



# NEWSLETTER



## Graduate Spotlight 2024 Ben Malas



On May 12, 2024, we celebrated the graduation of one of our students, Ben Malas. Ben graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Southern Illinois University. When Ben first began college, he was filled with many thoughts about his goals for the future. Most young adults strive for the same goals: education, marriage, family, new home, and financial stability.



However, the one thing that has set Ben apart from most is his love for God and his Christian walk. His determination to remain steadfast in his Christianity has been the ultimate factor in his life. Some key verses of scripture he shared in his graduation speech were Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philippians 4:8. Trusting in the Lord with all your heart and thinking on pure, lovely, admirable, and praise-worthy things—all beautiful instructions from God and keys to success in life.



While residing at the campus house, Ben accepted his calling to the ministry. With graduation behind him, he plans to donate the next year of his time in stewardship to his church in ministry. Ben's heart for missions is exhibited in a trip scheduled to Japan in July 2024 to work in the mission field.

We are very proud of Ben and his accomplishments and look forward prayerfully to seeing what God has in store for him.





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## Campus House Renovations Update

We are excited to share that the kitchen renovation project phases one and two are complete. The refrigerator replacements are phase three, the final phase yet to be completed. The renovation began in February 2024. The project included new flooring, ranges, cookware, dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, kitchen towels and washcloths, pot holders, drain pads, storage containers, cutlery sets, cutting boards, can openers, teapots, crockpots, microwaves, backsplash, garbage disposals, paint, and curtains. A great big "Thank You" to the men of the Baptist Brotherhood, Van Peters, Reverend Brian Romanowski, Pastor Darrell Neathery, Pastor Chet Bogus, Ron Rahming, Don Rahming, Ann Jerals, and all our student volunteers. You "ROCK!"



## Refrigerator Fundraiser Campaign

"Attention"

Sunday School Leaders, Ladies' Groups, Churches, Men's Groups, Children's Groups, Youth Leaders, Mission Directors, Outreach Directors, College Students and Fraternities, and Private Donors,

If you are looking for a worthy cause to donate to, your contribution could make a significant difference. We need refrigerators. The current campus house refrigerators are on life support and need to be replaced. The cost of replacement ranges from \$700.00 and up.

If you would like to donate, you can mail a check to:

Beverly Smith, Treasurer  
 American Baptist Campus Ministry  
 144 LeForge Lane  
 Ava, Illinois 62907





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## Directors Corner



Greetings Friends!

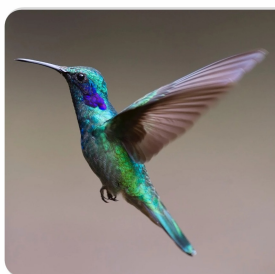
Over the last five months, there have been many changes to campus ministries: house renovations, graduations, and souls being touched by the wondrous works of God.

In one of our recent Bible study fellowships, we had a Muslim student attend. Pastor Bogus spoke about the history of Christianity and the Muslim faith. He then tied it to the present-day Christian and why we love and follow Christ daily. As he spoke, I noted how intently the student was following what was being taught. At one point, tears welled up in her eyes. A seed was planted. This reminded me of Mark chapter 4, where Jesus compares gospel sharing to planting seeds; the farmer plants seeds by taking God's word to others. When we are prepared to do the work, we can lead others to Christ.

At campus ministries, we are not only providing housing to interfaith students, but we are meeting the emotional, relational, and spiritual needs of the students. The extension of God's love goes beyond material needs. Counseling, praying, instructing, and Godly love are of the highest priority. Daily, my heart is touched by the struggles our students face in today's world. My sweet grandfather's advice has resonated in my heart through the years. He said, "Be an example of God's love, and you will win people." I have found his words to be true time and time again.

It is my hope that you will consider partnering with campus ministries in prayer and support as we continue to provide for God's children- students.

Blessings,  
JJ



### House Needs

### Urgently Needed Board Members

- Volunteers for Workdays
- Monthly Partners in Prayer and Support with the Mission
- Individuals to Provide Meals for Holidays and before Bible Study on Wednesdays

- 4 Refrigerators
- 4 Medicine Cabinets
- 1 Weed-eater
- 1 Leaf Blower
- 4 Keypads for the outer doors