

# It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year

...It really is! The Holidays can be hard, but there is something about coming together as children of God and having such joy in all our wonderful traditions. We are so blessed to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus like any family would. Just look how happy our kids are! We hope you had a Merry Christmas too. God bless you!



Visit our Facebook page for lots of great pictures.  
"Like us" and get daily updates!

A publication of the Oblong Children's Christian Home  
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## THE BUILDER

HELP to children.  
HOPE to families.  
HEALING through Christ.

Winter 2021



# THE BUILDER

## We Love Our Houseparents



Without our Houseparents we couldn't do anything for our children. Let's get to know....

### Bill Greenwood

**Favorite Movie?** Having grown up in the era of "Smokey & the Bandit," "The Dukes of Hazard," & "Mad Max," my favorite movies are usually about fast cars or motorcycles. However, my absolute favorite is "The Ultimate Gift" about an entitled young man coming to terms with real life after his grandfather's death. I highly recommend this movie, but you will "get something in your eye" if you watch it.

**Did you know you were called to childcare ministry?** I've been a preaching minister about all of my adult life, so I definitely know I was called to minister. The childcare part just came in recent years. While I can't specifically point to an exact moment, God's calling is my motivation to remain committed to my ministry as a houseparent.

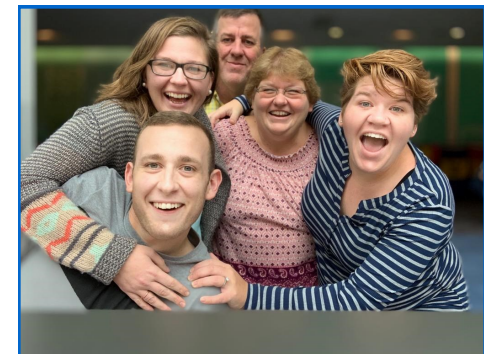
**What's it like being a houseparent?** Houseparenting is the toughest job I have ever done. Get used to hearing your name called hundreds of times a day. Be shocked by nothing you hear. But also be prepared to laugh a lot! In fact, sitting around the table at supper is probably my favorite time of day since we spend so much time talking and laughing with each other.

**Bible Verse?** My favorite Bible passage is 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Paul pens a bleak description of life without Jesus' resurrection. "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." But everything changes with the reality of v20a, "But now Christ has been raised from the dead!" It gives me goosebumps just thinking about what Christ has done for us all!

### Missy Greenwood

**Favorite Song?** - I'm not certain I can narrow this down enough - most contemporary Christian music, except rap (Rap's not real music 🙄). And all things Gaither!

**Why did I become a houseparent?** I love kids, and I love being a mom! And getting to share Jesus daily with young people is my heart's desire! (Continued on Next Page...)



"For whom the LORD loves He corrects,  
Just as a father the son in whom he delights." -Proverbs 3:12



(Missy Continued...) Did I know I was called to childcare ministry?

Nope! I was going into music! I always said, "The last thing I want to do is spend day after day with the same group of kids!" But you know one of the things I love most about my job? It's spending day after day with the same group of kids!

**Best Memory?** We were at Post, gathered around a family in need of prayer. There were about 60 of us praying - some aloud, some silently. Suddenly I heard the voice of one of our own young men praying publicly, asking the Lord's favor on this family. He prayed boldly and fervently on their behalf. It was so beautiful, mature, and unexpected that I cried a little right then and there.

**Favorite Bible Passage?** (Philippians 2:5-11)

**Dave McCarter**



**Favorite Book?** *Reckless Love; Blind Willie Johnson, God Don't Never Change; Charley Patton, Prayer of Death; Neander, Praise Ye the Lord; Luther, A Mighty Fortress.* (If you knew Dave you would know he couldn't just pick one!)

**Favorite Movie?** *Passion of the Christ; Last of the Mohicans*

**How Long Have You Been a Houseparent?** 38 years

**Why Are You a Houseparent?** To serve God and minister to young people while I continued my education. I experienced God's calling in the summer of 1999, after 19 years of houseparenting. There are some structures that tend to be the same: morning chore and room check; breakfast and devotions; return home and home work time; supper together. Still, every day tends to be different. Flexibility within overall structure is important; as is the willingness to let young people work things out for themselves when they can, while providing support, advice, and, when needed, discipline.

**Kris McCarter**

**Favorite Hobby?** Spending time with family.

**Favorite Song?** Egypt by Cory Asbury.

**Why did you become a houseparent?** Because I was called to it when I was young. There was a movie, and I remember Karen Valentine was the actress. She was a houseparent in the home, and she had a dog named Skeeter. Well, after watching that, Bill Tucker from Illini came to visit our church, and I remember, clear as a bell, sitting in church and feeling like God was saying to me "this is what you are supposed to do". Dave was in youth ministry at the time and Shiloh came and presented their Children's Home and it was like **BAM** we have to do this. This is what the LORD was leading us to, but even when I was a little, I would always say two things. I want to be a houseparent and a hairdresser, and God let me be both!

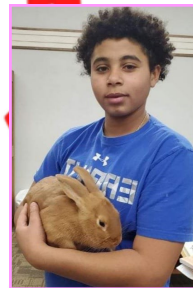
**Favorite Passage/Bible Verse?** Isaiah 40:31

**What is Your Advice for Potential Houseparents?** Get involved first through volunteering. I have had friends who thought they were called to be houseparents, but got into it and got burnt out fairly quickly. Get involved with a Children's Home first before you go all in. That way you can find out what it's like before making serious commitments to the ministry or children.

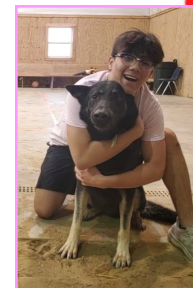


# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

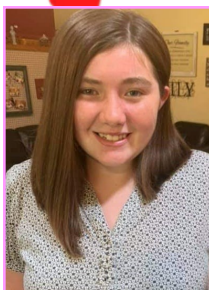
## What Is Love?



"Love is loyalty. You can't have love without loyalty and trust. I would love to one day join the military, maybe be a truck driver, or work in a safari. Like the one I saw in Myrtle Beach! We went and saw monkeys, tigers, and the apes. The apes were playing dodgeball because it was one of their birthdays. We got to play catch too! I would love for that to be my job. I also love school now, too. Mrs. Hall makes things easier, she knows how to word stuff really well. It is scientifically proven that she knows how to word stuff really well, the class thinks so. I also love spicy food! It's just not good without that kick!"



" I love basketball, golf, any kind of sport. Pizza. Pepperoni and one with sausages. Dogs. German Shepherds and Huskies and Poodles. Blue Tick hounds and rabbits. But they don't really love each other. Dog might like the rabbit to eat. I love my dad and brothers. **Do you love your sister?** ...Uhhhhh. \*Laughs\* Yeah I do! I love my houseparents, Bill is really chill and he understands you. I love Missy's cooking but one time she burned her food and she let me pick on her for it. I love that they both can take a joke."



"I love my mom, everyone on campus, and then I love reading. I love my Health OC class at our local college, at the end of the year you get your CNA license. You get to take care of people like the elderly. I love taking care of people. It gives me an understanding on how I can take care of my grandmother better. I love spending time with all the girls, my houseparents, and I get to spend time with girls who are like my sisters. Hmmm, love is... There are different kinds. One love is like where you spend time with people. Another love is taking care of people, and showing that you care. Sometimes when you are married, like Kris and Dave [her houseparents] show each to each other. Like the love I see when people care for each other at church."



"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.." -Matthew 22:37-39



# O, Come let us adore Him



**Amada Promoted to Shift Leader at Jersey Mikes!** "So I am basically anywhere they want me to be at any point in time. I love my boss! He is really cool. It is one of my favorite places that I have worked at. I have learned how to 'sling sammies' pretty well too. It's also helped me become a leader. You have to communicate with people and do what you need to do and help place people in high stress situations. I also have learned how to take a deep breath and let it out, because it can get on your nerves sometimes. I recommend the number 7 turkey and provolone, Mike's Way, no onions and add mayo! I want to thank everybody for getting me where I am today, guiding me in the right direction."

## ♥ ♥ ✝ In Loving Memory ✝ ♥ ♥

Scott & Jana Ackman, Don Allison. Chantel Booth, Kylee Booth, Les & Mary Ann Chapman, Karen Ellis, Linda Gall, Dennis & Kate Guyer, Howard Osborne, Jo Lynn Robinson, John Albert, Lou Ann Devine, Larry & Charlotte Sackrider, and John & Judy Smithenry in memory of Ruby Chapman ♥ Patricia Barz, Ray & Janet Blade, Lynn Carrell, J. & Anita Cisney, Donald & Marjorie Barnes, Deanna Cox, Rogene & David Craig, Eugene & June Easton, Steve & Kathy Ferguson, Donald & Paula Gabel, John Graves, Greg Lee, Howard Markwell, Mt. Zion Block Church, Brian & Patti Murphy, Judy Rathe, Thomas & Susan Titus in memory of Allan Rathe ♥ Garry & Donna Branson, John & Patricia Brown, Don & Trudy Condre, Brad & Debbie Daugherty, Dianne Earnst, Dr. Julia & Donald Ferguson, Jo Gaither, Dr. Clinton & Marilyn Gortney, Joe & Betty Griffith, Dan & Deb Hawkins, Clem Horstman, Don & Norita Jacobs, Jay Jacobs, Byron & Kim Sanders, Charles & Jo Shyab, Ray Watts, WandaWatts and Mike & Sue Wassel in memory of Elmer Hale ♥ Linda Wyatt in memory of Jerry Wyatt ♥ Roger & Evelyn Bare in memory of Erika Bare Aumock ♥ Pete & Gloria Belew in memory of Sarah Belew ♥ Raymond Clark in memory of Jesse Schroyer ♥ Dorothy McColly in memory of Murray E. Correll ♥ Darrell & Lynda Adams, Carol Anderson, Linda Aten, Danny Bloominburgh, Eldon & Kathryn Blythe, Don & Brenda Bosecker, David & Joy Coles, Michael & Lesa Dean, Carson & Rhonda Everett, Dean & Lisa Farmer, George & Nieta Fewkes, Jane Frazier, Nancy E Gerlach, Ron & Janet Hayes, Donna Hocking, James & Sandra Mae Hortin, Anne Hubbard on behalf of ASTRO, Neil & Melinda Jolliff, Richard & Coellette Jorgensen, Glenda Kay Krutsinger, Ruby Marks, Tom & Karen Marks, Michelle Marshall from Adam's Friends, Debra Mason, Eleanor Mason, Dave & Lesa Matthes, Anita Newlin, Loret Newlin, Pioneer Bible Translators, Wayne & Cathy Provines, Matt & Amy Robbins, Sarah Root, Beth & Matt Seals, Larry & Lynda Seals, Scott & Traci Shepherd, Chris & Audra Spray, Heather Spray, John & Audrey Spray, Steve & Bonita Thomason, Jerry & Dixie Timbrook, Florence Weaver, Kay & Donna Young in memory of Eleanor Spray Seals ♥ Lyle & Linda Bailey in memory of Dick Seamon ♥ Pete & Gloria Belew in memory of Jim Belew ♥ Alyssa Altman ,Fayette County Farm Bureau, James & Doris Fox, William Hensch, Mike & Suzanne Ingram, Daniel & Marla James, Michael Kuhnline, Beverly Lee, Charles & Donna Negangard, Fred Olds, Dennis & Loretta Ritchie, Michael & Joni Roy, Sidney American Legion, Edward Skibinski, Donna Swanson, and Michael & Leila Wills in memory of Norma Jean Olds ♥ Ron & Terie Baker, Jan Stuckey & Corinne Botterbush, Mark & Twila Brayfield, Jim & Anita Bush, CHS Class of 1970 Memorial Fund Treasurer, Walter & Danieth Cushman, Ryan & Sarah Fehrenbacher, Owen & Sandra Frankland, Norma Geffs, Rick Geffs, John & Sandy Colvin, Cheryl Hickox, Gary & Kathy Lovell, Dave & Kris McCarter, Frank & Marcy Mumford, Terry & Diana Nash, Oblong Community Unit School, Oblong Elementary School, John & Marsha Peters, Gene & Grace Purdy, Cynthia Simpson, Ocie & Diana Smith, Michael & Carol Spittler, Linda Stoneking, Jeff & Marilyn Sweet, Michael & Judy Henry and Chuck & Mitzi Williams in memory of Dan Blankenbaker ♥ Patricia Baker, Irene Doyle, Kay & Donna Young, Dewayne & Sharilyn Alexander, Craig & Kim Harris, Eric & Lori Eubank, Brandon & Sara Catt, Erma Fielder and Joe & Betty Griffith in memory of Robert Tinsky ♥ Joyce Bogard in memory of Harry Dale and Doris Phillips ♥ Bob & Lynne Boyer, Marie Cassidy, Sue & Gary Van Laningham, Catherine Wahlbert and Marion Shorts in memory of Dr. Ezzio Grossi ♥ Donna Dart, Marty & Gena Elliott, Gary Goodwin, Michael & Judy Henry, Bill & Jodi Holt, John & Suellen Lewis, Yvonne & Doug Newlin, OHS Class of 1993, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Smith, Doyle & Barbara Purcell, Bill & Pam Rosborough, Sandra Ross, Steve & Jeanie Smitley, Tammy & Peter Taft, Robin & Karen Weck Diekimann, and Terry & Tina Wilhoit in memory of Dave Goodwin ♥ Wanda Greifzu in memory of Clyde Buckles ♥ Susan Harlan in memory of Phyllis & Jack Strohm ♥ Connie Jones in memory of Dennis Jones ♥ Gerald Jones in memory of Sara Benton ♥ Marilyn King in memory of Hal King ♥ Rick & Sharon Kirk in memory of Ralph D. Kraemer ♥ Charles & Cheryl Milewski in memory of Harry & Betty Prather ♥ Charles Moses in memory of Linda Parrott ♥ Jess Newton in memory of Roy & Pauline Hill and Jason Newton ♥ Clark & Jan Pulliam in memory of the Riker Family ♥ Barbara Raisanen in memory of Philip & Mae Engel ♥ Michael Robison in memory of Opal Robison, Debbie Robison and Mike & Judy Robison ♥ Ruth Smith in memory of Dean Smith ♥ Robin Tracy in memory of M. Wayne Tracy ♥ Rick & Sharon Kirk in memory of Tom Walls ♥ Rick & Sharon Kirk, Lincolnland Agri-Energy, LLC in memory of Gary Goodwin ♥ Jon & Jackie Hoalt in memory of Tyler Inboden

### In Honor

Cathy Daugherty in honor of Sue Bumpus at Christmas and January Birthday ♥ Janice Thode in honor of Joanne Strobel ♥ Larry & Donna Miller in honor of Chris Martin ♥ Ron & Gloria DeValle in honor of Dave & Kris McCarter ♥ John & Audrey Spray in honor of the Fewkes and Spray Families at Christmas ♥ Lakeside Bible Study Group in honor of Clella Camp ♥ Lloyd Moden in honor of Arvin Moden ♥ Susal Welch in memory of Cory Welch who passed away on 10-4-20

One way we 'keep Christ in Christmas' is by honoring one of the oldest Holiday traditions: **The Nativity Play!** Recently, our children at the New Hebron Church of Christ performed their rendition of Christ's birth with the amount of humility, humor, and wholesome you'd expect from a group of kids. Though we don't have Hollywood effects or Broadway costumes, it's a great way to make the birth of

our Lord Jesus Christ, tangible and relatable. We praise God for the greatest gift of all time, His only Begotten Son, Jesus. We are also so thankful that every child is a gift more precious than gold, frankincense or myrrh! Kyrail even performed a trumpet solo of an old Christmas hymn. **Blessed.**

*Christmas*  
BEGINS WITH  
*Christ*



**"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."**

**Luke 2:10**





## Say Hello to Fred & Kim!

Prayers have been answered! God is so good! The Lucas family has just been hired on as our houseparents for the Dyball Home in Fairfield. We believed for such a long time that God would bring us the perfect couple to help girls in need for our satellite campus in Fairfield, IL. We believe they will fit right in with the friendly people. The Lucas's have been houseparenting together for nine years. Fred has been in Children's Home ministry for 17 years all together. Kim worked in the medical field. They have six children and seven grandchildren. They have such a heart for children and we look forward to the testimonies we will receive from all the blessed work they will do! **Please continue to pray for them!**



## We Will Miss The McCains

For nearly two decades God has blessed us with the McCain family. Steve and Kim have discipled and helped raise so many of God's children. We just can't put it into words how much they've done for the Oblong Children's Christian Home. We also can't put it into words how much we will miss them either. But a servant of God is never done laboring, so be sure to pray for their next adventure as they help spread the Gospel in the Philippines. You can help their evangelization by supporting or continuing to pray for their Christian Ministries.



## That's Right! We're Recruiting

With the McCain's moving on, we are in need of new houseparents for our other boy's home, the Zion Home. They are leaving in May, but **we are hiring now!** Do you or someone you know have a heart for children and feel called to Children's Home Ministry? Look no further. We are seeking a mature Christian couple who loves God's children. Competitive pay package, retirement contribution, and it fully paid health insurance for the couple. Housing, food, and utilities are also provided. See the full listing at [OblongChristianHome.org](http://OblongChristianHome.org)

# WE WANT YOU! IN THE LORD'S ARMY!



## On A Mission

Recently our boys from the Zion Home went to Mexico to assist building a house for a local family. They were joined by their housefather Steve, our Executive Director Arvin, and many saints from our partners at the Oblong First Christian Church! Sometimes Kingdom Building involves actually building and we are so blessed that our boys have such a heart for what they did!



## We Would Love to Come For a Visit!

It would be our privilege to come show your church, club, small group, or organization just what we do! Feel free to give us a call so that we can schedule a date to send a representative from the Home to give a presentation on our mission and to show everyone just how much God is blessing our children. Fellowship is important to us and we really do appreciate your support, so call our office today! Phone: (618) - 592 - 3633

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." ~Ephesians 2:10*

