



Illinois Campers On Mission

July 2024

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President's Letter—

Hello COM family,

Wow, time is flying by.

We had a great time in Elkhart, IN. The services and fellowship with other states was encouraging and uplifting.

We enjoyed the singing and the preaching. It seemed more like a revival. The five salvations and two baptisms at the campground swimming pool were so exciting.

We are sorry that we could not go to Glen Ellyn but the work list of jobs they wanted done and the number of people that were signed up, we just wouldn't have been able to get the job done. We will try later in October to see if we can make it work. They were disappointed as were we but we want to honor God's timing.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back together in July at MorningStar Missions. Information about the job list and the camping location can be found on Page 3 in this newsletter.

I hope everyone is staying cool as best they can. Stay in if possible and don't get overheated.

Fred



COM Officers

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Secretary—Karen Mowers, 309-945-3971, kcc61254@gmail.com

Treasurer—Dick Mowers, 309-945-1477, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254

2024 Tentative Schedule

| | |
|---------------|--|
| July 21—26 | MorningStar Mission, Joliet, IL |
| Aug. 18—23 | Baptist Children's Home, Carmi, IL |
| Sept. 15 - 20 | New Hope BC, South Pekin, 114 2nd St., Pekin |
| Sept. 21 | Baptist Children's Home Fall Rally |
| Oct. 21-25 | Fall Rally, Lake Sallateeska, Pinckneyville |

Additional Dates at The Great Passion Play (See Don Kragness for info)

Early November closing up the set, putting things away, doing repairs

Jan. 2025 traveling to Piney Woods Camp, Texas

July Work Project

Those we have signed up to attend:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Gary & Karen Watson | Dick & Karen Mowers |
| Sonny & Sondra McKenzie | Andy & Marilyn Thomson |
| Cathryn St. Dennis | Fred & Paula Riley |
| Leroy & Irma Burnett | Doug & Suzy Kingsbury |
| Richard & Anita Evans | Bryan & Terri Keller |

Chaplain's Chatter—

Summer is here and we have a full schedule. The National Rally was great this year. We heard amazing speakers, wonderful singing, the classes were great learning opportunities. There was even time to paint the miniature golf course, and tours were set up to see camper manufacturing. Thank you Indiana for a great time and great food.

2 Corinthians 1:3—4

Praise be to the God and the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us, in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Marilyn





| | | |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 2 | Kim | Watson |
| 4 | Cathryn | St. Dennis |
| 13 | Philip | Hall |
| 15 | Francie | Lindeman |
| 16 | Mike & Wendi | Young |
| 18 | Bev | Laechelt |
| 18 | Bryan | Keller |
| 18 | Sonny & Sondra | McKenzie |
| 21 | Bill | Martin |
| 24 | Stephanie | Hall |
| 25 | Jim | Barnes |
| 28 | Beth | Harding |
| 29 | Cliff | Waller |
| 29 | Gary | Watson |
| 31 | Dan & Denise | Golden |



Project—Morningstar Mission Project

July 21—26

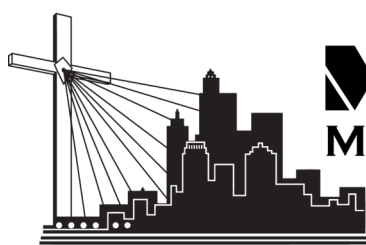
Location: 350 E. Washington Street, Joliet, IL

Contact person: Kevin Watson, Exec. Dir. MorningStar Mission

kevin@morningstarmission.org

Projects: building an office similar to what was built last year in the dining room area, cleaning in dining room, outside yard work, painting, possibly giving devotions in the family area each morning, evangelism & outreach sewing

Camping: Former Smith YMCA that is now owned by MorningStar at 1350 S. Briggs Street, Joliet. It is not far from I-80 E Exit 134. They are renting a generator for our use.



MORNINGSTAR
MISSION MINISTRIES

350 E. Washington St.
Joliet, IL 60433-1150



Don and Jan receiving a recognition pillow for work as the Regional 4 Representatives as they retire from that job

Illinois group that attended National Rally.
Missing from photo: Jim Diercks.



Baptism of 2 children from Iowa in the campground pool.

Several others also came to salvation and will be baptized in their home churches.





IL COM presented several Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 2024 National Rally. Here are the 3 couples that were present: Harold and Susan Mills (joined and served since 1992), Gary and Karen Watson (joined and served since 2011) and James and Catherine Rentfrow (joined and served for many years). A few others will be presented during the year and photos will be posted. Congratulations to these faithful servants for Jesus. Fred Riley, IL COM president holds the Illinois flag.



Great food, good fellowship and the kids had lots of fun.





The Illinois (& Michigan) singers opened the morning session every day. Singers: Karen Watson, Debbie Odum, Marilyn Diercks, Terri Keller, Karen Mowers, Jan Kragness, Gayle Jones, Marilyn Thomson, Don Kragness (leader), Fred Riley, Paula Riley, Sky Diercks, Jim Diercks.



We had great preaching from Pastor Tim Jones, Rick Porter, Ryan Struthers and Keith Kunda.

Great Music from Soul's Harbor and Cheri Taylor.



**Flora Ann Jennings Obituary**

MORTON – Flora Ann Jennings, 96, of Morton, passed away Saturday, June 15, 2024, at The Villas of Holly Brook in Morton.

She was born December 12, 1927, in Granite City, Illinois, to Herman H. and Mabel (Neal) Dailey. Ann married Robert Jennings on Aug. 18, 1946 in DuQuoin, Illinois. He preceded her in death on March 9, 2017. She is also preceded in death by one son-in-law, Charley Forbes; one brother, Cyril Dailey and one sister, Imogene Daily Starkweather.

Surviving are her nine children, Cheryl (Bill) Vice of Evergreen, Colorado, Cynthia (Don) Andrews of Morton, Chris Forbes of Charlotte, N.C., Bob (Debbie) Jennings of Cumming, Ga., Dan (Trudy) Jennings of Peoria, Randy (Patty) Jennings of Indian Land, S.C., James (Paula) Jennings of Pekin, Scott Jennings of Minier, Ill., and Carrie Jennings of Troy, Ill. Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; and one brother, Herman Don Daily of Redding, California.

Ann was a homemaker who was a very involved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, and crocheting, especially if she was making something for a family member. Ann was a devoted friend. She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church, Morton, especially involved in music and mission programs. Ann was a founding member of the Illinois chapter of Campers on Mission.

Thank you to the staffs of Villas of Holly Brook in Morton and VITAS Hospice for their devoted support and care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Baptist Church of Morton or the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services in Carmi, IL (www.BCHFS.com).

A celebration of life and burial of cremated remains will be held at a later date. Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Morton is handling arrangements.

A memorial gift from Illinois Campers On Mission will be sent to the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services in Carmi, IL. Our sympathies to her family and all of her COM family that remember her and Bob.

Pray For
Our Country!
May God bring us to
Repentance and
Humble our hearts
toward Him.



Some highlights from the 2024 National Rally

- Rick & Cindy Truesdail, who have been serving as both Lead President and Interim National Coordinators, were elected to be the permanent National Coordinators.
- Pastor Tim and Gayle Jones were elected as Regional Representatives for Region 4. They will be mentored for the coming year by Don & Jan Kragness.
- Jim & Laura Parks were elected as Regional Representatives for Region 2. They will be mentored for the coming year by Barbara Rotunda.
- Nolan & Donna Desselle were elected as Regional Representatives for Region 3 where there has been no regional representative.
- The 2025 National Rally will be held in South Carolina. It will be held in Aiken, SC on June 3, 4, & 5, 2025.
- The 2026 National Rally will be held in Iowa.
- Pennsylvania/New Jersey and Alaska are working to get an active chapter built up in those states.
- There are active chapters in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas/Nebraska, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Northwest, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania/New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.
- The national COM Website is being continually updated with helpful information. campersonmission.org. Check it often. Check with Fred Riley or Karen Mowers for the password for the members only information.
- National COM Officers are: Rick & Cindy Truesdail, Coordinators; Barbara Rotunda, National Treasurer; Karen Mowers, National Secretary and Glenn Ansley, National Webmaster.
- There is a great new promotional video for Campers on Mission that you can show to anyone interested.
- National project information and lists of hitching posts are listed on the National Website for your convenience while you are traveling to and from projects.
- A copy of the 2015 COM Manual under which our organization operates is also on the National website. It contains a lot of good information and is currently being revised.
- Many good seminars were provided for education, fun crafts, tours of local RV manufacturing plants, dry wall repair, evangelism outreach, women's ministries, men ministries, RV repair and maintenance, tax tips for COM members and much more. There was a wonderful children's ministry available.