

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## Neighbors House Community Church Sees God's Hand at Work in the "House Church Movement"

Pastor Matt Harris knows the blessing of fellowship within the church body. This led him to begin Neighbors House Community Church last year, a collection of house churches that meet weekly in private homes in northeast Indiana. On August 20th, Neighbors House made its first commitment to do a Sunday morning gathering as a collective group. This gives each house church a chance to share what God has done, to worship together, and for everyone to celebrate God's faithfulness.

Gathering corporately is a special time, but the heart of their ministry, Pastor Matt says, happens in the living room. Like the early church in the New Testament, Neighbors House devotes itself to scriptural teaching, fellowship, and breaking of bread as one church body. "We meet together, we eat together, we pray together, we study together, and we laugh a lot and have fun."

Two house churches have formed since Neighbors House began in 2022 with 60 people gathering each week in total.

"People keep bringing their friends and saying 'this is what I've been looking for,'" Matt says. "It's exciting to see how God is working." As the groups grow, the natural next step is multiplication across new living rooms where God's word can continue to be studied and shared.

Pastor Matt can see the impact this intimate and relational setting is having on people who've struggled to connect with others in church in the past. One man shared his journey to faith, how he began seeking Christ by attending Neighbors House, and how a fellow member led him to Christ. Both men shared with great excitement at one of Neighbors House's corporate monthly gatherings, and the whole church was blessed by how God moved.

"I've never been more encouraged in my ministry career than I am right now," Matt says, "we love doing church like this, we love knowing people and growing with them, to learn from them and to see things in their life. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

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### LifeChange Camp Celebrates 20 Years of Ministry in Clinton, Missouri

This summer marked the 20th year of campers exploring God's creation across the 85 acres of LifeChange Camp in Clinton, Missouri. Not only did 160 young people hear the good news of Jesus Christ this summer, but lives were changed.

One evening during their campfire gathering, God stirred among the junior high campers in a mighty way. Tony Masurka, the LifeChange Camp Director, listened as one camper shared her story of an abusive past and how God is working in her life through LifeChange Camp. Her courage sparked the group, and soon many other junior highers poured their hearts out. Tony finally shut it down when the sharing extended well past their scheduled bedtime. "A lot of these kids come from broken homes or have lost family members," Tony says. "It's neat how camp was a place where they had a chance to share and to feel the love of Christ."

During the camp's 20-year celebration in September, many guests who have been a part of LifeChange enjoyed pulled pork, fellowship, and joyous recollections of what God has done. Bill and Carol Anderson, who founded and worked at LifeChange from 2003 until retiring this April, spoke of their thankfulness for how God let them be part of something he gave a vision for 40 years ago.

Tony became Camp Director in January, bringing 24 years of camp ministry experience with him. "It's exciting to see how God has provided for this ministry; I'm excited to see what he's going to do now with the youth and family programs."

### Miracle Camp Survey Confirms God is Moving in Youth Summer Camps

This summer, Miracle Camp and Retreat Center saw God move in an awesome way. Eight summer youth camps took place in the beautiful woods in Lawton, Michigan. About 150 young people came every week to enjoy recreational activities like ziplining, crafts, and a ropes course, but it was the spiritual aspect of camp that captured many of their hearts.

In a survey conducted after each camp, Eric Rupp, the Program Director for Miracle Camp and Retreat Center for the last 10 years, says campers were asked what was "awesome" about camp. He expected feedback about recreational things like archery or jumping on the "blob" in the lake, but many young people mentioned connecting with God. "The majority of our responses had to do with words like 'worship,' 'chapel,' and 'reading my Bible'. It really encouraged us."

Each morning, the counselors and leaders met to pray together and share stories of what God was doing at camp. Many witnessed young people breaking down strongholds in their life, studying their Bibles, asking big questions, and making new commitments to the Lord.

"God did more than we could ask or imagine," Eric says regarding this summer. He recalls the impact attending camp had on his own spiritual walk. "This is what I experienced as a kid. The work God is doing here has not changed."



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