

May/June 2026

Bethel

Colony of Mercy

Breaking the chains of addiction

Since 1948



Family Strengthens the Journey of Overcoming!

As we move through the months of May and June, we are reminded of two meaningful celebrations—Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. So I would like to reflect on the gift of family and the powerful role it plays in shaping our lives and those on this journey of overcoming. At Bethel, we see every day how vital family is—not only in the formation of identity, but in the process of healing, restoration, and long-term recovery.

Scripture makes it clear that God designed us to live in relationship. From the very beginning, the Lord said, **“It is not good that the man should be alone”** (Gen. 2:18). **Family was part of God’s answer to that need.** It is within family that we first experience love, discipline, encouragement, and belonging. Even more, family becomes a place where grace can be extended and redemption can take root.

For those walking the road to Victory, family often plays a critical role. The enemy uses addiction and life-controlling issues to isolate individuals, separating them from those who love them most. But healing frequently begins when those broken connections are restored. God’s Word reminds us in Ecc. 4:9-10, **“Two are better than one... For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.”** This journey in life and even more so breaking the

chains of addiction is not meant to be walked alone. It is strengthened through support, accountability, and encouragement—things that healthy family relationships can provide. At the same time, we recognize that family relationships are not always easy. Many who come to Bethel carry wounds from broken homes, strained relationships, or years of hurt. Yet, this is where the Gospel brings such powerful hope. Ps. 68:6 declares, **“God sets the solitary (lonely) in families.”** The Lord is not limited by our past experiences; **He is able to restore, rebuild, and even provide new spiritual family where there has been loss.**

One of the beautiful things we witness at Bethel is how God not only restores natural families but also builds a strong spiritual family among us. Men and women come through our program and find brothers, sisters, mentors, and leaders who walk alongside them. Many of our staff are graduates themselves, which creates a unique bond of understanding and shared testimony. They are living proof that sustained recovery is possible, and they now help others walk that same path. Family also plays an essential role in maintaining recovery. It is one thing to begin the journey, but it is another to continue in it. Ongoing support, encouragement, and accountability are key. Heb. 10:24-25 encourages us to **“consider one another in order to stir up love and good**

works...let us not neglect meeting together... exhorting one another.” This is what family does; both natural and spiritual. It strengthens resolve, reminds individuals of truth, and helps guard against returning to old patterns.

As we celebrate mothers and fathers this season, **we honor those who have stood in the gap—praying, believing, and loving even through difficult seasons.** Many families have carried heavy burdens, yet have remained faithful. **Your role matters more than you may realize. You are part of God’s redemptive plan in the life of your loved one.**

Here at Bethel, we are continually reminded that our family is growing. Not only in number, but in depth, unity, and purpose. Each student who comes, each graduate who stays connected, each staff member who serves, and each partner who supports the ministry becomes part of this extended Bethel family. Together, we are creating an environment where lives can be changed, hope can be restored, and futures can be rebuilt.

This growing family is vital to the work we do. It allows us to reach more individuals who are in need of help and to provide the support necessary for lasting transformation. It also strengthens our ability to partner with others churches, supporters, and communities, who share the vision of seeing lives set free through the power of Christ. As we look ahead, we are grateful for the role that each of you plays in this family. Whether you are a parent, a graduate, a supporter, or someone praying faithfully for this ministry, you are part of what God is doing here at Bethel. And as our family continues to grow, so does our ability to impact lives for His glory.

Please take note of our future events as we enjoy when our extended family can get together. Another way we are able to fellowship together is inviting Bethel to come and share at your church. We love to come sing and testify of His goodness. If that would be something your interested in please call the main office.

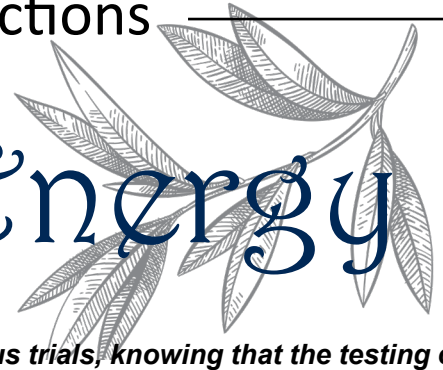
Pastor Paul and Stacy Pruitt
Executive Director





Ramah Reflections

Quitter Energy



“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” -- Hebrews 12:1, NKJV

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” -- Galatians 6:9, NLT

Christianity is an endurance race. There is no sprint to the finish line. This means that we cannot afford to have what I call “quitter energy.” Quitters have no sense of urgency or intense need to complete a task. A quitter does not perceive the life-or-death nature of the thing they are quitting. I have lived my life with a quitter mentality, not realizing that everything that I quit is a mission that God has given me that I have aborted. At this stage in my life, I wonder how many people I did not influence for Christ by quitting a job too early. I wonder how many miracles I did not see because I quit praying for them. I wonder how much of my own growth I have stunted by pitching a fit and throwing the temper-tantrum instead of pressing into the Lord and asking Him to give me strength to endure.

The apostle Paul talks about finishing the race, fighting the good fight, and praying that he did not “labor in vain”. There is urgency in that language. Paul has a deep awareness that **there is a high cost to quitting.** I fear that in this current culture in America, we have lost this sense of urgency to endure. We lack tenacity. But we don’t have to.

James 1:2-4 says **“My brethren, count it all joy when**

you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” Rather than sanctioning our “quitter energy” James tells us to delight in our trials because they build patience. He and Paul are speaking the same language when, as Paul says **“and not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”** With these statements, we see that there is value in the struggle that we so often want to bypass. God’s intention for us is that we grow strong in faith and steadfastness, but our desire for ourselves is too often to be comfortable. When we quit a hard task, we are, in essence, saying to the Lord, **“not Thy will, but Mine be done.”**

Temptation, then, is the ultimate test of the presence of “quitter energy” in our lives. Falling to temptation is the act of quitting an endurance challenge. When our flesh presses against our desires, our spirit has to press back. Scripture says that the flesh wars against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh (Galatians 5:17), but it does not tell us in every instance which side wins. What it does say, however, is **“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law”** (v. 18). **We have the choice to continue to contend, being led by the Spirit of God, or to “fulfill the lust of the flesh”** (v16).

Blessed beyond measure,

Mrs. Regina Kelly

Women’s Campus Co-Director



Our hearts are full following Bethel Colony of Mercy Women’s Campus 4th Annual Royal Tea held on Saturday, May 2nd, at Mountain Grove Church. It was a truly beautiful day overflowing with fellowship, laughter, and those special “good” tears that come from a shared purpose.

We were thrilled to see a packed house of close to 280 supporters, staff, alumni, and students. Mrs. Regina Kelly delivered a moving message, “As It Is In Heaven,” which reminded us all of the heart of Christ. Thanks to your incredible generosity, approximately **\$15,000** was given to further the ministry at the Women’s Campus! We are so deeply grateful for your continued love and support.

Here are a few photos from The Royal Tea to show you how much fun we had supporting and reuniting with graduates from our Women's Campus as well as with supporters, family, and friends.

We hope you will plan to be there next year for this annual event!

WOMEN'S CAMPUS 4th ANNUAL 2026 Royal Tea - "AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"

Sponsored by:

**THE BANQUET
SHOPPE
LENOIR, NC**





Another opportunity for you to support the ministry of Bethel Colony of Mercy:

FAIRWAYS TO FREEDOM

-Presented By-

October 23rd and 24th, 2026

Building on our Legacy, Shaping our Future

19th Annual Fundraiser and Golf Tournament



"Building the future and restoring the past"

WWW.STAMEYBUILDERS.COM

828.883.5821



For Golfer registration and Sponsorship opportunities, go to
www.bethelcolony.org/golf-tournament or call Travis Vernon at 828-
 754-3781 ext. 255



Associate Director/Pastor Zac Starnes

Honoring the Gift of Parents

As we move through this season, there are two meaningful days that invite us to pause and ponder. Mother's Day and Father's Day are more than holidays on the calendar. They are days set apart to honor, reflect, heal, and give thanks for the impact of parents and the parental figures in our lives. At Bethel Colony of Mercy, these days often carry deep and personal meaning. For some men and women, they bring joy and gratitude. For others, they stir emotions and memories of loss, hurt, or broken relationships. Wherever you find yourself, we believe that God meets you right where you are at with grace, compassion, and the power to restore.

Scripture teaches us in Exodus 20:12, ***"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."*** Honoring does not mean pretending everything was perfect or ignoring past wounds. Instead, it means recognizing the role our parents played in giving us life and expressing gratitude for what was good. For many students at Bethel, part of the healing journey includes learning what healthy honor looks like. That may be as simple as praying for a parent, writing a letter, or choosing forgiveness in the heart even when reconciliation seems impossible.

Not everyone had parents who reflected God's love. Some experienced neglect, abandonment, or deep hurt. These wounds are real, and they do not disappear just because a holiday arrives. Mother's Day and Father's Day can bring those emotions to the surface. But Scripture reminds us in Psalm 68:5 that God is ***"a father to the fatherless and a champion of widows."*** Where earthly parents may have failed, **God steps in as a perfect Father who is present, faithful, and full of compassion.** At Bethel Colony of Mercy, we have the opportunity and privilege to walk alongside both men and women as they bring these wounds into the light. Through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, discipleship, accountability, and Christ-centered community, healing begins. **Identity is no longer rooted in past pain but in the truth of who God says we are.**

One of the most powerful aspects of transformation is the opportunity to break generational cycles. Many who come to Bethel have experienced patterns of addiction, broken homes, and unhealthy family dynamics. But in Christ, that story can change. 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares, ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a***

new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!" This promise is for both men and women. We are not bound to repeat what we have seen, and we are invited to live differently.

Mother's Day and Father's Day become more than reminders of the past; they become markers of a new future. A future where generational cycles are broken, relationships are restored, and a new legacy is built on faith, integrity, and love. Along the journey, God often provides spiritual mothers and fathers from mentors, staff, and peers who reflect His love in tangible ways. **At Bethel Colony of Mercy, both campuses are filled with individuals who invest daily in the lives of others who are encouraging, correcting, and walking alongside them in truth and grace.** These relationships become a powerful part of the healing process. This season is a great time to thank those who have stood in the gap, who have listened, prayed, and pointed you back to Christ.

Both Mother's Day and Father's Day point us to the heart of God. His love is constant. His presence is steady. He does not abandon or fail. He is patient in our struggles and faithful in our growth. God invites us into a relationship with Him where we are not strangers, but as sons and daughters. Romans 8:15 reminds us that we have received ***"the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father!'"*** This is the foundation of our hope and identity.

As we recognize these special days, take time to reflect and ask some personal questions. Where can I express gratitude? Where do I need healing? What kind of legacy am I building moving forward? Whether your memories are joyful or painful, God is at work in your story. He restores what is broken and redeems what was lost. At Bethel Colony of Mercy, we are grateful to walk alongside both men and women as they grow into who God created them to be, leaders, parents, and faithful followers of Christ. **This season, may we honor well, heal deeply, and move forward with hope trusting that our Heavenly Father is still in the business of restoration.**

Pastor Zac Starnes
Associate Director



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: _____

Bethel Colony of Mercy is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. Financial information about this organization and a copy of it's license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (888)803-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. Any gift for which you've received a tangible benefit is not tax deductible.

BETHEL MERCH IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE at bethelcolony.org/shop

To schedule lawn care service and check prices, contact Michael Braun, **Lawncare Manager** 828-754-3781 opt.3 for Lawncare

Bethel Lawncare

Bethel's Lawncare 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 Lawncare 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.



*

Bethel Colony of Mercy, Inc.
 1675 Bethel Colony Road
 Lenoir, NC 28645
 828-754-3781
Breaking the chains of addiction

AUTO
 NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 LENOIR NC
 PERMIT NO 280

*

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*

.....

*



“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise.



In This Issue:
 Family Strengthens the Journey of Overcoming!
 Pastor Paul Pruitt
 Quitter Energy.....Mrs. Regina Kelly
 Royal Tea 2026
 Annual Fundraiser/Golf Tournament Info
 Honoring the Gift of Parents....Pastor Zac Starnes
 Prayer Requests