

# BANNER

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# The Gospel and Justice

**IN MY PREVIOUS EDITORIAL**, I suggested that biblical justice combines both the concepts of retributive justice and social justice. Its aim is always toward restoring God's shalom, to foster life and restore relationships.

But how does justice relate to gospel proclamation? This question seems to imply that doing justice and proclaiming the gospel are two different things that need to somehow work together. Previously I suggested that from a biblical viewpoint, justice, righteousness, and love are interconnected. I believe that justice and the gospel are also deeply related.

What is the gospel? The apostle Paul described the gospel as reconciling "all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven" to God through Christ Jesus (Col. 1:20). The gospel is comprehensive. It is not only good news for human souls but for all creation.

From Abraham Kuyper's famous mantra of every square inch under the lordship of Christ to more recent articulations, our Reformed Christian tradition has long emphasized this comprehensive scope of the gospel. To cite just one contemporary example: "Since the kingly authority of our risen Lord extends to the whole world, the mission of his people is equally comprehensive: to embody the rule of Christ over marriage and family, business and politics, art and athletics, leisure and scholarship (Matt. 28:18-30; Rom. 12)" (*The Cross and Our Calling*, Redeemer University College, p. 9).

This also means that we do not reduce gospel witness to *only* verbal proclamation, even though that is essential. God's reconciling of all things to himself includes reconciling humans to one another (Eph. 2:14-16). Such reconciliation among estranged groups must inevitably involve justice work.

Furthermore, as one reader emailed me, in a world where "actions speak louder than words" and where "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," our gospel witness must include both word and deed. And our loving acts cannot stop at only charity and benevolence. If we love people consistently, we need to move beyond charity into justice. As theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself." Loving our neighbors who live in poverty includes trying to fix any systemic injustices that keep them poor.

The newest generation of young adults is highly sensitive to justice issues. Any movement that ignores the injustices of the world will probably be ignored as irrelevant at best or unethical at worst. Our gospel proclamation cannot gloss over injustice. Instead, it has to show that God's good news in Christ brings about true justice, a true righting of all wrongs.

Our seeking after justice as Christ-followers cannot simply mimic the ways of the secular world. We can use the usual channels available to us—advocacy, the state, policies—in redemptive ways to further God's reconciling mission. But we do not solely rely on these human avenues for justice. As Christians, our ultimate hope for justice is not in the government or in human solidarity but in the Lord Jesus. We need to rely on God's ways of love, truth, prayer, forgiveness, repentance, and justice.

The gospel without justice is hollow. But justice without the gospel is deficient.

In the November editorial, I will explore a third question: Is justice the work of the institutional church or the organic church, that is, Christians working individually or together in organizations apart from the church? ■

*The display of neo-Nazi racism in Charlottesville, Va., occurred just after this writing. May we follow Christ's gospel and stand against racism.*

The gospel without  
justice is hollow. But  
justice without the  
gospel is deficient.



**Shiao Chong** is editor-in-chief of *The Banner*. He attends Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Toronto, Ont.

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Published monthly (except August). Periodicals postage paid at Grand Rapids, Mich. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Banner, 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407. Canadian publications mail agreement #40063614. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: The Banner, 3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1, Burlington ON L7R 3Y8.

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# On Growing Old

A time will come to sit  
in the shadow of these trees,  
shawls on our laps, too old  
even to remember our names.

So let's try this. Let's write  
"Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy"

on old scraps of paper and fold  
them tightly into tiny pills.

For whatever Light awaits us  
on the other side, surely

it can't hurt to have some  
praises already on our tongues. ■

*From Kiss the Earth When You  
Pray: The Father Zosima  
Poems (Apocryphile Press).  
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Robert Hudson is an editor at Zondervan/HarperCollins and author of the *Christian Writer's Manual of Style, 4th Edition*. *Kiss the Earth When You Pray* is his first book of poetry.

## 'Churchman'

Funerals include celebrating lives well lived and are the occasion for gratitude as well as introspection.

**SOLOMON SAID**, “It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart” (Eccl. 7:2). Colleagues and I took this admonition seriously and joined family and friends in rejoicing, remembering, and reflecting at the funeral service for a former professor, Rev. Dr. Henry Zwaanstra. It was good to do so. Death, “the destiny of everyone,” meant that a faithful servant of Christ and the church could now rest fully from his labors. Carefully chosen songs reflected the interests and choices of a student of history. A daughter spoke with love and admiration for a gracious father. A fishing buddy shared stories of a playful “Zwaneec.” A fellow pastor spoke eloquently about a professor’s intellectual prowess.

Officiant Len Vander Zee used texts taken from 1 Timothy, a passage where Paul addressed a young colleague with words of encouragement and challenge. He noted that Henry had done the same for many aspiring seminary students. Vander Zee concluded with words from 2 Timothy 4:7, in which Paul reflects

on having “finished the race” and “kept the faith.” Applying those words to Henry and acknowledging his contributions, he described Zwaanstra as a “churchman.” As he did so, he remarked that this accolade is used very little today. I recall muttering a quick, “That’s for sure!”

This utterance also occasioned some further reflection, if not introspection. A colleague my age sharing the pew shared my opinion. Why are we so reluctant these days to use the description “churchman” (or “churchwoman”)? Has it become acceptable—if not desirable—to be anti-church but ever so pro-Jesus? Did not Jesus, upon Peter’s confession, say, “I will build my church?” Is Paul so misguided in his language of the church as “the bride of Christ?” Do our hymns and formularies use similar metaphoric language incorrectly? Should we really encourage our children to love Jesus but not his church? Wouldn’t doing so be, or isn’t doing so, a distortion of the “body of Christ” language of 2 Corinthians 12?

Funerals as houses of mourning include celebrating lives well lived and are the occasion for gratitude as well as introspection—a timely thing! Attending this faithful churchman’s funeral made me wonder, *Would I be described as a churchman? Do I want to be? Why would I be called one? Would Jesus be so described?*

I think so. ■

**George Vink** is a retired Christian Reformed pastor and author of the devotional book *Walking in the Word*.



### Synod Reporting

I was at Synod this year, and upon reading the reports in the July/August *Banner*, I was very impressed with the balanced reporting even covering some polarized debates. Thank you for your work in this regard!

*Jonathan Fischer*  
Atlantic Northeast

### Doing Justice

Your editorial “Let Justice Roll” (July/Aug 2017) was much appreciated. You will have undoubtedly taken note of the writings of Bert Hielema who for some years now has pointed out the great need for justice with a view to earthkeeping.

I consider him one of the most visionary thinkers of the Christian Reformed Church.

*Louis Tamminga*  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

I welcome the series on justice launched by the editor as well as the content of the first article (“Let Justice Roll”). But the question you pose for the third article presents a false choice: *Is justice the work of the institutional church or only of individual Christians?*

There is a third choice: justice is the work, indeed the calling, of the government and citizens who serve in govern-



# TTERS

ment, who elect others to do so, and who join in organizations to promote justice, such as the Center for Public Justice, International Justice Mission, political parties, and so on. As Christian citizens, we are called to promote justice; we fulfill this calling not primarily through the institutional church nor just as individuals but through political organizations and holding office in the government.

Yes, the institutional church must teach and preach the biblical call to do justice and to live justly. Yes, individual Christians must live justly and vote. But establishing and maintaining justice is the primary task of government; Christians need to relate to and serve in government as citizens, not as member of churches. In doing so they should promote biblical justice.

*Joyce Ribbens Campbell  
Greenbelt, Md.*

## New Name

The CRC's new mission agency is getting a new name ("A New Name for a New Agency," Jul/Aug 2017). The new name (Resonate) is supposed to illustrate and resonate with God's mission through villages and towns and cities. Research led to this decision, but what research? [It seems] somewhat similar to renaming Christian Reformed World Relief Committee with no mention of a Christian connection.

It seems to accommodate non-Christians: not to offend but to be politically correct. Trustee Cal Hoogendoorn said the new name captures the essence of the new mission agency. I believe the opposite is true. I really hope the delegates will revisit this idea and at least leave the word "Christian" in a proposed new name.

*George VandenBrink  
Red Deer, Alta.*

I am sorely disappointed that the synod of the CRC approved the name Resonate Global Mission for the new mission agency ("A New Name for a New Agency"). I would have preferred that my church as it seeks to win souls for Christ march under an unfurled banner bearing the name Christian Reformed Global Mission. Similarly, when my country becomes involved in a humanitarian enterprise, it flies the Stars and Stripes rather than a flag that would give the world no idea which nation is extending the hand of kindness and mercy.

*Robert Bolt  
Grand Rapids, Mich.*

*Editor's note: Please see the letter from the New Mission Agency board printed on page 8 of the July/Aug issue for the rationale for the agency's new name, which includes the inability to protect the name "Christian Reformed Global Missions" in Canadian patent court and security for some of our missionaries.*

## If I Had a Hammer

As a denomination it appears we're constantly looking at the steady decline of membership in our churches. Your editorial ("If I Had a Hammer," June 2017) cites a number of efforts made at revitalizing or renewal.

What I find disheartening is that we don't take our direction from God's Word. In Deuteronomy 6 and 8 God warns his people not to forget him when they end up being abundantly blessed in the Promised Land.

Our denomination has been richly blessed in every way. In our affluence, have we lost the vertical contact with God? Are we more focused on the material? Are we still being called to repentance, as did the Old Testament prophets?

Do we need to do more reforming to get back to our roots?

*John Rustenburg  
Whitby, Ont.*

I have noticed that churches that are increasing their membership are more biblical than traditional; more concerned about being Christian than being Reformed, more concerned about obedience than religion ("If I Had a Hammer"). Churches that encourage us, through all programs and the pulpit every Sunday, to live our faith (not just knowledge but action based on that knowledge). Churches that every Sunday repeat their mission—a reminder that their church belongs to Jesus and his mission, not their social club. A personal relationship with God, not just knowledge of him.

*Alice Anderson  
Calgary, Alta.*

## Correction

**Our apologies to Peter Vander Meulen and his family for spelling his name incorrectly in the news story "Social Justice Coordinator to Retire After 44 years of Serving CRC" (Jul/Aug. 2017). After 44 years, we certainly should have known better!**

# NEWS

## Gathered to Inspire Ministry

**D**escribed as “a new kind of CRC event,” Inspire 2017 came together in Detroit, Mich., on August 3-5 with ministry and agency staff, leaders, and members from across the Christian Reformed Church.

With attendees from almost a quarter of the denomination’s 1,000 congregations and a broad focus on many kinds of ministry—outreach, small groups, worship, children and youth— “[Inspire] gave ordinary members a way to engage with the denomination in a meaningful way,” said attendee Jen Veltman, 30, a



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member of North Hills CRC in Troy, Mich.

The Board of Trustees (governing board of the CRC, now Council of Delegates) conceived the event in 2014, in response to Synod 2013’s identified pathways to cultivate binationality. It’s part of a cycle of gatherings, some country-specific and one binational, to be held every two to three years.

In the opening Thursday night worship, emcees Denise Posie and Adam Perez welcomed the group of more than 800 gathered in a ballroom of the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center to “worship, fellowship, and receive whatever God has in store for us,” as Posie said.

Rev. Ben and Melody Van Arragon, pastor and music director at First CRC of Detroit, coordinated the worship component of Inspire 2017’s four gathering sessions.

Multilingual songs and spoken-word pieces with percussion were included, and a conference gospel choir was an anchor of the planning.

George Prins, 60, a youth leader from Mountainview CRC in St. Catharines, Ont., joined the choir, led by Calvin College Gospel Choir director Nate Glasper. “I love the momentum and the freedom of spirit of gospel music, and I just wanted to be a part of that,” Prins said.

Steven Timmermans, executive director of the CRC, said the planning team cast the net wide for programming ideas, wanting the conference to be a “broadly focused opportunity for many folks involved in ministry to come together, to be inspired, to share ideas, to be exposed to new understandings of how to be the church together.”

Offerings at Inspire included workshops and panel discussions;

sessions for people ministering in a particular area, like Coffee Break leaders or spiritual directors; and early morning or after-hours activities around prayer and music. Two offsite workshops showed stories of Detroit ministries ushering in God’s kingdom, and breakout sessions looked at topics including Intergenerational Leadership, Your Church Online, Young Adults’ Love-Hate Relationship to the Church, Changing Postures—Beyond Programs, and the Role of Worship.



Conference organizers were not able to provide cost estimates for the event, as the accounting was still being tabulated at print time, but Inspire 2017 was made possible by the underwriting of a large gift by the Richard and Helen DeVos foundation as well as individual and group registrations, table fees from a ministry expo offered throughout the event, sponsorships, and paid advertising in the program booklet.

Inspire 2017 was organized by a planning team of 11: half CRCNA

staff, half pastors and staff from churches near the region, and one contract hire to help plan the event.

Though organizers chose a facility that could have accommodated a larger crowd, as they didn't know what to expect in terms of registration, Timmermans said they were "very pleased with the 840 that have come."

Walter Neutel, in his 70s and a member of Calvin CRC in Ottawa, Ont., attended with his wife at the invitation of their church council. He also didn't know what to expect. "I was a bit skeptical of the whole thing," Neutel said. "It's better than I had expected. I was encouraged by the sessions I attended."

—Alissa Vernon

## Inspire by the Numbers

<b>46</b> hours	<b>44</b> ministry expo exhibitors
<b>226</b> churches	<b>44</b> of 48 classes represented
<b>842</b> registrants	<b>11</b> planning team members
<b>66</b> workshops/breakout sessions with 124 leaders/panelists	<b>42°N/48°W</b> , the latitude and longitude of Detroit, Mich. (some Canadians traveled <b>north</b> to attend)
<b>4</b> keynote speakers	
<b>9</b> worship team members	

## Heard at Inspire 2017

Four keynote speakers shared messages from their different experiences at Inspire 2017: Ruth Padilla DeBorst, with Resonate Global Mission and Center for Interdisciplinary Theological Education in Costa Rica; Harvey Carey, pastor of Citadel of Faith Covenant Church in Detroit, Mich.; author and speaker Liz Curtis



Higgs (a replacement for author Ann Voskamp who was unable to attend for medical reasons); and theologian Richard Mouw, who gave the opening address.

"God is longing for the day when it will be well with the whole creation. We are called to grieve with God, but we have to do that with the background of God's delight in the well-ordered creation. . . . We know we don't have to solve it all. . . . We don't need to be messiahs. . . . Jesus is coming again and he will make all things new."

—Richard Mouw



"Don't complicate the gospel. It's simple: My name is Liz. I'm a sinner and I need a Savior whose name is Jesus."

—Liz Curtis Higgs



"Christian Reformed Church: you are in a time in American and global history that the Lord is calling you to stop over-processing" and love and minister as God leads. "We're talking and meeting and the world is dying."

—Harvey Carey



"God's people are sent in the power of the Holy Spirit, not only to do and say, but to be. We are sent as a reconciled and reconciling community."

—Ruth Padilla DeBorst

JONATHAN STEIGENGA

# NEWS

## More Gatherings

Christian Reformed youth, leaders, women, and members from particular ethnic groups held regional and national conferences this spring and summer. Here are some of them:

### Black and Reformed, April 28-30

Pullman Christian Reformed Church in Chicago, Ill., hosted 150 leaders from across North America, uniting around black culture within the context of Reformed Christianity.

Keynote speaker Dr. Vince Bantu focused his talks on his research of early church history in North Africa. He applied his research with the question of how attendees can bring the gospel to their communities and friends. The conference, held annually, also included vibrant worship and additional workshops.



### Classis Renewal Summit, May 1-3

Classis renewal coordinator Rev. Al Postma facilitated a meeting of leaders from Classes Atlantic North, Pacific Northwest, Heartland, and Northern Michigan at Elmhurst (Ill.) CRC. "We saw the difficulties faced by the various classes and their ingenuity in seeking to deal with them. It was good to be able to discuss with the other delegates why and how they did what

they did," said Rev. Kevin Muyskens, a participant from Immanuel CRC in Sheldon, Iowa.

### All Ontario Youth Convention, May 19-22

More than 800 youth, youth leaders, and volunteers gathered in Waterloo, Ont., to worship, learn, and encounter God in the largest annual gathering of Christian Reformed young people. This year's theme was "Know.n: Know Fully. Fully Known," referring to 1 Corinthians 13:12.

### Maritimes CRC Women's Retreat, May 26-27

More than 50 women from Christian Reformed churches in the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island gathered in Charlottetown, P.E.I., for a women's retreat, an annual occurrence for the last 50 years since a "Maritimes Ladies Rally" was started by the first generation of CRC women in the Maritime provinces.

### Korean-language Coffee Break Conference, June 28-July 1



offered at Beautiful Church in nearby Rowland Heights.

"Transformation—Shining Christian Lives to the World" was the theme as more than 100 Christian families from around North America gathered for a Korean-language Coffee Break conference, held at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in City of Industry, Calif. Special programs were offered for children and youth; leadership workshops were



**Megan Fate Marshman was the featured speaker at the All Ontario Youth Convention.**



**A camper learns how to kick the soccer ball.**

## Washington Church Teaches about Faith Through Soccer

This summer, campers at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Zillah, Wash., discovered how to apply life lessons—like risk taking and trusting others—on both the soccer field and in their walk with the Lord.

From June 19-22, 105 kids ages 5 to 12 spent evenings on the grounds of Faith CRC to participate in High Power Soccer Camp. Forty volunteers taught them dribbling, shooting, kicking, and scrimmaging.

Afterward, the children participated in The Zone, which included a time of worship, daily Bible stories from the book of Daniel, a related story of a real-life athlete, and taking part in a giving project.

This is the third year Faith CRC has hosted High Power Soccer Camp, and they plan to offer it again next year.

—Amy Toornstra

For more on these and other stories, please visit [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org).

—Banner Correspondents



Art Camp volunteer Lynne Wallace.

## Day Camp Bridges Art and Social Justice

In downtown Niagara Falls, Ont., children learned about art and social justice through a series of summer day camps run by Christian Reformed Church plant The Bridge. The six camps focused on one social justice issue and one art form each week July through August. It was the second summer for Arts Camp on Queen, the street where the church's HUB is located.

"It's my belief that these social justice issues not only matter to kids, but kids are capable of talking about them. They just need to be given the right space and way to explore them," said Charissa Sanche, a university student running the camp. "Art is the most accessible format for that to happen," she said.

Sanche, working on a Masters of Arts degree in

social justice and equity studies at nearby Brock University, has been a part of The Bridge community since September 2015. She and church planters Allen and Freda Kleine Deters developed the weeks of camp programming with topics like Love Our Earth, Beating Bullying, and Sharing Is Caring.

—Alissa Vernon

## Hundreds of Cadets Camp in Black Hills



PHOTOGRAPHER: DARYL KATS

This wooden cross was made by cadet Trey Kelderman.

Trey Kelderman, 14, who attends Trinity CRC in Rock Valley, Iowa, and is part of the Three Rivers Cadet club, said he enjoyed "being able to meet [new people] as strangers but think of them as friends by the time you leave." He said that his experiences at the Camporee, where the theme was God Seeking Us (Ezek. 34:11), have impacted his relationship with Christ: "Being at the Camporee has made me grow deeper in Christ and has made me more aware of his love for his people."

The week was filled with activities, including two trips, one to Mount Rushmore and another to various area lakes. The groups also completed service projects throughout their stay, including clearing out pine trees to allow more aspen to grow and improving browsing habitat for elk.

Run by Dynamic Youth Ministries, Cadets is an evangelistic program for boys with more than 600 clubs throughout North America, many of them in Christian Reformed churches.

The International Camporee is held every three years, with the 2020 event planned for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

—Kyle Hoogendoorn

## Established Michigan Church Blesses Growing Maine Congregation

In July, 14 people from the young people's group of Beaverdam Christian Reformed Church in Hudsonville, Mich., traveled 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to a growing church plant in Bangor, Maine, for a week of physical labor and community building.

Rev. Jonathan Fischer, pastor of the 12-year-old New Hope Church in Bangor, said it was a blessing



Repairs at Penobscot Christian School.

"to experience not just the capital 'C' Church, but our denomination, and to build little connections and little bridges so that we're part of something."

Fischer said being on the geographic edge of the denomination and having a congregation of members with few historic ties to the CRC makes it easy to feel removed and disconnected, "even though the denomination has had such a role in nurturing us as we were planted and growing."

The teens in Hudsonville, a 135-year-old congregation, specifically selected a church to serve that was far from Michigan. "We always try to pick a place that is culturally a bit different than what the kids experience every day," said Rev. Tyler Wagenmaker, pastor of Beaverdam CRC.

Beaverdam CRC has held eight such service projects in the past, visiting churches in Mississippi, New Jersey, and more, every other year since 2000. "We try to intentionally seek out a church and work with a church because that's where people in that local community are connected to God's kingdom in a concrete, tangible way," Wagenmaker said.

—Alissa Vernon

# NEWS

## Western Canadian Teens Serve in Vancouver

**V**ancouver SERVE 2017 provided a week of community service and fellowship for young people from three Christian Reformed churches, uniting together in Vancouver, B.C. with the support of Youth Unlimited, the parachurch organization that supports youth ministry in the CRC.

The event took place July 8-15 and was hosted and planned by a team from Fleetwood CRC in Surrey, B.C., and First CRC in Vancouver, led by Rev. Trevor Vanderveen and his spouse, Julia Vanderveen. First CRC, on the edge of the city's east side and adjacent to a refugee welcome center, was home base to the visiting teens from The River Community CRC in Edmonton, Alta.; Sunrise CRC in Ponoka, Alta., and Willoughby CRC in Langley, B.C.



The Vancouver SERVE 2017 team.

The theme for all of Youth Unlimited's 28 SERVE projects this summer was "authentic community." Rev. Bruce Gritter, pastor at The River Community CRC who joined the trip as a leader, explained that the theme was developed with a two-fold focus. "First of all, to come together as a team so that we experience the kind of authentic community that we can only experience in Christ. Second, to serve our neighbors

and friends in the inner city of Vancouver passionately and unconditionally."

The teens were invited to serve in a number of ways in the vicinity around the church, including spending time at Jacob's Well, a center on East Hastings, a neighborhood of the city greatly affected by homelessness; doing yard work; cleaning up litter; and meeting children at the refugee welcome center. The experience

had an impact on the team members and those they met. "We definitely felt the Spirit's presence," reflected Willoughby CRC's youth pastor, Curtis Meliefste. "The Holy Spirit was right with us the whole way, while our actions were impacting the physical neighborhood and turning heads."

The team took time to enjoy the city's Stanley Park and the Sea to Sky gondola north of the city. They also took in the more sobering and contrasting east side neighborhoods where people without housing gather and sleep. Evenings were spent playing games, walking in the neighborhood, and sharing stories of the day.


Throughout the week, the team sang Sandra McCracken's "We Will Feast in the House of Zion." A line in the song summed up the experience for the team: "He has done great things, we will say together."

—Jenny deGroot

### More Online

From the online forum *As I Was Saying* and *thebanner.org* news section, you may have missed these stories.

#### We Need to Talk about Justice

 Robert Joustra writes of his concern over "the rhetoric on both sides of justice issues in our denomination of late." He asks, "How should the institutional church talk about justice?" (<https://tinyurl.com/thebanner-talkjustice>).

#### Can Facebook Replace Church?

Andrea Syverson wonders about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's assertion that "the days of institutions like 'churches and Little Leagues' are over." (<https://tinyurl.com/thebanner-facebookchurch>).



Friendship Ministries' participant Alan.



Len VanWieren is a mentor to Harold.

together. (<https://tinyurl.com/thebanner-friendship30>).

#### 30 Years of Friendship Ministries in Edmonton

Covenant Christian Reformed Church and West End CRC in Edmonton, Alta., celebrated 30 years of Friendship Ministries in April. Janet Greidanus wrote about the Monday evening gatherings where 80 to 100 people, half of them with developmental disabilities, have fun, sing, listen to a Bible story, share, pray, and eat



Making cards for kids in the hospital.

#### 'Justice Kids' Ministry in Michigan Church

At Watershed Church, a Christian Reformed congregation in Traverse City, Mich., children in kindergarten through third grade are learning about and doing justice every other Sunday with a curriculum of family activities based on the biblical virtues of charity, justice, kindness, and more. Alissa Vernon wrote about their first few weeks. (<https://tinyurl.com/thebanner-justicekids>)

## News Digest

### Sea to Sea Participant Dies in Collision

Clarence Doornbos, age 76, a cyclist and member of LaGrave Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich., died from the impact of an auto collision while cycling on July 15. He and his wife, Jan Doornbos, had been scheduled to participate in a portion of the 2017 Sea to Sea, a cross-continent cycling fundraiser to fight poverty. Doornbos had been with Sea to Sea since 2008.



### Church Parsonage Repurposed for Ministry

Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Waterdown, Ont., has donated the use of its vacant parsonage to Eagles Nest Association of Waterdown; the former pastor's home will become the agency's new H.O.P.E. Centre, a Home of Practical Education. Bedrooms have been converted to a prayer room and individual counseling rooms. The larger spaces will be used for support group meetings and children's programs. The basement workshop will be used to teach tool basics and minor home repairs. The kitchen will be a space for cooking classes.

### Dordt College Hosts Pipe Organ Encounter

Twenty-one students participated in an event organized by the American Guild of Organists and held at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. Participants toured area Christian Reformed churches to play the organs, hear guest lecturers, and visit local businesses related to organs. John MacInnis, assistant professor of music at Dordt, said "We want [students] to walk away with a deep appreciation for the creative potential offered by the organ as they begin lifetimes of ministry in music and musical enjoyment."

### SERVE Team Lifts Spirits in Fort McMurray

The northern Alberta city of Fort McMurray, still rebuilding after a wildfire forced evacuation and devastated the town more than a year ago, is home to one Christian Reformed church, Evergreen. This past spring it was visited by a team of 16 youth, young adults, and youth leaders from five other Alberta CRCs to bless the church and the community through service work.

The project was an exploratory trip prior to a larger effort planned for the summer of 2018. Ron deVries, the CRC's youth ministry catalyzer and Canadian SERVE director for Youth Unlimited, called it an "energizing event."

### Campus Ministry Leader Becomes Multi-Faith Coordinator

Jamie VanderBerg, a chaplain with Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) since 2005, resumes a half-time position as coordinator of Multi-Faith Programming this September, a job created by the University of Guelph in September 2016. VanderBerg's responsibilities include providing—or connecting students with—spiritual support, helping to respond to student crises, working faith-related programming into the student experience, and promoting the work of the Multi-Faith Resource Team. VanderBerg continues to work with GCM on a half-time basis. To help maintain the work of the campus ministry, Sara DeMoor was hired, also in a half-time role.

For more on these and other stories, please visit [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org).

—Banner Correspondents

## Noteworthy



Janice Schuurmans

**Janice Schuurmans**, a member of Middleville (Mich.) Christian Reformed Church, completed a **54-mile ultra marathon in South Africa**. She trains and fundraises with **Team World Vision**.

**Eric Fedders, Peter Hoelsema, Austin Lindemulder, and Kyle Vander Zee**, four graduates of the engineering program at **Dordt College**, recently won the grand prize for their work on a bridge for the people of

Liberia, a **\$25,000 award from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying**.

**Dordt College** recently received a **\$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation** for scholarships and programs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The largest in the school's history, the grant will run from fall 2017 until 2022.

**Thomas Hoeksema**, former chair of the CRC's Committee on Disability Concerns, was presented the **2017 Henri Nouwen Award**, recognizing an individual with compassion for and a commitment to people who have developmental disabilities.



Thomas Hoeksema

**Word Guild Awards: James K.A. Smith**, a professor at Calvin College, earned the **Grace Irwin Award** for *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*; **Hans Boersma**, who attends Immanuel CRC in Langley, B.C., and **Rudy Eikelboom**, a member of Waterloo (Ont.) CRC, were also recognized.

Fourteen-year-old **Elora VanderWal**, a member of Stratford (Ont.) CRC, earned **second-place recognition** for her poem entered in the **2017 Royal Canadian Legion Literary and Art Contest**, a national competition.

Thirteen-year-old **Julia LaGrand**, a member of Eastern Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich., won the **national title at The Braille Challenge** hosted by the Braille Institute in Los Angeles, Calif.

Sunday school students at **Waterloo [Ont.] CRC** received a **visit from their local Member of Parliament**.



**Engineering team (from left): Austin Lindemulder, Peter Hoelsema, Eric Fedders, Kyle Vander Zee**



**Julia LaGrand, reading.**

For more on these and other stories, please visit [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org).

# NEWS

## IN MEMORIAM



**Rev. Michael (Mike) Reitsma**  
1944-2017

Pastor, visionary, church planter, leader, and mentor, Michael Reitsma had a huge heart for both God and people. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at age 48, Reitsma was able to serve in ministry for another 10 years before retiring. Reitsma died on May 12 at the age of 73.

Reitsma served Christian Reformed congregations in Minnesota, California, and Alberta.

"What I remember most about Mike," said a pastor colleague, "is his earnest and unrelenting embodiment of the Christian mission. His vision for the city of Calgary led to his leadership of a city-wide ministerial association. Even as Mike's body was betraying him in his last months, he still talked vision."

Another pastor and close friend said, "Mike had a capacity to spot potential leaders and had a passion to raise up future leaders. He helped catalyze church planting in Calgary."

Reitsma excelled at basketball and completed several marathons. He enjoyed fishing and hunting with friends and family.

Reitsma is survived by Ruth, his wife of 51 years; four children and their spouses; and 13 grandchildren.

—Janet A. Greidanus  
Further information on recently deceased ministers is available at [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org).

## IN MEMORIAM



**Rev. Michael DeVries**  
1935 - 2017

Michael De Vries was passionate about proclaiming Jesus as the boundary-breaking, socially transforming Savior and Lord. Ecumenically minded and forward thinking, he embraced change.

His pastoral care was filled with humanity. Tender and gentle, he could sit with people in their darkest hour. De Vries, who battled cancer for 28 years, died on May 27 at the age of 81.

After seminary, De Vries earned a Master's degree at Westminster Theological Seminary and received his "doctorandus" degree (doctorate) from the Free University of Amsterdam.

De Vries served congregations in British Columbia, Ontario, California, and Michigan. He also participated on several CRC denominational committees and was twice the president of synod, the annual leadership meeting of the CRC. He co-authored a book in 2015 entitled *Pillar Church in the Van Raalte Era*.

De Vries loved reading and called the bookstore his "candy store." He had a great sense of humor.

Left to mourn his death are Patricia, whom De Vries married in 2007; three children and their spouses; four stepdaughters; 15 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. De Vries was predeceased in 2005 by Marianne, his wife of 45 years.

—Janet A. Greidanus

## Iowa Church Celebrates 150 Years

Wellsburg (Iowa) Christian Reformed Church celebrated its 150th anniversary on July 8 and 9 with the theme "God is faithful through all generations." The celebration on Saturday included a reflection on the church's history, songs shared by the choir and musical group Broken Cross, and words from former pastors on their memories of the church.

On Sunday, the celebration continued in worship services. Steven Timmermans, executive director of the CRC, gave a message on Psalm 100. Former interim pastor Rev. Dan Brouwer gave a message from passages found in 1 Peter, "God's Will: Our Focus for the Future."

An anniversary booklet commemorating the music and mission of Wellsburg CRC over 150 years was also published. Various members of the congregation wrote about how God used them in his mission and how he worked through their projects throughout the years.

Mildred Griffin, a member of the church and part of the committee for the anniversary celebration who helped to write the 150-year booklet, said only God could have carried the congregation through its beginnings to now. "There is only one word or phrase—God's faithfulness," Griffin said. "When the denomination was 10 years old, the first minister chose . . . to become affiliated with [the CRC]. We are only the second church west of the Mississippi, and sermons were preached in Dutch to a German congregation. God has been faithful 150 years."

—Kyle Hoogendoorn



Steven Timmermans (far left) with former pastors and their spouses. Continuing, L-R: Barbara Vos, Tom Vos (1987-2015), John Gorter (1981-1986), Barb Gorter, Marlene Kuipers, and Les Kuipers (1976-1981).

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA VOS RIDER



# FAQs

## Faith Formation

**Q** What is our role as parents in encouraging our college-age son's faith formation?

**He is a freshman at a Christian college but does not attend church. How should we broach this topic with him?**

**A** Thanks for this question. You are understandably concerned about your son's spiritual life; the prospect of him walking away from his faith must cause you great sadness.

First of all, realize that attending church is not the same thing as faith. There are lots of factors that keep freshmen in bed on a Sunday morning. College students tend to stay up late, and weekends are no exception. Teens who were nudged out of bed by their parents on Sunday morning no longer have that incentive to get up. Since your son is at a Christian college, he will have other opportunities to hear about how God has a call on his life.

As a parent, there are things you can do. (1) Remember the previous 18 years. The faith-rich environment in which you raised him is not lost. It is still influencing him. (2) Recognize that it's not all on your shoulders. There are lots of people who spoke into his life as he grew, and there are still people who do. His professors, student life leadership, and the college chaplain office include many people who are speaking to him about faith. (3) Lead by example. Your life will speak and has spoken louder than your words ever will. He sees that and will continue to see it. (4) Pray. Prayer is powerful, and when we pray, God listens. Ask God to surround him with people who will support his faith walk. Take heart in the promises that you heard at his baptism. (5) Remind him—once!—of something that he already knows: that you wish he would go to church when he is at school.

*Laura Keeley is a regional catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries and director of children's ministries at 14th St. CRC in Holland, Mich.*

*Robert Keeley is professor of education at Calvin College and director of distance education at Calvin Seminary.*

Attending church is not the same thing as faith.

## Worship

**Q** Is there a particularly Reformed way of serving the Lord's Supper? My church recently switched from people partaking communion seated in the pews to going forward to receive the elements. It seems too much like a Roman Catholic practice to me.

**A** Rather than focusing on what feels more Reformed or Roman, it might be better to consider a variety of communion practices, what they communicate, and which ones might be most appropriate for your congregation.

In many churches, the elements are passed down the pews, with everyone waiting to partake until all are served. This allows for quiet reflection but not active participation. Some churches have countered by asking people to come forward for the elements—a powerful way of responding to the call to the table. The elements may be passed from person to person, emphasizing the priesthood of all believers in community, or an elder may give the elements directly to worshipers, reminding us that the gift comes from God. Worshipers might kneel as a sign of prayer and contrition, sit to be served as the disciples were served by Christ, or stand in a posture of thanksgiving. Of course, there is no reason a church must use only one of these modes all the time.

In all of these practices, Reformed churches should keep in mind that this sacrament is both a remembrance and a meal to sustain resurrection living. Too often our communion practices feel like "a funeral for Jesus." Indeed, one word for the Lord's Supper is *Eucharist*—thanksgiving. Our celebration of the Table should exude the confidence and joy of those who trust in the completed work of the risen Christ.

*Greg Scheer (gregscheer.com) is a composer, author, speaker, and music associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.*

## Missional Living

**Q** I don't want to spend my retirement years in a self-ish manner. Where can I find resources that identify and describe opportunities to serve others? I'd like to find something I really enjoy.

**A** Your question is thoughtful and exciting at the same time. As you think about how to serve the Lord as you transition from full-time work to using your gifts and talents to serve others in retirement, here are some suggestions to help you investigate your options.

1. Seek God's direction through prayer and through conversation with people you trust. Good friends and family can help you discern your gifts and passions.
2. A good primer to read is Amy Sherman's *Kingdom Calling*. Sherman provides a winsome approach to thinking about your gifts in helping others to flourish with integrity and joy.
3. Check out the websites of nonprofits in your area. For example, Habitat for Humanity has many chapters near and far away involved in building affordable homes.
4. Seek the wisdom of people at your church. Your worshiping community is a great resource for pointing you in the right direction.
5. Be open to the Spirit's nudging. Oftentimes, the Holy Spirit calls us into places of pain where our Lord expands our capacity for compassion and justice.

I pray that these suggestions will lead you to being a blessing in God's kingdom.

*Reginald Smith is director of race relations and social justice for the Christian Reformed Church. He attends Madison Square Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. ■*

BY LEE HARDY

# RIGHT-SIZING YOUR WORK



**R**IGHT-SIZING.” It’s hard to argue with a term like that. Why would anyone want the wrong size? And yet, if I were working for a company that was talking about right-sizing, I’d be nervous. In the business world, it seems, right-sizing really means downsizing. And downsizing means firing people. Or “letting them go”—as if people wanted to leave their jobs.

There are other contexts in which the term “right-sizing” is not used to mask an unpleasant reality. It might mean making things smaller. Or it might mean making them bigger. In either case, it will make them better. If I bring a pair of pants to the tailor for right-sizing, they may be taken in or let out. Either way, I’ll be happy with a better fit.

From time to time not only our clothes but our work may need to be right-sized. But unlike our clothes, our jobs may need to be made bigger *and* smaller at the same time. Bigger in one respect; smaller in another.

Let me explain.

In the last episode of this season’s PBS series *Call the Midwife*, one of the midwives, engaged to be married, explained to her fiancé that their wedding would not be fancy. Her father was a vicar in the Church of England and was about to leave for missionary work in Papua, New Guinea. Unlike the regular run of people, she explained, her father had a vocation—and thus not much money.

This explanation on the part of the midwife reflects a common understanding of vocation. Only some people have one: those called by God to a special work in the church. In fact, early in its history, the church made an outstandingly unhelpful distinction between two ways of being a Christian, two roads to heaven. The high road was for those who were willing to forsake the world and take up residence in a monastery or serve the church full-time. They were the reli-

giously serious ones. These people had received the call to leave jobs, family, and property behind for the sake of full-time Christian service.

The low road was for the rest of us, those of us either unwilling or unable to free ourselves from our attachments to the world. We live an ordinary life: we work for a living, go to church on Sunday, and try to stay out of trouble. We have one foot in the sacred realm, the other in the secular. We never got that special call, that vocation. We’re part-time Christians.

## IN RESPONDING TO OUR VARIOUS CALLINGS, WE COOPERATE IN GOD’S CARE FOR HUMANITY ACROSS THE WIDE ARRAY OF CREATION.

Martin Luther, the German Reformer of the 16th century, rejected this two-track version of the Christian life. He insisted that all Christians have a calling from God. And that calling can be, and usually is, fulfilled in the midst of everyday life. “It looks like a great thing,” Luther said in his lectures on Genesis, “when a monk renounces everything and goes into a cloister, carries on the life of asceticism, fasts, watches, prays, etc. On the other hand, it looks like a small thing when a maid cooks and cleans and does other housework. But because God’s command is there, even such a small work must be praised as a service of God far surpassing the holiness and asceticism of all the monks and nuns.” Even the ordinary work of the household could count as full-time Christian service.

In Luther’s view, everyday life was charged with religious significance. Our

daily life, according to this understanding, is the scene of God’s providential activity in which we participate through our work. God calls us to serve our neighbors in the various roles, or “earthly stations,” in which we have been placed. If I am a baker, God has called me to meet my neighbor’s needs for daily bread. If I am a doctor, I attend to my neighbor’s need for healing. If I am a car mechanic, I serve my neighbor’s need for reliable transportation. This is God’s preferred way of provision. For the most part, God acts in this world through the agency of human hands. God even milks cows, Luther claimed, through the hands of the dairy farmer.

But our stations extend far beyond the realm of paid employment. If I am married, God has called me to love and support my spouse; if I am a parent, God has called me to care for my children. If I am a citizen of a democratic country, God has called me to participate in the political life of the nation to secure the ends of justice. If I am a parishioner, God calls me to exercise my spiritual gifts in support of the community of faith. A vocation does not bid us to leave the world, but to engage the world for God’s sake. In responding to our various callings, we cooperate in God’s care for humanity across the wide array of creation.

The concept of vocation is deep, rich, and broad. It cannot be reduced to paid employment.

Our vocation spans the various ways in which we are typically related to others. It covers being a partner, being a parent, being a citizen, and being a member of a church as well as being an employee. The workplace is just one of the places where I respond to God’s call to love and serve my neighbor. Even if I’m in a season of unemployment, I still have a vocation.

This is good news for those of us whose paid jobs do not occupy the center of our lives. The focus of our vocation may lie instead in another area of our life—in the care of a child with special »

needs, in the ministry of the church, in the efforts of a local nonprofit organization or neighborhood association. The apostle Paul, after all, was a tentmaker. But clearly tentmaking was not where he found his life's highest purpose. Rather it was a way of supplying his own needs as he pursued his primary calling, which he described as "the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:4).

On the other hand, if I do find my career compelling, fulfilling, and absorbing, the expansive sense of vocation may be cause for some reflection. If my job monopolizes my time; if it commands all my attention; if it drains all my energy so that I have little left for other relationships and responsibilities in my life, then perhaps my job has gotten too big. It's sucking up all the oxygen the other aspects of my vocation need if they are to flourish. My job needs to be right-sized by getting smaller.

There may be another sense, however, in which my job needs to get bigger.

When we look at the word *calling* in the New Testament, we find variations on a single theme: we are called to repentance and faith (Acts 2:38); we are called into fellowship with Christ (1 Cor. 1:9); we are called out of darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9); we are called to be holy (1 Peter 1:15; 1 Cor. 1:2); indeed, we are called to be saints (Rom. 1:7). In short, we are called to follow Christ. In that sense, we all have the same calling.

But how shall we respond to that calling?

Each of us is likely to answer that call in a different way. In the great commandment, God bids us all to love our neighbor. But how exactly do we propose to do that? Here we find the New Testament emphasis on the variety of gifts. Within the community of faith, individuals have different gifts: those who have the gift of teaching should teach; those who have the gift of prophecy should prophesy; those who have the gift of administration should administer. As members of one body, the church, we have different roles to play based on our gifts (see Rom. 12 and 1 Cor. 12).

Reformers like John Calvin believed that the same principle holds for society at large. We should seek to serve others

on the basis of the gifts God has given us. Not just our spiritual gifts but "all the gifts we possess," Calvin wrote in his *Institutes*, "have been bestowed by God and entrusted to us on the condition that they be distributed for our neighbor's benefit." For, "we are the stewards of everything God has conferred on us by which we are able to help our neighbor, and are required to render an account of our stewardship."

The connection between the call of God and our gift-based work in the world seems natural enough, viewed in this way. But in our culture the tendency has been to separate our sense of religious vocation from our professional practice, to separate the kind of life to which God calls us from the life demanded of us at work. We have learned to resolve any potential conflicts between the two by relegating them to wholly separate spheres. We have become experts at compartmentalization when the need arises. And what we get in return is a religion that seems irrelevant to a big part of our life and a job that often feels empty of real significance.

What would it be like to connect a strong sense of calling to one's work? To see our job as a place where we respond to the call to love our neighbors?

Here is one example of what that might look like. Every year Grand Rapids (Mich.) Community College gives out "Giants Awards" to outstanding leaders in the local African-American community. Several years ago, Ruth Jones won the Hattie Beverly Education Award. Ms. Jones was the principle of a local public elementary school. The school was in trouble when she arrived. Morale was low; discipline, lacking; test scores, wanting. But under her supervision the school gradually turned around—dramatically.

Because of her faith, Ms. Jones had an expanded view of her professional mission. "My prime thing is to create good people," she said in an interview with *The Grand Rapids Press*. "I want to make sure my kids have a good heart. There are a lot of brilliant people in our prisons, but their hearts are not healthy. Their spirits have been broken." She continued, "I was created to please God. I please him by becoming

everything I was created to become. I was created to be a blessing to children. I know my purpose, and that is a wonderful thing. This has made me believe I can do anything, with God helping me."

Given her role in turning the school around, she said, "Everybody wants me to pass out a handbook and say, 'Here's the model you should use.' But the bottom line under all of it is love. So many kids come from a lot of pain at home. We can salvage a lot of these kids just by loving them. It doesn't cost anything."

During the interview the kids were out on the playground for recess. She went to her window and opened it, calling out to the children, her voice booming. "It's good to see all you wonderful leaders. Look at all the beautiful sunshine. Make sure you have sunshine in your heart, by being kind to each other. I love you—have fun out there."

Ms. Jones could have taken the safe route and confined herself to the standard duties of a school administrator. She could have fulfilled the official list of job expectations while adopting the self-protective role of an educational bureaucrat. But she didn't. Her sense of vocation made her job bigger than that. It enriched her work. She made the magic connection between Sunday and Monday. And in return, Ms. Jones lived out her faith each day in a job filled with significance.

Our job is a place where we can respond to God's call to love and serve our neighbor. That call gives meaning and purpose to our work. But our job is only one of the many "earthly stations" where we encounter God's call. We are not only workers, but children, parents, partners, neighbors, citizens, and parishioners. Given the full measure of our vocation, let's make sure our job is right-sized: small in one respect but big in another. ■



**Lee Hardy** is a professor of philosophy at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich. He is a member of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids.

# Aliens Are Among Us

**H**ER NAME IS SEMIRA\*, and the cleaning services she offered were a Mother's Day gift to me from my parents. I watched as the 50-year-old woman scrubbed my floors on all fours. I asked her how long she had been in Canada. She answered me with a thick Slavic accent. I began to do the math and asked if she had emigrated during the Bosnian War. "Yes," she replied. My curiosity piqued, I asked if she would share what happened to her.

She straightened her back and dropped the cloth into the bucket of hot soapy water. "It's simple," she said calmly. "One day there was a knock at the door. When my husband opened the door, there was a man pointing a gun at his face. He said that our house was now his house and we had 10 minutes to gather our belongings and leave, otherwise he was going to kill us." I could feel the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end as a lump formed in my throat. My face became hot as my mind quickly played judge and jury to the man who had done this to the woman kneeling before me.

As I opened my mouth to share my uninformed opinion with her, she continued. "I am a Muslim. The man who did this to us was Christian." I stared at Semira as a wave of shame washed over me. In that moment everything that had been black and white turned a horrible shade of grey. Semira fetched her cloth from the pail and continued washing my floor. The irony didn't escape me. There I stood, watching a Muslim scrub the dirt off the floors of a Christian. I tried to put myself in her place. Could I wash the floors of a person who subscribed to the same religion as the person who was responsible for forcing me out of the only home I'd ever known to flee to an unknown country, culture, and language?



**In that moment everything that had been black and white turned a horrible shade of grey.**

Several years later, I would come to realize that those questions planted a seed of compassion that I had never felt before for people who were different from me. Let me explain. The world as I had experienced it up until that point consisted mostly of first-generation Canadians whose parents had emigrated from The Netherlands 50 years earlier. We went to the same churches, attended the same schools, and camped at the same family campgrounds during summer holidays.

My time with Semira was the beginning of a journey for me, of seeking a new awareness of the kaleidoscope of peoples, languages, cultures, and customs in my own city. I was moving from a place of safe familiarity to a place of the vast unknown. I prayed that God would open my eyes to go beyond the ignorance that I had fallen back on so easily and for so long. After all, God created the young

girls behind the burkas, the men who wore turbans, the women with a bindi on their foreheads. He died and rose again for them as well as for me. I realized that my city was full of newcomers from foreign countries who were worshipping foreign gods—and suddenly my heart was tender for them all.

God used Semira to break my heart. The cleft it left behind has made room for more people and more stories, as well as a deep love for the foreigners who now call me their sister and my community their home.

*\*Name has been changed. ■*



**Carla Groen-Wikkerink** is a freelance writer, an artist, and an ESL instructor. She lives in Hamilton, Ont., and attends Meadowlands Fellowship

Christian Reformed Church in Ancaster, Ont.

# Calvin College Partners with Local Community to Improve Mental Health

**T**he Calvin College nursing department has been listening to its neighbors in Grand Rapids, Mich., for years. Faculty and students have worked alongside leaders from a few communities to provide education and health-related nursing services for an array of public health issues. In recent years, a new concern was voiced: mental health. And faculty took notice.

### Listening First

In 2010, Calvin College nursing professors Mary Molewyk Doornbos and Gail Zandee began asking questions and holding focus groups in three impoverished, underserved neighborhoods in Grand Rapids: the area around Baxter and Madison Avenues, Burton Heights, and the Creston and Belknap neighborhood. It didn't take long to see distinct trends of depression and anxiety disproportionately affecting urban, ethnically diverse women living in poverty.

It was clear that the women desired education and support around these issues and that Calvin College nursing students could meet a need. Doornbos and her colleagues created a curriculum entailing all of the things the women wanted to learn. And with the help of students, they began to teach.

"Nursing at Calvin is not 'Can I use people to practice my teaching/skills?'" said Doornbos. "It's 'This is what our neighbors want and have asked for,' and that changes the whole dynamic. We believe that our neighbors can identify both their concerns and the potential solutions."



Morgan Quist (left), a nursing major and studio art minor, helped facilitate the art project in the Baxter/Madison neighborhood.

### Taking Action

In fall 2011, a five-year pilot study, "Women Supporting Women: Supportive/Educative Groups for Ethnically Diverse, Urban, Impoverished Women Dealing with Depression and Anxiety" was launched in all three neighborhoods.

The program included six sessions, each 90 minutes in length, spanning four months each semester. The goal? To see an increase in the mental health self-care of participants.

"One of the barriers for these women was they didn't have any medical coverage [for] a counselor or a therapist, and they needed to see someone for therapy; they were high-risk, some suicidal," said Veronica Quintino, a community health worker who is working with Calvin in the Burton Heights neighborhood.

"I saw the change [in the women] within weeks of them being in the pro-

gram, saw how the depression was getting better, how they were taking the tools and applying them."

### Shattering Stereotypes

While Quintino speaks highly of the program now, she wasn't always an ardent supporter. When she first heard of Women Supporting Women, she was working as a social worker at Cherry Street Health Services. One of her clients struggling with mental health issues was having a hard time getting the help she needed.

Quintino didn't know much about the Calvin program, and she said she had some preconceived notions about the college. But, she said, she was desperate to find help for her client. So she went with her to a meeting in Burton Heights. It didn't take long for her to go from skeptic to advocate.

You add.  
God multiplies.

“Working with them and seeing them really implement the mission and vision . . . has taught me . . . that Calvin does care about the community, and [they] do teach students to be culturally competent,” said Quintino. “They practice their faith and value every individual as somebody who is a son and daughter of God. That’s one of the biggest learnings.”

Quintino said that despite her skepticism she connected her client with the program because her client needed the help. “But I learned so much, and that’s why I keep coming back,” she added about her own journey.

And it’s why a couple of years ago she recruited Miss Josie, another community health worker in Burton Heights, who spent nearly 40 years serving in many roles as a community liaison for Grand Rapids Public Schools.

“I’ve never seen a college like Calvin College,” said Miss Josie. “It’s just like I’m in church, if not better. I’ve never felt so much love and so much interest. Everyone is important to them. I’ve never felt that.”

### Making an Impact

A year after the first pilot study was completed, the results are in. The program has been deemed a resounding success. Using pre-testing and post-testing data, organiz-

## Students learn how to pursue justice as agents of renewal in the kingdom of God.

ers found participants experienced a significant increase in knowledge for self-care for depression and anxiety and a significant decrease in anxiety and depression symptoms. And the women were highly satisfied with the intervention.

In fact, they were so satisfied that some have asked to go through the program again, and many have become ambassadors for the program in their communities.

### Enhancing the Program

The program has been a partnership every step of the way. Community health workers serve as facilitators, while Calvin College nursing students do much of the teaching under the supervision of Calvin faculty.

In the past year, Women Supporting Women has stepped up this idea of part-

nership and has taken a more interdisciplinary approach, incorporating an art project into the program.

Morgan Quist, a nursing major and studio art minor, facilitated the art project alongside art professor Anna Greidanus in the Baxter/Madison neighborhood. Together they have helped the women who participate in the program create a book that maps their mental health journey.

“We’re trying to reinforce what the nursing students teach them about depression, anxiety, the need to take breaks, take time for themselves, that creativity is individualized and that what they make is valuable. We’re trying to tell them these messages through the art,” said Quist.

“Sometimes they can’t say it, but they can write it down, how they are feeling. It’s helped them a lot,” said Miss Josie.

“As you are doing the artwork, you are able to express your ideas and feelings, and at the end you feel a sense of completion, accomplishment,” said Quintino.

### Combining Art and Science

Quist is seeing how her passion for art and science are working together in meaningful ways.

“People always say science and art are so different, but to me they always seem to overlap in really unique ways,” said Quist. “My chemistry lab is so similar to the ceramics studio. Whether I’m working with glaze formulas or science experiments, there’s similar creativity in both, just manifested in different ways.

“And, in nursing, you have to individualize your care, but there’s also this scientific, research-based care—it’s the melding metaphorically of art and science. And this [project] is very tangible art—looking at the person holistically and promoting self-esteem and empowering them. I feel creativity is a way to do that.”

### Providing a Model

Now that the pilot study is complete, the program will be repeated for five more years with the immediate goal of »



Women from the Baxter/Madison neighborhood work on their art projects.

» verifying and validating the pilot’s success. If the results are consistent, organizers say this could serve as a model to be used in other urban settings with other schools of nursing.

“I think this is Calvin’s mission coming alive,” said Doornbos. “I don’t think that it gets better than this in terms of

students taking what they are taught in nursing, in the Honduras semester [Spanish language skills used in the Burton Heights group], and in art classes, and using it to meet real needs of real people. They learn the reality of the research process, what cultural sensitivity entails, what vulnerability looks like, and how to

pursue justice as agents of renewal in the kingdom of God.” ■



**Matt Kucinski**, assistant director of media relations at Calvin College.

## Collaborating with Neighbors

Calvin College places a high value on community-based learning and has developed partnerships with its Grand Rapids, Mich., neighbors. The college takes a collaborative approach to such partnerships, recognizing the importance of listening first in order to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of any given community.

The following are a few of the areas in which Calvin College faculty, staff, and students have developed deep partnerships in Grand Rapids.

### Plaster Creek Stewards

Faculty, staff, and students from multiple disciplines are collaborating with churches, schools, and community partners to restore the health and beauty of Plaster Creek, one of the most polluted urban waterways in the state. In 2016, the group received two grants from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality totaling \$800,000. Since 2011, the group has generated nearly \$3 million in grants focused on providing education, research, and restoration opportunities at various sites within the watershed.

### Community Nursing

Students working under the supervision of nursing faculty and staff are gaining hands-on clinical experience in one of four urban, culturally diverse



Young girls from the Grand Rapids community participate in the free H.E.A.L.T.H. Camp on Calvin’s campus each summer.

neighborhoods. For years, the nursing department has been learning about each community’s distinct health care strengths and needs and partnering with them to improve community health. One of the more recent initiatives resulting from this partnership is H.E.A.L.T.H. Camp—a free camp for girls ages 9 to 15. With more than 10 Calvin departments involved, the interprofessional and interdisciplinary camp educates girls about their bodies and promotes a culture of health.



Students doing research in Plaster Creek.



Students, faculty, and staff have developed longstanding partnerships with many local organizations in Grand Rapids.

### Residence Hall Community Partnerships (RHCP)

Each of Calvin’s seven residence halls has built a lasting relationship with a local organization. For more than two decades, students have served weekly alongside their Grand Rapids neighbors—doing everything from tutoring elementary school children to

providing weekend activities for adolescents and adults with mental impairments to providing childcare services to impoverished families. Earlier this year, the RHCP program was awarded the Best Practices Award at the Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values Conference. ■



## ‘Seeing the Possibilities’ in Uganda

by Brian Clark, Resonate Global Mission

Jane Ejulo had deep desires for her family’s physical and spiritual well-being, but those desires quickly turned to frustration and disappointment.

Living in a northern region of Uganda, Ejulo was the only one in her family who professed faith in Christ. In addition, her business, combined with her husband’s income, was barely providing for their family of five. Ejulo despaired.

“When we first met Jane, she was a depressed and discouraged woman,” said Mwaya Wa Kitavi, who serves as a regional leader for eastern and southern Africa with Resonate Global Mission (formerly Christian Reformed World Missions). “She did not have the confidence to share her faith with anyone.”

All that changed for Ejulo when she joined others from her church in a Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) event led by Kitavi. She attended the first training, “Caring for God’s People,” in 2011.

“[The training] challenged me to see the possibilities of reaching out to other people,” Ejulo told Kitavi.

During the TLT event, Ejulo realized she was not alone in her struggles. What’s more, she gained the confidence to begin planning for change.

When Ejulo returned home after the workshop, she started on her action plan: to teach her children and husband how to pray and to lead them in daily Bible studies.

“Jane was no longer depressed, and she was motivated to witness to her family and others,” said Kitavi.

Ejulo’s faithful witness eventually brought all five of her children to accept Christ. She also began sharing her faith



Jane Ejulo taking part in a Timothy Leadership Training event.

with a small group of people in her community.

Encouraged by these life-changing results, Ejulo was ready to tackle her next problem. She attended a second workshop with Kitavi, “Christian Stewardship.”

“I wanted to see an increase in my business to facilitate my own needs and the needs of my family, church, and God’s ministry,” Ejulo told Kitavi.

Again, working through the module, Ejulo gained new business skills—such as how to display her handmade jewelry—that would not only help her operate her business successfully but also do so from a biblical perspective.

After the training, Ejulo quickly put her new skills into action. She acquired a new location for her business that was more noticeable and accessible for customers.

“Because of these changes, Jane’s business has flourished,” reported Kitavi. “Her family no longer has to struggle to meet their needs, and her daughter and son have been able to join the university.”

Today Ejulo is a master trainer, sharing what she learned at TLT with others in nearby communities. She also shares her faith in her own church and wider community.

“I say thank you to [Resonate Global Mission] and my TLT facilitator,” Ejulo said. “I cannot express the joy I feel. I am very grateful to God that he used them to come to my district and church. This is how God located me and improved my life. I pray that God will continue to send them to locate other people like me.” ■



Jane stands in front of her handmade jewelry store.

## The Harvest Is in Our Own Backyards

I remember witnessing door-to-door as part of my congregation's youth group in the 1970s. One year we biked about 60 miles away and the next—probably based on the confidence we'd gained from the first year—to a community more than 200 miles distant. We'd hop off our bicycles in front of every house, knock on the door, and invite the person to participate in a Bible correspondence course.

Since the 70s, the CRC has participated in a number of evangelistic and church planting efforts, but the fruits of our labors haven't always resulted in growth. In fact, an overture came to Synod 2017 saying that the Christian Reformed Church is shrinking and asking for a strategy to reverse the decline through evangelism, church renewal, and planting.

Synod responded with these instructions to the executive director:

*... work with each agency and educational institution to seek out best practices and resources related to church renewal in the CRC and similar denominations and share these with classes and congregations . . .*

*... work with each agency and educational institution to collaborate in finding areas of convergence related to church renewal and to develop effective strategies for implementation by classes and churches.*

*... keep the call to prayer for church renewal, church planting, and evangelism continually before God's people.*

Before you read further, understand that these instructions are not for me alone. As executive director, I am to work with denominational ministries and services to connect them with the needs and opportunities of our congregations.

Although the specific response to synod's instruction has not yet begun, much of this work is already happening. Why? Because we already have resources that some of you are benefiting from. These include the Church Renewal Lab through

Calvin Seminary and the Ridder Church Renewal initiative through Western Seminary.

Resonate Global Mission—the new agency made up of CRC Home Missions and World Missions—has specific efforts such as “Go Local” that assist congregations. Other resources include the Healthy Church Index as well as regional resource consultants and coaches.

Our Journey 2020, the CRC's ministry plan, has been underway for a year. It too will help us to move forward in focused, unified ways. The plan's first two strategic foci are: *Congregations*

*discover and discern how God is at work in their churches and communities, bringing renewal and transformation and Ministry leaders, both ordained and lay, discover and discern how God is at work in their communities, resulting in the birth of new churches and discipling communities.*

As we move into this new chapter of working for church renewal and growth, let's keep two things in mind. First, although some congregations are growing

and we can find many examples of the Spirit at work, the problem of declining membership is real. CRC Yearbook numbers from 2006 to 2016 show membership in Canada decreasing by 14.4 percent; in the U.S. it declined by 12.5 percent.

Second, we need to think beyond the data and consider our responsibilities. We are the sheep of God's pasture. God's pasture isn't shrinking; Christ's instruction to go and make disciples hasn't changed.

Earlier in our history, our growth benefited from the baby boom and immigration patterns. While we continue to reproduce and immigration still occurs, we must open our doors even wider with Spirit-led hospitality to people in our communities and neighborhoods.

When Jesus was asked “Who is my neighbor?” he responded with a parable where some avoided their neighbor but one responded with care. We too must respond to those around us, those who may be quite different from us with needs both hidden and evident.

The fields are ripe for the harvest, whether it's biking 200 miles with a youth group, sending a missionary overseas, or looking in our own backyards. ■



“God's pasture isn't shrinking; Christ's instruction to go and make disciples hasn't changed.”



Steven Timmermans is the executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

You add.  
God multiplies.

## Saving for a Brighter Future

**A**nican Prosy and her family were dependent on her husband's income from working at a recording studio to buy household items and clothes and to pay school fees.

Although the family also worked hard to maintain a small farm, most of the money her husband earned went for other expenses, leaving very little money to invest in growing more produce.

Prosy could only buy food from the market if her husband gave her money—usually only enough to cook one balanced meal per week for three children.

Through a local savings group in their village in Uganda, Prosy was introduced to training in household finances led by World Renew.

“When I joined the group, I received different trainings on saving,” said Prosy. “We were trained on the importance of borrowing money as loans and how to use the money borrowed meaningfully.”

She was challenged to start a business that would help her decrease her family's dependence on her husband's income. She decided to borrow enough money from



**Anican Prosy is grateful for the help to make her small farm more fruitful.**

her savings group to start a business selling mukene, a small sardine-like fish.

After a month, Prosy was able to pay back what she borrowed and earn a profit. Later, Prosy took out two more loans to increase her capital and purchase more fish to raise and sell.

In time her profit nearly doubled. The income she has been able to provide for her family has been life-changing.

Now her children eat balanced meals three times a week, even when her husband hasn't contributed to their income. Prosy can also purchase school materials and clothes for two of her children.

Household items are now a shared responsibility in Prosy's home, and supporting the family's farm has improved. They used their profit to increase the size of their tilled land from two acres to four acres so they can raise more crops.

Prosy used the last loan from her savings group to buy a goat, purchase clothes for her children, and pay for building a new house.

“I will continue with my saving and my business so that we can complete our construction work and buy more goats to help us in the future to pay school fees for our children,” she said.

—Taylor Smith, World Renew

## SHORT TAKES



**Keith Doornbos (left) and Frank Wevers**

## Seeking Stories of Church Renewal and Growth

Synod 2017 discussed declining membership in the Christian Reformed Church and asked staff to seek out best practices related to church planting and renewal and to share these with classes and churches. In light of this, CRC News will be running a series of occasional stories on churches and ministries that are addressing church renewal and lessons they have learned. The first story was about the work that Rev. Keith Doornbos and Rev. Frank Wevers did on renewing and keeping their churches healthy in the Holland, Mich., area. You can find this story and many others at [crcna.org/news](http://crcna.org/news).

If you would like the story of your church included in this series, email [cmeehan@crcna.org](mailto:cmeehan@crcna.org). ■

—Chris Meehan,  
CRC Communications

**Longer versions of these and other stories are online at [thebanner.org/together](http://thebanner.org/together).**

### CRC Members Commemorate Reformation During Meeting in Germany

Christian Reformed representatives to the General Council meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) took away several highlights from the gathering, which ran June 29-July 7 in Leipzig, Germany.

Delegates from more than 200 churches from around the globe took part in the meeting, which coincided with the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the 16th-century Reformation, when Martin Luther and other reformers, including John Calvin, called for reform in the Roman Catholic Church.

“The General Council ended on a high note with the election of a new executive board to guide WCRC for the next seven years,” said Peter Borgdorff, who just finished his term as a member of the executive committee.

Borgdorff, former executive director of the CRCNA, said the most significant issues addressed at the conference were the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification and the Wittenberg Witness, both of which “nudge all of us one step closer to a more vibrant ecumenical engagement.”

The declaration on justification relates to the doctrine that declares people are justified through faith in Jesus Christ. The Wittenberg Witness commits the WCRC and the Lutheran World Federation to work more closely together.

On July 5, CRC participants and others visited the Berlin City Mission, Kreuzberg Congregation, where Mary Buyten, a CRC representative at the council, and her husband, David Kromminga, work with refugees. Both serve with Resonate Global Mission.

She remarked to those who came to the church that some of the refugees who worship there also work to help refugees.

“My Congolese colleague knows the hardships firsthand that are driving refugees from their homelands; my Greek

ministry today by connecting spirituality and the message of Scripture to address issues of social justice.

William Koopmans, who served for the last seven years on the WCRC’s executive committee, said the chance to spend time with people from so many churches was a highlight, especially when he connected with members of a church in Myanmar.

“It was a particular blessing for me to meet and fellowship with the delegates from the Christian Reformed Church in Myanmar, in part because our congregation of Grace CRC in Chatham, Ont., includes a couple of dear families from Myanmar that are of refugee background,” he said.

Anthony Elenbaas, another CRC representative, said attending special worship services and participating in discussions—just as he experienced seven years ago at the WCRC’s first General Council in Grand Rapids, Mich.—gave him a glimpse of what the unified Christian church can be.

Calvin College student Ahee Kim, who was a steward at the meeting helping to serve the needs of representatives, said she appreciated seeing up-close what it takes to build ecumenical relations.

“Diverse languages and cultures often become more like challenges than something we appreciate,” said Kim. “But when I acknowledge that it is God who called us to this place, I find peace and begin to appreciate others’ strengths and qualities.” ■

—Chris Meehan,  
CRC Communications



CRC delegates to the General Council were (left to right): Anthony Elenbaas, Mary Buteyn, Lenore Main, and Emmett Harrison.

colleague works with the refugees in their early, chaotic days on European soil; and David and I work with them here as they attempt to grow roots in a new culture.”

Emmett Harrison, a pastor from Grand Rapids, Mich., and a CRC representative to the council, found the morning Bible studies especially beneficial.

In one, a Palestinian theologian spoke of the need to continue the countercultural spirit of the Reformation in doing

## A Guiding Light through the Darkest Days

**N**icole is a writer and artist, a mother, a wife, and a child of God.

She has daily struggles in her life and has faced some especially difficult challenges but is holding tight to her faith in Christ. She values the support she receives through *Family Fire* to bring her through those tough times.

*Family Fire*, a program provided by ReFrame Media, the English-language outreach of Back to God Ministries International, is committed to fanning the flames of the Holy Spirit in family relationships.



**Struggling families and individuals are finding support and community through *Family Fire*.**

“The articles and resources have really seen me through my darkest days,” said Nicole.

Years ago, while dating a Muslim man, Nicole came to a crossroad in her life where she needed to make a choice between her boyfriend and Jesus.

“I chose Jesus,” said Nicole. “It hurt, and that was the most painful breakup of my entire life, but I have never regretted following Jesus.”

During that time, Nicole met a Christian man. They married four years ago and share a blended family. Tragically, six months into their marriage, Nicole’s daughter took her own life, leaving a void and deep sadness in Nicole’s heart.

This is when Nicole found a *Family Fire* article on Facebook on the topic of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

“I was so overwhelmed with grief. I was desperately looking for answers to these questions I had, and the Lord used *Family Fire* to minister to me,” recalled Nicole.

The deep depression and hurt she experienced because of the loss of her daughter presented challenges in Nicole’s marriage. Her husband chose to leave, and she continues to seek guidance in her relationship through prayer and *Family Fire*.

“[The *Family Fire* staff] has been so faithful to pray with me and hold me up during this most difficult faith walk,” Nicole said. “The Lord has used *Family Fire* to confirm what he has been speaking to me. When I start to forget, I get messages of hope and encouragement from *Family Fire*.” ■

—Kristen Fergus Van Stee,  
*Back to God Ministries International*



Participants in this year’s Dig program.

## Digging into Ministry

**F**or 17 years, Calvin Seminary has helped high school juniors and seniors face their futures (FYF) through theological exploration, conversations with professors, and ministry experiences in large urban settings.

After a one-year “sabbatical” aimed at retooling FYF, 24 students from across North America joined six seminary students in July to participate in the newly named Dig program.

Like its predecessor, Dig intentionally helps high school students uncover their future vocation as they come to better understand their own gifts.

A key aspect of vocation from a biblical point of view is helping students explore how faith can be woven into their career choices by expanding their “boxed-in” understanding of ministry.

Even though FYF was affectionately dubbed “theology camp” by a family who has sent three high-schoolers to Calvin Seminary for FYF, the Dig designers wanted to counter the “mountain-top experience” with a program that helps students develop everyday skills to grow in their faith and their vocational calling.

According to Aaron Einfeld, director of admissions and enrollment management at the seminary, Dig was designed with an added focus on connecting students with their home churches after their Dig program so that students can be mentored for further leadership development and discipleship.

Even before they arrived on campus, students were invited to provide five questions they wanted to dig into so that seminary professors could focus on what perplexed them the most.

With seminarians as Dig coaches, classroom conversations continued in small group settings, and then in ministry excursions to Chicago, Ill., or Toronto, Ont.

The excursions targeted another purpose of the program by introducing students to the concept of a “personal parish” through eight days of immersion experiences. Along the way, students were also nudged to keep thinking of how they could be effective witnesses in their personal parishes.

Now back in their home churches, these Dig graduates have been matched with a mentor who is supported with mentoring material from the CRC’s Faith Formation Ministries. ■

—Jinny De Jong, *Calvin Seminary*

# Oceans, Lakes, Swamps, and Seas

What do oceans, swamps, seas, lakes, and streams all have in common? They are all bodies of water. A body of water is not called a body because it has arms and legs—it is a special collection of water. If you're lucky enough to live near a body of water, you might cross a river every day on

your way to school. Or go to the beach on hot summer days with your family. Or look for frogs and tadpoles in a stream or swamp.

But you might be surprised by the many kinds of bodies of water God made!

## Lakes and Ponds

One of the most refreshing things to do on a hot summer day is jump into a cool, clear lake. Ponds are much smaller than lakes but are homes to many kinds of fish, ducks, and geese.

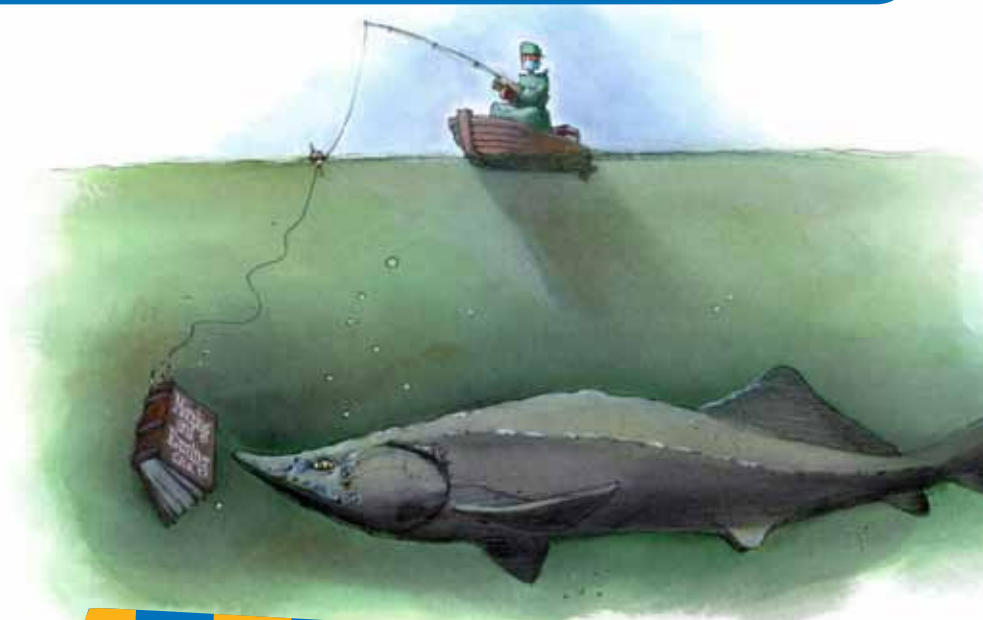
### FuN FacTs

The largest lakes in North America are called the **Great Lakes**. These five lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world! How many can you name?

The **Caspian Sea** is the largest saltwater lake in the world. It is over 143,005 square miles in length (370 square kilometers) and 3,363 feet deep (1,025 square meters)!

### CoOL CreATuREs

The **beluga sturgeon** is the largest freshwater fish—but it can also live in salt lakes like the Caspian Sea. These huge fishes can grow as long as 24 feet (8 meters) and weigh more than 3,500 pounds (1,600 kilograms). They can also live to be over 100 years old!



## Bible Water Trivia

Our great God created the world with amazing power! Quiz your family and friends to see how many questions they can get before looking up the Bible verses for the answers.

- What is the name of the river where Moses' mother placed him in a basket when he was a little baby? (Exodus 2:5)
- What river did the Israelites cross to get to the Promised Land? (Joshua 1:2)
- What sea did Jesus walk on? (John 6:1, 16-21)
- Which disciple also walked on water to meet Jesus? (Matthew 14:29)
- What is the name of the sea that is so salty that plants and animals cannot live in it? (Numbers 34:3)

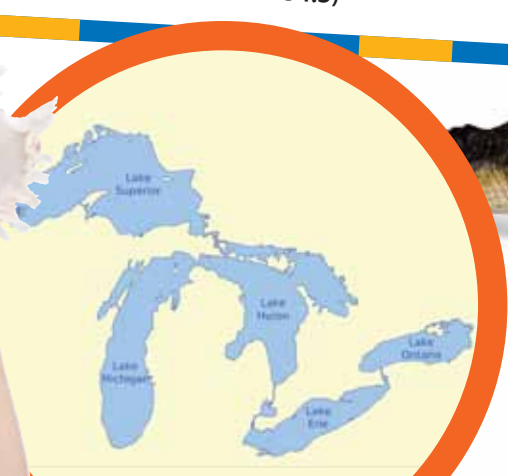


ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT HOLLADAY PHOTOS BY WIKIMEDIA



## The Scoop on Swamps

Swamps are also called “wetlands” or “marshes” and are like shallow lakes. They provide a home for plants like lily pads, reeds, and algae, and for animals too. Freshwater swamps are home to snakes, frogs, and insects—and, in some parts of the world, alligators!

### FuN FacTs

The world’s largest swamp is the **Pantanal**, which is in Brazil and reaches to parts of Bolivia and Paraguay. This huge swamp is bigger than the country of Greece! It is home to jaguars, giant anteaters, piranhas, howler monkeys, and green anacondas.

### CoOL CreATuREs

There are around 10 million critters called **caimans** in the Pantanal. These alligator-like reptiles are much smaller than the American alligator. Caimans can grow up to 8 feet (almost 3 meters) long and weigh 128 pounds (58 kilograms). American alligators can grow as long as 15 feet long (5 meters) and weigh up to 500 pounds (226 kilograms)!



## Rolling Rivers

A river is water that flows across land in a narrow passage. Many small streams called *tributaries* collect together to form rivers. They can move quickly or slowly and empty into a larger lake or ocean. Psalm 98:8 says, “Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.”

### FuN FacTs

The longest river in the world is the **Nile River** in Africa. It is about 4,258 miles (6,853 km) long! It runs through Egypt, Sudan, and nine other countries.

Some rivers are connected to the world’s most amazing waterfalls. One of them is the **Niagara River**, which flows into Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, New York.

### CoOL CreATuREs

In 2015 scientists in Thailand caught the world’s largest freshwater **stingray** in the Mae Klong River. It was 14 feet long (almost 5 meters) and almost 8 feet (2.5 meters) across. The giant ray weighed between 700 and 800 pounds (more than 300 kilograms)!

## Try This at Home

Want to make your own tasty “swamp”? Here’s what you’ll need:

- two packages of vanilla pudding
- green or blue food coloring
- a 9 x 13 baking pan
- crushed Oreos
- small plastic toys like snakes, bugs, fish, turtles, and trees to decorate your swamp (wash these first)

Ask an adult to help you make the vanilla pudding in a large bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring and stir. Spread the pudding in a baking pan and layer the crushed Oreos on top as “dirt.” Add the animals and enjoy a tasty swamp!



## Awesome Oceans

The five oceans on our planet cover about 71 percent of the earth. The clear-blue waters and powerful waves show us how awesome our God is. Psalm 93:3 says, “The seas have lifted up, Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.”

### FuN FacTs

If all the **salt** in the ocean were taken out and spread over all the dry land on Earth, the salt would be about 500 feet deep!

The Mariana Trench is the deepest ocean point in the world. It is **35,840 feet** deep!

Around **97 percent** of the Earth’s water is in the oceans. Wow!

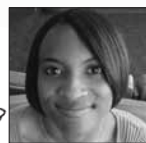
The **blue whale** is the world’s largest sea animal. It can weigh up to 200 tons and measures as long as two 18-wheeler trucks!

### CoOL CreATuREs

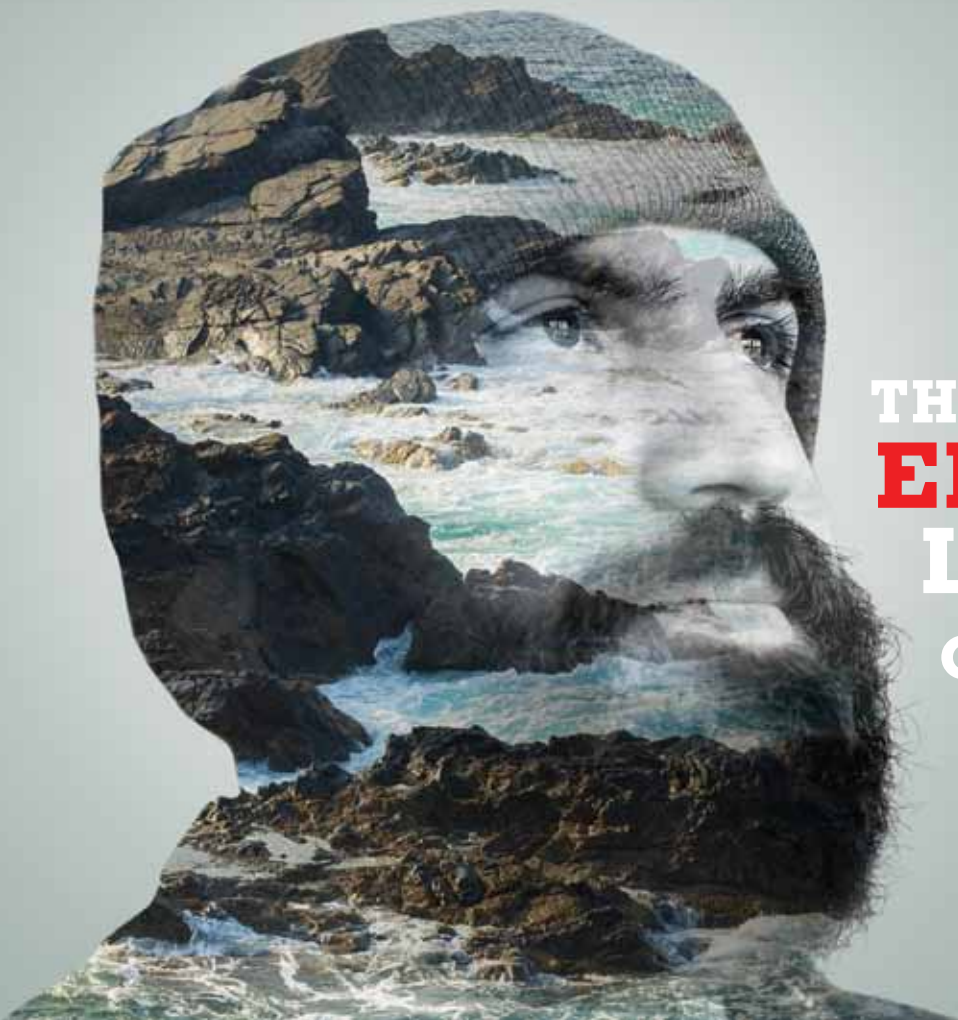
Which animal would you **NOT** find in the ocean?

- Anchovy
- Jellyfish
- Alligator
- Walrus

(answer: c)



Christin Baker is a stay-at-home mom and writer.



# THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF MEN

**F**OR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, in conversations with men, I have found occasion to say, “I think men are in trouble today.” To my amazement, every man I have trotted out this statement to has immediately agreed. No one has looked quizzical or puzzled or asked what I meant.

What is going on here? What is happening with men today?

My purpose in asking this question is to start a conversation about the emotional lives of men. I hope that you as readers—both men and women—will join in this exchange and bring to it your own perspectives and experiences.

There are all kinds of men, just as there are all kinds of boys. Like women, they display a huge range of interests and predilections that cannot be easily categorized. I do not subscribe to the view that there is an “essence” or “norm” of maleness or femaleness. I stand against patriarchy in all of its forms. In my psychotherapy and social work practice, I have worked extensively with survivors of male violence, including women, men, and children, and with perpetrators.

So why then am I writing about men? Because I do believe that many men today are in trouble.

Here is a deeply alarming statistic that gnaws at me: men are four times more likely than women to commit suicide, and the group at the highest risk of suicide is white men over the age of 65. Their suicide rate is eight times higher than women in that age bracket.

How do we understand the deep, profound despair underlying such tragic numbers?

## Men and Vulnerability

I believe that there are constructive, positive ways forward for men. But before we explore them, let’s survey something of the landscape of men’s interior lives.

So much about male and female experience is common. After all, all of us are human beings with the same need to attach to parent figures and to significant others. We are all fundamentally relational creatures. We are wired by God our Creator to connect, to belong. Neurobiologists are clear that relationship is as essential to life as oxygen, water, and food.



This is equally true for men and women throughout the trajectories of our lives.

Some of where male and female experience differs has to do with culture, especially with the culturally defined gender roles, norms, and expectations in which boys and girls are raised. These role expectations can prove to be obstacles to our development.

When it comes to boys and men, we live in a culture that tends to not want men to be vulnerable. We seem to work hard to separate boys and men from their feelings. The message is that “being a man” involves standing up to discomfort and pain. “Giving in” to internal distress or “being emotional” is perceived as weakness—certainly not “manly.”

Psychiatrist and family therapist Frank Pittman has argued that our culture promotes a heroic “male mystique” which, to be attained, requires that men deny and reject the “weakness” of their vulnerability. In his book *Man Enough: Fathers, Sons and the Search for Masculinity*, Pittman claims that to be “man enough,” to achieve this mystique, men tend to fall into one of four patterns, three of which are negative. He describes *controlling* men, who must dominate and control their spouses, children, and environments in order to be what they understand to be “man enough”; *competitive* men, who must compete with and come out on top of all other men to be “man enough”; and *philandering* men, who, to be “man enough” must conquer any number of women.

But then he describes a fourth pattern: *partnering* men. These men have learned to partner with their spouses, their children, their co-workers, their community. They have learned to love and genuinely serve others, to stand up for justice, and to bless life. But for men to learn how to be partners, they require the active involvement and blessing of other men, especially men older than them, to help model the way.

### The Missing Community of Men

And there, for me, is the rub. It’s why many men experience themselves to be in trouble today. The degree to which we as men are emotionally isolated from each other is extraordinary. There are very few spaces, venues, or platforms where it is acceptable for men to meet and share their vulnerabilities together. As a culture we even seem to be frightened by such a prospect; it is almost a cultural taboo. But never, in my view, has it been more important for men to find opportunities to come together in emotionally meaningful ways.

I often talk about the “missing community of men.” Men are intensely hungry for the company of healthy men. They have a need to attach to other men. In this they are not unique; I believe the same need manifests itself in the desire of women to attach to other women—a desire that so many women fulfill admirably. Mark Twain once said that at the age of 12 a boy starts to imitate any older man who pays attention to him, and then he simply continues to do so for the rest of his

## RELATIONSHIP IS AS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE AS OXYGEN, WATER, AND FOOD.

life. I think he’s right, except that it starts much earlier. But in the absence of living communities of men where men share their hidden shame and joys with each other, they tend to turn to women to get certain needs met that only other men can adequately meet.

### What Can the Church Do?

The large majority of men, in my experience, want to be real partners. But in today’s world there are very few opportunities for men to gather together and have real conversations about their emotional lives and their struggles to be healthy, life-affirming, life-giving men.

What an opportunity for churches! Surely churches can serve as venues for real, authentic conversations where men of all ages can, in safe ways, share their experiences of vulnerability and shame, in the context of God’s acceptance, redemption, and grace.

Consider just one practical suggestion. As a man in your church, gather together a small group of men who may be open to exploring these themes. In a circle, invite each man to speak to the following questions (drawn from Shalem Mental Health Network’s “restorative practice” work in churches):

- Which men have had the greatest impact on your life (positive or negative)?
- How have they impacted you? What would you want to pass on to younger men or boys, and what would you not want to pass on?
- What is the hardest thing for you about being a man today?
- What do you think are the main issues?
- What will be your next step(s) in moving forward positively as a man?

May God bless you as together all of us, both men and women, seek to explore the meaning of being wholehearted human beings in this world. Thank God for the gift of women and men. And thank God for the many men who know the meaning of sacrifice and who serve as remarkable partners with all of God’s creatures on the journey of life ■

STUDY QUESTIONS ONLINE



Mark Vander Vennen is the executive director of Shalem Mental Health Network based in Hamilton, Ont. He is a member of Grace Christian Reformed Church in Cobourg, Ont.

## Delving Deeper with Digital Help



**GOOD BIBLE SOFTWARE IMPROVES** our ability to study God's Word. Logos 7 (*logos.com*) was released earlier this year, and it is amazing. Logos has always been for scholars, by scholars, and the new version is a better research tool. It gave me a fresh perspective on the Holy Land. The archive includes 28,000 images and video lectures by Bible teachers.

Seminary students like it because it gives the pronunciation of Greek words. Worship leaders might find it useful as well. And Logos software is available in six different languages, including Spanish and Korean. Costs range from free to \$1,000, depending on the package you prefer.

For anyone interested in building a library of commentaries, Bible software is a good way to do it. Often it is less expensive than buying the print editions, and software includes a searchable index.

In addition to Logos software there is the PC Study Bible by BibleSoft (*biblesoft.com*). This is good for anyone interested in Bible study, but there is less of a learning curve. Their programs are well designed and the interface is intuitive. The PC Study Bible is now available for

the Mac platform. Again, there is a wide price range from \$50-\$2,000. There is also an app available for much less.

Currently there are about 25 different English Bible translations and versions, including paraphrases. These kinds of programs are good for anyone who wants to make comparisons between them. BibleSoft and Logos have user groups that have formed on various social media platforms. Users can join and exchange reviews and information.

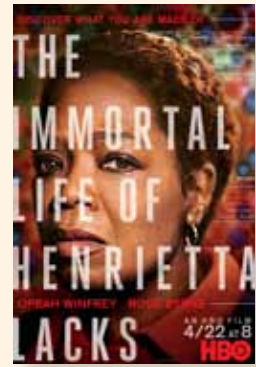
Electronic media is a good way to further the kingdom to places that have not been open to the gospel. The Christian Classics Ethereal Library (*ccl.org*) is a good example of this. New titles are listed under the research link. Run by Calvin College professor Harry Plantinga, the library includes the writings of St. Augustine and other early church fathers. It is accessible at no cost, but you can subscribe to support the project.

In keeping with the rest of our world, the Good News has gone digital. Don't overlook great resources that might be right at your fingertips! ■

## The Good News has gone digital.



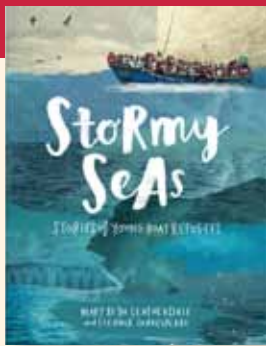
**Dave Baker** is the diversity officer at Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he is a member of Calvin CRC.



## The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

reviewed by **Kristy Quist**

Henrietta Lacks, a young black mother and wife, died of cervical cancer in 1951 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Unbeknownst to her family, doctors took samples of her cancer cells. Named "HeLa," those cells' ability to reproduce and survive made them big scientific business, leading to breakthroughs that included the polio vaccine. Writer Rebecca Skloot tracked down the Lacks family, trying to break through the wall of distrust built by the way the medical community had treated them over the years, resulting in pain compounded by racism, poverty, and family trauma. In this film version of the book, Oprah Winfrey is powerful as Deborah, the adult daughter of Henrietta, who is torn between her anger and her desperation to know more about her mother. As Skloot, Rose Byrne seems a bit lifeless in comparison. The book tells the story better, but the film is still worth watching. Rated TV-MA for language and some difficult scenes. On disc this month. (HBO)



## Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees

by **Mary Beth Leatherdale**  
reviewed by **Jenny deGroot**

*Stormy Seas* tells the harrowing stories of five young refugees, from Ruth exiting Germany in 1939 to Mohammed leaving the Ivory Coast in 2006. Their experiences all involve crossing a large water mass in terrifying and life-threatening conditions. The author, Mary Beth Leatherdale, and illustrator Eleanor Shakespeare used firsthand accounts and photos to tell these timely stories of courage and resilience for young readers. In each situation, the refugee's freedom depended on whoever would receive them. "I am not particularly interested in going to America," said Ruth. "I am interested in staying alive." Ages 10 and up. (Annick Press)

## Miss Burma

by **Charmaine Craig**  
reviewed by **Jim Romahn**



Burma, now Myanmar, has been a difficult country for minorities, including the Karen people, who are Christians. Author Craig's family told her stories about Burma during the Second World War, and these inform her haunting novel of one family, a Brit named Benny and his Karen wife, Khin, and the children she nurtured. One of them, Louisa, becomes Miss Burma. It's a difficult honor in a troubled society, and she ends up in the center of a political storm. This fascinating story is entirely plausible in this highly-secretive country. (Simon & Schuster Canada)

## Crooked

by **Propaganda**  
reviewed by **Micah van Dijk**

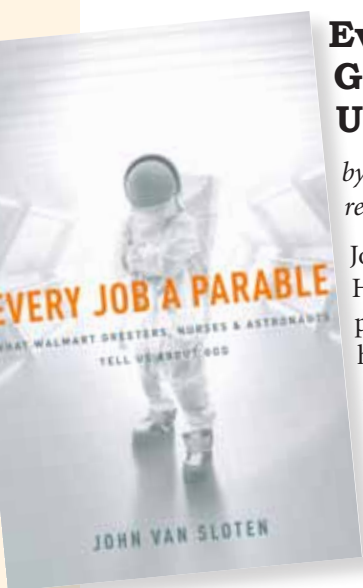


Propaganda was a high school teacher in California before pursuing a career in hip-hop. Fifteen years and five albums later, he is a veteran of the hip-hop scene. He continues to passionately impart wisdom on his latest album, *Crooked*. Exploring current issues of injustice, he brings historical insight and careful nuance to each theme he highlights. Although his Christian faith features prominently, he doesn't offer simplistic spiritual solutions to complicated issues and often leaves the listener with important questions to ponder. He offers a balance of hope and concern, reminding us to include our Creator in our everyday decisions. (Fair Trade)

## Every Job a Parable: What Walmart Greeters, Nurses, and Astronauts Tell Us about God

by **John Van Sloten**  
reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**

John Van Sloten encourages readers to see their jobs with new eyes. He points out that when Jesus spoke his parables framed within particular vocations, he was doing more than conveying truth about himself and his coming kingdom—he was "affirming the creational goodness of that job." While investigating a wide array of jobs, Van Sloten explores different themes, including how we can image God in our work, how thankfulness makes us aware of God's presence in our jobs, and how times of rest can cultivate our awareness of God's presence in our work. Each chapter concludes with reflective questions for individual or small group study. (NavPress)



## THE LOWDOWN



**Strong Words:** In English for the first time, Johanna Ader-Appels' best-selling Dutch memoir *House of Defiance* recounts the role she and her husband played in saving Dutch Jews during World War II. (Mirador)

**Close Call:** Multiple Grammy-winning gospel singer Marvin Sapp releases *CLOSE*, his latest album, at the end of this month. (Verity)

**Hear Here:** *The Heidelberg Catechism: 450th Edition* has been recorded as an audiobook narrated by Dan Winarski and is now available on iTunes and at Audible.com. (Faith Alive/Win Box Audio)

**Top TV:** Emmy Awards will be handed out this month; go to [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org) for our takes on the nominated shows *The Crown*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *This Is Us*, and *OJ: Made in America*.



**MORE REVIEWS ONLINE**

# Pursuing Wisdom

**F**OR 12 YEARS I worked as the chief student life officer at two Christian colleges. One of my responsibilities was to hold students accountable for violations of the student conduct code. My goal was to treat students fairly and with respect and make decisions that brought about justice. For that I needed wisdom.

The book of Proverbs teaches us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of, and instruction in, wisdom (1:7, 15:33). It is the foundation for the development of wisdom. Christ is the source of all wisdom; our obedient and thankful response to Christ's sacrifice is for us to live as wise people and to seek to understand God's will.

The purpose of wisdom is "for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair" (Prov. 1:2-3). Wisdom is an essential bridge between fulfilling the love commandments to love God and our neighbor and the desire for shalom, which is, according to Neal Plantinga, a universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight.

Throughout my experience I have identified what I believe are some important principles for wisdom as we seek to be salt and light in a world that is too often seeking easy answers.

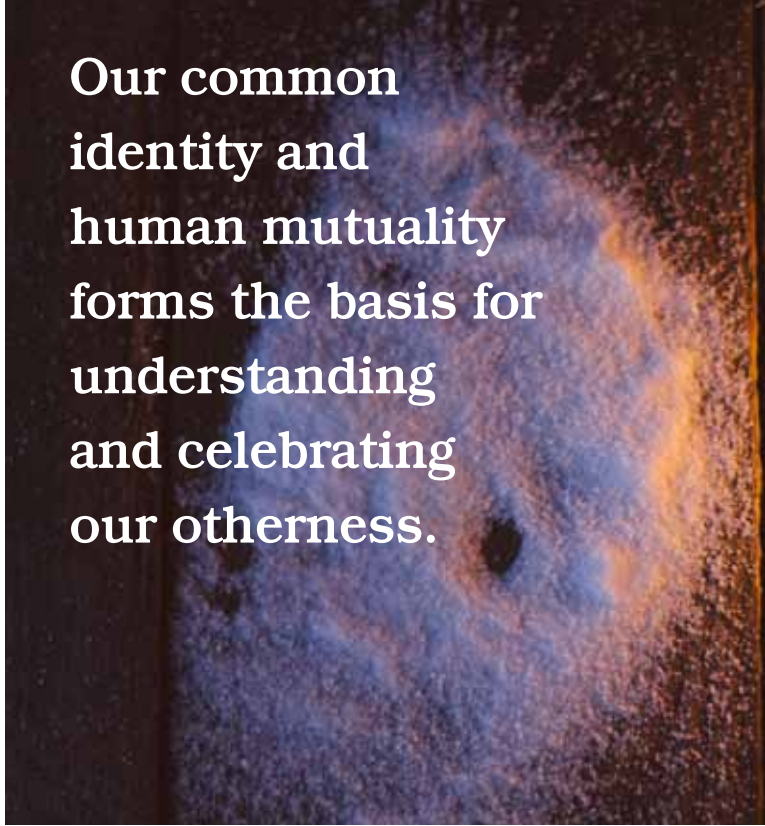
## 1. Remember that, in the Heidelberg Catechism's words, "I am not my own."

Our culture consistently and persistently suggests that life is all about me. Satan tempted Christ by telling him to put himself first. He tempts us in the same way. The wise person builds her house upon the rock of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection. In humility she values others above herself, looking not to her own interests but to the interest of others (Phil. 2:3-4).

## 2. Acknowledge that there is much that I do not know or understand—and that I may, in fact, be wrong.

I am keenly aware in my own heart and mind that this is so. I resist living according to this reality because doing so seemingly puts me at a disadvantage to others. I therefore often act as if my knowledge and understanding are greater than they actually are.

The reality is that we are often wrong. And frequently stubbornness and pride prevent us from being willing to acknowledge our errors. I once made a decision to suspend an athlete from playing in an upcoming football game because of an altercation in his residence hall—only to have another student subsequently tell me that the student I suspended had not done



Our common identity and human mutuality forms the basis for understanding and celebrating our otherness.

what I thought he had done. It was difficult for me to acknowledge that I was wrong.

I have found that an authentic desire to be true to myself and acknowledge my errors and weaknesses opens me up to the blessings that God offers.

## 3. Embrace complexity and mystery.

Paul acknowledges that it is through our faith in Christ that we can begin to understand the mysteries of God's will. There remain, however, mysteries and complexities related to living out that faith. We encounter these complexities in our everyday life as we seek to raise our children, live in Christian community, and participate as citizens in our increasingly divided and contentious political environment. We need not be afraid of complexity and mystery but can embrace them as part of our abundant life in Christ.

## 4. Have a right regard for mutuality and otherness.

We are imagebearers of our Creator God. Our common identity and human mutuality form the basis for understanding and celebrating our otherness. Otherness, the ways in which



we are different, because of our ethnicity, race, education, family background, work experience, and the like, is too often used as a basis for seeing someone else as “less than.” As image-bearers we are called to appreciate and respect each and every person, even, perhaps especially, those who we perceive as different.

#### **5. Seek first to understand and then to be understood.**

I believe that seeking first to understand (a principle highlighted by Stephen Covey in his book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*) is one of the most important but least practiced principles of living our life together. I find it too easy to dismiss the perspective of the other person and move directly to making my own views known. I need to take a step back and consider how I feel when this is done to me.

Sometimes in my work, students have charged that I did not listen to them when I dealt with them. Other times students and staff made statements about me that I felt were undeserved. These statements hurt, but they made me step back to consider whether there was any truth in them.

#### **6. Work closely with others.**

As the body of Christ, we all have gifts and abilities that together contribute to our obedient response to what God has done for us in Christ. Unfortunately, we are all too prone to try to go it alone.

I found in my work that I needed to rely on the experiences and insights of others to help in my decision-making. I also benefited from the counsel of friends and mentors. Wisdom reminds us again of our need to work together.

#### **7. Communicate with grace.**

In our most honest and self-reflective moments, we recognize the way in which our words, spoken as well as written, can be unhelpful and hurtful. The book of James speaks forcefully about the destructive nature of the tongue and its ability to “corrupt the whole person” (3:6). It is equally true that gracious words and prayers can be healing and can build others up.

We communicate with grace by being willing to say “I’m sorry” and to be thankful. A proper understanding of wisdom helps us recognize how life-affirming saying “I’m sorry” can be. We are, of course, also to give thanks to God with a grateful heart for all God has done for us. I believe that it follows that we should also be extravagant in giving thanks to others.

#### **8. Be strong and courageous, and act.**

I am often prone to inaction because I recognize my own failings and limitations. I can be a perfectionist and want to be sure that my decisions are the best ones possible. I need to remember that in the midst of “seeing through a glass darkly” I am called to respond in obedience to God, prayerfully asking for wisdom and trusting God to guide me. I need to heed the words of David to his son Solomon: “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God . . . is with you.” (1 Chron. 28:20)

I am convinced that applying these wisdom principles in our life and leadership will make a remarkable difference in our ability to bring healing and shalom to our broken world. We can begin by prayerfully asking God to fulfill his promise to give wisdom. It is a gift that can only be fully developed through awareness and practice. Then we can begin to know, and seek to bring about, what is right and just and fair. ■



**Ken Boersma** is the director of men’s discipleship at Providence Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

# Soli Deo Gloria

PHOTO BY BRENNAN EHRHARDT/UNSPLASH

Home isn't home  
unless there's  
someone at the  
door to meet you.

**2017 MARKS THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY** of the Protestant Reformation. We're commemorating the anniversary by highlighting its five rallying themes: Scripture Alone (*Sola Scriptura*), Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*), Christ Alone (*Solo Christo*), Grace Alone (*Sola Gratia*), and Glory to God Alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*).

**I SANG WITH ELDER CLINTON TAYLOR** in the gospel choir at Lawndale Christian Reformed Church in Chicago, Ill., as a fledgling leader. He had a pithy saying he'd repeat to anyone who asked how he was doing. In his deep baritone voice, Elder Taylor would reply, "Well, I never had it so good." Like many African Americans who came from the South to northern industrial cities after World War II, Elder Taylor and his wife, Emma, came to Chicago to find a better way of life for their family. Lawndale was his home church, a church that joined him to fight for their covenant children to attend Timothy Christian School in the 1960s. Taylor believed that Christian discipleship meant giving God alone the glory, from the cradle to the grave.

Elder Taylor kept a full head of hair, along with a full salt-and-pepper beard. His hands were huge, with a couple of fingers bent by working hard at his job. However, his voice filled the gym that functioned as the sanctu-

ary and found sweet communion in singing on Sundays.

Elder Mamie Bryant played the piano faithfully and always in the same key, no matter the song. With some coaxing from Bryant, Taylor had to sing "Coming Home." His voice grew louder and his arms lifted a bit toward heaven. Standing next to him, I heard Taylor sing, "Coming home, coming home, nevermore to roam; open now thine arms of love; Lord, I'm coming home." Taylor sang and believed his entire life was going somewhere, to someplace, to someone.

All roads of the Christian life lead toward home with God. Home isn't home unless there's someone at the door to meet you. The holy Word reminds Christians that life broke down in a garden, but the garden isn't our future home (*Sola Scriptura*). The gift of faith is like a pair of miracle glasses that enable the sinner to see that Christ paid it all (*Sola Fide*). Master Jesus revealed our pitiful efforts to make something out of ourselves by ourselves (*Solo Christo*). Grace is the compass that keeps pointing us back to home in the world (*Sola Gratia*). Coming home is the twisting, bumpy road of mistakes, disappointments, deaths, scars, and ordinary epiphanies which signal that we were meant for so much more than this place. All the while, Jesus keeps calling us to give him

the glory along the road toward our eternal home (*Soli Deo Gloria*).

The Reformation was the business of going back to dealing with the triune God as the exclusive object of our worship, living, and witness. The Heidelberg Catechism instructs us that our Lord requires our exclusive worship and that we are to "avoid and shun all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites or prayers to saints or other creatures" (Q&A 94).

The men and women of the Reformation risked their lives to go back to God alone. In his book *My Only Comfort*, the late Fred Klooster, my former theology professor, remarked that the Word alone "express(es) the wholeness and exclusiveness of the gospel." In other words, the gospel reveals God's glorifying presence in our work, our worship, our praying, and serving. It's coming to understand that we never had it so good! *Soli Deo Gloria*. ■

[STUDY QUESTIONS ONLINE](#)



**Reginald Smith** is director of race relations and social justice for the Christian Reformed Church. He attends Madison Square Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

# ADS

**Deadlines:** Oct. issue is 9/5/17; Nov. issue is 10/3/17. Details online.

**Prices:** Most ads are \$0.39<sup>US</sup> per character (min. 150 characters including punctuation and spaces). A discounted rate of \$0.32<sup>US</sup> per character and \$50 per photo applies to Anniversaries, Birthdays, Obituaries, Denominational and Classical Announcements, and Congregational Announcements.

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Advertising in *The Banner* does not imply editorial endorsement.

## Denominational and Classical

### Retirement

**DR. JACK VAN MARION RETIRES** Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Edina, MN congratulates Dr. Jack Van Marion, together with his wife Roseanne, as they celebrate his retirement from congregational ministry. We thank God for more than 12 years of faithful ministry with us, and for a total of 35 years serving congregations in Michigan, Iowa, Ontario and in classis and denominational service. All friends are invited to join us for dinner and an evening of celebration at 5:00 pm, Saturday Sept 23 at Calvary CRC. Pastor Jack's farewell worship service will be Sunday, October 8, 10:30 am. For more information, or to RSVP for dinner contact: [secretary@calvarycrc.net](mailto:secretary@calvarycrc.net)

## Congregational

### Church's 150th Anniversary

**EBENEZER CRC (BERWYN, IL)** The Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church (Berwyn, IL) will celebrate 150 years of God's faithfulness with a gala on September 23, 2017. If you would like to join in this celebra-

tion, email Rich Brander for more information: [rich.brander@ebenezer-crc.org](mailto:rich.brander@ebenezer-crc.org).

### Church's 125th Anniversary

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF MIDLAND PARK, NJ** will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on Sunday, September 10 at 4 PM. A light supper will follow the service. Please call 201-445-4260 if you plan to attend the supper.

## Miscellaneous

**SHORELINE CHRISTIAN 65TH!** Watson Groen/Shoreline Christian School celebrates 65 years on September 30. We invite you to celebrate with us on SCS campus. Contact our office for details. 206-364-7777

## Birthdays

### 106th Birthday

**JOHN VANDERBILT** born July 30, 1911 in Rock Valley, Iowa, celebrated another year of God's grace. Siblings Bert, Hank, Art, Sis, Bern, Ed, Jen, Maas, Cornie. Children, Judi, Marvin, Karen.

### 100th Birthday

**PAULINE (VAN KOOTEN) TERPSTRA** will celebrate her 100th birthday on August 25. Celebrating with her are her children Gretta (Chester) Geels, Nancy (Gerald-deceased) Kuiper, Carole (Henry) Stavinga, Georgia (Sander) de Haan, Frances (Charles-deceased) Van Waardhuizen, and Myrna (Gerald-deceased) Schuiling; several of her 19 grandchildren and their spouses; 37 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. We praise God for His blessings and faithfulness all these years. Greetings may be sent to 1746 North Main Street, Gelderland Cottage #10, Pella, Iowa, 50219.

### 94th Birthday

**MARIAN DONKERBROOK** celebrates her 94th birthday on Sept. 3. Please celebrate her life in Christ by sending greetings to: 4940 Birmingham Dr., San Jose, CA 95136.

### 90th Birthday

**JOHN BAKKER** of 3248 W. 97th St. Evergreen Park, IL 60805, with gratitude to God, celebrated his 90th birthday on August 27 with his 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren. Praise God for His blessings.

**ROSE BRINK VANDENBOSCH**, with gratitude to God, will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 7. Congratulations may be sent to 330 W. Rock River Dr., Edgerton, MN

**Ignite**  
Funding Ministry Innovation

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Machu Picchu



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**The Gospel Comes to Italy**  
October 5 – 17 | Dr. Jeffrey Weima

2018 GUIDED ITINERARIES:

**Treasures of Vietnam  
& Cambodia**  
January 23 – February 8 | John Witte

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**  
March 12 – 24  
Pastor Bill & Lyn Vanden Bosch

**Peru: Ancient & Modern Marvels**  
March 25 – April 10  
Neal & Marilyn Bierling

**Dutch Landscapes**  
April 6 – 19 | Henry Aay & Bob Hoeksema

**Netherlands Waterway Cruise**  
April 20 – 28 | Henk & Thressa Witte

**Following in the Footsteps of  
Jesus: Israel & Jordan**  
May 17 – 29 | Dr. Jeffrey Weima

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**From Madrid to Lisbon – Sept. 12 – 27**  
**Cuba – November**



## Anniversaries

### 65th Anniversary

**CILLEY, BUD AND RUTH** (Dyksterhouse) of Kalamazoo, MI will celebrate 65 years of faithful marriage September 6, 2017. Ken, Karen, Kimberly and their families praise God for his love and blessings.

**STOB, DR. WILLIAM AND DELORES** (DeWitt) of Hobe Sound, Florida, celebrated their 65th Anniversary on August 15th. Their children Deanne (Dean) Dyk, Tamora (John) Kooy, and Carlin (Russ) Rykse along with 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren give

## Church Position Announcements

**WORSHIP COORDINATOR** First CRC in St. Thomas, Ontario is seeking to fill a 16-20 hour per week position for a Worship Coordinator. This position requires music proficiency and an ability to plan a variety of worship styles in a multi-generational setting within the Christian Reformed perspective of Blended Worship. Visit our website at [www.firstcristthomas.com](http://www.firstcristthomas.com) for more details. Email a cover letter and resume to [firstcristthomas@gmail.com](mailto:firstcristthomas@gmail.com) or by mail to 320 Elm Street, St. Thomas, ON N5R 1J7

**PASTOR- FCRC RED DEER AB:** Do you have a passion for people and preaching? With the upcoming retirement of our Sr. Pastor, First CRC Red Deer AB has an opportunity for a full time ordained CRC pastor to lead a multi staff team. As a congregation, we are actively engaged in learning more about ourselves, our potential, and God's will for our ministries through the Renewal Lab process. We are a multi-generational congregation with a love for biblical teaching, intentional worship, honest fellowship and multi faceted music along with supporting our community and missionaries. Contact: [pastor4frcrc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor4frcrc@gmail.com)

**PASTOR NEEDED** Zion Church in Oshawa, Ontario is looking for a pastor. Profiles available on website [zioncra.ca](http://zioncra.ca)

**SEEKING LEAD PASTOR:** Do you hear God's call to serve Bethel Christian Reformed Church, an authentic grassroots community situated in the picturesque riverfront town of Dunnville, Ontario (pop. 12,000)? Bethel CRC needs a dynamic preacher and caring shepherd who models a close relationship with God, to minister to all ages. We are seeking spiritual growth and discipleship opportunities within and outside the church building, and welcome a servant leader who inspires and encourages the same. We are actively visioning how our facilities and programs can take us confidently into the future. To find out more, please contact the calling committee in confidence at: [bethelcracalling@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcracalling@gmail.com) or contact the correspondence clerk directly at 289-880-2225 or mail to Calling Committee, Bethel CRC, 17 Robinson Road, Dunnville, Ontario N1A 2W1. We look forward to meeting you!

**SEEKING TWO PASTORS** Charlottetown Christian Reformed Church, located in beautiful Prince Edward Island, is seeking 2 ordained pastors to serve our multi-generational, missionally-minded congregation. Job descriptions will be tailored to suit the gifts of those called to these positions and to meet the needs of the congregation in the areas of preaching, pastoral care, congregational visitation, youth/young adult ministries, missional/community involvement, education, and discipleship. To receive a church profile or express interest in one of these positions please contact [peicrsearch@gmail.com](mailto:peicrsearch@gmail.com).

**PASTOR POSITION** - Maranatha CRC is a healthy, family-focused congregation full of children, laughter and love in beautiful Calgary, Alberta. With the majestic Bow River literally at our doorstep, we are 'flowing with the promises of Christ' and seek a pastor to walk with us as we grow deeper in our relationships with Christ and with each other. Believing we are 'blessed to be a blessing', we strive to be active ambassadors in our community with tangible initiatives such as community dinners, gardens and movie nights to name a few. With North America's most extensive urban pathway system and the Rocky Mountains on the horizon, Calgary offers year-round recreation as well as diverse cultural experiences. An established network of CRC pastors is also active in Calgary. For more information, contact the search committee at [peterdejonge@shaw.ca](mailto:peterdejonge@shaw.ca) or 403-730-9543.

thanks for their loving commitment to each other, their family and their LORD. Email address: [BDSTOB@gmail.com](mailto:BDSTOB@gmail.com)

### 60th Anniversary

**DEBOER, WAYNE SR. & THERESA (PRUIM)**, 7917 W. 112th St., Palos Hills, IL 60465, on Sept. 27, 2017. Children: Wayne Jr. & Pam DeBoer, Cheryl & Bruce Paarlberg, Barb & Ed Robertson, Don & Karen DeBoer. Grandchildren: Joel & Tatum Alford, Lori Beth Alford, Kristin & Scott Dykstra, Jason Paarlberg, Amy DeBoer, Matt DeBoer, Tyler DeBoer. Great-grandchildren: Noah, Owen and Charlie Alford, Cohen Dykstra. Praise God for His love and faithfulness through the years.

**PASTOR** Raymond CRC in Raymond, MN. is seeking a full time pastor that has a passion to preach God's Word and a passion for pastoral care and reaching to the community. Please email us at [rccr@frontiernet.net](mailto:rccr@frontiernet.net)

**PASTOR IN CENTRAL ALBERTA** Bethel CRC in Lacombe, Alberta, is seeking a pastor to serve and lead our loving community of believers. Established in 1953, Bethel is an active church with a passion for serving our community through a wide variety of programs. Lacombe is a small city that has a strong Christian community with excellent access to Christian Education. With an active Renewal Lab team in place we are being re-invigorated and are excited about the future of Bethel and anticipate the arrival of a new leader to guide our church. For more information email [corahoe@netscape.net](mailto:corahoe@netscape.net) or peruse our website at [lacombebethelcra.org](http://lacombebethelcra.org).

**SENIOR PASTOR POSITION** Rochester CRC, a mid-sized western New York state congregation, seeks a senior pastor for preaching, spiritual leadership and pastoral care. We value exegetical, insightful and inspired preaching of the Word, and seek someone who will challenge us to live out our faith in the culture around us. We have a strong desire for church growth and seek leadership to realize that vision in our community. Can you lead us as we face these challenges? To learn more about this opportunity, or if you know of someone who may be a good fit, visit our website at [www.rochestercra.org](http://www.rochestercra.org) or contact our Pastor Search Team via [office@rochestercra.org](mailto:office@rochestercra.org)

**MUSIC DIRECTOR - PART TIME** RCA is seeking a Director of Music. See detailed description at <http://www.knappchurch.org>

**SOLE PASTOR POSITION LAS VEGAS** Are you a Pastor looking for a non-traditional opportunity to grow a small body of believers in one of God's most beautiful landscapes? Grace Valley CRC in Las Vegas is looking for a sole pastor who is a good preacher and leader, with a gift for developing disciples and a heart for community outreach. (open to Bi-vocational) Please send resume to [office@gvccr.org](mailto:office@gvccr.org).

**PASTOR** Fresno CRC, located in California's central valley, is seeking a pastor who is passionate about preaching and relationships. We are a family of believers desiring to grow in our walk with Jesus and attract others to follow Him. Please view our website and profile at [www.fresnocrc.org](http://www.fresnocrc.org).

**MUSIC/WORSHIP DIRECTOR** Second CRC Fremont is looking for a part-time (20 hrs/week) Music/Worship Director. This person would seek to work cooperatively with youth ministries, committees, and church staff to provide leadership in the music and liturgical life of the church as we continue to bring blended worship to our Lord. For a job description or further questions please contact Mark Wyn at 213.519.7374. Resumes can be submitted to the church office in person, by mail or by email to [2ndcrasecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2ndcrasecretary@sbcglobal.net)

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR** Community CRC of Roselawn, Indiana, is seeking a full-time Children's Ministry Director. If you are a committed follower of Jesus Christ and passionate about seeing children and youth come to know Jesus as his/her Savior, and have a vision to reach both church and unchurched children through creative and powerful children's programming, please send a resume to Pastor Barry Foster at [bkfost@gmail.com](mailto:bkfost@gmail.com). The job description for the Children's Ministry Director can be found on our web page at [cccroselawn.com](http://cccroselawn.com).



**DRAISMA, TOM AND MARILYNN** (DeJonge) 2734 Mulford Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 will celebrate 60 blessed years of marriage on October 4. Their children Deb and Dan Goris, Sandee and Gary DeVries, Brenda and Rick Bulthuis along with their 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren give thanks for God's faithfulness and the love of their parents.

**FEIKEMA, ROGER & EVELYN** (Van Kley) September 27, 2017 of 1620 Palma Sola Blvd. Bradenton, FL 34209. Children: Donna & Jeffrey Brussee, David & Heather Feikema, Dianne & Mark Pickhardt, Denise Feikema. 12 grandchildren & 4 great grandsons. Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow.

**JANSEN, PETER AND BETTY** (Ruiter), 7932 22nd Ave., Jenison, MI 49428; celebrated God's faithfulness with their family on July 22: Chris and Evie Jansen (Liz and Jason, Chris and Leah, Kate and Cam, Brittany), Dan and Theona Cooke (Joel, Kelly and Graham [Landon and Zoe], Jeff and Ellen), Kevin and Barb Jansen (David and Olivia). We continue to celebrate "Your faithfulness... through all generations" (Ps.119:90).

**KWANTES, DICK AND ANNE** With thanks to God for His faithfulness in and through you both, congratulations on 60 years of wedded bliss (celebrated August 30) from your children.

**MACHIELE, VERNON AND DELORES** (Hulst) of Holland MI will celebrate 60 years of marriage on Sept. 6 with their children; Steve & Jadene, (Kathy) & Scott Prins, Paul & Michelle, Beth & Craig Walters; grandchildren and great-grandchildren

**VANDER LAAN, RICHARD (DICK) & ARLENE** (Goemaat) of 1428 Edgewood Dr. Pella, IA, celebrated their 60th Anniversary on August 14. Children: Lori (Dr Galy) Vande Zande, Mark (Darlene) Vander Laan, and Lisa (Mike) Van Sant. 10 Grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. We thank God for all of our blessings.

**50th Anniversary**

**KUIPER, REV. ALDON & JANICE** (Bosman) celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 2, 2017. Their children & grandchildren invite you

to send messages of congratulations to PO Box 51, Orange City, IA 51041. Praise God for his faithfulness & blessings!

**Obituaries**



**BOELENS, PETER A.,** M. D. (age 83) of Vicksburg, Mississippi, went to his heavenly home on June 9, 2017, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Born in Lansing, Illinois, Peter began his career as a medical missionary in South Korea. He continued his work in Mississippi, developing the Cary Christian

Health Center. Then, as executive director of the Luke Society, he launched 22 Christian medical-evangelistic programs in various countries around the world. In retirement, Peter and wife Eleanor began a prayer ministry and published a research study showing the healing power of prayer in transforming the lives of over 60 participants suffering from anxiety and depression. In addition, he published a groundbreaking study with Baylor Medical Center using fMRI that showed significant brain changes following healing prayer. He and Eleanor produced three books: Delta Doc, Where Next Lord, and Released to Soar. Peter enjoyed fishing, photography, and, more recently, brain research. Fueled by his deep love for God, he was passionate that everyone would experience the power and healing touch of Jesus in their lives. He is preceded in death by sisters Sheila Van Oyen and Alice Vander Velde and son-in-law Chris Kingma. He is survived by wife Eleanor; daughters Patricia (Robert) DeVries, Brenda (fiancé Satish Maripuri) Boelens, Deborah (James) Visser, and Sara (Joel) DeVries; nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and sister Frances (Ronald) Redder

**BOTTING, ELIZABETH (BETTY)** age 91, of Ada, Michigan, entered her heavenly home on Monday, July 3, 2017. She was preceded in death by two grandchildren. Betty is survived by her husband of 65 years, Carl; her children, David (Evita), Thomas (Melanie), Jane, James

(Gwen), Robert (Jean), Anne (Ralph) Borgeling; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

**BOUWER, DON,** age 86, of Bradenton, FL; June 20, 2017. Don is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marilyn, his children, Douglas, Dann, David, Dennis (deceased), Debra, Donald, and Hiep Truong, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**BULTMAN, ROY,** age 97; Grand Rapids, MI; Died: June 30, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Tena Bouwer Bultman; two sisters, Jeanette and Alice; five brothers, Evert, Art, Harold, twin brother Ray, and Louis. Roy leaves behind his children: Mary and Larry Lenger, Ron and Sharon Schmidt Bultman, Bern and Sharon Roosien Bultman, Howard and Marcia Herweyer Bultman, Betty and Dan Ensing; sister-in-law: Jeanet Ebels; 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

**DOORNBOS, CLARENCE** age 76, (Caledonia, MI) passed away suddenly July 15, 2017. He is survived by his loving wife Janice (Jouwstra), two children: Sandra & Lon Gouak, Jeffrey Doornbos & Caroline Diani, 5 grandchildren, sister-in-law, Kay, brother Bob (Cherie), sister Ruth (Dave) Hoeksema. He was preceded in death by his parents, John & Mae, brother, Howie. Philippians 1:21.

**HOVINGA, FRANK** went to be with his LORD on June 24, 2017. 1447 Fox Lane, Hinsdale, IL 60521. Beloved husband of the late Henrietta, nee Mulder; preceded in death by his siblings Henry (Grace) Hovinga, Jeanette (Bill) Van Dyke, Jacob (Jen) Hovinga, Talena (Henry) Folgers. Uncle, relative, and friend of many. He will be missed greatly by his nieces and nephews, and he will be remembered for his strong faith and dedication to his church. Memorials to Lombard Christian Reformed Church, 2020 S. Meyers Rd, Lombard, IL 60148, are appreciated.

**MENSONIDES, LOUIS JOHN** age 79, of Modesto, CA went to be with his Heavenly Father on August 2, 2017. Lou is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife Letty of 54 years; children John (Kathleen), David (Debby), Mark (Pam), and Joel (Kristin); grandchildren Kendra (Brian), Krista (Adam), Kelsea, Jason, Adam, Grant, Zack, Luke, and Anneke; and great-grandchildren Simon, Elliott and Ethan.

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**CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**HUIZENGA, BERNARD** "Bernie" H, age 80, of Elmhurst, went to be with Our Lord on June 13, 2017. 15W073 Harrison St, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Beloved husband of the late Joann Huizenga, nee Laning; loving father of Cynthia (Scott) Meyer, Bernie Jr. (Lisa) Huizenga, Mark (Barbara) Huizenga, and Jason (Rebekah) Huizenga; grandfather of 16; step-grandfather of 2; great-grandfather of 5; fond brother of Clarence (Chris) Huizenga, Dena (Elden) Wichers, Anna (the late Ernie) Ellison, Jenny Shiel, Linda (Randy) VanEsch, Catherine (Tom) Dostart,

and preceded in death by his twin brother Bob (Helen) Huizenga and brother Jake (Teri) Huizenga. Memorials to Timothy Christian Schools, 188 W. Butterfield Rd, Elmhurst, IL 60126 or Hope Children's Home, 11415 Hope International Drive, Tampa, FL 33625 are appreciated.

**KOORNDYK, E. BUD**, age 95, of Grand Rapids, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, June (Wolters) Koorndyk; and is survived by his children, Marsha

and Greg Peters, Pat Koorndyk, Meriel and Jack DeGraaf, Bob and Nancy Koorndyk; 25 grandchildren; and 28 great grandchildren.

**MEYER, WILLIAM JOHN** age 77, of Greenwood, Indiana passed away March 31, 2017 surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Josephine Meyer, sister-in-law Mary Meyer. He will be deeply missed by his wife of 55 years Judith (Bruinius) Meyer; children Debbie(chuck) Pulley, Nancy (Brett) Price, Cindy (Barry) Shoemaker, and Bill (Billie) Meyer; siblings Beverly (Ron) Wade, Bob Meyer, and Roger (Eileen) Meyer; grandchildren Keith, Derek, Clayton, Ian, Travis, Sam and Connor; great granddaughter Belle.

**OOSTEMA, CLARA (KLEIN)** age 91 of Ripon CA went to her heavenly home July 29, 2017. Preceded in death by her husband Bernard, daughter Carol Zuidema & granddaughter Lauri. Loving mother to Bud (Betha) Oostema, Judy (Dennis) Lucas, Roger (Marilyn) Oostema, Kristie (Mike) Sanny & Sandy (Rick) Poot and mother-in-law to Ben Zuidema. Dear sister to Anjean (James) Hofland. Loving Nana to 19 grandchildren & 24 great-grandchildren. To God be the glory!

**POST, JOHN W., Jr.** "Jack" age 73, of Bradenton, FL and Holland, MI, entered heaven on May 7, 2017. He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Arden Ruth De Vries Post, daughters, Caroline Post Cone of Franklin, TN, Rev. Joel and Janine Post-Anderle of Peabody, MA, and daughter-in-law, Audrey Hovinga Post of Grand Rapids; grandchildren: Courtney, Tanner, Carl, and Jack Cone; Micah, Evangeline, Sophia, Magdalena, and Mattias Anderle; Simon, Samuel, and Lucy Post. Jack was preceded in death by son John W. Post III in 2011 and his parents, John W. and Marjorie Post. He is survived by siblings Mary Hudson, Pat Post, Jo and Ken Blackport, Mike and Barb Post, Chas. and Elaine Post, and Betsi Post. After graduating from Calvin College and Michigan State University, Jack worked in management for Keebler Co. for 34 years, taking the family to Denver, Phila., Atlanta, Cinti., and Grand Rapids. In retirement he enjoyed "swinging a hammer" while volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and Jubilee Ministries in Holland, MI. Rest in peace "Daddy Jack"; we'll love you forever!



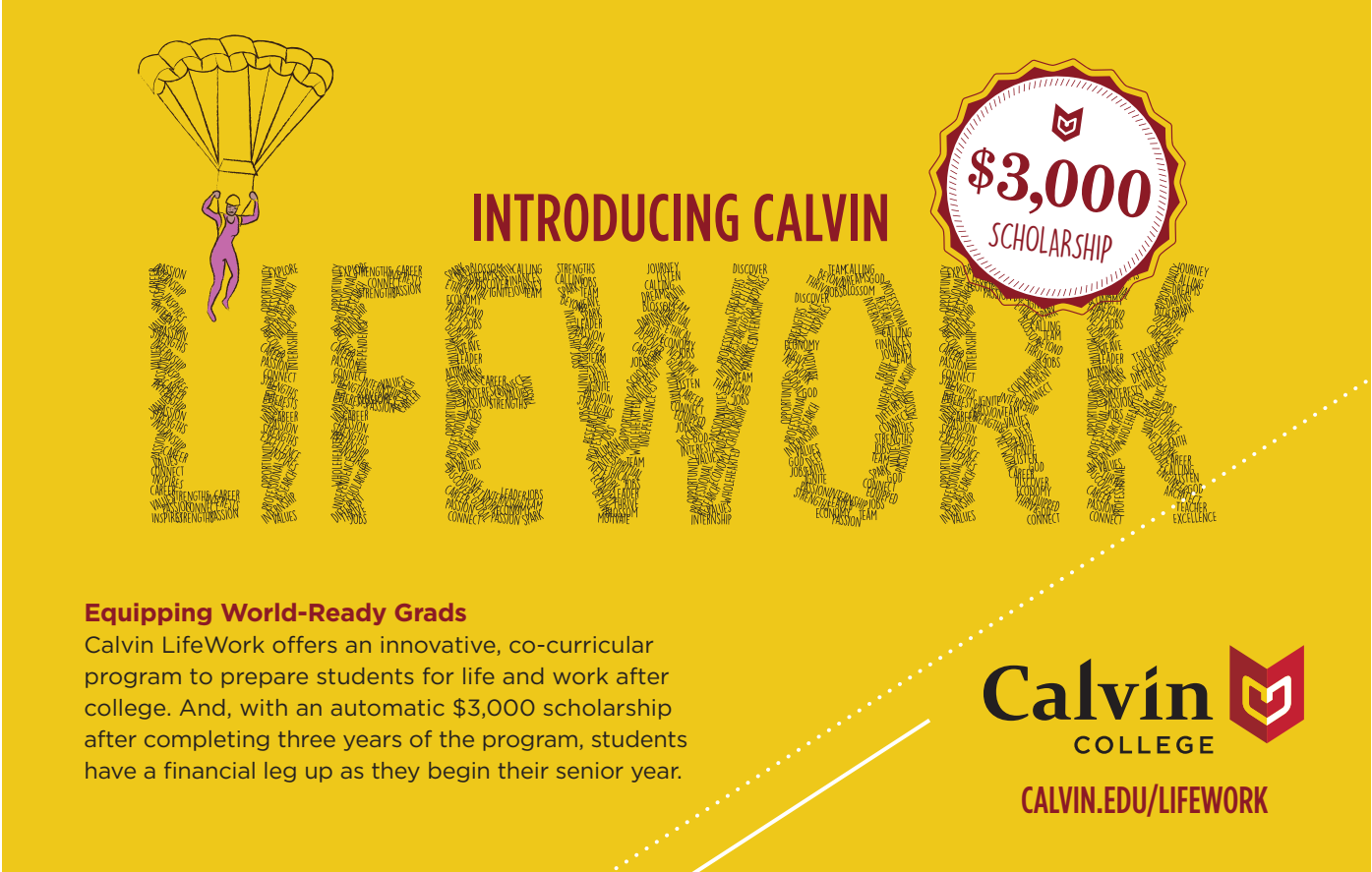
**Ten Ways TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH A SAFER PLACE**

- 1. FOSTER A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**  
We believe that because each person is created in the image of God, each one is to be treated with dignity and respect. Faith formation happens best in a nurturing context of healthy relationships. Safe Church Ministry equips congregations in abuse awareness, prevention, and response, helping to build communities in which the value of each person is honored and people are free to worship and grow free from abuse. Although no ministry is risk-free, there are action steps that can minimize harmful risks and prevent abuse.
- 2. PAY ATTENTION TO ABUSE PREVENTION**  
A safe environment doesn't happen by itself; someone needs to pay attention and take action. It's well worth the effort to identify a group of people in the congregation to work together to prevent abuse and create a safe environment for everyone. Please see the group's inclusive council representation.
- 3. FOSTER A CONNECTION WITH PASTORS**  
Pastors abuse prevention is their #1 priority when someone champions the effort. There are people in every congregation who have directly or indirectly experienced abuse and, as a result, may be passionate about preventing it. One of these people may agree to speak with you to form a safe church team for the congregation or to be a resource.
- 4. CONTACT YOUR SAFE CHURCH MINISTRY**  
It's easy to subscribe to an e-newsletter or browse the many resources available on The Network. You can also contact your local safe church representative or Safe Church Ministry directly (contact@safechurch.org or https://www.safechurch.org).
- 5. DEVELOP AND FOLLOW A SAFE CHURCH OR ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY**  
A policy sends a strong and positive message that your church cares about the value of each and every person. Policies designed to protect those who are most vulnerable bring us help to ensure a safe and respectful environment for everyone. When we don't make the effort to have a policy, what message do we send?
- 6. PARTICIPATE IN ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING**  
The Church Council on September 18-19 will develop Abuse Awareness Sunday. Resources are available from Safe Church Ministry if that Sunday doesn't work, any other day is also a good day for increasing abuse awareness!

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**RIP, JOYCE**, 90, of Oak Harbor WA passed away on June 18, 2017. She is preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence, and is survived by her children: Launa (Leroy) Riepma and Jeff (Rose) Rip; 6 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

**ROELOFS, STANLEY**, went to be with his LORD on July 9, 2017. 430 E. Highland Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181. Beloved Husband of 70 years of the late Pauline Roelofs; loving father of Richard (Mary Kathryn), and Scott (Sandra) Roelofs; grandfather of Robert, John, Daniel, William, and Patrick Roelofs; step-brother-in-law of Henry (June) Trepp; brother of the late Davis (the late Margaret), the late Edward (the late Edith) and the late Harvey (the late Jane) Roelofs. Memorials to Timothy Christian Schools, Mock Trial Fund, 188W. Butterfield Rd. Elmhurst, IL 60126, are appreciated.

**VANDER WERF, WILLIAM (BILL)**, 86 of Sioux Center, IA died March 18, 2017. he is survived by his wife, Jo (Van Essen), and son David (Rebecca) and grandchildren Abigail, Jonathan, and Sarah.

**VAN HALSEMA, FRANCES** Jean (Vander May) passed away peacefully Friday, July 14, 2017 in Grand Rapids, MI. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Gerard (d.1987) and cherished son Mark Emmett (d.2005). She is survived by her best friend and sister, Gladys De Vos; her loving daughters Sharon May (Donald) Traeger, Brenda Ruth (John) Friedman, Lisa Jean (Dietrich) Rathjens, Donna Gail (Daniel) Kallemeyn, Pamela Jo (Dwayne Mulder) Van Halsema; daughter-in-law Helen Mae Sterk; dear grandchildren James (Stephanie), Rebecca, Linda, and Marianne Kallemeyn; Nicholas and Andrew Friedman; Gerard (Rita) and Catherine Van Halsema; Jeffrey, Janna, and Alix Traeger; Galen and Anders Rathjens; Talia, Alicia, and Isaac Mulder; great-grandchildren Levi, Selah, and Benjamin Kallemeyn and Susan Van Halsema.

**VIS, PEARL E.**, nee Bruinius, age 90, of Orland Park, IL went to be with her Lord on June 27, 2017. Beloved wife of Marvin for 70 years. Loving mother of Sharon (Robert) Haas, Joan (William) Ooms and LuAnn Vis. Cherished grandmother of Lisa Haas, Amy Rutledge, Marcia Ooms, Rachel (Jeremy) Oosterhouse and Laura (Kyle) Stewart. Dearest great-grandmother of Jonathan, Alex, Leah and Asher. Dear sister of William (the late Ella) Bruinius, Judith (the late William) Meyer, LaVerne (John) Yff and Leonard

(Patricia) Bruinius. Fond sister-in-law of Annette (the late Carl) Hulford and the late Cornelia Vis. Dear aunt of many nieces and nephews.

**ZEILSTRA, JESSIE (JONGSMA)**, 94, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, went to meet her Lord on June 10, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband Chet in 1980. She is survived by her children Ed (Ruth), Barb (Edwin) Kamphuis, Bill (Nancy), Jim (Alida); her 11 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. Psalm 27.

### Employment

**NURSING HOME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** The Artesia Christian Home of Artesia, CA has an opening for an Executive Director. The qualified individual would be responsible to the Board of Directors for the overall management of the entities, properties and programs owned and operated by Artesia Christian Home, and to carry out the mission statement adopted by the board. Artesia Christian Home is comprised of 21 independent living cottages; 68 assisted living apartments; a 28 bed memory care facility; and a 66 bed skilled nursing wing. Duties would include but not be limited to supervision of personnel, overseeing finances and preparation of an annual budget, compliance of state and federal laws, and public relations. The applicant should hold a Bachelor's degree, a current CA Nursing Home Administrator's license or qualify for such certification and have a minimum of 5 years' experience in administrative work related to human service. Please direct your request for a detailed job description or your resume with cover letter to: Ron Ornee at rornee1@gmail.com

**PRINCIPAL OPENING** Trinity Christian School in Burlington, Ontario invites applications for the full-time position of principal. Trinity Christian School is a junior kindergarten to grade eight, multi-denominational Christian school, with over 250 students in a new facility. A detailed job description is available on the school's website at tsonline.ca. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, statement of faith and their philosophy of Christian education to jessica.nicholson@tsonline.ca. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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### Real Estate: Sales and Rentals

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**S. FORT MYERS RENTAL** 2BR/2BA one level condo, sleeps 6, pool, 15 minutes to beaches, cable/wifi. 484-988-0519 enhoman@gmail.com.

**FOR RENT - CONDO** Naples, Florida. Beautiful 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Available - Jan, Feb and select weeks in March 2018. dkeizer@comcast.net or 708-650-0300.

**BONITA BEACH FL VACATION CONDO** 1 bdr, 1 ba condo on gulf of Mexico, fully equipped, sleeps 4. Don't get left out in the cold. 616-977-0039

**NETTLES ISLAND, FLORIDA** Beautiful 2 bed, 1 bath for rent, fully equipped. Available month of Jan. Call Jerome Balder 616-836-4293

**FORT MYERS BEACH FL** Indian Creek Resort-Newly remodeled Park Model. Available Jan, Feb, March 2018. Laurie 616-293-9143

**LAUDERDALE BY THE SEA, FL** One bedroom condos with kitchen & bathroom. Pools, laundry and wifi/cable. 3 min stroll from beach. manalocondos.com jonvandeKopple@koppelprint.com 616-446-7195

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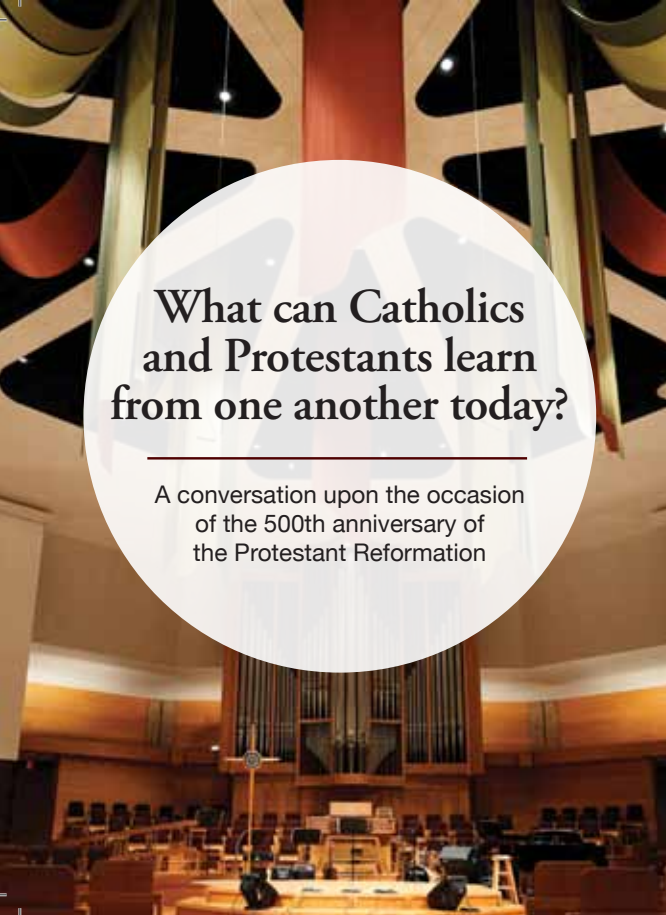
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# Punch Lines

What has made *you* smile lately? Got a joke or funny incident you'd care to share with your wider church family? Please send it to *The Banner* at 1700 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407; or email it to [letters@thebanner.org](mailto:letters@thebanner.org). Thanks!

**W**hy are frogs so happy? They eat whatever bugs them.

*R. Smit*

**W**hen my grandson Kyle was 3 years old, he asked what we were having for supper. I told him it was tuna casserole.

"Sounds kinda fishy," he replied.

*Sandy Sall*

**I**nflation is when you pay \$15 for the \$10 haircut you used to get for \$5 when you had hair.

*Cyndi Boss*

**A**n American was touring Wales. Upon entering a hotel in one town, he noticed the word "TAM" written on the mat. "Ah," he said. "I suppose that's Welsh for 'Welcome.'"

"No, sir," replied the doorman. "That's the bath mat upside down."

*John Veltkamp*

**M**y daughter was having a difficult time keeping her 2-year-old daughter quiet in church and kept telling her to shush. The little girl responded, "Why do I have to shush?" My

daughter explained that no one was supposed to talk in church. The 2-year-old looked at her mom, pointed to the minister standing in front of the church, and said loudly, "But he's talking!"

*Diana Leyendekker*

**J**ill broke her finger today, but on the other hand she was completely fine.

*Patrick Smith*

**H**is wife's graveside service was barely finished when there was a massive clap of thunder followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The husband looked at

the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there."

*Marcia Allspach*

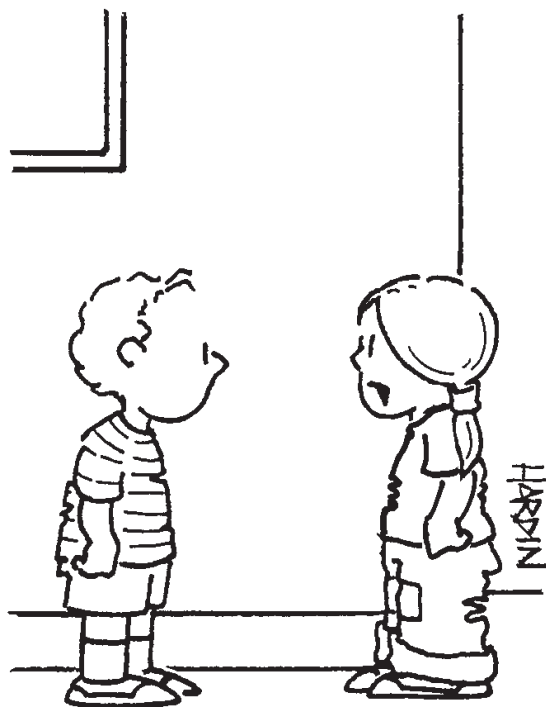
**I**f our ministers are not environmentally aware, would you say that we should be moving on to greener pastors?

*Alletta Whipple*

**T**he Sunday school teacher was describing what happened to Lot's wife when she looked back at Sodom: she turned into a pillar of salt.

Then Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once she was driving, and she turned into a telephone pole."

*Cyndi Boss*



"Manners are the noises you don't make while you eat."

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