

# BANNER

November 2012 | [www.thebanner.org](http://www.thebanner.org)

<sup>32</sup> **Can We Be Good Stewards  
of the Economy *and* the  
Environment?**

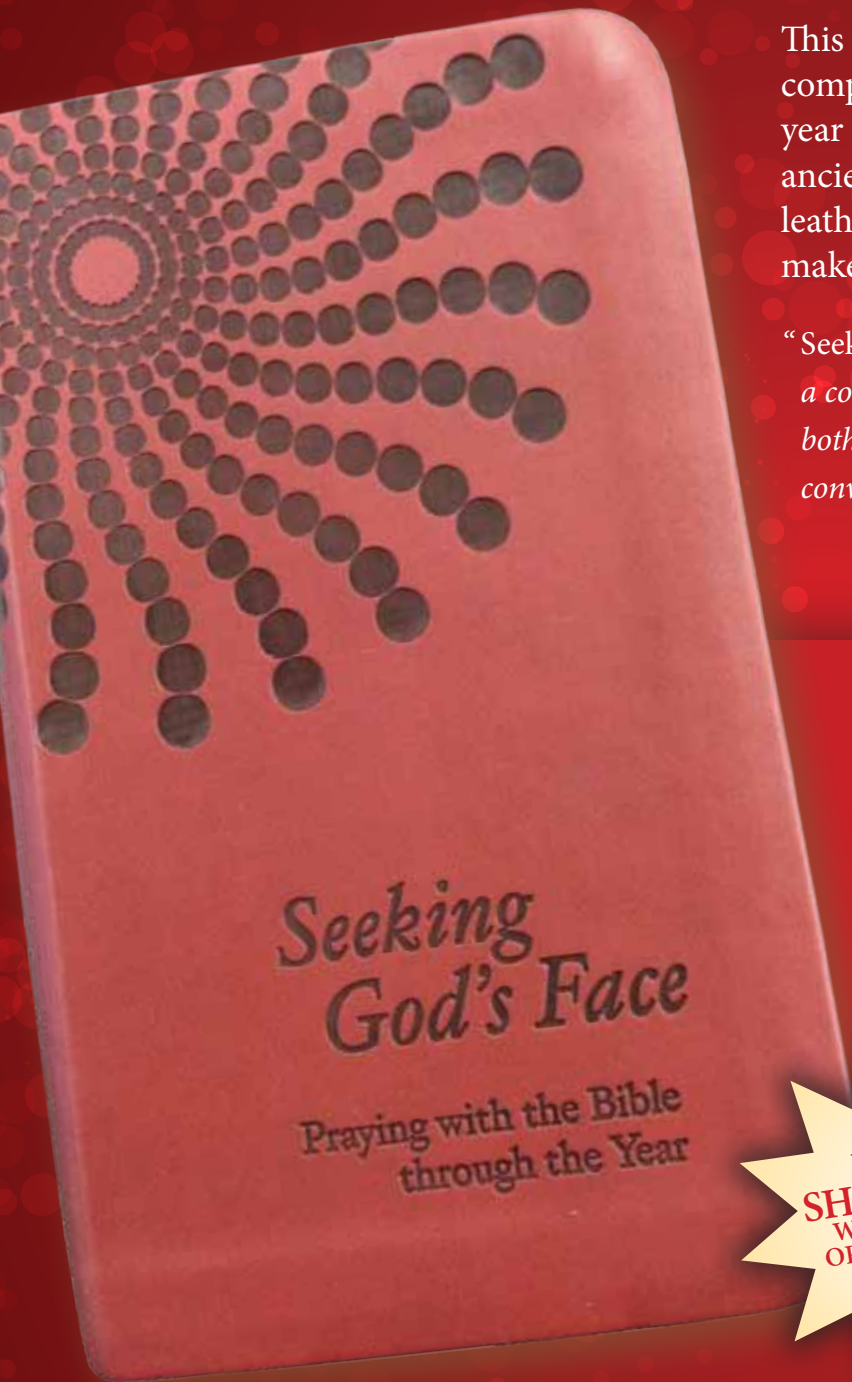
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<sup>22</sup> **Many Tribes,  
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<sup>18</sup> **Growing Business  
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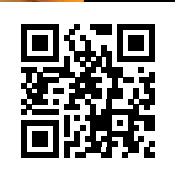
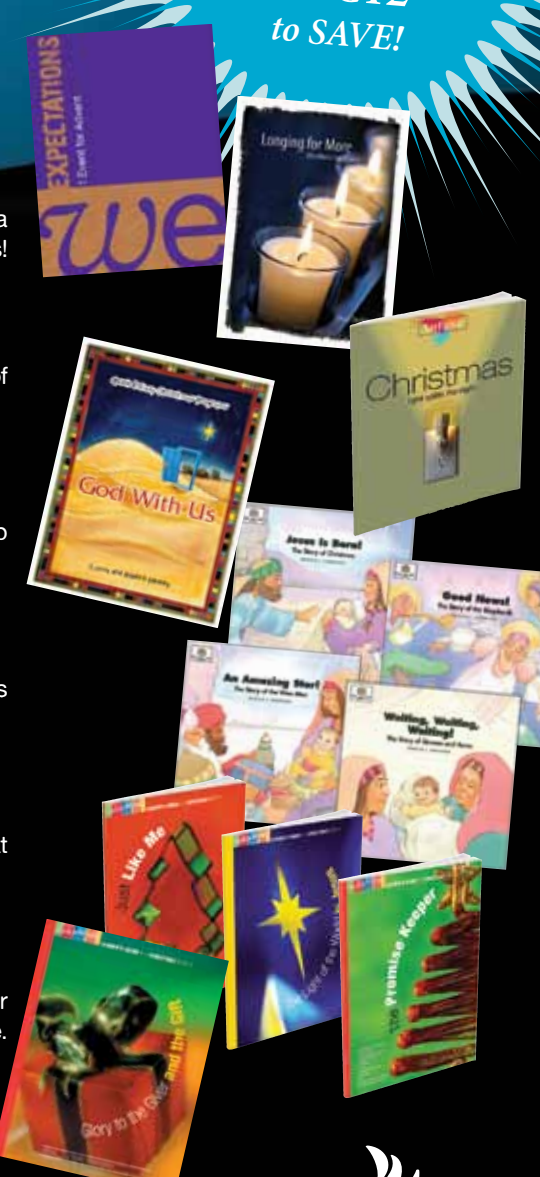
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# BANNER

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# Rich Toward God

**IN THE MARCH EDITORIAL WE ASKED YOU**, our readers, to tell us how to get the economy rolling again and get people back to work—but in a sustainable way. Specifically, how do we grow the economy without ruining God’s good creation in the process?

So many took us up on the challenge that we’ve devoted this issue of *The Banner* to sharing some of the thoughtful responses we received.

Probably the best place to begin this discussion is to pin down, first of all, who owns what.

Some argue that the individual owns his or her possessions, period—including natural resources and the means of production (capitalism). Others argue that society owns these things (socialism). Then there are those who take a mediating position between the two extremes.

Psalms 24:1 confesses, “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” The whole shebang belongs to God: the environment, the means of production, our earnings, ourselves.

Living up to that reality requires a serious attitude adjustment, regardless of whether we believe it’s the individual, producers and business, or the government who should fix and run things. Since God owns it all, we need to care about what God cares about. We need to do with our work, our investments, our earnings, our possessions, and ourselves what God wants us to do with them. Jesus calls that being “rich toward God” (Luke 12:21).

Scripture reveals at least three things God wants for—and from—us.

The first is that everyone, however “abled,” fulfills their calling by doing meaningful work: “Anyone unwilling to work should not eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). Such work should not be restricted to paid employment. Many persons need help finding meaningful work, and it’s our communal responsibility to see that they are provided with the means to work.

The second is that all who work to capacity and those who are shut out from that opportunity through no fault of their own receive their portion of the wealth of God’s good earth, of which there is more than enough to go around. We need to provide for the dispossessed and get them back on their feet. We can argue about the best way to do that—through individual or organizational giving or through taxation and government programs. My guess is that we’ll need to keep doing so through both means—with government picking up on what is not being adequately done through other channels.

The third thing God cares about is the creation. We are mandated to enhance it, not to ruin or despoil it. That means working with, not against, the environment.

If these are all things that God really wants, then we can’t really be *radical* capitalists, socialists, centrists, or environmentalists.

When we confess that God owns every dime we earn, every lace in our personal shoe collection, and every cell in our bodies, our motivation to work stops being greed or envy or anxiety (see Luke 12:22ff.) and becomes love.

Regardless of what we have in savings, that makes us truly rich—toward each other and toward God. ■

God owns every  
dime we earn,  
every lace in our  
personal shoe  
collection, every  
cell in our bodies.



**Bob De Moor** is editor of *The Banner* and pastor of preaching and administration for West End CRC, Edmonton, Alberta.

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# Resonance

Absence rings like footsteps in a corridor,  
and I've become increasingly accustomed to the sound.  
It has become like company,  
as has the weight of no one's hand in mine.  
I've learned to see the acorns  
animated in my mind,  
the ones that drop and roll across the roof.  
No longer a mysterious percussion,  
their patter doesn't trick me into answering the door.  
I've learned to like the music  
of the runoff through my gutters,  
the whip of wind by eaves, the scrape  
of dormant branches' fingers.  
Everyone wants in (so I pretend)!  
The space I occupy is now a prized commodity  
but valued most by me for its capacity for silence  
and the alchemy it works on every sound.  
So I'm keeping this place empty, like the heart of a guitar,  
like the darkness where the clapper hangs  
in wait inside a bell,  
not in hope of some return or change  
of mind, but for the listening.  
I am keeping this place empty  
like the belly of a whale. ■



Jennifer M. Parker is a  
freelance writer based in  
Jackson, Miss. This poem  
was originally published in  
Issue 18, 2010, of *Ruminate*  
magazine ([www.ruminatemagazine.com](http://www.ruminatemagazine.com)).



## Arm in Arm

**The image of this mother and daughter walking with linked arms is one that inspires me.**



**FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS** I was a chaplain with Canadian veterans who were among those who had liberated our town in Friesland. I felt privileged to serve them. Recently I attended the funeral service of a prominent Christian Reformed woman whose story ranks among these honored veterans.

Born in 1918 in Amsterdam, this woman married a *Gereformeerde dominee* (Reformed pastor) in 1942 whose first charge was in Friesland. Together this pastor and his wife hid Jews and underground resistance fighters in their home, risking their own safety to protect others. She stored weapons for the underground movement because “the Germans would not suspect a pastor of having weapons!” Her courage in the face of tremendous forces of evil made her, in my mind, a veteran and a hero of faith.

But resisting the Nazis was not the only cause she served. She was also a veteran in the struggle for gender equality. She had wanted to become a nurse, but, being engaged, this career was not an option for her. Instead she enrolled in the theology department of the Free University, one of the first women to do

so. With five children, the family immigrated to Canada in 1955, where their sixth was born.

As a minister’s wife she worked discreetly and tirelessly for gender equality in the CRC. Thank God she lived long enough to see her denomination take the word “male” out of the requirements for officebearers.

At her funeral, her daughter spoke of her mother’s deep love and courage at a time when the daughter had come out as a lesbian and some of her church family had treated her unkindly. Her mother came to visit her, and while they were walking down the street, they saw a couple approaching. She said, “Mom, that’s the couple that treated me rudely!” In response, her mother linked her arm with her daughter’s and walked proudly past the couple. This loving, courageous woman stood with her daughter against those who would diminish her and affirmed her worth.

The image of this mother and daughter walking with linked arms is one that inspires me to believe that my church will one day have the courage to fully affirm all her children. ■



**Harry Kuperus is a retired pastor in the Christian Reformed Church.**

# LE



### Stewardship and the Economy

At one level the Old Testament year of Jubilee concept served to keep the acquisition of material possessions in perspective. Perhaps a 100 percent inheritance tax or similar policy designed to spread material wealth would serve to grow a calmer economy. It could end the need for constant economic growth that we currently live with, and it would allow an economy to be based more on creativity and less on control.

—John Mohle  
Moorefield, Ontario

How do we solve the crisis our world is facing? Here are a few ideas from a non-economist. I can save on using water, drive my car a lot less than I currently do, buy one less shirt a year, buy fewer books and newspapers, eat less meat, ensure that my garbage doesn’t go in the ocean, and take less of a pension so someone can have access to that money. But what will it accomplish if a little bit less is consumed by me?

The problem is that people all around the world, and especially the Third World, are having more kids. Having grandkids is the ultimate joy. Watching young babies being nurtured into this wonderful creation is validation of God’s goodness to us. Family is important to us all. But where do we draw the line?



# LETTERS

I am currently serving World Renew overseas and watching people deal with floods, destruction of homes, loss of income, little food, more disease, and loss of pride in what they did formerly. I am seeing a creation that is tired. I am seeing soil that has been overworked. I am seeing pristine parts of God's beautiful creation groaning under the weight of overuse.

It is time to seriously look at ways of reducing the population. When I see 180 million people living in poverty (that's about six Canadas) along a river stretch that is shorter than the Fraser River basin in British Columbia, with unclean water that is flooding again, garbage strewn all over, broken-down homes and buildings, and no latrines for the majority, something is wrong.

To resolve this we need to come together as Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and Jews worldwide and ask: How does this affect our view of family, having children, and birth control? Is there a common ground on this issue? If we don't try to work together, God's creation will continue to suffer.

—Mike Hoyer

*New Westminster, British Columbia*

I'm not an economist, but one of the concepts I would love to see implemented in the church is restoring the tabernacle of David. This would create jobs. And not just any job, but something that is invested in the eternal kingdom.

King David financed the worshipers, the Levites, in the temple so that they could worship God around the clock and not be distracted by other duties. Out of that worship came many of the psalms. I believe the Lord will give new songs to modern-day worshipers as they spend extended time in his presence.

Does supporting people to pray and worship excuse the rest of us from

prayer and worship? No way. King David spent much time in the temple as well because there was no other place he would rather be.

—Bev Sterk  
*Lynden, Wash.*

The consensus among economists is that environmental regulation has not been a tremendous drag on growth. At one time, people liked to claim that the poor economic performance of the 1970s was a product of the regulatory innovations at the beginning of that period—the Clean Air Act, the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency, etc. This was pretty much debunked in early work by long-time University of Wisconsin economics professor Robert Haveman (B.A., Calvin College, 1958). Most economists believe that if environmental regulations are designed in a smart way, making use of market-like mechanisms (cap and trade, anyone?), they pose very little risk to growth.

—John P. Tiemstra

*Professor of Economics, Calvin College  
Grand Rapids, Mich.*

## Prison Stats

Though I heartily agree with Dr. Wayne Brouwer that we have too many people in prison (“I Was in Prison . . .” Sept. 2012), his statistics for Canada are way off. Instead of 350,000 and 1 percent of Canada's population, the official statistics (latest figures 2008-9) indicate 23,858 in provincial jails and 13,343 in federal prisons for a total of 37,201 or 0.01 percent, ten times fewer than the article cites. That is still too many. What is worse, official crime statistics in Canada have been falling for years, but Canada's incarceration rate, after falling a decade ago, is now increasing again.

—Bill Dykstra  
*Severn Bridge, Ontario*

*Editor's note: We're sorry about the error: the number Brouwer actually wrote was 35,000, which is much closer to the total number of Canadians in prison cited by Bill Dykstra, a former prison chaplain.*

## Discipleship

I wondered why there was no mention of the training received in Christian schools as having an impact on the spiritual growth of our youth in Jill Friend's article (“Celebrating Faith Milestones: Profession of Faith,” July 2012). After being introduced to the Christian Reformed Church and Christian education at Dordt College, I have spent my entire adulthood teaching, supporting, working, giving, and praying for our Christian schools.

It has been my prayer that my students would grow and learn more about a service-filled life from their church, home, and school.

—Joyce Eggebeen  
*Oostburg, Wisc.*

## Boldly Proclaim

When Robert De Moor recommends that “[t]he institutional church should not pretend to know or advocate for specific policies” (“Boldly Proclaim and Profess,” July 2012), he provides us with a recipe for frustration, failure, and ultimately injustice. Standing atop a church spire and shouting principles—“Respect for Life!” “Just War!”—is useless unless it is followed with action. The action can certainly take different forms, but the church must take aim at specific unjust policies. The church fathers, Desmond Tutu, John Witherspoon, and others have shown this to be the standard practice of the church. The real, concretely-visible church must address real, concrete injustice. Failure to do so is an abdication of our responsibility.

—Kent Van Til  
*Holland Mich.*

[MORE ONLINE](#)

# NEWS

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## Board of Trustees Endorses U.S. Asylum Legislation

In a historic first, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church declared its endorsement of two bills (HR 3590 and S3339) currently before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

The board, which acts on behalf of the denomination between synods, took the unprecedented step after learning of the plight of Indonesian Christians living in New Jersey, including one who has taken sanctuary in the church building of a Reformed Church in America congregation.

Following the September 11 attacks, they registered with the U.S. government as required and have since been targeted for deportation.

The proposed legislation would allow Indonesians who fled their country in the late 1990s and early 2000s in the face of religious persecution to have their request for asylum heard in court if they

apply within the next two years. It does not guarantee asylum or amnesty.

The board endorsed the legislation, noting that it is in direct agreement with the 2010 synod report by the Committee to Study the Migration of Workers.

While synods and church leaders have endorsed biblical positions and made declarations on societal issues such as war, abortion, and immigration, they have never before taken the step of supporting specific legislation.

Executive director Rev. Joel Boot noted that this situation is unique. "This is a situation of a sister church aiding people unfairly oppressed by our government. It is our responsibility to do this."

The Reformed Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (USA) endorsed the proposed legislation earlier this year.

[MORE ONLINE](#)

—Gayla R. Postma



Rev. Ron Vanden Brink officiates at the annual cenotaph service on Remembrance Day in Kelowna, British Columbia.

## British Columbia Church Leads Remembrance Day Service

The Well Christian Reformed Church, a small church plant in Kelowna, British Columbia, is committed to making its presence felt in the community through service.

So it is fitting that its pastor, Rev. Ron Vanden Brink, officiates each year at the Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Rutland, the Kelowna neighborhood where the church is located.

On November 11 (Veterans Day in the United States), Canadians across the country gather at local cenotaphs to remember those who sacrificed their lives in wars dating back to World War I.

—Jenny de Groot

A photograph of a hand holding a smartphone. The screen shows various social media icons, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Overlaid on the image is a large blue number "17,000,000" and text about social media responses to Back to God Ministries International.

**17,000,000**

The number of people who respond each year to Back to God Ministries International social media.

November 11 is designated for BTGMI offerings.



Winnie Brinks



Bing Goei

## Two CRC Members Run for Same Office

Two members of Christian Reformed churches located just three miles apart are seeking the same seat in the Michigan legislature.

Winnie Brinks, 44, a member of Sherman Street CRC, caseworker, and parent-teacher association member, is running for the Democratic Party.

Bing Goei, 64, of East Leonard CRC, a local businessman and entrepreneur, is running for the seat as an independent candidate. Goei was, at one time, the director of the Office of Race Relations for the CRC.

Both candidates spoke of their participation in local politics as acting out of their faith and as a response to a biblical call to justice. Goei invoked the prophet Isaiah's call to "maintain justice and do what is right." Brinks spoke of "specific ways that government can promote justice for those who are more vulnerable and for the care of creation."

"As a denomination we value justice as reflected in World Renew, the Office of Social Justice, Disability Concerns, and the Canadian Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue," said Goei. He is glad that two members of the CRC in Grand Rapids are involved politically. "Though we share similar values, we may differ on public policy."

—Noah J. K. Kruis

## Political Science Prof Practices Politics

Jeff Taylor, a political science professor at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, said he was honored and grateful to attend the Republican National Convention in preparation for the November general election. Taylor represented the 4th congressional district.

Taylor was impressed, but he also saw a different side to the convention. "In the old days, delegates actually chose the nominee during the convention week," he said. "Now [it is] more of a 'coronation.'"

He also noted that "although the 'sins' of the opposing party were loudly and repeatedly condemned, there was almost no confession of, or contrition for, our own 'sins.' The promotion of what could be viewed as anti-Christian values was unsettling to me. The poor appeared only as a plot device in rags-to-riches stories."

Taylor was encouraged by the fellowship of other believers. "The convention hall was full of professing Christians. I believe with many of them on social issues, so that was also a nice atmosphere in which to practice politics."

Taylor has been teaching political science for 15 years in states including Minnesota, Illinois, Alabama, and Iowa.

—Kate Padilla



Jeff Taylor at the Republican National Convention.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Rev. Ronald Peterson

1937 – 2012

Ron Peterson, 75, passed away following a brief struggle with cancer. A brother and friend to many, he was thoughtful and observant in demeanor and outstanding in pastoral practice and leadership. He was also a cherished husband, father, and grandfather.

Peterson was ordained into ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

Peterson served churches in Indiana and Michigan, in both the CRC and the Reformed Church in America. He served as a regional director for the CRC's Board of Home Missions and as a classical care coordinator for the RCA. He also had a private practice in marriage and family therapy for a time.

Peterson will be remembered for his reflective wisdom, tranquil strength, and Christ-like manner. He loved music and sacred song. He enjoyed sports, was a fine tennis player and skier, and a successful fisherman.

Peterson is survived by his wife, Mary, three children and their spouses, and nine grandchildren.

[MORE ONLINE](#)

—Louis M. Tamminga  
Further information on recently deceased ministers is available each year in the front pages of the Christian Reformed Church's annual Yearbook.

## Alberta Farm Creates World's Largest QR Code



**G**uinness World Records has designated the Kraay Family Farm's corn maze as the largest QR code in the world.

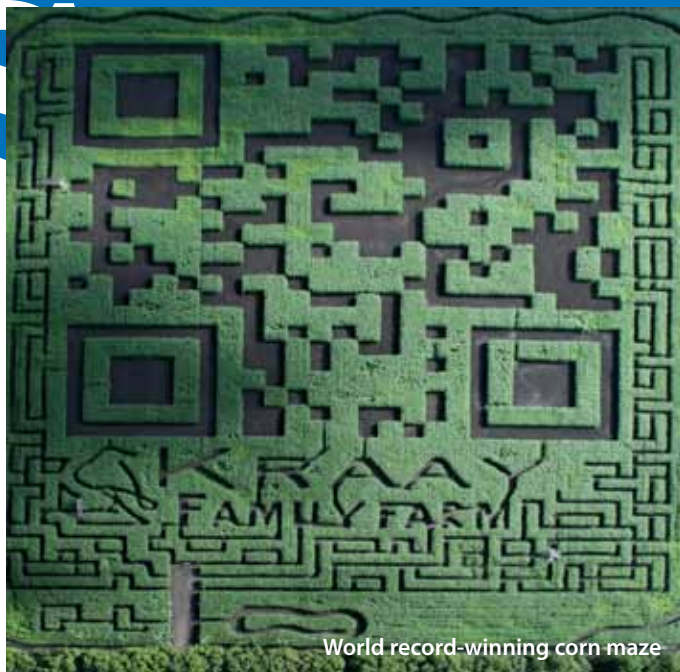
QR (quick response) codes are two-dimensional codes that, when scanned with a smartphone, offer information on a product or company by sending the user to a website.

Although not the largest corn maze in the world, the Kraay family created the largest QR code

(l-r) Rachel, Reuben, Ed, and Linda Kraay are members of Woody Nook CRC in Blackfalds, Alberta.

using seven acres of the 15-acre corn maze.

Rachel deKoning Kraay, who runs the farm along with husband, Reuben Kraay, and parents-in-law Ed and Linda Kraay, said she came up with the idea for this year's maze while casually looking through a magazine. Noticing all the QR codes in the magazine, she



World record-winning corn maze

thought, "The QR code looks a lot like a maze. I wonder if we could make one."

In order to be considered for the world record, the Kraays had to be sure that theirs was a functioning QR code that could be scanned from the air and would direct the user to the Kraay Family Farm website.

Flying over their farm in a helicopter, they held the phone out the window. "It didn't work the first time," said Rachel. They figured out the contrast wasn't good enough, so "we got in there with the rototiller and dug up the

paths real nice and dark. The second time we went up, it scanned right away!"

The farm is well-known throughout Alberta for its annual unique corn mazes, something that began 13 years ago. Located in Lacombe, approximately halfway between Edmonton and Calgary, and with more than 20 other activities, the farm is one of Alberta's premier tourist attractions.

The Kraays are members of Woody Nook Christian Reformed Church in Blackfalds.

—Janet A. Greidanus

## Zuni Mission Gets a New School

Students, staff, and the Zuni Pueblo community in New Mexico dedicated the new Zuni Christian Mission School in September.

The mission in Zuni was started by the Christian Reformed Church in 1897; the school opened in 1908.

The new building replaces portable buildings that had been in use since a fire destroyed the school in 1971. The school currently houses 65 day students from kindergarten to grade eight.

Nina Chimoni, president of the school committee, said, "Our new school is a symbol, a gift of God's love and faithfulness to the Zuni people. . . . It was a humbling experience as I walked through the hallways of the new school for the first time. All I can say is 'Great is your faithfulness.'" [MORE ONLINE](#)

—Shashi DeHaan



3rd and 4th graders were ready for the dedication ceremony.



Ben Vandezande

## Vandezande Named Interim Canadian Director

Ben Vandezande will serve as interim director of Canadian ministries, filling the role left vacant after the August resignation of previous director Rev. Bruce Adema.

The Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church made the appointment at its September meeting.

Vandezande will work part time in the Burlington (Ontario) denominational offices. He will be assisted by two or three deputies who will help supervise the Canadian ministries of the denomination. Rev. William Koopmans of Chatham, Ontario, has been appointed as the church's ecumenical officer in Canada.

One of Vandezande's tasks will be to engage Canadian churches and classes in conversation about the ongoing role of the director of Canadian ministries, reporting his findings by May 2013.

Vandezande served most recently as interim director of Christian Reformed Home Missions.

—Gayla R. Postma

## Scrapbooking the Heidelberg Catechism

Teaching today's young people about a confessional document that was written almost 450 years ago can be a challenge. So Diana Vanderleest and Wilma Pol of La Glace (Alberta) Christian Reformed Church decided to use their own hobby of scrapbooking to help their students engage with the Heidelberg Catechism in a fun and relevant way.

Last season the catechism class studied the Lord's Prayer. "It is important during the teenage years to learn more about prayer," said Vanderleest. "We use strictly the Q's & A's and the corresponding Bible verses. We set up our class time in such a way that one week we read a part of the catechism with the corresponding Bible verses and discuss them, and the following week we do our artwork."

"There are really no set rules to scrapbooking," she explained. "The students may use scrapbook paper, stencils and stickers, other art supplies, and anything else they want to use. The artwork is all very personal; it depicts what they get out of that particular lesson and what it means for their individual lives."

Sandra Wathen, age 16, enjoyed the scrapbooking. "I like scrapbooking for catechism because you can use the pictures of your life to help you understand what [the catechism] is teaching you and you will always have that scrapbook to look back to."

—Janet A. Greidanus

## Bring Your Work to Church Day

Members of Willoughby Christian Reformed Church in Langley, British Columbia, showed up for church on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend dressed in an odd assortment of Sunday best—coveralls, scrubs, uniforms, or aprons—marking the end of a sermon series focusing on how God calls us to our vocations.

The eight-week series encouraged the congregation to devote all aspects of their lives to Christ, including the roles they are called to during the week.

**Baker Audrey Tolkamp and machinist Joe Tolkamp wore their work attire to church.**

Various individuals shared details about their vocations and about how they see God's hand in their place of work.

Police officer Joel Tuininga was encouraged and honored to be lifted up in prayer by fellow Christians. "I asked for prayer that I could be a light in a sometimes dark environment, and that I would bring glory to God by



JENNY DEGROOT

## Volunteers Respond to Colorado Wildfires

Smoke plumes were a frequent sight in Colorado this summer. Although no area Christian Reformed churches were directly affected by the fires, they partnered with a CRC agency to help those that were.

The High Park wildfire, located approximately six miles from Immanuel CRC, consumed more than 87,000 acres in the mountains west of Ft. Collins.

Volunteers in Action (VIA), a ministry in Denver formed by area CRCs, coordinated efforts with other local nonprofits to provide support to those affected. Walt Ackerman, a VIA representative, explained that several nonprofits in the Ft. Collins area have established long-term recovery groups to assist fire survivors.

The Waldo Canyon wildfire consumed more than 18,000 acres of suburban Colorado Springs and was the most financially destructive wildfire in Colorado state history. VIA also established a recovery group in Colorado Springs. Cragmor CRC, about six miles from the fire perimeter, had five families evacuated; none of them lost their homes.

—Sarah Boonstra

showing love, compassion, and integrity in how I deal with the people I encounter, the accused or the victimized."

"We are sent to our weekly tasks to call attention to Christ's presence and work in the world," said Mark Glanville, Willoughby's pastor. "We hoped that by spotlighting a variety of individuals we could . . . be energized as a community sent into the world Monday to Saturday."

—Tracey Yan

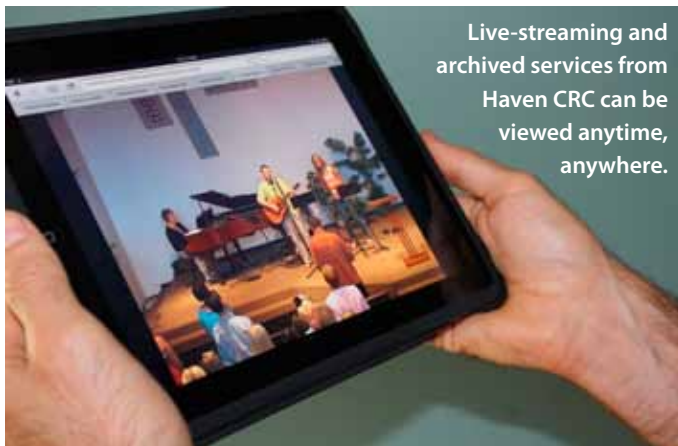
# NEWS

## Live Streaming Sends Services Beyond the Building

**H**ome with sniffles on a Sunday morning? Don't want to miss that baptism or the final sermon in the series? Those who attend Haven Christian Reformed Church (Zeeland, Mich.) or a growing number of churches like it don't have to miss a single service.

For the past several years, Haven CRC has been live streaming its Sunday services via the church's website. Morning and evening services are webcast live; both are also available in the video archives. Folks can also stream through their Apple devices, such as iPhones and iPads, making it easy to watch anytime, anywhere.

"We were very early adopters," said Doug Zylstra, technology director for the church. As live streaming has become more popular over the past two or three years, Zylstra has been contacted more often by other churches.



Live-streaming and archived services from Haven CRC can be viewed anytime, anywhere.

Haven's original goal was to give home-bound members the ability to participate in worship services each Sunday.

Now viewers, including parents at home with young children and grandparents living far away, can see Christmas programs or professions of faith that they might otherwise have missed.

The webcast also serves as a first look for those seeking a church home. "The younger gen-

eration today church-shops online," said Art Van Wolde, senior pastor.

Haven is careful to follow all copyright laws and strives to make the experience a pleasant one for the online viewer, with few technological distractions. Van Wolde recommends, "If you're going to do it, do it in a quality way."

—Susan Vanden Berg



(L-r) Ken Vanderlaan, Honduran First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, Honduran ambassador to Canada Sofia Ceratto Rodriguez, and Maria Vanderlaan

## Honduran First Lady Attends CRC Fundraiser

A small group of Christians from Southern Ontario has caught the attention of the Honduran First Lady, Her Excellency Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

Lobo attended the annual fundraising banquet held by Carpenteros and Friends, a group that has worked in Honduras and El Salvador for more than a decade.

"Thank you for loving Honduras. People like you are the ones the world needs," Lobo told attendees. "You are helping to change the way of thinking in our country. You—Carpenteros, you are *famous* in Honduras!" she exclaimed.

The group, which started with some volunteers from Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Flamborough, Ontario, has raised over a million dollars in the last decade in support of Honduras. Each year they send several teams to assist in work projects.

[MORE ONLINE](#)

—Monica deRegt

## Aboriginal Ministry Director Receives Medal



Bert Adema (right) received his medal from Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield.

Bert Adema, director of the Indian Metis Christian Fellowship in Regina, Saskatchewan, received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for "outstanding service to Saskatchewan."

The Indian Metis Christian Fellowship (IMCF) is one of three aboriginal ministries in Canada supported by the Christian Reformed Church.

Adema said it is the good work of IMCF that is really being recognized and honored. The ministry offers a safe space, free coffee, reading materials, prayer circles, and soup and bannock lunches in an inner-city neighborhood plagued by poverty, addictions, gangs, and crime.

"When you're doing quality stuff, it gets recognized," he said. He said the recognition also helps the CRC to know that it is supporting good work in Regina.

The medal honors those who have dedicated themselves to service to their fellow citizens. [MORE ONLINE](#)

—Janet A. Greidanus



Member of Parliament David Sweet at the Redeemer University College convocation.

## Redeemer University College Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The school opened its doors in September 1982 to 97 students. Today it has nearly 10 times that number of students from 49 denominations and 20 countries.

Rev. Henry DeBolster, Redeemer's first president (1982-1994), remembered some of the challenges and difficulties Redeemer faced in the early years as they worked to establish a Christian university, stepping out in faith in an environment of great opposition from both the government and neighboring secular universities.

"We managed rather quickly to become acknowledged as an undergraduate institution, and for that we give God all the glory—for his help and his answered prayers," DeBolster said. Despite the difficulties, he added, those early accomplishments were very exciting.

"I cannot believe that Redeemer has grown to become what it is today," he said. "Still the original principles are there and are being lived out."

Current president Hubert Krygman agreed. "We remain very strongly committed to a holistic, biblical perspective, viewing all things under the lordship of Christ. Redeemer would not exist without this central driving force." [MORE ONLINE](#)

—Monica deRegt

## West Michigan Church Celebrates 100 Years

One hundred years ago on a September afternoon in 1912, a group of deacons in Holland, Mich., used a dilapidated downtown building for a Sunday school that would eventually become Calvary Christian Reformed Church.

For many years the outreach ministry was known as the North End Gospel Hall; subsequently it was known as Calvary Chapel. It was formally organized under its current name in 1959 with 34 member families.

The church recently held a celebration of its 100-year history with a special service focusing on God's faithfulness throughout that history.

—Susan Vanden Berg

## New Jersey Ministry Fights Poverty with More Than Groceries

At New Hope Community Ministries in Prospect Park, N.J., clients get more than just food at its food pantry. They find mentors and a financial planner who can suggest fiscal strategies to help get them out of debt.

After listening to and praying with clients, mentors suggest different programs that can help.

One of those is a financial planning program. That's where Kenrick Willis comes in.

Willis, a certified financial planner, offers his services free of charge. His counseling is individualized for each person who comes in.

Many people who come to New Hope are overwhelmed and afraid. Willis tries to educate and encourage participants so that, as he says, "fear is replaced with hope."

Supported by area Christian Reformed Churches, New Hope Community Ministries offers ways to fight poverty financially and spiritually. The program is so popular that New Hope is serving the highest number of people they've seen in several years.

—Callie R. Feyen



Financial planner Kenrick Willis (left) with a client family.

## Pastors Connect through Facebook

Most churches think of social media as a way to connect with young people. But for retired pastor Winston Boelkins, 82, Facebook has become a way to connect with Christian Reformed pastors.

The Facebook group, called "Pastors of the Christian Reformed Church," hosts discussions on ministry ideas and sermon topics as well as commentary and devotional recommendations.

Boelkins, who started the Facebook group four years ago, said it has filled a need for more than 300 pastors.

The group is closed, which means that only members can see the posts.

"We found that many pastors, especially those serving churches, wanted to be careful about what they put out there. They wanted a more insulated environment in which to write," said Boelkins.

"I love this group because we can get support, explore questions, and debate issues in [an] encouraging way. This is our coffeehouse!" said Reggie Smith, pastor of Roosevelt Park Community CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich. [MORE ONLINE](#)

—Ryan Struyk



Facebook page for pastors

# NEWS

CHURCH WORLDWIDE

## Black Pastors Move to Counter New Voter ID Laws

African-American clergy are joining forces with civil rights groups to push for increased voter registration ahead of the November election in the U.S., spurred on by new voter laws.

More than two dozen new voter laws have passed in 19 states since 2011, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. Proponents say the laws prevent fraud; opponents say they are reducing access to the polling booth. Many clergy are fighting the laws on two fronts: with get-out-the-vote initiatives and by supporting petitions in courts to overturn the laws.

The NAACP estimates that 6 million African Americans are eligible to vote but are not registered.

## Evangelicals Seek Future for Frozen Embryos

Hundreds of thousands of embryos are stored in high-tech storage facilities across the United States. To an increasing number of evangelical Christians, that's hundreds of thousands of babies.

Evangelicals are leading the charge in adopting embryos and in encouraging people who have stockpiles of frozen embryos to make them available for adoption.

People who choose in vitro fertilization often create multiple embryos and select the healthiest to implant. Some families discard the extras or choose to pay upward of \$400 per year to keep them frozen.

It's estimated that there are more than 600,000 embryos frozen in storage in the U.S., but it's not clear how many of those are available for adoption.

## Ontario Parents Seek Veto on Sex Education

A group of conservative Christian and Muslim parents in Ontario want schools to notify them before their children are taught about sexuality, birth control, "environmental worship," or occult practices, so they can either withdraw their children before the lesson or prepare them in advance.

Meanwhile, a Greek Orthodox father has sued the Hamilton (Ontario) school board for refusing to warn him when his children's teachers plan to talk about family, marriage, or human sexuality. He is backed by the newly formed Parental Rights in Education Defense Fund.

"If parents do not beat back this government incursion against parent rights," the group's website says, "it will usher in an era of persecution against people of faith like never seen before in Canada."  
—*Religion News Service*

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



Rev. Julius Scruggs (center), president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, with other Baptist leaders and NAACP officials in Atlanta.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA

## Board of Trustees Talks Strategic Planning, Youth Ministry

At its three-day meeting at the end of September, the Board of Trustees of the Christian Reformed Church spent half a day talking about developing a new strategic ministry plan for the denomination.

The board spent several hours with two consultants to plan a process for the work. One concern raised by trustees is how this process would mesh with the task force currently reviewing the structure and culture of the denomination's administration.

The board also met with the executive director and two board members of Dynamic Youth Ministries to talk about Youth Unlimited and the status of youth ministry in the denomination. Director Jeff Kruthoff noted that Youth Unlimited's greatest success is in providing faith-forming experiences, such as SERVE projects, for teens. He said that the organization was not able to financially sustain its leadership development efforts.

- In other matters, the board
- appointed an interim director for Canadian ministries (see p. 13).
  - decided not to lift the suspension of Rev. John Visser, pastor of Maranatha CRC in Belleville, Ontario, at this time.
  - met separately as U.S. and Canadian trustees for conversation about issues unique to each country.
  - met with staff from the Office of Social Justice and reviewed resources created on the topics of immigration and abortion.
  - endorsed U.S. legislation regarding Indonesian asylum seekers (see p. 10).
  - heard from the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue that it is placing a stronger emphasis on congregational involvement in advocating with the Canadian government.

The Board of Trustees meets three times each year, acting on behalf of the denomination between the meetings of synod (the annual leadership meeting of the CRC).

—Gayla R. Postma



# FAQs

## Justice

**Q** Many churches collect food for food banks, but it seems like a Band-Aid approach to me. Are we doing justice or becoming complicit in injustice?

**A** Food banks or other emergency food programs can be part of a just response to hunger but are never an adequate response. They do not address the causes of poverty or provide lasting solutions. They can even become barriers to necessary changes in social conditions and policies by reducing the visible symptoms of poverty. If hungry people lined our streets every day, governments would need to address poverty in more systemic ways.

Emergency food programs have become permanent institutions in many cities. They are not an efficient or dignity-enhancing way to distribute food. But neither can we let people go hungry.

The impact of poverty and increased reliance on food banks is troubling, especially for children. Research shows that child poverty has lifelong effects and greater health and social costs later on.

A just response includes both helping those in need and addressing the causes of poverty. The first comes naturally for church people; the second is more challenging. Churches are good places for people to discuss the issue you raise. What would it take to make food banks unnecessary—or at least a last resort instead of the fastest growing part of social support systems? What else do we need to do?

Your question illustrates the tension between charity and justice. Churches are more comfortable with charity. But the Bible is clear that God wants justice, not just alms for the poor.

—Kathy Vandergrift

*Kathy Vandergrift teaches public ethics to university students and advocates for the rights of children.*

## Emergency food programs have become permanent institutions. . . .

### Faith Formation

**Q** Last night our youth director (whose contract we had just terminated) poured out her heart to me, a parent. I came to see her situation from a new perspective that left me shocked and upset. She told me that several of her colleagues around the denomination have had similar experiences. Is this an epidemic?

**A** It's not quite an epidemic, but it happens far too often. Here are the primary reasons I've observed:

1. Congregations may have unrealistic expectations about both the character and speed of youth ministry, expecting a hired person to come in and quickly "fix" things.
2. When they hire a youth director, congregations do not always use the same careful, thorough discernment process they use when calling a pastor.
3. Pastors and youth directors who have not been taught how to partner well may undermine each other.
4. Congregations rarely pay someone to serve as a mentor to an inexperienced youth director even though it's a relatively small investment that can pay rich dividends.
5. Some people go into youth ministry with significant misunderstandings about the character of healthy youth ministry; the hiring committee may subscribe to similar ones. (All hiring committees should read Mark DeVries's book *Sustainable Youth Ministry*, IVP, 2008.)

Thankfully, many, many congregations and youth workers are flourishing.

—Syd Hielema

*Syd Hielema is a professor of religion and theology at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario, and a member of the CRC's Synodical Faith Formation Study Committee.*

### Outreach

**Q** Our outreach team is considering serving a community meal for the homeless each week. Some think this is a great avenue for evangelism. I'm not so sure. What do you think?

**A** No doubt many people will be blessed to have a meal instead of going hungry. Jesus noted to the sheep in Matthew 25: "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." A big part of being disciples of Jesus is to show God's love in ways that not only speak good news but embody it.

I also understand your team's desire to see this opportunity as a vehicle for evangelism. But we must be careful here. Too often it can make providing food seem like a gimmick—simply a means to an end. In so doing, we risk compromising both the service and the gospel message. I know some who have been turned off to the church and to Jesus for just such tactics. Jesus isn't about manipulation—requiring someone to put up with a sermon to receive a meal. He's about the good news that God cares about our whole being, spiritual and physical.

In my own community, we have found that simply sitting down and eating with those we serve with has allowed relationships—not just one-time interactions—to happen. These relationships have extended beyond the meal and allowed us to share the gospel in the context of friendship.

May your service lead your community to experience the shalom of God's kingdom.

—Bryan Berghoef

*Bryan Berghoef is pastor of Watershed Church, a Christian Reformed church plant in Traverse City, Mich. ■*



## Can a Growing Business Sustain a Healthy Planet?

### **C**AN GOOD STEWARDS GROW THE ECONOMY?

That question, raised in a *Banner* editorial earlier this year (March 2012), brings up another, equally important: Do the needs of the earth conflict with the needs of sustaining a human population?

On the one hand, human laboring for economic gain may use up both natural and created resources and upset the ecological balance. Manufacturing processes, as we've seen, can be both polluting and unsustainable. A single oil pipeline leak causes damage that takes years to clean up. On the other hand, when production and economic growth slow, people endure inadequate incomes and faltering self-worth. They may lose access to healthy food, sound housing, education, and health care.

Surely there must be another path that allows people to take care of their own needs as well as the earth's natural and created resources. We believe this is possible—and that it's consistent with God's desire for human flourishing on earth as well as in heaven.

In fact, we're convinced that business firms have a unique opportunity to address the dilemma of caring for creation while fostering economic growth.

Stewardship, as many Christian economists understand it, involves the "use of and care for" creation. Notice that it's *both*

caring for creation and fostering economic growth, not one or the other. The task God assigned to Adam in Genesis 2 was to care for the earth, certainly. But we have also been given the earth's resources to use, to find sustenance in, to enjoy. Created resources fulfill the purpose of providing for people's needs; our calling is to sustain the creation for future use and enjoyment.

Can the economy—or, more precisely, markets—be trusted to provide adequate care of created and natural resources? Or is the context within which a business operates necessarily opposed to sustainability and care? Those who are convinced of the latter might view it as the role of the government to actively direct proper stewardly behavior in the economy. A better approach, we believe, is to work toward a consensus about the importance of both sustainability and economic well-being so that people behave in ways that are consistent with both values.

### **Environmental Issues and the Marketplace**

So how do markets, and the business firms that facilitate markets, deal with environmental issues?

It is a common principle in the economic analysis of markets that the actions of those engaged in buying and selling should not lead to costs that spill over to others who are not involved in the transaction. For example, my production of a product might harm others if I misuse the air or water resources near

## There are good reasons why businesspeople actively pursue conservation of resources.

my facility. These “others” then bear the burden of resulting pollution. Or I might ignore the environmental effects of some activity simply because I do not have to pay the price of resulting problems. Economists call these problems “externalities” because people who are external to market transactions bear the costs. In such cases, markets do not perform well, and often some type of government remediation is viewed as necessary.

But some people, including some economists, assume that business motives are at odds with environmental goals. They’re convinced that the only thing that motivates business is the quest for higher and higher income. These people ignore other objectives and motivations that may influence business behavior: good environmental stewardship, providing meaningful goods and services, providing employment, being socially responsible, and contributing to various needs within their communities.

Asked whether businesspeople operate in conflict with environmental stewardship principles, our students who are finishing their study of economic principles strongly suggest that this cannot be the case in business today because first, our society no longer tolerates such activity. In today’s economy, businesses would quickly lose sales if they overtly spoiled or misused the environment. Second, students note, the businesspeople they know realize the importance of sustainability and want to live in a world where people honor their stewardship responsibilities. At the same time, they acknowledge that some businesses may be limited in their ability to achieve their environmental goals because they are in competitive environments.

### Building Business for Sustainability

How can a company integrate sustainability principles into its decision-making?

1. Take a longer-term view.
  - Seek input from all stakeholders, including communities and churches, and pursue a wider range of board or advisory members.
  - Do more life-cycle forecasting, budgeting, and projections of income, expenses, and profit, paying attention to how both stakeholders and owners or investors are affected.
2. Consider altering products or developing new products.
  - Do more online research on what is already available and what others in your industry are doing.
  - Consider using waste or byproducts of your process for resale. (See examples on p. 20.)
3. Design or redesign buildings and processes to include energy efficiency, solar heating, natural cooling, better insulation materials, light- and heat-reflecting exterior colors, and more shared use of spaces.
  - Work cooperatively with others in your industry or business groups.
  - Be more intentional about recycling. (See examples in the sidebar on p. 20).

At the very least, it’s probably fair to say that in today’s economy there is less and less inherent conflict between seeking economic rewards and environmental good.

Going further, we can argue that there are good reasons why businesspeople actively pursue conservation of resources. Companies that extract either renewable or nonrenewable resources are in business to earn a stream of income over time. Thus those doing the extracting would be less inclined to extract as quickly or recklessly as possible because the potential for future income would be lower. Additionally, there is a built-in incentive to use sparingly any resources that get scarcer over time: Their prices increase. For the same reason, businesses are likely to use energy and other resources more wisely as their costs rise in the markets. New technologies and technological improvements are developed in response to rising costs, permitting companies to become more energy-efficient.

We need to add one important caveat at this point: Better use of resources can be expected *if* business firms have clear property rights to the resources. As we learned in the case of elephant poaching in Africa, if local tribal people have no interest in (that is, income from) a local resource—in this case, elephants—they will seek their own best outcome: going after the ivory tusks, killing the elephants. But when tribal people own the benefits of the elephants and can earn income from tourism over time, they have an economic incentive to keep the elephants alive.

### Policy Implications

What are the policy implications of all this? What is the path toward encouraging companies to promote better stewardship with respect to their economic activity?

First, some of the responsibility rests with public officials to create and maintain policies that help markets function and provide incentives for companies to use resources in good ways. Such policies include clearly defined property rights and incentives for appropriate technological development. To some extent, government agencies also must address the negative effects of externalities and spillovers that adversely affect the environment. They also have a role in providing information and best practices for using environmental resources. There is clear evidence that wealthier countries are willing and able to spend more and more on environmental improvements.

Second, there is a need for businesses to continue working toward sustainability and environmental quality. New information about environmental systems and sustainability is calling for this response, and so are the citizens of the U.S. and Canada. Companies can maintain jobs and contribute to a »

## Recycling and Byproduct-Use Programs

Here are just a few examples of creative recycling and waste elimination or reuse programs used by companies we know:

- Many firms have adopted programs to eliminate landfill waste. *Steelcase*, the giant office-furniture company headquartered in Michigan, has developed a “Phase 2 Program” in which customers’ old furniture will be reused by other organizations or recycled into new products. Steelcase notes that the program’s benefits are both economic and environmental.
- *Procter & Gamble* promotes its long-term goal of using 100 percent renewable energy as well as 100 percent renewable or recycled materials for all its products and packaging, having zero consumer or manufacturing waste go into landfills, and designing products that “delight consumers while maximizing [the company’s] conservation of resources.” The company monitors its progress toward this goal by keeping “scorecard” measurements.
- *Adaro Energy* produces a lot of relatively clean coal in Indonesia. Its objective as a socially responsible company is to reclaim land that has been mined so that it can continue to be a home for humans, animals, and fish.
- Many companies have developed new products or new materials from resources that previously were waste material. *soleRebels Footwear*, an Ethiopian company, designs fashionable footwear from recycled tires and organic materials. The company notes that in the Ethiopian context it is able to pursue its three key objectives of workers first (more jobs and higher pay), sustainable production, and cultural preservation.
- *Kamps Pallets* of Grand Rapids, Mich., developed a service that provides for the reuse of pallets through rental programs. It disposes of unusable pallets by shredding them to make mulch. This program frees work space for customers and reduces their landfill fees. Again, the economic and environmental objectives complement each other.
- *Recycled Products Cooperative* in California helps market recycled products from its members who wouldn’t otherwise benefit from large-scale purchasing and selling. The co-op says that, according to Californians Against Waste, recycling results in up to 36 times more jobs than land filling.
- The construction industry has developed new products from recycled products and new programs for waste elimination. See companies like *Waste Management*, Canada’s *Interface*, and *CalRecycle* in California.
- Government agencies, not-for-profits, and service sector firms are even more visibly helpful. The U.S. *Environmental Protection Agency*, for instance, encourages recycling and promotes the use of recycled products. At locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, *Habitat for Humanity’s* ReStores accept donations of building materials and household goods and sell them at a fraction of the retail price, using the proceeds to achieve its mission of building homes. This program provides jobs and recycles construction material.

strong economy while addressing sustainability by adopting a few specific strategies:

- *Take a longer-term view in decision-making.* This will have an impact on the pace of using resources, but it also can impact decisions affecting jobs and economic health. Consider using temporary reductions in workdays or workweeks, for instance, rather than reducing jobs entirely when work slows.
- *Develop creative and innovative solutions for using energy and labor resources.* Invest in research and development to address the environment versus jobs dilemma. Look for partners with whom to work toward a broadly defined set of stewardship principles. Pay attention to how business decisions affect families, but monitor their environmental impact too.
- *Become more intentional about the impact of production on the needs and well-being of the broader community.* Recycling and reusing materials, for instance, can have a cumulative impact on the use of resources. At the same time, it creates jobs in industries that develop processes of recycling and reuse. One example of creative thinking in this area is emerging businesses that collect, dry, package, and resell cherry pits as fuel for residential wood stoves.

In the end, we see no conflict between a commitment to environmental sustainability and concern for jobs and income growth. This is not to say that caring for the environment is easy, and we don’t mean to downplay the difficulties. But at the very least, Christians need to be actively interested in and personally responsible for being good stewards of both the economy and the environment. We need to be intentional about the choices we make in both areas as we carry out our responsibility to consider, care for, and love our neighbors.

These are wonderful opportunities to be agents of transformation for Christ in the world—to provide meaningful work and flourishing lives for the people in our neighborhoods, our nations, and our world while also being earth-keepers, stewards of the amazing creation God has given us to enjoy, revel in, and care for so that it reflects his glory and continues to sustain life for all.

It’s not a question of either/or. God cares about both the environment *and* about jobs. And so should we. ■

STUDY QUESTIONS ONLINE



**Evert Van Der Heide** is professor of economics at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich. His economic interests and work involve macroeconomic forecasting and economic development of emerging nations.



**Cal Jen** served several years in management for Domino’s Pizza before cofounding AMDG Architects in 1992. He is now an associate professor of business at Calvin College.

## I'm Staying

In your 20s or 30s? We want to hear what's on your mind as it relates to living out your faith in today's world. Please send manuscripts (600 words) to [editorial@thebanner.org](mailto:editorial@thebanner.org). (And, no, you don't have to be ordained!)

context that we can begin to live out the command "Love your neighbor as yourself." Young people, myself included, are especially prone to forming cliques with people who are a lot like us—the ones with whom we are comfortable.

But church is the one place we absolutely cannot settle for comfort. Real, intergenerational dialogue within the church will be uncomfortable for everyone. The alternative is to condemn the denomination and ourselves to spiritual stagnation. If we leave when the dialogue gets difficult, we miss not only the opportunity to forge a better church, but also the opportunity to be forged into better Christians.

When young adults walk away from the CRC, they also miss out on a rich heritage. Our denomination has a strong intellectual background stretching from John Calvin to Alvin Plantinga; a rich theology that is being adopted by churches worldwide; a global presence in the mission field; and a beloved statement of faith, the Heidelberg Catechism. No matter where you're from or what your story is, God has placed you within this tradition for a reason. I invite you to claim it as your own and to work with everyone else in the denomination to build God's kingdom.

Step up and get involved in your local church. God's kingdom starts there, and without you it is incomplete. Don't wait for a call from synod or your local council. Take the first step yourself. Join a Bible study. Ask an older Christian to mentor you. Start a young adults group. Find a way to dialogue officially and respectfully about where you want to see the denomination change. The CRC has shortcomings, but it also has incredible strengths and a commitment to Christ Jesus.

Ultimately, the future of the denomination rests firmly in the hands of young adults. Our hands. So I'm staying. Are you? ■

**Tom Kok** is a freelance designer in ocean engineering and is a member of Third Christian Reformed Church in Lynden, Wash.

**WHY** is the Christian Reformed Church losing young adults? People have debated this question in living rooms and council rooms across the country and written about it throughout the denomination. Suggestions for dealing with this issue often revolve around changes to the church: innovative worship styles, perhaps, or compelling young adult groups. Those ideas are good—the CRC should make efforts to engage young people.

But as a young adult, I want to look at the other side of the coin. I want to encourage my generation to shoulder some of the responsibility for this exodus. It is no use complaining that you don't feel engaged by your church if you're not an active member. To find your place in the church, you've got to get involved.

Involvement in church life, especially for young people, begins by leaving the world's consumer attitude at the door. Too many complaints about the CRC begin with "I don't like . . ." or "I didn't get anything out of . . ." In contrast, the apostle Paul writes, "In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Phil. 2:3-4). The church is a gathering of sinful individuals learning to live as a loving, Christ-centered community. We must learn to put our neighbors and their good ahead of our own interests. Church is not a club where you "get." Church is a family where you give, and in giving you receive.

In fact, I suspect one of God's purposes in creating the church was to bring self-centered sinners like me uncomfortably close to people we might not like but are commanded to love. Perhaps it is only in this

Church is the one place we absolutely cannot settle for comfort.

NEXT



The listener community in the mountain village of Toraja.

## Many Tribes, One Gospel

*By Nancy Vander Meer*

JOSH LEO

You add.  
God multiplies.

Sarina grew up in a Muslim family on a remote island village of Indonesia. When she met her future husband at the health clinic in Karawang, it was the beginning of a radically changed life.

At first Sarina didn't realize that the man she was falling in love with was a Christian. But something about him drew her to this kind man.

"I felt it was my destiny that he would be my husband," she says. "When he asked me to marry him, I accepted and moved with him to Ciranjang."

In the village of Ciranjang, Sarina and her husband lived among Christians. "They were very humble. I experienced a lot of love and peace," Sarina remembers. "I began to feel different. When my husband asked me to follow Jesus, I was



Sarina testifies, "I want to follow Jesus."

certain that the Christian faith is the true religion."

But Sarina's life was not easy after that. Her parents were not happy that she had left the Muslim faith. "It seemed the more I believed in Jesus, the more difficult my life became."

Then she became seriously ill. "A pastor came to our house and offered to pray for me," says Sarina. "I told him sure, I wanted prayer."

Still, she was amazed that God actually heard those prayers. After the pastor prayed, she says, her illness was gone.

## Media ministry is very powerful to win people for Christ. ”

"I realized that I had become a Christian because of my husband. But Jesus wants me to be a Christian because I trust *him* with my life. I promised in my heart to follow Christ."

### Growing in Faith

The pastor invited Sarina and her husband to join the listener community in Ciranjang. This discipleship group is one of more than 200 listener communities started by Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI) in Indonesia.

Seekers and believers meet to listen to and discuss BTGMI radio programs produced by the Indonesian media ministry. Prayer is also an essential element of their time together.

"It's so exciting to meet together and talk about how to build our faith," says Sarina. "As I learn the Bible, my faith in Jesus grows stronger."

She adds, "My husband is learning to lead our children in family worship. We listen to the radio program in the morning and the evening."

Her parents keep pushing her to return home and become Muslim again, but Sarina says, "I want to follow Jesus."

### Doing More Together

Sarina lives in the Sundanese community located on one of Indonesia's 6,000 inhabited islands. While most citizens of the vast island nation understand the Indonesian language, the heart language for many is one of 742 tribal dialects. How would you share the good news in a country so vast and diverse?

"Our media ministry is vital for sharing the gospel," says Rev. Kurt Selles, the recently appointed director of BTGMI.

But what about discipleship for those who are hearing and coming to faith?

In partnership with Christian Reformed World Missions, World Renew, and Timothy Leadership Training Institute, the BTGMI Indonesian ministry began training local leaders to develop listener communities where discipleship can be carried out in people's tribal language.

BTGMI also partners with Christian Reformed Home Missions and Faith Alive Christian Resources to translate Discover Your Bible discipleship materials and train leaders for Global Coffee Break.

The listener community coordinator in Ciranjang translates BTGMI's audio program and materials into the Sundanese language. Coordinators in other remote areas translate the Indonesian program into six other local languages: Javanese, Batakese, Torajanese, Balinese, Dayakese and Tolakise. »

### The Church at Prayer

Thank God for the ministry partnerships that enable people throughout the vast island nation of Indonesia to hear the gospel and grow in faith.

- Pray for Rev. Untung and his family as well as the BTGMI Indonesian ministry teams. Pray for protection, for strength and energy to carry out ministry, and for trained staff and financial resources to meet the spiritual needs of Indonesia's people.
- Pray that evangelism and discipleship in Indonesia will not be hindered by political, religious, or language barriers.
- Pray that as Marce's husband hears the gospel messages on her radio, his heart will be open to receive Jesus as his Savior. Pray that through BTGMI media ministry, many people will hear the good news of salvation through grace and come to faith in Christ.



**The Bugis listener community in Good News Village.**

With only 200 trained listener coordinators and 742 tribal languages, the task seems overwhelming.

In 2012, to more effectively reach people in Indonesia's remote regions, BTGMI entered into partnership with Words of Hope, the media ministry associated with the Reformed Church in America.

Words of Hope's experience with ministry in tribal languages, combined with BTGMI media outreach and listener community networks in Indonesia, makes it possible to share the gospel with more people.

"There are many tribes, but one gospel," says Selles, a former missionary to China. "Working with churches throughout Indonesia and ministry partners in North America, BTGMI is proclaiming the life-transforming message of the gospel."

### **Our Mission**

Rev. Untung Ongkowiedjaya, BTGMI ministry leader for media outreach in Indonesia, adds, "Our mission is to spread the gospel from east to west for all cultures [and] different tribes, to help them know about Jesus Christ, our Savior."

In addition to listener communities and leadership training, the Indonesia ministry team produces six audio programs in the Indonesian language and 10 audio programs in tribal languages that air on 116 radio stations and on several places on the Internet. They also produce three television programs broadcast on

three major networks in the 40 largest cities of Indonesia, reaching a potential audience of 42 million people.

Three websites offer audio programs and discipleship resources for children, teens, and adults, attracting an average of 64,000 visitors each month.

"We produce five devotionals, distributing over 70,000 booklets every other month. More than 800 people are part of our Bible study correspondence ministry," notes Untung. "Media ministry is very powerful to win people for Christ."

### **Hearing the Voice of the Lord**

Franciscus Suherman is also a member of the Sundanese tribe. He used to hate Christians, he says. "I was raised in a fanatic Muslim family. We practiced the teaching of Islam diligently."

One day during Ramadan, the Muslim period of prayer and fasting, Suherman received a booklet about Jesus and the Christian faith. "Even though I knew it was Christian, I opened it and began reading. I found these words: 'For by grace you have been saved, through faith.' But when I finished the booklet, I tore it up and threw it away."

That night, coming out of the fast, he became very ill and was unconscious for

**Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country in the world.**



four hours, he says. During that time he "heard a voice from heaven." The voice spoke the words he had read: "For by grace you have been saved, through faith."

Suherman remembers asking, "Whose voice is that?" He heard the voice three



**Franciscus Suherman**

times. After the third time, he awoke and was able to open his eyes. He realized then that the voice was speaking the words from the Bible that he had read earlier.

"Even though I was fasting, I realized it could not save me. I had almost died! I prayed and asked Jesus to be my Lord."

Now Suherman serves as the leader of tribal languages for BTGMI Indonesian ministry. "I believe God called me to share the good news of salvation with others. We have to spread the message of the gospel to the people of Indonesia. Tribal language outreach is so important. People feel more comfortable hearing the message in their own language."

### **Marce's Gift**

To strengthen tribal outreach, the listener communities distribute radios made available by partner churches in Indonesia. These radios enable people to hear BTGMI programs translated into the local language.

Marce, who lives in the Toraja region, received one of these radios. "The radio is very useful for me, especially the Christian songs and messages," she says.

Marce was raised in the tradition of ancestor religion. Although she had come



You add.  
God multiplies.



A member of the Toraja listener community is grateful for the gift of a radio.

to know Christ, she continued to practice ancestor worship.

“But my life was empty,” she testifies. “When I received the gift of the radio, I began to listen to the programs. Since then I have a new motivation to live closer to God. I like to participate in the listener community gathering and worship with Christians.”

Marce’s husband is not a believer. “Pray for my family,” she asks. “I always invite my children to listen with me. I’m asking God to soften my husband’s heart so he will be open to receive Jesus as his Savior.”

#### Kadek’s Testimony

Kadek is a member of the BTGMI listener community in Bali. He came to know Christ through the tribal outreach ministry.

“I used to be Hindu,” he says. “My father was a shaman active in the occult. I also had his ability to practice evil.

“A pastor in my community told me about the Word of God. In response, I tried to use my magic on him, but it always failed. I went to Lombok Island to

learn a stronger magic, but I could not attack the pastor. I didn’t understand. It had been easy to attack others.

“I finally went to the pastor to learn about his magic. He told me about Jesus Christ. From that moment, when I learned the Word of truth, my magic power was gone. I began to know Jesus personally and I repented of my sins.

“My wife also followed me to the Christian faith. But my family and neighbors expelled me from the community and crossed out my name.

“Later I heard your radio program. My heart began to love this ministry. I went back to my parents and shared the program with them but, because they don’t speak Indonesian, I translated the words into Balinese. The programs really blessed us.

“My family, who previously rejected me, now believes in God because the Holy Spirit spoke to them through your radio programs!

“Many people in the remote areas don’t understand the Indonesian language, so I try to explain the gospel to them in the Balinese language. Praise the Lord!

Some of them now understand the truth and have received Jesus as their Savior.”

Some of them now understand the truth and have received Jesus as their Savior.”

#### A Powerful Witness

Udin was a Muslim from Java who moved to the Sundanese area. There he became

friends with Christians, and through their witness he gave his life to Christ.

Udin enrolled in a Bible school and later became involved in the BTGMI radio ministry. “I praise the Lord for the opportunity to spread the gospel. Although I face a lot of obstacles, God strengthens me.”

Udin now hosts the Sundanese radio program. “God is using this program to win people for Christ,” he says. “Through



it many Sundanese people have opened their hearts to believe in Jesus Christ.”

#### A Word of Thanks

These are just a few stories of people in Indonesia who heard the gospel, came to faith, and are now sharing the good news with others.

“None of this would be possible without generous support through ministry shares, offerings, and individual gifts,” Selles says. “Thank you for faithful prayers and financial support that make it possible to reach people from many tribes and nations with the one true gospel of Jesus Christ.” ■



Kadek



Nancy Vander Meer is a staff writer for Back to God Ministries International.

## Finding God in Ziph

It was not a pleasant place. And its inhabitants were not very nice people. Israel called it the Desert of Ziph. Rocky hills pocked with caves, desolate, dry, forbidding. Good only for running for your life.

Which is precisely why David was there. David, God's choice to be king, was being chased relentlessly by Saul, the king who was no longer going to be king.

As it turned out, the residents of the area quickly let Saul know that David was there, and that they were quite ready to turn him over to the authorities. It was completely wrong. It was not supposed to be.

Have you ever been in Ziph? Not the desert in Judah, but a place where everything works against you, where you feel lost and alone and victimized?

Maybe it's a place somewhere in the recesses of your mind or the circumstances of your life where God does not even visit. A place where his promises are difficult to remember, his grace hard to sense, his love beyond your grasp.

That is Ziph, as certainly as if you were to walk out into the desert regions of ancient Judah. And that is where, more than ever, more than anything else, you need God.

David had a friend, someone closer to him than a brother who, when he heard where David was, "went to David . . . and helped him find strength in God" (1 Sam. 23:16).

I wonder how. I wonder why this special moment was recorded for us. Literally what Jonathan did for David was to "strengthen his hand in God."

👉👉 Ziph . . . is where, more than ever, more than anything else, you need God. 🗨️🗨️

When Jonathan learned of David's need, he *went to David* and joined him in Ziph. I suspect that when he arrived, he extended his own hands first. Then I imagine they embraced. I am reasonably certain they went to God together even as they stayed right there in Ziph. Hand in hand on their knees or maybe on their faces, together they found strength in God. It was part and parcel of their friendship, in good times and in bad.

As we think about and pray for and give to Back to God Ministries International, our efforts are aimed at bringing others *to*—ultimately, given where we all came from, *back to*—God. We have been doing that for years. I would like to urge us to do that more for each other also.

There are people among us who are hurting—physically, emotionally, spiritually. They need us to help them "find strength in God."

There are people among us—and sometimes at a distance from us—who need us not to judge them but to go to them and help them "find strength in God."

There are people among us who are alienated from the body of Jesus and who need us to extend our hands to help them "find strength in God."

There are people among us with whom we disagree, sometimes vehemently, and who disagree with us, sometimes as vehemently. We need to extend our hands to help one another "find strength in God."

There are people we sit beside in worship, people we eat with at the church social, people we serve with on the church council or on a committee, people we live with as part of our family, people we know about through fairly reliable third-hand gossip, people we are concerned about from quite a distance.

They all have hands, and so do we. Our Creator deliberately designed us that way to help each other not only to share God but to find our own strength in him. When we help each other "find strength in God" we will all be closer to one another too. ■



Rev. Joel Boot is executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

You add.  
God multiplies.

## HERE AND THERE

### Campus-Wide Study of the Sermon on the Mount

Calvin College's annual all-campus Bible study began in September to study Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount.

Groups of faculty, students, and staff have met in locations all over campus and elsewhere to study the text, which is "about living a certain way," said Calvin associate chaplain Aaron Winkle.

"As much as any passage in the New Testament, it offers a picture of what it means to live in the kingdom of God."

About 100 groups are tackling Jesus' famous sermon: residence hall groups, departmental groups, and groups led by members of the Calvin faculty and staff. President Michael Le Roy and his wife, Andrea, are hosting a study for students in DeWit Manor, and Calvin junior Rebekah Coggin is leading one for her colleagues studying abroad in Budapest, Hungary.

As in previous years, the Bible study also features "affinity groups"—groups that meet around a commonality or shared interest.



A student reads through his Bible as part of the campus-wide Bible study.

To guide them through the three chapters of Matthew, the groups are using study guides created by the chaplain's office along with Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy*, a study of Christian discipleship.

The all-campus Bible study runs through the end of November. Throughout January, the Sermon on the Mount

will be the theme of the worship services for the annual Symposium on Worship hosted by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. ■

—Myrna Anderson,  
Calvin College Communications



### Connecting Cultures in Chicago

Rev. Bob Price, Christian Reformed Home Missions' Black/Urban Ministries team leader, is working to find and develop ethnic leaders in Chicago and across North America.

In Chicago he's partnering with Rev. Peter Kelder, regional leader for the Home Missions Central U.S. ministry team, and Kelder's wife, Ruth.

"We are trying to create a cultural space in this denomination where people from different cultures and ethnicities are affirmed and encouraged," says Price.

Price's ministry is part of an effort to develop diverse missional leaders through mentoring and recruiting in churches, leadership networks, and an Emerging Leaders program.

After Price recruits leaders and works with them, he introduces them to the Kelders and others within the CRC.

These efforts have already helped identify several new leaders.

One is Glen McCarthy, pastor of Restore All Ministries, a CRHM church plant on Chicago's South Side that launched monthly gatherings this summer.

—Ben Van Houten, Christian Reformed Home Missions

Rev. Bob Price is finding and training ethnic leaders.



**Joti Ratna didn't take the normal path laid out for Bangladeshi women.**

## Teacher Puts Her Trust in God

**J**oti Ratna did not follow the traditional role laid out by Bangladeshi society for a woman.

Instead of cooking, cleaning, and bearing children, she undertook studies that led to her becoming a faculty member at the College of Christian Theology in Bangladesh (CCTB).

CCTB is supported by Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM), which provides financial resources and sends theologically trained people to be on staff at the college.

Ratna says her mother and father always supported her and reminded her to trust in God as she attended college and graduate school.

“Dad always told me, ‘You don’t need money, but you need to live a good life and work for God,’” she said.

While she was studying for her Master of Arts degree, Ratna’s teachers at CCTB recognized her gifts. Several of them told her that they were praying for her because they thought she should teach at CCTB.

Ratna’s friends agreed that she should teach.

Now that she works at CCTB, Ratna is convinced that this is where God wants her to work.

Still, there are challenges. She recalls being asked to coordinate and co-facilitate a training seminar. At first she had doubts. Then she remembered what her parents said: “Trust in God. If you think God wants to use you for him, you can do this.” ■

—Melissa Bos, *Christian Reformed World Missions, Bangladesh*

## Conference Helps the Helpers

**P**astors and their spouses from a range of denominations are struggling with many of the same personal issues, says Rev. Norm Thomasma, director of the Christian Reformed Church’s Office of Pastor-Church Relations.

Issues such as use of pornography, substance abuse, and unemployment are confronting pastors and their spouses in the CRC and in many other denominations.

Thomasma said he was reminded of this when he attended an annual multidenominational conference for caregivers and pastoral counselors this summer in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“Even though we come from such different theological traditions, the pastoral care and other related issues are so similar,” he says.

“We come away from this conference realizing that we aren’t the only ones dealing with these issues. We also hear about different strategies that denominations use to help pastors and their spouses.”

Thomasma and Cecil Van Niejenhuis, pastor/congregation consultant for Pastor-Church Relations, represented the CRC at the two-day gathering.

The gathering helps the Pastor-Church Relations office in its many tasks, including advocating for healthy relationships among congregations, pastors, and staff and providing direct consultation in times of transition or crisis, Thomasma says.

This year’s meeting at the headquarters of the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination in Colorado Springs included representatives from the CRC and several other denominations, including the Evangelical Free Church of America, the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Foursquare Church, the Wesleyan Church, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.

“This meeting gives us a chance to experience being part of the broader church world,” says Thomasma.

“We learn some things at this meeting, but we are also affirmed that we are doing some good ministry.”

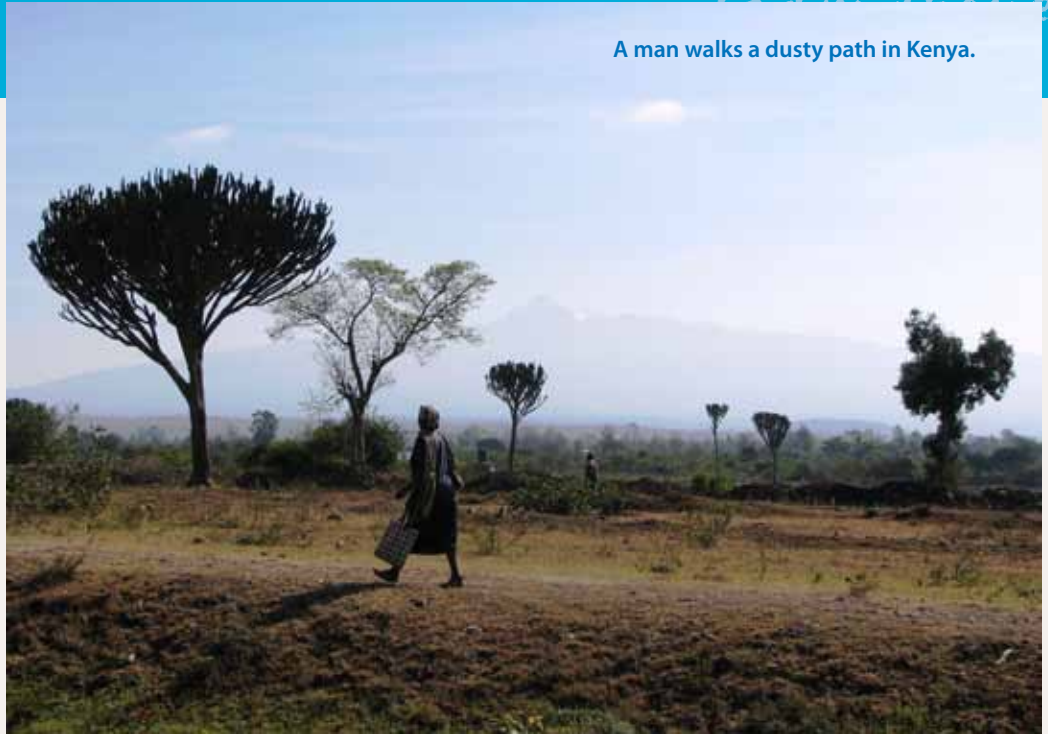
—Chris Meehan, *CRC Communications*

**Participants from several denominations took part in a conference this summer that focused on providing care to pastors and their spouses.**



You add.  
C... ..

A man walks a dusty path in Kenya.



## Helping to Battle Drought and Violence

**V**iolent protests and clashes erupted in Kenya after elections in 2007-2008. With new elections set for early next year, tensions are rising again, and fighting has occurred in some areas such as Atir in the Rift Valley.

World Renew, formerly the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), has been working in Atir since 2009, teaching new ways of farming that are more resistant to the impact of frequent droughts.

But the focus has changed as the result of the violence, in which houses have been burned down, dozens of people have been killed, and thousands have fled from their communities.

To help those who have been displaced by the fighting between rival political factions, World Renew and its partners in Kenya are providing food.

Monica Ekai is one of those who had to flee from

her village, Maendeleo, in Atir.

“Life in the camp is difficult; we are living as destitute in our own county. I fear to go back,” she says.

Through the assistance of organizations such as World

Renew, Monica says she hopes she and her family can return home next year once the elections are over.

—*Jacqueline Koster, World Renew Disaster Response & Preparedness Manager*

## Strydhorst Starts as Missionary in Residence at Calvin Seminary

**R**ev. Albert Strydhorst has joined the Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) community as the Lee Huizenga Missionary in Residence for 2012-2013.

Strydhorst has served with Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) in Nigeria since 1993, soon after he graduated from CTS.

His roles included church planter among the Avadi people of northwestern Nigeria, country director for CRWM in Nigeria, and partnership coordinator between the CRC and national churches in West Africa.

One of the greatest changes he’s observed over the last 20 years or so, he says, has been the growth of the church in what were once called “Third World countries.”



**Albert Strydhorst is missionary in residence at CTS.**

says Strydhorst.

This poses challenges.

“What is now our role as Western missions and missionaries? It’s a complex question, but at least part of the answer is to reimagine what it means to be the body of Christ in this new global

“Look at where the church is growing and where missionaries are being sent from today in increasing numbers—often under severe financial challenge and sacrifice. It’s from countries like Nigeria and Brazil,”

context, to truly partner with others in God’s mission to the world,” says Strydhorst.

As missionary in residence at CTS, Strydhorst will be teaching, studying, writing, and encouraging the work of the CRC in missions.

Dean of the Faculty Lyle Bierma observes, “His most important role will be as a missions ‘presence’ on the campus—being available to and mixing with students and helping to generate interest in the work of global evangelization.”

Strydhorst is joined at CTS by his wife, Carolyn, and daughters Kristin and Andrea. Their oldest daughter, Jessica, is a student at Redeemer University College in Ontario. ■

—*CTS Communications*

# Salt of the Earth

Let's get ready to play a game called "Kitchen Scavenger Hunt." Go to your kitchen cupboard to see if you can find some of the following items:

- crackers
- chips
- peanut butter
- popcorn
- bread
- pretzels
- cookies

Hungry yet? Before you decide to have a little snack, look at the box or bag of each item and read the list of ingredients. Do you notice one ingredient that shows up in each food? It's salt! Salt is in many of the foods we eat—even in foods that don't taste very salty! But have you ever wondered where salt comes from or why it is important? Take a quick bite of a snack from your cupboard and read on!

## The "Salt" of the Earth

Salt in the Bible is mentioned as a special symbol for believers. In Matthew 5:13 Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" Does Jesus really want Christians to taste like salt? No! But the way we show love and kindness to others should "season" the world with goodness in the same way that salt seasons food. Being the salt of the earth means that the people around us will notice the joy and peace we have, and they'll want to know more about the God we serve!

## Why Your Body Needs Salt

Eating too much salt can be deadly. But including just the right amount of salt in your diet helps your body stay balanced and healthy. Have you ever noticed that your sweat and tears taste salty? It's true! Salt helps your body take important nutrients into your small intestine and even helps your stomach digest the food you eat!

## What Does the Bible Say about Salt?

You might be surprised to find out that the Bible says quite a bit about salt. Genesis 19:26 tells a story about Lot's wife. When she disobeyed God by turning back to look at the destruction of the cities Sodom and Gomorrah, she became a pillar of salt. Yikes!

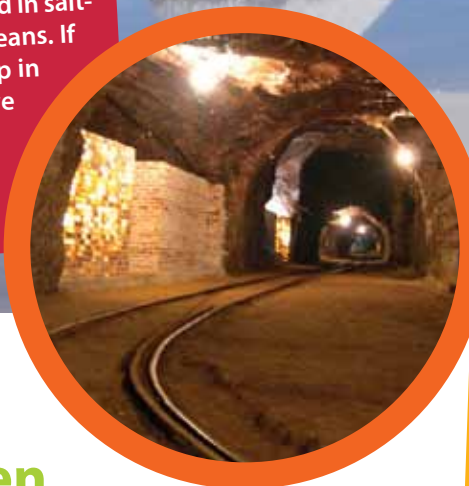
The book of Leviticus, which includes many rules the Jews needed to know about worshipping God and gives instructions for everyday living, tells how they were to use salt in grain and burnt offerings to God (2:13). Even newborn babies were to be rubbed with salt!

But the two main uses of salt in the Bible were to season food and to keep food from spoiling. Food that was salted did not spoil as quickly as unsalted foods. Imagine how important that was in Bible times—long before refrigerators had been invented.



## Where Does Salt Come From?

Salt can be found underground in many places around the world, but it is most commonly found in salt-water seas, lakes, and oceans. If you have ever taken a dip in the ocean, you may have accidentally tasted the super-salty water while swimming!



## How Does Salt Get to Your Kitchen Table?

**Underground salt** is drilled and cut away from large rocks in salt mines. Some salt mines add water to break up the salt. The salt is then separated from the water by a process called *evaporation*. The salty water is boiled until it gets so hot that the water evaporates in the form of steam. When all the water is boiled away, all that is left is the salt!



**Sea salt** is collected from oceans and salt lakes and saved in shallow pools. The heat from the sun then evaporates the water into the air, leaving the salt crystals behind.



## What Else Do We Use Salt For?

Most of us season our food with salt, but did you know that salt has many other uses too? If you live in a place that gets lots of snow in the winter, then you know that rock salt is used to melt the ice on streets and highways to make travel safer. Salt is also used in the manufacturing of products we use every day, including plastics, paper, rubber, soaps, and detergents. You *definitely* don't want to eat those things!



## Super Salt Crystals

Make your own salt crystals by following the directions below. Don't forget to ask an adult for help!

### What you'll need:

- ½ cup of table salt or Epsom salt
- 1 cup of water
- Sturdy plastic or glass cup that can hold boiling water
- Pencil
- Piece of string
- Wooden spoon
- Paper clip
- Food coloring (optional)

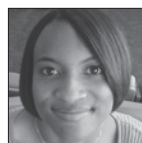
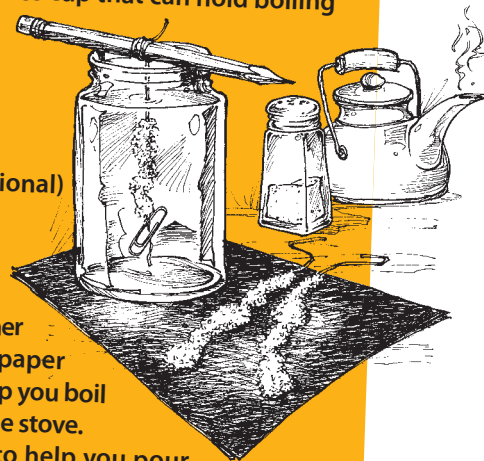
### What to do:

Tie one end of a piece of string to the center of the pencil and the other end of the string to a paper clip. Ask an adult to help you boil the water in a pot on the stove.

Next, ask an adult to help you pour the water into the cup. If you are using food coloring, stir a few drops into the water.

Then slowly pour small amounts of the salt into the cup and stir. The salt will quickly dissolve. Continue adding more salt to the pot, stirring constantly, until no more salt will dissolve in the water. (You will start to see salt collect at the bottom of the cup when no more salt will dissolve in the water.)

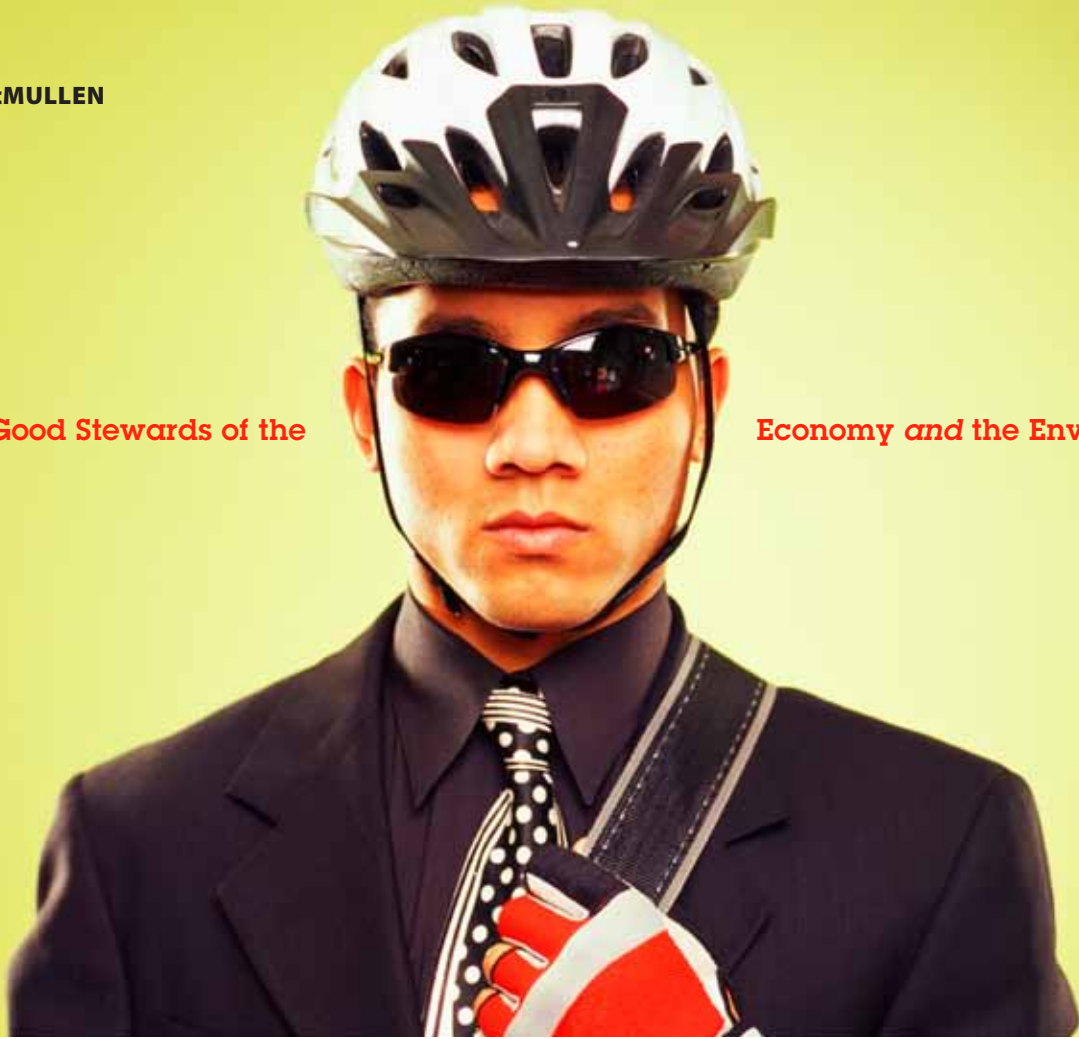
Carefully place the paper clip and string into the salt water, and lay the pencil flat over the top of the cup. Make sure that the paper clip is not touching the bottom of the cup. Place the cup on a windowsill undisturbed where the sun will shine on the salt solution. After a few days, watch to see salt crystals growing on the paper clip and string!



**Christin Baker** is a full-time stay-at-home mom who also writes for Faith Alive. She is a member of Resurrection Fellowship Church in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Can We Be Good Stewards of the

Economy and the Environment?



**S**CRIPTURES and tradition clearly teach us that our neighbors' well-being should be a primary concern and also that we have an obligation to care for the non-human world.

Sometimes, though, it seems like these priorities are in conflict. Efforts to live more simply by consuming less and re-using things are certainly good for the environment in the long run. On the other hand, some argue, such "simple living" results in less consumer spending and hurts the economy.

So what are we supposed to do? Do we care for our human or our non-human neighbors? Do we focus on those who are suffering now or on future generations?

Fortunately, we need not be paralyzed by this apparent conflict. While immediate economic concerns do warrant our attention, developing faithful habits of consumption can lead to a healthier ecosystem and help spur the economy in

a good direction. Honoring God in the economy requires two things: first, that we understand which economic concerns are real and which are illusory, and second, that we direct the economy toward true flourishing and peace.

### Changing the Way We Live

When the economy affords few opportunities and our neighbors are losing their jobs, we are told that the neighborly thing to do is to keep spending money. Consumer confidence, goes the theory, drives the economy and creates jobs. And it is true that in the near term, if everyone stopped spending money altogether, much suffering would result.

This does not mean, however, that trying to live more simply is bad for the economy. To the contrary, living simply usually does not entail spending less money, but instead spending money on different things, and perhaps giving more to the church. Moreover, saving money—and carefully investing in enterprises and

ministries that are God-honoring—is good for the economy over the long term. By thoughtfully directing our spending, we not only can sustain economic life; we also can help steer the economy toward a more ecologically sustainable model.

Consider three lifestyle choices that affect our spending decisions: transportation, diet, and home. These are the three areas where our choices have the most significant environmental impact. Every dollar we spend is a vote in favor of a particular kind of economy, and, in turn, a particular ecology.

So, for example, choosing to use public transportation or commute by bicycle, when practical, will usually result in less pollution and will often save money. A choice like this, however, is not bad for the economy because that money can be put to other good uses if spent wisely. Similarly, choosing to eat less meat dramatically reduces the amount of water, land, and fossil fuels needed to support your diet, but it will not hurt the economy.



## Living simply usually does not entail spending less money, but instead spending money on different things.

Eating more fruits and vegetables simply encourages more development of plant-based foods over meat production. Finally, choosing to live in a smaller home that is closer to work and church will not hurt the economy if the money saved is used to support other good enterprises.

We can choose to buy things that do not fill up landfills or rely on excessive fossil fuels while still supporting the good, productive activity of our neighbors. Moreover, our spending habits dictate the types of economic opportunities available to our neighbors. In a strongly interconnected economy, we must be conscious of the ways in which our own actions limit or enable businesspeople to do good and to fulfill their own calling. We cannot justifiably demand that firms be environmentally responsible and consider long-term ecological effects if we are not willing to purchase goods from companies with good environmental records and avoid those that harm the environment.

It's true that if everyone in North America were to change their transportation and eating habits overnight, the transition to a different economy would be painful. Many gasoline sellers, automobile workers, farmers, and food processors would be out of work, even as jobs are created in other areas. A rapid transition, however, is unlikely to occur. So the fear of hurting the economy should not prevent people from thoughtfully supporting the types of economic activity that are more ecologically sustainable. In fact, a gradual consumer-driven transition to a sustainable economy is likely the least painful way to bring about real environmental and economic progress.

Our theological tradition and church community can provide us with great guidance on these issues. We who are in communion with our brothers and sisters in the developing world are better equipped to distinguish between real human needs and manufactured desires. Because we know what real flourishing looks like, we can resist the temptation to spend our resources on trivial goods or unhealthy habits. We know how to live in

community and can act in concert, building habits together instead of relying solely on individual willpower and conscience.

### Changing Public Policy

When it comes to public policy, the conflict between our economic and ecological priorities can be more serious. There is little doubt, for instance, that imposing a tax on gasoline would induce people to choose cleaner forms of transportation and buy goods with a smaller carbon footprint. Goods that require more gasoline for production and transportation would end up costing more than comparable goods that use less gasoline. Similarly, using public transportation and living closer to work would become more attractive if gas prices were higher.

However, a large gasoline tax, if imposed quickly, could also have a negative impact on the economy. If the goal of such a policy is to encourage people to change their behavior, it makes sense to impose the policy gradually, at a time when the economy is strong, to avoid causing undue hardship. Moreover, it is possible to shape these environmental policies to minimize the human cost. For example, if revenues from a gasoline tax were used to fund reductions in income taxes, the higher transportation costs could be offset while still encouraging people to change their behavior.

Our end goal should always be to live in an economy that supports life-affirming activities and allows all God's creatures to flourish. Our current system falls far short in many ways, and it is clear that

part of the ecological problem we face is connected to our lifestyle.

If economy-wide lifestyle changes are necessary, however, then individual changes in our habits of consumption are important, but ultimately insufficient. For this reason, we cannot escape the hard policy choices that sometimes pit short-term economic interests against long-term concerns. Some significant tax on fossil fuels or a carbon-trading system may be necessary to prevent the worst possible effects of climate change. International cooperation and regulation will be necessary to sustain ocean ecosystems. Government regulatory action will probably be necessary to create a food system that limits animal exploitation.

In all these areas, Christians should be the first to willingly sacrifice for long-term gain, and also the first to demand that we shape the economy as humanely and carefully as possible.

### Achieving More, Arguing Less

Within the church, it's easy to find disagreements about economic and environmental issues. But there should also be some areas of broad agreement. For instance, we should be able to agree to help each other avoid the excesses of our culture and limit our waste of resources. In the midst of fallenness, we should testify to the intrinsic goodness of all of God's creation. And we should all be willing to make pragmatic compromises with each other to pursue common goals. If we take seriously these common starting points and grant each other a charitable hearing, we will better be able to faithfully discern together how to respond to some of the difficult economic and environmental challenges facing us today. ■

### Recommended Reading

Matthew Halteman, *Compassionate Eating as Care of Creation*, The Humane Society of the United States, [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)

Michael Brower and Warren Leon, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*, Three Rivers Press, 1999.



Steven McMullen is an assistant professor of economics at Calvin College, where he specializes in education policy and ethics in economics. He is a member at Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.

## God's Economy or Ours?

*"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matt. 6:24).*

**I DON'T CLAIM TO BE A SAVVY ECONOMIST**, but I do know that God's economy is very different from what is commonly understood as "the economy"—that is, the economy of the U.S. and Canada. Christians have a choice to make.

### God's Economy

When we ask ourselves how to be good stewards of this world and whether good stewards can grow the economy, we have to ask first: Which economy? Are we talking about the economy of the U.S. or Canada or any other country, or are we talking about the global economy? As stewards of God's creation, of God's earth and everything in and on it, I believe we need to consider "the economy" as God's global economy.

Early on, God instructs his people not to take advantage of people who are poor: "Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your God. . . . You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit. I am the LORD your God . . ." (Lev. 25:36-38). Unfortunately, we in the developed world have gained our wealth by exploiting "the poor" in underdeveloped countries and obtaining their natural resources at unfair prices over the last couple of centuries.

God also called for his people to give the land they'd acquired (property) back to the original owners (stewards), and to release their slaves every 50th year. This was God's way of making right what was fundamentally wrong: some people having many possessions while others have little or almost none. To be good stewards of God's world, we have to give back to the poor what we have unfairly taken from them.

God's economy is totally different from the one we have created and have come to accept ever since our human parents first disobeyed God. It is based on the premise that everything we have and possess is only under our control for a limited

God's economy . . .  
is based on the premise  
that everything  
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for a limited time.

time. As stewards of God's earth, we don't possess what we have. But often we behave as if we are the owners of our possessions instead of stewards.

The Bible calls us to look after the people who are vulnerable in our society, including the widows and those who are poor and needy. Over and over again, we are told not to forget the least in God's kingdom. In answer to the rich young man who asks what he must do to gain eternal life, Jesus replies: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Matt. 19:21). Notice that this verse does not say, "Sell your possessions and give *them* to the poor." It says, "Give to the poor." Instead of a one-time act of giving to the poor, good stewards of God's world will give to the poor *continuously*. The poor and needy will always be with us, and therefore they should always be part of our economic decisions.

In Acts 2 we get a glimpse of what God's economy in this world might look like: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (vv. 44-45). Key in God's economy is that we put other people's needs above our possessions and act as stewards of what God has given us.

That means willingly sharing what we have with people in need since we realize that our possessions are not really ours to start out with. We are only stewards of what God has entrusted us with in the first place.

### Can Good Stewards Grow the Economy?

So can good stewards grow the economy? My answer is yes—as long as the economy we’re talking about is God’s global economy.

From those who have much—that’s us!—much will be asked. The big question that we all have to ask ourselves is: How much is enough? That single question leads to others, more specific: How much money do I really need? Do I need that bigger home? Do I need that new iPhone? Do I really need that new car? The real issue here is whether we are talking about needs or about things we want. What we really need is sufficient food, shelter, clothing, transportation, education, and health care. All the rest are luxuries. Surely these luxuries can make life more comfortable, but when they come at the expense of the livelihood of someone else, we should give them up for the sake of loving our neighbor.

By following God’s economic principles we will further God’s kingdom and live out the greatest commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt. 22:37-40).

Following Jesus comes at a cost, but the reward is incredible, both in this life and in the life to come. “Truly I tell you,” says Jesus to his disciples, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life” (Luke 18:29-30). Often Christians only focus on eternal life, but we are also told that we will be rewarded in this life. I can speak from my own

experience that if you give generously, you will be rewarded even more generously by God, our Father.

If we put our talents to work, which means sharing our possessions with the poor, God will reward us by multiplying what we already have in this life. On top of that God has granted us eternal life—and there’s no economic equation that can capture the value of eternal life. So regardless of the costs (in money, possessions, or even persecution) the reward for following God’s economic principles will always be greater.

No one in his or her right mind can pass up on this economic proposition. There is no greater return on investment (with possessions that are not ours to start with) anywhere in the world. ■

STUDY QUESTIONS ONLINE



**Gert Kollenhoven** has been an executive financial manager for almost 30 years. He and his wife are moving to Zambia to begin working for Every Orphan’s Hope. Since moving to Canada from the Netherlands in 2002, he has been a member of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Acton, Ontario.

# Gift Ideas for Thoughtful Giving

## The Gift of Retreat



**“THERE AREN’T ENOUGH HOURS IN A DAY!”** Many of us utter this cliché in states of exhaustion, stress, or holiday fatigue. But what if we embraced Christmas as an occasion to give our weary loved ones some well-deserved rest? Not a tropical holiday or a spa date, but rather a gift of time—of retreat?

A week, a weekend, or even a day devoted to prayer and meditation in a quiet, beautiful setting will help a loved one reorient and refresh both heart and body.

Many traditions offer spiritual “get-aways,” but Jesuit retreat centers are perhaps the most common. The Loyola Centre in Guelph, Ontario, offers a choice of self-directed retreats or those guided by a trained spiritual director. Both include time to pray, read, and reflect in a beautiful pastoral environment.

For the artists on your list, a retreat away from regular routines and responsibilities could actually become a retreat back *into* their creative vocation.

In alternating years, Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., hosts the Festival of Faith and Writing or the Festival of Faith and Music. For three days, writers and musicians or lovers of books and

music seek to grow in their own expression and spiritual understanding. They can hear from masters of their craft and connect with artists at all levels. The festivals are packed with concerts, readings, theater productions, and open mics.

A longer but similar experience is available at The Glen Workshop. In these summer events put on by *Image*, visual artists, musicians, and writers gather in either Santa Fe, N. Mex., or South Hadley, Mass., to critique each other’s submissions, learn from acclaimed artists, and worship together. There’s even a “retreat option” for those who wish to forgo workshops in favor of more relaxed mornings.

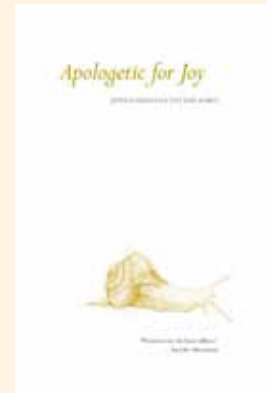
A gift like this reclaims the concept of “retreat”—not so much stepping away from a real life but rather moving into a fuller experience of the Father’s presence and an awareness of his call. Those who receive it will be reminded that every hour and season belong to God and will return to their everyday routines and relationships renewed.

For more information on these retreats, follow the links in the article at [www.thebanner.org](http://www.thebanner.org). ■

Give your weary loved ones some well-deserved rest.



Adele Konyndyk is a communications writer for World Renew, a freelance creative writer, and a member of First Hamilton Christian Reformed Church in Ontario.

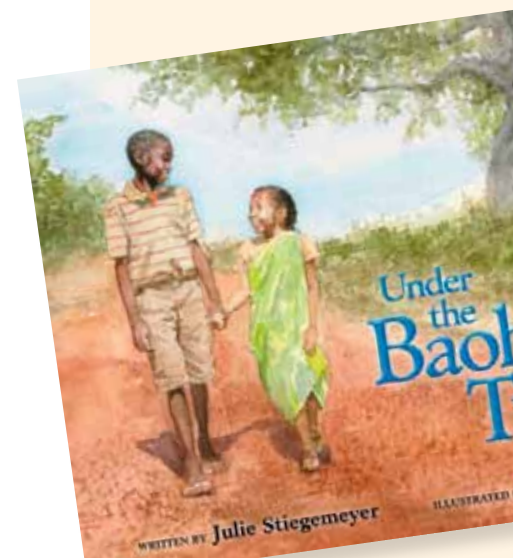


## Apologetic for Joy

by Jessica Hiemstra-van der Horst

reviewed by Jenny deGroot

The silky cream cover of *Apologetic for Joy* features a whimsical snail that draws readers to open its pages and discover a trail of joyful moments. Hiemstra-van der Horst’s poetry describes joys she has seen and heard and tasted and touched: color and music, beloved artists and beloved grandparents, homes here and homes far off. “I don’t need to be seen, I want to be heard,” Hiemstra-van der Horst writes. This slim volume invites the reader to hear and see through verse enriched with the poet’s illustrations. It’s a delight to dip into this young writer’s words. (Goose Lane Editions)





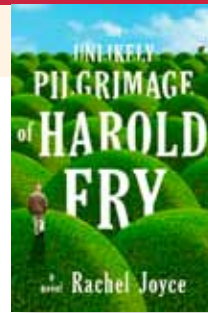
## Kinfolk

reviewed by **Amanda C. Bakale**

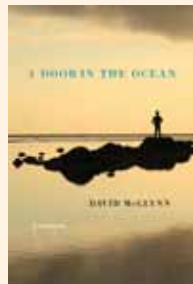
*Kinfolk's* inviting pages are full of stories and photographs that adhere to the magazine's mission of making the joy of hospitality simple again. Bringing together artists, writers, photographers, chefs, and everyday folk around a shared love of good food and genuine community, each issue is divided into three sections: entertaining for one, for two, and for a few. *Kinfolk* reminds readers that there's no need to spend a lot of money to create a memorable experience around the table. (*kinfolkmag.com*)

## The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

by **Rachel Joyce**  
reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**



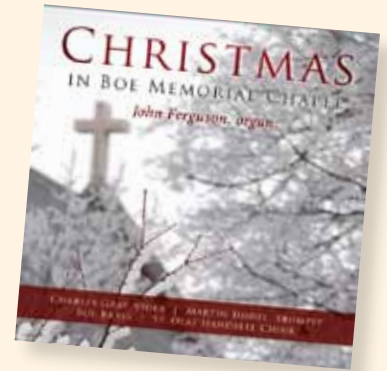
Recently retired Harold Fry never does the unexpected—until he receives a letter from Queenie, a former colleague who is dying. Harold decides to walk more than 600 miles to see Queenie because she had once “saved him” and he had never thanked her. Harold soldiers on despite great obstacles and a flood of memories and regrets. In this winsome narrative, which contains some vulgar language, readers meet an endearing character coming to terms with his past and rediscovering love where it has almost been snuffed out. (Random House)



## A Door in the Ocean: A Memoir

by **David McGlynn**  
reviewed by **Robert N. Hosack**

In this dark spiritual memoir, McGlynn tells how the unsolved execution-style murder of his closest friend and teammate on a high school swimming team sets the backdrop for a life that faces horrific losses and recoveries from adolescence through adulthood. His ongoing commitment to swimming—a metaphor for faith—and his constant wrestling with defining that faith frame this coming-of-age tale. In the end, “The fundamentals endure, only without the fundamentalism.” (Counterpoint)



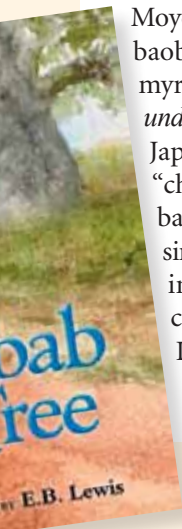
## Christmas in Boe Memorial Chapel

by **John Ferguson, organist**  
reviewed by **Randall Engle**

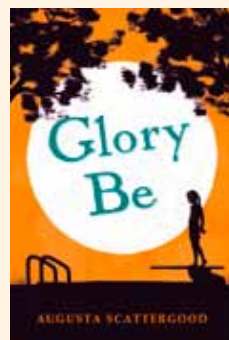
Now retired after serving the St. Olaf community and the church at large, organist John Ferguson offers his last recording. This collage of Christmas music is sure to be the first album you reach for each Advent and Christmas. The variety of genres (folk to classical to contemporary), instrumental color (bells, violin, brass)—to say nothing of the magnificent Holtkamp pipe organ—takes the listener on a tour through the many facets of the Christmas celebration. Gloria in excelsis Deo! ([www.stolafrecords.com](http://www.stolafrecords.com))

## Under the Baobab Tree

by **Julie Stiegemeier**  
reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**



Moyo and his sister Japera visit a neighboring village's baobab tree, known as the “tree of life” because of the myriad ways it benefits creation. *Who will gather today under the baobab tree?* Moyo wonders. That day Moyo, Japera, and others hear the words of eternal life in a “church” with no bell, steeple, or organ. Under the baobab tree the gospel is proclaimed; people pray and sing. This joyful children's picture book with contrasting earth-tone and brightly colored illustrations celebrates Africa's landscape, her people, and the Lord who created all. (Zonderkidz)

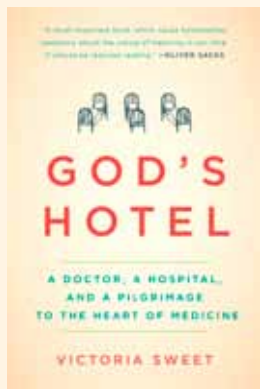


## Glory Be

by **Augusta Scattergood**  
reviewed by **Gwen Marra**

The summer of 1964 is a time of change in Hanging Moss, Miss. Glory is 11 and looking forward to the pool, the library, playing cards with her older sister, and spending time with Frankie, her classmate. Glory's summer changes dramatically as she encounters her sister growing up, new friends from the North, and questions about how and when to take a stand against segregation. This novel sheds light on the issue of racism and how to stand up for what is right. Ages 10 and up. (Scholastic)

**MORE REVIEWS  
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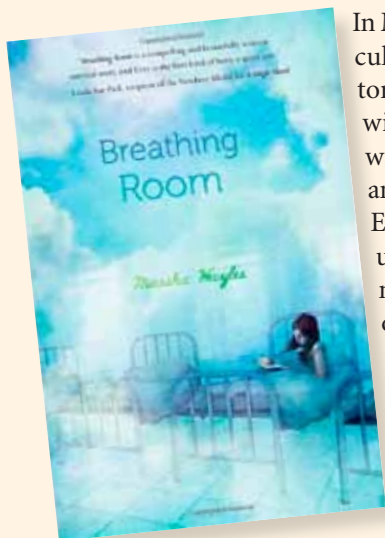
## God's Hotel

by **Victoria Sweet**  
reviewed by **Jim Romahn**

God's Hotel is an old-fashioned alms house in California. Dr. Victoria Sweet writes about her decades of experience there in a richly detailed glimpse into the history of medicine, the nature of doctor-patient relationships, and more. The book is peopled by fascinating characters, all in need of medical attention. Many have been denied the time and personal respect required to determine what would make them better. What's most gratifying is that the book lives up to the title. (Riverhead)

## Breathing Room

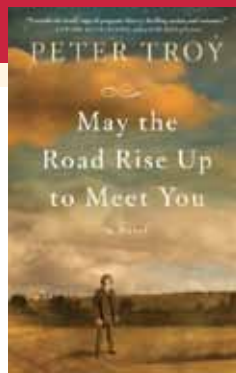
by **Marsha Hayles**  
reviewed by **Kristy Quist**



In May, 1940, 13-year-old Evvy has tuberculosis and must be admitted to a sanatorium for TB patients. Sharing a room with four others, she is not allowed to walk, talk, or even cough; her parents and her twin brother, Abe, may not visit. Evvy is trapped in a cold, sterile, and uncomfortable world. Hayles creates memorable characters in a quiet, deeply felt young-adult novel that explores both early-twentieth-century medicine and the strength found in the bonds of friendship. Ages 10 and up. (Henry Holt)

## May the Road Rise Up to Meet You

by **Peter Troy**  
reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**



Set against the background of the Irish Famine and the American Civil War, this riveting novel weaves together four seemingly disparate lives in a sweeping narrative that portrays the vast implications for societies that fail to extend rights and justice to all people. Those four lives intersect as the Civil War rages and the abolitionist movement strives to fulfill its mandate, culminating in a bittersweet celebration of love, survival, and the common humanity of all races. (Doubleday)

## Wherever I Wind Up

by **R. A. Dickey and Wayne Coffey**  
reviewed by **Paul Delger**



R. A. Dickey's memoir is a story of perseverance and faith in God. Dickey is brutally honest about growing up in a divorced family and as a victim of sexual abuse. And his baseball life is anything but perfect. When X-rays reveal an elbow problem, the Texas Rangers pull his sizeable signing bonus. Dickey eventually turns to a specialty pitch—the knuckleball—that saves his baseball career. Off the field, he opens up to himself, God, and others about his insecurities. You'll want to stand up and cheer. (Blue Rider Press)

## The Third Gift

by **Linda Sue Park**  
reviewed by **Jenny deGroot**

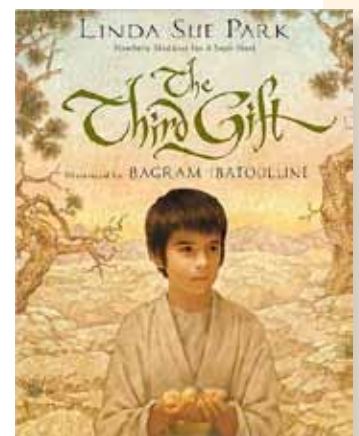
"My father collects tears." So begins Linda Sue Park's gently told story of a young boy learning his father's special craft, collecting "tears" of sap from small trees and shrubs in the ancient Middle East. Three men buy a number of those tears. They want to add them to the gifts they already have for a baby: gold and frankincense. This subtly beautiful book invites readers of any age to wonder about many things in an ancient story that is so familiar. (Clarion)



## Advent, Vol. 1

by **The Brilliance**  
reviewed by **Robert J. Keeley**

The Brilliance is a collective of musicians led by singer David Gungor and pianist John Arndt, joined by strings and drum players. Their music is designed to bring listeners into a time of worship. Texts are often chosen from or based on traditional liturgical texts. While the themes of *Advent, Vol. 1* are indeed those of waiting for the Light, it's appropriate for any time of the year. ([www.thebrilliance.com](http://www.thebrilliance.com))



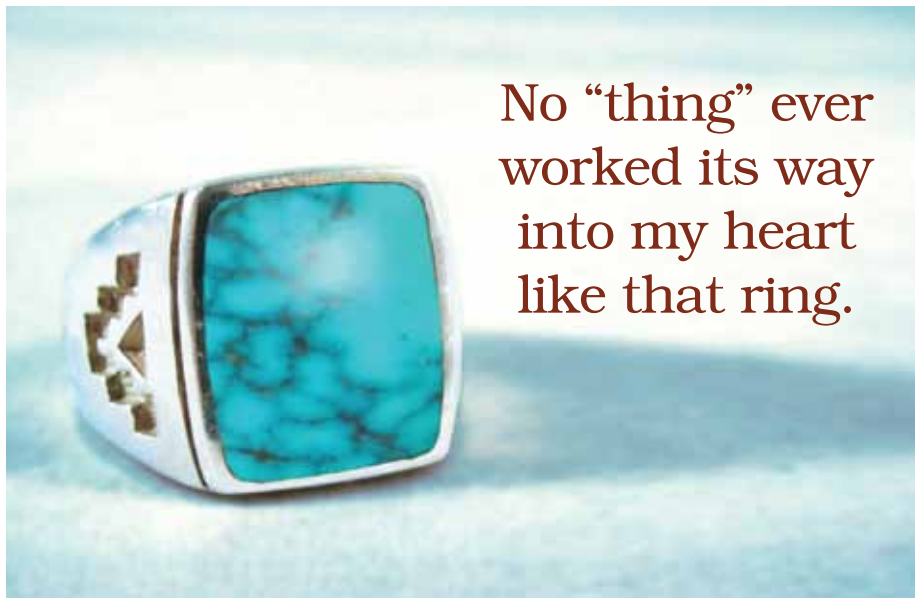
## The Ring

**DAD GAVE ME** a very meaningful gift a year before he died: a turquoise ring that had been given to him by Scott Redhouse. It was crafted in silver with a breathtaking turquoise stone cut in a handsome square. Scott was the first from the Navajo Nation to become a minister in the Christian Reformed Church. Dad, a church planter, had been instrumental in leading him to Christ and then encouraging him to follow the call to be a minister.

We were at Rehoboth, New Mexico, just outside of Gallup. I was 11 at the time and befriended a local boy, Elmer Yazzie. Elmer's father, Sampson, also became a Christian minister. Scott Redhouse, his brother Paul, and Sampson Yazzie were courageous men of faith. Dad wore that ring for 30 years until he gave it to me. "My arthritis makes it difficult to wear," he said. "I want you to have it."

I've never been one to wear rings, but I wore this one for 10 years with pride and remembrance. It fit perfectly and felt "right." Only an accident could tear it from my finger. The ring was cut off to allow my finger to be surgically repaired. When I left the hospital the next day, I carried the ring home with me, in pieces, in a plastic bag.

A year later, my wife, Pat, had a jeweler remake the ring and surprised me for Christmas. It was just a bit too large, and I had to wear it on my other hand. A few months later, after working for a day in the flower beds, the ring was gone. Hours of frantic searching turned up nothing. I don't often form attachments to things—my first car, a '64 Chevy Impala SS, comes close—but no "thing" ever worked its way into my heart like that ring. I grieved silently and eventually



No "thing" ever worked its way into my heart like that ring.

locked the emotion away in a box. I'd lost a link to my dad, my wife, my past.

Several years ago, my family and I traveled to Rehoboth, New Mexico to attend a convention. I was back for the first time in 40 years. I walked the streets I'd played on 40 years earlier. I attended a seminar led by my old friend, Elmer Yazzie, now an accomplished artist and art teacher. Later that evening, we took some time to renew our friendship. Before leaving, Elmer gave me the names of a few jewelry stores in Gallup. Pat wanted—and I wanted—to buy some turquoise jewelry.

We walked into the jewelry store in Gallup and looked at an impressive array of jewelry. The woman behind the counter was patient and helpful. We talked about jewelry and Navajo tradition. Eventually Pat and I were drawn to a beautiful silver pendant that featured a stunning turquoise stone. This was *the* one, whatever the cost.

The woman introduced herself as Mitzi Begay, the store owner; her uncle

had crafted the pendant and earrings we selected. When I gave her my name, she turned and asked, "Are you related to Rev. Bart Huizenga?" "Yes, he's my dad." She smiled and said, "It was because of your father and Scott and Paul Redhouse that my family came to know Christ. Your father was very important to us."

I've never received a more meaningful gift than that experience in a jewelry store in Gallup, New Mexico. Through the words of a woman I'd never met before, God spoke through my dad. Pat wears the pendant with pride and remembrance. By God's grace, a part of my life had come full circle. ■



**B.J. Huizenga** is superintendent of Contra Costa Christian Schools in Walnut Creek, Calif., and a member of Faith Christian Fellowship.



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1.800.919.7307  
[info@partnersworldwide.org](mailto:info@partnersworldwide.org)



## Save the Date!

Plans are underway for another denomination-wide prayer summit on April 15-17, 2013 at All Nations Church near Los Angeles, CA. Join with others across the CRC to pray for God's leading in our lives, our congregations and our denomination. Visit [www.crcna.org/PrayerSummit](http://www.crcna.org/PrayerSummit) to see video highlights of the last summit and to be notified by email when registration and other details are announced.



Christian Reformed Church



## Join the Conversation!

There's a new conversation happening today.

It's an important conversation about Home Missions' future and our denomination's future, too.

### AND YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

Home Missions has been listening to God, discerning how He wants us to serve the Christian Reformed Church.



But we want to hear from you, too. You can join the conversation today at [www.crhm.org/conversation!](http://www.crhm.org/conversation!)



# ADS

**Deadlines:** Dec. issue is 11/5/2012; Jan. 2013 issue is 12/3/2012. Details online.

**Prices:** Most ads are \$0.33<sup>US</sup> per character (min. 150 characters including punctuation and spaces). A discounted rate of \$0.26<sup>US</sup> per character applies to Anniversaries, Birthdays, Obituaries, Denominational and Classical Announcements, and Congregational Announcements. Photos are \$22<sup>US</sup> extra.

**To Advertise:** Place your classified ad online at [www.thebanner.org/classifieds](http://www.thebanner.org/classifieds) or email it to [classifieds@thebanner.org](mailto:classifieds@thebanner.org) or fax it to 616-224-0834. Questions? Call 616-224-0725.

## Denominational and Classical

### Calls Accepted

**Rev. Daniel Hoogland** of Smithers CRC in Smithers, BC has accepted the call to serve Langley Immanuel CRC in Langley, BC.

### Calls Declined

**Candidate Kelly Vander Woude** has accepted the call of the Trinity CRC, Ames, Iowa. On September 11 he was examined by Classis Northcentral Iowa and was admitted to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the CRC. Ordination is scheduled for September 23, 2012.

### Candidates for the Ministry

**QUALIFYING PERSONS** who wish to be candidates in 2013 for ordained CRC ministry should request application procedures by December 15, 2012. For further information, please email Karlene Werner at [kaw5@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:kaw5@calvinseminary.edu) or write her at Calvin Theological Seminary, 3233 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

### Eligible for Call

The council of West End Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Alberta is pleased to announce that its Pastor for Congregational Life and Outreach, **REV. KAREN NORRIS**, has completed her Clinical Pastoral Education training and her chaplaincy residency program and is now available for call as an ordained minister of the Word. We heartily recommend Karen to the churches for their consideration.

We are pleased to announce that **JULIE DEGRAAF** has now completed her academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word. Rev. Joel R. Boot, Executive Director

## Congregational

### Church's 60th Anniversary

**TERRACE CRC** of Terrace, B. C. will celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a special banquet, followed by a celebratory evening service on November 3rd, 2012 commencing at 5:00p.m. We invite all former pastors, members and friends to join us or send greetings to help us celebrate. An anniversary booklet and DVD will be available. For further information see our website at [www.terracecrc.org](http://www.terracecrc.org) We thank God for his faithfulness

### Church's 50th Anniversary

**COVENANT CRC**, Cutlerville, MI will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with special events on Sun., Nov. 25, Wed., Nov. 28, and Sun., Dec. 2. Are you a current or past choir member? An alumni choir will sing Sun., Dec. 2. For celebration details, see [covenant-crc.org](http://covenant-crc.org) or call 616-455-5120.

## Announcements

**JOIN US FOR** winter worship services at Farnsworth Hall, 6159 East University Dr., Mesa, AZ. The Maranatha Community CRC meets at 10 AM each Sunday from 12-02-12 thru 4-14-13. Contact Rev. Gary Hutt @ 509-499-4561 for more information.

**LOOKING TO ESCAPE** the northern cold winter? Consider warm, sunny paradise on the S. W. coast of Florida at Venice. Enjoy warm, friendly welcome at the Reformed Church, 1600 Banyan Dr. (US Highway 41 and Center Rd.) Sunday morning worship, 10:30, 941-493-3075.

**LAKE ALFRED MINISTRY—CRC/RCA** winter ministry. Join us Nov. 11, 2012 thru April 14, 2013. 10:30 AM, 5:50 PM. Located on Rt.17/92, Lk Alfred, Fl. Close to Winter Haven & Rt. 27. Preaching Nov./Dec. Rev. E. Tamminga; Jan. 2013 Rev. A. Jongsma; Feb. Dr. J. Nederhood; March-April 14 Dr. G. Kroeze. Phone: 863-422-2187, 863-422-6442.

**WINTER VISITORS** When in the Phoenix/Sun City Az area, please visit the West Valley Christian Fellowship Church. 10:00AM & 6:00PM Sundays. [www.westvalleychristianfellowship.org](http://www.westvalleychristianfellowship.org)

## Condolences

**IN SYMPATHY:** The Council of the Riverside Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, MI extends its sympathy to the family of our fellow Council member and friend Elder Roger D. Holthrop who passed away August 10, 2012 at the age of 68. Roger Holthrop of Grand Rapids and formerly of Sioux Falls SD faithfully served his Lord and our congregation. He is survived by his wife, Joann (Vogel) Holthrop, two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

## Birthdays

### 90th Birthday

**MARJORIE (BREEMS) BONNEMA** 725 Baldwin Apt. 3015, Jenison, MI 49428 will celebrate her 90th birthday on Nov. 19, 2012. Her children Juel and David Reitz, Karen (deceased), Greg and Bonnie, Lane and Edie, Wes and Viola, Vince and Diane thank God for her.

**GLADYS (COLLIER) RYCKBOST** 216 Ashton Cr., Clifton Springs, NY 14432, celebrates her 90th birthday on November 20. Her children and spouses (1 deceased), grandchildren (1 deceased) and great-grandchildren thank God for granting her many years of blessings. We love you.

**NELLIE KOETJE TROOST** will celebrate her 90th birthday on Nov. 28. Address: 2121 Raybrook, Devos Center Room 329 Grand Rapids, Mi. 49546 We thank God for her many years and the blessing she has been in our lives.

## Anniversaries

### 70th Anniversary

**MULDER** Ben & Josie 505 ½ Broadway, Pella, IA 50219 will celebrate 70 years of marriage on Nov 3 together with their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild. Praising God for his blessings over these many years.

### 65th Anniversary

**BOSSCHER** Jim and Ange (Droge), 2111 Raybrook SE Grand Rapids MI 49546 celebrated 65 years of marriage on Oct. 2, 2012. Children: Jack and Joan Bosscher, Bob and Beth Terborg, Dave and Mari Bosscher, Marcia Bosscher, Steve and Barb Timmermans, and 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. To God be the glory!

**VISSER** Ralph & Cora (Lankhaar) of Lynden WA, celebrated 65 years of Godly marriage on 10/8/12

### 60th Anniversary

**LANTING** Case & Jane, Mt Vernon, WA (Sept 30). Their 8 children & spouses, 34 grandchildren & 35 great grandchildren rejoice and praise God with them!

### 50th Anniversary

**BOS** Irvin and Marianne (Jeurink), Nov. 2, 1962. 272 Eastmont, Holland, MI 49424 Children: Dale and Cindy Bos (Michael, Aaron, Emily), Diane and Steve Van Der Werff (Marc, Kela, Marta, Kate, Nolan), Susan and Eric Orgain (Ella, Stefan). We praise and thank God for His love and faithfulness.



Announcing the search for an

## Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Members of the Executive Director Search Committee request your prayers for the Committee and the important work before them. Please also note the forthcoming request for nominees for this position.

Watch for the launch of the Executive Director search website targeted for November 1:

[www.crcna.org/EDsearch](http://www.crcna.org/EDsearch)

Direct all inquiries to Mr. Loren Veldhuizen,  
Executive Director Search Committee Chair  
[veldhuizen45@gmail.com](mailto:veldhuizen45@gmail.com)



**DE WINDT** Bruce and Trudy (Laniga) celebrated 50 years on June 16. Your faithfulness to each other is a gift from God, and a gift to us. We rejoice with you! Love from your 4 children and their spouses and your grandchildren.

**GROEN** Francis & Judy (den Ouden) of 948 Sea Breeze Dr, Ripon CA 95366, will celebrate 50 years of marriage on November 9, 2012. Congratulations from your parents, children & grandchildren. We thank God for your love and faithfulness.

**HOEKWATER** Keith and Donna (Vandekamp) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 11, 2012. Their children and 18 grandchildren praise God for their testimony of faithfulness over the past 50 years. May God continue to richly bless you!

#### 40th Anniversary



**VISSER** Jacob and Gonda celebrate 40 years of marriage! Love from your children and grandchildren. We thank God for His good gifts!

## Obituaries

**BIESBOER** Grace (Scheeringa) age 85, Chicago Heights, Illinois. Went to be with her Lord on September 11. Preceded in death by husband Edward. Survived by children Ed(Kim), Lois, Doris, Brian(Debbie) and 7 grandchildren.

**DEHAAN** Albert M. age 89 of Orange City, IA on August 27, 2012. Preceded in death by his wife, Jennie in 2011. Survived by his children; Connie (Bruce) Lefever, Linda(Marvin) Toering, Dennis (Deb) DeHaan, and Alan (Ellen) DeHaan. 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

**DE JONG**, Elmer, age 97; September 26, 2012; Meetinghouse Village, #207, 143 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME 03904. Preceded in death by wife Naomi. Survived by daughter, Christa, and son, John (Sheryl).



**DYKSTRA** Winifred (Hoekstra) 99, of Byron Center, MI went to be with the Lord on September 13, 2012. Loving mother of sons Dennis (Elaine) and Don, cherished grandmother of Jeff (Michelle), Jules (Mike) Schmuker, Laura (Tim) Van Der Heide, and dear great grandmother of Jayson Van Der Heide and Elena Schmuker, sister Evelyn (Simon) HetJonk and sisters--in-law Portia Hoekstra and Jane Hoekstra. Preceded in death by husband Peter, sisters Marie

**HERLIEN** Tracy, nee Deckinga went to be with our Lord on September 6th 2012, 22W364 McCarron Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Wife of the late Peter Herlien. Mother of James (Lynn) Herlien and William (Jan)

Herlien. Grandmother of Connie (Bob) Smith, Jeff (Anya) Herlien, Jill (Dominic) Novak, James (Rebecca) Herlien, Sherri (Jeff) Townsend, Thomas (Stephanie) Herlien, and Tiffany (Larry) Whalen. Great-grandmother of 15. Sister of Jennie (the late Clarence) Laning, the late Bud (the late Alice) Deckinga, the late Hank (Dena) Deckinga, Ida (Ray) Bos, Art (Lorraine) Deckinga, Derk (Jan and the late Marge) Deckinga, Pete (Yvonne) Deckinga, the late John (Marilyn) Deckinga, and Marilyn (Bill) Van Howe.

**JAGER, HENRY** age 92, went to be with his precious Lord and Savior on August 25, 2012. Preceded in death by his wife Grace and brothers Charles and Gerrit. Henry is survived by his children Ron(Jan) and Marge(Tim)Toeset; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brothers Clarence and Andrew(Carolyn) and sister-in-law Lois.

**KALKWARF** Dorothy (Miersma) 90, September 5, 2012, Parkersburg, IA. Survived by husband, Harold. Children Mary (LeRoy) VandenHoek, Curt, Craig (Melody). Six grandchildren, one great grandchild.

**MIEDEMA** Joanne Age 94 went to be with her Savior on Monday, September 3, 2012 surrounded by her family. She was the wife, for 56 years, of the late Sidney Miedema who died in 1996. She is survived by her children, Sharon, wife of Edward Bakker of Whitinsville, MA David and his wife Joanne Miedema of Whitinsville and Kenneth and Leslie Miedema of Jacksonville, Fla.; 8 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, David Miedema of Whitinsville and many nieces and nephews. She will be lovingly remembered. Memorial donations may be made to the Whitinsville Christian School, 279 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville, MA 01588

## Church Position Announcements

**PASTOR OPENING AT OPCRC** Orland Park Christian Reformed Church, located in the southwest suburbs of Chicago seeks an energetic, passionate pastor who will champion OPCRC's mission of reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ and building up people in their faith. We are seeking a pastor especially gifted in strong biblically-based preaching who will challenge the congregation spiritually and share in the leadership of staff and church ministries. This position is open due to our Pastor retiring in July of 2013. For a complete job description and to learn more about what God is doing at Orland Church, visit [www.OrlandChurch.com](http://www.OrlandChurch.com). Resumes and questions regarding this position should be directed to [pastorsearch@opcrc.org](mailto:pastorsearch@opcrc.org).

**ANCHORAGE ALASKA** Trinity CRC is seeking a full time pastor. Please direct all inquiries to Ron Lindemulder at [rlinak@pci.net](mailto:rlinak@pci.net) or call 907-346-2081 or the church office 907-272-8431.

**FRIENDSHIP CHAPEL**, an organized CRC in Jenison, MI, is seeking a pastor. We deeply value freedom in worship and ministry. We pray a lot. We have many hurting people around here and God has called us to help them, give them some hope, show them some grace, and introduce them to our Lord. We encourage collaboration and innovation in our ministry. We are seeking a pastor who can help us organize our work, grow in our faith, and honor our God by helping people. Please contact us at [fcsearch2012@gmail.com](mailto:fcsearch2012@gmail.com)

**LEAD PASTOR** First CRC of Bellflower, CA is seeking a full-time pastor for our established church as we strive to reach our diverse community in sunny Southern California. We are searching for a pastor who is passionate about preaching God's word and shepherding his people, and who has strong leadership skills, an enthusiastic attitude, and an ability to relate to all ages. For more information, contact Marv at 562-896-9339 or [Bell1SearchCommittee@hotmail.com](mailto:Bell1SearchCommittee@hotmail.com).

**MINISTER OF PREACHING** LaGrave Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, MI seeks a Minister of Preaching with strengths in preaching, leadership, and relational gifts. Led by the Holy Spirit, LaGrave's members seek to worship and serve God in all of life, transforming His world and being transformed to reflect the character of Christ. For a full job description and to apply, please visit our website at [www.lagrave.org](http://www.lagrave.org).

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR** Brookfield CRC ([www.brookfieldcrc.org](http://www.brookfieldcrc.org)) in Greater Metro Milwaukee, WI is seeking a fulltime Associate Pastor with a Youth Ministry emphasis. Qualified candidates should be

ordained, possess a proven ability in leading youth ministries, and have experience directing and mobilizing volunteers. Additional responsibilities include some preaching and adult ministry involvement. Please email resumes to: [paula@brookfieldcrc.org](mailto:paula@brookfieldcrc.org).



**CALVARY CRC OF LOWELL MI.** a growing and scenic community just 7 minutes east of Grand Rapids is searching for their next Music Coordinator to become a part of our community in creating an excellent worship service. The position is 20 hours a week with flexible scheduling, 4 weeks off per year and a starting salary of \$15,000 per year, which is negotiable depending on education, experience and gifts. We are looking to grow and expand in our creativity and music. Christian hymns and modern Christian music as well as other varieties of Christian worship are appreciated in our church. Check out the job description on our website [www.calvarylowell.org](http://www.calvarylowell.org) Please call if you have questions: 616-514-7591 or 616-897-7060 if you are interested email your resume to: [pastor@calvarylowell.org](mailto:pastor@calvarylowell.org) [calvarycrc@juno.com](mailto:calvarycrc@juno.com)

**YOUTH DIRECTOR** Byron Center 1st CRC in Byron Center, MI is seeking full time youth director. Please contact Rusty Darter, Search Team, 2450 85th St Byron Center, MI 49315 or email [rdarter@gmail.com](mailto:rdarter@gmail.com). Visit our website at [firstbyroncrc.org](http://firstbyroncrc.org) for information about our church.

**GRACE CRC**, Cobourg, ON, is looking for a full-time pastor with gifts of effective preaching/speaking to encourage our congregation to live their faith in their daily lives, and to encourage growth through the educational ministry of the church. For more information, or to obtain a church profile, please contact [leonadejong@trentu.ca](mailto:leonadejong@trentu.ca)

**PASTOR** Good News Fellowship CRC, located in the beautiful city of Winnipeg, Manitoba is seeking a senior pastor. We are a caring, vibrant community church with a relaxed, contemporary worship style. A church profile and vision statement is available for interested applicants. Contact Linda Postma at [lpostma@shaw.ca](mailto:lpostma@shaw.ca) for more details.

**SENIOR PASTOR** - Ladner CRC, a mid-size church located in a small bedroom community, 20 km south of Vancouver BC, is seeking a Senior pastor. A vision statement, church profile and job description can be made available to interested applicants. Contact Darrell Renkema at [upside@eastlink.ca](mailto:upside@eastlink.ca) or 778 855 7365.

**DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRY** Georgetown CRC of Hudsonville, Michigan is seeking applicants for a Director of Outreach Ministries. This 22 hour per week staff position is responsible for recruitment and empowerment of volunteers, coordinating the church's ministries with the wider community, and growing the church's relationships with other helping organizations. Preference will be shown for applicants with organizational, communication, and people skills. A current position description is available upon request. Potential candidates should submit a letter of interest that includes experience, reasons for application, and current contact information to: "Director of Outreach Search Team" at the church's address. Letters of interest should be received no later than October 31, 2012. Applicants need not be members to apply, but membership at Georgetown will be expected within one year of hire. Questions can be directed to Rev. Marc Nelesen [marcn@georgetowncrc.org](mailto:marcn@georgetowncrc.org); Georgetown CRC, 6475 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426 616-669-5180

**YOUTH DIRECTOR** Willmar CRC In Willmar, MN is currently seeking applicants for a Youth Director to oversee our junior and senior high youth ministry—Solid Rock. A detailed job description is available from Renae Kleinhuizen (320-235-3060) [renaeleinhuizen@hotmail.com](mailto:renaeleinhuizen@hotmail.com). Please submit a cover letter and resume to Renae by December 15, 2012 at: Willmar CRC/ATTN: Renae Kleinhuizen/1708 SW 8th Street/Willmar/ MN/ 56201 or digitally at [renaeleinhuizen@hotmail.com](mailto:renaeleinhuizen@hotmail.com)

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES** Ivanrest Church (CRC), Grandville MI is seeking an individual to partner with ministry staff in casting the vision, setting goals and directing the youth ministry at Ivanrest Church. Candidates should demonstrate a passion and desire for inspiring and leading youth in the growth and development of their faith. Individuals should have experience in building and cultivating a faith formation process for youth within a church setting. Candidates should be persons whose commitment to Christ is demonstrated in their devotion to inspire others to worship, serve and grow in faith. Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelors Degree or equivalent experience. Applications will be accepted through October 30. For a complete job description and to learn more about what God is doing at Ivanrest Church, please visit [www.ivanrestcrc.org](http://www.ivanrestcrc.org). Applications and questions regarding this position should be directed to [applications@ivanrestcrc.org](mailto:applications@ivanrestcrc.org).

**OTTENHOFF** Cornelia "Connie" Jeanette, nee Cevaal, went to be with Our Lord Sept. 25, 2012. 1446 Cola Dr. McLean, VA 22101. Wife of the late Herman Ottenhoff; mother of Robert G. (Faith) Ottenhoff, John (Barbara) Ottenhoff, Mary O. (Gary) Halcomb, Jane E. Baker, and Judith A. (Donald) Coates; grandmother of ten; sister of Calvin (Patricia) Cevaal, the late John (Barbara) Cevaal, and Carol (Donald) Mead; cherished aunt of many nieces and nephews.

**PEKELDER** Rev. Bernard; age 89; September 21, 2012; Grand Rapids, MI; He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Jane (nee VanderGriend). He is survived by his children: Anne (Michael) Bruinooge, Ben (Pam) Pekelder, Mary (Tom) Hoeksema, Jane (Daniel) Ward, and Ruth Pekelder (Rick Huizinga); 20 grandchildren; and 30 great grandchildren. He ministered in Christian Reformed churches in Jamestown and Grand Rapids, MI and in Midland Park, NJ. He served as Chaplain and Vice President for Student Affairs at Calvin College for 23 years and spent his years of retirement preaching and teaching Bible study classes in Bradenton, FL.

**RAMERMAN** Ann, died May 8, 2012 in Manhattan, MT. She is survived by her daughter Christina and grandson Jared as well as her four sisters. Louise Dyk, Nell VanDyken, Harriet Kamps and Bernice Dyk. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Jennie Droge, her husband Jerry Ramerman, daughter Sharon Lucero, brother Jake Droge and his wife Thelma, sister Fannie Overweg/Ham and brother-in-law Hilco VanDyken.

**VAN WYK** Gertrude 97, Sioux Falls, SD, was taken to her heavenly home on September 21, 2012. Gertrude Evelyn DeVelder was born on Feb 20, 1915, near Corsica, SD. Her parents were the late Isaac and Mary DeVelder. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marion Van Wyk, and by her brother, Marion DeVelder. Those left to cherish her memory include her sons and daughters-in-law: Rogell and Ida, Rodney and Janice, Loren and Janet, and Max and Carol - 12 grand-

children and 7 great-grandchildren. Gertrude was a charter member of Shalom Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Falls.

**WEEMHOFF** Elaine Donna (nee Schultze); age 87; July 17, 2012; Grand Rapids, MI; She was preceded in death by her husband, Neal. She is survived by her children: David and Linda Weemhoff, Susan and Nelson Kloosterman, Cindra and Hank Marshall, Shari Weemhoff; 13 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Jeanette Schultze.

### Employment

**CAREGIVERS NEEDED** Are you interested in working for the best living assistance services company in West Michigan? Visiting Angels is looking for people who can be excellent, not average; make a connection with our clients; be perfectly dependable; practice compassion and work with integrity. Contact Heather at 616-243-7080 or heather@vangels.com or visit our website at www.vangels.com and complete an online application.

**PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REP** needed at Grand Rapids manufacturer. Good communication and customer service skills required. Degree preferred. Email resume to karent@highlightindustries.com.

**PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH** Providence Christian College welcomes applications for the position of President/CEO to promote and implement the mission and vision through exceptional leadership at a Reformed institution of higher learning on the West Coast. Candidates should be committed to the Reformed faith and able to articulate the relevance of such faith to the liberal arts. Additional qualities desired include development, business administrative, and communication skills. Applications can be found online at www.providenceccc.net

### Real Estate: Sales and Rentals

**GREEN VALLEY, AZ RENTAL** Townhouse available Jan. 2013. 2 large bedrooms plus sofabed. Mountain view from patio. Email ottomardebruyne@comcast.net. Details 616-340-9147

**PHOENIX CONDO FOR RENT.** Unique architecture. C'back & Central-1776 sf, 2 bed, 2 bath w/pool, spa, garage, ground floor. 1/3 mi to Light Rail. \$2400/mth. (623)694-8685.

H. Henry Meeter Center

### Scholarships for High School Seniors

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies is pleased to offer the Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors. Awards are given annually for research papers on a topic pertaining to John Calvin and Calvinism. Awards are payable to student tuition accounts at the following colleges: Calvin, Dordt, King's (Canada), Redeemer (Canada), Kuyper, and Trinity Christian. The topic for 2013 is "Self-Denial: The Key to Christian Living According to John Calvin." There is a first prize of \$2,500 and a second prize of \$1,250. Papers must have a **January 15, 2013**, postmark.

For application guidelines and information on the research paper, please visit <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter> or contact

**H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies**  
 Hekman Library  
 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402  
 1-616-526-7081 / fax: 1-616-526-6470  
[meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu)

CALVIN  
College



## DORDT COLLEGE Executive Positions

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Interested candidates are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae/resume to:

Arlan Nederhoff  
 Dordt College  
 498 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
 Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697  
 Fax: (712) 722-6035  
 Phone: (712) 722-6011  
 E-mail: [hr@dordt.edu](mailto:hr@dordt.edu)

*Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.*

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: The Banner; 2. Publication No. 0041-300; 3. Filing Date: Oct. 1, 2012; 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly; 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$24.00; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001; 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001; 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001; Editor: Rev. Robert DeMoor, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001; Managing Editor: Judy Hardy, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001. 10. Owner: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, Kent, MI 49560-0001; 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None; 12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.

13. Publication Name: The Banner; 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2012.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run) .....	91,720	89,490
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 .....	60,096	59,599
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions .....	90	92
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution .....	28,070	27,956
(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS .....	31	53
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation .....	88,287	87,700
d. Free Distribution by Mail		
(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541 .....	35	35
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541 .....	0	0
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS .....	1	0
(4) Free Distribution Outside the Mail .....	5	5
e. Total Free Distribution .....	41	40
f. Total Distribution .....	88,327	87,740
g. Copies Not Distributed .....	3,393	1,750
h. Total .....	91,720	89,490
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation .....	99.95%	99.95%

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

Jane E. Hilbrand, Operations Manager

**NORTHERN PHOENIX CONDO RENTAL** 3BR, 2BA, Pools, weekly or monthly. email db.rentals@yahoo.com

**FOR RENT SCOTTSDALE, AZ** 2 BD, 2 BA, condo in Old Town District. Walk to shopping, dining. CRC/RCA churches. Awesome golf, hiking and biking, AND sun! gamallett@hughes.net 209-923-1451

**RANCHO MIRAGE, CA. CONDO** Rental (gated) Sunrise C. C. 2br/2ba, steps to pool and spa. Golf, tennis, and fitness and the best on site cafe and restaurant are available. Nov -April. Details: sroetman@dc.rr.com 760-534-0705

**MOUNTAIN HOME** for rent in Colorado 30 minutes south of Breckenridge, 45 minutes from Keystone or Copper. Four bedrooms, easily sleeps 8-10. Rent for 4-7 days. Borgerbill@gmail.com

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**KISSIMMEE HOME FOR RENT** Beautiful gated 6- bedroom, 4-bath vacation home 3 miles from Disney. Private pool plus clubhouse with rec. room, theater and pool with slide. floridavacahome.com 708-372-2855

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**FT MYERS, FL RENTAL** Two Bedroom 2 bath condo sleeps 6. Close to beaches & airport. Pool, cable TV & internet call 610-853-1151 or enhoman@gmail.com

**CONDO FOR RENT** Naples, FL, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and pool, avail. Jan, 2013. Email pinkhippo2@yahoo.com or call 708-836-1130.

**FALL IN FLORIDA** Fort Meyers pool home for rent. Great fall rates. Call - 905-332-6711

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**FLORIDA CONDO** Madiera Beach John Pass 3 bedroom. \$775 per week, Oct 2012-Jan 2013: 905-898-6738

**CONDO FOR SALE** 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Naples. Turn key- lanai overlooking lake. E-mail colonelcutie@aol. Com 708-284-7608 219-374-9321

**NETTLES ISLAND, FL FOR RENT** 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 800 sq foot modular home. Avail. Jan-March. Golf cart avail. for add'l charge. Call 616-291-0438

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Dordt College  
498 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697  
Fax: (712) 722-6035  
E-mail: provost@dordt.edu  
Web: [www.dordt.edu/prospective\\_employees/faculty/](http://www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/)

*Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.*

**FLORIDA CONDO FOR RENT**, Anna Marie Island, Runaway Bay. By the week or month. Call 616-532-0594

**PENTWATER COTTAGE** see us at pentwatertuckaway.com or email at info@pentwatertuckaway.com ask for Debbie 616-550-4900

**BIG STAR LAKE:** 2 bedroom/1 bath cottage for rent. Beautiful lake view, beach, open dock. Rate is \$850 per week June through Labor Day (plus \$100 refundable deposit). Rental contract from 3 p.m. Saturday through noon Saturday. Contact 616-772-6208 or email wgmichmer@hotmail.com for 2013 availability and further details. No smoking, No pets.

**WEEKLY RENTAL:** Douglas/Saugatuck, MI: Newly built Lake Michigan family guest house, 2br, loft w/ 2.5ba - sleeps 8-10. Lake Mi view & private beach. Call Ken @ 630-268-1531 or email Groenjk@aol.com for info.

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### Miscellaneous

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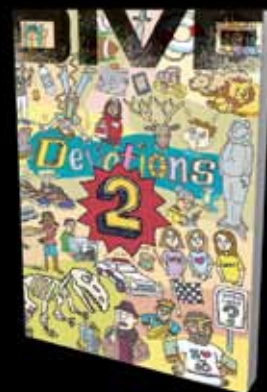
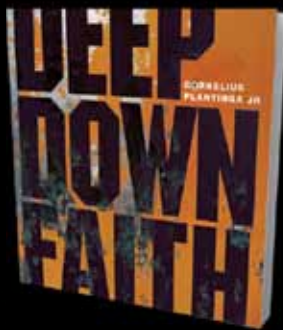


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## Punch Lines

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 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560; or email it to [editorial@thebanner.org](mailto:editorial@thebanner.org). Thanks!

**M**y son Joshua was not looking forward to the two shots he needed before entering middle school. The night before his appointment, Joshua asked that we pray for strength. At his check-up, everything was going well. The doctor told us that Joshua was a picture of health and then left the room. While we waited for the nurse to come in and give him the immunizations, the fire alarm began to sound. Sure enough, everyone had to exit the building. Doctors, nurses, and patients hurried down the stairs to wait outside. As we stood outside the building, Joshua declared, "This just shows the super power of prayer!"

—Douglas Roede

**T**his past summer I prefaced an Olympic sermon illustration by emphasizing how much I love watching the Olympics. Exaggerating slightly, I announced, "I'm afraid my paycheck over the next couple of weeks will be for simply watching the Olympics."

Two weeks later I headed for the bank to deposit my check. In front of the teller I opened the sealed envelope containing an official church check with all the

proper signatures. In place of the dollar amount was the word *zero*. A note with it said, "This is what you get for watching the Olympics."

—Darren Roorda

**O**ne day in a small town, a notoriously immoral man died. His equally immoral brother had to make the funeral arrangements. Contacting a local pastor, he said, "I'll give you a thousand bucks for conducting my brother's funeral if sometime during the sermon you say he was a saint." The minister thought for a few moments and then accepted the offer.

At the funeral, the minister spoke these words: "This man was very wicked, terribly immoral, and a good-for-nothing liar. But compared to his brother, he was a saint."

—George Vander Weit

**T**wo days after my mother's funeral, my 5-year-old grandson was sitting at the kitchen table, deep in thought. Then he looked up and said, "If Grandma is in heaven, who drove her there?"

—Randy Blauwkamp

**A** 3-year-old was telling his friend about a new baby cousin. "He has red hair! And it grows right out of his head—he doesn't even have to dye it!"

—Edith Vander Veen

**S**potted in our bulletin: Ministry of Music: "Behold the Lamb" (sung by the Praise Team as the Bread and Wind are being passed)

—Joan Kunz

**A** new pastor was visiting his parishioners. At one house there was no response, even though it seemed like someone was home. The pastor left the following note on the door: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. Revelation 3:20."

On Sunday, the pastor noticed a note on his office door. He burst out laughing as he read: "I heard your voice in the garden, but I was afraid, for I was naked. Genesis 3:10."

—Richard Van Huizen

**A**fter reading a Bible story to her children about one of the plagues sent upon Egypt, my daughter explained that the Lord had sent so many frogs that there were piles on them on the land.

She asked the children, "What was this called?" expecting them to say, "A miracle."

Immediately 4-year-old Chloe responded, "Littering."

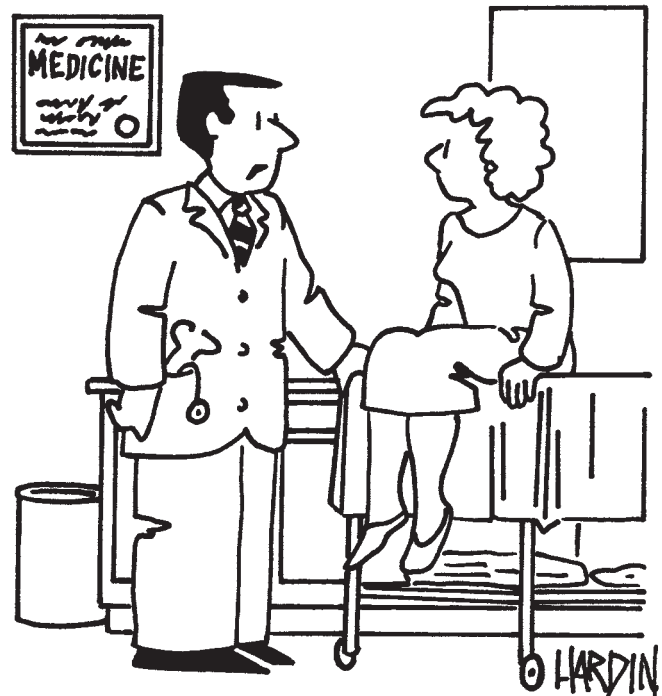
—Dave Hollander

**I** was visiting our kids the other night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"Get with it, Dad. This is the 21st century," they said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, borrow my iPad."

Let me tell you, that fly never knew what hit him.

—Dick Bylsma



"The good news is that it's not your fault."

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