

May/June 2024



EST. 1948

75 YEARS

Bethel Colony of Mercy

Breaking the Chains of Addiction
Since 1948



Parental Love Is Filled With Hope

May and June present very important times to celebrate some of the most caring and influential people in our lives; our mom's and our dad's. Scripture tells us to honor them! The Lord teaches us if we do, we will live a long life. Bethel has seen many moms bring their boys to Bethel Colony. It didn't matter if he was 18 or 50 you could always see, on her face and in her eyes, the care, concern, hope, and the relief that her prayer has been answered. The endurance of a

way - courage, support, "I love you but now it is time to stand." Someone said moms cuddle while dads bounce them on their knee. Both loving. Just expressed in the way God designed each. And can I say for the balance of raising a child we need both, the love of a mom and a dad; the way the Lord designed it.

Since the opening of the Women's Campus May 2019, we see a different side of moms and dads. We see the mom putting her foot down and holding her daughter to a higher standard. We see dads being much more



mother's love is like no other, matter of fact the Lord uses that love to express His in Isaiah 66:13, ***"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you."*** As the father brings in the son many times with his wife, you can see that love demonstrated in another

compassionate and patient with their daughter. It is as a mom sees their boys as heroes and the daughter sees her dad as a hero. At both campuses you can watch as the Light of God gets in the heart of the student, you will see those moms and dads light up as well in



many different ways. Sometimes, it is with love and encouragement, sometimes it is with pride. Sometimes as a parent may have not known the Lord or may have been away from God themselves that the Light of the Gospel draws mom or dad closer to Jesus. Jesus said, ***“I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”***

John 12:46

My point of sharing these differences is not to elevate one above the other but to say **Thank you to the Moms and Dads out there who don't give up on the gift of children that God gave you.** We need all those expressions of love that you were created to bring to the table of the family relationship. We need you. And your child that may be in bondage needs you. He/she needs your prayers, encouragement, tough love and persistence to point them to Jesus. We are thankful for your ministry in your child's life for all these years. Many who come to Bethel see Jesus first through their parent's unconditional and unwavering commitment to love them to be who God created them to be. Many who complete Bethel do so because of the encouragement they get from home to “keep on keeping on. We are thankful to be a part of the journey to keep pointing them to the Deliverer; Jehovah Mephalti! 2 Sam. 22:2-4; ***“And he said: ‘The Lord is my rock and my fortress***



and my deliverer; the God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.”

Through God's grace we have seen thousands of men come through Bethel and now 5 years into the Women's Campus we have seen hundreds of women. **We have seen 14 couples go through the program together. We are seeing generations, dads and daughters go through the program, dads and sons and mothers and sons go through the program.** He is truly Jehovah Mephalti; Our Deliverer!

As we press on to see more families set free and restored, please consider adding Bethel to your prayer list at your church. Consider talking to your pastor about Bethel coming to share the hope in overcoming addiction. We thank you for your ongoing support.

May we all endure to see the promise: ***“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”*** Heb. 10:36

Happy Mother's & Father's Day!

Pastor Paul and Stacy Pruitt
Executive Director

Save These Dates:

Bethel Colony of Mercy Women's Campus 2nd Annual Royal Tea



<i>When?</i>	Saturday, August 17, 2024 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm
<i>Where?</i>	Lenoir Presbyterian Church, 1002 Kirkwood St NW, Lenoir, NC 28645
<i>Who?</i>	Women's Luncheon and Fundraiser Bringing Bethel Women's Campus alumni and supporters together.
<i>Speaker?</i>	Regina Satchell Kelly, Women's Campus Co-Director
<i>Cost?</i>	\$20 per person; \$120 per table (seating 6)

Registration details at
bethelcolony.org/events-at-bethel/royal-tea



Bethel's Annual Golf Tournament

Cedar Rock Country Club, Lenoir, NC

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Registration online by Wed, Sept. 25th.

(or until we reach our limit of 18 teams.)

Express check-in for teams who register and pay (online or via invoice) by Fri., Sept. 20th.

[www.bethelcolony.org/golf-tournament](https://bethelcolony.org/golf-tournament)

NEW Tournament Sponsorship opportunities!

<https://bethelcolony.org/golf-tournament-sponsorship>



For more information Contact **Stacy Pruitt** at 828-754-3781 ext. 224 or bcom@bethelcolony.org



Mother and Child



“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3

Here at the Women’s Campus, we see dozens of women come through the program who are mothers. We have had the blessing of seeing God restore mother-child relationships, but we have also seen the devastation of mothers being separated from their children. We believe that God wants to restore these women and their children, **but that restoration cannot take place without the woman discovering that she is not just a mother: she is primarily a child of God.**

Jesus said that we must come to Him like children. The illustration of a child coming to Jesus is easy for a mother to visualize because she has seen her own child come to her, either humbly or in full boldness, to engage with her. But it can often be difficult to put the shoe on the other foot. As a mother, I may have difficulty *being* the child. I may struggle to humble myself before my heavenly Father because I have been so accustomed to doing so many things for myself and for others. I may also have a hard time coming to Him in boldness and abandon because my life as an adult has trained me to be self-conscious and reserved. **It is often this broken blend of self-sufficiency and self-consciousness that has stopped these women from receiving the help they need from God and others.** When they come to Jesus, however, both broken lenses must be set aside. They must learn to submit to Christ’s authority and lean into His sufficiency rather than their own.

One woman came into this program with the sole view of getting custody of her child back. She was ready to knuckle down and do the hard work she

needed to do in order to see her family healed and restored. One thing she struggled with, however, was self-sufficiency. Throughout her program, this woman grew in her identity in Christ and in understanding who He was to her and for her, but she still maintained the position of mother rather than child. **She was still working for her child rather than resting in her Father.** When this woman’s program was close to ending, we counseled her to remain in the program until she had a good transition plan. She even prayed about it and felt that the Lord was leading her in that direction. **But when the day came, she called a ride and left without a plan, and her explanation was “I need to get ready for getting my daughter back.” Unfortunately, that day never came. This young woman relapsed and died of an overdose months later.**

But for every story like this, God has allowed us to see several stories of women who did begin to submit to God and surrender everything, and through that surrender, God was able to restore their families. One such woman is receiving custody of her children back this summer, and when sharing her testimony, she boldly declared **“I was making an idol out of my kids, and it wasn’t until I surrendered completely to God and let Him have it all that He began to restore us.”** Oh, the beauty of a heart surrendered to the Father. **Our prayer for every mother who comes through this program is for them to see as clearly as this woman sees that her identity as God’s child is vital to her identity as mom.**

Blessed beyond measure,

Mrs. Regina Kelly

Women’s Campus Co-Director





Associate Director/Pastor Zac Starnes

Honour and Our Responsibility

Two holidays each year let me know that summer is just around the corner. Mother's Day and Father's Day are holidays where we acknowledge the love, support, and care given to us by our parents or those who have been like parents to us. A verse in Scripture that always comes to mind while celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day is found in the Ten Commandments where the Israelites are told to **"Honor your father and mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."** (Exodus 20:12, HCSB)

Honor is something that our society and culture has distorted and misplaced today. Honor can be seen when you hold someone with high respect or great esteem. It can also be seen by adhering to what is right or to the standard of conduct that is set forth. Honor is something that many children and young people of today lack for their parents or elders. Social media and news media promote all these celebrities and influencers to a "god-like status" brainwashing our young people to believe that the lifestyle of the rich and famous is what living is all about. It is no wonder that honor is slipping away in the world today.

The Greek word *Ethos* refers to the character, credibility, and moral values a group holds to or possesses. It can be seen in the disposition of a community or culture. **If we look at the ethos of our society and culture today, I believe we can safely say that character, credibility, and moral values have been tainted.** Moral values and credibility are two things that play a huge factor in developing one's character. If the ethos is dictated by what is accepted in the society or culture and moral values have been tainted by selfish sensual living that means other things such as honor have been debased. Children will grow up being desensitized to what honor truly is and will continue a downward spiral from generation to generation.

Ephesians 6:1-3 says **"Children, obey your parents as you would the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land."** (HCSB). Paul is speaking to the church, and he addresses the relationship between children and their parents. In the context of this passage, children are those still under the care of their parents. He tells children to obey their parents as they would the Lord. He is drawing a clear picture that obedience is a vital part of one's relationship with their parents. However, obedience to one's parents does not mean to be disobedient to the Lord if the direction of the parents is contrary to the Word. Paul quotes the fifth commandment

where children are to honor their father and mother. We can see from this passage that we are to obey our parents and to honor them. Honor means to love and respect them and is not contingent on our obedience to them. Obedience is more for the child in the home under the care of the parents, but honor is a lifelong charge that all children have towards their parents.

Scripture is clear about the place of honor in our lives and how we are supposed to love and respect our parents. Honor is not just held for our parents or those we deem worthy of honor and in 1 Peter 2:17 we are told to honor everyone, and I believe that we can only do so much in the flesh when it comes to truly honoring others. The depth of honor for others will be lacking if we do not first honor the Lord. Many people only want to give God their leftovers. We can see in a couple verses in proverbs what God requires from us and what we are to pursue, **"Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest."** (Prov. 3:9, HCSB) If we are not honoring God with the first of everything then how can we truly honor others? We see that **"The one who pursues righteousness and faithful love will find life, righteousness, and honor."** (Prov. 21:21, HCSB) We must remember part of honor is love and we can only love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) He is the source of our love and honor; we give it to Him and He enables us to honor others in love.

Love is the key ingredient to personal relationships and the love I am talking about is *agape* in the Greek. It means selfless and sacrificial love with concern for others' well-being. Paul writes to the Roman church, **"Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor."** (Rom. 12:9,10, HCSB) Love must be without hypocrisy or any deceit and cannot have any ill intent or motives. The love of God is good, the love we are supposed to have for others should be good. Paul encourages us to outdo one another in showing honor and this means that we must make an intentional effort in doing so. We cannot choose when we want to show love or choose when or who to honor. The responsibility of each of us is to love and honor others because they were created in the image of God.

Pastor Zac Starnes
Associate Director





Do You Not Know?

A shepherd loves his sheep. He knows also that he must tend his sheep. It is the responsibility of the shepherd to train, provide for, and protect his sheep. He loves the fellowship of his sheep. Sheep come to know/recognize their shepherd's voice. Sheep know their shepherd. They follow their shepherd. ***"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all: and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand."*** (John 10:27-29)

Scripture gives us the nature of man without Christ. ***"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way: and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*** (Isaiah 53:8) We are spiritually dead in turning our own way. We are living without Christ according to the flesh. ***"So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*** (Romans 8:6) But believing in Christ changes us spiritually so that we can walk with Him. ***"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."*** (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

Having come to Christ, we are immediately immersed into the nature of the new birth with the assets to be Christ-centered. ***"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*** (II Peter 1:2-4)

The nature of a new believer is recognizing his need for discipleship. He knows miraculously that his life in the world is over. A disciple of Christ knows Him and wants to follow Him. This is foundational. Our new nature in Christ has a

longing to find a teacher to disciple him. If this is weak, there needs to be an immediate repentance. It is by His power that we will be able to be faithful. It is by His knowledge that we see clearly that the corruptions of the world must be abandoned. Shepherds are constantly reminding the sheep of this.

Paul rebukes the Corinthian believers for not heeding his instruction to put off their corruptions. ***"Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*** (I Corinthians 6:9-11)

Likewise, Paul rebukes the Ephesian believers that they should no longer walk in an evil way. ***"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*** (Ephesians 4:17-24)

I am reminded of one young lady wearing a sweatshirt with the phrase, "Total Abandonment to God". She demonstrated her life. She was a disciple of Jesus Christ. Are you one of His sheep who have gone astray? Repent and get back to the local church asap. Your life depends on it.

Where the Grace blows,

Pastor Don Loss
Director of Counseling



Fill out and mail your prayer requests to us.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

Prayer Request: _____

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Call Bethel for
Muscadine Juice
(while supplies last)

Bethel Lawn Care

Bethel’s Lawn Care service is part of our ongoing program and coincides with our mission statement - **teaching the deliverance message of Jesus Christ**. Part of our approach is daily work assignments. Work assignments are designed to teach men responsibility and stewardship. As we help more folks in our community the Lawn Care Service not only helps men with responsibility and stewardship but instills a Christian work ethic, provides a skill they can use to get a job, and teaches them to give back to their community and to Bethel.

To schedule your lawn care service,
and to check prices, contact
Zach Davis,
Bethel Lawn Care Manager
at 828-754-3781 ext.245
or opt.3 for lawncare



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Bethel Colony of Mercy, Inc.



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Breaking the chains of addiction

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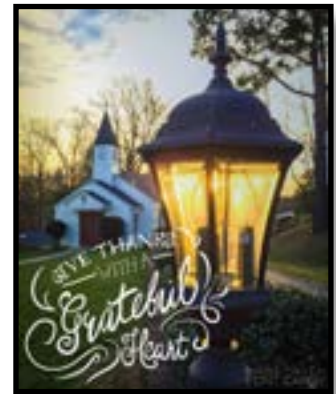
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“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you

and you may live long on the earth.” Eph. 6:1-3



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