

Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

The Harvest Is Ready

Recently, I spent time in a church service that was an experience I will never forget. My friend's dad pastors a church in Terre Haute, Indiana, and I went to visit one Sunday. This church had a time when people could come to the altar and pray with an elder. I'm standing in the back corner, praising God, when I look up and see 10 or 15 young men at the altar, crying out to God for various reasons.

This moment has stuck with me ever since. I even started to notice that in most worship spaces I've been in recently, there are more Gen Z men than women. This seems rare to me, so I looked for some facts.

Barna Research published a study in April about Millennials and Gen Z coming to know Christ in masses. The article shared that in 2021, the number of Christ followers in the United States hit a record low of 54%. Now that number has climbed to 66% percent, with the biggest jump being in male Millennials and Gen Z.

In 2021, 45% of Gen Z men reported themselves as Christ followers; today, that number is 67%. Millennial men reported 53% in 2021, and today it is 71%.

Church, the harvest is ready. The question is, are we? Are we going to get out of our comfort zone and share the gospel? Are we prepared for a new demographic of people to enter our churches?

(Continued on next page)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:36-38

So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:17

When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:23-24

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20



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There are practical steps we can take today to be prepared to welcome younger generations into our churches. It is vital to recognize that this might take us out of our comfort zone and that is okay.

First, we have to be prepared to leave our pews and pulpits. Spreading the gospel usually doesn't happen within our churches. Rarely do we encounter people who have not already made a commitment to follow Jesus. Younger generations are no different, especially Gen Z. These generations were largely not raised in church, and they are finding God in non-traditional ways. In Acts 17, Paul preaches in synagogues to both Jews and "God-fearing Greeks." However, he also goes to the marketplace. He goes into town, where the people are, and shares the gospel there as well. We cannot expect people to hear the gospel when we won't take the gospel to them.

Second, we have to become an unanxious presence. Millennials and Gen Z are trademarked by their mental health. Gen Z is known as the Anxious Generation. The gospel we proclaim is one of peace. We serve a God who brings light into the darkness and peace to chaos. Our churches should reflect this. We must work to eliminate power struggles and let go of our need to control. These generations are spiritual; show them the Holy Spirit is alive in your church.

Third, do not be afraid of failure. This world is filled with perfectly crafted, designed and edited content so that we don't see imperfection. This is not natural. People of all ages are left wondering where they can find a genuine connection. Be intentional in highlighting imperfections and building true personal connections. Show your failure. I think you would be surprised by the response.

Truthfully, this all reminds me of the church in Acts. They met together regularly, shared in each other's burdens, and lived lives with genuine community. It's time that we get back to the way the church was designed to be. Let's work diligently to create spaces of genuine love and consideration.

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

"With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:36-47

Celebrating 25 Years

On Sunday, September 13, the Burmese Christian Fellowship of Fort Wayne celebrated their 25th anniversary! This service honored Senior Pastor, Rev. Saw Lincoln; Associate Pastor, Rev. Min Lwin; and Youth Pastor, Rev. Yuri. Celebrations included several choirs of all ages, and their oldest congregant, at 102, played the keyboard! People traveled from all over the United States and Myanmar to celebrate. The ABC-IN/KY Region wishes them a happy 25th anniversary and prays that they are blessed with another 25!



Young congregants sharing special music.



Left to right: Rev. Saw Lincoln, Rev. Peter Janzen (FBC Fort Wayne), Rev. Yuri, & Rev. Rusty Strickler (Associate Region Minister, ABC-IN/KY)

A choir of all ages celebrating during the service!



Urbana Mission Conference 2025

Urbana is a student-centered mission conference that seeks to inspire each emerging generation to respond to worldwide needs and God's invitation to serve. It is sponsored by InterVarsity, a Christian student organization that operates on college campuses worldwide. The Urbana Mission Conference takes place every three years at the very end of December. The event is designed to inform Christian students about global issues and missional living. It also encourages students to cultivate a vibrant spiritual life in community and to consider participating in missions.

This year, International Ministries (IM) plans to coordinate a group of youth and young adults, ages 17 - 26, from around the United States and Puerto Rico to attend Urbana. Urbana believes Gen Z is uniquely positioned to impact the world for Christ. They are also excited to support God's movement in their hearts and lives. International Ministries will cover a portion of each participant's expenses and facilitate meaningful connections within the group before, during, and after the conference.

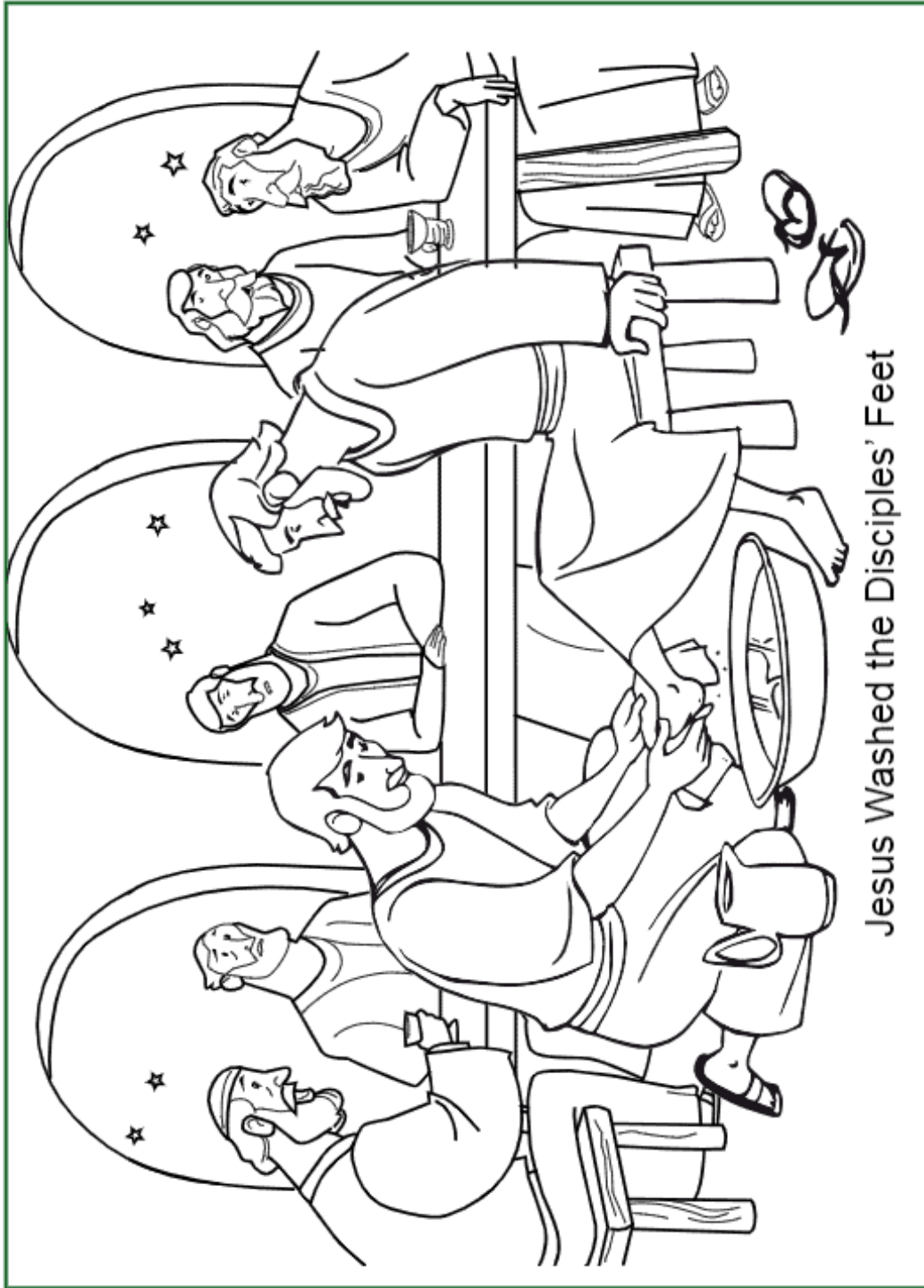
Use the link below to nominate someone to be part of the Urbana Mission Conference!

This year's conference will be hosted in Phoenix, Arizona, and begins on December 28, 2025, and lasts through December 31, 2025. Speakers will include Jennie Allen, Dr. Nicole Martin, Jon Tyson, Dr. Ed Stetzer, Lisa Pak, Sarah Breuel, Dr. Anne Zaki, Jon Hietbrink, Mark Matlock, and Andy Kim.

We can't wait to see the fruit of this conference!



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Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

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2025

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 	14	15 	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

October 2 at 11:30 AM: Bethel Association Pastors Gathering at Mission BBQ in Clarksville
 October 6 at 9:00 AM; Sand Creek Association Pastors Gathering at Hopewell Baptist Church
 October 6 at 6:00 PM: Northeast Central Pastors and Spouse Gathering at Culver's in Anderson
 October 6-16 (various times & locations): American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) Fall Conferences
 October 7 at 7:00 PM: Youth Leader Zoom
 October 8 at 10:00 AM: ABC-IN/KY Region Staff Meeting via Zoom
 October 9 at 10:00 AM: Tri-County and Union Associations Pastor Gathering at First Baptist Church of Bloomfield
 October 9 at 12:00 PM: Judson Association Pastors Gathering at Olive Garden in Kokomo
 October 9 at 7:00 PM: Long Run Association Pastors Gathering at Mo's Steakhouse in Vevay
 October 11 at 9:00 AM: ABWM Women's Day at Edna Martin Christian Center
 October 13 at 10:00 AM: Laughery Association Pastors Meeting at Versailles Baptist Church
 October 13 at 1:00 PM: Coffee Creek Association Pastors Gathering at Denny's in Scottsburg
 October 14 at 10:00 AM: Pastors and Staff Zoom Call discussing Creativity and Preaching
 October 15 at 12:00 PM: Logansport Pastors Gathering at Silver Lake Family Restaurant in Logansport
 October 20 - 23: Regionwide Mission Trip to Hazard, KY, led by Coffee Creek Association
 October 22 at 12:00 PM: North Pastors Lunch at Vinatelli's in Markle
 October 23 at 8:30 AM: Madison Association Pastors Gathering at Hinkle's Sandwich Shop in Madison
 October 28 at 10:00 AM: Monticello and Tippecanoe Pastors Gathering - Location TBD
 October 30 at 2:30 PM: Martinsville Area Pastors Gathering at First Baptist Church of Bedford



Thank You to Our Supporters

We are grateful to these sister churches who have given to the Region Offering in the month of August to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note that fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Avoca Missionary Baptist Church
Crooked Creek Baptist Church
Dabney Baptist Church
Deer Creek Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Anderson
First Baptist Church of Bedford
First Baptist Church of Bicknell
First Baptist Church of Camden
First Baptist Church of Columbus
First Baptist Church of Decatur
First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne
First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville
First Baptist Church of Jeffersontown
First Baptist Church of Madison
First Baptist Church of Milan
First Baptist Church of Monticello
First Baptist Church of Petersburg
First Baptist Church of Peru
First Baptist Church of Plainfield
First Baptist Church of Rochester
First Baptist Church of Warren

Greater Hope Christian Church
Greencastle First Baptist Church
Hayden Baptist Church
Hope First Baptist Church
Imani Baptist Temple
Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church, Scottsburg
Lebanon Baptist Church
Judson Baptist Church, Kokomo
Mill Creek Baptist Church
Muncie First Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Oakdale Baptist Church
Patriot Baptist Church
Quincy Baptist Church
Tampico Baptist Church
Tell City First Baptist Church
Versailles Baptist Church
Waldron Baptist Church
Zotung Christian Church