

NEWS FROM THE FORDS

April 2026

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for how the Lord has sustained us over the last 31 years.



My own journey here began as a high schooler in a rental group in the early 80s. That time on the property was used by God to bring me back as a counselor in 1988. That summer, my love for my Savior deepened, as did my love for this ministry—and for the woman who would become my wife.

Stacy's connection to Barakel is just as deep, as she and her mother both grew up attending camp through their elementary and teen years. When her church was contacted about an urgent need for women counselors in 1988, she was a graduating senior and jumped at the chance. (Long before the YAPS program existed as we know it today.) That summer proved to be a pivotal season of growth in her own faith.

After serving on summer staff for parts of six years, the Lord called us to join the resident missionary staff in May of 1995. We never imagined we would be here for so long. We have essentially grown up serving in this ministry, and it has been a true gift from God to watch our seven children grow and serve here as well. The work has been demanding and the days often long, but it has been a blessing beyond measure.

While we have seen many changes over these three decades—friends coming and going and buildings evolving—the need for faithful Gospel proclamation remains unchanged, and our God remains steadfast.

Given the difficulties of the past few months, it has become clear that our time serving as resident missionary staff at Barakel has come to an end.

We love what God does through the ministry of Barakel. Having the opportunity to care for those who arrive, to witness their faith flourish, and to see them go on to serve the Lord has been a profound honor. It has been difficult to process that God is calling us away from this place, but we trust His leading. We will miss sharing this ministry with you.

Our last official day of work will be April 23, 2026. We aim to move by May 24. Camp will no longer give receipts for financial support for us after May 31, 2026.

Next?

We are prayerfully pursuing our next season of ministry, eager to continue equipping the Church and encouraging believers in their faith. Ideally, this will be in some kind of ministry setting. If you would like to know how you can continue to partner in ministry with the Fords in the next season, please let us know.

Family Update

- We are excited to receive the news that Andrew & Hannah (Ford) Johnson, will be having a baby girl later this year. This will make grandchild number 9 for us.
- Both Gretchen and Isaiah have moved to Jackson, MI. Gretchen continues to work at a day care facility and Isaiah is actively subbing in the local Jackson area schools. Isaiah is looking to begin taking classes to earn his Michigan school counselor certification.

Please Pray

- For the Lord's leading in the next job or ministry opportunity. We desire to continue to serve the Lord in some kind of ministry setting.
- We will need to also find housing. If you know of an available house (apartment, condo, ...) that we could cheaply rent or use, please let us know.
- We have not moved in over 30 years.... We need to sort and organize everything.
- For the staff and ministry of Barakel. We love them, and the ministry and want to see God's best for them.

With overwhelming thankfulness to the Lord for each of you and your partnership in this ministry with us.

Jon & Stacy Ford