



The ENCOURAGER

AUGUST 2026

NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG

A Legacy *of* Faith

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**2026** marks 30 years since John and Mary Lou Shroyer, along with Mike and Judi Magel, began traveling across the United States to visit and encourage God's faithful remnant. A "remnant" is a small group of people who remain faithful to God when many others have turned away. Those early years led to the Christian Family Fellowship Center being constructed in 1998 in Tipp City, and to this day it is a place where believers continue to gather as family *to meet Jesus, be restored, and grow.*

Jeff, our three girls and I came to visit in 1999 and never left. We were deeply impacted by the love we experienced and by the Bible being taught and lived with kindness, grace, and healing power.

As I look back over the past 27 years, we are so thankful for those that have led lives worth honoring because they spoke of the goodness of God and have followed in the steps of Jesus Christ with faithful hearts for decades. These wonderful believers were not only here in the early days ... they were great examples to Jeff and me as young children being raised up in the Word of God surrounded by godly examples.

Among those are Mike and Candy Bruns, Wilf and Lene Bruns, Wayne and Ferne Clapp, Frank and Nancy Connerty, Tom and Sue Dill, Kevin and Sara Guigou, Tom and Helen Jenkinson, John and Karen Vornholt, Bill and Pat Whipp, Howard and Dee Whitehead and others.

As you read this, I want your heart to know that YOU are a living example of God's love for his people. Your life with all of its up and downs, joys and disappointments is a testimony of His mercy, forgiveness and grace ... *leaving a legacy of faith.*

Psalm 71:17-18 (NIV)

Since my youth, God, you have taught me ... Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation.

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A godly example is powerful. People may forget the words we say, but they remember how we lived, how we loved, how we treated others, and how faithfully we walked through difficult seasons.

The Bible places tremendous value on being an *example*. This year, the **YES! Youth Excelling Spiritually Camp** theme verse was 1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV), "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Paul told Timothy that leadership was not just about position—it was about example. Our lives teach something every day. Whether we are 18 or 80, somebody is watching us: *our children, grandchildren, friends, coworkers, church family, and even strangers.*

The question is not *if we are influencing people*. The question is *what kind of influence are we making?*

Most people in Scripture were not famous because of one dramatic moment. They were known for steady faithfulness. Luke 16:10 (NIV) reminds us, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much."

Jesus was teaching that faithfulness in small things matters. The way we handle opportunities, money and acts of service reveals our character and often determines whether we can be trusted with greater responsibilities.

A godly example is built: *in ordinary days, quiet obedience, serving without recognition, and continuing to trust God through the years.*

People learn more from consistency than perfection. Anyone can praise God when life is easy. But people watch closely when we walk through pain, disappointment, sickness, aging, loss, or uncertainty. James 1:12 (NKJV) shares, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial..."

One of the strongest testimonies is seeing someone continue to love God through hardship. The older I get, the more I realize that spiritual maturity is not about all the hoopla of life with the big events—it's faithfully walking with God year after year. That is

what builds spiritual legacy.

Our culture often glorifies youth and overlooks wisdom. But Scripture honors spiritual mothers and fathers.

Psalms 92:14 (NKJV) says, "They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing."

I love this verse because it tells us: *God is not finished at 70, 80 or 90; purpose does not expire; influence does not retire; your prayers carry authority; and your wisdom is greatly needed.*

An 80-year-old believer who still loves Jesus is a treasure to the church. Their example strengthens the next generation.

At the end of life, people rarely remember: *how much money someone made, what car they drove, or what titles they held.*

They remember: *kindness, faith, integrity, prayers, encouragement, and love.*

Proverbs 13:22 NKJV says that a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children. Such an inheritance is not only financial; it's spiritual... *a praying mother leaves an inheritance... a faithful father leaves an inheritance... a consistent believer leaves an inheritance.*

Every generation needs examples to follow. No human example is perfect. Every one of us has flaws and weaknesses. But the reason we can become a good example is because we are following **the greatest example!**

1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) says, "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps."

Jesus showed us: *humility, compassion, forgiveness, obedience, holiness, and sacrificial love.*

The closer we walk with Jesus, the more our lives become a light to others. One day, every one of us will leave behind a memory in the hearts of others. **What kind of example are we leaving today?** We thank God for lives that continue to point people toward Jesus.

*Lord God, help us to live lives worth following. Let our words, attitudes, faith, love, and conduct reflect Jesus. Thank you for the examples you place in our lives—spiritual mothers, fathers, mentors, and faithful believers who show us what it means to walk with you over many years. Bless every generation in this church and help us leave a legacy that honors Christ. Amen.*

*Tonia Shroyer*

Lead Pastor/CFFM Tipp City, Ohio



**The dedication plaque by the front door of our church facility and ministry offices ...**

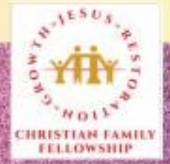
*We dedicate this "Family Fellowship Center" to God, for His honor, glory and praise. May God's Word abound with all love and boldness from this place, that people everywhere might come to know and understand His Word and His compassionate care and concern for all people. Let this facility be one of His sounding boards for truth to the family, community, state, country, and the world.*

**Dedicated June 28, 1998**





# WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Rest \* Refresh \* Reconnect

This year we are gathering to rest in His presence, be refreshed by His spirit and reconnect what matters most ...  
our relationship with Him

## Guest Speakers

Carol Furman Cheryl Ginn Sadie Mitchell  
Jan Rawlins Julie Schaecher Tonia Shroyer

**Fri., Sept. 18 - Sun., Sept. 20, 2026**

**Christian Family Fellowship Ministry**

**1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH**

## Schedule

FRI.,  
SEPT.  
18

6-7:00 pm Doors open/Registration  
7:00 pm Session Begins

SAT.,  
SEPT.  
19

9:00 am Doors Open  
9:30 am Session Begins  
1-2:00 pm Lunch provided  
2:00 pm Afternoon activities  
Dinner on your own .... evening free!

SUN.,  
SEPT.  
20

9:00 am Doors Open  
9:30 am Session Begins  
10:30 am Sunday Service



## REGISTRATION

\$60 per ATTENDEE

\$50 per LOCATION for  
LIVE STREAMING

Register by September 10 for  
in person & live streaming at

[www.cffm.org](http://www.cffm.org)

or call 937-669-3090

for questions or assistance



# Angels Among Us *Conference*

**BRENT JOSEPH, SPEAKER / APRIL 2026**  
**CFFM / TIPP CITY, OHIO**



*"Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace. For example, if you have a speaking gift, speak as though God were speaking his words through you. If you have the gift of serving, do it passionately with the strength God gives you, so that in everything God alone will be glorified through Jesus Christ. For to him belong the power and the glory forever throughout all ages! Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11 (TPT)*

The Body of Christ is full of many wonderful people, and God made each of us unique. We all have the same spirit, but God provides us with specific skills that help us edify the body. Some have aptitudes in teaching, evangelizing, prophetic gifts, prayer, or worship (just to name a few). No matter what gifts you have been given, all of them can be used to bring glory to God.

For the past month, my son Atreus and I have been watching the Stanley Cup Playoffs (professional ice hockey). As we watch these highly skilled athletes, it is amazing to see how they can combine their skills to form a cohesive unit. Each player has their assignments and knows how to leverage their roles to help the team win.

If, however, a defenseman decides he wants all the glory and leaves his post to try to chase the puck, the other team is going to take advantage of the gap he left behind. For the whole team to succeed, each player must train in the skills that help them in their role.

The top hockey players are usually skilled in many aspects, but the truly generational players always have one unique ability that no one else can do. The body is no different and it is important for us to identify what God is calling us to do in any given season of our lives. God wants us to listen for his direction and identify the skills we can work on to help us get there.

It is also important that we identify the talents God has placed in others and to not try to do everything on our own. While watching the playoffs, Atreus looked at Katrina and me and said, "I want to ice skate so I can be a goalie!" We were very excited to help him with this dream, but we have no

idea how to help a 3-year-old learn to ice skate.

Sure, I've gone ice skating before and could probably at least get him standing on his skates, but if I try to teach him on my own, he is going to lose out on the fun. So, we looked around and found experts who could help him learn. When we need help, it is crucial we lean on those who have expertise that we haven't developed ourselves.

We also need to be prepared when God calls us, especially if he calls us to areas we have never explored before. In Exodus 35, God was able to help the Israelites by filling them "with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills" that they didn't have. If we fall into the trap that God can only call us to do things we think we are good at, we will also fail to see the full glory that he has placed before us.

While I mentioned before that each player on ice must know their role, occasionally something changes the circumstances, and the players must take advantage of new opportunities.

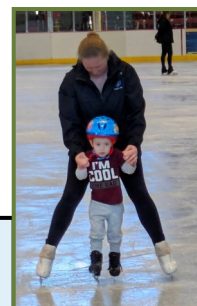
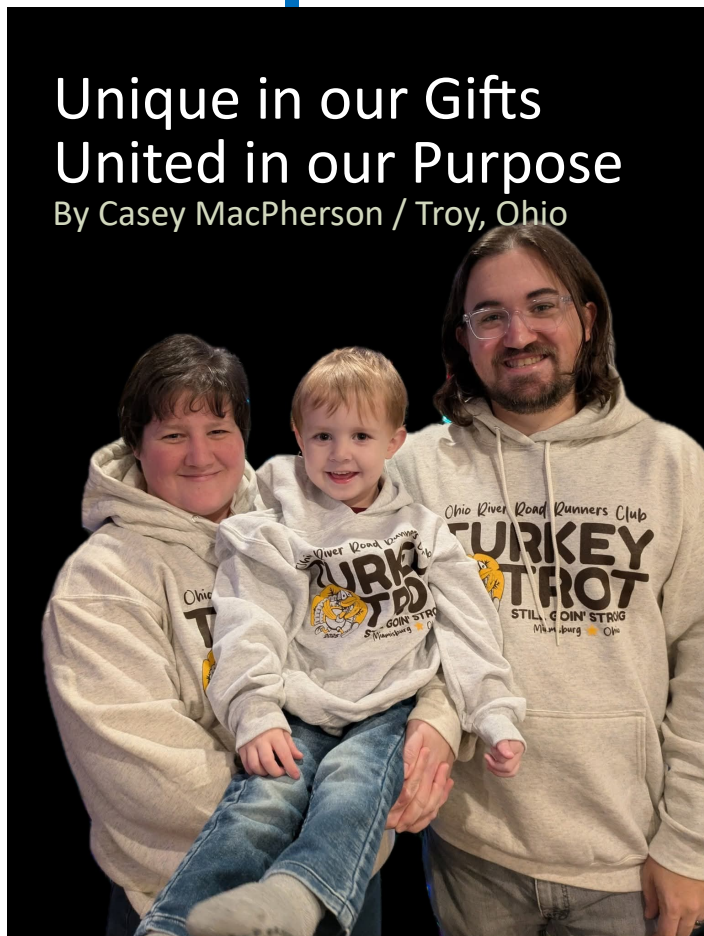
This season our favorite team, the Anaheim Ducks, had a lot of injuries and had to convert one of their defensemen to play forward. While

this was not his natural skill set, he trusted his coach and stepped up when he was called.

And let me tell you, the team won a lot of games because he was willing to take a leap of faith. If we can trust God as much as that player trusted his coach, and if we can listen for God's direction despite our perceived weaknesses, we can do things we never thought possible!

Finally, all our efforts should be leading back to one place, **glorifying God**. Our job is to use our gifts to build up the whole body of Christ. If we remember that we are all on one team, striving towards the same goal, there is nothing we cannot do.

*"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 28:19-20 NIV



**Casey Mac** is the director and pastor of the CFFM A/V department and has been volunteering in its ministry efforts for over 15 years. When he isn't in the sound booth, Casey works for the United States Air Force and loves spending time with his wife Katrina and son Atreus.

What voice or voices echo in your ears? And whose voice do you listen to? Do you pay attention to the voice of lies or the voice of truth? And most importantly, can you hear the voice of God? When it comes to what we've been told about ourselves, I have to ask the question, "Who told you that?"

The trouble with most people is that we have a good memory that holds onto the voices of the past. We listen to the failures of our past. We listen to the shame of our past. Realizing that God has transformed us through Christ is the beginning of our deliverance from the voices of the past.

2 Corinthians 5:17  
(KJV)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

If old things are passed away, why are we listening to the echoes of past defeats? The failures and traumas of our past should be gone. The challenge that lies before us is **who are we listening to?**

If the words in your ears are full of sickness, doubt, fear, and defeat; I'd have to ask you, "Who told you that?"

Our enemy is a liar and deceiver. On the other hand, we have God's words that tell us the truth. What words are bouncing around in your heart? Ask yourself, "Who told you that?" God has given us his Word, and he asks us to obey it. In the garden, God gave Adam and Eve one commandment. Unfortunately, Eve got deceived and Adam totally blew it.

Genesis 3:8-11

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

The Lord is visiting Adam and Eve after their fall. But they're afraid and hiding.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, **Who told thee** that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

## Who Told You That?

Who told you that? God told Adam who would've told Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve unfortunately listened to the serpent, and Adam listened to Eve.

Genesis 3:17

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

This is what happens when we listen to someone other than the Lord our God. Here we see the terrible consequences of NOT listening to God. But there are far different results when we DO listen to him.

Deuteronomy 28:2  
And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Whose voice are we listening to? Harkening is more than

just turning your ears towards God. We hear and obey. And when we hear and obey, his blessings will come on us and overtake us. So, who are we listening to? Unfortunately, sometimes there are reasons that stop us receiving from the Lord.

Mark 4:24 24

And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear:** with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

This is a very simple warning to be careful what we listen to. How much you open your ears (heart) will determine what you receive. Jesus warned the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. A little bit of their doctrine can mess everything up. We need to be very vigilant to listen to the voice of God.

So, when things aren't going the way you'd like or the way God says it should be, what is your response? What comes out of your mouth? What does your voice say? Consider what the psalmist said in Psalms 102:5, "By reason of **the voice of my groaning** my bones cleave to my skin."

Are we listening to the pain in our bodies? Our bodies, our circumstances, and the world can use their voices to deceive us. Our past will try to pull us back into our fears and defeats. We need to be prepared to respond with the truth. The world is trying to conform us to its image. But if we renew our mind, according to the truth, we can be transformed. So, when the accuser attacks with a lie, you can respond with the truth and say, "**God told me that.**"

**Dennis Dobbin** is currently a part of the volunteer staff at Community Christian Church in San Pedro, California, assisting in the AV department. He also produces a weekly podcast entitled, *Yesterday Ended: Healing the Traumas of Life* and is the author of two books, *Every Thought of the Heart* and *As He Is*. Dennis also serves on CFFM's Pastoral Care team.

New Balance  
Nationals  
OUTDOOR 2026

# SETH SHROYER

TIPP CITY OH  
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS 800M



HEAT FINISH  
**11** OF 14

OVERALL FINISH  
**86** OF 100

TIME  
**2:10.55**

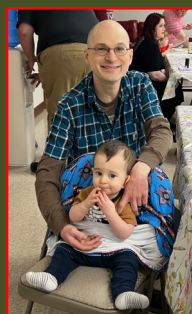
There were many valuable lessons learned about his strategy and his opponents.

**Seth Shroyer** completed a very successful 8th grade season with a 5th place finish at State in the 800 meter run and an opportunity to run in the New Balance National track meet in Philadelphia, PA. He also broke the Tippecanoe Middle School record in the 800m with a time of 2:06.81.

Over the summer, Seth has prepared for the upcoming cross country season as a freshman at Tippecanoe HS. He is excited about his future in running and so are his family and friends.

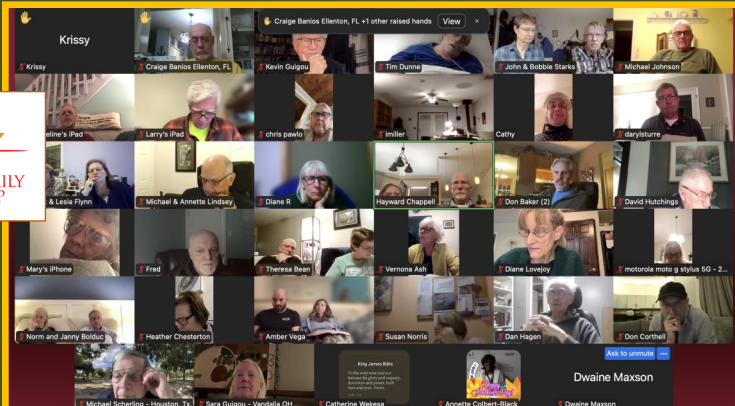


## Family, Friends & Celebrations



## How to Offer Financial Support to CFFM

- 1) Through our **website**, [www.cffm.org/giving](http://www.cffm.org/giving) (one-time or recurring gift)
- 2) By **regular mail** to CFFM, 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 (check/money order)
- 3) By CFFM **donation envelopes** available @ main office



**~ THANK YOU! ~**

... for your prayers, encouragement, input & financial support that make all our ministry services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family.

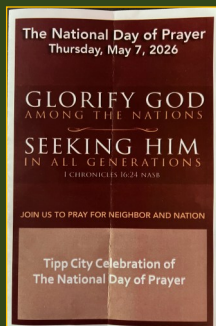
**JOIN US FOR**  
**WEEKLY TUESDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIPS / 7PM (EST)**  
**MEN'S MONTHLY ZOOM FELLOWSHIPS / 7PM (EST)**  
**(2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH)**  
CONTACT SARAH MULLENS OR KEVIN GUIGOU FOR LINKS



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## LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

*Discover the joy of taking Jesus  
into your local community.*

**Show up and watch what God *stirs up*.**

Jeremiah 29:7 (NLT)  
And work for the peace and prosperity  
of **the city where I sent you ...**  
**Pray to the Lord for it**, for its welfare  
will determine your welfare.



*Bloom where  
you're planted.*