

BANNER

October 2010 | www.thebanner.org

²⁰ **Telling Your Life Story**

³⁴ **Marilynne Robinson's
Reformed Writings**

³⁶ **The Not-so-Golden Years**

²² **Multiplying
Harvests
in Zambia**

³² **30 Ways
You Can Be
Hospitable to
People with
Disabilities**

Congregations and Social Change: Adaptation and Innovation among Religious Communities

Dr. Gerardo Marti

June 27–July 22, 2011

Reflective Pedagogy and Christian Practices

Dr. David Smith

June 20–July 1, 2011

From Worldview to Worship: The Liturgical Turn in Cultural Theory

Dr. James K.A. Smith

June 20–July 8, 2011

The Enlightenment and the Life of the Church: Worship in the Age of Reason

Dr. Bryan Spinks

July 11–29, 2011

Cognitive Science of Religion and Christianity

Dr. Justin Barrett

July 18–August 5, 2011

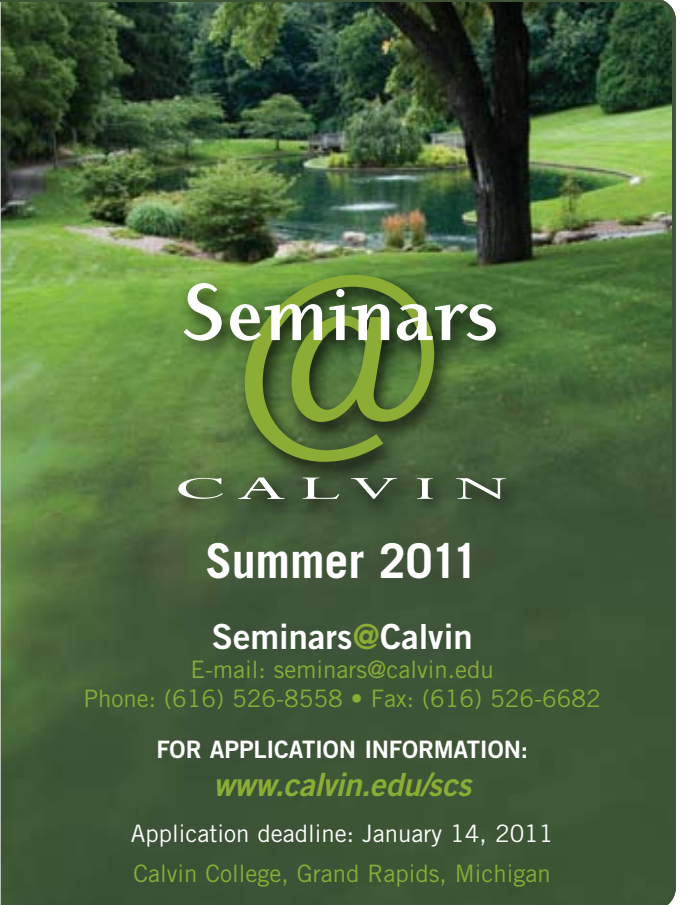
Engaging the Text, Preaching the Word

F. Dale Bruner and Scott Hoezee

July 18–July 22, 2011

Communitas Visiting Scholar Program

June 20–July 22, 2011



Seminars
CALVIN
Summer 2011

Seminars@Calvin
E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu
Phone: (616) 526-8558 • Fax: (616) 526-6682

FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION:
www.calvin.edu/scs

Application deadline: January 14, 2011
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan

DORDT COLLEGE

“If I went to a state college, I would leave as just an engineer. When I leave Dordt, not only will I leave as a better engineer, I will leave as a better person, prepared for a life of Christian service.”

Aaron Coon

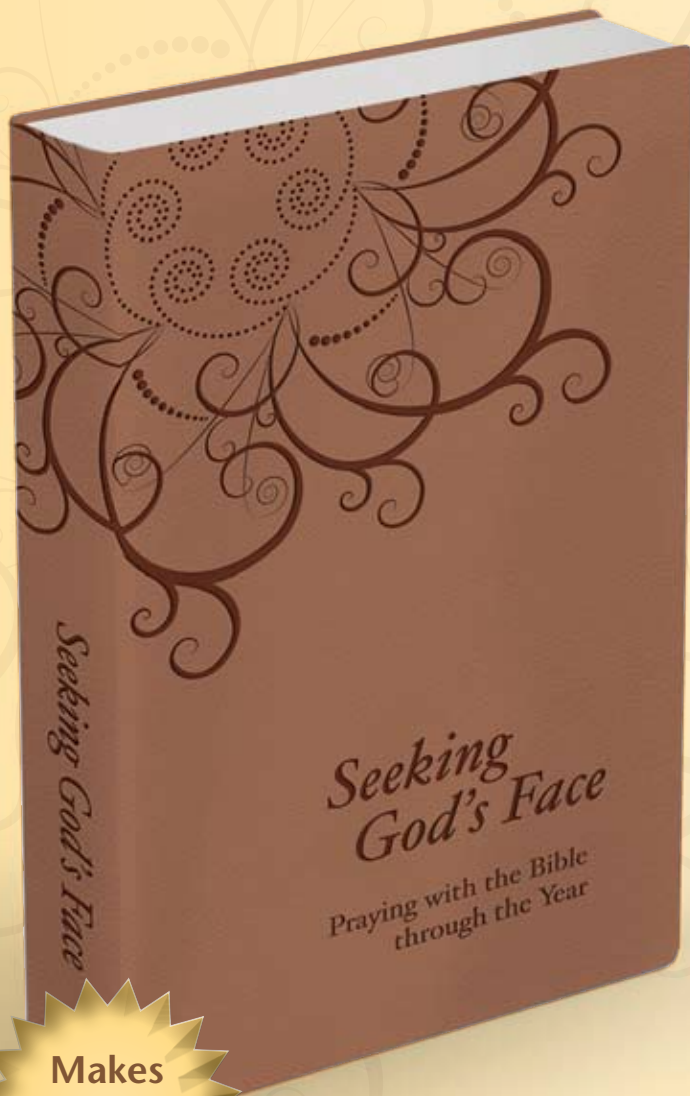
Major: Engineering | Hometown: Thornton, Colorado
Co-curricular: Soccer, service opportunities



Find your place in God's world

Sioux Center, Iowa
www.dordt.edu

*Enrich your prayer life
every day, all day*



Makes
a great
gift!

Available Soon!

“Seeking God’s Face melds prayer and Scripture into a companionable guide for becoming a participant—both listening and speaking—in the great salvation conversation that is the Christian gospel.”

—from the foreword by Eugene Peterson

For hundreds of years, Christians have observed the “daily office”—prayers offered to God at regular times of the day. This helpful practice, now experiencing a wide resurgence, can help your prayer life become a vital, lifelong conversation with God.

\$29.99^{US}/\$^{CDN}*

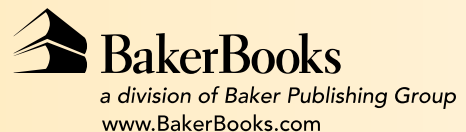
Order online at
www.FaithAliveResources.org
or call 1-800-333-8300

*CDN price set at current exchange rate

Seeking God’s Face is copublished by



CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
for the study and renewal of worship



Rehoboth, a Place for Us

An Album of Family Stories



In this book, twelve families—ten Native American, two Anglo—tell how they found a very special place at Rehoboth Christian School. Rehoboth's roots run deep in the Native community, but those roots also draw from the people of the Christian Reformed Church. These stories, as told to writer James C. Schaap, show how the lives of very different people intertwined in the red soil and sheep-grazed hills of New Mexico.

**Available mid-November:
a perfect purchase for home or library, or to give as a gift!**

To order contact:

Faith Alive Christian Resources
at 1-800-333-8300
or sales@faithaliveresources.org
or visit www.faithaliveresources.org



www.rcsnm.org

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP *for the study and renewal of worship*

grants

Worship...

Sheer wonder at the beauty of God,
gratitude for the gospel of Christ,
and eagerness to deepen self-giving service in God's world.

Are you eager to deepen worship in your community? This ecumenical grants program, now in its 11th year, has supported worship renewal in more than 500 worshipping communities across North America, including over 100 CRC congregations or CRC-related schools.

Worship Renewal Grants Program funding from Lilly Endowment Inc.

To explore how a grant could support worship renewal in your congregation, visit
www.calvin.edu/worship/grants



FEATURES

- 20** **Telling Your Life Story** *Nearly every life has a history worth telling. That is especially true of Christians.* **WEB Q'S**
by Mike Vanden Bosch
- 32** **30 Things You Can Do to Be Hospitable to People with Disabilities**
Posting this list in your church is a good start.
by Lindsay Wieland Capel
- 36** **The Not-so-Golden Years**
A pastor takes an honest look at growing old.
by Andrew Kuyvenhoven

DEPARTMENTS

- Editorial: So What's Your Story?** by Bob De Moor **6**
Don't neglect your heirs' greatest gift.
- Catch Your Breath: Surrender** by Evelyn Vander Veen **7**
"Growing old is a gradual surrender."
- IMHO: Most Separation IS Sin** by Esteban Lugo **8**
The church must reflect diversity in order to be true to God's mission.
- Letters to the Editor** **8**
- News: Ontario church targeted with racist graffiti** **10**
- Frequently Asked Questions** **19**
When outreach efforts fall flat
- Just for Kids: Sweeter Than Sugar** by Christin Baker **30** ►
Where does sugar come from, and what could possibly be sweeter?
- Tuned In: The Best of Both Worlds** by Philip Christman, Jr. **34**
Marilynne Robinson's Reformed writings
- True Confessions: Our Contemporary Testimony** by Morris Greidanus **38** **WEB Q'S**
The history behind "Our World Belongs to God"
- Next: Identity Quest** by Stephanie Brooks **39**
Unemployed and seeking identity
- Punch Lines** **47**

CHURCH @ WORK

- Multiplying Harvests in Zambia** by Kristen deRoo VanderBerg **22**
Why rotting garbage in a farmer's field pleases Justin Kadyeni.
- Dear Reader: Caring for Creation** by Jerry Dykstra **26**



So What's Your Story?

THE MORE MEDIA WE HAVE TO RECORD OUR STORIES, THE LESS WE MAKE THE EFFORT.

What a shame! When we don't tell our stories, then all we bequeath to our heirs is some stuff, a few words on a tombstone, and a DVD full of pictures that soon lose any connection to their world.

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but a good story is worth a thousand pictures (see "Telling Your Life Story," p. 20).

For example, it's fun to see what grandpa looked like as a kid. But it's much more telling of the man when you hear what he did or said when he dropped the communion tray, when they fished him half-naked out of the canal, or when the bomb took out the two-holer behind his house.

Several weeks ago the De Moors converged on Bragg Creek, Alberta, for a family reunion. We hiked, toured the Calgary Zoo, and ate a lot. Notable was the rapt attention paid by the youngsters to the stories we "oldies" told around the campfire—stories about their grandparents and great-aunts, folks who have long since passed on and are, for them, just a fading memory. But they delighted in the stories: all meaningful whether poignant, dramatic, or just plain funny. Stories brought their ancestors near. That mattered.

As an editor for Faith Alive I received many written submissions from folks who wanted us to publish their memoirs. Unfortunately, the very things that made their stories meaningful to family and friends made them less engaging to a wider audience. We didn't accept any, although many were well-written. The problem was the unhappy compromise of addressing two competing audiences: relatives and the general public. The more the stories engaged the one group, the more they distanced the other.

I learned from that. God willing, I want to do what my father-in-law did. He wrote down the stories he remembered—his own, his late wife's, and the relatives who came before. He unabashedly targeted our family in the telling. He was not interested in stringing the stories together into grand themes or a historical narrative so he could make the bestseller list. He just told the stories. Then he printed them up and gave a copy to every child and grandchild. The youngsters tore into those like a lion into lunch. I couldn't put them down either—and I'm just a "married-on."

Some well-written works "go wide," reaching millions of people. But more significant, in most cases, are those that go deep, reaching a select few and profoundly impacting their lives by building up their identity and coloring in the prologue to their own stories.

When I'm gone I don't care to be remembered for *Banner* editorials, for what's chiseled on a tombstone, or for the bucks left behind. I want my grandkids to remember what I did to save my brother's skin when his discarded cigarette butt burned a hole in the front seat of Dad's new car.

Don't neglect telling your stories. "Tell of them to the next generation" so that they will know "this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end" (Ps. 48:13-14)—our guide even when we snuck out of school with those matches and . . . ■



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

A picture may
be worth
a thousand words,
but a good story
is worth
a thousand pictures.

Bob De Moor *Editor*

Henry Hess *Editor, Church@Work*

Dean R. Heetderks *Art Director*

Joyce Kane *Managing Editor*

Jena Vander Ploeg *Features Editor*

Gayla R. Postma *News Editor*

Kristy Quist *Tuned In Editor*

Sandy Swartzentruber *Copy Editor*

Pete Euwema *Graphic Design*

Frank Gutbrod *Graphic Design*

Shelli Lokers-Calanchi *Marketing
Manager*

Contact Us

2850 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49560

Address Changes and Subscriptions

800-777-7270 or visit our website at
www.thebanner.org

Classified Advertising

616-224-0725 classifieds@thebanner.org

Display Advertising

616-224-0729 ads@thebanner.org

Editorial

616-224-0785 editorial@thebanner.org

News

613-543-3603 news@thebanner.org

Published monthly (12 issues per year). Periodicals postage paid at Grand Rapids, Mich. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Banner, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560. Canadian publications mail agreement #40063614. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: The Banner, 3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8.

Copyright 2010, Faith Alive Christian Resources, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church. Printed in U.S.A. The Banner (ISSN0005-5557). Vol. 145, No. 9, 2010.

Member of Associated Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.

Surrender

THIS MORNING I'm reminded of a quote from the movie *Ladies in Lavender*: "Growing old is a gradual surrender."

As I write, my husband, Stan, and I are spending time on the Oregon coast. Today we walked out to the north side of the cape at Kiwanda. It's been many years since we've been here. This section of the cape is shrinking, growing smaller with each storm. The winds, the rain, and the surf smash against it, breaking it down, taking away the topsoil along with trees and underbrush. Sandstone breaks off in chunks—sometimes huge chunks—as the cape gradually gives way, surrendering to the forces of nature.

Growing old is a gradual surrender. Each storm in my life has broken away a part of me. I struggle for control, but it's being chipped away bit by bit. Though I resist and try to hold on, I'm gradually forced to let go. I feel the hurt and rawness that the breaking process produces. I cry out to God. I complain. I beg for it to go away and leave me alone. I fear for the future. What's next? Can I bear more?

"Yes," God's Word gently reminds me. "Yes, with me you can bear more. I won't let you be tested beyond what you can bear. Remember? I said I would make a way of escape for you. Believe me, I have."

Jesus says, "Come to me, cast your burden on me. I will give you a peaceful, restful place at my side. I will pull the weight of your load with you" (1 Cor. 10:13, Matt. 11:28). "Surrender. Surrender to me. It's easier than fighting. It's easier than trying to hold it all together."

At other times I've heard God saying, "Surrender the memories of the past that haunt you" (Jer. 31:33). "Make friends with them. I'm already using them for good in your life and in the lives of others.

"Surrender your time. Don't pack so much into the hours, days, and weeks that you don't give yourself permission to relax and enjoy the moment. Rest. Spend time with me" (Mark 6:31).

"Surrender your worthless treasures. Don't cry when they break, become lost, or just don't fit anymore. I have other treasures much more precious waiting for you" (Matt. 6:19-21).

Yes, *growing old is a gradual surrender.* Have you ever looked at your naked self in a three-way mirror? One day I did. I was horrified by the effects of time and gravity—the lines, the creases, the drooping skin, the age spots.

To me it looked grotesque, yet alone in that dressing room I found myself laughing. Cellulite, veins, folds—there they were, the surrender of my body to the aging process. I could exercise, I could diet, I could use creams and rejuvenating products, but to no avail. The involuntary surrender will, and must, continue.

Does surrender ever come easily? No, not for me. But I know that in all areas of my life I must surrender to God's timetable and in those moments of surrender find his peace, joy, humility, and contentment. God says, "I am with you. I love you. You are my joy, my delight. You are beautiful. Don't resist. Walk with me. Surrender." ■



Evelyn Vander Veen is a retired preschool teacher and a member of Oak Hills CRC in Beaverton, Ore.



PHOTO BY KYLE KRUCHOK

The *promise* of the kingdom is *not* that we shall escape the *hard things* but that we shall be given *grace* to face them, to *enter* into them, and to *come through* them. The *promise* is not that we shall *not* be afraid. It *is* that we need *not fear* fear.

—ESTHER DE WAAL

Most Separation IS Sin

IMHO The biblical value of diversity needs to be proclaimed more than ever today.



MY INITIAL REACTION to the opinion piece in the September issue of *The Banner* (“Is Separation Always a Sin?”) was that it was a typical white person’s view of ethnic separation.

However, as I began to analyze what this brother was saying, it became clear to me that the message of the biblical value of kingdom diversity needs to be proclaimed more than ever today. We live in a country of all nations, and we live and worship in communities that are increasingly becoming all nations.

Thus, while separation may not always be sin, there has to be awareness and sensitivity to the community where God has called a church to be salt and light. If that community’s makeup is mono-ethnic, then the makeup of that church will reflect that. But if the community is multiethnic/multicultural, the church must reflect that diversity in its makeup in order to be true to God’s mission in that community.

My point is that when a church has ethnic diversity in its makeup, the church will reflect its embrace of God’s value for diversity in his kingdom. As a denomination, we should be careful not to plant churches based on ethnicity because

doing so can be dangerous as it can potentially perpetuate ethnocentrism.

I received an email from a pastor who also reacted to the opinion piece, and with his permission, I’d like to share it:

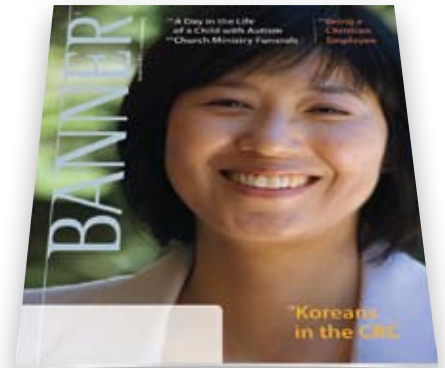
“I think that *The Banner* erred in publishing this article on the following grounds:

1. Any article that directly or indirectly affirms division in the church is working in opposition to the Lord’s Prayer in John 17 and violates the spirit of the kingdom of God as demonstrated in Acts 2 and expressed in Galatians 3:28. This article affirms division in the church.
2. The article is capable of presenting the denomination as a racist organization, since even in the eyes of many non-Christians separation is synonymous with racism or tribalism—which all Christians (and even many non-Christians) agree is sinful.
3. With the message of hate and racial bigotry that is being carried [out] in political circles, a church publication needs to exercise caution in publishing materials that will align it to an ungodly disposition.”

I would encourage the author of “Is Separation Always a Sin?” to reconsider his view after he takes it through the grid of God’s Word and God’s value for diversity. ■



Rev. Esteban Lugo is director of the Office of Race Relations for the Christian Reformed Church in North America.



Separation a Sin?

Rev. Timothy Palmer’s misleading question “Is Separation Always a Sin?” (IMHO, September 2010) is derived from a longer statement in the Belhar Confession that unity in Christ “must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin.” Of course, congregations are free to form and function as distinctive language groups. However, as the Belhar states so aptly, even our “various languages and cultures are, by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one people of God.” Further, Palmer’s concluding observation that “it is risky to import a confession from a different political and cultural context” is equally misleading. The last I heard, the Belgic, Canons of Dort, and Heidelberg Catechism all originated in Europe.

—Alfred E. Mulder
Grand Rapids, Mich.

I have to strongly disagree with this article. Cornelius Plantinga Jr., in his award-winning book *Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*, defines sin as “culpable disturbance of shalom.” Ethnic separation, even willing, unforced separation, is a disturbance of God’s

LETTERS

shalom—of God’s designed flourishing of human life. If the visions of Revelation 7:9 and 21:24 are signs of God’s shalom for human cultural diversity, then to intentionally go against that, whether willingly or forcefully, is still sin.

Both dominant and marginal ethnic groups must consider our intention: is it to strive after and reflect God’s shalom of integrating cultural diversity under the lordship of Christ by whatever means possible and reasonable (though perhaps inconvenient), or is it to appease our cultural comfort zones or our own ethnic preferences by the easiest sociological justifications?

—Shiao Chong and Martha Schreiber
Toronto

Editor’s note: A longer version of this letter, with a helpful example, is available online.

Christian Education

We were disappointed by the tone of the recent FAQ question about homeschooling (September 2010). The writers should not *pretend* to be OK with their grandchildren’s homeschooling; they should actively support it. As Christian educators themselves, they should appreciate that their son and his wife are committing so much of themselves to their children’s education.

We support the CRC’s long tradition of establishing Christian schools as an extension of congregations’ baptismal vow to instruct children in the faith, but we are troubled by the writers’ assumption that Christian day school institutions are the only way to fulfill that commitment. Homeschooling can fully provide both a Christian worldview and rigorous academics, and in many cases, homeschooling better meets the needs of a particular family or child.

—Karen and Alan DeVries
Grand Rapids, Mich.

I appreciated James K.A. Smith’s analysis of the tradition, vision, and changing landscape of Christian education in North America (“The Case for Christian Education,” August 2010). His article was thought provoking for those of us on the fence.

While embracing the meaningful reasons for Christian education, I would ask our churches and denomination to validate those families who make the tough choice *not* to send their kids to Christian schools. It seems obvious to me that some of us are called to send our children to Christian schools. But others of us are called to engage our world differently. As agents of renewal, many of us desire to train our children in the ways of Kingdom building and missional living, specifically through engagement in the public school system. Neither choice is right or wrong.

—Matt Watrous
Seattle, Wash.

A resounding thank you for “The Case for Christian Education.” Smith’s assertion that “each generation needs to re-own the rationale for Christian education, to ask ourselves Why did we do this? and Should we keep doing this?” is true; and it is my experience in Ontario, Canada, that we have a vibrant group of Christian school supporters who are seeking to do just that. His clarification of the history and purpose of Christian schooling is a great reminder of why we invest so heavily as Reformed Christians in this cause.

—Ray Hendriks
Director of Advancement
Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools

Hearing God in Unlikely Places

I was thrilled to read “Hearing God in Unlikely Places” about John Van Sloten’s message in *The Day Metallica Came to Church* (August 2010). It was one of the best *Banner* articles I’ve ever read. I’m a writer and try to carry out the vision com-

municated in that article. I’ve also been inspired by William Zinsser’s chapter “Writing as a Ministry” in his book *Writing About Your Life*. Truly, I believe in the Reformed worldview of trying to help God redeem every square inch of the world.

Thanks for helping me keep on my path.

—Jonathan De Young
Associate Professor of Creative Writing
Harrisburg Area Community College
New Cumberland, Pa.

We may want Metallica (or some other rock band, movie star, politician, or whoever) to show up in church, but what we need and truly long for is God himself—his gospel, his promises and his Word—to show up! I can’t figure out why the kind of preaching Van Sloten advocates is being promoted in our denomination. (And if we are going to use John Calvin to justify this kind of preaching, we should also follow his method: expository—book by book, verse by verse.) Is this the direction of preaching in the CRC? If so, we should fear our future. Is this one of the reasons the CRC currently feels so flaccid?

—Rev. Jo Schouten
Burnaby, British Columbia

Correction

In the July 2010 *Banner*, the list of candidates for ministry in the CRC included Rev. Joshua Amaezchi and stated that he was not yet eligible for call. In fact, Rev. Amaezchi is eligible for call, as he was ordained in 2005 under Church Order Article 7.

The Banner apologizes for the error.

More Online!

The Banner has received a slew of letters recently—on topics ranging from Synod 2010 to illegal immigration to the mountain lion photo in August. To read more of these, click on “Letters 2” in the October online issue.

NEWS

NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

For correspondents e-mail address, visit www.thebanner.org

Gayla R. Postma News Editor
E-mail: gpostma@crna.org

Sarah Boonstra
Classes Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone
303-247-0697

Anita Brinkman
Classes Huron, Chatham
519-354-9126

Jenny deGroot
Classes BC North-West, BC South-East
604-888-5505

Paul Delger
Classes Central Plains,
Northcentral Iowa, Lake Superior
641-762-3684

Ruth Moblard DeYoung
Classes Chicago South, Illiana
708-687-2354

Larry Edsall
Classes Arizona, Red Mesa
602-300-4518

Doug Evenhouse
Classes Northern Illinois, Wisconsin
630-241-0735

Karen Gorter
Classes Holland, Zeeland,
Northern Michigan, Muskegon
616-399-6123

Henry Huisjen
Classes Kalamazoo, Lake Erie
517-694-0273

Calvin Hulstein
Classes Atlantic NE, Hackensack, Hudson
860-644-8512

Jonathan J. Kim
Classis Pacific Hanmi
626-616-0411

Sherry Kooiker
Classes Heartland, Lakota, Minnesota
712-725-2033

Rachel deKoning Kraay
Classes Alberta North,
Alberta South & Saskatchewan
403-782-9917

Noah Kruis
Classes Grand Rapids East,
Grand Rapids North
616-558-8166

Ryan Struyk
Classis Thornapple Valley
616-550-6723

Amy Toornstra
Classes Columbia, Pacific Northwest
503-399-9165

Roxanne Van Farowe
Classis Southeast U.S.
919-477-2084

Sophie Vandenberg
Classes Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto
905-796-3063

Brenda Visser
Classes Eastern Canada, Quinte
613-924-1792

Heidi Wicker
Classes California South,
Central California, Greater L.A.,
209-599-3799

Carolyn Koster Yost
Classes Georgetown, Grandville,
Grand Rapids South
616-662-4191

Louis Tamminga
In Memoriam articles
616-949-4539

CRWRC Provides Flood Relief at Home and Abroad

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) recently responded to flooding both nearby and far away, providing aid for relief in both central Iowa and Pakistan.

In Pakistan, CRWRC partnered with Interfaith League Against Poverty to build tent villages for 500 families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. CRWRC is also providing food, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, and stoves at a cost of \$2.7 million.

"This is an opportunity to show God's love to people who are in extreme need," said Wayne de Jong, director of international disaster response. "It's an oppor-



CRWRC volunteer Harry Faber (green shirt) works alongside a local volunteer to gut a flood-damaged home in Colfax, Iowa.



CRWRC partnered with Interfaith League Against Poverty to distribute aid in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Ontario Church Targeted With Racist Graffiti

Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton, Ontario, known locally as a place where many ethnic communities gather, was targeted three times this past July with racist graffiti.

The police took photos and are taking the matter very seriously, stepping up patrols in the neighborhood.

B'nai Brith, an organization that is an outspoken advocate of human rights, strongly condemned the desecration of the church. "To target a church that brings together so many different ethnic groups is an affront to every Canadian of good faith," a letter by B'nai Brith stated.

"[The graffiti] was done in black paint on the back wall, side wall, and sidewalk," said Rev. Henry Kranenburg. The church cleaned the graffiti up promptly after each occurrence, and there have been no further incidents.

Kranenburg, who stated that Immanuel CRC has tried to make itself available to different community and ethnic groups who use the church's facilities, found the concern that was expressed through the police and B'nai Brith striking. "They have been concerned together with and for us," he said.

It's not clear what the motivation was, and no suspect has been arrested as yet.

—Sophie Vandenberg

tunity to help thousands of families just like ours who now lack the basic necessities of life."

Closer to home, CRWRC sent a disaster-response team to Colfax, Iowa, at the end of August, where an estimated 40 homes were under up to 4 feet (1.2 m) of water after heavy rains caused flooding. Corn and bean crops were also lost in a large area.

Art Opperwall, Disaster Response Services program manager, said that small places like Colfax (about 2,000 residents) are aid targets. "It's often little communities like this because they have little resources...or attention by the media," he said. 🇺🇸 —Paul Delger

Customers line up for coffee at the newly restored Green Bean Coffee House.

Check thebanner.org for the expanded story.

The Green Bean Sprouts Again

Ten months after burning to the ground as a result of arson, the Green Bean Coffee House in Seattle, Wash., reopened in an abandoned McDonald's restaurant (see *Banner*, December 2009). The Green Bean is a ministry of Sanctuary Christian Reformed Church in Seattle's culturally diverse Greenwood neighborhood.



TORREY EDWARDS

Summer Mohrlang, pastor of outreach at Sanctuary and manager of the Green Bean, had her sights set on this building. "It had been sitting vacant for two or three years, an eyesore in the

neighborhood," she said. "We felt strongly it was the Lord who was putting it in front of us."

John Eidson, a contractor and church member, donated his time and coordinated volunteers from

the church, the neighborhood, and church groups from as far away as Texas to remodel the building.

Since reopening, business at the Green Bean has almost tripled. New people and fellowship groups continue to find community there daily. Rev. Randy Rowland, pastor of Sanctuary CRC, said, "It is risky and hard work engaging community, but it is worth it." 🇺🇸

—Amy Toornstra

CRC Members Shine at Special Olympics

For two Christian Reformed athletes, the 2010 National Special Olympics in Lincoln, Neb., were a dream come true.

Maika Boswell, 18, a member of Hope Christian Reformed Church in Oak Forest, Ill., was chosen to play on the Illinois women's basketball team. Boswell, who plays point guard, said, "It's not about winning but having fun. We all played together and scored," she said.

Larry John "L.J." Wierema, a member and usher at Western Springs (Ill.) CRC, proudly brought home four silver and gold medals for weightlifting events. He wore them when he returned to his ushering duties at church.

At 5'4" and 144 lbs. (162 cm, 65 kg), L.J. earned medals in several powerlifting events, including a gold medal in bench press with a lift of 170.9 lbs. (77.5 kg). He also took home silver medals in the dead lift event and for his combined lifts.

When asked how it felt to be so warmly received in his church, L.J. said, "Happy."

Special Olympics offers more than 30 Olympic individual and team events for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The motto of Special Olympics is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." 🇺🇸
—Ruth Moblard DeYoung and Doug Evenhouse

Maika Boswell, center, poses with two other members of the Illinois women's basketball team, along with two coaches.



L. J. Wierema

JOSIE BOSWELL



Ontario Woman Turns Local Contest Win into Hit Single

Dana Marie Hoekstra of Community Christian Reformed Church in Kitchener, Ontario, is taking some big steps in her singing career this year, with a single on iTunes, a schedule full of events and concerts, and the imminent release of her first album.

Hoekstra, 20, won a singing competition called Shining Star 2010, hosted by a local Christian radio station. The prize included free studio recording time.

The final round, with only nine competitors left, included a performance by singer Jaci Velasquez, who also acted as a judge for the evening.

When Velasquez announced Hoekstra as the winner, Hoekstra said she was shocked. "I had listened to and enjoyed all of the competitors. I knew how much talent had crossed the stage," she said.

Hoekstra has since recorded "You're Mine," a song she wrote for a friend who was going through a hard time. The song, available on iTunes, has become quite popular on her local Christian radio station.

Hoekstra also serves her church as a worship coordinator/worship leader and youth leader. 🇺🇸
—Anita Brinkman



CHARLIE MCEVOY

Dana Marie Hoekstra records her hit single "You're Mine" in a studio. Part of the proceeds from the single will be donated to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

NEWS

CALLS ACCEPTED

From First Christian Reformed Church, Barrie, Ontario, to [Rev. Michael Borgert](#), to be pastor of preaching and administration.

From Maranatha CRC, Woodbridge, Ontario, to candidate [Nathaniel Van Denend](#).

Fight for Washington Church Headed to Supreme Court

After five years and more than \$136,000 in legal fees, the fight for the building of New Hope Christian Reformed Church in Tacoma, Wash., is headed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The problems started with a dispute between former pastor Samuel Sung and the church council after he announced his retirement several years ago. Sung changed the locks on the building and the congregation has been locked out ever since.

Since then, Sung was deposed by Classis Pacific Northwest, the Pierce County Court ruled that the congregation owns the building, the state Court of Appeal turned down Sung's subsequent appeal, and the state Supreme Court refused to hear his case. (See *Banner*, November 2007 and March 2008.)

In August, Sung filed a petition to have the case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the congregation has dwindled from 80 members to 10, and the members are hoping that their patience will pay off.

"The church is now growing [expectant] to the reclaiming of the church building as this matter gets near to the end," said Rev. Gilbert Kim, interim pastor of New Hope.

Some have questioned whether the case is worth all of the time, money, and turmoil. Rev. Tim Toeset, clerk of the classis, believes it is. "We have made a commitment to this congregation. It is a matter of justice, not a matter of finances," he said. [+](#)

—Amy Toornstra

Grand Rapids Churches Clean Up Local Creek

A neglected, polluted creek in Grand Rapids, Mich., is getting help from several nearby Christian Reformed churches, including Alger Park, Madison Square, Roosevelt Park, and Woodlawn, along with the CRC's Office of Social Justice.

All the churches, as well as Calvin College and the CRC's U.S. offices, are located in the creek's watershed.

"So far the churches involved have found a lot of eager people in their congregations," said Dave Warners, a biology professor at Calvin College. "We're hoping this spreads."

At a recent workshop, participants heard that Roosevelt Park, Alger Park, and Woodlawn each held one or more creek clean-ups, sometimes including the community and local schools. They also heard about the state of the creek: polluted with fertilizer, invasive species, and trash.

"From the Reformed perspective, Christianity is about the redeeming of humanity but also the redeeming of all creation," said Rev. Michael Abma of Woodlawn CRC. [+](#)

—Roxanne Van Farowe



"Good thing I have gloves on!" Rev. Mike Abma displays some trash that he found during a visit to Plaster Creek.

Michigan Church Camp Integrates Faith and Art

There's no need for Caledonia (Mich.) Christian Reformed Church to go back to the drawing board after the success of its first arts camp. The weeklong event attracted 131 kids from the church and the community.

"The camp affirms kids in that God has made them a masterpiece, but it also allows kids to showcase their talents in a way that they might not [usually] be able to," said Rev. Scott Greenway, Caledonia's pastor.

Popular choices among the 26 classes offered included cake decorating, woodworking, pottery, and martial arts.

Scholarships were available for children who couldn't pay the fee



Steve Sikma helps Rachel Guikema in a guitar class.

the church charged to cover the costs of materials and food.

Kylie Groot, 14, from Dutton, enjoyed meeting new kids. "It was lots of fun to get to know [other kids] because you have to work with them," she said.

Plans for next year's arts camp are already in the works. [+](#)

—Ryan Struyk



(l-r) Sharon Alles, Geoff Brouwer, Justine Vandergrift, and Dean of Arts Arlette Zinck have worked to get Omar Khadr returned to Canada.

King's Linked to Guantanamo Trial

The King's University College, a school supported by members of the Christian Reformed Church, has become involved in the case of Canadian Omar Khadr, a 22-year-old prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on trial for allegedly throwing a grenade that killed an American soldier in Afghanistan in 2002.

Khadr was born in Canada, eventually moving with his family to Afghanistan. He was 15 at the time of the incident for which he is charged and was also seriously wounded in the fight.

He has been held at Guantanamo for seven years, the youngest prisoner and the only citizen of a Western nation that has not been returned to his country of origin.

The fact that Khadr remains in Cuba has been controversial in Canada, with news media editorials across the country calling on the Canadian government to repatriate him, largely on the grounds that he was 15 and should be considered a child soldier under international law.

The Canadian government has refused repatriation on the grounds that Khadr is facing a judicial process in the U.S.

According to Ken Schwanke, director of marketing and media relations at King's, the Edmonton, Alberta, college's involvement in the case started in 2008, when Khadr's lawyer spoke on the campus at an interdisciplinary-studies conference.

After more research, a group of students expressed concern for Khadr, especially because of his age. Schwanke said the students organized an off-campus rally that drew more than 700 people. And they wrote letters to Canada's prime minister, urging him to repatriate Khadr, as well as letters of encouragement to Khadr himself.

Rev. Roy Berkenbosch, director of the college's Micah Center, said that a group of students and faculty have gathered weekly to pray for Khadr and his lawyer for the past two years, as well as for others who suffer injustice.

The college's tie became more public when Dean of Arts Arlette Zinck, who had been working with the students, was named as a possible witness for the defense in the mitigation phase of the trial.

College president Harry Fernhout said that Zinck's possible testimony would be based on her expertise in assessing Khadr's

readiness for post-secondary studies, not as an official spokesperson for the school.

Several news reports stated that the college had committed to enrolling and supporting Khadr, but Fernhout said that was not true.

"The college has a policy for mature student applications," he said. Khadr would need to meet those criteria to be admitted.

But that possibility is down the road, according to Fernhout. "There is a trial underway that will determine his innocence or guilt and sentence. Once that is completed, he will have to make choices about his future."

"Omar Khadr's story surely cries out for healing and reconciliation," the president said. "Some of our students and faculty have taken up this challenge in relation to a prisoner who remains a fellow human being and a fellow Canadian.

"If he comes to western Canada, choosing to leave behind his family and radical elements of Islam, if he is looking for a second chance at life, we are an institution that follows a gospel that is all about second chances."

—Gayla R. Postma

Check thebanner.org for the expanded story.

IN MEMORIAM



Rev. Marvin P. Hoogland

1935-2010

Rev. Marvin Hoogland, a thoughtful theologian, able counselor, and loving family man, died June 15.

Hoogland graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary, completed his Th.D. at the Free University of Amsterdam, and entered the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in 1966.

He served congregations in Iowa and Illinois before leaving parish ministry to start a counseling ministry at the Chicago Christian Counseling Center. He served there for the rest of his career, including 10 years as director. He retired in 2000.

Hoogland's life and ministry were marked by a high degree of intellectual honesty. Already as a seminarian he asked unsettling questions with reference to the Christian Reformed Church's understanding of infallibility as applied to Scripture.

He championed the causes of justice and mercy. He will readily be remembered for his sense of humor, his sincere godliness, and his thoughtful interest in people's well-being.

Hoogland is survived by his wife, Thelma, four children and their spouses, and four grandchildren. 📞

—Louis M. Tamminga



The Western Michigan Christian High championship team

Michigan School Wins Third State Championship

It was a three-peat for the men's basketball team at Western Michigan Christian High School in Muskegon, Mich.

After winning the state title in both 2009 and 2008, the school's athletic director, Fred VandenBrand, said the team obviously felt the pressure and challenge of winning another championship.

"We had a target on our back," said VandenBrand.

VandenBrand said that besides being grateful for the team and its talent, they were thankful "for all the safety through the traveling that takes place."

The team was coached by Jim Goorman, who has coached the varsity team at the school for 31 years.

—Karen Gorter

Massachusetts Church Works the Walk

Members of The River Christian Reformed Church in Sutton, Mass., are raking and digging to change how people in their town view the church.

Last fall they brought their shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows to a hiking trail that runs for a mile around the Sutton Public School. After a day of labor, they had cleared the trail and spread a new layer of mulch.

This past summer, the church members took out their tools once again. They improved the trail by clearing a path and spreading mulch to blaze a new entrance.

Mike Hendrikse, who organized the project, was excited by the

From left, Jon Goozey, Eric Wierenga, and Mike Hendrikse work on a public hiking trail in Sutton, Mass.



BRUCE DYKSTRA

camaraderie in their faith community and the "opportunity to give to the greater Sutton community."

Ministry associate Bruce Dykstra, pastor of the church, believes that this type of project is changing the way "church" is seen by people in their town.

Making New Friends with Old Tractors

Nearly 600 people from West Michigan flocked to Zutphen Christian Reformed Church's free second annual classic tractor and car show and pig roast at the end of August.

The restored farm tractors drew Jay Wyllys and his son Domenic, 7, to the rural Hudsonville church. "I made it a point to take the day off to spend time with my son," Wyllys said, while the two admired a 1948 Farmall Cub.

Five tractors belonged to church members, and a dozen to community folks. A 1929 Hart Parr attracted Jason Cassini from Battle Creek, while Ron Beery from Hudsonville liked a 1957 Farmall

350. "I inherited my love of farming from my parents and grand-

Left to right, Aaryn Peterson, 16, Theo Lewis, 12, Jessica Peterson, 5, and George Peterson, 8, from Hopkins, with a 1929 Hart Parr.



CAROLYN KOSTER YOST

Jay Wyllys and son Domenic, 7, parents, who made a living at it," Beery said.

Nelson Capestany from Caledonia commented, "We have so many family farms disappearing, I think it's good that people preserve these things."

Zutphen member Maribeth Elgersma said the event raised awareness of the church. "A lot of community people asked questions. We have names to follow up."

—Carolyn Koster Yost



Rev. Peter Slofstra, ready to dine with the queen.

Ontario Pastor Dines with the Queen

Rev. Peter Slofstra, pastor of Hope Fellowship CRC in Courtice, Ontario, found himself recently dining with Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and Stephen Harper, the prime minister of Canada.

Slofstra was one of 300 guests at a state dinner held in Toronto. Surprised by the invitation, Slofstra discovered that others at his table—all clergy—also didn't know why they had been invited, though it became clear that they represented their denominations.

Slofstra said, "I don't know why I was invited. But I feel humbled and honored and undeserving, much the same way all of us will feel when we meet the King of Kings and say, 'Why me, Lord?'"

—Brenda Visser



The 10th-grade catechism class of Cascade Fellowship CRC rewrote the Apostles' Creed in their own words.

Michigan Teens Rewrite Apostles' Creed

The 10th-grade catechism class of Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., wrote their own version of the Apostles' Creed.

Their teacher, Mark Hoogsteen, said the teens "worked, struggled, and prayed" to rewrite the creed in language accessible to today's world.

"We had a lot of hard-fought bickering about how it should be worded and this and that," said 16-year-old Isaiah Mast. "I learned a lot."

The teens presented the completed creed to their congregation as a surprise—not even their parents had known what they were doing. Hoogsteen said the church responded enthusiastically. "Visiting people wanted copies of it," he said. "It had that kind of effect."

Visit www.thebanner.org to read the students' version of the creed.

—Roxanne Van Farowe

California Church Hosts International Sculpture

An internationally known sculpture called the Decalogue spent July and August in Bellflower, Calif., thanks in part to the efforts of Bethany Christian Reformed Church and Bellflower House CRC, a church plant of New City CRC in Long Beach, Calif.

"I feel like this is a great example of the church being the church in community in a very unique way, taking the message outside of the walls of the church in a creative way to the public arena," said Ryan VerWys, ministry associate at Bellflower House.



Rachel VerWys (right) with Liviu Mocan, the Romanian artist who designed the Decalogue sculpture.

The sculpture, which symbolizes the Ten Commandments and the hands of God, was initially displayed in Geneva, Switzerland, to commemorate the 500th birthday of John Calvin. The ten 16-foot (5 m) fiberglass pillars are arranged in a large circle, encouraging visitors to interact with and touch the sculpture.

The sculpture will also be on display in Grand Rapids, Mich., from Sept. 21 to Oct. 10 in front of the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

—Heidi Wicker



The unveiling of the Decalogue sculpture in Bellflower drew more than 300 people.

Check thebanner.org for the expanded story.

IN MEMORIAM



Rev. Maas Vander Bilt

1924-2010

Rev. Maas Vander Bilt, a kind and caring missionary, ready personal witness of his Savior, and World War II veteran, passed away following a bout with cancer.

Vander Bilt graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary in 1954 and entered ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

Having served in the Philippines during the war, he longed to return to bring not a gun but the gospel of peace. But first he spent 25 years working for Christian Reformed World Missions in Japan. The last 10 years of his career he spent in Manila, leaving behind a church of 300 members.

Vander Bilt's winsome ways combined with his deep faith in Christ made him a very effective missionary. In retirement he served congregations in Arizona.

He also excelled at golf, with 21 holes-in-one over the space of 20 years.

Vander Bilt is survived by his wife, Eloise, six children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

—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.

NEWS

Tiny Churches, Big Hearts

Wayside chapels may seem like a relic of 50 years ago, but those tiny churches, many built and maintained by Christian Reformed people with a big heart for reaching out, still receive thousands of visitors each year.



JIM LARSEN/WHIDBEY NEWS-TIMES

This brand-new wayside chapel is located on Whidbey Island near Oak Harbor, Wash.


The Living Water Wayside Chapel, located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, attracts more than 10,000 visitors annually—even though it only accommodates six people at a time. Louis Denbok, a Niagara CRC member, maintains the chapel.

In Atwood, Mich., the Wayside Chapel was built by Atwood CRC in 1968. Measuring 12 x 8 feet (3.5

x 2.5 m), it is open and lit 24 hours a day.

One of the older chapels is the Blue Mound Wayside Chapel, built by the nearby Luverne (Minn.) CRC. It opened in 1963 and received 40,000 visitors that summer.

Rene Nydam, a member of Oak Harbor (Wash.) CRC, opened a tiny church near her farm this year. Her little chapel can seat a total of 12, and Bibles and *Psalter Hymnals* are scattered among the pews.

Other tiny houses of worship connected to the CRC include Usk Pioneer Wayside Chapel, built by Terrace (B.C.) CRC; Paradise Valley Chapel, near Yellowstone National Park, maintained by Bozeman (Mont.) CRC; and Calvary Wayside Chapel, maintained by Calvary CRC in Pella, Iowa. 

—Sophie Vandenberg and Gayla Postma



KA LAM

This tiny chapel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, attracts 10,000 visitors annually.

Violence Brings Anxiety in Texas Border Town

Rev. Daniel Kuiper recalls faculty meetings being interrupted by the sound of gunfire. “People were murdered just around the corner,” he said.

Kuiper works for Christian Reformed World Missions, crossing the border regularly from El Paso,



Rev. Daniel Kuiper teaches at All Nations Seminary in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Texas, to Ciudad Juarez, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, to teach at All Nations Seminary.

The seminary is located in the so-called Valley of Death, where drug cartels are fighting for control. “It’s carnage,” Kuiper said.

Kuiper and Rev. Eduardo Gonzales, an associate pastor of Sunshine Community Christian Reformed Church in El Paso, Texas, and “a few Korean brothers” from All Nations CRC in Lake View Terrace, Calif., continued to cross the border to finish the academic term despite warnings from the U.S. State Department, Canadian Foreign Affairs, and Christian Reformed World Missions.

“Things are tense,” Kuiper said. “I stay on main roads, don’t wander

Iowa Teacher Wins SMART Technology Contest

Lynette Feenstra, kindergarten teacher at Hull (Iowa) Christian School and a member of First Christian Reformed Church of Hull, has a much more interactive classroom now, thanks to “smart” technology she recently won.

Feenstra won second place in the SMART Exchange Content Challenge. Her prize was 32 handheld remotes, valued at \$2,000, to go with the SMART Boards that are in each classroom. The whole school can share the remotes.

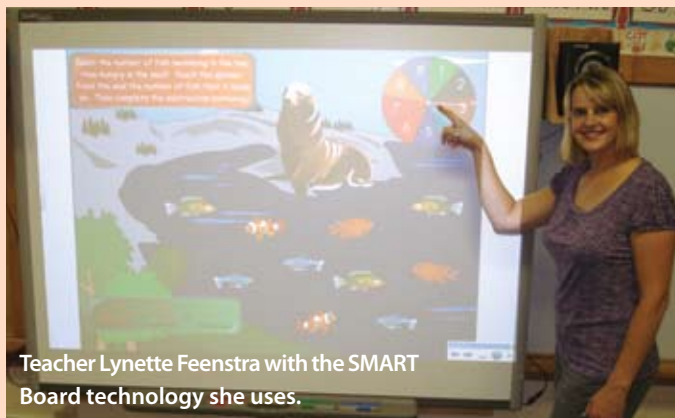
Feenstra said she was surprised to win. “I thought I had a very good lesson, but entries were emailed from all over the country,” she said.

A SMART Board is about the size of a chalkboard. It’s run by a computer, allowing the teacher to swiftly add and erase items with a touch, among many other functions. The individual remotes allow students to participate by

entering their own responses. In math, for example, students “touch” a certain number of tadpoles to “change” them into frogs. Feenstra is able to monitor each student’s progress simultaneously.

“The SMART Board has opened up a whole new avenue for me as a teacher and how I can present lessons,” she said. “It makes the kids participate more.”

—Sherry Kooiker



Teacher Lynette Feenstra with the SMART Board technology she uses.

around, and try not to be noticeable. They have not attacked Americans to a large extent, [but] you can be caught in a cross-fire."

World Missions temporarily suspended volunteer travel to Ciudad Juarez. The denomination's crisis management team also advises congregations and other organizations "to seriously consider the risks involved in travel to Mexico."

How bad have things become? Kuiper said several businessmen who live in El Paso but run companies in Juarez no longer travel back and forth, managing instead via the Internet.

Despite the violence, enrollment at All Nations Seminary remains steady, Kuiper noted, adding that the gospel is the ultimate hope.

"A lot of people are preparing to preach and teach, and that's the long-term solution," he said.

—Larry Edsall

Connecticut Church Ministers to the Grieving

When Gloria Ranney lost both parents within four weeks of each other, she felt a void in the church for those who are grieving.

Marg Christians, a nurse with hospice training, had lost a parent and a sister, and found she was not prepared for unresolved issues in those deaths.

The two women, both members of Avery Street Christian Reformed Church in South Windsor, Conn., discovered they shared a common vision to provide a grief recovery ministry from a biblical perspective.

Together, the women started a GriefShare ministry for their community. GriefShare, centered on a 13-week video series titled *Your Journey from Mourning to Joy*, provides a Christ-centered perspective on grieving.

Using announcements in local newspapers and a posting on the griefshare.org website for the Sunday-afternoon sessions, the women drew 10 participants the very first week, most from outside the church. One participant talked of suicide, but she is now a faithful member of the church's Coffee Break ministry.

The women have run the video series four times so far and have been encouraged by comments from participants who say the classes have given them hope and reminded them to trust God.

—Calvin Hulstein



Gloria Ranney (left) and Marg Christians started a grief recovery group at their Connecticut church.

Military Spouse Ministers to Military Families

When Benita Koeman found herself caring for three young children as her husband, Rev. Scott Koeman, was stationed overseas as a Christian Reformed military chaplain, she was overwhelmed.

"I had the stark realization that I was alone in this, and that was tough," Koeman said of the stretches when her husband was deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Kuwait.

"Not that people weren't friendly, or that no one did anything [for us], but support was minimal, and I truly felt that no one really cared," she said.

Because of that experience, she built a website to help other spouses whose mates are deployed. She addresses questions those spouses have, like the one from a wife who wondered whether to tell her deployed husband disturbing news that might distract him



Benita Koeman and children Kerrisan, 7, Luke, 9, and Ian, 11, were reunited with Rev. Scott Koeman in July, when he returned from a one-year deployment to Afghanistan.

from his demanding duty and risk the lives of other soldiers.

Traffic to the website is up to 200 visits per day.

Koeman, who lives in Ft. Lewis, Wash., also offers extensive advice to churches on how to support the spouse on the home front, and suggestions on dealing with a bereaved spouse. For example, Koeman said, "'How are you doing?' is the stupidest question you can ask someone who just lost everything."

The Koemans are members of EverGreen Ministries Christian Reformed Church in Hudsonville, Mich.

Koeman's ministry can be found at operationwearehere.com, and on Facebook at Christians Caring for the Military. The site also includes "Brat Town Bugle," which connects military children with deployed parents.

—Carolyn Koster Yost



RHONDA BERG

Members of Classis Red Mesa's Leadership Development Network participate in the spiritual retreat that marks the end of their academic year.

Red Mesa Churches Train Members to Fill Pulpits

At the age of 65, Rev. Raymond Slim is retiring, as he puts it, "in theory." In reality, his retirement will add to the shortage of pastors in Classis Red Mesa. But the classis (regional group of churches) is responding to the shortage by training its own church members to fill the pulpits through the Red Mesa Leadership Development Network (LDN).

Now in its third year, Red Mesa's LDN will graduate its first class, approximately 16 people, in the spring of 2011. They will be equipped for leadership roles, including serving as ministry associates. Ministry associates are allowed to lead congregations in certain circumstances.

"Of the churches on the reservation, most are without pastors, mainly because of the economic situation we are in," said Rev. Stanley Jim, who has been regional director for Christian Reformed Home Missions and recently became director of Native ministries for the CRC.

The LDN meets two Saturdays each month, with students some-

times traveling hundreds of miles to participate. In between, homework includes pastoral visits and possibly preaching a sermon.

Rev. Slim said, "These people are not getting paid to do this. In fact, they are paying to do this. This is all devotion on their part."




—Larry Edsall

Sidewalk Warriors for Life

Sidewalk counselor Ruth Westra, a member of First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center, Mich., looks for distraught pregnant women outside an abortion clinic in nearby Grand Rapids.

Next door at Omega House, Christians pray for the women who come to the clinic.

Westra said some clinic clients shout verbal abuse at sidewalk counselors, while other clients who seem reluctant are coerced to enter the clinic by a male companion or parent. "Sometimes I dread going," Westra said. "But it's not about what we want. It's about where God wants us to be."

Westra said that in 14 years of counseling she has seen women and couples change their minds about abortion at the last minute—due, she says, to the prayers of members from her church and other prayer warriors. 



CAROLYN KOSTER YOST

Ruth Westra, right, chats with another sidewalk counselor, Julie Stoutjesdyk, in front of a Grand Rapids, Mich., abortion clinic.

—Carolyn Koster Yost

Come to Church and Open Wide

New Hope Christian Reformed Church in Lansing, Ill., is attracting people from its community with an offer of free dental services.

Dr. Gene Keessen, a retired dentist, and his wife Jan, a nurse, had often talked about volunteering their skills in an overseas location. Circumstances prevented that, so they were happy to volunteer right in their own church. They work in a corner of the church library, where a clinical area has been set up with a dental chair and equipment received through donations.

They provide cleaning, checkups, and fluoride treatments for families who are in need and for new area residents as a way of introducing them to the church. Patients who need further dental work are referred to area dentists.

Patients often come in response to ads in a local paper, and the church also reaches



ANITA BEEZHOLD

Dr. Gene Keessen and his wife, Jan, examine a patient at New Hope CRC, which offers a free dental clinic.

potential patients through the local food pantry.

Each patient receives a packet with devotional materials and information about the church. Patients often spend some time with the pastor, Rev. Ildefonso Torres, and some have attended Sunday worship services.

—Ruth Moblard DeYoung

FAQs

Outreach

Q Our church can't seem to get an effective outreach effort going. What's working these days?

A Recently I read about one church's attempt at outreach that included hiring a petting zoo and giving elephant rides to get people in the door so the church could hit them up with a gospel presentation. With all due respect to that particular effort, I have a hard time believing that God needs a circus in order to connect with people in our communities.

A more effective and natural means of connecting with your community is to get involved with events and things already going on. As one critic of the church recently quipped, "How come you Christians don't show up at anything that you can't control?" That's hard to hear, but worth considering.

Check out the community events calendar in your local newspaper and get involved! You'll find things like book clubs, poetry readings, musical performances, ecological preservation gatherings, neighborhood association meetings, and more! Certainly these are the kinds of things Christians also enjoy and love, and they provide a natural platform of common interest on which to build relationships without any pretense or ulterior motive. There is certainly nothing wrong with having outreach events, but perhaps it's our turn to show up.

—Bryan Berghoef

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

Church

Q Who keeps the administration at Calvin Theological Seminary accountable? And in turn, who keeps those people accountable?

I have a hard time believing that God needs a circus in order to connect with people in our communities.

A Perhaps the easiest way to understand this is to think about your congregation. Who keeps the administrative staff accountable? The church council. Who keeps the church council accountable? The congregation. If there is an unresolved difficulty, any member may ask classis or synod for action by means of an overture.

The Seminary's 19-member Board of Trustees, composed of 16 people from the 12 regions of our denomination plus three at-large members, holds Calvin Seminary accountable. This board is accountable to the regions it represents, and a number of classes receive regular reports from their delegate. In addition, the Director of Denominational Ministries works with the administrators of all our agencies. Any unresolved difficulties may be addressed by our denominational Board of Trustees, and any member may ask synod for action by means of an overture.

—George Vander Weit

George Vander Weit is a retired pastor in the Christian Reformed Church.

Electrons

Q I've got password overload. How can I keep track of them all?

A There's a paradox to Web security. Good passwords are complex, unique, and changed often—and, thereby, hard to memorize. So we write them down on pieces of paper and stuff them somewhere "secret" within arm's

reach of our computer. Or we use the same password for every site. Not very secure!

Fortunately, there are better ways, like using your web browser to memorize passwords for you. But that's only secure if your computer is. And if you regularly use more than one computer, synchronizing can be difficult. Downloadable tools like KeePass have similar limitations.

I prefer online password managers. The one I use is PassPack, but check out LastPass and others. From any computer, I visit *Pass-pack.com*, enter my master password, and I'm "in." From there, I use one-click login to access any of my sites. Since I never have to enter my passwords, much less remember them, I use complex passwords unique to each site.

Whatever method you choose, make sure your email password is very secure. If someone gets into your email, they can use those "send me my password" links to get into your other sites.

A final way to solve the problem is by not creating new passwords in the first place! A growing trend is for sites to allow you to log in using one of your existing passwords (e.g. Facebook). We've done that on *www.crcna.org/Network*, and 40 percent of users take advantage of that feature.

—Tim Postuma

Tim Postuma is Web and e-communication manager for the Christian Reformed Church in North America. ■



SOME PEOPLE THINK that only those who have climbed mountains, fought in foreign wars, or battled a disease should write their life stories. But nearly every life has a history worth telling, and that is especially true of Christians. We each have a story of how God's special grace has affected our lives.

Perhaps you fear that friends or family might think you're uppity—*writing your own life story!* But with the right tone—giving God the credit—that is unlikely.

If hymn writers had felt that way, many great hymns would not have been written. In the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story," Catherine Hankey tells us, "'tis pleasant to repeat what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet . . . [F]or some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word."

William Cowper's "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" tells us in stanza 3, "You fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds you so much dread are big with mercy and shall break in blessing on your head." What was he writing about, if not what he had learned from living a Christian life?

Getting Started

If you think you won't have enough to write about, try this: for one week, sit down for an hour a day and reflect on the crises or triumphs in your life that brought you to tears or to your knees. Then reflect on who helped you to your triumphs or whom God sent to lift you from your grief.

Where memory is vague, interview people who might recall details, review old pictures and letters, and read obituaries in newspapers of the time about which you are writing. If there is still a gap in what you know, admit uncertainty.

Remember that the stories that wrench your heart may lie dormant until pointed questions get asked. For example, my father was not one to tell stories of his first wife unless he was asked about her. We knew, of course, that she had died young, but only when his second wife—my mother—died 64 years later did we learn the details of his first wife's death. At my mother's funeral, my brother Art asked my dad a simple question: was losing Mom at all like losing your first wife? Here's his story:

In 1918 many people had already died of the flu, and we thought the epidemic was over. Then on a Wednesday in

Nearly every life has a history worth telling.

February 1919, I got the flu and my wife cared for me. No one dared to come on our farmyard—I had no visitors, not even a doctor. Only one cousin dared to come on my yard to do my chores and then left hastily. On Friday morning my wife caught the flu—she died 18 hours later, midnight Saturday. I could not attend her funeral, and no one dared to visit me—such was the fear of the flu.

Organizing Your Story

There are many ways to organize your story. But first ask yourself this question: For whom am I writing—mainly family members, or a general audience? That can help you determine what and how many details to include.

For example, you might organize your story around schooling, describing your generation's attitudes toward it or toward the curriculum. If writing mostly for family, when did schooling end for you and the boys and girls you knew?

On the "frontier," in rural areas it was common for boys and girls to drop out of school after the fourth grade to work on the farm or to hire out to help pay bills. And in country schools the curriculum usually differed for boys and girls: boys got more math and geography; girls got more spelling and reading.

Was education important in your family? If your family circle was a key influence in your life, how did you feel when the circle was first broken? How (if at all) did sibling rivalries, deaths, or family disasters influence your education? Did you move from one state or province to another, or to another neighborhood, during your school years?

In some areas, once a woman married she was not allowed to teach anymore. Were women teachers common in your education?

Milestones—graduations, key jobs, or choice of career—may combine with family stories as a way of organizing your story. If there was a divorce, how did it change your life? What strongly-felt embarrassments influenced your life? For example, did you or a family member deal (or not deal) with addictions? Some find it tempting to omit embarrassing chapters in their lives. I suggest that you ask the advice of a trusted friend before doing so.

In the World War II era in the United States, family circles were commonly broken by a son being drafted into the military. (Though women entered the military, they were not drafted.) In some areas if a young man avoided the military, he and his family were harassed—their company was shunned, their barns and cars were painted yellow, and more. The pain for some of those families lasted for decades.

You might wish to tell your story by chronicling changing attitudes in changing times.

Were you a family of readers? What books did you read? Did any book impress you so much that you read it several times? Did your parents ban any books, TV shows, movies, or other entertainment in your teen years?

Was your family known to be "ahead of the times" or always a step "behind the times"? How did you feel about how others regarded your family? For example, my dad was not one to buy the newest labor-saving machinery, but that did not matter much to me or my siblings. No one complained, and years later we were glad to have had a part in farming methods most people today only learn about in books, if at all.

If your goal is to reveal how attitudes have changed in regard to marriage, raising children, schooling, or religious upbringing, you may wish to interview people outside your own family. What you already know may provide clues as to whom you want to question and what questions to ask.

Ninety years ago my mother's family thought it would shame the family if she married a widower. *Why* is still a mystery to me.

Was your own upbringing quite different from that of children today? Was it typical of your generation or unique to your family? Would you recommend such an upbringing to young parents today? Why or why not?

How did your family respond to world events such as World War II, Pearl Harbor, Vietnam, and any subsequent wars or natural disasters? Surviving siblings may be able to inform you on this. Knowing such facts may explain how your family celebrates national holidays or even your vote in the last election.

Telling your life story is important for you, because it helps you see God's hand in your life. It's also important for those who come after you, because who you are is part of who they are. ■ **WEB Q'S**

Story-Formed

We are story-formed people. Our lives are first shaped by narrative, not by information. We don't learn how to live the Christian life by memorizing facts, rules, precepts, morals, imports, exports, governments, and drains. Instead, from our earliest moments we experience the stories of those who have gone before us: stories from the Old and New Testaments; stories from the history of the Church throughout the centuries; stories of our own families and local congregations; stories that are enacted each week in the drama we call worship and in the everyday conversations and practices of the home. . . . We begin to see our lives as part of a pattern within the larger story of redemption. We long to live a life worthy of that story.

—Sarah Arthur in "Distinguishing Dragons: The Importance of Story in Faith Formation," from *Shaped by God*, Robert J. Keeley, ed.; *Faith Alive Christian Resources*, 2010



Mike Vanden Bosch taught literature and the writing of prose and poetry at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa, for 30 years. His published works include *Boy in the Wind*, a book of poems; *The History of Dordt College*; and *A Pocket of Civility: A History of Sioux Center*.

Multiplying Harvests in Zambia

by Kristen deRoo VanderBerg

When Justin Kadyeni looks over Thomas Tembo's field, he sees manure, rotting leaves, the decaying stumps of harvested soy bean plants, and garbage—and he's pleased.

Kadyeni is employed by the Reformed Church of Zambia, a partner of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). He and four colleagues work long hours, researching the best techniques being used by farmers throughout Zambia and then passing those techniques on to community volunteers.

The volunteers, in turn, teach people like Tembo how to improve their soil and increase their yields.

"Our goal is food security for Zambian farmers," explains Kadyeni. "Our approach is to use volunteers to do the training."

Kadyeni and his colleagues work alongside about 70 agriculture volunteers. Each volunteer has been handpicked by community leaders as someone who can read, write, and train others.

Kadyeni also requires that the volunteers be Christian and willing to work with the program for at least three years. In exchange for their participation, the volunteers receive a notebook, training materials, and a bicycle for transportation.

At regular intervals Kadyeni's team gathers the volunteers for instruction in the latest simple, affordable farming methods—such as using compost and green manures, new crop varieties, and improving crop spacing and irrigation. The volunteers return to their home com-



munities and surrounding areas to teach the new techniques to others.

As a result, Kadyeni's small staff of five is able to reach 384 communities—nearly 10,500 people—each year. When individuals such as Tembo begin using their new knowledge, the soil in their fields improves, and they are able to grow more food. In a country where 86 percent of people live below the poverty line, that is vital.

A Global Commitment

Kadyeni is not alone in his fight against hunger. In 2000, 189 world leaders agreed to the Millennium Development Goals—eight distinct, measurable, achievable goals aimed at cutting in half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

An agriculture volunteer

The goals include achieving universal education, reducing child mortality, improving the lives of women, and decreasing the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Ten years later, we are seeing some signs of success. The United Nations Development Programme reported that, despite an overall increase in the number of school-aged children in the world, the number not in school fell to 73 million in 2006 from 103 million in 1999.

Similarly, in 2006 the number of deaths for children under the age of 5 dipped to below 10 million for the first time since mortality data have been gathered.

A Local Approach

While much of this success can be attributed to changes in government policy in developing countries and large-scale debt relief and foreign aid, Christian organizations such as CRWRC and their grassroots partners like Justin Kadyeni also play an important role.

CRWRC's approach is to work with local churches and organizations to listen to people at the community level. This helps to identify the local obstacles that keep people in poverty.

The next step involves working alongside the community to develop solutions that

nologies to improve soil, diversify crops, improve crop spacing, and make compost manure. We've also done leadership training and income-generation activities such as bee keeping and fish ponds.

"In many communities we use a farmer-field school model, where a piece of land is loaned by the chief or one of the group members. New technologies are used on that sample field, and the community learns by putting the teaching into practice."

This seemingly simple approach has yielded great results. In Zambia, within three or four years the majority of par-

Justin Kadyeni's small staff of five reaches nearly 10,500 people each year.



Staff and volunteers spend time in prayer and devotions before each training session.

use locally-available materials, simple technology, and local leadership. While this process takes time, it results in people improving their lives in permanent ways.

"Each community chooses what they want to implement as part of their training," Kadyeni explains, speaking about the program in Zambia. "Then different plans are made for each program."

"For example, with the agriculture volunteers we've done training in tech-

participants "graduate," meaning that they have increased their ability to grow food and are able to feed their families for the entire year.

Long-term results

CRWRC also sees another positive change: a growing openness among community members to learning about Christ.

While all of CRWRC's programs are open to every person in the community, regardless of religious affiliation, and while proselytizing is not a component of any program, the expression of love



Mazimoyo Community Board Chairman William Maweleta

given by local Christian churches is making an impact.

"In one village there was a man who was Muslim," said Kadyeni. "He was curious about why others were involved in the training. He decided to join. He came to every training and didn't miss a single one. At each training, the Bible was read and there was a time of praying and sharing."

"During the first year, this man didn't implement any of the new technologies being taught. Those in his group who did implement them were able to see results. The next year, he decided to participate. He was a very successful farmer. By the time we graduated the community, he had given his life to Christ." »

CRWRC at a Glance

Founded in 1962, the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

- works in 26 countries, plus areas that have recently suffered from disaster or conflict.
- provides training and consultation to more than 104 local churches and community organizations.
- provides immediate and long-term aid following disasters.
- helped more than 1.6 million people improve their lives last year.

To learn more about the Millennium Development Goals, U.S. and Canadian commitments, and what you can do to pray for or advocate on behalf of the poor, please participate in *Are You In?*, CRWRC's 2010 World Hunger Campaign. Materials are available through your church or online at www.crwrc.org/worldhunger.

» The Work Continues

While much has been accomplished in the fight against poverty, we still have a long way to go to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Global leaders need to continue to fulfill commitments they made 10 years ago to increase foreign aid and improve governance in developing countries.

CRWRC and its partners will continue to fight global hunger through relationships on the local level, making a difference one person and one community at a time. ■



Kristen deRoo VanderBerg is communications and marketing coordinator for CRWRC.



Children in a Zambian village

Kenyan Christians Overcome Ethnic Violence, Build Hope

A village high up in Kenya's fertile Rift Valley is ablaze with hope—thanks in part to peacemakers from Nigeria, the outreach of local churches, and the willingness of bean farmers to build bridges of peace toward former enemies.

The community of Burnt Forest was settled in the early 1960s by families who

minority tribes who, they thought, had supported the president.

Thousands were forced to flee for their lives. Houses, shops, and schools were burned. Many people died.

The Reformed Church of East Africa (RCEA), one of the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee's partners in Kenya, includes churches and members from many different tribal backgrounds. They were deeply affected.

"A year ago I visited Safia RCEA Tingwa church in Burnt Forest," recalls CRWRC-Kenya staff member Fred Witteveen.

"It was an ethnically mixed congregation with the majority of members coming from the majority tribe. After the post-election violence, the church was struggling.

Many neighboring farms had been burned. Many people in the church and community were fearful or angry. Attendance was less than 100 people and giving was low."

Slowly, Burnt Forest and the RCEA have begun to heal. Shortly after the post-election violence, a local organization welcomed two well-known peacemakers from Nigeria. They facilitated a reconciliation process between the conflicted communities based on work that they

had done in their own country between Muslim and Christian groups.

The reconciliation process led to the rebuilding and revival of the local market, where people of all tribes can buy and sell goods.

The church also began to rebuild. Members set a goal that within 15 years, 100 youths from the community would graduate from university. They then engaged their neighbors from all tribes to be part of the initiative.

Using no funds from outside sources, the church mobilized the community to raise money, purchase seed, and begin a new project to grow and export produce on the international market.

"As the group ran its projects, neighbors began attending Bible studies, and soon the church began to grow," said Witteveen. "I asked them how they were relating to the neighbors who were forced to flee during the post-election violence. Their answer? Trading French beans. Through trade they were rebuilding trust, bit by bit."

A year later the church had enough money to pay university fees for 18 youths, membership had grown to 300, and offerings had increased dramatically. Most important, the neighbors with whom members traded French beans had started attending the church.

"The church has learned that healing between communities leads to healing within, and healing within leads to greater healing between," Witteveen said. He concluded, "The healing in Burnt Forest isn't complete, but it has begun." ■

—Kristen deRoo VanderBerg



A banner in Safia RCEA Tingwa church brings a message of peace and healing in a community torn apart by violence.

burned the local trees to make way for farms. Since then, it has frequently been the site of ethnic tension and violent uprising between tribes.

Two years ago, when Kenya's current president, Emilio Mwai Kibaki, was declared the winner in a disputed election, thousands of people reacted in violence, taking up arms against people from

Million-Dollar Response to Cyclone Nargis

“I’m very happy because I and my children can now live in a safer house,” said Daw Thein Htay from Kwin Ma Gyi village in Burma (known officially as Myanmar).

Htay, a widowed mother of two, lost her home during Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Today she lives in a new house, thanks to a project funded by the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC).

Htay makes her living as a day laborer, planting and harvesting nearby fields. When there is no work, she sells fruits, vegetables, snacks, and firewood in town.

With no stable source of income, she has always lived hand to mouth and struggled to meet all her children’s needs. After the cyclone destroyed her home, she felt she would never be able to afford a new one.

“I and my family lived under a tarp,” she said. “It felt like we were being boiled alive in the summer as the heat is intense and the tarp also absorbs the heat.

“I also felt unsafe when the monsoon season came,” recalled Htay. “Although I wanted to build a house, it is a difficult thing for a widow like me. It would have taken years.”

“Although I wanted to build a house, it is a difficult thing for a widow like me.”



Daw Thein Htay and her 3-year-old son once again have a safe place to call home.

Nargis caused about \$10 billion in damage and left 140,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless. CRWRC supporters responded, donating \$720,000 to aid cyclone survivors.

With additional funding received through the Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the oversight of CRWRC’s International Relief Managers Hans Helleman and Marvin and Lorraine Vander Valk, CRWRC has now completed a two-year disaster response program totaling \$1,177,000.

The response included providing emergency food, blankets, kitchen kits, tarps, solar lamps, and medical kits. CRWRC also worked with World Concern Myanmar to distribute 609 fishing boats and 2,796 nets to more than 2,000 local fishermen, and restored people’s access to water through the construction of eight

wells and the rebuilding of shallow ponds.

Five rice banks were also constructed to help store rice seed and keep it from being destroyed by future monsoons.

When the program ended in April 2010, CRWRC had helped to build 480 cyclone-resistant homes—coconut wood frame structures on precast concrete footings with bamboo mat walls and floors and corrugated galvanized iron-sheet roofing.

“I no longer worry about shelter,” said Htay. “Thank you for providing us a strong and safe shelter. Now it is our home. Home sweet home!” ■

—Kristen deRoo VanderBerg

Caring for Creation

With the coming of fall, many of us have set aside vacations, excursions to lakes and rivers, bicycle and camping trips, and all the other activities associated with summer.

Soon many of us will be thinking about the arrival of winter winds and snow. Fall can be a wonderful time of transition back to school and work.

It is also a wonderful time to reflect on God's faithfulness, from season to season and year to year. Even at this stage of my life, I still have a childlike awe of God, his faithfulness, and his creative power.

This summer, for the first time, I discovered that a milkweed plant produces a beautiful flower. In all my years of observing milkweed growing along the roads and in open fields, I had never noticed one in blossom. The flower is delicate and beautiful—a tribute to God's creative power.

I discovered this seemingly insignificant masterpiece shortly after returning home from Synod 2010. As I paused to enjoy the moment, my mind jumped back to the creation care discussion at synod. I was reminded of the letters and emails I received on this issue. I recalled the passionate pleas from those on both sides of the "global warming" debate. I remembered the questions about science and the role of the church.

And then, in my mind, I heard the words of Jesus, "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which

is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!" (Luke 12:27-28).

God clothes the grass of the field. Amazing! The milkweed—a weed even by name—is clothed by God. In merely a few short days milkweed flowers are gone. Many are never seen. They hold no apparent human value or purpose, yet God made them. God adorned a weed with beauty and grace.

I cannot help but wonder: if God cares so much about his creation that he adorns a weed a few days each year, perhaps

we, who are created in God's image, ought also to care deeply for God's creation.

God is interested in how we use the resources he provides. God is concerned about how we approach issues that impact his world.

Could we begin by admitting that our actions have consequences? What might happen if we spent less time discussing and arguing about the political issues surrounding creation care and more time caring for creation?

Is it possible that by taking the lead on creation care, we could demonstrate to the world that God is the creator and God loves his creation? After all, "This Is Our Father's World." And in the words of that old hymn, "I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hands the wonders wrought."

Synod said it well: "Our world belongs to God the Creator. The Lord calls us to care for creation faithfully and to use its riches obediently and justly. Human sin has corrupted our ability and desire to care for creation. And God calls Christians to be prophetic and faithful in our stewardship in the name of the risen Christ."

As members of the Christian Reformed Church, let us pray for wisdom as we address the issues of creation care. Let us seek to be worthy stewards of all that God has provided and, in doing so, proclaim God's praise and glory. ■



“If God cares so much about his creation . . . perhaps we, who are created in his image, ought also to care deeply.”



Rev. Jerry Dykstra is executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Blogging in Russia

Through my blog on the Back to God Ministries International's Russian website, I can directly engage people in conversations about faith and challenge them spiritually. But it's crucial to speak to them in their language.

Open dialogue—as opposed to a religious monologue—is more effective. Whenever I write my blog, I seek a reaction from my readers to establish a conversation. Then I can witness to them about Christ.

My own journey to faith helps me understand the struggles others have. I was born in 1974. My parents were not believers. They took me to Africa, where they served as Soviet diplomats. I was exposed to different cultures, but I didn't know much about Christianity.

I was drafted at age 19 to compulsory military service. At that time, bloody interethnic conflicts were ravaging areas on the outskirts of the former Soviet Union. We were worried that we'd be dispatched to fight in one of them.

Feeling helpless, I tried praying for the first time in my life.

After my two-year military service, I started seriously searching for God. It turned out a high school friend had become a Christian and told me about salvation in Christ. I wasn't ready to make a commitment yet.

But I kept reading the Bible I still have today. Then I started attending a youth group run by a local evangelical church. After countless discussions about faith and life, my new friends arranged for me to meet with the minister of their church.

From that meeting, I decided to devote my life to Jesus Christ. Soon I was baptized and joined the church.

With a background in journalism, I started writing the blog *On Faith and Culture* in 2009 for the Russian outreach of BTGMI. Every month, more than 5,000



Russian author Igor Popov with his wife, Inna, and daughter, Dasha

individuals log on and learn about salvation this way.

I write for the Website *kbogu.ru*. I'm thankful there are so many possibilities

today for witnessing about Christ through Russian media outlets. ■

—Igor Popov is a Russian author who blogs for BTGMI.

New Ministry for Grad Students

Several years ago, when Kory Plockmeyer was a graduate student at the University of Florida, he longed to be a part of an on-campus faith community. “Graduate school can be an especially trying time for students. Christians like myself who pursue advanced degrees can often feel isolated,” he says.

Plockmeyer hopes similarly-minded students will be drawn to Campus Edge Fellowship, the new campus ministry he leads for graduate students and faculty at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.

“My hope is that Campus Edge provides an environment in which graduate students can delve into the richness of God's creation and learn more from one another as we experience life together,” he says.

Plockmeyer, who graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary this year, hopes to offer a welcoming environment for both believers and those who haven't committed their lives to Christ. He plans to host small-group Bible studies, community events, and academic events during which students can discuss integrating faith into the world of academia. “The Reformed worldview is especially fitting for a graduate student or faculty member, as it offers a comprehensive lens to view all aspects of one's life,” Plockmeyer notes.

Campus Edge Fellowship is the brainchild of River Terrace Christian Reformed Church in East Lansing, which has a long history of supporting such ministries. “We actually moved our church closer to Michigan State University to be more effective reaching students,” says Howard Person, a River Terrace member who chairs the board of Campus Edge Fellowship.

After finding that undergraduates were already well-served by campus ministries, River Terrace members started focusing on graduate students and faculty members.

A group including MSU graduate students, professors, and church leaders gathered in spring 2008 to talk about establishing a new campus ministry, which became Campus Edge. Christian Reformed Home Missions and Classis Lake Erie then came alongside the group to help launch the ministry.

Please see www.campusedgemsu.com for more information about the ministry. ■

—Christian Reformed Home Missions

Seminarians Study Abroad

Calvin Theological Seminary students, professors, and others visited sites in Turkey and Greece this year as part of the seminary's first off-campus January Term program.

The group crammed as many sites related to the apostle Paul and the Bible as possible in 12 days. In Turkey, those sites included Smyrna



The seminary group explores ruins in Delphi, Greece.

(modern day Izmir), Sardis, Philadelphia, Didyma, Ephesus, Troas, and Canakkale. In Greece, the group toured Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Vergina, Meteora, Delphi, Olympia, Corinth, and Athens.

Ephesus was a highlight. Acts 19 describes a riot in the theater at Ephesus. Being able to read that text in the theater brought depth to an otherwise obscure Scripture passage.

The massive temples to Apollo in Didyma and to Artemis in Smyrna stood out. One could

picture Paul denouncing the gods worshiped in those temples.

Travelers also met with evangelical pastors in Turkey and Greece. The Turkish pastor told of his conversion and arrest afterward. "You're a Turk, a Muslim. Turks cannot be Christians," said his interrogators.

He was forced to renounce his faith in Jesus, after which he was inexplicably unable to speak for a time. His church is growing slowly. Converts face being shunned and even killed by family members.

The Greek pastor said Orthodox faith and Greek ethnic identity are strongly linked. Almost all Greeks are Orthodox. Since most Protestant groups are not recognized by the government, the pastor was once arrested for proselytizing. Even so, his work is growing among immigrant groups in Athens.

Through the pastors, the group glimpsed what life was probably like for Paul, who faced many obstacles as he preached against the dominant religious structures.

New Testament professor Jeffrey Weima added to the experience by pointing out stone symbols or engravings, indicating the presence of a Jewish community. Some scholars dispute the historicity of Acts, claiming it overplays Jewish opposition where supposedly no Jews lived.

"Being in the places where biblical events described in Acts took place was profound," said Kristi Buurma, one of the travelers. "Little things, too, like traveling to the place where Paul got his hair cut (Acts 18:18) made it very meaningful. The Bible seems way bigger, especially passages you might read right over." ■

—Nate Van Denend, a 2010 graduate of Calvin Seminary

Opening with Bruegel

Big Fish Eat Little Fish is a disturbingly quirky 16th-century engraving by artist Peter Bruegel that shows exactly that—big fish eating little fish.

One of 17 Bruegel prints featured in the debut exhibition in the new Center Art Gallery at Calvin College, the work is a commentary on human consumption, says Calvin art history professor Henry Luttikhuisen.

"Everywhere you look, that is what's happening: you see a giant fish that's eating a fish that's eating a fish," says Luttikhuisen. "[Bruegel's] saying that human beings . . . consume each other."

Luttikhuisen plans to open the exhibit at 7 p.m. on Oct. 20 with a lecture titled "Laughing and Learning Within a World Turned Upside-Down: An Introduction to the Bruegel Exhibition." An 8 p.m. reception and tour of the gallery will follow.

The exhibition, "The Humor and Wit of Pieter Bruegel the Elder," is the first of several events offered by different departments to celebrate the dedication of Calvin's newly renovated Covenant Fine Arts Center.

Luttikhuisen's talk, which examines Bruegel's imitation of Hieronymus Bosch, is the first in a lecture series accompanying the Bruegel exhibition.

The series also features Calvin English professor James Vanden Bosch, philosophy professor Rebecca Konyndyk-DeYoung, and two renowned Bruegel and Bosch scholars. "It's kind of like liberal arts at its best," said Luttikhuisen.

The Bruegel exhibition will be in one part of what will be a new 3,800-square-foot exhibition space.

The prints in the show, chosen from a private collection, also include *Elck* or "Everyone," *The Battle of the Piggybanks and the Strongboxes*, and a series that Calvin Director of Exhibitions Joel Zwart believes may be the crowd-pleaser: 14 engravings representing the seven classical virtues (faith, hope, charity, justice, prudence, fortitude, and temperance) and the vices (envy, pride, avarice, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth).

"This exhibition really sets a high bar for what we want to do with the gallery in the future," says Zwart. ■

—Myrna Anderson, Calvin College communications and marketing

Church Planters' Network Takes Root in Guadalajara

After successfully planting a church in Guadalajara, the second largest city in Mexico, last summer, Ben and Amy Meyer got an inspiration.

"[We realized] we could support many more than two church planters if we started a church planters' network," said Ben Meyer, who works with his wife on behalf of Christian Reformed World Missions. "I shared the concept with three other pastors/church planters in Guadalajara, and all of them agreed to help me lead and organize it."

The concept took form this summer as a group of 20 men and women from Guadalajara and surrounding municipalities began meeting on Friday nights to talk and learn about church planting.

"The idea is to create a long-term community that will walk alongside church planters through the ups and downs of church planting," said Meyer.

Part of a renewed effort by World Missions to strengthen the work of local church planters, the newly formed net-



Church planters in Mexico study healthy church planting practices.

work is a mixture of pastors, elders, deacons, and lay people who share a vision for spreading God's Word throughout the city.

Church planters face a unique challenge in the region of Guadalajara. A 2000 census found that just 2 percent of the population is evangelical or Protestant.

Roman Catholics, who consider other churches sects, make up the majority of the religious community.

Through the new network, church planters are learning how to minister effectively in their local communities, Meyer said. "They have learned not to antagonize Roman Catholics, but to let the gospel speak for itself." ■

—Sarah Van Stempvoort, *Christian Reformed World Missions*

Get Connected

Boot up your computer and tour The Network for stories, heartfelt insights, and information about nearly any conceivable aspect of church ministry.

Getting connected is easy, and you'll quickly find yourself engaged with what's on the minds, even in the hearts and souls, of fellow CRC members.

Want to learn how to put together a solid, God-honoring church budget? Rev. Paul DeVries writes about that in the *Church Administration* section, making the point that the best budgets are built on three principles: a vision of



abundance, balance, and credibility.

Clicking right along, read the story of Deacon Henk, whose quiet night at home is interrupted by a phone call from a church member facing foreclosure on his mortgage. What does Henk tell him? Check the *Deacons* blog to find out.

Linger awhile in the *Pastors* section, where there is a sad

but ultimately hopeful story about what happens when church leaders stumble and fall. Or read a blog about a CRC woman who takes us on a grueling hike up a mountain, relating how the awesome view from the top provides a lesson in the creative genius of God.

In the *Worship* section, Rev. Joyce Borger tells us about a Facebook church started in Florida. While skeptical, she recognizes that 2,000 people a week learn about Jesus this way. She wonders what is both lost and gained by attending church on the Web.

In its first six months, The Network had more than 50,000 visits, 250,000 page views, and 1,000 comments or posts by users. It's been growing, even during the slow summer months, but the potential is much bigger. Through August, 1,400 people had registered on the site—but that's still a small fraction of the CRC membership.

As a new ministry year begins this fall, we invite you to use The Network to connect with and equip each other to do God's work throughout the Christian Reformed Church and God's world. ■

—Chris Meehan, *CRC Communications*

Sweeter Than Sugar

October is a pretty “sweet” month—who doesn’t enjoy traveling from house to house and filling a pillowcase with candy? Or maybe you like to eat candied apples, caramel corn, and other goodies during church harvest festivals and carnivals. No matter where you get your tasty treats, each holds

a not-so-secret ingredient that makes it simply irresistible: sugar!

Too much sugar is unhealthy, of course. Sugar is in so much of our food that we hardly go a day without it. But God created this world bursting with zest and flavor—and that’s something to celebrate!

Sugarcane

Most of the sugar we buy from the store comes from the tall, green stalks of a plant called sugarcane.

Sugarcane grows in warm, tropical places like Brazil and Cuba—and in some of the warmer parts of the United States such as Florida, Hawaii, and Louisiana.

We sometimes call the stalks “canes,” which is where the name “sugarcane” comes from. The next time you are in your local grocery store, ask your parents to buy a stalk of sugarcane. Cut away the outside and chew on the inside of the cane—it tastes very sweet!

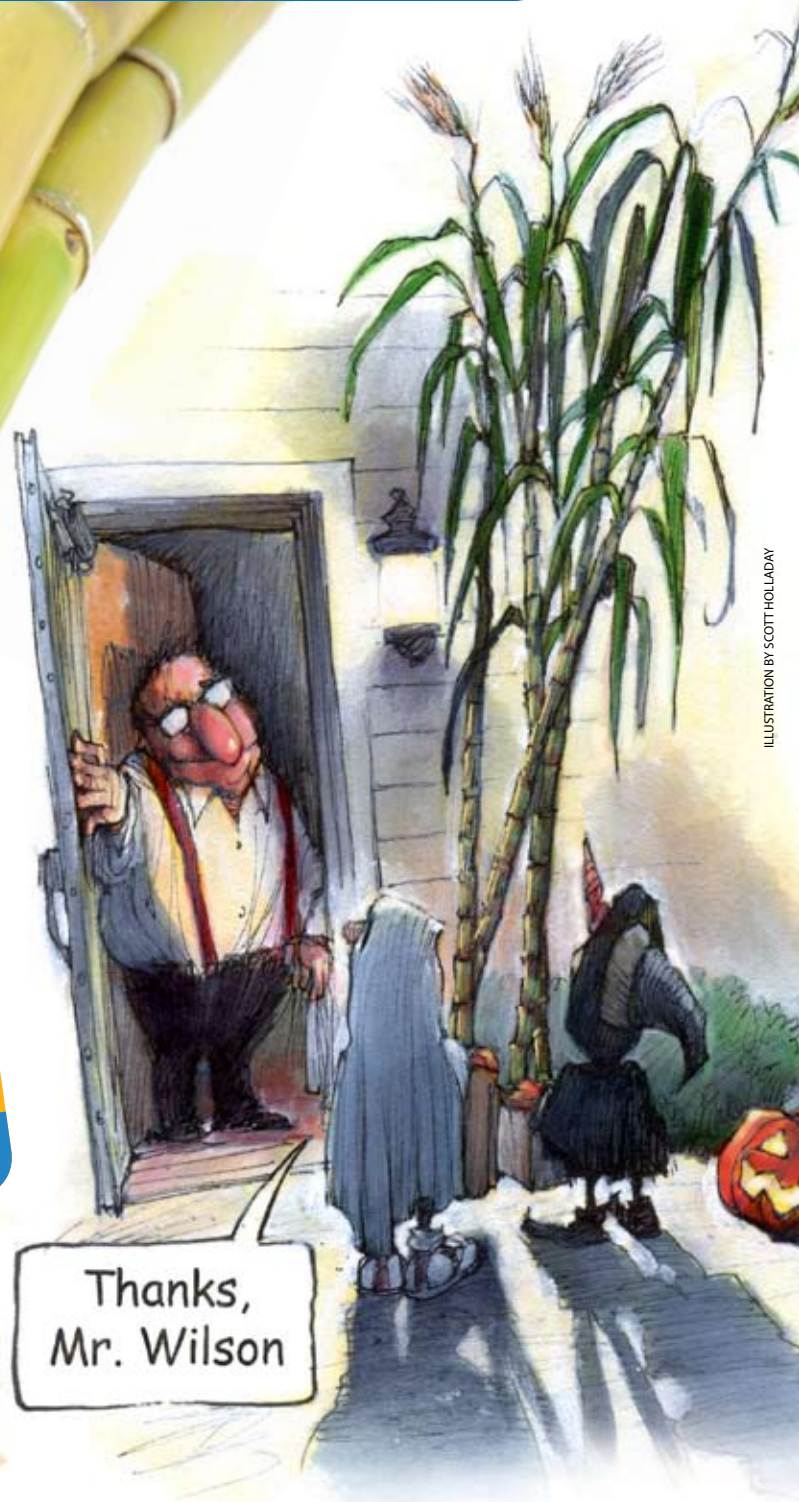


ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT HOLLADAY

Natural Sweeteners

There are other natural sweeteners (or natural sugar) that many people enjoy as healthy options to regular sugar. See if you can guess each sweetener by putting a letter next to the correct sentence.

- A. Fructose
- B. Coconut sugar
- C. Honey
- D. Maple syrup

1. ____ This sweetener comes from the sap of certain trees in North America.
2. ____ Bzzzz! This sweetener is produced by very busy insects.
3. ____ This is a natural sugar found in many fruits.
4. ____ This sugar comes from tropical palm flowers.



Thanks,
Mr. Wilson



What's Sweeter?

It's such a great treat to sink your teeth into a warm, gooey chocolate-chip cookie or taste a spoonful of your favorite ice cream. But there's something even sweeter: God's Word!

But that doesn't mean the Bible tastes good—it means that God's Word is wonderful and comforting. The Bible is full of beautiful word pictures—bright and colorful images of creation that help us understand who God is and how much God loves us.

Take a look at Psalm 19. Verse 10 says that God's laws and commands are "sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb."

You could also say, "God's Word is sweeter than sugar, than sugar from the cane." No matter how you say it, there is nothing sweeter! Write your favorite dessert or candy in the blank below: "God, your Word is sweeter than _____."

From Stalks to Crystals

When sugarcane is the right size, it gets chopped down and taken to a sugar factory. Many factories use big machines called "mill rollers" to squeeze the sweet juice from the sugarcane.

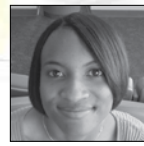
Workers heat the sugarcane juice in large containers and mix it with special minerals to help separate any dirt, grass, and bugs (yuck!) that might be in it.

The juice gets so hot that the water in it turns to steam—it "evaporates." As the water evaporates, the sugary juice that is left in the containers becomes a thick brown syrup.

When that syrup gets even hotter, it forms amazing sugar crystals that are yellowish-brown in color. We call these crystals "raw sugar."

Most raw sugar is then refined, or cleaned up some more, until it becomes the kind of sugar we use most. That process is similar to the one above, only with other ingredients added to make the crystals sparkling white. We call these crystals "granulated sugar"—the kind of sugar you might find in your kitchen cabinet.

The next time you open a bag of M&Ms or pop a few gummy bears in your mouth, think about where the sugar came from to make your treat so tasty!



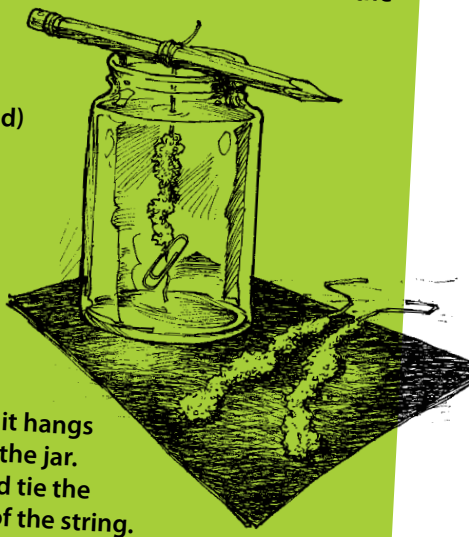
Christin Baker is a full time stay-at-home mom and writes part time for Faith Alive Christian Resources. She lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., with her husband and daughter.

Make Your Own Candy!

You can make your very own "rock candy" out of sugar and a few other ingredients. Be sure to have an adult help you with the boiling water.

What you'll need:

- 1 glass jar
- thick cotton string (not thread)
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 pencil
- 1 small paperclip
- 1 medium-sized cooking pot
- 1 teaspoon vanilla (optional)
- food coloring (optional)



What to do:

1. Cut a piece of string so that it hangs down just to the bottom of the jar.
2. Tie the string to a pencil, and tie the paperclip to the other end of the string.
3. Dip the string in water, and then dip it in some sugar. Place the paperclip end of the string inside the jar, and rest the pencil on top of the jar.
4. Boil two cups of water in a pot on the stove. Once the water boils, carefully add one cup of sugar to the pot at a time. Make sure each cup of sugar dissolves completely before adding the next one.
5. Once all the sugar has dissolved, turn off the stove and remove the pan from the heat. You may add a few drops of food coloring and/or vanilla at this time.
6. Wait 10 minutes, then have an adult pour the sugar water into your jar until the jar is almost full. Carefully place the jar in a cool area where it will not be disturbed. Loosely cover the top of it with a piece of plastic wrap. You should start to see sugar crystals form after a day or so.
7. After a few days, remove the pencil with your string of sugar crystals and enjoy your rock candy!



30 Things

You Can Do to Be
Hospitable to People
with Disabilities

1. When talking with someone who has a disability, look at that person—not at the interpreter or companion.
2. When hosting someone for a meal, ask if they have any food allergies or diet restrictions.
3. Use person-first language such as “a person who has schizophrenia” or “Mary uses a wheelchair.”
4. Avoid using such words/phrases as *retarded*, *wheelchair-bound*, *suffers from*, *handicapped*, *able-bodied*, *victim*, *defect*.
5. Don’t lean on someone’s wheelchair.
6. When talking to someone in a wheelchair, take a seat to position yourself at the person’s eye level.
7. Don’t interact with a guide dog.
8. When interacting with someone who has a visual disability, say who you are when you approach and announce when you leave.
9. Be flexible when people in the congregation or their medical devices make additional noise.
10. Label foods at potlucks, especially when they contain nuts or gluten.
11. Seek permission and instructions before assisting someone.
12. If anyone in your congregation has a disability or a child with a disability that requires costly accommodations, consider how your church might offer to assist in paying for such costs.
13. Offer respite care to a spouse or parent of someone who has a disability or long-term illness.
14. When talking with someone who has an intellectual disability, speak in your normal tone.
15. When listening to someone who has difficulty speaking, be patient and ask him to repeat what you did not understand instead of pretending that you understood.
16. Avoid calling people with disabilities kids or addressing them with words like *honey*; address them as you would anyone else.
17. Invite an adult or child with disabilities to your home or on an outing and find out in advance about the person’s preferences and needs.
18. As a way to provide relief to parents, offer to sit one time each month during worship with their child who has a disability.
19. Explore websites that offer education about disability issues, such as www.crcna.org/disability, www.rca.org/disabilities, and www.lcnetwork.org/church_services.
20. Buy and read a book such as *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality* by Thomas Reynolds or *Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities* by Barbara J. Newman. Then donate it to your church library.
21. Sit near people with disabilities during worship.
22. Offer transportation (to church, medical appointments, etc.) to someone who has a disability.
23. Just say hi.
24. Volunteer with or consider starting a Friendship ministry at your church (www.friendship.org).
25. Teach your children how to interact with people in their lives who have a disability.
26. When assisting a person with visual impairments, allow her to hold on to you, rather than you holding on to her.
27. Do not gossip about someone who is socially awkward or different.
28. Encourage your kids to befriend kids who have disabilities.
29. Send a note of encouragement to someone with a disability or to his or her caregiver.
30. Offer to pick up supplies or prescriptions for someone with a disability or his family.

These ideas were gathered from the Christian Reformed Church Handbook for Disability Advocates and from interviews with individuals. The CRC and the Reformed Church in America collaborated to produce this resource. Additional copies can be printed to hang in your church at www.crcna.org/disability. ■



Lindsay Wieland Capel is a mental health social worker in Chicago. She is a member of LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, and an associate member of LaGrave Avenue CRC, Grand Rapids, Mich.

TUNED IN

The Best of Both Worlds

GETTY IMAGES



"AMERICAN CULTURE," WRITES DORIS LESSING, "is enriched by having the whole range of Marilynne Robinson's work." Many readers—especially Christians who enjoy Robinson's sympathetic depictions of Protestant life—agree. But what a range! She is the Orange Prize-winning author of novels like *Housekeeping* and *Gilead*. So what drives her to write essays on pollution, economics, Darwin, and now—in *Absence of Mind: The Denial of Inwardness in the Modern Myth of the Self* (Yale University Press)—the science of human consciousness?

Is there a Grand Unified Theory of Robinson, or is she simply too restless for one subject? I propose that the link between her fiction and her nonfiction exists—and you can find it, of all places, on the first page of John Calvin's *Institutes*.

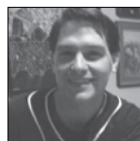
If this were any other magazine, I'm not sure anyone would still be reading. Calvin is known today for a work ethic he didn't condone, a miserly economics he didn't preach, and a Genevan reign of terror that, according to historians, he didn't sponsor. But both sides of Robinson's work attest to her love of Reformed

Both sides of Robinson's work attest to her love of Reformed Christianity.

Christianity, and both exemplify Calvin's famous remark that knowledge of God and knowledge of oneself are inseparable.

On one side are her novels. These offer vivid, un-type-able characters, just as you'd expect—*unless* you remember how passé distinctive characterization was considered in 1980, when Robinson began publishing. The better writers of that period, arguing that characters are "just" words on a page, offered caricature, intentional vacuousness, or language games instead.

On the other side, her essays, no matter their overt topics, generally share a target: reductionist philosophies that try to erase inward, felt experience from the accounting of human life. Repeatedly and convincingly, she attacks ideas like "altruism is a trick played on us by our genes" or "consciousness is an aftereffect of our brain processes." *Absence of Mind* extends this critique: Why, she asks, do certain scientists' explanations of consciousness feel so wholly inadequate to what we actually experience as such? Robinson's latest book is a worthy addition to a body of work that—leaving aside its unusually overt God-fixation—is most notable for its defense of humans. ■



Philip Christman Jr., teaches composition at North Carolina Central University and attends St. Titus Episcopal Church in Durham, NC.



Women and Country

by Jakob Dylan
reviewed by Allison Backous

Jakob Dylan's latest album opens with this: "God wants us busy, never giving up / He wants nothing but the whole wide world for us." *Women and Country*, written and recorded in three weeks, carries a haunting spirituality—a sense that things are broken: "it ain't milk and honey," he sings, "we're moving round." But there is a richness in the songs, too, hoping for "no more love lost and no more shame." This is rockabilly lament for your music library. (Sony)



Church Media on the Web

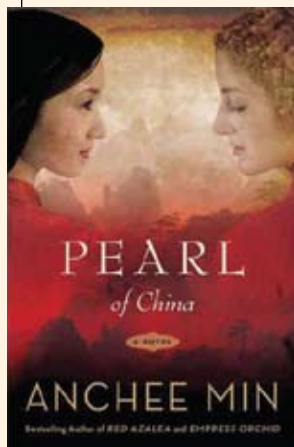
reviewed by Ron VandenBurg

Many churches are choosing to show videos as an alternative to readings or drama. An internet search will turn up thought-provoking videos for youth discussions, personal devotions, and congregational worship. For example, BluefishTV.com offers resources designed as tools to promote evangelism. Formatted as short documentary films, the inspirational stories on *Deidox.com* tell of God's redemptive work in and through his people around the world. *SkitGuys.com* was created by two actors who use both comedy and drama to speak to people of all ages.

Pearl of China

by **Anchee**

reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**



In this book, Anchee Min admirably achieves her goal: to convey “the full sweep” of Pearl S. Buck’s life and to “tell her story from a Chinese perspective.” Willow, a fictional lifelong friend, relates the domestic strains of Pearl’s missionary family, as well as the political hardships they faced before and during Chairman Mao’s destructive reign. The hymn “Amazing Grace” runs as a theme throughout the historical novel as the sorrows and triumphs of the Nobel Prize-winning author unfold, along with the story of the persecuted church in China. (Bloomsbury)

Hunger and Happiness

by **L. Shannon Jung**

reviewed by **Wayne Brower**



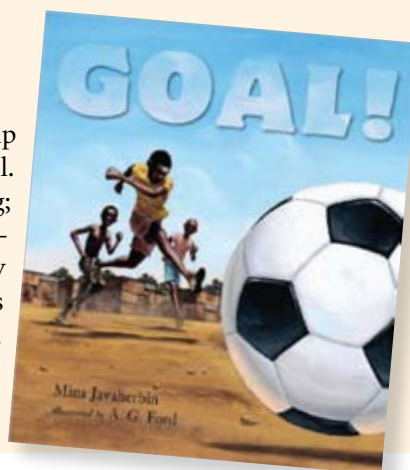
Hunger and poverty are the result of our sinful selfishness that subverts values and warps distribution systems. In six short, easily-read chapters, Jung provokes worthy discussion about marketing pressures that produce cheap food for some at huge expense to others, inappropriate diets that lead to cultural obesity, and twisted ethics that put “me” before “we.” Great for study groups. (Augsburg Fortress)

Goal!

by **Mina Javaherbin**

reviewed by **Sonya VanderVeen Feddema**

Danger lurks on the streets of a South African township where Ajani and his friends play soccer with his new ball. While playing, the boys forget their fears and feel strong; still, they are realistic. Bullies are a constant threat. However, Ajani and his friends are creative and brave. They outsmart the bullies, jubilantly playing on. Javaherbin’s sparse text celebrates the triumph of justice over injustice, and A. G. Ford’s energetic illustrations capture the delight of children at play. Ages 4-8. (Candlewick)



Ink

reviewed by **Jennifer Parker**

Ink is a dark, stylish fantasy that uses startling visuals, sharp dialogue, and exciting action to tell a story taking place on two planes—our own and an unseen one—where a battle between good and evil is



underway. Storytellers, who fight to protect human destiny, and Incubi, who try to poison and destroy people’s souls, contend fiercely over an embittered businessman, a widower whose estrangement from his daughter puts her life, his life, and his very soul in danger. (Double Edge Films)

THE LOWDOWN



Public Option:

PBS will air “God in America,” a 6-hour documentary series on the role of religion in American history, over the course of three nights: October 11, 12, and 13. The DVD will be available from PBS in November.



Paired Up:

Soles4Souls has given away more than 10 million pairs of shoes—donated by retailers, manufacturers, and individuals—to people all around the world since 2005. Now they aim to do the same with clothing. Find out more at www.soles4souls.org.

Alone Again: Grief experts



Susan J. Zonnebelt-Smeenge and Robert C. De Vries advise the newly single in their book *From We to Me: Embracing Life Again after the Death or Divorce of a Spouse*. (Baker)

Much Appreciated: October is Clergy Appreciation Month.



No need to run to the nearest Hallmark store; just take a moment to thank, encourage, and pray for your church leaders!

Check thebanner.org for links to find out more about these titles.

The Not-So-Golden Years

EVEN WHEN I AM OLD
AND GRAY, DO NOT
FORSAKE ME, MY GOD.

— PSALM 71:18

THEY CALL IT *aging*, but that is not an accurate word for growing old.

Aging is a universal thing. It's what everybody does every day. Between birth and our eighteenth birthdays aging is called "growing up," and I remember that we could not wait to do it, always acting as if we were older than

we were. Aging simply means going through the life cycle: baby, infant, child, youth, adolescent, young adult, adult, middle age (here titles become tricky), mature adult, senior. Among old people we may still distinguish "young old" (65-74), "middle old" (75-84), and "oldest old" (85+). In this season we experience aging as a corrosion of our present form of existence.

I am on the border of middle old and oldest old. I live independently in a resident home for seniors. Assisted living is the next step down (or up). For those of us in this time of life, aging is an occupation. There are programs in which we are urged to participate because they will help us "age successfully." Thus far I have avoided them. These programs are wisely composed by experts in gerontology. And the experts

constantly tell us that by keeping active physically, socially, and spiritually, we will “live better longer.” I believe the “better” part, but the “longer” is debatable.

Let me try to enumerate a few of the good and the bad things that accompany old age.

First, I don’t have to work for a living. Government and pension checks always arrive on time. My children don’t need me anymore—although I increasingly need them. I can sleep in as long as I want and go to bed as late as I please. That may sound exciting to a young person, but the negatives are that I tend to fall asleep when I should not and cannot get to sleep when I should. I have loads of good memories and I have great promises for an unknown future. My present life is as good as I could hope it to be.

Loneliness

Most old people experience loneliness. I do, too, but to a far lesser degree than many others because I can still get around. I can even do some volunteer work for people who are being cared for in the other buildings.

My wife died 18 months ago, and I miss her every day. Numerous friends and acquaintances have died. Four of my six brothers have gone ahead of me. Yet I have far more to bless than to curse, and my prayers have more praise than lament.

Loneliness is built into the structures of life as we live it now. All residents in my building are old people. Children and young couples live elsewhere. This separation of age groups began during my lifetime. When I was a child I sat in and listened when my parents entertained visitors. My grandfather lived next to us until the day he died. He was part of our lives. Sometimes he would interfere in the family life of my parents. I am not even tempted to do something like that. Most of my children live far away. But I have a bell in the bedroom and I can pull a chain in my bathroom if I need help. I have a cell phone and I check for e-mails every morning.

I don’t always know whether to be happy or sad that age groups now have

their own programs, lifestyles, music, and so on. We gained and we lost, I suppose. Only in church are we still together for worship. I love seeing young families come in. I lean forward when the small children hop to the front for the children’s message. Last Sunday we had teenagers reporting on a “SERVE project,” and I enjoyed every moment of it.

Losing Control

Perhaps the worst thing about getting and being old is that you lose control of your own life.

Of course, we never have ultimate control. I’ve made it a habit to say that I would do this or that, “God willing.” But any mature person must control the life entrusted to him or her. To be human means to make numerous decisions every day. You go or you don’t go, you do or you don’t do. But when you are old, others start making decisions about you and without you. Even your own body does not obey your commands. That’s when you know you’re in trouble.

Many of us cannot stretch our arms or move our legs by deciding to do so. The body wants to sit and rest. Some people say, “Listen to your body,” but they also tell us to “keep exercising.” You don’t always know what to do. Bodily functions you never thought about now don’t do what they’re supposed to do. But I’ll tell you no more about my body or you would get, what we call here, yet another “organ recital.”

The association for older people sends us a magazine every month that shows a man of 80 who runs a marathon and a woman of 90 who swims 10 laps every morning. But don’t be fooled. They are in the paper because they are abnormal. I belong to the unpublished group.

Fears

Finally, you have to deal with fears that accompany old age. This is the time *when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the street* (Eccles. 12). I still drive my car, but I avoid doing so in certain places and hours.

Notice that I said I *still* drive my car. People slip that word into their questions without thinking: “Do you *still* walk around the block?” “Do you *still* go to your own church on Sunday?” It means, “We know it won’t be long anymore. We know you are getting weaker; you are going to die.”

I don’t fear death because Jesus has taken the fear out of dying: “Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to sinning and is our entrance into eternal life” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 16).

The transition, though, the act of dying, is fearful. I have witnessed it a few times, and I don’t want to go through it. But I’ll have to do so, unless the Lord comes first.

The greatest fear of us elderly folks is that we should “lose our marbles” before we die, to say it popularly. We have a whole floor here reserved for those with different forms of dementia. Dementia is one of the most painful robberies. People who used to be bright and beautiful become “out of it” and pitiable. But they are still loved by God and by other faithful ones.

Sometimes I pray a prayer titled “Let Me Get Home Before Dark,” by Robertson McQuilken. It tells God about the fear that hits you when you think how this life might end. The last stanza goes like this:

. . . will I reach the gate
in lingering pain—body distorted,
grotesque?
Or will it be a mind wandering
untethered
among light phantasies or grim
terrors?
Of your grace, Father, I humbly
ask . . .
let me get home before dark. ■



Rev. Andrew Kuyvenhoven is a retired pastor in the Christian Reformed Church and a former editor of *The Banner*.

Our Contemporary Testimony

IT BECAME OBVIOUS IN THE 1960S AND '70S that not only did our historic confessions say some things about other Christians that we would no longer want to say, we also had to appoint study committees and adopt lengthy declarations on issues not covered in the confessions. Our world had changed! Secular humanism was now common, but it was unthinkable when the confessions were written.

Groundbreaking studies on worship (1968), church and film arts (1966), racism, the authority of Scripture, war, world hunger, and more changed our worldview. Requests came to synod to write a new confession for our time (as other churches were doing), so in 1971 synod appointed a committee, of which I was part, to study whether we were ready for a new confession.

We discovered that some CRC members wanted a new one, but that far more were scared of what would happen if we replaced our three historic Reformed confessions.

While we studied how other churches confess the faith in our time, we learned that Korean Presbyterian churches would issue a “testimony” to the faith every decade or so. Our committee recommended, and synod agreed, that we should make this modest beginning at a new confession—a Contemporary Testimony—without the expectation that it would replace our historic confessions.

We then appointed a second committee to determine what issues needed attention, and a third committee to write the testimony (I reported for all three).

For our main theme we settled on the gospel of God’s kingdom, enthusiastically approving the title “Our World Belongs to God.” We followed the Belgic Confession’s creation-fall-redemption/renewal pattern. And we decided that a confession’s task to praise God and to teach, witness to, and defend the faith needed a simple free-verse format that could be used in worship. (We also added a series of more complex essays on many subjects treated in the Contemporary Testimony.)

After our congregations road-tested a draft for a year, the CRC adopted the “Contemporary Testimony: Our World Belongs to God” in 1988. The testimony made its way into the then-new *gray Psalter Hymnal*. Some of its language became engrained quickly—the opening paragraph, for example:

As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!

**“We declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!”**

Or phrases like “we offer our hearts and lives to do God’s work in the world” and “The Spirit’s gifts are here to stay in rich variety.”

Twenty years passed, bringing with them great changes, such as a greater presence of other religions on the world stage and home front, embryonic stem-cell research, end-of-life issues, terrorism, the Internet, and more. We asked whether it was time to update our no-longer-so-contemporary testimony.

Synod appointed a small revision committee, which met for two years, consulting the churches and using the Internet to send out a draft of the revisions.

The revisions were not major, but we recognized that the tone of the testimony needed to be different after 9-11. And we needed to address new issues, polish some language, and give more attention to God’s grace, worship, and our openness to the poor.

The CRC adopted the revised Contemporary Testimony in 2008. Printed copies are available from Faith Alive Christian Resources (www.faithaliveresources.org; 1-800-333-8300), or you can download the document from the CRC’s website (crcna.org). I hope we will use the revised Contemporary Testimony as widely as we did the original. ■ **WEB Q’S**

Where Did “He” Go?

One crucial decision for the timeliness of the Contemporary Testimony was made early in our meetings when a committee member from UCLA placed the school’s inclusive-language policy on the table and moved that we stick to it. We did, and avoided sounding outdated within a decade. Nonetheless, the revision committee still found a number of male pronouns that eluded capture the first time around.



Rev. Morris N. Greidanus is a retired pastor in the Christian Reformed Church.

Identity Quest

I AM ONE OF 14.6 MILLION unemployed people in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Labor (July 2010).

Looking for work in a depressed economy can be, well, depressing. But even more difficult than finding a suitable job has been fighting off feelings of worthlessness, purposelessness, and unimportance—especially when someone asks me, “So, what do you do for a living?”

With extra time to reflect recently, I’ve come to the tough realization that I’ve so often found my identity in my current life situation, such as being a student or an athlete or a girlfriend or a musician. How temporal, fleeting, and unsatisfying! Likewise, I know that whatever job title I do attain will ultimately be just as empty, if that is where I hope to find security and direction in life.

Yet I’m also starting to realize that while my former labels are things of the past and my future labels will not satisfy, I can still have a truly fulfilling purpose, mission, and identity—in who I am in Christ.

The question “Who am I?” is best answered by the simple eloquence of Galatians 3:26: “You are all sons [and daughters] of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

It’s so easy to forget the amazing grace God has shown to believers in calling us his children and adopting us into his family. We tend to become calloused to the immensity of this reality—at least I know I do.

But I’ve found great joy and astounding peace in knowing that the God of the universe, who spoke creation into being and rules over all of human history, knows my name and calls me his own. I am a daughter of God, dearly loved and deeply known, and that ultimate truth is the cornerstone of my identity.

The words of the Heidelberg Catechism seem more relevant than ever before. The fact that “I belong, body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ” truly is my only comfort.

My soul-searching identity quest came as a direct result of my being unemployed.

Like many North Americans, I had found my sense of identity in my daily responsibilities. The physical and emotional demands of jobs can so often distract us from seeing what’s truly important and embracing our identity in Christ.

Kevin and Kay Marie Brennfleck, in their book *Live Your Calling*, write about this societal trend: “Work has become how we define ourselves. It is now answering the traditional religious questions: Who am I? How do I find meaning and purpose? Work is no longer just about economics; it’s about identity.”

Today’s record-high unemployment rates mean that thousands of people are jobless and perhaps also hopeless and struggling to find their mission and purpose. Now, more than ever, when so many may be reevaluating their identity, they need to hear the life-giving news of their invitation to join God’s family.

As followers of Christ, it’s important to remember our primary calling in which we find our mission, purpose, and identity. Simply put, “Before being called to something, we are called to Someone. Before we are called to *do*, we are called to *be*. Our *primary calling* is to be in a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ . . . he calls us to belong to him” (*Live Your Calling*).

Whether you are employed or unemployed, I challenge you to reflect on what factors determine your own identity and sense of security. Beyond that, let’s all resist stereotyping people based on what they do for a living and instead get to know the deeper, more important aspects of their character. And let’s seize opportunities to speak hope and meaning into the life of someone who is unemployed and looking for identity in all the wrong places. ■

Stephanie Brooks is a recent graduate of Azusa Pacific University and a member of Rosewood CRC, Bellflower, Calif. She is now living in Grand Rapids, Mich., and attending Sherman Street CRC.

NEXT



My soul-searching came as a direct result of my being unemployed.

Advertising Information

Deadlines: Nov. issue is 10/4/10; Dec. issue is 11/1/10. Visit www.thebanner.org for complete details.

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

To Advertise: Place your classified ad online at www.TheBanner.org/classifieds. If you are unable to submit your ad online you may continue to email it to classifieds@TheBanner.org or fax it to 616-224-0834. If you have questions, call 616-224-0725.

Publication of advertisements implies neither endorsement nor approval by *The Banner*, Faith Alive Christian Resources, or the Christian Reformed Church. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad for appropriateness.

Denominational and Classical Announcements

Admitted into the Ministry

CLASSIS ZEELAND: Candidate Scott Stark sustained an examination by Classis Zeeland on August 19—with the concurrence of Synodical Deputies from Classis Holland, Georgetown and Grandville. Scott will be ordained on September 5, 2010, in the Bethany CRC of Holland as the new chaplain on the campus of Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. Rev. Ron Meyer Stated Clerk Classis Zeeland

Announcement of Candidacy

We are pleased to announce that **Chelsey L. Harmon** has now completed her academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word.

Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director

We are pleased to announce that **Anthony Sytsma** has now completed his academic requirements and is eligible for call as a candidate for the ministry of the Word. Rev. Gerard L. Dykstra, executive director

Candidates for the Ministry

QUALIFYING PERSONS who wish to be candidates in 2011 for ordained CRC ministry should request application procedures by December 15, 2010. For further information, please email Karlene Werner at kaw5@calvinseminary.edu or write her at Calvin Theological Seminary, 3233 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Meetings of Classis

CLASSIS HOLLAND will meet in regular session January 20, 2011 at Hamilton CRC, Hamilton, MI. Agenda items are due by December 10, 2010 and should be sent to: Rev. Tony Louwse, Stated Clerk, Fax: 616-494-6054, email: louwse@macatowa.org

CLASSIS MEETING Classis Alberta South and Saskatchewan will meet in regular session on Friday, Oct. 29, 2010 in the church at Brooks, AB, starting at 10:00 AM. Agenda items are due by Sat. Sept. 11 and should be forwarded to Al Brander, Stated Clerk at clerkabss@gmail.com or at 1203 High View Point, High River, AB T2V 1N9.

Congregational Announcements

Church's 100th Anniversary

NORTH BLENDON CRC Hudsonville MI will be celebrating 100 years on Nov 30 2010. Pastors Paul Hoekstra and Jack VanMarion will be preaching on Nov 28 and pastors Marvin VanDonselaar and Ron Meyer will be preaching on Dec 5. Nov 30 will be a night of celebration for community. All friends and past members are invited to attend any of the services. More information can be found on the church website www.nbcrc.org or by calling the church at 616-895-6434 and speaking to our pastor Aaron Vriesman.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF GRACE With thanksgiving and gratitude to God, First CRC of Edmonton and Classis Alberta North announces a 100th Anniversary Celebration the weekend of October 16 and 17, 2010. Contact Ron Knol at (780) 454-2474 or ronknol@telus.net for further information.

Church's 75th Anniversary

75TH ANNIVERSARY Celebration of Woody Nook CRC, Lacombe, Alberta. A banquet and program is planned for Friday, Nov. 12, 6 pm and a service of praise and thanksgiving to God for His abundant goodness on Sunday, Nov. 14 at 10 am. History books available. History Tour on Saturday. For more info, contact Jack Siebenga. 403-885-4380. siebenga@telusplanet.net

Church's 50th Anniversary

BALDWIN ST. CRC of Jenison, MI, will commemorate 50 years of God's faithfulness with a community wide Ice Cream Social on Saturday, October 9, from 2:00-4:00 PM at the church and with special Sunday services on October 10 with former pastors Rev. Jay Wesseling leading the morning service at 9:30 AM and Rev. Jay Pruijm leading the evening service at 5:00 PM. All past and present members and friends of the congregation are invited to join us.

Church's 40th Anniversary

OLYMPIA CRC of Olympia, WA will celebrate their 40th Anniversary on Nov. 13-14, 2010. All present & past pastors & families, congregants & friends are invited to a weekend of remembrance & praise. Details @ www.olyrcrc.org

Church's 25th Anniversary

HOPE CRC OF THUNDER BAY will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on October 15, 16 & 17. Many activities are planned for the weekend, including a Sunday celebration service in Hope Church. This will be followed by a Linger Lunch. We look forward to seeing our former pastors and members. For more information please contact the church office at 807-475-9285 or hopechurch@tbaytel.net

Retirement

HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP CRC of Brampton, On. announces the retirement of their Pastor Rev. Herman Praamsma, after 40 years of service. Pastor Praamsma and his wife Diane faithfully served the churches of Bethel, Waterdown; Rehoboth, Toronto; Maranatha, Edmonton; Fellowship, Toronto; Corr. Institute, Brampton; Immanuel, Brampton; and for the last 12 years Heritage Fellowship CRC. An evening of thanksgiving is planned for Friday, Oct. 29, 2010. Rev. Praamsma plans to preach his farewell sermon in the morning service of Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010. A coffee social will follow. For information contact Lvanginkel@sympatico.ca

REV. HERMAN SCHUTT After 40 plus years of faithful service as a minister in the CRC is retiring on October 31, 2010. Pastor Herm and his wife Gayle have served the following churches: Community CRC in Wyoming, MI, Emmanuel CRC in Sauk Village, IL, Long Beach CRC in Long Beach, CA and Munster CRC in Munster, IN. Munster church has planned an evening of celebration on Friday, October 29, 2010 with dinner and a program. Rev. Schutt will preach his farewell sermon in a morning service of celebration on October 31, 2010. A special thanks to pastor Herm and Gayle from the Munster congregation.

Announcements

COMING TO FLORIDA THIS WINTER? Visit us at our Central Florida CRC-RCA Ministry We are located in the Winter Haven/Orlando area. Services November - April. Enjoy our warm hospitality! Check us out at our website www.lakealfredministry.org Or email jemoes@peoplepc.com Or call 616-784-7014 or 863-294-3453 (Florida)

Birthdays

95th Birthday



GRACE HAVEMAN Tender Care, Wyoming MI celebrated her 95th birthday with family and friends on June 28th, 2010. She has 5 children - 10 grand children and 11 great grandchildren. "For the unlearned, old age is winter; for the learned, it is the season of the harvest." We thank God daily

for her life and example of her faith in her Savior, Jesus Christ

RENA MELLEMA @ 1950 S. Mountain #1001 Ontario, CA 91762 will celebrate her 95th birthday on Oct. 29 with children Dirk, Wilbur, Jack & Betty Mellema, Ron & Ruth Bode who love her, and are ever thankful to God for the blessing she has been to our family.

ALICE SCHILPEROORT at 1230 SE Barnes Rd., Gresham, OR 97080 will be 95 on Oct 21st. Children Connie, David, Dennis, Ralph, Roger and spouses, 9 grand and 10 great grand. Praise and thank God!

90th Birthday

JEANETTE DOEZEMA (ALSUM) of 2150 Raybrook (Apt. 5024), Grand Rapids, MI 49546, celebrated her 90th birthday with family on 9/25/2010. The family thanks God for her long and productive life.

MARIAN IPPEL of 2121 Raybrook SE Grand Rapids MI 49546 will celebrate her 90th birthday on October 10, 2010. Family and friends are invited to an open house in her honor on October 16 from 2-4pm at Raybrook Manor Friendship Room. Her husband Henry, their 7 children, 24 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren thank God for her 90 years of love, faith, and encouragement.

MAXINE RYSKAMP LEENSWAART 2479 S. Clermont St. #222, Denver, CO 80222 on Sept. 4. Wife of Jacob (deceased). Her children and their spouses, 16 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren praise God for how He has knit our family together!



STEVE VAN DER WEELE 2018 Mallard Drive, SE Grand Rapids, MI, 49546 will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 13. His family is holding an Open House on Saturday, October 9, in the Friendship Room of Raybrook Manor, from 2:00 - 4:30 pm. His children and granddaughters

congratulate him and wish him God's continued blessings.

HERMINA (MIN) VAN VELZEN 1508 Klempel Farms Dr. Grand Haven, MI 49417 celebrated her 90th birthday September 3, 2010. Wife of Cornelius (deceased), Mother of 5 sons; Harold & Patt, Rod (deceased) & Marilyn, Byron (deceased), Ken & Sharon, Paul & Marcia. Grandmother to 14 and Great-grandmother to 22. We thank God for her steadfast faith in Him and the love she shows to all around her.

JEANNE & CLARENCE VOS With thanksgiving to God, the family of Jeanne and Clarence Vos celebrated the 90th birthday of Jeanne (August 5) and Clarence (August 15) at a joyous reunion. Their 66 years of marriage was also remembered. Their children are Tim and Mary Vos, Paul and Kerri Vos, Carol and Jeff Bremmer. Their grand children are Nathan, Adam, and Lindsay Vos, and Nicholas (deceased) and Grace Bremmer. Jeanne and Clarence reside at 2105 Raybrook St. SE #2033, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Anniversaries

65th Anniversary

HUNEFELD Clarence and Lois (Vanden Berg), 2025 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507, celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on October 19, 2010. DV. Thank you Mom and Dad from your 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. We thank God for loving Christian parents and grandparents.

VANDERWALL Arnold (Art) and June (De Jonge) will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct. 23. We, their children, are thankful to our heavenly Father for the example they have set in our lives. From Al & Nyla, Phil & Helen, Mark & Dawn, Tom & Christy and Jamie & Calvin Hofland, 20 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren.

60th Anniversary

BAYLOR, Nathan & Janet, 13521 46 1/2 St, Grand Junction, MI 49056. Thankful for 60 years of marriage on August 26 are Nate & Brenda, Ron & Mary Jane, Dave & Liz, Tim & Joan, Mary & Andy Potts, 14 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren

BROEKHUIZEN Andrew & Harriet (Hoogenboom) 82495 47th St. Decatur, MI 49045 will celebrate their 60th Anniversary October 6. Children: Bruce & Peggy, Dave & Ginger, John, Mariann Leep, Nancy & Glenn Leep, Susan & Bruce Tiemeyer; Paul & Yulia, Phil & Stephanie; 23 grandchildren, 11 greatgrands.

HOEKSTRA Fred & Marge (VanKalker) of Beecher, IL celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 20. Love from their children, Bill & Diane Vlietstra, Fred & Jan Hoekstra, 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren.

HOKSBERGEN Al & Shirley, 18799 Mohican Dr, Spring Lake, MI 49456, Sept. 28. Children: Stan & Deb Hoksbergen, Roland & Lisseth Hoksbergen, Keith & Miriam Hinkle, 12 grandchildren. Thanks be to God.

TUBERGEN Clarence & Betty, Oct. 6. 121 Barbara, Cadillac, MI 49601. Open House on Sun., Oct. 10, 2 - 5 p.m. at Cadillac CRC, given by children: Tim & Faith (Caitlin, Lauren) Mark & Karen (Stephen, Philip) Paul & Deb (Elizabeth, Aaron, Pieter) Melinda & John Baur (Claire, Ben). Congratulations Dad & Mom!

55th Anniversary

DRUKKER John and Kay (Velzen), of Wyckoff, NJ celebrated their 55th anniversary on July 20, 2010. Congratulations from your children and grandchildren. To God be the glory!

VANDER KLIPP Lawn and Donna, of Walker, MI celebrate their 55th anniversary on October 28. Congratulations and a huge "Thank You" from your family: the Bylsmas, Catletts, Haaks, Johnson/Eygenraams, and Vander Klipp's X2. You have blessed us and so many others!

50th Anniversary

DE JAGER John and Arlene (VandeZande) De Jager of N3951 State Road 49, Brandon, WI, 53919, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 9, 2010. Their children and grandchildren praise God for their faithfulness.

EBBENS Wayne & Idell (Douma), 536 E 168th ST., South Holland, IL 60473. Celebrating 50 years on October 7. Children, Linda (Don) Miltzow, Jane (Ken) DeVries, David (Jori) Ebbens, Steven (Dianne) Ebbens and 14 wonderful grandchildren!

ROZEMA, Gerald and Karen (DeBoer) of 5648- 18th Ave., Hudsonville, MI 49426 will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 8. Children- Karen and Tom Zoodsma, Sandy and Ladd VanderLaan and Ken Rozema. Grandchildren-Brad (Molly), Eric (Joy) and Jared Zoodsma, Bethany, Jason and Ryan VanderLaan and great-grandson, Caleb Zoodsma.

VANDER GALIEN, Jim & Judie (Holwerda), of East Lansing, MI celebrated their 50th anniv. on Sept. 29. God has blessed them with 4 children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild.

VANDER STELT The children of John C. & Sandra M. Vander Stelt, of Grand Rapids, MI, invite you to express congratulations on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which was held on September 16, 2010. Feel free to contact them at johnvs1@comcast.net or 3742 Old Elm Dr. SE Kentwood, MI, 49512.

Church Positions Available

BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH of Savage, MN is seeking a full time pastor. We are looking to grow through outreach and community missions. Our new pastor will have a commitment to sound Biblical teaching and passionate preaching that is relevant to both established believers and 'seekers'. Bridgewood Church - People changed by the love of Christ creating a ripple effect in our community. - Check us out at [www. Bridgewood.org!](http://www.Bridgewood.org)

SENIOR PASTOR, WHEATON, IL CRC After 22 years of faithful service, our pastor John Schuurman will be retiring in April 2011. We are seeking a dynamic and experienced pastor with strong preaching skills to lead this energetic and active church of 300 members. Located in Chicago's far west suburbs next to Wheaton College, WCRC is committed to sound Biblical teaching, spiritual growth of its members, community outreach and missions. If interested, please contact us at searchcommittee@wheatoncrc.org.

PASTOR Knollbrook CRC in Corvallis, OR is looking for an ordained pastor or ministry associate with evangelistic and interpersonal skills to lead us in our services and in outreach to grow our congregation. We're praying for you. If you feel the Spirit nudging you, contact us at enikkel@peak.org

BC CHURCH SEEKS PASTOR The Bridge Community Church (CRC) located in beautiful Langley, British Columbia, has initiated a search for a full-time pastor with strengths in challenging and relevant preaching, mentoring and leadership. Our comprehensive profile will introduce you to this interesting progressive church. Please check us out at www.bridgelangley.org/applicants

SENIOR PASTOR: Covenant Christian Reformed Church of North Haledon, New Jersey is continuing to search for qualified pastoral candidates. For more information please visit www.covcrc.org and contact Mark Reitsma at mreitsma@optonline.net Interested applicants should forward a CD or DVD of a recent sermon to Mark as soon as possible!

EMO CRC, with 275 members and regular attendees is seeking a full-time pastor. Reflecting on our congregational needs, the pastor should be friendly and approachable, effective at preaching the Word of God, able to engage the youth, and committed to pastoral care. Our goals are to enable spiritual growth of all age groups, develop our adult education and to create a vision that includes outreach. Emo is a picturesque rural town, 30 minutes from a U. S. border and near several large lakes. We praise God for our previous pastors and councils. Please contact Ed Heerema at emosearch@bellnet.ca for more information.

WORTHINGTON CRC in Worthington, MN is seeking a full time pastor to lead our congregation. We are a multi-cultural church family in four language services (Laotian, Anuak, Oromo, and English). The International Ministries are led by other pastors. Our congrega-

VANPROYEN, Henry & Marlene (Olthof), Cedar Lake, IN. Celebrated 50 years of Marriage on August 26, 2010. Congratulations Mema and Papa, We Love You! Children: Tim & Sue Lagestee, Howie & Brenda Ridder, Eric & Mary Van Proyen, Jennifer Rupcich, & 16 grandchildren.

Obituaries

DEGROOT Madelyn, nee Disselkoen, age 92, Evergreen Park, IL, 8/28/10. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Mother of Grace (Ross) Seeman, Shirley (Bill) Taylor, Arnold, and Roger (Joyce), grandmother of 8, great-grandmother of 21. Fond sister of Harriet (the late Ralph) Leensvaart, Arlin (Emma) Disselkoen, and the late Calvin (Kay) Disselkoen and the late Lois (Jack) Joldersma. Aunt of many nieces and nephews. Madelyn dedicated her life to teaching with over 30 years of service at several Christian schools. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to www.colonialchapel.com

tion consists of about 86 families who are involved with active church life and education. We are seeking a pastor who is effective at preaching the Word of God, is involved with youth ministries, and has a heart for pastoral care. Please send all inquiries, resumes or requests for a church profile to akooiman@iw.net or to Alvin D. Kooiman, Chairman Worthington CRC Search Committee 1944 Dorathea Blvd. Worthington, Mn 56187 or call 507-376-5604

PASTOR Immanuel CRC of Cornwall, Ont., is seeking a full time Pastor who will enable & encourage spiritual growth, provide effective Bible-based messages & help us share the love of God. For more info & to obtain our Church Profile, send inquiries to Immanuel CRC, Attn: Dianne Kuipers, Sec. of the Search Committee, 2264 Pitt Street, Cornwall, ON, K6K 1A3.

FIRST CRC IN RIPON, CA is seeking a full-time Director of Youth Ministries who will be responsible for the junior high and high school ministries of our church. Those interested in learning more or would like to receive a job description please contact the church office at office@riponfirstcrc.org or 209-599-3225.

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 and to: "Director of Outreach Search Team" at the church's address. Letters of interest should be postmarked no later than September 15. 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 marn@georgetowncrc.org; Georgetown CRC, 6475 40th Ave, Hudsonville, Mi. 49464. 616-669-5180.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY JOB The American Protestant Church of The Hague (Netherlands) seeks Director of Youth and Children's Ministry. The position will commence January 2011. Candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited University and a minimum three years of youth and children's ministry in a primary leadership role. For information about APCH and a detailed job description, visit our website at www.apch.nl. To apply, send a letter of introduction and resume to APCHyouthcall@gmail.com

WORSHIP PASTOR New Life Christian Reformed Church, a multi-staffed, vibrant community in Abbotsford, BC, is seeking a full time worship pastor experienced in various aspects of church worship. For further information see www.newlifecrc.ca

Celebrate with Duncan Christian School! 50th Anniversary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

1:00 - 4:00 pm Chapel, Tours, Reception
6:00 - 9:00 pm Reception & Sports Event

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:30 - 10:00 am Pancake Breakfast & Tours
5:30 pm Banquet - \$30.00
7:30 pm Program - \$10.00

CELEBRATE THE FABRIC OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
Contact: development@duncanchristianschool.ca
250-746-3654 ext. 292

DEJAGER LAKOFSKY Helen, 88, Died 8/4/10, BowlingGreen, O. Born 10/4/1921, GrandRapids, MI to Jacob & Mary Brouwer DeJager

GEERTSEMA John; age 82, went to be with his Savior August 3, 2010. 13018 S Moody, Palos Heights, IL 60463. Survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Ann, nee Wigboldy, and children Nancy (Will) Buis, John (Bettie), Carol (Dan) Goudzwaard, Janice (Dave) Ridderhoff. Dear Opa of Rachel (Justin), Douglas, Ryan, Christine, Katie, Heidi, Casien, Daniel, Kelsey, and Michelle. Fond brother of the late Roelfina Hoekstra, Martin Geertsema, and Grace Hahn.

HOEKSTRA Doris; aged 77; August 1, 2010; She was preceded in death by her parents, David and Lena Nagelkirk, husband, Lou Hoekstra, brother-in-law, Smitty (Albert P.) Smith, and her nephew, David Nagelkirk. She is survived by her children: Dirk (Jackie), Vicki (Clancy) Catlin, Gwen (David) Buday, and Jon (Tina); grandchildren: Chandler Hoekstra, Andrew, Katie and Nick Catlin, Madeline, Jake, Sadie and Allison Buday, and Pomona Hoekstra; sister: Mae Smith; brother and sister-in-law: Ed and Angie Nagelkirk.

HUINER Anne, age 95. August 9, 2010. 0N702 Concord Lane, Winfield, IL 60190. Preceded by her brothers and sisters George, John Huiner, Margaret Venema, Jean Huiner and Christine Mulder-Slager. Cherished aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews. Member of Wheaton CRC.

KING Claire J. (Greydanus) July 16, 2010. Age 90. Daughter of Samuel E. & Nellie Minnema Greydanus. Survived by: John (Ellie), Steven (Barb), Roger, Nancy (Kevan), brother Samuel E. Greydanus Jr., E. Saugatuck, MI, 9 grandchildren & 4 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by husband John (1998), brothers Neil & John, and sisters Frances & Pearl (Steinginga).

KLUITENBERG Peter R.; age 89; August 29, 2010; Raybrook Manor, 2121 Raybrook SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. He was a faithful and devoted husband, a fine Christian father, and a wise and gentle man. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Tena (Trijntje Smedema); sons Gerard (Deborah) and Edward (Rae Ann); son-in-law Craig Glupker; eight grandchildren; sisters-in-law Jikke Kluitenberg and Cornelia Kluitenberg; brothers-in-law Hette (Ge) Smedema, Dick (Riek) Smedema, and Johan (Fransiska) Smedema; and many nieces and nephews. Peter was preceded in death by his daughter, Theodora Glupker; two brothers; and two sisters. In appreciation for outstanding care provided, memorials to Holland Home (Resident Assistance Fund - Kluitenberg on memo line), Holland Home Development Office, 2100 Raybrook SE, Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

SPEELMAN Margaret (Van Kley) age 79; went to be with her Lord on July 22, 2010; South Holland (formerly of Oak Lawn), IL. Preceded in death by her husband Richard. Surviving are her children Deb and

Roland Bultsma (Chris, Jeremy, Alicia), Rick and Cindy (Michael, Jennifer), Dave and Linda (Amy, Brian, Kristen, Jacob), Jan, Randy and Mary (Tom, Emily), Laura and Jim Van Hulzen. Sister of Harold and Pris, and Joanne Sweetman.

TJAPKES Mary Catherine, 81 of Gainesville, FL. went to be with the Lord August 2, 2010 ending her courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. She was born June 21, 1929 in Oak Park, Illinois to the late Marinus and Catherine Sturrs. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Burt, daughters Jean (Gerry) Geisick of Greeley, CO; Susan (Carl) Eriksen of Mattawan, MI; Julie (Billy) Samples of Gainesville, FL; Joan (Bob) Muecke of Knoxville, TN; 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren; a brother, Peter (Carolyn) Sturrs, and 2 sisters, Margaret (Alan) Workman, and Joyce Webb; all of Michigan.

VAN REKEN Donald, age 90; May 26, 2010; Holland, MI. Wives: Elsa (deceased 1996) and Mildred (deceased 2006); son Mark (deceased 2006); children: Dr. Mary van Reken, Judith and Alan Herweyer, Donna and Andrew Hoogendoorn, Margaret (Peg) Nienhuis, Kris van Reken; 9 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; step-children: Robert Steiner, Jack Steiner, Charles Steiner, Gary Steiner, Connie Dean; siblings: Dr. Everett and Rose van Reken, Jean Jensma, Stanley and Harriet van Reken; several nieces and nephews.

VAN STAALDUINEN Henry "Henk", age 86, August 11, 2010; 3352 Terra Ceia Rd., Pantego, NC 27860. Henk is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anne (Vander Vliet); his children: Steven and Sherry Van Staalduinen, Joann and Marshall Lilley, Elizabeth Wallace; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and several foster children. He was preceded in death by a daughter Alida, a son Thomas, and a granddaughter Rebekah. Henk found comfort in John 14:3.

WIERSMA Mrs. Eileen Faye (De Young) aged 54; August 5, 2010; 201 Hillcrest Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. She was preceded in death by her father Fred De Young. She is survived by her husband: Mark; children: Daniel Wiersma and fiancée Jenna Killips (Ludington), Andrew Wiersma, and Beth Wiersma all of Ypsilanti; mother: Dorothy De Young of Kalamazoo; mother-in-law and father-in-law: John and Marge Wiersma of Grand Rapids; brothers: Fred and Nancy De Young of Paw Paw, Wayne and Sandy De Young of Guadajajara, MX, Bert and Carol De Young of Kalamazoo, Paul and Anita De Young of Paw Paw; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Karen and Tom Jelsema of Grand Haven, Jane and Dave Thomas of Santa Fe, NM.

VANDER POL, William, age 84, 8358 Meadow Lane, Lynden, WA 98264; passed away on June 29, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 55

years, Bernice (Dykstra); children Brenda (Carl) Asplund, Douglas, Denise (Larry) Tjoelker, and son-in-law Peter DeMann; 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandson, 2 sisters, and many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. Preceded in death by daughter Colleen DeMann, son James, 4 brothers, and 2 sisters.

Employment

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Illiana Christian High School, a Reformed Christian high school of about 600 students in the south suburbs of Chicago, seeks a school leader for the position of assistant principal beginning August 2011. Responsibilities may include facility management, discipline, daily activities, etc. Send a resume and letter of interest to peter.boonstra@illianachristian.org.

CAMPUS MINISTER Full time Campus Minister for the University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC Canada. UNBC is a small university that openly states a commitment to students' spiritual development. The CRC provides the only full-time chaplain for the university. The CR Campus Ministry has become an integral part of the life of the University, ministering to a diverse student population, faculty and staff, including members of the Christian Reformed Church. We are looking for a Christian with a strong commitment to the Reformed faith who is self motivated, has advanced academic and/or professional degrees, has experience in working pastorally with youth and students, is able to relate well to religious and ethnically diverse groups on campus, and is able to nurture healthy relationships with volunteer campus ministry workers from other denominations and faiths. A job description is available upon request. Please send a letter of application, a complete resume, two reference letters, as well as a brief outline of a personal vision for campus ministry to Dr. Ted Binnema, Chair of the Search Committee, 4642 Newglen Place, Prince George, BC, Canada, V2K 4K1, binnemat@unbc.ca. Applications submitted before 15 December 2010 are guaranteed consideration.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT POSITION Ontario Christian Schools (CA) seeks candidates to replace retiring Superintendent Len Stob in July 2011. The Superintendent is the CEO/Educational leader, reporting to the Board and responsible for all operations. Established in 1944, OCS is founded on a Reformed philosophy and serves families from 250 churches. The Pre-K to grade 12 enrollment of 1400 students is representative of the multi-ethnic community of Ontario and Chino, 35 miles east of Los Angeles. The ideal candidate will be a deeply committed follower of Christ, an experienced manager with entrepreneurial skills, and a visionary educator prepared to initiate and direct authentically Christian education for the future. To view the complete Opportunity Profile go to the following link <http://www.csionline.org/documents/OCSsuperintendent.pdf> CSI Consulting Service provides search assistance to OCS. To apply submit a cover letter and resume to Barry Koops, CSI Consultant, bkoops@CSionline.org or call 339.223.2707.

SUPERINTENDENT POSITION Valley Christian Schools (CA) seeks candidates for the position of Superintendent beginning July 1, 2011. He/she is responsible for all operations, including personnel, finances, facilities, and promotion. In its 76th year VCS has 1300 students in Pre-K through 12. VCS, with campuses in Cerritos and Bellflower, is situated 25 miles south of Los Angeles. Valley Christian is seeking an experienced manager and educational leader to continue the school's tradition of academic excellence with a Reformed Christian perspective. To view the Opportunity Profile go to the following link: <http://www.csionline.org/documents/VCSsuperintendent.pdf> The CSI Consulting Service provides search assistance to VCS. To apply submit a cover letter and resume to Barry Koops, CSI Consultant: bkoops@CSionline.org or call 339.223.2707

MESSAGE THERAPIST For Professional, Ethical GR Chiropractic Clinic. Part-time days, some Sat. mornings. Send resume to PO Box 140213, GR, MI 49504

Feed the Fish End Hunger



in churches October 17 - November 7
www.crrwc.org/fish
on facebook





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Please join us at our

Annual Dinner

Thursday, November 11, 2010

Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI

Contact us to RSVP & for details.

**616-454-4925 /
jcministry@sbcglobal.net**

*Special Guest Speaker:
Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.,
President,
Calvin Theological Seminary*



DORDT COLLEGE Faculty Positions

Dordt College is seeking applications for the following openings beginning August 2011:

- Computer Science
- Construction Management
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering-Civil/Construction
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Studies

Chemistry (August 2012 or earlier)

Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, Biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vita/resume to:

Dr. Erik Hoekstra, Provost
Dordt College
498 4th Ave. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Fax: (712) 722-6035
E-mail: provost@dordt.edu
Web: www.dordt.edu/prospective_employees/faculty/

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



Perhaps no other gift

gives more joy and encouragement than the establishment of a scholarship or award at

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A community of faith. A center of learning. A life of ministry.

We welcome your support.

For confidential, no-obligation information, contact Richard Eppinga:
reppinga@calvinseminary.edu • 616.957.8592 • 800.388.6034 • 3233 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

www.calvinseminary.edu/development

TRINITY'S COMMUNITY OF FAITH MINISTERS TO ME and teaches me every day."

Adam Perez '12
Hometown: Racine, Wisconsin
Home Church: Racine CRC

TRINITY
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Palos Heights, Illinois
WWW.TRNTY.EDU • 866.TRIN.4.ME

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WEEK

NOVEMBER 14 - 20

DOWNLOAD A FREE RJ TOOL KIT FOR YOUR CHURCH AT WWW.CBI.FM

Kit includes:

- Songs and Prayers
- Sermon Starters
- Bulletin Cover
- Group Study Guide
- Speakers Bureau
- and more . . .

Crossroad BIBLE INSTITUTE

CBI UNITED STATES
P.O. Box 900
Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

CBI CANADA
P.O. Box 5037
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

www.cbi.fm

OnlineMinistryTraining.org



Christian Leaders Institute has developed cutting edge technologies that can literally bring Ministry Associate training right into your home.

14367 159th Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491
(708) 941 -7900
www.clionline.org



Providence Moves to Pasadena



This fall, Providence students and campus visitors are "Pasadena Bound" following the college's move this summer to a lovely new campus in Pasadena, California. "It's our desire to prepare Providence students to engage every aspect of life from a biblical perspective. This move allows us to take full advantage of the rich cultural resources of Pasadena and Los Angeles." —President J. Derek Halvorson



www.providencecc.net • Toll Free: (866) 323-0233

Real Estate: Sales and Rental

HOUSE FOR RENT Furnished in Green Valley, Az 2Bd2Ba, Az rm, clean comfortable fenced backyard Near rec centers pools golf courses Pictures avail \$1500 a mo or \$1200 a mo for 3 or more mos. Car avail to rent 541-556-3160

GREEN VALLEY, AZ For Rent Town House, 3 Br & 3 Bath on golf course, community pool. \$2000/month, \$5000 for 3 months. View details www.rwestrate.com or phone 616-827-3367.

GREEN VALLEY ARIZONA Beautiful 2 bedroom 1 bath townhouse and villa. Both located in the heart of Green Valley. Available year round, prices vary depending on season. Contact via email amerikey@gvrent.com

FOR RENT Old Town Scottsdale AZ, 2BD 2BA pool, spa, grnd floor, shopping, dining, golf, spring training, gamallett@hughes.net 209-923-1451

SCOTTSDALE, AZ 2BD, 2BA condo for rent; 2nd fl. furnished w/ fireplace in LR: private patio & pool access. \$750/mo off season; \$1,500/mo peak call 888-448-3040 or e-mail shelml@barnabasfoundation.com

GREEN VALLEY AZ. For rent 2bd 2ba condo fully furnished Pool 1-616-457-9198 e-mail wfaber8334@comcast.net

LOG CHALET FOR RENT Come ski, snowshoe, hike alpine meadows, fish or just relax at Mt. Washington, BC. elsie60bosma@hotmail.com 250-709-0449

THREE WIDE MOBILE HOME. Sky Valley Park, Ca. close to Palm Springs. Many amenities. 15% discount for Ministers. Details on home page <http://home.comcast.net/~igotmilk/skyvalley.htm>

KISSIMME HOME FOR RENT New, 6 bedroom, 4 bath, fully furnished home with private pool, 3 miles from Disney. www.floridavacahome.com. 708-372-2586

FT. MYERS POOL HOME FOR RENT 2 bed, 2 bath, sleeps 10, heated pool, hot tub, bikes, quiet cul-de-sac. 9 mi. to beach. Photos available. 905-332-6711

BOYNTON BEACH FL Condo For rent or sale; One BR/1 1/2 BA; min to ocean; nice 55+ community. Rent \$1,100/mo (3 mo minimum) Sale \$35,000 616 8978694

BRADENTON, FL RENTALS Small Furnished aptment w/laundry. Min. of 3 mos. \$750.00 per month. 1-941-756-4895. Mobile Home in background check park. 3 b/r, 2 baths, with laundry. fully furnished, 3 mos. Min. \$1550 per mo. 1-616-363-3639

FL MOBILE HOME Hawaiian Isles Park on Cockroach Bay near Ruskin 2br 1 bath adults only no dogs. Lots of activities. By week or month Call 531-8484 616-403-9710

FLORIDA HOME 1 bedroom/1 bath on Nettles Island, Jensen Beach \$99, 900. Furnished completely. Photos upon request. dykhouse@msn.com or 616-402-4451

CONDO RENTAL NAPLES, FL Direct Gulf View & Access; 2 BR, 2 Bath Condo, pool, tennis & internet. Available Jan-Apr. Call 570 561-6370 or mata8@verizon.net.

BRADENTON, FL Condo rental, 2 BR-2 BA fully furnished. 3 mos. minimum. No pets, no smoking. Call 219-838-7208.

NAPLES FL CONDO FOR RENT Located in Naples Lakes Country Club. (www.napleslakesfl.com) Elegantly furnished 2 bedroom condo, top floor, (4th). Arnold Palmer course with transferable membership. Close to Naples and Marco Island beaches. Pools, tennis, fitness, club house. \$3,900 montly rent. Discount for seasonal rental. Call Carole 616-813-6122 or email-samjame@aol.com

RENT: Boynton Beach, FL 2 Br/1.5 Ba condo. Pool & Amenities. Over 50, 3 month min. Possible sale. 616-249-2288.

FOR RENT 3br/2ba condo for rent on Madeira Beach, FL, directly overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Stunning southern and western views from large L-shaped balcony. \$990/week plus \$150 cleaning fee. Call 219-689-0953

FOR RENT 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in Naples, FL. \$2,500 per month. 219-374-9321 or 708-284-7608.

ANNA MARIA ISLAND FL CONDO Gulf in front Sarasota Bay in back 3 BR/2 BA; pool, fishing dock, \$640/wk thru 11/30; \$1000/wk 12/1-1/31 ex Chr wk; disc for mo rental 616-915-9083

BONITA SPRINGS, FL Condo for rent, across from gulf beach, 1br, 1ba, pools, tennis, reasonable, openings beginning 3/20/10. Don't wait! 616-977-0039 brochure

FT MYERS BEACH FL CONDO monthly rental available Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb. Condo has 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Pool & Gulf view balcony. Call Char 239-218-7690.

FT MYERS BEACH FL HOUSE weekly rental available Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb & Apr. Home has 2 Bedrooms sleeps 7 with Gulf water frontage. Call Char 239-218-7690

ORLANDO CONDO RENTALS in Ventura Golf Resort. Fully equipped; close to Disney; sleeps 6. Call 616/318-7248; <http://dslobe.home.comcast.net>

FT MYERS, FL - Two Bedroom 2 bath condo for rent. 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-Mar, 2011. Email pinkhippo2@yahoo.com or call 708-836-1130.

CONDO RENTAL IN ORLANDO, Florida, on Ventura Golf Club. Fully furnished, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Will rent by the week or month. 616-786-3899

NETTLES ISLAND, FL. park model w/ Florida room, sleeps 4, AC, cable, clean & comfortable. available Dec 2010 March 2011 616-581-4025

BRADENTON, FL-55+ comm., villa, 2 bdrm, 2 ba w/ launa, end unit, furnished, w/d, a/c, near CRC, \$55k obo. 262-728-2000 or 941-727-7073.

NETTLES ISLAND JENSEN BEACH FL Just Updated 1 bd/1ba Mobile home w/FL room. For pics/info see www.552Nettles.com (708)945-4963

NAPLES FL CONDO, 5 min to Gulf beaches, 2 BR 2 BA, den, lanai, patio, pool, many amenities, Jan. 2011, \$2700, in Bay Forest (www.bayforestnaples.com) Call 508-476-4467 or email bvanreed@aol.com

SINGER ISLAND FL APT. FOR RENT Palm Bch Area; 2BD, 1BA furnished 2nd fl. apt. for monthly rental. 1/2 block from ocean; golf, tennis, fishing, church nearby. Until Oct. 1 preference given to multiple month rentals. Nonsmokers, no pets, please. <http://www.calvin.edu/~dypo/> 616-940-2955; 616-453-3464; dypo@calvin.edu

NAPLES, FL CONDO 2bd/2bath on inlet waterway. 3 minute walk to beach. See pictures at <http://tinyurl.com/2cq8yqv> Call for availability 231-620-9259

FOR RENT Condo in Clearwater FL. 2BR 2 BA, greatroom, new appliances, very clean, quiet, near beaches, golf courses, shopping. Avail Dec 2010-Apr 2011, wklly or monthly rates. Reasonable. ljvandermeer@yahoo.com or 920 912-2473.

CONDO FOR RENT Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida. Close to ocean and activities. 1 bed/1 bath. Call Ken at 616-669-9570 for availability.

FORT MYERS BEACH Indian Creek Resort, Rental: Oct-Dec \$1200; Jan-March \$1975; pictures available 616-293-9143

ANNA MARIA ISLAND, FL FOR RENT Brand new! 6BR, 4 BA, 2 kitchens, sleeps 22, private htd pool, on the bay, bikes, wi-fi. Could rent half 616-292-5008 vrbo.com/303070

ANNA MARIA ISLAND, FL CONDOS pool, beach access, linens, fully equipped. 1 and 2 bedrooms. \$650-750/wk. D. Redeker, 941-778-1915. redekercondos.com

HOME FOR SALE on 100 ft. of Spring Lake, Spring Lake, MI. 3 BR/2.5 BA, newer kit. plus apt. over garage. Call Greg@616-847-8801.

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.

CONDO FOR RENT Lower level \$350 Kentwood (Grand Rapids) MI, private bedrm, bath, living/diningrm w/shared entrance, kitchen, 5 min from Calvin College rmwestra@netzero.net

GRANDVILLE MI CONDO FOR RENT 1 bedroom, full bath on main floor. 2nd bedroom, bath and laundry on lower floor, attached garage. \$635.00 month plus gas and electric 616-878-5931

WEEKLY RENTAL: Douglas/Saugatuck, MI: Walk to the beaches of Lake Michigan from this Newly remodeled Vacation Home, 7Br, 4Ba—comfortably sleeps up to 14. Call Ken @ 630-268-1531 or email Groenjk@aol.com for info.

BEAUFORT, NC: 1 br furnished cottages for wklly/mo rental in historic coastal town, near beaches, w/d, TV, internet, grill, bikes. www.theshellcottage.com; 252-504-6262

KIAWAH ISLAND, CHARLESTON, SC 3 Bedroom, 2 two bath cottage. 5 minute walk to beach. Fully furnished including linens. Golf, Tennis, Biking, Fishing, pool complex. Visit: gembinletcove.blogspot.com. or cgembis@gmail.com. 989-274-1201

RETIRE in beautiful Staunton, VA. Shanadoah Valley on historical route, 3 acre lot, perked. \$69,500 obo. 540-849-9093 or 262-728-2000.

Travel

HOLIDAY IN HOLLAND in our self-contained cabin or suite. We also offer vehicle rentals and tours, www.chestnutlane.nl

NIAGARA FALLS Join us for a home-style experience. All 3 main floor rooms a/c and private baths. info@trilliumbb.ca or call 905-354-3863

SOUTH AMERICA SPECIALIST Call Ken Vander Kodde 866 974 1964 or visit www.kvk-travel.com for details

JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAND Mission-Service-Discovery June 11-27, 2011 Ideal for church mission groups or individuals interested in combining service and an in-depth Israel experience. Four days as guests in the homes of Palestinian Christians SERVING alongside fellow believers in Bethlehem followed by DISCOVERING biblical Israel via a 10 day vigorous spiritual journey throughout the Land. Leaders: Jeff Blamer and Bart Den Boer Visit Witte Travel <http://www.wittetravel.com/calendar-tours/journey-through-israel-palestine/>

VELLINGA'S Travel/Cruise Holidays: Hosted Tours Israel and Jordan - Agricultural Tour with Martin and Jenny Oldengarm Rhine and Moselle River Cruise with Bob & Willy Vellinga Full details under the Groups Tab at www.cruiseholidayschatham.com or call 1-877-352-5150.

EUROPE Don't care to fly to Europe? Sail onboard Holland America's Maasdam round-trip Boston on July 23. Spend 35 days visiting 23 exciting ports. Special Low Rates. Email: ken@kvk-travel.com or call Ken Vander Kodde at 1 866 974 1964

SECOND DEPARTURE of Witte Travel's popular annual Netherlands Waterway Cruise added! The April 15 - 23, 2011 cruise sold out in record time so Witte Travel has added a second cruise from April 22 - 30, 2011 featuring the same itinerary and also hosted by Henk and Thessa Witte.

Optional post-cruise tour to Germany and Switzerland April 30 - May 6. Sign up by November 1, 2010 and receive a FREE Keukenhof excursion. Contact Witte Travel & Tours (616) 957-8113, 800-469-4883 or groups@wittetravel.com or visit our website at www.wittetravel.com.

BEACH HOUSE RENTAL Nettles Island, Jensen Beach, Fl. 2bd/2ba modern one floor house with full amenities. Dec & jan, private beach. contact: Ken 450-248-7127 or ken.monic.baker@sympatico.ca

Products and Services

ABSOLUTELY BEST PRICES paid for religious books. Contact Credo Books, 1540 Pinnacle East SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, ph. (616) 249-9291. gvsbooks@gmail.com

A. A. PROFESSIONAL AIR DUCT CLEANING - Providing superior air duct cleaning for 7 years using the latest equipment and technology. For a free estimate call 616-534-6710 or 616-887-7925.

BOERS' TRANSFER & STORAGE, INC Offering professional moving services within the United States and Canada. EXCELLENT CLERGY DISCOUNTS and an approved mover for retired CRC clergy! 13325 Riley Street, Holland, MI; 1-800-433-9799 or 616-399-2690 email: larry@boerstransfer.com; www.boerstransfer.com Agent for Mayflower Transit, LLC.

CARING FOR AGING PARENTS? Visiting Angels offers in-home assisted living. Our caregivers will prepare meals, do light housekeeping, run errands, provide transportation to appointments, and joyful companionship. Whether you need a few hours a day or live-in care, for assisted independent living in your home anywhere in West Michigan call Trish Borgdorff at 616-243-7080 or toll free at 888-264-3580. TRIP Participant.

PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING Executive available to design and manage a fundraising campaign for your church/school project. \$100k to \$5mm. Call Herb Reinders @ 616.334.3133

D-R TRAYS Lap trays for your home or church. Available in different colors. D-R Trays, Iowa Call 712-737-8385 or email: vanommer@orangecitycomm.net

PHOTOGRAPHY West Michigan based contemporary portrait & wedding photography. Studio & location. www.jphotographygr.com www.jweddingsgr.com 616-723-7685

Miscellaneous

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY The Board of Trustees of CTS will meet in the Seminary on Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. and the following day.

CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

is pleased to announce the appointment of

Dr. Paul J. Bergsma

~ as the ~

Lee S. Huizenga Distinguished Missionary-in-Residence

Donors wishing to remain anonymous have endowed this program in order to:

- Strengthen the church of Christ through the instruction of students who are called to serve as foreign missionaries;
- Secure for the seminary the services of foreign missionaries who will model faithful missions leadership;
- Provide employment for foreign missionaries re-entering North American society;
- And honor a hero of the faith in the history of the Christian Reformed Church, Dr. Lee S. Huizenga—minister, medical missionary, holder of two earned doctorates, Royal Geographic Fellow, writer in three languages, biographer, historian, scientist, and humble Christian who strove to live the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:14.

Calvin Theological Seminary encourages Reformed foreign missionaries, ordained and unordained, who are interested in serving during the spring of 2012 and/or academic year 2012-13 to contact the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vanessa Lake at 616.957.6083 or vanessa@calvinseminary.edu.



CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3233 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 • 800-388-6034 • www.calvinseminary.edu

Staying safe at home with HomeCare of Holland Home



As the home health division of Holland Home, HomeCare of Holland Home understands the health complexities of older adults. We're a nationally-certified home health agency that supplies health professionals to the doorsteps of those wanting to maintain an independent lifestyle at home.

The trusted excellence of
Holland Home . . . to your home.
Call today (616) 235-5113
www.homecareofhollandhome.org



Help Feed Families in Ukraine

Years of Communist oppression have left many families destitute in Ukraine. Millions live on less than \$2.00 per day.

Help us keep these families together through a gift of sponsorship.

Family sponsorship begins at \$29.00 per month.

Help us bring hope, God's love and a future to these needy people.

For more information please call our toll free number or visit our website TODAY.



Toll Free Canada: 1-800-494-4454 www.mwbca.org
Toll Free U.S.: 1-800-245-9191 www.mwb.org



For more information contact
Dianne De Wit
712.722.6029
ddewit@dordt.edu



Netherlands

Dordt College Alumni and Friends

Exploring Dutch culture and the history of the churches of the Reformation
Led by Leendert van Beek and James C. Schaap

May 17-28, 2011



Punch Lines

Got a funny joke or story or a photo of something related to the Reformed Christian life? Send it to *The Banner* and you might see it in print! You can email your contributions to editorial@thebanner.org or send them to 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560.

We live in a mid-sized Ontario town and were driving through the countryside one day. From the backseat our 7-year-old daughter said, "Dad, please don't ever make us live in the country." Surprised, I asked why. "You're spread out from your friends, they can't just walk over, and it often stinks," she said. Having grown up in the country, I told her about the friendships I had with neighbors and then asked, "Is there anything positive you can think of about living in the country?" Without skipping a beat she answered, "Well, I'm positive it stinks a lot."

—Daryl DeKlerk

We were taking our visiting 3-year-old grandson for rides around town in our Kia. But because he enjoys our SUV so much, we decided to take him for a ride in our Jeep too. As we were approaching the stop sign at the end of the street, Nathan asked, "Grandpa, does this SUV stop at stop signs, or does it keep going like the Kia does?"

—Joyce Steen

It was a hot summer day, and my husband and I had our 5-year-old grandson over. My husband had his shirt off, and my grandson told me that he had a secret to tell me. So he whispered in my ear, "Why does Grandpa have fur underneath his arms?" I told him to ask Grandpa.

—Karen VanMeeteren

The minister stopped to talk about the baptism of baby Eli. Three-year-old Noah later reported to his grandparents, "Jesus was here to talk about advertising Eli."

—Marion Sandfort

Years ago my children would make a dash from the schoolyard for the van, hoping to ride home in the prized front seat. One particular spring afternoon my middle child won the dash but was disappointed when he swung open the door to see the seat occupied by a stone Dutch girl garden ornament. (My last stop before picking up the kids had been to a garden center, where I picked up the statue to perch on the rock edge of our pond. To prevent the heavy object from becoming a projectile if I had to brake hard, I had belted it in.) As my son shut the front door and proceeded to climb through the sliding door, he asked matter-of-factly, "Why'd you buy an idol, Mom?"

—Pauline Hogewoning

Our family was gathered to celebrate my brother-in-law's birthday. He is a pastor and received a beach ball meant to be used in an icebreaker game for youth groups. It had thought-provoking questions all over it and was designed to be tossed around, with each person answering the question under his or her right thumb upon catching it. We started tossing it around and answering the questions. Eventually my 3-year-old son, Sam, got the question "If your house was on fire, what two things would you grab?" His answer? "Chocolate and marshmallows!"

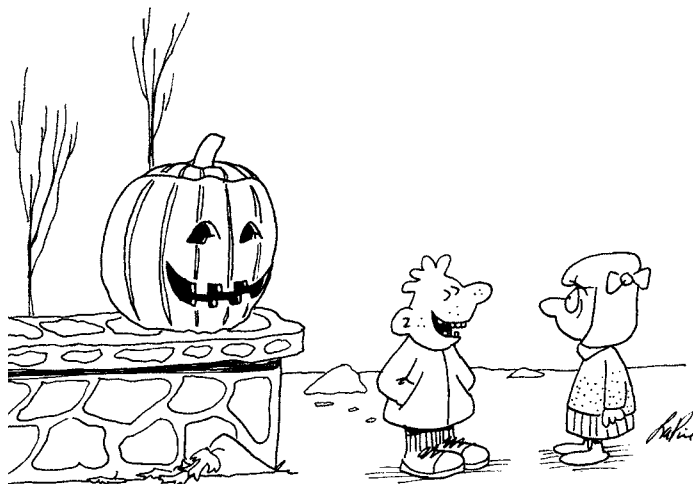
—Jodi Dykstra

Send Us Your Photos!

What in the world? It appears that Reformed cargo shipping has made its debut in San Jose, Costa Rica. Spotted by Brian and Kristy Quist of Neland Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids, Mich.



LEE HARDY



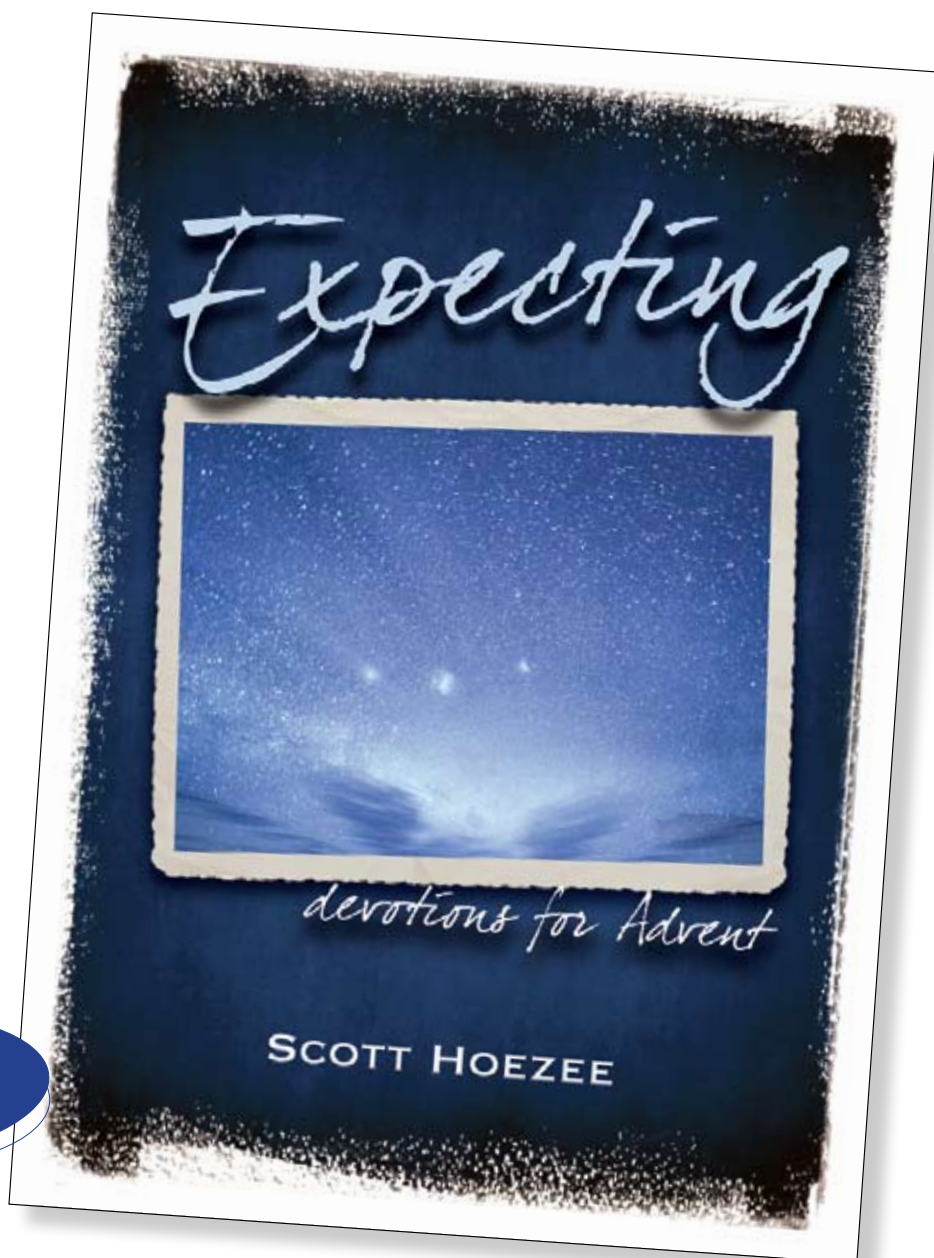
"Dad said that he used me as a model!"

Expect Great Things This Advent

At Advent, we're all "expecting"—anticipating Christ's birth and looking forward to the time when he comes again. With Mary, we wait for God's plan to be accomplished in and through us. Written by Rev. Scott Hoezee, these brief devotions are excellent for personal, family, or congregational use. Also makes a great gift!

160515	1-9 copies	\$3.99 ^{US} /\$ ^{CDN} * each
	10-49 copies	\$3.49 ^{US} /\$ ^{CDN} * each
	50-99 copies	\$2.99 ^{US} /\$ ^{CDN} * each
	100+ copies	\$2.49 ^{US} /\$ ^{CDN} * each

Now Available —
order today!



www.FaithAliveResources.org
1-800-333-8300