characteristic of our fellowship since our earliest days. We embrace it as a gift from God, and we extend it toward one another. It has shaped our movement by creating a culture of grace. *Charis* is the Greek word for grace, and in 2016 we embraced a new name that reflected our commitment to grace and to one another: Charis Fellowship.

If you trace our ancestry back through the decades, you'll find stories of people who were committed to grace in both word and deed. As with any family, you don't have to look too far back to find tumult within the Charis Fellowship. But rather than focusing on things that have divided us, we can focus on things that have united us: the grace we have received through Jesus Christ, the commitment to knowing and understanding God's Word, and the call to tell others about it.

In the late 1930s, we embraced the name "Grace Brethren" and Grace Seminary was established to provide theological training to pastors and ministry leaders in our movement.Several years later the undergraduate college was added. Those who have attended Grace over the past almost ninety years have been trained and sent out to proclaim the message of God's saving grace through a wide variety of pastoral, ministry, missional, and workplace roles.

In the early 1880s, the Brethren Church established guiding principles that would help unite the members and congregations to one another. During this time they faced decisions on church governing policies, relationship to the culture around them, and doctrinal practices, and these principles gave them a framework for navigating these topics with grace.

The 1850s initiated the beginning of the era of printing periodicals for the Brethren. Over the next several decades many newspapers and magazines were published that captured the story of our expanding movement, seeking to unite churches from one side of the country to the other in our shared commitments and practices.

The mid- to-late 1700s were decades marked by expansion and Gospel proclamation. Many of the original Brethren left the established areas of eastern Pennsylvania and traveled westward to settle new communities and establish churches.

The early 1700s was when our movement began. Those early Brethren held to the concept articulated in the Reformation that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. This shaped their practices and convictions, and led them to leave Germany and settle in America.

Today, the Charis Fellowship articulates a shared identity of commitment to biblical truth, relationship, and mission. And that shared mission is to plant churches, train leaders, and do good in our communities. While our churches exhibit that mission in a variety of contexts, all remain committed to grace and to making disciples.

This fifth edition of the Year in Review celebrates our history while embracing our call to make disciples. Visual elements of this book draw on our Germanic roots while the articles focus on how we carry out our disciple-making mission today. Included are photos that celebrate the life of the Charis Fellowship from church services to special events to mission opportunities. Many of our national and cooperating ministries are also represented by sharing highlights of how they have carried out our shared mission over the past year.

I hope this book will foster celebration, connection, education, and inspiration as we continue to journey together in our shared mission.

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

For more information on the history of the Charis Fellowship, see our website, or check out the following books: *Finding Our Focus* by Dave Plaster (2003), *Restoring the Household* by Todd Scoles (2016), or *Becoming Family* by Dave Guiles (2025). ◆

Randi Walle *serves as the editor and communications manager for the Charis Fellowship. She is a member and life-long attender of Grace Polaris Church in Westerville, Ohio, where she serves as the communications director. She and her husband, Jesús, have been married for eleven years.*

CAMP CONQUEST

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

HONORING THE PAST - GROWING THE FUTURE



JOSIE & BOB SPRECHER

HOPE LODGE/DINING HALL, 1940'S

Vision often begins quietly, seeded in the heart of someone who believes that God can do more than we can possibly imagine. **For Camp Conquest, that vision traces back to a man with a dream, Bob Sprecher.**

Bob attended the Grace Brethren Church of Lancaster, and moved his family out to the country, hoping to guide his four boys away from the trouble they seemed to find at every turn. He purchased a pig farm on Forest Road, in Denver, PA, with the dream of creating a ranch to help his boys and countless others. Over the next eight years, that vision began to take form. A lodge was built with dormitories upstairs, and a kitchen and dining space downstairs. Many families came and stayed on the farm for short seasons. The land became more than a farm; it became a place for community and spiritual impact.

Then, in a moment, everything changed. A devastating car accident in June 1966 altered the course of the family's life. Bob's wife, Josie, and son, Jerry were severely injured, and their eight year old son, Davey, passed away. The dream of the ranch was interrupted, and the family moved back to New Holland, PA.

Yet, the Lord has a way of using the hardest moments for His purposes. In the months following, **the Grace Brethren Churches purchased the farm to start a retreat center.** What Bob started laid the foundation for Camp Conquest: a place where the Gospel is shared, lives are changed, and young people encounter Christ.

Sixty years later, we stand at another pivotal moment. It is time to pause, pray, and prepare. Not just to remember the past, but to faithfully step into the future God is calling us toward. The same kind of vision that stirred in Bob's heart is needed again today. A vision that looks beyond what is and sees what could be. A vision that prepares Camp Conquest to equip the next generation to serve the cause of Christ.

As we celebrate this 60th anniversary, we invite you to be part of that vision.

Our goal is to raise $60,000 to invest in strategic and master site planning in 2026. This is more than a project—it is a commitment to steward the legacy we've been given and to position Camp Conquest for effective ministry in the decades ahead. A thoughtful, prayerful plan will help ensure every resource is used well for God's kingdom.

Bob's vision began with a step of faith. Today, we're asking you to take that step with us.

Will you join us in investing in the next 60 years of ministry?

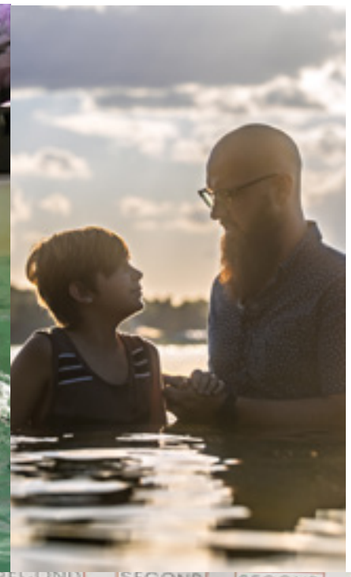


LEARN MORE AT CAMPCONQUEST.ORG













FELLOWSHIP OFFICE



TIM SPRANKLE
Executive Director



TIM HODGE
Fellowship Coordinator



ANDREW SAUNDERS
Networking Coordinator



MISCHELLE HILL
Events & Registration Manager



HEIDI LOEBS
Bookkeeper & Charis Retirement Plan Manager



RANDI WALLE
Editor & Communications Manager

The executive and staff teams provide organization and administration to various initiatives designed to be a blessing and encouragement to our Charis family. They assist with planning Charis Fellowship Conference and Focus Retreats, facilitate networking opportunities for churches and ministries, provide regular communication on Fellowship-wide news and events, and strive to help create and sustain a culture of movement within the Charis Fellowship.

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL

REGION A

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, Washington, and British Columbia



MICHAEL SILLIMAN | BRAD BLACKSTONE | KIP CONE | MIKE SCIARRA | OSCAR CHAVEZ

REGION B

Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania (West)



NICK CLEVELAND | JOE CARUSO | DAVE NICODEMUS | GABE YODER | JEREMY BURY

REGION C

Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania (East), South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

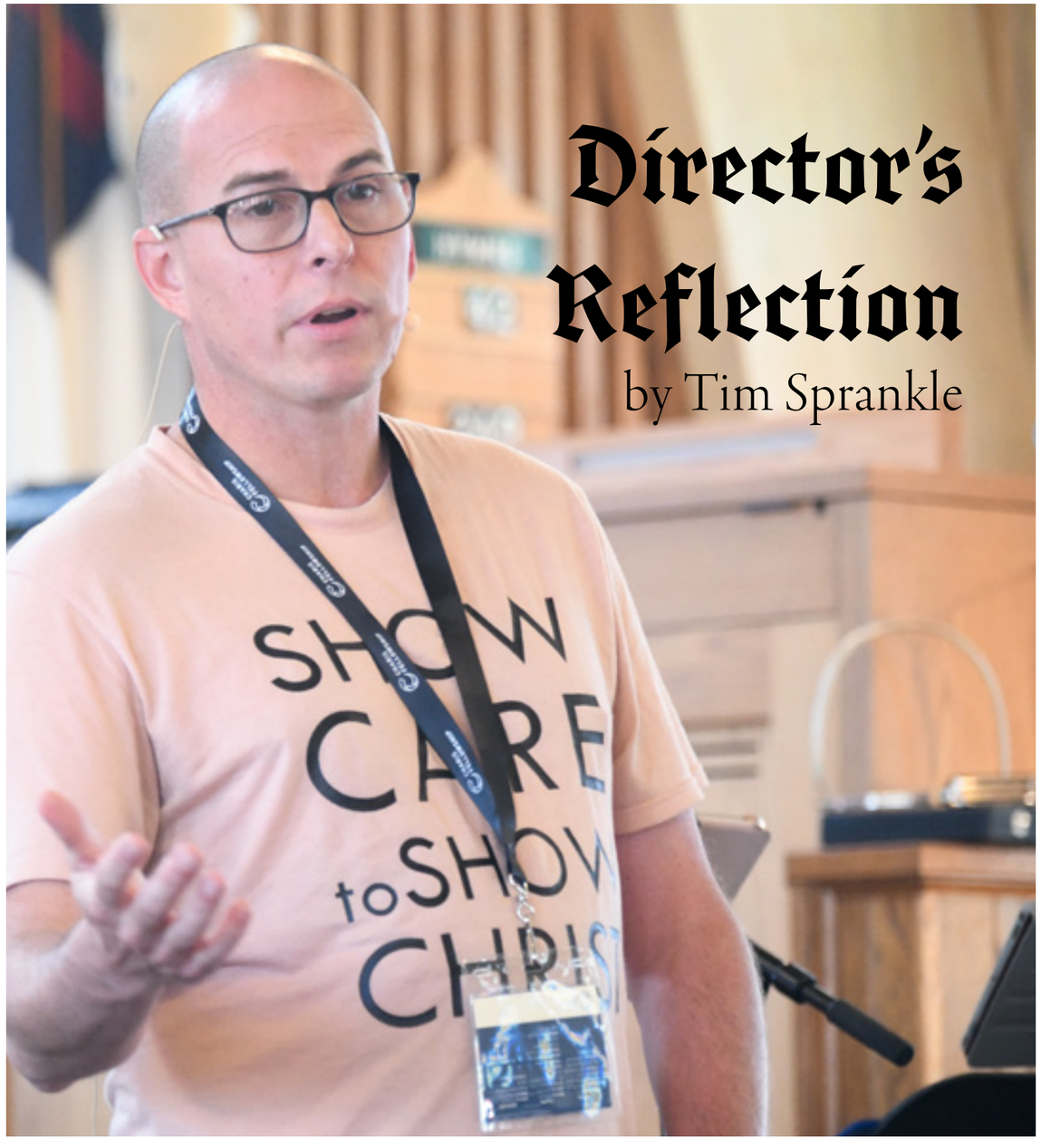


DEVIN LIVINGSTON | DUSTIN GODSHALL | BILLY TWEEDDALE | TREVIN HOEKZEMA



TIM SPRANKLE
Executive Director

The Fellowship Council is a group of 16 representatives elected to serve one five-year term as the official board of directors of the Charis Fellowship. Council members represent districts from their respective regions, providing leadership to the business and affairs of the corporation. They work to preserve unity, provide protection and accountability, and help advance the mission and objectives of the Fellowship. They also partner with national ministry leaders to help support their mission and vision.



Director's Reflection

by Tim Sprankle

I love the remarkable transformation of the disciples following Jesus' resurrection. The timid, bumbling crew of followers turned into a world-changing band of witnesses. Their encounters with the risen Jesus bolstered their belief. Their reception of the Holy Spirit empowered them for service. The disciples became disciple-makers. They traveled from Jerusalem and Judea to the ends of the earth. They embodied Jesus' Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18–20, NIV *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Jesus' parting words in Matthew's Gospel have lasting import. They speak of His consummate authority, global mission, triune nature, formative teaching, and constant presence. His words are theologically rich and thoroughly practical. They call all of us (everyone, everywhere, everyday) to make disciples of Jesus. They call us to be ALL IN.

At the prompting of a friend, I carried this theme from Charis Fellowship Conference 2025 into Focus Retreats that year. We dove deep into Jesus' Great Commission. I never grew tired of it. Matthew 28:18–20 is inexhaustible.

We can spend years doing the exegetical and theological work to plumb the depths of Matthew's closing lines. We can define terms, parse verbs, trace syntax, and note cross-references. We can memorize, unpack, observe, and teach the text to others. *This is good.*

However, if we do not obey the Great Commission, we have not really learned it. Disciple-making is more than interesting subject matter. It is a mandate.

Sadly, according to a 2018 Barna study, less than twenty percent of people in the church know the Great Commission. They cannot find it in their Bibles. They cannot explain it to a friend. And I cannot imagine that such widespread ignorance of the Great Commission leads to much disciple-making.

I hope this statistic is not true for Charis Fellowship churches. I hope we have not settled for running programs, planning services, and gathering crowds. We are called to something greater. We are called to make disciples of Jesus.

The Great Commission remains. We have work to do. We must make disciples of Jesus. Although the task is arduous, Jesus never leaves us to our own devices. He enlists us with fellow followers. His Spirit empowers us for service. And, He remains with us always, to the very end of the age. ◆

























National Ministries

The Charis Fellowship is blessed to partner with several incredible organizations for hands-on training and resource development to equip our churches for effective ministry. The combined impact of our national ministries over many decades has helped our Fellowship become what it is today.

Assist Church Expansion
Helping our Fellowship be an expanding movement.

Charis Women
Connecting and equipping the women of the Charis Fellowship.

Eagle Commission
Taking the Gospel of peace to our nation's warriors.

Encompass World Partners
Spreading the knowledge and glory of God among the least reached of our world.

Grace Financial
Assisting the Charis Fellowship by providing access to financial resources and support.

Grace College
Providing higher education that applies biblical values.

Grace Theological Seminary
Teaching, training, and transforming the whole person for local and global ministry.

Inspire Charis Pastors Network
Encouraging and equipping Charis pastors as we serve God together.

Momentum Ministry Partners
Equipping today's young Christian leaders for tomorrow's opportunities.



Discipling the Nations

by Betsy

In children's church at Ashland Grace Church, Mrs. Deter, a former missionary to the Navajo people, told us stories of missionaries in Africa and China and Argentina. She taught us to pray for missionaries and had us write letters to them. I still have a reply from a missionary serving in Europe in the distinct, international airmail envelope. Those stories, those prayers, and those interactions with missionaries began to shape my 5-year-old heart to understand that God wants everyone in the world to know about Him and that He invites us to join Him in making the Gospel known to the ends of the earth.

My discipleship — endeavoring to become more like Christ, growing in knowledge of God's Word, and obeying all that He commanded — continued through Ashland Grace Church and my family. It seemed simple: God loves the nations, lots of people don't know about Jesus yet, and someone has to tell them. The natural conclusion was to join Encompass World Partners and move to Central Asia the week I turned 23 years old.

I arrived in Central Asia, a post-Soviet, Muslim country with 0.333 percent followers of Jesus Christ, and joined the Encompass church planting team. They had been serving there for many years boldly preaching Christ, making disciples who experienced significant persecution for leaving Islam, teaching obedience to God's Word, training leaders, starting and growing a church, and building businesses to address spiritual and physical needs. Those workers discipled me — an eager, rather naïve, brand-new college graduate ready to take on the world — in following Jesus and serving Him in this new context. This team was intentionally studying God's Word, praying together, and doing ministry together. They prioritized generous hospitality by welcoming people into their homes and families.

My first week in this new country, I met *Yulia* (name changed for security), a mature local believer at church. When she first encountered believers and started attending church, she was bored by the Bible lesson, but she loved the singing and was intrigued by how the church group loved each other. Yulia gradually trusted in Christ, and grew in the Lord despite much persecution and hardship. Through her faithfulness to Jesus, eventually her whole family came to Christ! The generous hospitality, the love and the unity of the local believers that disregarded tribal lines, is what enthralled Yulia and slowly led her and her whole family to put their trust in and shift their allegiance to the God who died for them. Twenty years later, Yulia is still a faithful disciple of Christ.

Having returned to the States two years ago, I now serve as a full-time mobilizer with Encompass World Partners as the Missionary in Residence at Grace College. I get to offer students hospitality and missions stories while teaching them to pray for the nations. We put all of that into practice weekly through teaching English and building relationship with Afghans, Palestinians, and Haitians just down the road in Fort Wayne. I am privileged to disciple the next generation into missions the same way I was all those years ago. ◆

Betsy *was born and raised in the Charis Fellowship. Ashland Grace Church in Ohio is her home, though she currently resides in Warsaw, Ind., and attends Leesburg Grace Church. She earned an MA in Intercultural Studies from Grace Theological Seminary. After 19 years in Central Asia as a missionary with Encompass World Partners, Betsy now serves with Encompass as a mobilizer to help raise up more workers for the harvest.*





ALL IN



EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE. EVERYDAY

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE







Above: Encompass World Partners staff & board members commissioning a team of global workers for deployment in Japan.

More than 500 people attended Charis Fellowship Conference! Held at Grace Church in Lititz, Pa., the conference took place July 29–31, 2025, with the theme of "*All In: Disciple-Making for Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday*." Many attendees gathered for pre-conference activities on Monday afternoon, which included the Charis Symposium and a kick-off party with a taco truck and live music.

Keeping the Great Commission at the center of our life and ministry is central to effective disciple making. This command, given by Jesus to His disciples, extends far beyond those who were in the room to hear Him speak the words. The command is for all believers, among all the nations over which Jesus has all authority, for all time. Charis Fellowship Conference explored discipleship from different angles: one-on-one relationships, church culture, intentional outreach, and disciple making in the home.

Day One

"All disciples are in development — we are makers in the making," Tim Sprankle said as he kicked off the first session of Charis Fellowship Conference on Tuesday morning with a message about being disciples who make disciples. He referenced Matthew 16 and 28, emphasizing how we can and should enjoy Jesus in His Word, in prayer, in community, and in suffering.



Workshops and discussions on discipleship.

Tuesday Lunch was sponsored by Encompass World Partners, and Pastor Dave Holmes (Centerville Grace Church in Centerville, Ohio) spoke during the evening session on what it looks like to be "all in" as a disciple-maker. Tuesday evening Charis Alliance hosted an afterparty with a trivia game of "Are you smarter than Tom Avey?"

Day Two

Wednesday morning Grace Financial and Eagle Commission sponsored breakfast, followed by main session three where Rob Mancuso, Megan Johnson, and Daniel O'Kane joined Tim Sprankle in a panel discussion titled, "Shaping Discipleship Pathways in the Local Church." Lunch that day was sponsored by Inspire and Charis Women, and dinner was sponsored by Assist Church Expansion, where Pastor Clancy Cruise received the Ed Jackson Church Multiplication Award. That evening, area youth groups were invited to join the main session where Peter Greer (HOPE International) spoke on avoiding missional drift and doing life with others.

The Northern Atlantic District youth sponsored an afterparty with ice cream and live music.

Day Three

During the fifth and final main session on Thursday morning Pastor Jeremy Bury (Marysville Grace Church in Marysville, Ohio) spoke on discipleship in the home. Conference concluded with the Charis Conversation (delegate's meeting) taking place over lunch.

Throughout the week attendees had the opportunity to participate in curated engagement acivities. Divided into thematic categories, organized and self-led suggested activities included learning, exploring, traveling, moving, sipping, eating, and touring together. Many attendees capped off the week with Site and Sound Theatre's production of *Noah*.

All three days of conference also included workshops, seminars, and panel discussions that explored various aspects of discipleship, giving attendees opportunities to interact on specific topics in smaller settings. ◆

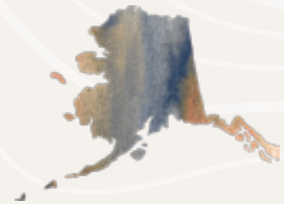
ARCTIC BARNABAS MINISTRIES

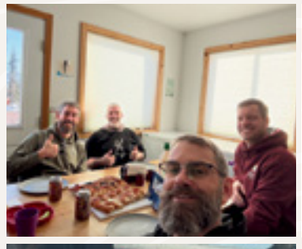
Arctic Barnabas Ministries exists to personally strengthen and encourage pastor and missionary families in remote Alaska.
Our vision that remote Alaska has a thriving Gospel presence.



"Arctic Barnabas truly lives up to its name as the "sons of encouragement." They seem to call, email, or reach out at just the right times, and we are incredibly grateful for the work they are doing for God's Kingdom, supporting families in remote Alaska." Luke W

Give to ABM

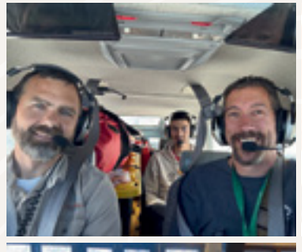






"ABM has been an integral part of our lives. We have received phone calls, places to stay, babysitters, food-providers, prayer warriors, friends, confidants, hugs, tears, laughter, friendship, encouragement and rest." Kristin R

Sign up for our newsletter

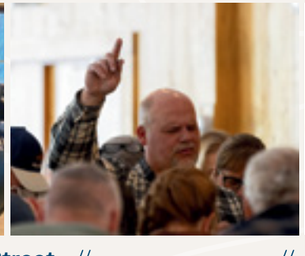




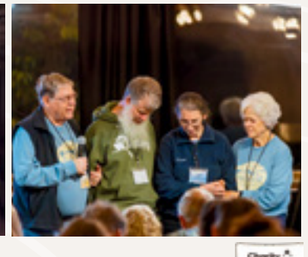


"It may seem a small thing to those (who give and help at ABM), but to those of us who are living and serving in remote Alaska, it's like a full-grown flowering bush. It's what helps us with longevity." Krystie D









135 North Willow Street
Kenai, Alaska 99611 // 907-283-3377 // info@abmalaska.org // arcticbarnabas.org



YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2025-2026 JUNE

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH
LAKELAND, FL

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH PLANTING LUNCH- ORLANDO, FL

BEAR CREEK EASTER SERVICE
LAVON, TX

Church Planting

We are now partnering with 5 church-planting efforts as they move toward launching new Charis Fellowship churches! Please pray for:

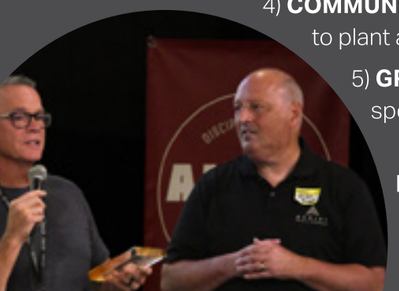
1) **FORMATION CHURCH** (St. Petersburg, FL) -- Planter Wade & Anna Rininger

2) **BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH** (Lavon, TX) -- Pastor David & Taylor Watson and Planter Bart & Elizabeth Blair

3) **NEWARK GRACE CHURCH** (Newark, OH) -- Planter Josh & Jen Rollins a daughter church of Pataskala Grace (OH)

4) **COMMUNITY OF HOPE** (Columbia City, IN) -- Pastor Jeremy Wike as they seek to plant a daughter church in *Ft. Wayne, IN*

5) **GRACE FELLOWSHIP ALDERGROVE** (Aldergrove, BC, Canada) spearheaded by Philip & Beth Bryant



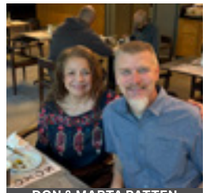
ED JACKSON CHURCH MULTIPLICATION AWARD
to Clancy Cruise at 2025 National Conference

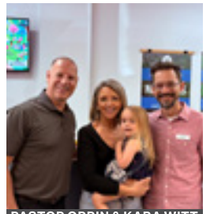
Cultivating Church Planting Culture

Assist invested in leaders at the Exponential Global Conference—**the largest church planting gathering in the U.S.** in March 2026. We helped coordinate and support **35+ leaders** with housing, meals, and conference access, representing churches like Bellefontaine Grace, Formation Church, Three Creeks, Renew, and others across the U.S. and Canada! We also facilitated a gathering of nearly **50 Charis Fellowship leaders**, including pastors, planters, and emerging leaders.

Assist is **officially walking alongside 18 Charis Fellowship churches** through revitalization, restart, refresh, merger, and pastoral coaching—supporting congregations and leaders as they pursue renewed health, unity, and mission. We are a resource to all Charis Fellowship churches, but we have agreements with these!

The newest church partnership is with Iglesia La Esperanza (Valrico, FL) with Pastor Javier & Pilar Forero to strengthen their Spanish and English congregation!


DON & MARTA PATTEN
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO


PASTOR ORRIN & KARA WITT
NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH
LAKELAND, FL


GRACE FELLOWSHIP
CHERRY VALLEY, CA

CURRENT CHURCH STRENGTHENING PARTNERS

CALIFORNIA

Bellflower Brethren Church - Bellflower

Grace Fellowship Church - Cherry Valley

COLORADO

Grace Brethren Church - Colorado Springs

FLORIDA

Iglesia La Esperanza - Valrico

Neighborhood Church - Lakeland

MARYLAND

Calvary Grace Brethren - Hagerstown

Grace Church - Lanham

Mid-Shore Community Church - Easton

Grace Church Waldorf - Waldorf

INDIANA

Legacy Church - Kendallville

OHIO

Findlay Grace Brethren Church - Findlay

Grace Community Church - Huber Heights

PENNSYLVANIA

Grace Brethren Church - Uniontown

Grace Church of Ephrata - Ephrata

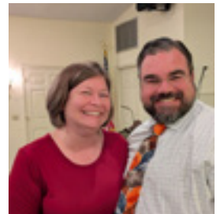
Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church - Meyersdale

Lehigh Valley Grace Church - Bethlehem

SOUTH CAROLINA

Grace Fellowship Church - Anderson


PASTORS CONFERENCE
MARYLAND


JERRY & DEVAN KOCIURUBA
ANDERSON, SC


BELLFLOWER BRETHREN
BELLFLOWER, CA

Assist Staff Changes • Chery Boehm >> Megan Johnson

For many years, **Chery Boehm** has served with deep care and intentionality, investing in the lives of pastors' wives and helping cultivate a culture of encouragement across our Assist network. Chery transitioned out of her role in early 2026 and we are thankful that she has helped create a strong foundation that will continue to bear fruit!

In building on that foundation, we welcomed **Megan Johnson** to the Assist Church Expansion team. She serves in the special role of caring for and encouraging the wives of pastors connected to our Assist partner churches as Coordinator of Shepherding for Ministry Wives!





Side by Side Discipleship

by Randi Walle

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be one of the twelve disciples of Jesus? To walk, eat, travel, and minister right alongside Him? Talk about hands on training for service!

Jesus not only trained others for service by modeling it — He used this as His primary discipleship tool. When Jesus fed the 5,000, He asked Philip where they would get food, enlisted the disciples in crowd control, and involved them in the dispersion and collection of food (John 6:1–13). Later in John we read of Jesus washing His disciples' feet and telling them to do likewise: *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you"* (John 13:14,15). When He healed the sick, raised the dead, walked on water, calmed a storm...His disciples were right there with Him. And He oftentimes turned those miracles into teaching moments, modeling for the disciples how to care for the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of those around them. Jesus set the example of what discipleship through service can look like.

Across the Charis Fellowship, individuals and ministries are embracing the idea of disciple-making through service. By inviting others to serve with you, setting expectations through modeling them, and giving the opportunity to practice what was learned, you are making disciples the same way Jesus did.

In Central Ohio

Ben Campbell serves as the program director for *Ignite Middle School Camp*. A new addition to camp this year was the program team, led by Ben and his wife, Hannah. The team was comprised of high school students who served in a variety of ways at camp. In preparation, Ben and Hannah spent the school year meeting with the students for practical training coupled with spiritual development. The students were being discipled while being trained for service. During camp, they served alongside Ben and Hannah in a variety of ways like greeting campers, leading group actitivies, cleaning up after meals, and overall facilitation of all camp activities.

"We want kids to grow in leadership skills both inside and outside of camp," Ben said. "They get to pour back into those who will come after them while growing in Christ and learning practical skills they can carry with them after camp, like how to share the Gospel and be a good representation of Christ to those around them."

Sophie Barlow, a tenth-grade student at Grace Polaris Church who served on the program team, said, "They teach us so much by their example and the way they mentor us. In planning activities for the campers, we have been considering ways we can point them to Christ and encourage their walk with Him. That has encouraged me in my own walk with the Lord and given me a greater capacity to serve others."

Silas Kohler is another program team member. He said, "Ignite had a huge impact on my faith growing up, so getting to recreate that magic for the next round of kids is awesome! I've realized that 'mirroring Christ' sounds super poetic until you're actually deep in the logistics and realize that leadership is 10% looking cool and 90% discipline and behind the scenes planning. It's been a massive growing experience for me."

In Western Pennsylvania

Ryan Ritchey practices discipleship through service both in his role as pastor of youth and worship at *Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church* and as a program director at *Camp Mantowagan*. Ryan bases his philosophy on how he grew up — being discipled from a young age by being trained and given responsibility. At youth group, students are involved in all aspects of the night such as welcoming, giving announcements,

Jesus set the example of what discipleship through service can look like.



leading worship, facilitating games, and occasionally giving the message. Older students are equipped to train up younger students, creating a discipleship cycle as students age up.

At Camp Mantowagan, most of the counseling staff are former campers who grew up being discipled at camp. The program directors train and disciple young adults, who then disciple younger campers.

"It's one thing to give instructions to someone I'm discipling and watch them try to do it. But it takes it to another level whenever I'm able to walk side-by-side with a camp counselor or student as they learn how to serve in ministry," Ryan said. "It's the model Jesus gave us with His disciples — He literally walked beside them as they learned how to serve like Him."

Zach Wyant, former student and current youth staff member and camp counselor, said, "Serving at camp has been such a cool experience and a huge blessing. It's unlike any other space in ministry where I feel like I can pour out and be poured into by others."

What area of ministry are you currently serving in that you could bring someone into? Are you actively looking for discipleship moments by creating shared experiences with others? You don't have to be a camp counselor or a youth leader to practice this. Any service opportunity can benefit from extra hands — greeting on a Sunday morning, preparing coffee for an event, serving a funeral meal, decorating for a holiday, cleaning the sanctuary, mulching the flowerbeds...these are not only moments where tasks are completed, but they are moments where relationships are built that lead to deeper conversations. They create a bond and build trust so that, like the disciples, someone can say, *"Teach us to pray,"* (Luke 11:1) or, "*Explain the parable to us*" (Matthew 15:15).

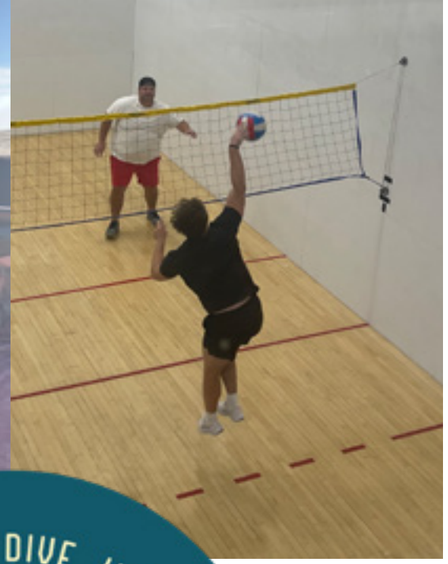
Imagine what the church would look like if we were willing to bring someone alongside us while we served. Imagine the model of discipleship this could create — a pattern that could be followed for generations and a legacy that would shape the culture of our churches. ◆













Nick Mazza



Liz Sprankle

Focus Retreats

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:18–20

Each year the Charis Fellowship hosts several retreats to equip ministry leaders and maintain connection throughout regions. In the 2025–26 ministry year, retreats were held in Ohio, Maryland, California, and Florida.

The theme for this year was "*All In,*" a continuation from Charis Fellowship Conference. The retreats took a deeper dive into the Great Commission and what it truly means to make disciples by studying themes of authority, multiplication, identity, and obedience seen in Matthew 28:18–20. Executive Director Tim Sprankle led sessions, which included testimonies from several leaders about how they have experienced Jesus' presence in the past and how they continue to seek Him now. Each location provided a different feel and flavor for the retreat.

At Central Focus in Maumee Bay, Ohio (October 6–8, 2025), attendees enjoyed the lodge atmosphere where they participated in an impromptu late-night worship session, indoor s'mores, boardgames, pickleball, and walleyball. Worship was led by Jordan Gillette (Grace Community Church in Goshen, Ind.), Danny Nathan (Grace Polaris Church in Westerville, Ohio), and Tristan Spuller (Community Grace Church in Warsaw, Ind.). Leaders who spoke during sessions included Zac Hess (Grace Polaris Church in Westerville, Ohio), Nick Mazza (Bellefontaine Grace Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio), Dave Pacheco (Encompass World Partners), Kip Cone (Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church in Winona Lake, Ind.), Chery Boehm (Assist Church Expansion), and Danny Nathan.

At East Focus in Ocean City, Md. (October 20–22, 2025), attendees enjoyed the beach and boardwalk setting. Ryan Ritchey (Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church in Martinsburg, Pa.) helped lead worship alongside Megan Johnson (Journey Church in Warrington, Pa.), Hannah Lingenfelter (Grace Fellowship Church in Duncansville, Pa.), and Timothy Clothier (Waynesboro Grace Church in Waynesboro, Pa.). Other leaders who spoke were Mike Yoder (Encompass World Partners), Andrew Leasure (Bridge Church in Martinsburg, W. Va.), Liz Sprankle (Leesburg Grace Church in Leesburg, Ind.), Galen Wiley (Grace Church Lancaster in Lancaster, Pa.), and Ryan Ritchey.

Southwest Focus in Calabasas, Calif. (January 26–28, 2026), took place at a Salvation Army camp in the Malibu Mountains. Attendees enjoyed local golf and hiking as part of the retreat. James Holt (Grace Church of Orange in Orange, Cailf.) led worship during the sessions. Other leaders who shared were Mike Yoder (Encompass World Partners), Mike Sciarra (Grace Church of Orange in Orange, Calif.), Tim Lansing (Momentum Ministry Partners), and Andrew Saunders (Charis Fellowship).

South Focus in Port Richey, Fla. (March 20–21, 2026), had a different structure than the others. This one-and-a-half-day retreat was designed to allow local church leaders to attend over a weekend. The retreat was held at Gulfview Grace Church, and worship was led by their team. Gulfview Grace Pastor Paul Poyner assisted with leading worship and spoke during a session with Tim Sprankle. ◆



Sunrise worship service at Ocean City

charis
grace - gracia - grâce

This multi-national network is made up of groups of churches from various regions of the world. Global ministry initiatives since 1909 have resulted in more than 70 Charis Alliance churches in South America, more than 70 in the Carribbean, 12 in Europe, 10 in Asia, and more than 3,500 in Africa.

While individual churches and groups of churches maintain their autonomy, the Charis Alliance provides a platform for these churches to pursue matters of common benefit and purpose.

Visit CharisAlliance.org for more stories, resources, and history.

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Intercede for our efforts in specific and timely ways by utilizing resources.

Go
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Over the past **125+ years** Encompass has deployed more than **600 missionaries** to over **30 countries** and worked with over **300 partners**, resulting in the formation of **thousands of churches** with whom we partner through the common mission and vision of the global Charis Alliance.

Though the world around us is always changing, our mission remains the same: **To make disciples of Jesus which lead to churches among least-reached people groups**. As the cross-cultural ministries arm of the Charis Fellowship, **Encompass World Partners** mobilizes churches in North America for lasting involvement in cross-cultural missions and pursues strategic partnership with Charis Alliance churches around the world as they pursue the same Great Commission.



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Congregational Singing Matters More Than We Think

By Chris Howard

A couple of years ago, I sat in the pews of a neighboring church for my son's Christmas choir concert. At the end of the evening, the choir director invited everyone to join together and sing "*O Come All Ye Faithful*." The organist played the introduction, voices around me began to rise, and unexpectedly, tears filled my eyes. It wasn't a performance I was watching. It was a body of people declaring something true, together, with one voice. In that moment, I was reminded of what congregational singing really is: one of the most powerful discipleship tools the church has ever had.

From the shores of the Red Sea, where Moses and the Israelites broke into spontaneous song after God's deliverance (Exodus 15), to the throne room of Revelation where a multitude sings together in eternity, singing is woven into the very fabric of God's story with His people.

The Apostle Paul makes this explicit in Colossians 3:16, *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

What this verse reveals is twofold. First, singing is one of the primary ways the Word of Christ takes root within us personally. The melody carries theology past our defenses and into our hearts in a way that mere information rarely does. Second, this is not a solitary act. When Christians sing together, we become instruments of that same process for one another, teaching and admonishing each other through every song we raise.

What we sing, we internalize, and what we internalize shapes how we think about God, sin, grace, and hope.

The songs we sing are teaching us

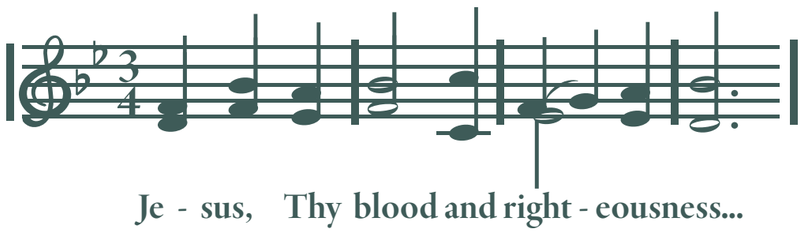
The preached Word plants seeds of truth in us. Singing is one of the ways those seeds take root and stay. Melody is one of the most efficient memory tools God has built into human beings, and the songs we sing Sunday after Sunday are forming the theological imagination of our congregations. My wife Emily and I experienced this firsthand in 2014 when we sat in a NICU in Walnut Creek, Calif., saying goodbye to our newborn son. In one of the darkest moments of our lives, the song that rose spontaneously to her lips was, "*I've Got Peace Like a River*." Theology she had heard preached and prayed and believed, now carried in a melody, planted deep and ready for exactly that moment.

This is why the theology in our worship songs matters so much. What we sing, we internalize, and what we internalize shapes how we think about God, sin, grace, and hope. Psalms rooted in God's Word, hymns that tell the arc of the Gospel, spiritual songs that voice our need and longing: together they form a well-rounded diet that nourishes the soul in ways few other practices can.

When we sing, we hold each other up

Paul's instruction in Colossians isn't simply "sing to God"; it is "teach and admonish one another" through singing. Your voice in worship is not just an offering to God. It is a gift to the person standing next to you.

Consider the person who comes through the doors on a Sunday morning with shaky faith, wondering if God is still good. They hear the congregation around them singing, "*All my life you have been faithful, all my life you have been so good*." That collective declaration becomes a kind of borrowed faith, the body holding up a weary member when they cannot hold themselves. Or the one who feels too far gone, certain God couldn't love them after this week, and then they hear voices singing, "*Where sin runs deep, your grace is more*." That is the Spirit working through the gathered church.



Translated from German to English by John Wesley

Paul clarifies that same Spirit-filled living in Ephesians 5:15–21. A life controlled by sin looks inward: it wastes time, chases empty pleasures, and serves the self. But a life filled with the Spirit moves in the opposite direction. It turns outward. In Paul's own words: instead of getting drunk with wine, be filled with the Spirit, "*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*" (paraphrase). The Spirit-filled life is, by nature, a life oriented toward others. And one of its primary expressions, Paul says, is singing together. When we gather and lift our voices in worship, we are not simply enjoying a spiritual experience. We are submitting to one another, building one another up, and declaring together what is true.

A vision for our churches

My hope for Charis Fellowship churches is that we would take this seriously as a matter of discipleship strategy. The songs we choose and the theology they carry are forming our people week by week, whether we are intentional about it or not.

John Wesley, in his *Directions for Singing (1761)*, urged believers to "sing lustily and with good courage," as passionately as they once sang their favorite secular songs, because now the words actually matter. When our congregations sing with conviction, they are not simply performing a liturgical function. They are teaching each other. They are doing the slow and steady work of discipleship.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus led his disciples in a hymn. In the darkest hour before the cross, He chose to sing. May our churches carry that tradition forward. Congregational singing is not merely a warm-up for what comes next. Alongside the preached Word, the sung Word forms us, sustains us, and binds us together as the people of God. ◆



Chris Howard *serves as Pastor of Worship at Grace Community Church of Seal Beach in Southern California, where he has led and designed corporate worship services for the past five years. He also serves as an elder and preaches a handful of times per year, and has worked on several records in both Christian and secular spaces. Chris and his wife Emily have been married since 2007 and are proud parents to Keeley and Isaac. When he's not with his family or serving at Grace, you'll likely find him perched on a road bike along the Pacific Coast Highway.*

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NOT ALL PASTORS SERVE IN A CHURCH







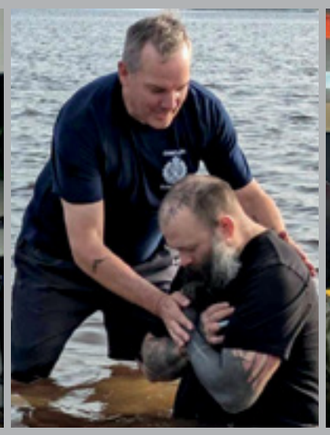


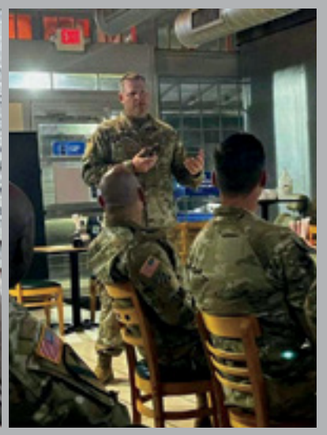
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We *serve* our military with competent, compassionate, and caring chaplains who represent our fellowship.









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We *recruit* highly qualified men with a clear sense of calling and financial partners who sustain them in this ministry.





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OUR VISION

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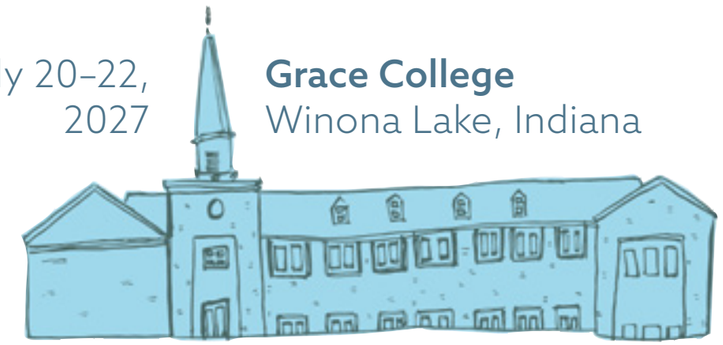




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Das Neue
Testament
Unsers
HErrn und Heylandes
JEsu JEsu Christi,
Verteutscht
Von
Dr. Martin Luther.
Mit
Jedes Capitels kurtzen
Summarien,
Auch beygefügten vielen richtigen
Parallelen.
Germantown:
Gedruckt und zu finden bey Christoph Saur, 1763.

Accessible Scripture

The Bible Printing Heritage of the Charis Fellowship

By Tim Hodge

The story of Christopher Saur Sr. and Christopher Saur Jr. is inseparable from the early history of the Charis Fellowship (Brethren) in North America and from the remarkable achievement of printing the first European-language Bibles in colonial America.

Christopher Saur Sr. (1693–1758) was a German immigrant who settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1724. Like many immigrants of his time, he came seeking religious freedom. He became associated with the Brethren movement — our Anabaptist forefathers who emphasized devotion to Scripture, simple living, and believer's baptism. But while many Brethren were farmers or tradesmen, Saur saw a different opportunity: printing.

In colonial America, books were scarce and expensive, especially for the German-speaking settlers who made up a large portion of Pennsylvania's population. Most Bibles had to be imported from Europe, which made them costly and difficult to obtain. Saur recognized both a practical need and a spiritual mission: to make the Scriptures accessible to ordinary people in their own language.

In the 1730s, Saur established a printing press in Germantown. He began by publishing newspapers, devotional materials, and religious tracts in German. His most famous early publication was an influential German-language newspaper that rivaled Benjamin Franklin's English-language paper. Saur's newspaper helped unify and inform the scattered German communities in the region. But his greatest ambition was far more ambitious — printing a full Bible.

His press became a hub for religious communication — producing hymnals, theological writings, and practical guides for Christian living.

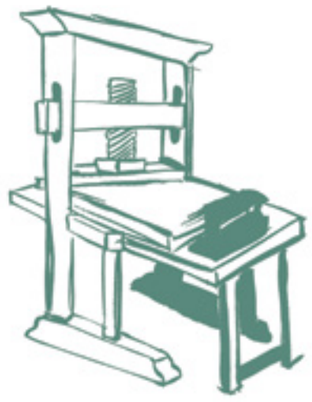
In 1743, after years of effort, Christopher Saur Sr. accomplished something unprecedented: he printed the first Bible in a European language in North America — the German Bible. (English Bibles would not be printed in America until decades later.) This was not just a technical achievement; it was a cultural and spiritual milestone. The Bible was large, beautifully produced, and intended for everyday use by families and congregations.

The project was risky and expensive. Saur had to design and cast type, secure paper, and manage the complex logistics of large-scale printing — all in a colonial setting with limited infrastructure. Yet he persisted, driven by conviction that Scripture should be widely available. Importantly, he refused to print the Bible for profit alone; his goal was access, not wealth.

After Saur Sr.'s death, his son, Christopher Saur Jr. (1721–1784), carried on the work. He expanded the family printing operation and deepened its influence. Under his leadership, the press printed additional editions of the German Bible in 1763 and 1776. These editions continued to serve the growing German-speaking population and reinforced the Brethren commitment to Scripture-centered life.

Saur Jr. was not only a printer but also a leader within the Brethren community. His press became a hub for religious communication — producing hymnals, theological writings, and practical guides for Christian living. In many ways, the Saur press functioned as the publishing arm of the Brethren movement, though it also served a broader audience beyond a single denomination.

The early Brethren (Charis Fellowship) churches played a crucial supporting role in this story. Their theology emphasized the authority of Scripture and the responsibility of each believer to read and live it out. This created a natural demand for accessible Bibles. Moreover, their communal ethos — marked by cooperation, simplicity, and mutual aid — helped sustain efforts like Saur's printing enterprise. The Brethren were not merely consumers of these Bibles; they were participants in a wider movement to make Scripture central to everyday life.



Above: Example of a printing press.

However, the Saur legacy faced hardship during the American Revolution. Because of their German heritage and peacemaker convictions, both the Brethren and the Saur family were viewed with suspicion. Christopher Saur Jr. suffered greatly — his property was confiscated, and his printing operation was effectively dismantled. This marked the end of the Saur press as a major force in American publishing.

Even so, the impact of Christopher Saur Sr. and Jr. endured. They democratized access to the Bible for German-speaking colonists and demonstrated that large-scale printing could flourish in America. More importantly, they embodied a conviction that would echo through American religious life: that Scripture belongs in the hands of ordinary people.

Their work stands as a powerful example of how faith, technology, and community can come together to shape history, and is a great reminder of the Charis Fellowship's rich heritage and legacy. ◆

Discover more at CharisFellowship.com/History.



Tim Hodge *has served as the Charis Fellowship Coordinator since October 2020. Tim is a graduate of Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary. He previously served 19 years as a Charis Fellowship pastor in Bethlehem and New Holland, Pa. Tim and his wife, Heidi have been married for 24 years, have four children, and live in Lititz, Pa.*

CHARIS WOMEN

Connecting, Equipping, and Mobilizing Women in Christ

Charis Women continues its mission of coming alongside women in the local church to mobilize, equip, and connect them in Christ. Through gatherings, resources, mentoring, training, and leadership development, we help women grow and serve in meaningful ways.



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Through events like **The Delighted Conference,** more women every year are impacted through worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and creative expression.

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Charis Women impacts hundreds of women through the ***Charis Woman Magazine***, the launch of the new ***Beyond Sunday Morning*** **podcast**, and numerous classes, offered in-person to churches and small groups across the nation.



MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Mentoring remains central to our ministry, with women discipling others through **Leadership Cohorts** which fosters focused growth through community, accountability, and one-on-one mentoring.

CREDENTIALING WOMEN FOR MINISTRY

Through the **Commissioned Leader in Ministry** process, *Charis Women* offers a pathway for women to receive recognition for faithful, theologically grounded ministry service.



STRENGTHENING THE MINISTRY

This year marks a meaningful step in leadership growth as *Charis Women* welcomes new board members, **Suzi Rider, Kara Witt,** and **Casey Klein**.



MAKING AN

impact

Connecting women across communities, equipping them for God's purposes, and strengthening them through shared gifts — essential work for the Kingdom.



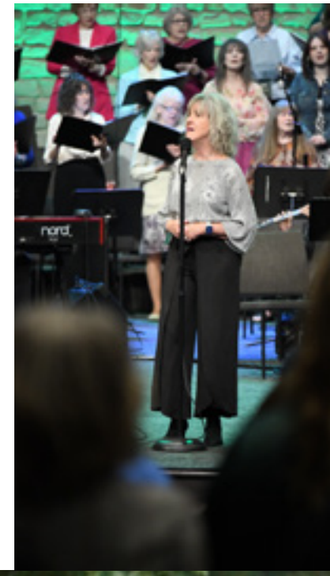








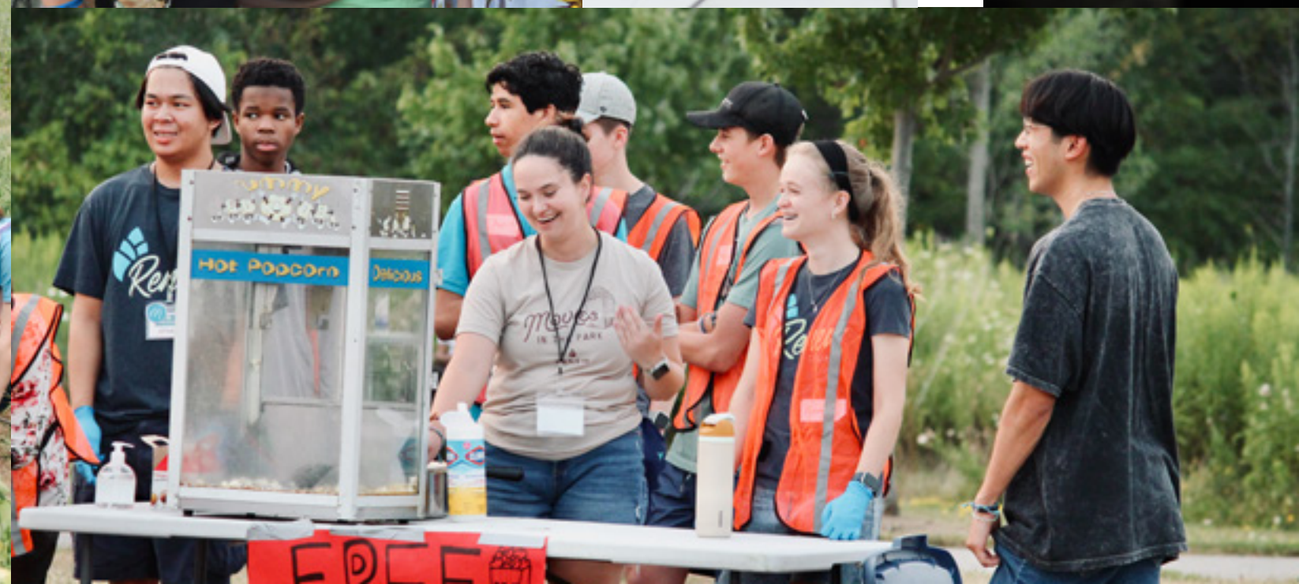











HOT POPCORN

Cooperating Ministries

The Charis Fellowship is honored to recognize and partner with a number of Cooperating Ministries that serve in specific areas of ministry both regionally and internationally.

Arctic Barnabas
Helping advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout remote Alaska.

Asia's Hope
Providing family-style, community-based care for orphaned and vulnerable kids in Cambodia, Thailand, and India.

Caribbean Vision Ministries
Assisting and connecting local churches to reach the Caribbean with the Gospel.

Destiny Rescue
Rescuing kids from sex trafficking and exploitation and helping them stay free.

Grace Refuge Outreach Worldwide
Rescuing at-risk children, restoring their broken lives, and equipping them to impact their families and communities.

Grace Village
Enabling older adults to live to their fullest potential.

Great Commission Bible Institute
Producing people of godly character who are biblically grounded and effective in practical Christian ministry.

Grow New England
Establishing healthy and reproducing churches throughout New England that cooperate in relationship and mission through the Charis Fellowship Commitment to Common Identity.

MetroGrace
Serving and developing urban churches by connecting urban leadership teams, cultivating growth, and caring with support.

SeedNet
Giving hope to spiritually, emotionally, economically, and developmentally oppressed people-groups by proclaiming the Gospel and giving them their own church.

Spanish World Ministries
Assisting local churches in the Spanish-speaking world, carrying out the ministry of communicating the Gospel of Christ, and edifying those who believe.

Steady Hands
Setting the table for local church health by caring for its leaders.

Three Strands
Providing compassionate, competent, and Christ-centered medical care focused on underserved people in the developing world.

Vision Alaska
Facilitating fellowship, encouragement, training, support, and connection with the Charis Fellowship throughout Alaska and the world to glorify God.

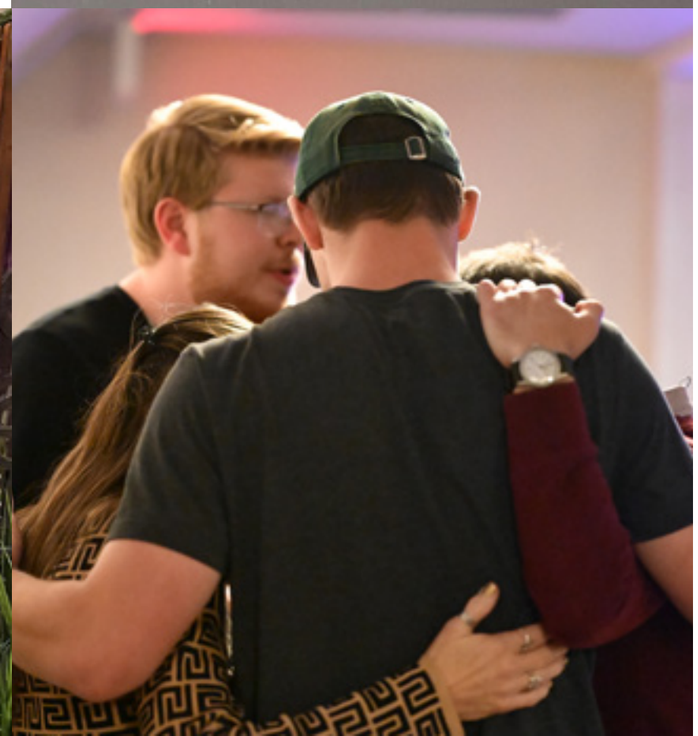
Water for Good
Tackling water poverty in one of the world's most forgotten countries by providing clean, lasting water for every man, woman, and child in the Central African Republic.











Focus Retreats
2026–2027

Central	East	West	Alaska
October 5–7, 2026	October 19–21, 2026	January 25–27, 2027	April 12–14, 2027
Maumee Bay, Ohio	*Ocean City, Maryland*	*Calabasas, California*	*Soldotna, Alaska*

Register and find more information at CharisFellowship.com.

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 2022

The Charis Fellowship Historical Society is an initiative to gather, preserve, digitize, and provide easy access to the vast number of publications, articles, documents, photographs, and biographies that tell the story of our incredible 300+ year heritage.

To learn more or to hear about opportunities to participate in this initiative, scan the QR code below.















CREATED FOR

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In the beginning, God created.

He created the universe and everything in it: the sun and stars, lakes and streams, plants and animals. He created you.

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So as we seek higher knowledge, we strive to bless our Creator — the One who suspends the heavenly spheres from His hand, who's revealed His heart to all creation and extends His grace to you. He is the One who created us to worship, teach, and design — to relate and explore.

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Discipleship Through Hospitality

By Jordan Gillette



Gillette Family

Titus 1:8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

I grew up as a pastor's kid in Covington, Virginia. I sat under hundreds of Dan Gillette's sermons. I remember some of them, mostly the ones where I was an example of something. Yet perhaps the moment that shaped me the most was when my dad, late one evening, shared the Gospel with one of my friends and led him to Christ. I watched my dad, who probably had a hundred things to do, be interrupted and yet calmly and patiently take the time to explain Jesus to a teenager.

When I was a young youth pastor, I used to go to as many games, plays, musicals, grad parties, and (fill in the blank) as I could. I loved those moments of relationship building with teenagers. Then I had kids and realized time is not limitless. I was no longer able to go out to *disciple* people in the same way. Ministry needed to look d ifferent in this life stage. Then something happened quite by accident.

My wife and I both had a few students ask us to teach them how to study the Bible. We realized we didn't have time for so many individual meetings, so we started hosting the whole group in our house twice a month. The deal was they had to come for three hours — one hour was meal prep and eating, one hour was hanging out, one hour was Bible study. What started out as a time saver became one of the greatest discipleship tools we'd encountered.

Rosaria Butterfield wrote, *"Those who live out radically ordinary hospitality see their homes not as their castles, but as their confiscated goods, given to them by God and used by God for God's glory."* What I realized was that I had viewed my house as my castle, but when we look at scripture we see over and over the use of hospitality as a means to further the Gospel.

> *"The greatest spiritual work happens in the normal moments of domestic life."*
> — Justin Whitmel Earley

My life was shaped by people who let me live life and follow Jesus with them. Jacob Morse, Josh Hubbard, Norman Harris, Mickey Craghead, Dave Nicodemus, Nick Deck, Roger Peugh, Dave Phelps, and many others didn't just tell me how to follow Jesus, but invited me to follow Jesus with them.

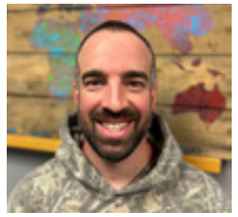
What if we started using our homes as discipleship tools instead of castles? People long to be in a safe place where they can process things. One Sunday a student was with our family from 1:00–10:00 p.m., and it wasn't until 9:30 that she finally told us what was really going on. It takes time!

What if we invited people in to see authentic Christian lives? Not perfect lives, authentic lives. Nobody wants perfect people. Let people see you interact with others, see how your marriage works, see how you parent. Let them see you fight, miscommunicate, apologize, and make things right. Invite them to make the meal with you, to fix the thing, to change the oil, and to play the video game (I'm going to get the Mario Tennis trophy back, Nathan).

What if instead of hiding our kids away from the messes of ministry, we allowed them to be influenced by the people we are influencing. I want to be my boys' hero, but currently, their heroes are Jovi Martin and Riah Byng. My girls want to be like Ariana Yoder and Joya Hosopple. You don't know them, and you may never know them, but my kids want to be just like them, and I'm okay with that.

What if...you invited someone, not just to coffee, but to live life with you?

Invite someone to follow Jesus with you, you know...like Jesus did. ◆



Jordan Gillette *has served as the Youth Pastor at Grace Community Church in Goshen, Ind., since 2016. He has an undergraduate degree in Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies from Grace College. He enjoys any "lifetime sport" and plans to one day be able to win the game "Quacks of Quedlinburg." His favorite people to be around are his wife Shelbi (who is undefeated in the aforementioned game), and his kids Silas, Anaya, Bennett, and Eliana.*



Scan the QR code to get started or visit
destinyrescue.org/rescue-sunday

Destiny Rescue®
RESCUING CHILDREN

Churches are rising up to travel down the "Jericho Road" to bring rescue and justice to children.

To date, Charis Fellowship churches have joined together to help rescue 147 kids and equip them to stay free.

And they're not done. More Charis Fellowship churches continue to join the journey down the Jericho Road to help rescue kids from horrific abuse.

Your church can join by launching your own Rescue Sunday—we provide everything your church needs to find its role in the Good Samaritan story.

Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Psalm 82:4

DESTINY RESCUE GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025

5,738 people rescued

257 raids

312 perpetrators arrested

1,105 survivors enrolled in a Destiny Rescue Freedom Plan™

Other survivors continued ongoing Freedom Plans, were reunited with family or entrusted to government care or another organization

2026

1,145+ people rescued

30+ raids

35+ perpetrators arrested

280+ children enrolled in a Destiny Rescue Freedom Plan

Camps & Retreat Centers

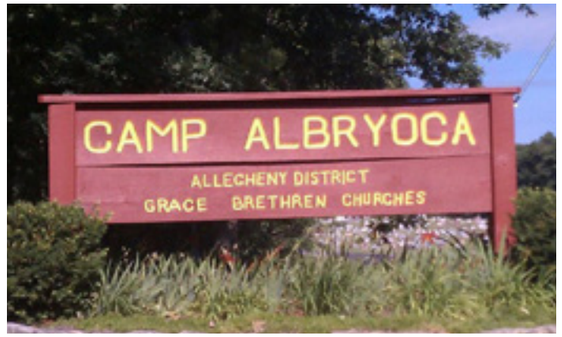
of the Charis Fellowship

The Charis Fellowship has six camps or retreat centers which are sponsored, owned, or hosted by regional districts or churches. While the main goal for many is ministering to kids and teens, these facilities also provide space for Charis groups to gather. Through scheduled programming and maintaining facilities, these camps offer opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, and training.

Camp Albryoca

Allegheny District
Meyeresdale, Pa.

Camp Albryoca has been hosting campers for more than 50 years. It offers athletic fields, an indoor heated swimming pool, fire pit, chapel, dining hall, shower houses, and cabins. Three weeks of the summer the Allegheny District churches utilize the facilities, otherwise they are available to be rented by church groups, organizations, and families.



Camp Conquest

Northern Atlantic District
Denver, Pa.

Located in Lancaster County, Pa., Camp Conquest serves the Northern Atlantic District. The camp offers horseback riding, target sports, swimming, hiking, and campfires. Camp Conquest offers week-long day and overnight camps for children and youth 7–15 as well as weekend retreats. The facilities are available to rent the entire year.

Camp Mantowagan

Western Pennsylvania District
Saxton, Pa.

Camp Mantowagan is owned and operated by churches in the West Penn District. Canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes, low-ropes course, target range, sporting fields and courts, indoor games, hiking and biking trails, and a climbing wall are a few of the features available to campers.

Camp Tuk-A-Way

Blue Ridge District
Blacksburg, Va.

Camp Tuk-a-Way began in the mid 1960s on a piece of donated land. The camp runs two week-long camps, where campers participate in Bible training and discussions, craft time, swimming, archery, and group games. The remainder of the summer, the facilities are utilized by other groups who plan and operate their own teachings and activities.

Clear Lake Grace Brethren Camp

Pacific Northwest District
White Pass, Wash.

Clear Lake Grace Brethren Camp held its first camp in 1941. The camp offers field sports, snow tubing, boating, a climbing wall, and nearby skiing and backpacking trails. Two weeks of the summer the Pacific Northwest District Grace Brethren Youth Council runs camps. The camp is available to be rented by groups of 35 or more throughout the year.

The Lodge

Grace Community Church
Syracuse, Ind.

The Lodge was purchased in 2016 by Grace Community Church in Goshen, Ind., to serve the northern Indiana area. It has 52 acres of outdoor activities like professional disc golf, kayaks, canoes, trails, basketball courts, gaga pit, tether ball, and three fire pits. When the Lodge is not hosting private events, the grounds are open to the public.



MOMENTUM MINISTRY PARTNERS

This year, we've seen the Gospel carried into schools, communities, and everyday conversations through leaders who are stepping out in faith. From Urban Centers to Momentum Youth Conference to Grace College Akron to Momentum PRO, each program has been intentional in equipping people to live on mission right where they are. And through it all, God has continued to work in powerful ways, far beyond what we could have planned.



URBAN CENTERS

Urban Centers continue to provide and inspire students and leaders with the confidence and tools to live out the Gospel in their everyday lives. This past year, 28 teams—17 in Philadelphia and 11 in Los Angeles—brought a total of 569 participants through immersive, hands-on ministry experiences designed to help them engage the unchurched in their own communities. These environments don't just impact a week—they create lasting transformation. One leader shared how a student returned home and within 24 hours invited a friend to youth group, shared the Gospel, and saw that friend decide to follow Jesus. This is the heart behind the Urban Center experience: helping Christ-followers become so impassioned that they reprioritize their lives to reach those around them.

PRO

This year, more than 50 senior pastors and student ministry leaders gathered in small, purpose-driven cohorts with a shared focus on building healthy, sustainable ministries. Designed with intentionality, these cohorts provided valuable resources, practical solutions to real challenges, and a space for meaningful collaboration and encouragement. Through shared experiences and ongoing support, leaders walked away with greater clarity and confidence in their calling. In addition, Momentum hosted its first-ever ONE DAY event, creating a dedicated space for ministry leaders and church staff to connect, grow, and receive practical training for their roles. Momentum PRO remains committed to supporting pastors' well-being while equipping future leaders and the local church for lasting, sustainable impact.

www.buildmomentum.org @momentumministrypartners

YOUTH CONFERENCE



Every summer, students from across the country gather for one purpose: to encounter Jesus, be equipped to live on mission, and return home with a renewed passion for their faith. In 2025, Momentum Youth Conference reached a new milestone, welcoming over 2,600 participants from across the nation. Students and leaders gathered to deepen their understanding of the Gospel, receive hands-on evangelism training, and serve surrounding communities. The heart behind conference remained clear: to empower attendees to return to their local churches ready to live out the Great Commission in tangible ways. Looking ahead, 2026 is already shaping up to be another landmark year. Registration reached new heights, an unprecedented moment that is prompting our team to explore new locations for 2027 in order to accommodate even more students. This rapid growth reflects a deep hunger among young people to know Jesus and make Him known.

GRACE COLLEGE AKRON

The Grace College Akron Program continues to build momentum as it raises up the next generation of ministry leaders through intentional academics and hands-on experience. In May, 13 students received their diplomas, marking another exciting step forward for the program. This year also welcomed the largest incoming class to date, with 29 new students! As partnerships continue to grow, new internships and residency opportunities with local churches and nonprofits are creating even more pathways for real-world impact. For those looking to take the next step, the B.S. degree in Ministry Leadership provides a clear and accessible path for students with prior college experience to complete their degree and step confidently into vocational ministry.

As we reflect on all that God has done this year, we are filled with gratitude for His faithfulness at every step. Through it all, Momentum Ministry Partners remains committed to raising up leaders who will build momentum within their local churches. Year after year, lives are changed, faith is strengthened, and a generation is being equipped to carry the message of Jesus into their schools, communities, and beyond. None of this would be possible without the prayers, support, and obedience of those who have said "yes" to the call. We look ahead with expectation, trusting that God will continue to do immeasurably more in the year to come.



Around the Fellowship
2025–2026

JULY

Momentum Youth Conference was held at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind., on July 15–20.

Charis Fellowship Conference 2025 was held at Grace Church in Lititz, Pa., on July 29–31.

OCTOBER

Central Focus Retreat was held at Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio, on October 6–8.

East Focus Retreat was held in Ocean City, Md., on October 20–22.

Momentum Pro One Day was held in Pickerington, Ohio, on October 29.

NOVEMBER

Charis Alliance hosted a global prayer walk November 2–22, where hundreds of Charis church members prayed for Charis churches and ministries across the globe.

Fellowship Council, the leadership team for the Charis Fellowship, held their Fall meeting on November 12.

Charis Women hosted a regional conference in Winona Lake, Ind., on November 15–16.

JANUARY

Southwest Focus Retreat was held in Calabasas, Calif., on January 27–29.

FEBRUARY

Charis Fellowship hosted a biblical prophecy event in partnership with Center for Thriving Leaders in Blacklick, Ohio, on February 6–7.

Charis Alliance facilitated the annual Global Charis Council meeting with representatives from over a dozen countries where Charis Alliance churches are located on February 7 (online).

Fellowship Council members gathered in Indio, Calif., for a multi-day meeting on February 9–12.

MARCH

THRIVE Pastors' Wives, part of Charis Women, hosted a regional retreat for pastors' wives in Hocking Hills, Ohio, on March 20–22.

South Focus Retreat was held in Port Ritchey, Fla., on March 20–21.

APRIL

Fellowship Council held their Spring meeting on April 15.

Charis Women hosted a regional conference in Pataskala, Ohio, on April 17–18.

MAY

Charis Women hosted a regional conference in Auburn, Calif., on May 1–2.

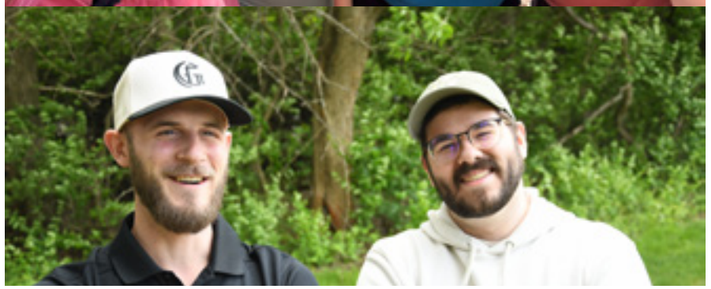
The Executive Team met with national ministry leaders and regional ministry leaders in Columbus, Ohio, on May 12–13.

Fellowship Council held a meeting on May 28.

JUNE

Year in Review fifth edition was published in preparation for Charis Fellowship Conference 2026.


ALL IN




TRACK & FIELD
DIRECTIONALS








Ignite


EVERYONE

