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August 2025

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

Warm greetings from Ben and Wendy Burks! We want to thank you for your faithful prayers and support. This past season has been marked by joy, ministry momentum, and a fresh awareness of God's presence in our lives.

One of the greatest blessings was a personal one. We experienced great joy at the wedding of our only daughter, Hannah, in Lynchburg, Virginia. We are deeply grateful for the godly young man God brought into her life. Josh is a Christian med-student whose journey was partially shaped years ago by the influence of Dr. George Crabb. Through divine orchestration, Josh's path led him to the very city where Hannah was living, and God knit their hearts together in a way that gave us unmistakable peace. Great is His faithfulness!

Before and following the wedding, we've been on the road, rejoicing in the opportunities God gives us. There have been some Sundays and Wednesdays that God has used us in the Lynchburg, Virginia area, and we are very thankful for all the opportunities to be a blessing close to home. Here are some updates from recent meetings:

Florence, SC – We spoke at a Friday night Addiction Program hosted by our dear friend Corbett Stone, followed by a visit to a church in Lynchburg, SC that is preparing to launch its own recovery ministry. We were blessed to join them for their VBS celebration and help cast the vision for reaching their entire community.

Wilson, NC – At Tabernacle Baptist Church, we participated in a men's meeting and preached throughout that Sunday. We're thankful for Pastor Joe Shakour and the incredible work God is doing through him and the church family.

Bridgeport, MI – The MAPS Conference was a powerful time of hope, healing, and transformation. Wendy and I were honored to speak and connect with many who are passionate about a recovery ministry. It is exciting to see how God is using *Bridge to Recovery* - both here and abroad!

Sheridan, MI – We stopped by Beth Haven Baptist Church, one of our faithful supporting churches, to share updates and express our gratitude. These dear folks have always held a special place in our hearts...and always will.

North Stonington, CT – Despite a bout of food poisoning (which may have changed my relationship with seafood for a while!), we were able to host a ladies' event, a men's event, introduce *The Bridge to Recovery*, and preach throughout Sunday. God's grace was sufficient, even in weakness. We are thankful for new friends, as we have found "kindred spirits" here at North Stonington Baptist Church!

Through it all, we are reminded that while our tastes and feelings may change, the Word of God, the truth of God, and the love of God never do. We are living in what may be the final days of harvest, and every church must do all it can to reach every soul it can for Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us plainly: "Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh..." (Luke 21:28)

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing with us. Your prayers, giving, and encouragement are bearing fruit in lives changed and communities reached. We count it a privilege to serve together in this great work.

Always your friends,
Ben & Wendy Burks

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