

SHILOH
Christian Children's Ranch

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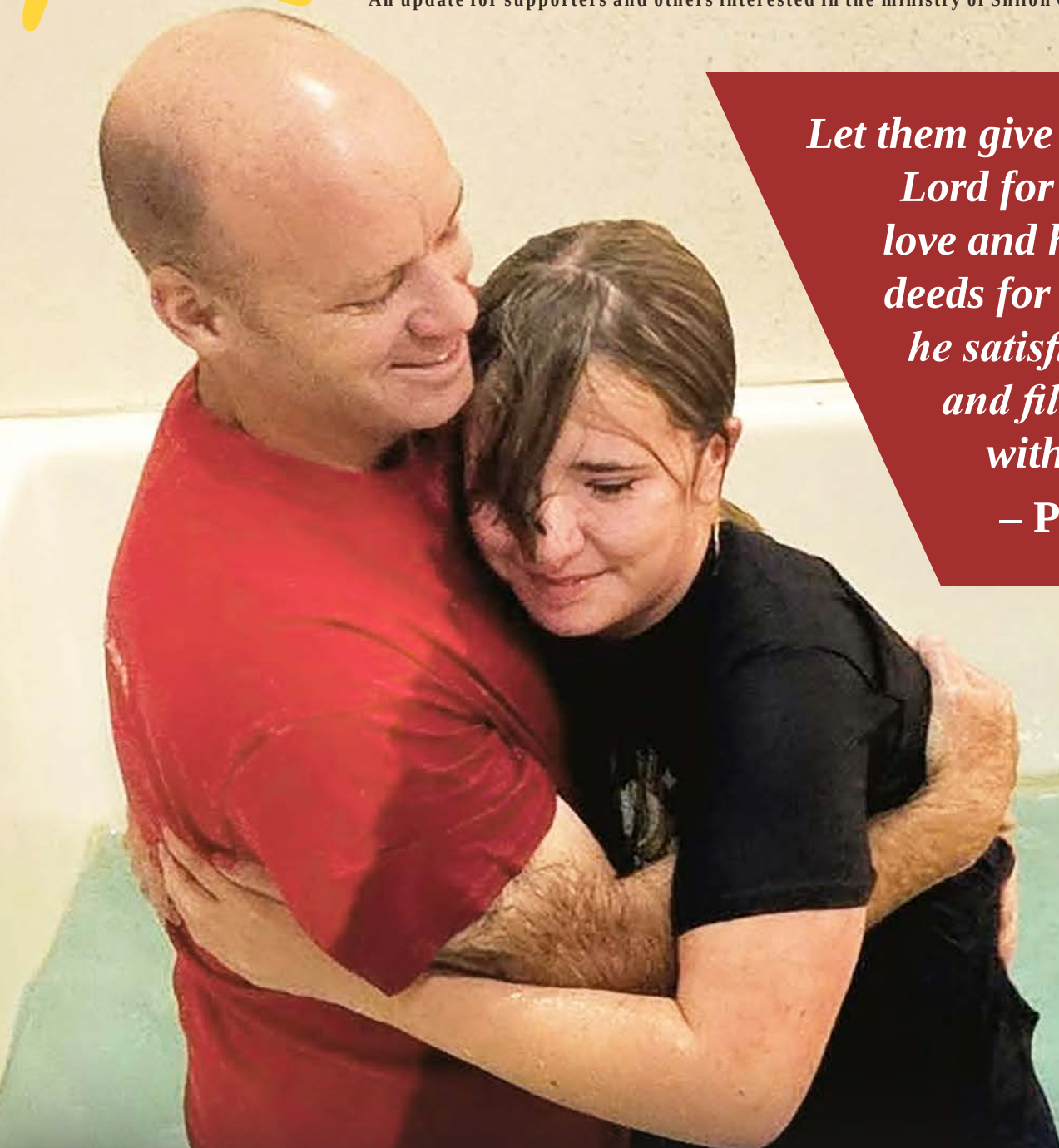
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Saving Children's Lives in Christian Homes

An update for supporters and others interested in the ministry of Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch.

*Let them give thanks to the
Lord for his unfailing
love and his wonderful
deeds for mankind, for
he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry
with good things.
— Psalm 107:8-9*



So Thankful!



Mark Adkison
Executive Director

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SHILOHRANCH.ORG

Ashley 2.0

This Was the Best Decision I Have Ever Made in My Life

Have you ever felt you wanted to do something, but you knew you needed to wait to do it so you honor your family or parent's wishes? I came to Shiloh when I was 12 years old. By the time I was 15, God put the urge in my heart to get baptized.

Whenever I felt the urge to do so, I talked to my parents here at Shiloh about it and what it really meant.

After this talk, I quickly found that I needed to really dig into scripture and keep learning and praying about baptism. A year went by and I really started studying scripture and praying through this big decision.

As I kept praying through this decision, I eventually got to a point where I felt I was fully ready. I went again to my parents at Shiloh and we talked through it and what needs to happen to get baptized. One of the things I needed to do was talk to my parents back home and get their permission. Then I asked my parents back home and they told me that I had gotten baptized when I was five years old, so I shouldn't need to get rebaptized. I told them that one of the reasons I was I wanted a baptism I could remember.

But I respected that decision and kept praying and digging through the scriptures to continue learning about what it truly meant to get baptized. Fast forward to after I signed out of Shiloh and moved out for college, I was on a call with my Mom back home, and I asked her about getting baptized again, and she told me that if this was something that I would like to do, she was okay with it and that she would like to be a part of it, so I told her I would get her a video of it. After that, I kind of

thought through it a couple more weeks and prayed through this decision some more. I went home to hang out with my Shiloh family and asked my Dad here to baptize me at church on that Sunday, September 28th. This was the best decision I have ever made in my life.

One thing I have learned so far in college is that it is important to stay in the Word and in fellow-



Ashley



ship with other Christian people to build more in faith. When I moved out of Shiloh to Moberly Area Community College in Moberly, Missouri, I went to Timberlake Christian Church the first Sunday I was on campus. That day I found a couple of adults to connect with. I learned that it is important to make connections and to talk to different people and introduce yourself to try to make connections. On October 5th, I placed my student membership at Timberlake Christian Church. I also auditioned for the worship team there. I also am part of

a group called Cord of Three, a multi-generational women's prayer group.

Thank you for making Shiloh such an amazing place and supporting us so well. I also want to say a resounding "Thank You" to all the donors and supporters who have given their time and effort to help Shiloh be the amazing place that it is. We truly would not have all the things we have if we didn't have donors and supporters like you.

THANK YOU!!!! ■

Ashley Sievers

COHNS' COMMUNICATION

Our Family Has a Moving Date!

All Our Kids Are Excited About Their New Home

As we begin to close out our year, we are filled beyond belief with the abundance of blessings that God has faithfully placed in our lives. Among such gifts we have our bountiful Savior, our family, our health, our ministry and you.

This fall our family has kept busy with school, football, youth group, Shiloh Open House and a few great work groups that have visited along the way. We currently have 8 children in our home ranging in age between 11-17. Jacob is our oldest and attends our on-site school. We have seen a lot of growth in Jacob as he prepares to become an adult. Kierslynn is a sophomore, is in the school play, *Wizard of Oz*, and is enjoying choir this year. Clara is a sophomore as well and loves Bible study. Zyarie is a freshman this year and tackled his first year in football. He enjoyed the team and is now looking forward to basketball. Naomi is an eighth grader and has had a great start to the school year in all her classes. Zeke is our other 8th grader, and he



Jeremy & Ashley Cohn

moving date! The week of Thanksgiving, we will be moving to the newly built C6 house that is located on the east side of the ranch, by the barn area. All our kids are excited about their new home. Several of the kids have picked out decorations for their new bedrooms and they are eager to get started.

In all the added hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we would like to take a moment to thank each of you for seeing our ministry through this year. Your partnership makes our dedication possible. Your faithful prayers, financial support and much needed encouragement are greatly appreciated every day. When harder days arise, we gather much comfort and strength knowing that we have people earnestly seeking the Lord on our behalf. Some ways to pray for us over the next few months are for a smooth move into our new

In all the added hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we would like to take a moment to thank each of you for seeing our ministry through this year.

home, and holiday emotions, as holidays tend to bring out a lot of emotions for our kids and families. We hope you and your families have a very blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year! ■

In Him,

Jeremy, Ashley & Cohn Crew



transferred from our on-site school to our public school. His transition has gone very well, and he likes all the social aspects. Kate is in 7th grade this year, has continued at our on-site school and is having a great school year so far. Lastly, Edith is in 6th grade and is liking the change of pace that middle school brings.

Our family has a

Our Home is as Full as Ever

Life is Full, Sometimes Messy, and Always a Gift

Dear Friends and Family,

As the seasons change and the days grow cooler, we're reminded once again of God's goodness and faithfulness in every stage of life. Our home is as full as ever—with energy, laughter, and more than a few pairs of muddy shoes! We wanted to take a moment to share how each of the kids is doing and invite you to pray alongside us as they grow into the people God has created them to be.



Todd & Misty Kolars

Brooklynn is a senior in high school this year and is leading with grace as a cheerleader and a role model to her younger siblings. With graduation quickly approaching, she's prayerfully considering her college options and seeking God's direction for her future. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes big decisions and prepares for this next chapter of life.

Ethan is a junior and continues to enjoy football season. He's also passionate about deer hunting and archery. He has hopes of finding a job after the football season. We're praying he continues to grow in discipline and character both on and off the field.

Samentha is in 10th grade and dominates cross country. We are excited to see her on the podium at state this year! She's been learning what it means to persevere—both physically and spiritually—and we're so proud of her quiet strength. Pray that she would find encouragement in her faith as she pushes through each race and season of growth.

Wyatt is our creative thinker. He spends his time drawing, writing stories, and teaching himself piano—his imagination seems to have no end. It's a joy to see how God is

shaping him into a thoughtful and expressive young man. Pray that he uses his talents for God's glory.

Devin is full of energy and heart. He's currently playing football and practicing archery. He got his first deer of the hunting season but unfortunately, he was unable to track it down so he's patiently waiting for the opportunity to get another. He's always ready for a new adventure. Please pray that he grows in confidence and learns to lead by example among his peers.

Kendall brings fun wherever he goes. He loves riding his bike, playing with toy cars, and staying active. His playful spirit reminds us daily to enjoy the simple things. Pray that his joy would be contagious and his heart rooted in Christ.

Larry is our reader and puzzle-solver—always curious and eager to learn. Whether it's diving into a book or figuring out a new challenge, he's constantly growing. Please pray for continued wisdom and a strong sense of purpose as he learns more about the world.

Julianna is bursting with imagination and "leadership skills". Whether she's organizing her siblings or coming up with her next business idea, she's always on the move and always has words to say! We're excited to see how God uses her entrepreneurial spirit. Pray that she grows in humility and learns to lead with love.

We are so thankful for your love, encouragement, and prayers over our family. Life is full, sometimes messy, and always a gift. As we head into this new season, we ask for continued prayer for unity, strength, and a home centered on Christ. As stated above, God is always good and always faithful. We see that every day. You have our prayers for your home churches and individual ministries. Thank you again for all your prayers and support for what we do at Shiloh. ■



*Gratefully,
The Kolars Family*

A Gentle Reminder of Change and Renewal

Our Greatest Prayer is That The Holy Spirit Will Work on Each of Their Hearts

The cool breeze of fall is in the air—a gentle reminder of change and renewal. While we may never have all the answers for the pain our children have faced, at Shiloh, they are given something powerful: a fresh start. A place to heal, grow, and be surrounded by care and hope. This environment of healing and hope is only available by the gracious provision of our Heavenly Father working through all of you who support the ministry of Shiloh. Through your prayers, support, donations, love, and words of encouragements, we are able to do what we do here! As we continue to disciple and guide our children through everyday life, our greatest prayer is that the Holy Spirit will work on each of their hearts, open their eyes to the truth of the Gospel, and that their souls would be saved.

As we enter a season focused on thanksgiving, we are thankful to have had a good start to the school year. Xavier, Reese, Riley, Evie, and Ronnie are all attending school on-site. We are grateful for the Penfields, Mrs. Mason, Mr. Jones, and Mrs. Gardner and their willingness to meet

have settled back into homeschool life and are especially enjoying topics of world geography, human anatomy, astronomy, and sign language.

As we enjoy the cooler weather of a new season, we are grateful for summertime labor turning into a bountiful

harvest of six deer since the start of hunting season. Brian and the kids have worked many hours in the spring and summer to prepare the land – taking opportunity to learn about conservation, reaping and sowing, and working hard to prepare for the future. That hard work has paid off in exciting hunting adventures and freezers getting filled.

Reflecting over the busy summer months, we've enjoyed family visits, a trip to the trampoline park, the Shiloh Picnic and Pool Party, Open House, back to school shopping, a trip to our hometown, fishing and frog-gigging expeditions, football games, and more. We are looking forward to



Brian & Hannah Ellermets

the educational needs of our children through a Biblical worldview and to maintain consistency in behavioral and relational expectations. Hunter, Hope, Emmalee, and Paxton

***We are looking forward to making
many more memories with our kiddos
throughout the upcoming holiday season!***

making many more memories with our kiddos throughout the upcoming holiday season!

As we wrap up our fall update, we are grateful that God does not leave us on our own. "When He purposes to build, He seeks for a ruin. When He plans to plant a garden, He starts in the desert." This quote from Patricia St. John reminds us that God will take our brokenness and turn it into something beautiful for His glory. ■

*To the Glory of God Alone,
Brian and Hannah Ellermets*

We Rely on God

We seek God's providence for resources to continue our ministry into the future.



Mark Adkison

Every once in a while, there is statement or quote that makes a huge impact on my heart and mind. Like this one...

"The root choice is to trust at all times that God is with you and will give you what you most need." Henri Nouwen wrote this in his last book, *The Inner Voice of Love*.

It was one of those statements that I put on my desk wall where I can see it for those "moments". And do I need it in front of me! For me, those "moments" happen in my Shiloh ministry life. Likewise, those moments happen for all of our Shiloh Family.

The number of complex and difficult choices, decisions, and needs that are required on a daily basis at Shiloh are anything but straight forward or simple! How we navigate those challenges and choices are very important for the well-being of our children, homeparents, and for the ministry.

For our Shiloh Family to trust Him to be there and to know that He will give us what we most need is foundational. We rely on God when we are seeking how to best deal with a child. We pray for direction when we are being called by God to grow and reach more children. We seek God's providence for resources to continue our ministry into the

future. We ask for the wisdom and energy to carry out each of our roles and responsibilities we are called to complete. Our trust in God is a choice we make daily.

As a supporter of Shiloh, you must have that same quote on your wall! You make the same choice to trust God that He

The root choice is to always trust God, know that He is there for us each step of the way, and He will supply what we need the most.

will supply. And we trust you to be there for us. You have and are continuing to supply Shiloh with the prayers and resources we need the most. Your love and commitment to our Shiloh children is such an example for others. Thank you so much!

Henri Nouwen is correct. The root choice is to always trust God, know that He is there for us each step of the way, and He will supply what we need the most.

Please know how much we appreciate your love for us!

Thanks for always being there for us as we serve together to love God and our children! ■

In Christ's Love,
Mark



Legacy Gift

Do you want to make a difference for the Kingdom of God even after you pass on from this life? One powerful way you can accomplish this would be through a planned gift to Shiloh. There are many ways to make a planned gift, so we recommend that you discuss it with your financial planner to see what solution is best for you. If there's any way we can assist you, please call us at phone number (573) 588-2191.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Alvord, Donald & Virginia

Bill & Julie Alvord

Barrett, Beverly

Robert Barrett

Bartison, Charlie

Kendall & Heather Noe

Beeson, Elizabeth

Wayne Beeson

Bird, Yvonne Crosby

Ann Robinson

Brewer, William D.

Frances Brewer

Bruner, Vera

Donald Bruner

Cantrell, Jerry

James O'Donnell

Funeral Home

Cooper, Alice

Karen Borchers

Dellenbach, Glenna

William & Judith Clegg

Dewitt, Claude & Judith

Richard & Dolores

Stayton

Dixon, Irene

Kate Decker

Dowell, Marcia

Sue Williams

Fagen, Charlotte

Walter Fagen

Garrison, Dixie

Mary Nauman

Harpster, Beulah

Mrs. Dolores Harpster

Hoehne, John

Lowell & Maria Schachtsiek

Hoehne, Paul

Linda Hoehne

Ingram, Nancy

Randy & Sharon Dunfee

Johnston, Allen

Woodland Hills Church

of Christ

Keck, Mildred

Marilyn Steltenpohl

Kirby, Brian

Wayne & Sharolyn Kirby

Leake, Ronnie

Parkview Christian Church

of Centralia MO

Littleton, Roger Thomas

Patricia Littleton

Masten, Ruth

Arthur Masten

McClain, Lisa

Patrick & Karen Powlen

McCown, Eugene

Nancy McCown

Meissen, Joe

Lavon & Dawn Moore

Miller, Cody Ray

Daniel & Lynee Miller

Nauman, Bernice

Mary Nauman

Nicholson, Debbie (Willis)

Mark & Sherry Russell

Paten, William "Bill"

Kevin & Denice Blew

Redman, Virgie M.

Melinda O'Bryan

Shartz, Rickey

George & Christy

Grimstad

Stokes, Pam

Kent Stokes

Weldy, Stella

Timothy & Debra Leakey

West, Yvonne

Joyce Herriman

Westhoff, Donna

Curtis Farr

Daniel & Linda Schmitz

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Laura Griffen.....	Ellen Wilson
Lucas Brooks, <i>Graduate of the US Air Force</i>	Karen Borchers
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We Blinked, and Now Summer is Wrapping Up

School Activities are Taking Off

It is finally feeling like fall, but change has been happening around our house for the last few months.

Abigail, Titus, and Ashley are all off to college, and doing well navigating the new freedoms and responsibilities adulthood is bringing them.

Heaven is rocking her senior year. She had a sousaphone solo in the marching band show, and she did amazing. She is working at the local nursing home in dietary and seems to be enjoying getting to know the residents. She is also working on being Miss Gulch in this year's musical, the *Wizard of Oz*. She is busy but is doing well handling the pressure.

Grace is embracing being a junior this year. She has stepped up at home, in cheerleading, and at work, which is awesome to see. She is also in the musical. In band this year she was the drum major and did a great job with the two movements she conducted. She is rocking her schoolwork and is also being a great taxi service for us.

Mirlanda has made some big strides in connecting with us, and it is such a blessing to have her talking, laughing, and being involved. She helps with a special needs kiddo at our after-school program on Wednesdays, and does a great job of being both kind and maintaining boundaries for him. She also has received the "Christian Character" and "Neatness" awards at SCS. The Supervisors have told us of several times she was a good leader and friend. It is fun to see them bloom, once they make peace with where they are planted.

Hunter is all sports, except when he hits the stage. Then he's all goofiness. Hunter was plagued by injuries this football season but is healed up and ready to hit the hardwood for basketball. He is also in the musical and has several roles. We can't wait to see his theatrical debut. More than that Hunter has stepped into the oldest male role in our home well. He is a dependable helper and is working to set a positive tone for the young men on site.

Ezra ran Cross Country this year and did well. He medaled in several meets. More than medaling it was fun to listen to him ask, research, and talk about how he could reach goals he was seeking. He is also gearing up for the fast and furious middle school basketball season. Ezra will also be gracing the stage in this year's musical as many of the extra fun characters in the *Wizard of Oz*. He continues to be a quiet friend and influence both on site and at school.

Izzy came to our home in August. She is settling in and has done pretty well. She enjoys playing with the dog or board games. She also likes to get the other kids to ride the tandem bike with her. She can be quiet, but we're hoping she begins

to come out of her shell soon. She has made some friends at school and youth group.

Luke is enjoying his last year of Tri-County. He continues to take piano lessons and is learning lots. He continues to be a leader

at church and school. He is enjoying being one of the older kids at TCCS. It is hard to believe our baby is almost done at TCCS. We've had a kiddo there for the last 20 years.

Trey is our other new addition. Trey has struggled from early on. He has a very defiant nature, and so we continue to be consistent and loving, while maintaining rules, boundaries, and expectations. The other kids have dealt with the disruptions well, but for the kids who have made this home they get frustrated when new kids make life difficult or talk bad about us or Shiloh. However, they learn life lessons on how to let the things people say roll off your back, and how to deal with difficult people.

Kirk stays busy with maintenance on site. There are several small projects that have gotten ignored during the building of the new houses, but thankfully we have had a couple fall groups that have helped get those checked off the list. He's also had a lot of bonding time with Trey on days when school is not an option for Trey.

I try to keep all the schedules straight, and make sure everyone gets supper wherever they land for the evening. Fall usually means packing supper for kids going from sports to musical practice, as well as a few band competition meals, and of course a cast party and snacks. I also keep busy with the animals. We have 170 butcher chickens we are going to dress them in early November. We are thankful for Mike and Ruth Smith who come and help us each fall. They are amazing, and we appreciate them so much.

We couldn't do what we do without you. Your prayers carry us through. Your financial support makes it possible for kids to be kids, and us to be available at any time. Most of all the kids learning that there is an army of people who love, pray, and care about them, because that's what Jesus said to do, is a priceless example of the Gospel in action.

Thank you! ■



Dennae & Kirk Moore

*Blessings,
The Moores*

Christ Helps Us Gain Clarity

We Have Been Actively Involved in Crossroads Christian Church in Macon

As School at South Shelby and Shiloh Christian School are in full swing, metaphorically of course, we are grateful that no children are presently swinging (That is just a joke). Our primary goal remains: to glorify God through diligent study of His Word (We have completed Nehemiah, James, Philemon, and Jude). We walk confidently in our faith, firmly believing in the Word of God and its promises. We rely on the boundless grace of God, engaging in multiple obstacle courses daily, sometimes successfully, sometimes not so. We joyfully celebrate Jesus Christ and His impact through us.

We have been actively involved in Crossroads Christian Church in Macon and have attended their “life group,” which is their name for small groups held at the Head Pastor’s house, we are able to connect with like minded Christian’s and walk along side them as we all do life, together.

We eagerly anticipate continuing this journey of growth, obedience to the Lord, and love for our children.

Our daily routine has been filled with homework, snack times, numerous water breaks, and an uneven ratio of bathroom breaks—still trying to figure that one out.

Consistently filtering our discussions through the lens of our Bibles and Jesus Christ helps us gain clarity in our actions and decisions. Guiding our children towards Godly ministry and fostering a personal relationship with Jesus through faith has been a rewarding experience. Baptism has been a topic of much discussion lately, and we believe it is a testament

to the Holy Spirit’s work. Tassanie, who is 15, was baptized on August 24. Aj, who is 11, is talking about getting baptized in November. We will have his legal guardians join us, as



Kam & Mickie Fitzgerald

they have a great relationship and we strive to maintain that. Charlie, 12, we are still praying studying and working through his faith. Luna, she is 8, has told us she was baptized when she was younger, she usually has pretty good questions when we are working through our devotions. Kynlee, she’s 12 now, her birthday was 10/10 was baptized on November 3rd, 2024.

We were blessed to travel east to the Indianapolis area to visit Dover Christian Church. They are a supporting church of Shiloh and

come for workgroup in the summer. During their week-long visit, the pastors, Shawn and Matt, had bonded with Kam and some of their youth. Shawn, Matt, and Kam continued communicating throughout the summer and into the new school year when the opportunity arose to visit them again. We were warmly welcomed with open arms by what felt like an extended family. Much anticipation is building for the next visit to see them.



As the season begins to change outside our home, We eagerly anticipate continuing this journey of growth, obedience to the Lord, and love for our children. ■

*In HIS righteousness,
The Fitzgerald Family*

Find us on 

JIM VAN SCHYNDEL LEGACY

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch has had the honor and privilege of the leadership and servant heart of Trustee Jim Van Schyndel. Jim is retiring and stepping down from his trustee board duties after 21 years of dedicated service to God and Shiloh!

Jim has been a strong and compassionate leader by advocating educational and counseling support for our Shiloh children. A former teacher and counselor, Jim brought that experience into his leadership as a key component of our Shiloh trustee board where he assisted in the vision, direction, and growth of our ministry.

Trustee Board Member Jim Van Schyndel's 21 years of service to our Shiloh Family will leave a legacy of commitment and integrity.

Our entire Shiloh Family is very grateful to Jim for his 21 years

of time, love, and support for our Shiloh children, homeparents, and his fellow trustee board members.

Please join us by wishing him blessings and gratitude for his love and passion for children.

Thank you, Jim, for your dedication and pursuit of sharing Jesus with our Shiloh children through your great example of being a Godly man and leader.

In Christ's love,

Mark Adkison

Executive Director

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

PENFIELD PROGRESS

Life Has Not Slowed Down for Us

School Also Involves a Lot of Our Schedule



Ken & Beth Penfield

Life has not slowed down for us as we've gotten older! Though there may not be kids in our home 24/7, our lives still center around caring for Shiloh kiddos and their families. As relief parents, we care for children in our home often so our Shiloh families can

take a well-deserved break...whether it's time for a trip/time together with their biological kiddos ...date night with each other.....time to do a project without extra "helpers/entertainment" around....ability to go to small group and have some adult time.....or just time to catch their breath. We've been on both sides of the role now and it's made me even more appreciative of those who were relief parents for us for so many years...(thank you to all of you who have filled that role for us and for so many! We did and continue to appreciate you and the love you poured into our kiddos!!! Praying we can do the role justice as well as you did!)

School also involves a lot of our schedule as our school on site demands a lot of time behind the scenes, in the classroom, overseeing curriculum and planning, etc. Though at times it may feel like a student is stuck in his/her thinking and not progressing as we'd hoped....we know it's not over yet! Each day is a new day and it's such a joy when that "A..HA!!!!" moment happens....and they "get

it!!!" Providing opportunities for them to grow academic-wise/emotional-wise/spiritual-wise gives us the drive to keep going as He leads.

We also have had several opportunities to go out and represent Shiloh at various churches and this fall, at the ICOM Missionary Convention. Love meeting new people and sharing how God is at work here.....rekindling friendships with those we know/served with us in years past...went to Bible college with....a wonderful experience we've always enjoyed and are looking forward to!

We've been on both sides of the role now

This week the geese landed in the camp pond across from our home, noisily proclaiming "We're back!!!" And today, the frost warnings reminds us of the change of season coming! (Sorry kids...no more trips to swim in the pond for a while!!!!) Got my crockpot loaded with chili tonight and our home full of pumpkin decorations galore.....ready for whatever this season of life brings....living with Philippians 1:6 inside our hearts..... *"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*no matter what season of life we're in, we're yours, Lord! ■

In His service,

Ken & Beth Penfield

Reflecting On All The Joy, Milestones, And Memories

Our Days Are Full And We Couldn't Be More Thankful!

Dear Friends and Supporters,
As the crisp fall air settles in and the trees burst into color, we're reflecting on all the joy, milestones, and memories these past few months have brought. From back-to-school rhythms to fall adventures, our days have been full—and we couldn't be more thankful for your prayerful support alongside us in this journey.

Let's start with Harvey, who is so excited after saving up enough money from his chores to buy his very own Power Wheels Jeep! Watching him set a goal and reach it was a beautiful moment. He continues to grow in so many ways—he's learning to read and gaining confidence with every word. One of his favorite things still is biking with the whole family, cruising through trails and hitting the little jumps with super speed!

Gibson is chatting up a storm these days—he's forming sentences and constantly surprising us with what he understands and says. He absolutely loves when older kids are here on their time off to play and read him books, his favorite right now is Splat the Cat and Dora the Explorer. He's also zipping around on his balance bike, though we're pretty sure it's almost time for an upgrade—he's growing fast!

Baylor is hitting all the milestones in rapid-fire style! He's now eagerly eating solids, giggling through after meal sink baths, and recently made some big leaps from sitting up, to crawling, and now standing! He watches his big brothers with anticipation of running with them soon, he is always smiling and soaking in their every move.



As a family, we've been learning something entirely new and fascinating: beekeeping! Shiloh's bees have become our newest adventure; we are starting to peruse YouTube videos and learn how to best care for them. It's a daunting, but exciting new experience we're grateful to share together.

We were able to get away for a quick five-day trip to Arkansas early in October. Ryan has always wanted to take the kids to ride the trails in Bentonville, its essentially the "Disneyland of Mountain Biking"! Harvey was able to ride several of the green trails

by himself, and Gibson and Baylor got to ride shotgun on Ryan's bike and in the bike trailer behind Kimber's bike. It was a blast and we can't wait to go back. Ryan and Kevin are already looking to see if there are any churches we can connect with to share about Shiloh's ministry next time we are down there.



Ryan & Kimber Stark

Many of you who have read our previous updates know about our mission of the month. September was Gobena Coffee and Lifesong for Orphans, we were able to take the Cohn kids to Gridley, IL to visit Kyle and Katrina at the coffee roastery and the headquarters for Lifesong. It was a fun two day trip and the kids were able to see a more tangible side of our mission of the month. (Kyle introduced Ryan to Kimber 14 years ago!) October is Pioneer Bible and we got to do a zoom call with a couple who served in West Africa and now serve in France!

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our recent Open House event in September. It was such a joy to show you around the ranch, and to share what your support makes possible. Seeing familiar faces and connecting with new ones is always a treat for us. Seeing our supporters come on site and connect with the kids brings our hearts much joy.

This year has also sparked a love of bugs—yes, you read that right! The boys are fully immersed in a world of caterpillars, spiders, and flies. Oh my! With the cooler weather, we see new ones daily! We've been catching them, creating little habitats, and feeding them other insects. It's fascinating, wild, and educational fun!

Ryan continues to pour into the kids during PE class, especially through teaching soccer skills that build both coordination and confidence. Meanwhile, Kimber has been teaching electives—most recently on how to make a bed properly (a valuable life skill!)

Thank you for your prayers, encouraging words, and your financial partnership. Your support is a vital part of our story, and we're truly grateful.

*Grace and Peace,
The Starks*



*To Give
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RSVP

Répondez, S'il Vous Plaît," or "Respond, if you please."

Thanksgiving and Christmas bring invitations to parties and gatherings, sometimes with an RSVP. Many of you know it's French for "Répondez, S'il Vous Plaît," or "Respond, if you please." But the Lord showed me a new definition.

Seeking the Lord's guidance on expanding Shiloh's outreach, I gently, yet clearly received: "Don't worry about it." The awkwardly defensive reply was that I don't worry, I'm being "aware, alert, and attentive." Over the next few days, God clarified that all He wants from me is:

Be Available, Be Obedient, Be Grateful.

"How can that make me productive?" I countered. "We have dozens of kids to provide for." The Holy Spirit led me to John 15:4-5, "Abide in Me, and I in you..." Inspired, I watched a time-lapse video of a grapevine growing, from a small sprout to the harvest. This mirrored my own spiritual journey:

Days 1-75: Available. The sprout quietly stays in the soil and begins to grow.

Days 79-90: Obedient. Purposeful pruning of glorious green leaves seems brutal.

Days 91-99: Grateful. Joyful branches extend Heaven-ward with new leaves.

Days 171-173: (More pain.) The Vinedresser performs more drastic pruning. Protesting verbally to the video, and to God, I asked, "Why more suffering?" The message I received was simple: The Vinedresser knows best. "Child, you only have control over those three elements: Be Available, Be Obedient, Be Grateful."

Days 174-201: Productivity. Tiny orbs appear, resembling grapes.

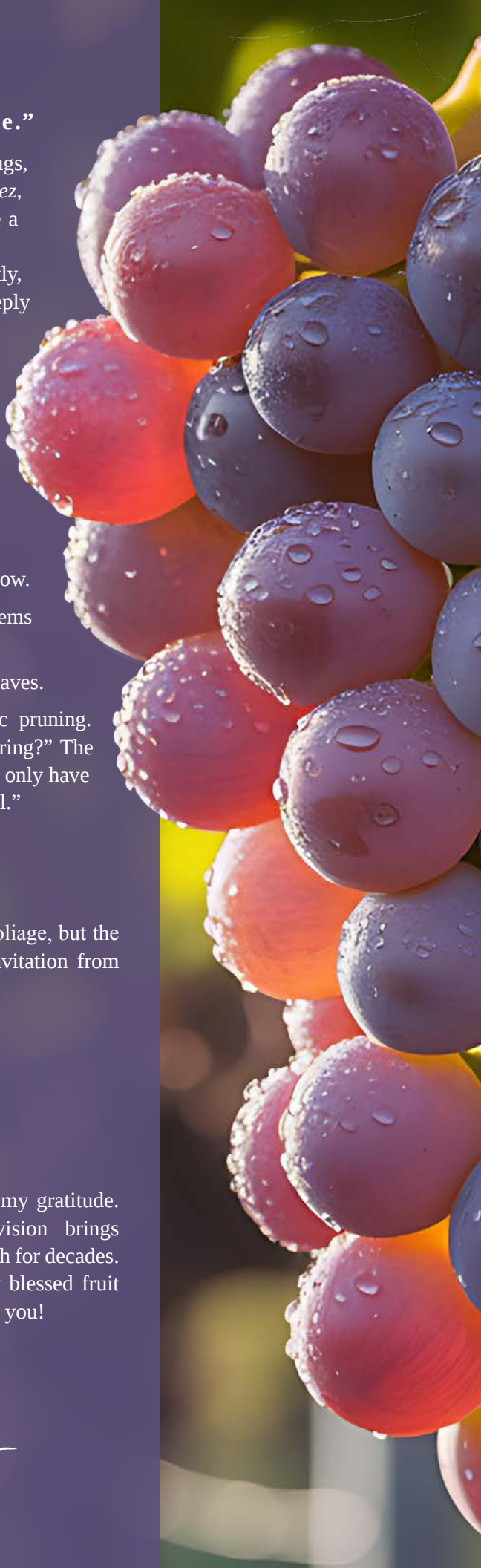
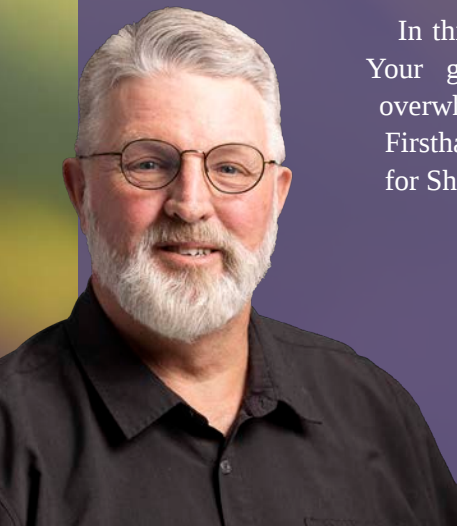
Days 223-240: Fruit. Mature, robust grapes now fill the branches.

We humans may sometimes feel we are flourishing due to vibrant foliage, but the Vinedresser measures productivity by the fruit, not the leaves. The invitation from Christ includes an RSVP, but with higher meaning:

Remain in Christ
Submit to Guidance
Vocalize Gratitude
Produce Fruit

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am vocalizing my gratitude. Your generous partnership in prayer and provision brings overwhelming results, and I have witnessed that truth for decades. Firsthand. Your Partnership has borne abundantly blessed fruit for Shiloh this year. I am so grateful to God and to you!

RSVP,





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our website

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