

The first quarter of 2025 has been busy with much counseling, MOMS2MOMS events, renovations, and preparations for the parenting conference. Read on to see how God is moving.

Biblical Counseling and Soul Care Update

Counseling takes up most of my time. There are several difficult cases. Cases involving children, teens, and adults with issues from abuse to grief to reconciliation. One case is in the court system which involves many extra hours of meetings, report writing, and extra counseling sessions. I have been learning a lot about what happens when a case is in the court system, how it impacts everyone, and how it can be exhausting.

I have come to have a deeper appreciation for attorneys and all that they do for a court case. I am just one part of this whole situation. I'm learning how to be able to not take it so personally and do my job to the best of my ability. This also involves spending tons of time in prayer. Sometimes even in the middle of the night when I am awoken and unable to get back to sleep to listen to the Holy Spirit laying someone in my heart to pray. I asked one of my attorneys how do you not get caught up in it and decompress. His answer was "run five miles." Basically, I need to find some way to decompress that is healthy. I have been doing some long walks, and lots of prayers during those walks. I've also gone back to coloring. It is amazing how relaxed you can become when you aren't in 'work' mode all the time.

I'm thankful for the added co-counselors who give extra insight into this situation. There are also other cases each take time, prayer, and preparation.

Please **pray** for these cases for God's wisdom and discernment. Pray for the people we are helping that they will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and hear what He is teaching them and that they would apply it to their lives. Pray for us to steward our time well before, during and after each counseling session as we pray and prepare for the time of ministering the Truth of God's Word to them.

Biblical Counseling Coalition (BCC) In March we hosted our first quarterly BCC Brunch. This is a time for local pastors and Biblical Counselors to gather for food, fellowship, encouragement, training, case discussions, and prayer for each other. Each meeting will vary. Sometimes we will bring in a guest speaker. The point of this is to build a network of Biblical Counselors in the area. To provide opportunities to grow in counseling and work together as Bible Believing Churches as the Bible has instructed us to.

There were six people in attendance from four different churches. We are hoping to have a few more at our next meeting. We discussed topics that would be beneficial in helping them help their churches and talked about upcoming events including some training in the future. Currently it is by invitation only as we are developing a core group. Please **pray** for us as we make plans and how we can all work together to further the Kingdom of God.

MOMS2MOMS Update

MOMS2MOMS has had another good year. The groups in Forest City and Buffalo Center had moms that participated throughout the school year. April is the last month for these groups. The Britt group did not have any moms, but the volunteers spent time in fellowship and praying for the ministry.



We hosted a Mom's Night Out in March. The moms enjoyed the time of fellowship with moms from several communities. The evening was filled with conversation, and relaxing activities as we talked about finding our rest in Jesus. They have asked for another one, so keep an eye out for another Mom's Night Out.

AR Mailing

Some of our regular and some new people joined us for the stuffing of the Annual Report preparing the mailings to go out. Five people worked from 9 am to 5 pm, stuffing 1000 envelopes. Over 800 letters have been mailed out. The extras are used at church presentations, fairs, and other sharing opportunities.



Renovation Update

The Mold Mitigation is almost completed. We decided to hire



professionals and were thankful for making that decision as they discovered more mold and dealt with all of it. It cost \$10,472.09. We started our project with \$22,855.00 and have spent to date \$12,765.74 leaving us with \$10,089.00 in the project account. We need to raise more money for this project. Grants are being written, and we have some fundraisers coming up for the project and operational expenses. We are currently gathering estimates for

electric, plumbing, HVAC, insulation, and the siding/windows/construction work to be done. The siding/windows/and construction work estimate came in at \$40,520.00.

Work crews will be needed to complete the shingling and siding of the barn. We will also need some help to pick up downed tree limbs and pull carpet nails out of the floors in the house.

Our goal is for this project to be fully completed and the house and barn functional by Summer of 2026. Please pray for us as we pursue this endeavor with the Lord and your help. If you are interested in helping as a **volunteer** in any capacity, you can go to the following link and fill out the form.

<https://smile.breezechms.com/form/1915ba>



Parenting Conference with Scott O'Malley June 27-28, 2025

Co-hosted with Britt Evangelical Free Church and SMILE, Inc.

Speaker: Scott O'Malley from Twelve Stones will be speaking on Friday evening and Saturday. He has been the Executive Director of Twelve Stones Ministries since 2019 and has been counseling there since 2007. In addition to being an ACBC Certified Counselor, he earned a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling from the Master's University in California. He has also been a licensed foster parent in the state of Indiana, a houseparent, and worked with over 400 troubled teens in 3 states. He has been married since 1992 to his wife Tara, and they have 8 children, one of whom is adopted.



Single Moms In a Loving Environment



Summary of the Conference: This conference is designed for parents with children of all ages who want to learn how to draw out and then speak to the hearts of their children with biblical truth that is focused on the gospel and transformation for the whole family. Friday night begins by examining Parental Potholes: common missteps parents make with their kids. We will then examine A Roadmap for Preparing Children for adulthood. This talk is beneficial for young parents to help get ready for the future but also for parents who already have children out of the home. Saturday continues with practical wisdom from the Scriptures including keeping the gospel central in parenting, biblical methods of discipline, and finally biblical anchors for dealing with same sex attraction. We conclude our time with a lengthy open question and answer time. So please come with your questions, a Bible, a pen, and open hearts ready to receive from the Lord.

You can **register** at the following link: <https://smile.breezechms.com/form/cf3fe5>

Financial Update

Our budget of \$144,000 is in the Lord's Hands. We know that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and will provide all that we need when we need it. This last month we saw God provide what we needed just a couple days ahead of the bills needing to be paid.

Helping others through these different situations and stages of their life is important to us. We appreciate the prayers, but without your financial support, we would not be able to make any of this happen. Please consider carefully what you can do to help us out. God's will is our concern.

We continue to trust the Lord to meet our every need. As we continue to grow and serve more people, we know the Lord will provide. We are excited to see what God is going to do in 2025. If you would like to donate online, you can do so at the following link: <https://smile.breezechms.com/give/online>.

We are so grateful for your participation in helping SMILE through your prayers and financial support. We praise God for what He is doing and how He continues to work in our lives and the lives of those we serve. Please continue to pray for us as we serve Him.

You will notice in our Upcoming Events section that we have a couple of NEW EVENTS. These are fundraisers for SMILE. The first is a garage sale. We are looking for donations for this event. You can contact us with items you would like to donate to the sale. Send us an email with "Garage Sale" in the subject line to info@smileiowa.org. We would like to have an idea of these items by June 21, 2025, so we can advertise well for this event which will take place on July 12, 2025.

The second new event is a car show in September. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details in the future. And Mark your calendars for September 6, 2025.

Prayer Items

Upcoming events and activities. [Pursuing Jesus & serving others with humility and grace](#). Board members – add to board & current. [Unity, wisdom, and discernment](#). God's provisions.

Specific needs at this time include: Two board members who would oversee finances and MOMS2MOMS. Each of these members would develop teams that would help serve in these areas.

There are other board positions, but these are of high priority currently. There are other volunteer positions open. Prayerfully consider where the Lord may have you helping.

Upcoming Events: April - July 2025

April 14, 28		MOMS2MOMS – Buffalo Center
April 21	6:30 pm	Prayer Gathering
May 19	6:30 pm	Prayer Gathering
June 16	6:30 pm	Prayer Gathering
June 27-28	Fri pm Sat all day	Parenting Conference located at Britt E Free Church
July 12	NEW EVENT	SMILE Garage Sale – Fundraiser
July 17-20		Winnebago County Fair
July 22-28		Hancock County Fair
September 6	NEW EVENT	SMILE Car Show Fundraiser

2025 calendar is open for you to schedule a Church or group Presentation – Contact us to secure your date

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Serving Christ for Eternity.

Juanita Stevens, Executive Director