



CHRISTIAN MISSION NETWORK

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” – John 17:21



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

FOUNDED ON A PRAYER

The YMCA was founded by a man named George Williams. In 1844, Williams left his family farm and began a life working in the drapery trade. He found factory life to be dreary and desperate. He looked around and saw young men struggling and living harsh lives. He began to pray alone in his factory dorm, asking God what he wanted him to do. Slowly, other boys began to join him in prayer, and the factory saw spiritual transformation through prayer first, then community. Williams then moved to London, still in the drapery trade, but with a new goal: To win young men for Christ. It was Williams' faith in action that brought the Gospel to London during the industrial revolution in 1844 and eventually led to what we now know as the YMCA. **We want to see prayer transform our Y, our communities, and our city again! Welcome to our summer update. We are excited to share the latest news.**



COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETINGS

In 2025, we have already seen the formation of three new in-person prayer meetings launching at the Elk River YMCA, the Emma B Howe Coon Rapids YMCA, and the Hastings YMCA. The Hastings YMCA community prayer meeting had its first gathering on June 12th! These prayer meetings focus on praying for each other, the YMCA, and their community, and we are excited to see how many people are embracing this new offering.



Y-PRAY

This is a bi-weekly email that features people's prayers! At the Y, we've had a dedicated prayer community that has faithfully prayed over requests from across our organization. We collect these requests through a QR code that allows us to minister to people from every corner of our Y. They have the option to remain anonymous, ask for a follow-up from a chaplain, and even join our prayer community.

PRAYER BOXES

In many of our Ys, there are prayer request boxes where people can submit handwritten prayer requests; these boxes are stewarded by a chaplain or a community volunteer.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



In 1959, Robert started a relationship with Christ and has had a wonderful journey for 64 years. He has been an ordained minister for 54 years and has been married to Mary for 52 years. Together, they have four children and eight grandchildren. Most of his life, he has lived in the South, but 6 years ago, in November 2018, he moved with his wife to Woodbury, MN.

Immediately after University, he began preparation and training to work in Japan as a Church planter. His family arrived in Japan in 1977, where he was privileged to see an Indigenous Church established and six more Churches built under the leadership of this first Church. These Churches continue to the present day.

Since Robert returned to the US in 1987, he has served in five different Churches in a Bivocational capacity until 2018, when he retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

He enjoys sharing time with his family here and with family who live in Arkansas and Georgia. Since 2018, he has served as an International Rep. to help Missionaries who serve in 50 different countries.

He loves sharing his faith with others and just generally enjoys getting to know people. His interests are in Music and Art, both of which are good conversation starters. Robert enjoys his Friends and Family and looks forward to many more years serving others and making new friends.



**MEET THE WOODBURY
YMCA CHAPLAIN**



GEORGE WILLIAMS PRAYER BREAKFAST

George Williams Prayer Breakfast—
A local men's Bible study from
Parkers Lake Baptist Church hosted
a George Williams prayer breakfast
at the Ridgedale YMCA. It was a
great time of fellowship and a
wonderful example of how our local
communities of faith can partner
with the YMCA!

WANT TO CONNECT?

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[Ymcanorth.org/cmn](https://ymcanorth.org/cmn)

MAKE A DONATION

Visit our site or reach out to Noah
Gulley for more information.

WE WOULD LIKE TO PRAY FOR YOU!

THE YMCA OF THE NORTH CHRISTIAN MISSION
NETWORK WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR YOU. PLEASE
SCAN BELOW TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST.

