

THE ENVOY

INDIANA DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD | ISSUE 4 | VOL. 77 | NOVEMBER 2025



LIFT 2025: PAGE 6
*A Celebration of Ministry,
Growth, and Community*

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The Envoy (Vol. 77, No. 4)

The Envoy (USPS 776-460), November (Fall) 2025,
Vol. 77, No. 4.

The Envoy is published quarterly in January, April, August,
and November by Indiana District Assemblies of God,
8750 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Envoy, 8750 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

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In the movie Remember the Titans, Coach Boone states, “I’m a winner, I’m going to win.” At the end of the Super Bowl last year, the Philadelphia Eagles were the winners. A few weeks ago, Europe won the Ryder Cup. After every state final band competition, there is a winner. After the short sermon competition at Fine Arts, there is a winner. How do we know who the winner is? We look at the score. But in the church world, how do we know if we are winning? There’s no scoreboard. There’s no drum roll, no “America has spoken”—the winner, by a million-vote margin, is simply determined by the ballots cast.

ARE YOU WINNING?



So, how do we know if we’re winning? Well, we used to have those attendance boards at the front of the sanctuary, and everyone could see how we did in attendance and offerings from the previous week. Maybe we should bring those boards back; they looked so attractive on the front wall.

We could keep playing mind games with ourselves each week, deciding if we’re winning based on how we feel at that moment. Depending on our emotions, we’ll see ourselves as either winners or losers. That sounds dangerous! Alternatively, we could set markers for our lives and ministry that act like a scoreboard. What might some markers look like for people in ministry?

- Am I making disciples?
- Are people becoming more like Jesus because of my ministry?
- Am I faithful to the call God has for my life?
- Am I hearing the Lord and responding the way He wants me to?
- Am I living above reproach?
- Am I faithful to my spouse?
- Am I exercising self-control?
- Am I living wisely?
- Do I have a good reputation?
- Am I faithfully teaching and proclaiming God’s Word?
- Am I gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money?
- Am I managing my family well, and do my children respect me?

IF SO, SHOUT “GOAL!” WITH YOUR BEST WORLD CUP VOICE!

In the movie Remember the Titans, Coach Boone states, “I’m a winner, I’m going to win.” At the end of the Super Bowl last year, the Philadelphia Eagles were the winners.



ATTENDANCE TODAY	164
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	101
OFFERING TODAY	204
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	292
OFFERING A YEAR AGO	108
NUMBER ON THE ROLL	350
ATTENDANCE GOAL	562

A few weeks ago, Europe won the Ryder Cup. After every state final band competition, there is a winner. After the short sermon competition at Fine Arts, there is a winner. How do we know who the winner is? We look at the score. But in the church world, how do we know if we are winning? There's no scoreboard. There's no drum roll, no "America has spoken"—the winner, by a million-vote margin, is simply determined by the ballots cast.

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"Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap."— 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NIV)

If this describes you as a church leader, you are a winner, the scoreboard is lit up, and the announcer is shouting, **"Goal!"**

But what if you're not lighting up the scoreboard?

- Pray continuously and in the Spirit. Let the Spirit of the Lord uplift you, strengthen you, and guide you in His plan.
- Evaluate. Do you know what you should be doing that you aren't? Do you need to learn how to build teams, release people to do ministry, and develop leadership skills?
- Move. Take action. Kingdom business won't start on its own. Jesus won't send his angels to do what he's asked us to accomplish. I've learned that the more I pray and focus on strategic tasks, the better the results I achieve.

We all go through seasons when we don't light up the scoreboard. The key is not to get stuck there. Pray, evaluate, and move forward. And together, let's watch what God does. He keeps a better score than us anyway!

Chad McAtee, IDAG Superintendent



IF SO, SHOUT "GOAL!" WITH YOUR BEST WORLD CUP VOICE!



LIFT 2025:

A Celebration of Ministry, Growth, and Community

The fall season at Lake Placid created the perfect backdrop for LIFT 2025, a powerful weekend of renewal and equipping for district-affiliated pastors and their spouses. The event brought together over 60 leaders from 27 churches for a weekend of practical training, rest, and renewal.

The weekend kicked off Friday evening with an atmosphere of food, fellowship, worship, and prayer. As we celebrated ministry wins, we recognized several pastors for their dedication and excellence in ministry:

- The Order and Excellence Award was presented to Pastor Steve and Holly Hadra of Vincennes Conduit for their outstanding attention to administration.
- The Nehemiah Award went to Pastor Daniel and Kelly Davidhizar of Elkhart Radiant Life for excellence in facility care and advancement.
- The Rookie of the Year Award recognized Pastor Brett and Candice Rogers of Elwood Cornerstone for making a first-year impact through fresh vision, hard work, and careful compliance as new district-affiliated pastors.

Additionally, Vincennes Conduit's name was drawn to receive the Entry Way Glow Up prize – a \$1,500 grant to enhance the entrance of the church. Congratulations to all the recipients for their commitment to excellence and kingdom impact!

I brought a challenge from Matt. 11:28-30 to find “Real Rest” through God’s presence, learning, and work. The night concluded as we sought the Lord’s presence together, and the room was filled with ministry to one another.

Saturday featured powerful sessions led by Pastor Jason Patterson of Fishers Parkside, who challenged attendees to become “experts” in three key areas: themselves, their people, and their vision. His teachings offered practical insights on emotional health, relational influence, and ministry effectiveness, leaving leaders both inspired and equipped.

The day included a Planning Center tutorial by NextGen Director Mark Whitehead, a session on business administration by Treasurer Greg Allison, and



a “Panel of Experts,” made up of Superintendent Chad McAtee, Secretary Scott Burr, Treasurer Greg Allison, NextGen Director Mark Whitehead, and Lafayette River City Community Center Director Ed Garcia. The panel engaged in Q&A on topics such as NextGen ministry, financial best practices, preaching, outreach strategies, and maintaining mental and physical health.

Free time allowed for enjoying the beautiful grounds and taking advantage of the lake activities. A highlight of the day was inviting those in attendance to join an Organizational Alignment Cohort led by Steve Blandino at no cost to them or their church! The evening closed around the campfire with stories, s’mores, and fellowship – a fitting end to a day full of learning and laughter.

Sunday morning brought a powerful conclusion to the weekend with the Superintendent’s message. Pastor Chad delivered a stirring message, passionately echoing the Apostle Paul’s words from 2 Timothy 3:1-7. The altar was filled with renewed

commitments to God’s call to ministry as His presence moved among the pastors and leaders.

Lift 2025 will be remembered as a weekend of renewal, connection, and growth – equipping pastors to lead with fresh strength and vision. One attendee commented,

“Thank you so much for your investment in the small churches. Small churches and the endless work that needs to be done can be overlooked. IDAG makes us feel seen and loved. Thank you!”

Thank you to everyone who made this weekend a priority and especially to our IDAG team for helping to make it a reality!

Tim Davis, IDAG Church Development and Men’s Ministries Director





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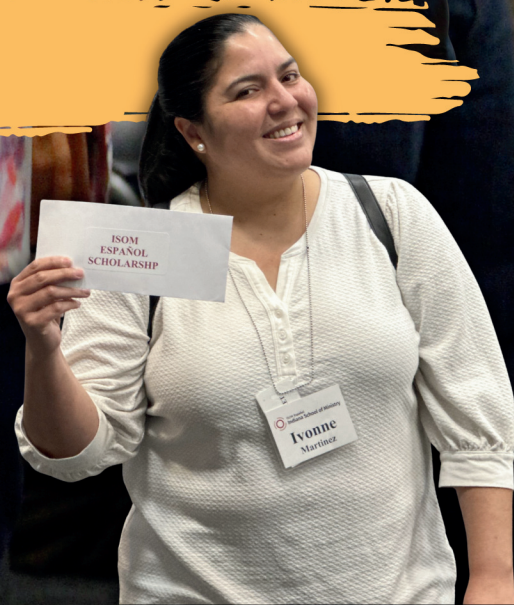


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REJECTING

PLATFORMS

"If I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth"
- 1 Timothy 3:15 NIV.

Mark Sayers, in *Platforms to Pillars*, explores how a **platform** mentality is misshaping our contemporary world and contrasts the platform motif with the biblical call for believers to be **pillars**. Platform mentality brings us into the spotlight, promising the attention of the masses, but pillars linger in God's presence, allowing the Spirit to transform their hearts, giving them vision to see the Kingdom that can emerge from seemingly meaningless small beginnings.

Sayers posits that this mentality, which has pervaded our culture and even the Church, is a force that has both gripped us and stripped us. We have been **gripped** by the need to perform, the desire to be seen, known, applauded, and platformed, and, at the same time, we have been **stripped** of the ability to wait, to be, rather than to do, and to be content with the commendation of Jesus, even if no one ever knows what we do or who we are.

This platform spirit is perpetuated by social media, cultural trends, plummeting moral standards within the Church, and the endless temptation to compare. It is always in front of us, and to resist the platform's lure requires godly resolve and unrelenting dependence on the Holy Spirit. Sayers describes platform culture this way:


"The kind of contemporary global culture, spread by the internet and popular entertainment, prefers novelty to wisdom, individualism to building community, and irreverence to respect." (*Platforms to pillars: Trading the Burden of Performance for the Freedom of God's Presence*. Moody Publishers, 28.)

These preferences give us much to ponder, and the implications of our response have eternal consequences. We will consider each, shaping the statements into questions and then affirming our responsibility.

First, have we preferred novelty to wisdom? The notion of novelty is simple. It carries with it the idea of being new, original, or unusual. It suggests discontent with that which has been, with anything tried and true. It wants to outdo itself with something better, more polished, and glitzier. It wants to allure and impress but knows that it must never stop or it risks becoming dated and boring.

Sayers' thesis is that platform culture has traded wisdom for novelty, an apt description of our progressive culture. The novel is applauded, and what was once considered deviant and perverse is now trendy and celebrated. Our culture is characterized by the exhausting pursuit of something newer, edgier, and more progressive, and, like the author of Ecclesiastes, no matter where the pursuit leads, it always leaves the pursuer empty.

The preference for novelty over wisdom is often apparent in the Church. We embrace worldly methods to attract the attention of the crowds, and while we don't say it, we implicitly exude a wavering confidence in the power of preaching the cross to save the perishing and trade the wisdom of God for



the wisdom of this world, which James says is “earthly, sensual, demonic” (James 3:16).

Second, have we preferred individualism to building community? The platform culture features individuals scrolling on their devices, glued to their screens, and closing themselves out from the world. Studies warn of the danger of this trend and the ultimate peril it will unquestionably produce. One need not look long to find the veracity of the warning—a mounting mental health crisis, increasing loneliness, and platform brainwashing of the individual secluded from the hope and comfort of community.

While the Church, by definition, is a community, we have not escaped unscathed from this cultural phenomenon. Our practice of proclaiming Jesus as our “*personal Lord and Savior*,” coupled with a failure to remind ourselves that we are a Body, has led to a consumerist Christianity, where we compare and compete for the individual prize, the loyalty of the parishioner wowed by our performance. While we speak the language of community, our actions often foster the pursuit of the individual rather than the good of the community.

The blood of Jesus bought the Church, not an individual, and Jesus said that we will be known by the love we have for one another, not for ourselves. Christianity, by its very nature, is *otherly*, not individualistic. Chuck Colson was clear when he wrote:

“Any genuine resurgence of Christianity, as history demonstrates, depends on a reawakening and renewal of that which is the essence of the faith—that is, the people of God, the new society, the body of Christ, which is made manifest in the world—the church.” (The Body, 32)

The Church must reject the platform culture’s preference for individualism over community and be who we are called to be. Our music should not seek to stir the emotions of the individual but to honor the presence of the King so that ALL can worship Him. Our sermons should not promise the means to

individual success but rather call God’s people to “the effective working by which every part does its share” and thereby, “causes the growth of the Body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16 NKJV).

Finally, have we preferred irreverence to respect?

Disrespect for authority has never been more pronounced, and unfortunately, this disrespect, common in today’s culture, is mirrored in our churches. The call of the pulpit is not to mimic the trendy mood of culture but rather to herald the Gospel of the King, the Prince of Peace, the Majestic and Exalted Savior of the sinner. To respect and reverence God is to honor His presence, His Word, His holiness, and His majesty. God must not be treated in a casual and trite manner.

“Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set” is the wisdom of the proverbial author (Proverbs 22:28). If the boundaries were moved, one might possess land that was not theirs, claiming something they did not own. Israel was to be content with their possessions, not try to expand beyond their allotted land. We must respect what we as God’s people have been called to. We must reject what Tozer called “*conventional religious chatter*,” abandon our wholesale “*pursuit of happiness, rather than holiness*,” and denounce our “*bondage to the conscience of people rather than bondage to God*” (A.W. Tozer in *The Bane of Religious Talk*).

In a world encouraging us to build platforms which resemble the Genesis throning that built the tower, hoping to become their own god, we are called to be pillars. Paul told Timothy that the Church was to be the “**pillar and foundation of the truth**” (1 Timothy 3:15 NIV). Jesus is the Truth, and our call is to reject platforms and lift the Truth for all the world to see.

Dr. Kevin Holt, DMIN
Lead Pastor, Muncie Glad Tidings



SPIRIT- FORMED *living*

Writing about spiritual formation in under 800 words can feel daunting, but it's also a privilege. Rather than letting the challenge overwhelm us, let's trust the Spirit of God—who knows the heart of God and lives within us—to guide our words and shape our journey as we discover how He longs to form each of us in His image.

So, what is spiritual formation? Many define it as growing in the spiritual practices that cause you to become a stronger, healthier follower of Jesus. And they aren't wrong, spiritual practices like baptism, fasting, silence and solitude, prayer and worship, all help us grow in our devotion to God and express our love for Him. However, if we are not careful, we can make our Christian life all about *doing* these things, instead of *being* with the One they are about. Therefore, my definition of spiritual formation will center on the process of being shaped into the image of Christ through the transformative work of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 states: *"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* (ESV). The New Living Translation states it like this: *"So, all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."* Can we sit with that verse for a minute? Go ahead, re-read it. Let it sink in. Let the Holy Spirit awaken something inside you as you read it. We go from one glory to another by the work of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 1:3 tells us what the glory of God is: *"He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."* In the Old Testament, Moses encountered the glory of God and



had to wear a veil; we now, unveiled, HOUSE the glory of the Lord. John 14:23: “Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’” Whew! I don’t know about you, but I am in complete awe of what Trinity has done to include us in their dance and by doing so, making us like them, just like they said in the beginning: “*Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness.*” (Gen 1:26). Could it be that we were made not just to look like, but to think, speak and live like God? I think this has been the plan all along. And the Holy Spirit will spend our entire lives helping us become more like His glorious image.

So, what would it look like if we let the Spirit form us? Sometimes it feels too lofty or too far in the future for us to attain. But Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:9: “*However, it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’*” It is crazy how we often stop there. How we could be tempted to relegate the things God has prepared for those who love Him in the distant future, but we just need to keep reading through verse 10... “*but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.*” The Holy Spirit reveals what God has prepared for us. Unlike figures like Abraham, Moses, or David, we can know His desires for us and host His glory because of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. We can live as people of His Presence and His Power because He has revealed these things to us through His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit’s purpose isn’t just to bless us or move in powerful ways during Sunday services—He’s here to shape us into Christ’s image, just as God intended. So, we must ask ourselves: Are we giving Him space in our daily lives to transform us? Imagine how Jesus would treat His spouse, parent His children, interact with neighbors, or respond to a server after church. Even in small moments—like driving—He calls us to reflect His character. Spiritual formation means letting the Spirit stretch and grow us, so our lives mirror His glory and bring Heaven to earth. Let’s intentionally give Him room to change us from within, so we can reflect His love and make a lasting impact for His Kingdom.

Dani Sousa, *Christian Counselor and
Chi Alpha Campus Missionary*





Overcoming Pressures to **CONFORM**

*Y*ou would be hard-pressed to find someone, biblically and historically, whose life was overflowing with more sheer adventure and challenge, mounting cultural and political tension, and outright bravery and perseverance than Daniel. In fact, all of Hollywood's blockbuster movies combined fall short in comparison to Daniel's epic life. As a reminder, the backstory involves Israel falling into major spiritual decline as a direct result of turning their back on God. In 586 B.C., God allowed Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire, the most powerful empire of the time, to swarm into Israel and devastate the nation. Jerusalem was demolished, and the Babylonians took about a quarter of the population as prisoners back to Babylon for 70 years.

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One of those carried off was Daniel, who would have been a teenager approximately 15 years old at the time. Plucked from his home and separated from his family, more than likely, he never saw his parents again. However, the rest of his life was an astounding, overcoming story where he starts off as a prisoner of war, yet the final chapter of his life reveals him as the most powerful man in the empire, second only to the emperor. The book of Daniel conveys how he saves the empire and outlasts 3 administrations: Nebuchadnezzar and Belteshazzar, who were Babylonians, and Cyrus the Great, who was Persian. Another remarkable revelation is that Daniel leads 2 of these emperors to faith in God. Even at 85 years of age, Daniel is pulled out of retirement to save the empire once again.

Throughout every stage of Daniel's life, from his teenage years to midlife and then even in retirement, it is evident that he goes through a number of tests. Conveyed from the challenges and victories of Daniel's life is the following insight: **Before the blessing of God, there often comes testing in life.**

Daniel was remarkably steadfast and unshakable despite all the pressures and problems that amounted and surrounded him. As a reminder, since God's people were in a foreign land, they were also given new names with the intent of removing their identities that were tied to the very nature of who God is. We see this done to Daniel and his contemporaries within the emperor's chosen enclave.



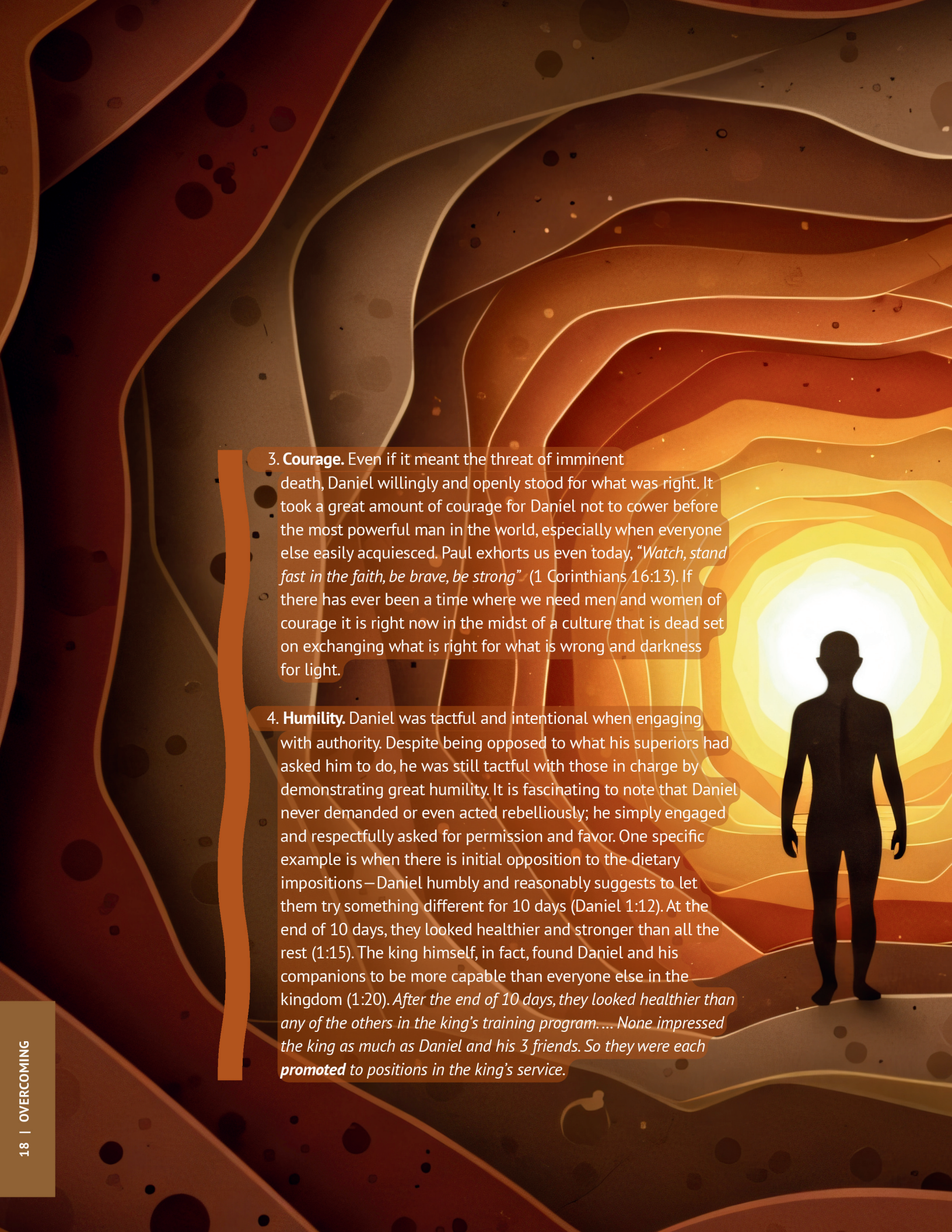
Daniel, in Hebrew, means “*God is my judge*”—He is renamed Belteshazzar, which means “*Bel protects me*” (named after a false god of Babylon). Hananiah, whose name means “*God is gracious*”, is renamed Shadrach (the Babylonian moon god). Mishael, whose name denotes “*Who is like God?*”, is renamed Meshach (a fertility god in Babylon). And Azariah, whose name declares “*God has helped me*”, is renamed Abednego, which means “*servant of Nebo*” (another pagan god).

Forced new names, identities, assignments, and even diets were methods of total reprogramming. Despite the mandatory cultural assimilation, Daniel refused to go along with the program. Scripture shares, “*But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..*” (Daniel 1:8). The word “defile” means to “desecrate, pollute, or stain.” In other words, Daniel refused to conform to the pressures around him and, instead, chose to keep himself spiritually pure.

In passing the tests that were thrust upon him, Daniel displays four character qualities that are worth noting. If you want God’s blessing upon your life, especially in an ever-growing, hostile environment where not everyone agrees and believes like you do, you will need to build on these virtues. Daniel’s test reveals the following **4 qualities**

God admires:

1. **Integrity.** Daniel never forgot who he was and what he was called to live out. Essentially, even in the face of an oppressive power, he declares, “*You can change my address, you can change my clothing, and you can even change my name, but you are never going to change my heart.*” Daniel was determined to maintain his integrity and not to waver and defile himself.
2. **Discipline.** Daniel kept his pride and his flesh under control. Despite not having his parents around, he was a remarkably disciplined 15-year-old kid. The Bible clearly shares how God granted him extraordinary skills, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (Daniel 1:17). Even with such supernatural blessings, he does not allow it to go to his head, and he refused to see anointing as permission to act any way he desired. Despite circumstances forcing him to serve a powerful king on earth, he remained steadfast and focused on the King above it all.



3. **Courage.** Even if it meant the threat of imminent death, Daniel willingly and openly stood for what was right. It took a great amount of courage for Daniel not to cower before the most powerful man in the world, especially when everyone else easily acquiesced. Paul exhorts us even today, “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong*” (1 Corinthians 16:13). If there has ever been a time where we need men and women of courage it is right now in the midst of a culture that is dead set on exchanging what is right for what is wrong and darkness for light.

4. **Humility.** Daniel was tactful and intentional when engaging with authority. Despite being opposed to what his superiors had asked him to do, he was still tactful with those in charge by demonstrating great humility. It is fascinating to note that Daniel never demanded or even acted rebelliously; he simply engaged and respectfully asked for permission and favor. One specific example is when there is initial opposition to the dietary impositions—Daniel humbly and reasonably suggests to let them try something different for 10 days (Daniel 1:12). At the end of 10 days, they looked healthier and stronger than all the rest (1:15). The king himself, in fact, found Daniel and his companions to be more capable than everyone else in the kingdom (1:20). *After the end of 10 days, they looked healthier than any of the others in the king’s training program.... None impressed the king as much as Daniel and his 3 friends. So they were each promoted to positions in the king’s service.*

W

e have a couple of choices in life: **we can either be conformed to this world, or we can be transformed by God** (Romans 12:2). If you settle for being conformed to this world, you end up just like everybody else. You look the same, talk the same, and act the same. On the other hand, if you are transformed by God's Word, then you are going to know the will of God that empowers you to overcome whatever comes your way.

Scripture clearly reveals to us that God examines and tests our hearts and minds to further define our character (Jeremiah 17:10). Daniel is tested multiple times, and each time he passes the test, God grants him greater influence and insight. Like Daniel, **we must continue to trust even while in a test**. The reality is that God tests us not to fail us, but rather for us to grow, overcome, and ground ourselves more in Him. Do not conform to the pressures pulling you down; instead, invite God into the space and allow Him to transform and build you up.

Dr. Jon Susa, IDAG World Missions and
Lead Pastor, Indianapolis Caring Place



A SNEAK ATTACK

SECONDARY TRAUMA ALMOST TOOK ME OUT

In 2019, my life was moving fast. Husband to an amazing wife, father to four wonderful red-haired children, pastor of a small yet lively church in the rural town of Fremont, Indiana, and case manager at a homeless shelter in a nearby larger town. What I didn't realize was that I was hurtling toward a cliff.

Near the end of that year, I started noticing that I would wake up some mornings feeling a sense of dread hanging over me. Fear without a clear reason would press heavily on my chest. I couldn't quite figure out why I was so anxious. Nothing seemed to stand out as a significant threat. We had the usual worries about budgets and church members, but overall, things were going well. My family was healthy, my relationship with Jesus was thriving, and my prayer life was strong.

Each time I experienced that, I would go to the secret place of prayer and cast my cares on the Lord. I would engage in spiritual warfare and worship—everything I knew to do. After my prayer time, I usually felt much better, so I kept going with life, but it kept getting worse. Some days, prayer didn't help remove that feeling. I talked

with my wife and close friends about it, but nothing changed. I asked our prayer teams for more prayer, but things kept getting worse. The feeling of dread went from once a week to almost daily, and the fear and anxiety grew deeper over time. Then, in March 2020, when the pandemic hit, everything became even worse. I was forced to confront my emotions face-to-face during lockdown. I realized that what I was experiencing was clinical anxiety and depression. That was a shock—I had never faced emotional or mental health issues before. I had no control over my emotions and no idea what to do about them.

I spent the next 8 months rewiring my brain. My counselor, family, church, and God guided me step by step out of that darkness, but I was curious. How did I end up here? Surely something must have led me to this place. I started reading books and listening to podcasts on mental health and depression. One day, I heard a podcast about a book called “Trauma in the Pews” by Dr. Janyne McConaughy. Everything she said hit me like a freight train. I knew without a doubt that I was supposed to learn more about this. I reached out to her, and on her advice, I pursued a master's degree in trauma and neuroscience.

I HAD NO CONTROL OVER MY EMOTIONS AND NO IDEA WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

That is when I discovered something called secondary trauma.

Secondary trauma occurs when a person is exposed to someone else's trauma, resulting in psychological distress. Caregiving professionals who provide emotional support to individuals experiencing traumatic events—such as nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers, and, of course, pastors—are especially vulnerable to secondary trauma.

In a study of Catholic clergy from 2021, Dr. Juczynski et al. found that clergy often experience secondary traumatic stress, which leads to compassion fatigue and, eventually, burnout. In another study of evangelical pastors in Florida, Dr. Wesley and her team report that fifty-seven percent of the clergy sampled showed moderate to high levels of emotional exhaustion. The nature of pastoral ministry puts us right at the intersection of high stress and trauma exposure.

I am now convinced that my journey through depression and anxiety was mainly caused by secondary trauma. Working at the church and the homeless shelter, I dealt with multiple people in crisis every day, with no time or energy to process my own feelings before I had to rush off to handle another emergency. I had no idea how much that could affect me, and even though I knew I wasn't OK, I was completely unaware of what was causing my issues or how to improve them.



RISK FACTORS SYMPTOMS PREVENTION TREATMENT



Are you on the same road I was? Heading toward a cliff with no clue how to read the warning signs? Here are things you should be looking for.

Risk Factors - (Most pastors I know experience almost all of these)

- Regular exposure to people who are going through emotional difficulties.
- Working in a high-stress environment.
- High expectations of your work and little control over the outcome.
- Sensitivity and empathy for people who are hurting.
- A personal history of trauma.

Symptoms - if you are experiencing more than one of these, it's time to reach out.

- Intrusive thoughts
- Out of control or unexplainable emotions (irritability, short temper, anxiety with no discernible cause)
- Avoidance of specific topics, places, or people
- Difficulty sleeping, concentrating, or sitting still (annoyed by silence)
- Emotional numbness or detachment

Prevention - What can you do to keep secondary trauma from taking you out? There are many ways to build resilience so that you can endure trauma (your own or that of another) and stay healthy.

- Your relationship with Jesus is paramount. In these moments, Jesus commanded us to take up HIS yoke. (Matt 11:29-30) That is where we find rest for our souls. Let him do the heavy lifting. It is not your job to be anyone's savior!!!
- Stay physically healthy with exercise and diet – physical health and emotional health are inseparable. Emotions are physical as much as mental.
- Healthy rhythms of work and rest – take a sabbath day every week. Take time off during the year. Most importantly, get enough sleep every night.
- Build deep, compassionate, emotionally intimate friendships with understanding people, both inside and outside your church. (Note: family is terrific, but you need others as well.)



YOUR EMOTIONS
NEED TO BE FELT
AND PROCESSED OR
THEY WILL BUILD UP
OVER TIME AND
OVERWHELM YOU

- Maintain awareness of your own emotional state—Your emotions need to be felt and processed, or they will build up over time and overwhelm you. When you bring comfort to someone in need, you are literally lending them your emotional strength. Brain scientists call this co-regulation. You cannot give what you do not have.
- Finally, when you have been spending a lot of time with people who are going through something hard, make a plan to process your own feelings about that with a counselor or a good friend who is outside the circle of pain. (Note: your spouse does not count.)

Treatment - if you find yourself experiencing compassion fatigue from secondary trauma, there is hope and help. Find a trauma therapist - there are treatments which have proven very effective in healing trauma, EMDR, somatic experiencing, support groups, and medication can all be helpful.

Josh Hawkins,
Lead Pastor, Fremont Community Church



AROUND THE DISTRICT!



Pastor Chris Combs was installed as the new pastor of Laconia Grace Tabernacle at a consecration service on September 14, led by Superintendent Chad McAtee.



Supt. Chad and Julie McAtee led a special consecration service on Sept. 14, to install Pastor Steve and Cassie Lynch as the new pastors of Milltown Grace Tabernacle.

DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION
DISCUSSION-BASED TRAINING COHORTS



Indiana NextGen pastors joined leaders from the national team on October 17-18, for discipleship discussions at Avon Crossroads and hang out time at Back 9.



NEXTGEN INDIANA MINISTRIES

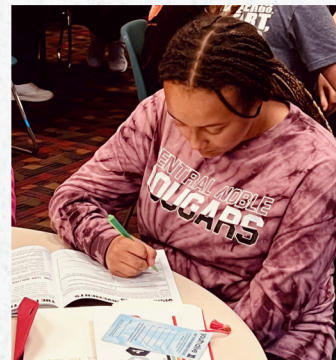
The recent Youth Alive Movement Tour was an incredible success! Students from all across the state gathered over five different nights with a shared mission — to be a light in their schools and bring hope to their generation.



Throughout the tour, students were equipped and empowered to start Youth Alive clubs on their campuses, learning practical steps on how to launch and lead a club that brings students together around faith, friendship, and purpose. Students gained real tools for sharing the Gospel boldly, building clubs, and creating a culture of prayer and outreach in their schools.

By the end of the tour, dozens of students committed to launching clubs, reaching their peers, and standing up for Jesus in their daily lives. We believe this is just the beginning of something amazing. As students go onto their campuses, they're not going alone — they're going with a vision, a community, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The movement is growing. The message is spreading. This generation is rising.



AROUND THE DISTRICT!



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Pastor Darin and Sabrina Herzog were installed as the new pastors of Frankfort Cornerstone at a consecration service on September 21, 2025. Superintendent Chad and Julie McAtee led the special service for the Herzogs.

GenFi

MINISTRIES



Financial strength.
Generational impact.

Church Loans • Investments • Retirement

IDAG 2026 CALENDAR

SCAN FOR MORE
IDAG EVENTS



JANUARY

- 1-2 IDAG Office Closed for New Year's
- 10 JBQ/TBQ Meets
- 12-16 NextGen Vision Tour
- 15 Credential Exams (C & L)
- 17 Ranger Leadership Training
- 22 Ordination Orientation
- 24 AIM Trips Training
- 24 ISOM at Indpls Lakeview

FEBRUARY

- 2 Southwest AMM
- 3 Southeast AMM
- 5 Northwest AMM
- 6 Northeast AMM
- 7 JBQ/TBQ Meets
- 10 Ministry Group Presbyters/EP meetings
- 17 Central #1 AMM
- 19 Central #2 AMM
- 21 ISOM at Indpls Lakeview
- 21 Ranger Derby
- 27-28 Kids Blast - North (Fort Wayne First)
- 28 Kids Blast - South (Avon Crossroads)

MARCH

- 2-3 Gather Retreat
- 7 JBQ/TBQ Meets
- 14-20 AIM Trip #1
- 21-27 AIM Trip #2
- 21 ISOM at Indpls Lakeview
- 21 JBQ State Meet

APRIL

- 3 IDAG Office Closed - Good Friday
- 11 The Arts Festival
- 12-14 Presbyterian's Leadership Intensive
- 18 ISOM at Indpls Lakeview
- 24-26 Royal Ranger FCF Spring Trace
- 25 STAND Men's Conference

MAY

- 2 REAL Women's One Day
- 8-9 Lake Placid Work Days
- 17-19 District Council (Greenwood GRACEHOUSE)
- 20 Bike Ride for Missions

JUNE

- 1-5 Youth Camp 1
- 4 Credential Orientation
- 8-12 Youth Camp 2
- 12-15 Youth Weekend Camp
- 15-19 Youth Camp 3
- 22-26 Youth Camp 4

JULY

- 6/29-3 Youth Camp 5
- 5-8 Kids Camp 1
- 8-11 Kids Camp 2
- 9 Credential Exams (C & L)
- 12-15 Kids Camp 3
- 12-17 National Ranger Camporama
- 27-31 National Fine Arts (St. Louis)

AUGUST

- 21-23 PK Retreat (Lake Placid)
- 29 Youth Alive One Day

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Boys & Girls Adventure Day
- 14-16 Ordained Women's Prayer Retreat
- 21-24 Men's Pastors Prayer Retreat
- 25-26 Women's VITAL Conference

OCTOBER

- 2-4 LIFT Retreat
- 2-3 Girls Ministries Camp-O-Rama
- 3 JBQ/TBQ Meets
- 9-11 Royal Rangers FCF Fall Trace
- 10 NextGen One Day
- 25-27 Ministers' Retreat

NOVEMBER

- 6-7 Youth Convention
- 14 JBQ and TBQ Meets
- 25-27 IDAG Office Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 3 Credential Orientation
- 23-25 IDAG Office Closed for Christmas
- 30-31 IDAG Office Closed for New Year's

THE

ENVOY

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New lead pastors were welcomed at the district office on October 9, 2025.



Pastor Jim and Jeanne Everson were installed as the new pastors of Jasonville First Assembly at a special consecration service on October 12, 2025, led by Executive Secretary Scott and Tandy Burr.



Pastor Brett and Joan Nelson were installed as the new pastors of Granger Journey Church at a special consecration service on October 12, 2025, led by Superintendent Chad and Julie McAtee.

