



Illinois Campers On Mission

July 2025

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| President's letter | 1 |
| Calendar | 2 |
| Clothes Price List | 3 |
| Inventory | 4 |
| Faith Focus | 5 |
| Joliet Notes | 6 |
| Lifetime Achievement Award | 7 |
| SIU Project | 8 |
| Alice Greenwood | 9 |
| National Rally | |
| Rally Report | 10 |

President's Letter—

Hello to our COM Family,

We had a great time in Aiken, S.C. It was a long drive but we had a great time while we were there! Plus, very good preaching, fellowship and had great meals. There was a little rain at times, but it didn't stop us from having a great time!!!! We want to thank everyone for what you have done!!!! We hosted our usual Illinois homemade (some was at least) ice cream social for Region 4 and beyond. We enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones as we get the opportunity to sit and talk. COM is such a wonderful organization and we love meeting everyone.

The Baptist Student Union work project at Southern Illinois University was a special request from IBSA and we were glad to work it into our schedule to help provide a place where they can start up the ministry on that campus again. We enjoyed working with Pastor Mike Young again who is now pastor at The Ridge Church in Carbondale. There is still outdoor work that needs to be completed in the future so watch for another work day to be scheduled.

God is blessing the Illinois COM chapter in so many ways and we are thankful to God for the people He brings to our path, the generosity of so many outside of our team and for His constant care for us.

Verse: Joel 2:21 *Fear not, o land; be glad and rejoice; for the Lord will do great things*

Yours truly,
Fred



COM Officers

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Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Don & Jan Kragness, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

2005 Tentative Schedule

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| July 20 – 25 | MorningStar Mission, Joliet |
| August 17 – 22 | Baptist Children's Home at Carmi |
| September 14-19 | SICC, Makanda, IL & Fall Business Meeting |
| September 20 | Baptist Children's Home Fall Fest |
| October 4 | IL COM 50th Anniversary Celebration, IBSA Building, Springfield—11 am gathering reception, noon lunch, 1 pm program |
| Dec. 6 | Christmas Luncheon, Farina FBC |

ALL DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



| | | |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 4 | Cathryn | St. Dennis |
| 15 | Francie | Lindeman |
| 18 | Bryan | Keller |
| 18 | Sonny & Sondra | McKenzie |
| 25 | Jim | Barnes |
| 29 | Gary | Watson |
| 31 | Dan & Denise | Golden |
| 31 | Ryland | Bonnell |



**Scan for Online
Registration**



2026 National Rally

Registration is now open for the 2026 National Rally. It will be held in Amana, Iowa so very close for Illinois COM to travel.

Forms are on the National Website at Iowacampersonmission.com Please make your plans now to attend. For more information see the website or call Rick Mott (319-291-6805).

PRICE LIST FOR COM CLOTHES & APPEARREL

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Youth Short –sleeve T-shirt | XS-XL | \$12 | Available in Blue, Orange or Grey |
| Youth Long-sleeve T-shirt | XS-XL | \$18 | Available in Blue, Orange or Grey |
| Adult Short-sleeve T-shirt | S-XL | \$15 | Available in Blue, Orange or Grey |
| | 2X—4X | \$17 | |
| Adult Long-sleeve T-shirt | S—XL | \$18 | Available in Blue, Orange or Grey |
| | 2X-4X | \$20 | |
| Adult Pocket T-shirt | S-XL | \$20 | Available in Blue, Orange or Grey |
| | 2X-3X | \$22 | |
| Adult polo | S-XL | \$25 | Available in Blue Only |
| | 2X—3X | \$27 | |
| Adult sweatshirt | S—XL | \$35 | Available in Blue Only |
| Hooded / Zip up | 2X—5X | \$40 | |
| Adult reflective T-shirt | S,M,2XL | \$15 | Available in Yellow Only |
| | | | Limited Quantity |
| Caps (Summer) | | \$8 | Available in Blue Only |

Looking for something else? Just Ask!

Email Order to: inchristwithu@yahoo.com

Jim & Marilyn Diercks

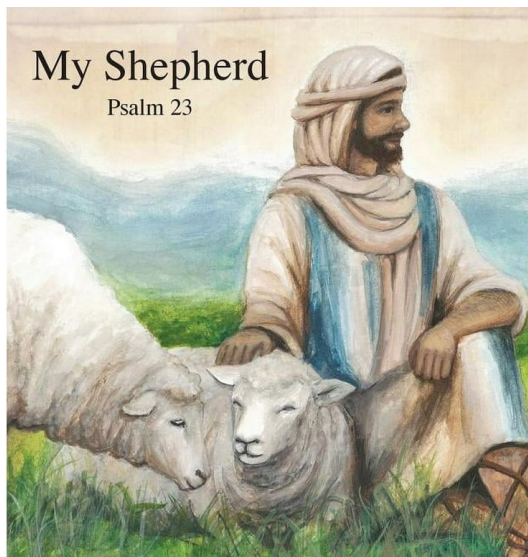
NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

Below find the current inventory of clothing, clings, magnets, patches, etc that Illinois COM has available. We would like to clear out the inventory that we currently have because Jim and Marilyn Diercks have purchased a hot press machine that can put the logo on our clothes.

If you would like to purchase something we have in our inventory or need some new work shirts, dress shirts, hats, sweatshirts, clings or magnetic signs, please let us know. Thank you to Jim and Marilyn for making this available to Illinois COM. We appreciate your willingness to help us out and to serve the Lord.

[illegible]

Faith Focus



Psalm 23

Psalm 23 opens with a proclamation: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.* This proclamation is a personal one and may prompt a heart change. We are used to leading ourselves, but here, Jesus wants to lead us. As sheep, who follow the shepherd, we may not know where we are going. Jesus may even lead us to places we don't want to go, but Psalm 23 promises we will be safe, we can rest, and we will be restored, while lying in green pastures and walking beside still waters. (Sheep don't lie down until they feel safe, fed, and are free from tensions and pests.) If we are tired, anxious, empty, or need healing, it's a promised place of rest.

Next, we are guided onto paths of righteousness. Jesus walks beside us, but he will not walk for us. We need to actively move along the path.

When we come to the valley of the shadow of death verse, these are the dark times in life. Psalm 23 promises God is right beside us through these times, and we have nothing to fear.

In verse 5, we see the shepherd provides victory for us in preparing a table. Jesus has already won the victory, the battle was his.

The last verse refers to God's covenant to never leave us. If we feel alone or forgotten, we must not rely on our feelings, but on these promises of God.

The promises of Psalm 23 should make us confident and give us courage to take risks, even during times of trial. We are promised God's strength, guidance, provision, and protection—not to mention the Holy Spirit! Time is short. Jesus will come again.

Father, we thank you that you are our Shepherd. You provide everything when we need it. I pray your favor and mercy over all of us. Make us to lie down in the green pastures of Your Word. Refresh us by the still waters as we spend time in your presence. Strengthen us in the hard times.. Give us rest and peace in the midst of our busy lives. Provide everything we need to get us through our difficult situations. Give us direction for every decision we have to make. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jim and Marilyn Diercks, Chaplains
618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353 inchristwithu@yahoo.com
marilyndiercks@yahoo.com

Project notes for July at MorningStar Mission

List I have of those planning to attend:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fred & Paula Riley, | Richard & Anita Evans, |
| Leroy & Irma Burnett, | Sonny & Sondra McKenzie, |
| Cathryn St. Dennis, | Randy & Sandy Tedford, |
| Dick & Karen Mowers, | Gary & Karen Watson, |
| Andy & Marilyn Thomson, | James & Catherine Rentfrow |
| possibly Don & Jan Kragness. | |

Please plan to join us at MorningStar Mission in Joliet, Illinois. As usual there are many jobs to be done so bring general tools and cleaning supplies. We are usually involved in cleaning, building maintenance, working at the thrift shops, helping with devotions in the family shelter, yard work, sewing and maybe some remodeling and painting.

WHERE: We will be parking our campers at the Briggs Street location (**1350 S.**

Briggs Street, Joliet) right off of I 80 where some of you parked last year.

FACILITIES: There is plenty of room to park and electricity and water will be available. There are also several rooms inside the building that can be used for sleeping (bring your sleeping bags and air mattresses).

There are shower rooms available.

We will plan to set up our sewing in the same large room we used last year.

MEALS: We will plan to eat out one evening and the mission will serve the noon meal.

QUESTIONS?!?!?!?!? Call Fred (618-508-3917) or Karen Mowers (309-945-3971).



Good & Faithful
Servants!

Leroy and Irma were able to present Judy Matthews with her Lifetime Achievement Award for her generous contributions and prayer support of Illinois COM. Judy and her husband were faithful workers while they were physically able to travel and help with work projects. Judy still keeps in touch with us and we wanted to say thank you to her. God bless you, Judy.

National Coordinator, Don Kragness, presented Fred and Paula Riley with their Lifetime Achievement award at the National Rally. We are grateful for the leadership Fred has brought as the Illinois President and the hard work that he and Paula do with Illinois COM. God bless them as they continue to work with us and serve the Lord together.

Watch for more presentations through the year.





SIU Baptist Student Union work project June 18 & 19

Thanks to those who came to help with the work project for IBSA. They worked hard to prepare the SIU Baptist Student Center to be used for ministry this coming year. Fred & Paula Riley, Richard & Anita Evans, John & Francie Lindeman, Gary Watson, Bryan Keller, Terry Odum, Don Kragness, Marilyn & James & Logan & Sky & Ella Diercks and Andy Thomson.





Campers On Mission Song

The Campers On Mission song was written in 1986 by Mrs. Alice Greenwood. She and her husband were active in COM for many years and she continues to try to follow COM activities.

You may not recognize her name but she is the one who wrote our song. She wrote a note to the National Rally and said it has been a joy and privilege to have been able to serve the Lord with all of you wonderful people in COM. She added, my God continue to bless all of you.

She will reach the age of 100 on July 8th. Can you imagine the thrill she would receive to get birthday cards from all over the United States for her special day?

Please consider sending her a birthday card at her address:

Alice Greenwood
2913 E. 21st
Odessa, TX 79761

Please remember as you observe this national holiday to pray for our country, our national & state leaders, our men and women in the armed forces, the policemen, firemen and others who give their lives and energy to allow us to have this freedom. As our political climate gets increasingly volatile, and riots and acts of violence put more people in harms way, God is still in control and is not surprised by any of this happening. Please pray for our country.



2025 National COM Rally

We had a good time getting to spend time together with brothers and sisters from all over the country at the National Rally in Aiken, SC on June 2-5.

Illinois had a very large group and it was great to renew friendships, learn new things, hear great Bible teaching, listen to some wonderful music and spend time together.



Those who attended from Illinois: Don & Jan Kragness (National Coordinators), Fred & Paula Riley, Richard & Anita Evans, Andy & Marilyn Thomson, John & Francie Lindeman, Dick & Karen Mowers, Harold & Susan Mills, Leroy & Irma Burnett, Terry & Debbie Odum, Jim & Marilyn Diercks & family. Also included in the photo are Tim & Gayle Jones (Region 4 Rep), Phil Sutton (Iowa COM), Rick & Sarah Mott & family (Iowa COM), Rick & Annalisa Porter (IN COM).

Registration for the 2026 National Rally in Amana, Iowa is also available. Please see the note on page 2 of this newsletter to sign up early. It will be GREAT!

Praise Reports

Are you keeping your praise reports up to date as you are serving? Remember the time you spend in activities that are not counted somewhere else, can be counted for COM. If you are serving on your town's ramp building committee team, serving with Disaster Relief, helping with VBS or children's ministry, are you sewing on items for evangelism outreach (that includes shopping for supplies, cutting, sewing, delivering, etc) the cost and time involved counts. When you talk to family and friends and people you meet, it counts for contacts/sharing the gospel/giving testimonies.

Keep count of this and put it in your report. It is not bragging but it is encouraging to others. When the Praise Report is given at National Rally there are humble tears and grateful praise that the Word of God is still being shared and people are getting saved by the things you do and say and places you are serving.