

# Indiana Dunes Great Banquet and Awakening Newsletter

Volume 3

Summer 2003

## AWESOME!!

If you don't know that IDGB #35, 36 and IDA #7 just happened, you should. An awesome time was had by all. The new members of our growing community are as follows:

Dave McCall, Jim Mitchell, Ron Naughton, Bill Sieckman, Dave Blair, Harold Boggs, Thor O'Donnell, Don Robison, Gary Germann, Hansel Steurer, Tony Szymanski, Dave Vignocchi, Brian Harding, Tim Reyna, Jim Richmond, Doug Riddell, Ken Burcaw, Don Loepke, Tim Pell, Dan Swift, John Beehler, Todd Goll, Bill Markve, Ernie Schulze, William Barkow, Harold Morgan, Mike Puskar and John Springsteen.

Judy Ancona, Connie Dubenic, Lynne Haberlin, Darci Holmes, Michelle Morlock, Carolyn Coch-

ran, Gaylynn Dykman, Ceene Markve, Shirley Naughton, June Urycki, Donna Wilson, Jayne Anderson, Kari Gearhart, Barb Grevengoed, Marlo Harding, Leigh Pell, Ethel Wells, Nancy Burcaw, Kim Croarkin, Tammy Krakowiak, Kathy Splitgerber, Leslie Stork, Jeanne Vale, Lisa Bartley, Jane Dickey, Lorraine Fiordelisi, Laurie Gilmer, Nora Reyna, Nancy Rowe, April Blair, Kathy Bubala, Donni Holmes, Sharon Hutt, Donna Pleasant, Barbara Vander Boegh, Jonnie Boggs, Luan Brown, Kathy Foster, Carla Latham, Johanna Mann, Happi Lynn Berger, Lynn Bochart, Ellen Dickenson, Diane Gilmer and Cheryl Pool.

Nick Kiriazis, Felipe Jar-

din, Anthony Szymanski, Zachary Virgo, Britain Allenbaugh, William Barker, Derek Kozik, Branden Biller, Jay Horrell, Matthew McCall, Christopher Bartley, Kyle Hittenger, Danielle Braden, Olivia Bunde, Megan Dorschel, Ashlee Johns, Megan Porter, Kat Wirth, Ashlie Barclay, Jessica Feitshans, Meghan Guthrie, Melissa Klancer, Miranda Moore, Erika Braun, Erica Boys, Jennifer Hubbard, Maggie McKay, Joyce Partyka, Clea Vragel, Kathryn Kattalia, Courtney Plantinga, Melissa Springsteen, Becca Stork, Laura Bukowski, Natalie Collom, Shauna Croarkin, Kelly Craig, Jessica Nowak and Hillary Woloshansky.

*Did I mention AWESOME?*

### What's going on?

- July 19, 5PM at Dyer Presbyterian Church, Community Potluck
- August 23, 1st Presbyterian Valpo, Gathering
- September 24, Westminster Presbyterian, Munster, Team Dedication
- October 2-5 IDGB #37 at Camp Lawrence
- October 9-12 IDGB #38 at Camp Lawrence
- November 7-9 Awakening #8 at Camp Lawrence
- November 22, 1st Presbyterian in Crown Point, Gathering
- December 13, Christmas Gathering, Lowell United Methodist Church

Remember the "shameless plea for Agape" in the last newsletter?!?!?

I love you guys!!!  
Agape, Agape, Agape



Lovingly edited by  
Betsy Shryock with  
help from the Holy  
Spirit...

## Community PICNIC July 19th in Dyer at 5pm...Y'all Come!

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet and Awakening Communities will hold its annual picnic at First Presbyterian Church in Dyer, IN on Saturday July 19th. This is a potluck so bring your favorite dish that can sit out-

side in the sun for a while.

We also suggest bringing chairs or blankets to sit on, games for your kids to play whatever else seems logical. See you on the 19th!



IDGB Picnic July 19th

## Holy Humor....

God is sitting in heaven when a scientist prays to Him. "God, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing - in other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell Me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breath life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's very interesting," said God, "show me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil into the shape of a man.

"No, no, no..." interrupts God, "Get your own dirt."



## Tidbits

As you have undoubtedly heard, the Indiana Dunes Great Banquet and Awakening Communities are supported fully from donations. It is an expensive venture but God always provides for us through the generosity of his Children (that's you).

Last year we were blessed to give birth to the Greater Chicago Great Banquet Community and we are pleased to tell you that our child is thriving.

Of course with the departure of 200 or so active community members came the loss of some revenue. Okay, so what I'm saying is

*WE NEED SOME DONATIONS!...money, cash, denary, greenbacks, dough, moola, bucks, currency, pesos, Drachma, Francs, Marks...  
(Is this impolite?)*

So, "who do I send it to", you ask ( or "to whom do I send it" if you're an English teacher) well here's the 4-1-1

Tom Grant  
634 Gatewood  
Lowell, IN 46356  
Make checks payable to  
IDGB or IDA

Gracias, Merci, Danke, Thanks

## Cool Stuff...

*Our Father who is innocent and pure,  
Holy is your name.  
May love be seen as all that is.  
May earth be seen as heaven is  
Nourish this day with your bountiful supply,  
And allow us to receive as we give  
that right to others.*

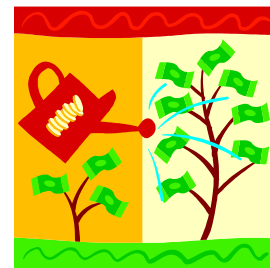
*Restore us from the perils of illusion,  
And renew our perception of truth.  
For truth is the kingdom, and love is the power,  
And Yours is the glory forever  
Amen  
By Glenda Green*

**Fall Lay Directors**

**IDGB #37-Jeff Tar**  
**IDGB #38-Olga Koch**

**IDA #8**

**Matt Bunchek & Debby Bailey**

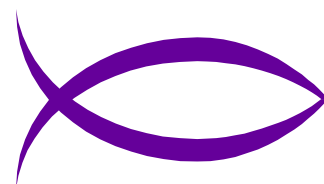


*Well, it's official, money DOES NOT grow on trees...*

*Emergency camp cell phone number... 219-779-2404*



May Peace Prevail on Earth...



# The Importance of the Awakening

By Steve Lehmann, IDA #5 Table of 7

Four or five years ago the Awakening, a branch of the Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community, began its first weekend. Since then, 200 or more high school age kids have gone through the weekend and become closer to God. Although some adults don't really understand the Awakening, it is pretty much exactly the same as the Great Banquet. The Awakening has its 15 talks packed into about 2 days, and it is more geared toward the age group.

It may seem to some that the kids of the Awakening are not mature enough for an experience as powerful as the Great Banquet, or that the Awakening is just a watered-down version of the adult weekend. Without attending the Adult weekends I still can say that the Awakening weekends are just as important and powerful as the adult counterpart. High school kids really are as deep and as concerned about their faith as adults. After all, most great prophets began their walk with God at about our age. When he was only 12 or 13, Jesus amazed and challenged the most skilled of Rabbis with His knowledge and interpretations of the books that those very prophets wrote. It is very important to realize how much God works through youth.

For the 3 years I have experienced the Awakening, 1st as a sleeper and 2nd as a speaker, I have been

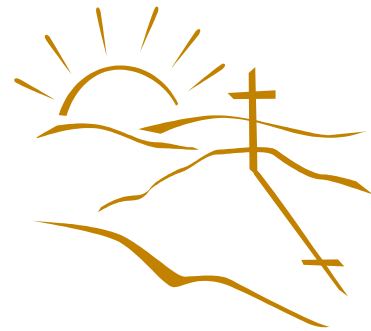
amazed by the change that takes place among the team and the sleepers during this weekend. Even if someone were blind and deaf it would still be amazing to realize the power of the Holy Spirit in the talks, the Agape, and the selfless service of everyone that participates in any part of the weekend, no matter what facet. God works miracles in every room throughout the 3 stages of the Awakening. The power of the Holy Spirit that makes even the most reluctant cry, sing, pray, and listen to the voice of God is truly astounding.

As each Awakening happens, those who participate leave with a deeper knowledge of God and a much stronger relationship with our most important and only perfect true friend, Jesus. Knowing Jesus Christ on a personal level is certainly the most important thing that can be drawn out of this weekend.

In a world that becomes more and more corrupt every day, teens see this corruption through the TV, peer pressure, and so many difficult decisions. Many times adults forget how difficult being a teen really is. Besides picking careers, fitting in, planning our lives, and dealing with peer pressure, we have to deal with the strongest temptations that the world has ever seen. Each year closer to Christ's second coming, Satan steps up his attacks, and each new generation gets the full force of each of

his attempts to destroy us and separate us from God. It is **not** easy.

For these reasons it is absolutely essential to know that there is someone out there that cares about us more than anything, someone who died the most horrible death and experienced Hell just for the love of us. Having a personal relationship with Jesus gives us strength to keep going when Satan presents us with our biggest temptations. Without having a friendship with Jesus, I know that I would not be able to deal with this world, and that is why we have to spread this revelation to others. There are teens out there that need to hear about the perfect Agape that we get for free. As the years go by, we, the youth of our world, have an ever-increasing gap between us and our most important friend, brother, and Savior Jesus. The Awakening is an effort to fill that gap, and to spread His love to those who need it most.



## Returning to our Roots at Team Meetings

In the early years of our community, the entire team previewed all talks. The Community Lay Directors, Community Spiritual Director and the Board have realized that in recent years agape, kitchen and music teams have been spending less time helping to preview talks. We also consulted with the former Community Lay Director in reflecting about this. An important part of serving on a team is being part of the talk previewing process. It helps build team cohesion, it helps music and agape to know the needs of the speakers, and it gives the speakers a variety of people to hear the talks. Also, agape and kitchen may not get to hear the talks on the weekend, so it gives them an opportunity to be part of the weekend in that way. Plus, table leaders get to practice being table leaders, with enough people to actually lead through a discussion!

We are asking that these parts of the team attend ALL talk previews. We do realize, however, that some additional time at team meetings is helpful for these parts of the team, so we are having the equivalent of one complete team meeting (probably split into two different evenings) where there will be no talk previews. This will enable kitchen, agape and music to have some sub-team meetings. Of course, music gets to rehearse at each team meeting during worship! It will also give the table leaders and speakers an opportunity to be in the servant role, helping agape with some of the tasks associated with the weekend (pasting prayers on notebooks, decorating letter bags, etc.). So agape, plan to make good use of those extra hands!! Table leaders and speakers, your attendance is as important at these meetings where no talks are previewed as it will be on those evenings where you are previewing a talk.

It may be that Music, Kitchen and Agape will need to have an additional meeting outside of the regular team meetings, or do other work by phone. Speakers have always done a considerable amount of work outside of the team meetings, as have Table Decorations.

This process worked well in the early phase of our community, and we have seen some problems develop as we have drifted away from this. Kitchen and agape teams have not felt as connected with the rest of the team, not enough people have previewed talks, agape and music have been unaware of the needs of the speakers.

As always, we ask that everyone approach the Banquet and Awakening process with a spirit of openness, charity and high idealism. Please give this new process a chance, and give your feedback to the Community Lay Directors, Community Spiritual Director, and the Board.

-Rev. Susan Zencka

# IDGB

Indiana Dunes Great Banquet Community  
c/o Ogden Dunes Community Church  
116 Hillcrest Rd.  
Ogden Dunes, IN 46368

Phone: 219-554-1316  
Email: newsletter@idgb.net

**We're on the Web  
at  
IDGB.net**

*Come, for all is now ready....*



## HOW ARE GREAT BANQUET TEAMS FORMED?

From time to time, the question comes up of how Great Banquet and Awakening teams are formed. The answer is not a simple one – we say that we are guided by the Holy Spirit, and that the Lay Directors pray about it, but that is not the only part of the process. As with other things we do, we “plan as if it all depends upon us, and pray as if it all depends upon God.”

First, the Community Lay Director consults with the Community Spiritual Director, and discerns the choice for the Weekend Lay Director. These are usually people who have served in a variety of roles, both in the conference room and on other parts of the team, and preferably as an Assistant Lay Director.

The next part in the process is usually a big meeting between the Lay Directors of the Banquets and Awakening, the Community Lay Directors for both, and the Community Spiritual Director. There, the Lay Directors learn about some of the guidelines that the community has found useful in developing teams: try to include a wide variety of people (different communities, different ages, different levels of ex-

perience on teams). Consider whether people are interested in the community – do they come to Gatherings? Don’t only ask people you know, listen to the recommendations of others, and trust that the Holy Spirit can speak to you through other people as well as through your own thoughts.

Don’t always put people in the same spot – if they have served as a speaker, let them work in the kitchen. If they haven’t given a talk, but their name is on your heart, maybe God is ready to stretch them a little. When the Lay Directors look at possible Assistant Lay Directors, they try to find people who have had experience both in the conference room as table leaders or speakers, AND in either Kitchen or Agape. And when people have served as Assistant Lay Director or Lay Director, we like to give them some time off to rest! No one should EXPECT to serve on a team – there are too many great people in our community to have anyone always serve.

We try not to ask people for both the Awakening and the Great Banquet in the same season we don’t want people serving on Both teams and we’d rather not put them in

the position of having to make a decision about that, so the Lay Directors of the Banquet and Awakening consult one another about people they hope to ask.

One of the “problems” we have is that we have a large community of capable, dedicated people. So we inevitably fail to ask people who want to serve. In the Awakening in particular, we have more youth who want to serve than we have slots available. We are trying to give different teens an opportunity to serve, and yet we want to have some people with experience.

Spiritual Directors are preferably ordained ministers. If someone isn’t an ordained minister, or actively in the process of becoming one, they may be chosen if they have some training (seminary, lay pastor training, etc.) AND serve in a pastoral position of some sort (youth minister, chaplain, counselor, commissioned lay pastor, etc.). Spiritual Directors are selected by the Community Spiritual Director instead of by the weekend Lay Directors.

Susan Zencka  
Community Spiritual Director