



Oskaloosa
1st CRC
Newsletter

November - December 2023

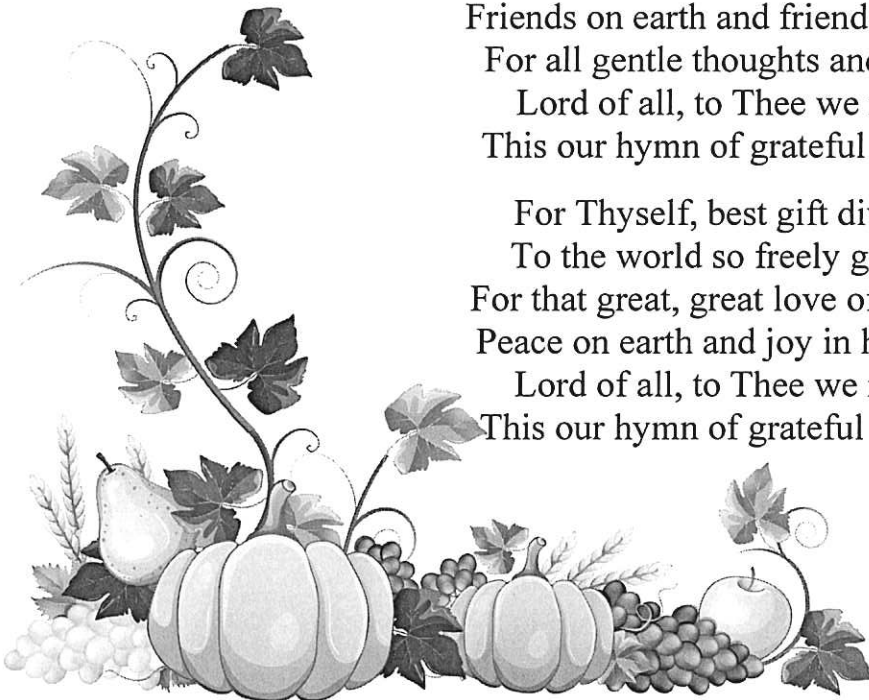
For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thyself, best gift divine,
To the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.



Conrad Kocher, Folliott Sanford Pierpoint
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From Pastor Kamp's Desk

SELFISH SPEECHES



The past couple of weeks I have given considerable attention to the mounting tensions in the Middle East. As the Hamas terror organization has led a violent attack on the nation of Israel, and as Israel has responded with military strikes seeking to eradicate Hamas from the neighboring Gaza strip, I have observed this conflict with growing apprehension for I can perceive within these actions a type of war that I have only read about in history books. Added to this, I for the first time see war through the lens of a father who fears its power to take children – which it already has. I frame the conflict in these terms to explain why what I desire above all is de-escalation. To witness calmness from those who have the responsibility speaking of and into the conflict.

To my horror, those who have taken up the mic and are given the majority of attention from our media are those who have framed it in the most intense terms and who have proposed the most extreme responses. We have politicians who are saying this was a direct attack upon America, which of course, it is not. We have others who have solely blamed the victims, which of course, is completely false. We have others who have proposed all-out war against nations that have done nothing – framing it as the war to end all wars, which of course, is pure madness to anyone who has taken a single history class.

Do these politicians truly believe what they are saying? I honestly do not believe so. I believe they know that what they are saying is blatantly false. Instead, I believe they are making such speeches to earn political points; believing that what they are saying promotes their political careers and furthers their future influence and power. Their speeches are purely selfish, furthering only their own ambitions and goals. What this might mean is that our leaders are willing to risk war for a few points of approval.

The fact that these are the people who have been allowed to frame the conversations within America frustrates me. The fact that such people have been able to stand on stages and speak so foolishly without the surrounding politicians and crowds telling them to immediately be quiet angers me. And perhaps most significantly, the fact that these people believe such language and framing is desired by us saddens me.

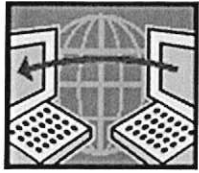
These are the personalities and people which have started to take over shaping the course of our country and culture. The type of person which I expect on a reality television show is given the ability to shape global policy. It makes me desire so much for another way.

As we have started the *Believe* series, I have appreciated how in each chapter in the children's story book there is a blatant "Jump to Jesus" section which frames how everything we believe is shaped and centered around Jesus. I found myself doing the same thing these past weeks concerning our leaders and their language. I found myself jumping to Jesus asking the question about how He would lead today? How would He speak to His people today? What might His message be? And how would we who listen to Him be shaped by Him?

Jesus is the perfect leader. Jesus displays the perfect example in His willingness to lay down His life for His own. Jesus speaks not selfishly, but selflessly, instilling calm confidence in those who listen to Him. And so, I ask of myself, are those leaders whom I am listening to regularly using the language of Christ? Not necessarily using church language, but selfless language. Do I support and encourage those who actually lead by sacrifice? Or do my watching and listening habits contribute to polling data that informs politicians to speak dramatically and desperately?

But finally, when I reflect on places in which I have the responsibility to lead, do I look and speak like Christ? Do those who look at and listen to me perceive a calm confidence because of Christ? Do I selflessly serve others as Christ my King selflessly served His church?

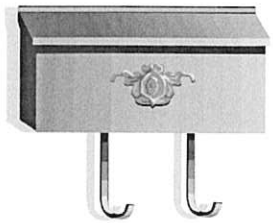
Church Family News



Jacque Kamp – jnkamp@proton.me

Saif & Jaynee Grafke
2497 Hwy 92
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
641-295-4657 (S)
641-295-5608 (J)

Jim & Marilyn Brummel
Homestead Assisted Living
2102 S. Market Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
673-4999



Tatum Timothy Boender – 10/22/23
~ son of Karl & Kristin

Membership Updates

Transferred: Olivia Boender
to Fellowship Bible Church
in Oskaloosa – 9/25/23



First CRC Council 2023

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Doug Boender	Elder	2024	641-660-3282	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Joel De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-295-6364	Evangelism Committee
Kurtis De Bruin	Elder	2024	641-660-6681	Building & Grounds & Tech. Committee
Rich De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-660-9820	Education Comm. & Library
Rich De Groot	Elder	2024	641-295-6240	Fellowship
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Communion, Care Groups & Bulletin Comm.
Doug Groenenboom	Elder	2024	641-638-4758	Worship Committee
Steve Plate	Elder	2025	641-660-8133	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Paul Van Donselaar	Elder	2025	641-660-4507	President, Pulpit Supply
Kyle De Ronde	Deacon	2025	641-660-2907	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Alex Fynaardt	Deacon	2024	641-780-9826	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Brad McMahan	Deacon	2024	641-295-0479	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Special Offerings Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Marty Roberts	Deacon	2024	641-660-0676	General Fund Treasurer
Josh Van Donselaar	Deacon	2025	641-295-1942	Associate Pastor, Benevolence, Enduring Gifts, Mission Fund and Love, INC
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer

Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary	673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
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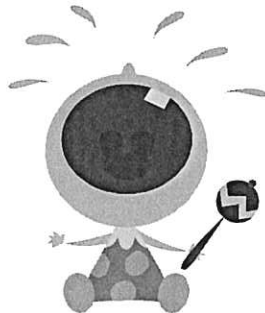
Updated 10/27/22

Nursery Schedule

November - December 2023

A.M.

November 5	Karen DB, Zech VD Allison B
November 12 (Communion)	Ben S, Taylor H Natalie B, Kahlan K
November 19	Joan K, Elijah B Clara B
November 23 (Thanksgiving)	Heather C, Harper McK Brayden B
November 26	Tiffany R, Galen H Sophia P
December 3	Bethany DB (L), Cayden P Avery K
December 10	Leah VD, Amelia B Daxton R
December 17	Ruth B, Kate VD Leah L
December 24	Deb B, John B Leah S
December 25	Karen F, Anton B Pippa DR
December 31	Rachael H, Bethany VD Peyton V



Breaking Barriers

A newsletter of CRC-RCA Disability Concerns

Human Needs

In her compelling article, *They aren't special needs. They are human needs*, Amy Julia Becker powerfully details the inaccuracy of the term "special needs." All people have the same human needs for mobility, access to public spaces, respect, and more, she teaches. We need mutual relationships where everyone's needs are met. "We are invited to be human together."

Her words remind me that while many classify me as different because of my mobility aid and communication device, these are merely tools that meet my human needs of communication and movement.

As you peruse this newsletter, I hope that you, too, find Becker's article thought-provoking. You will also find a fantastic article on indicators of an anti-ableist, accessible church and an inspiring story about Cadets who significantly increased accessibility in their city. It's a great reminder that thoughtful, practical actions make a difference as we love each other well in our human needs.

—Jenna C. Hoff, Editor

"They aren't special needs. They are human needs."

My friend Jay Wolf gave this beautifully concise explanation of why the term "special needs" is problematic. To say that his wife Katherine, who uses a walker and a wheelchair, has "special needs" isn't accurate. Nor is it accurate to call it "special needs" when we create an Individualized Education Plan with and for our daughter Penny.

Katherine has the same human needs as everyone else. She needs mobility. She needs access to bathrooms and public spaces and transportation.

Penny has the same human needs too. She needs food. She needs shelter. She needs meaningful relationships. She needs to be respected and loved.

We are all invited into relationships of mutuality in which we give from what we have and receive what we need from the loving support and kindness of the people around us. We are all invited to adjust our spaces and expectations and busy schedules in order to accommodate one another. We are invited to slow down and open up to our own needs.

We are invited to recognize that the needs of the people around us are no more or less special than our own. We are invited to be human together.

30 Indicators of an Anti-ableist, Fully Accessible Church

As a person with a disability entering a church that models accessibility in every way, I can be confident that...

Strangers do not ask what's wrong with me or pray for my healing without my asking for it.

The church has a bathroom I can use.

Strangers do not steer clear of me because of the way I walk, communicate, or look.

I am assured there is a plan for my escape in the event of a fire.

People do not touch my body, mobility device, or service animal without asking.

I don't worry about how the communion elements are distributed or what's in them.

I know that as a hard of hearing person, I can still participate because hearing assistance technology is in place, it's functioning properly, microphones are used, and people utilize them without reservation.

I know I can safely eat at potlucks, coffee time, and other gatherings because food is labeled, options are provided, and utensils are available.

I have options for where to sit in the sanctuary because there are pew cutouts or accessible seating options in multiple locations.

My church prints large-print bulletins and has large print Bibles. If I need other accommodations for visual impairments I can just ask and I know my needs will be met without anyone acting like I'm a nuisance.

When my church has virtual gatherings, services, or presentations, closed captioning is always available.

Leaders at my church describe important visual aids and images on screens for blind people, and verbal cues and directions are spoken as well as printed.

If I want to attend a Bible study or educational class, I know I'll be able to access the materials because they are compatible with screen readers and are available in accessible formats such as audio. My church also emails church bulletins and worship liturgies in advance.

I can access all areas of the church, including the pulpit area, without assistance.

If I disclose that I have a mental health challenge or disability, people won't question, challenge, or doubt me.

My church always asks attendees about their accessibility needs prior to an event.

People do not assume what I need without checking with me first.

People do not assume that I can't answer for myself because I use a walker, wheelchair, service animal, or aide.

People look at me and not my companion, interpreter, or communication device during conversation.

I won't be asked to find another church or not return because of my disability, a family member's disability, or disruptive behavior.

People do not assume my speech difference means that I am unable to understand them.

My church leaders understand that people learn in different ways and they use multisensory approaches with sermons and presentations.

My gifts and contributions are welcomed and affirmed, and I am expected to participate and serve along with others.

I know I'll be able to park close to church if I need to because ample accessible parking is available; or, if I don't drive, transportation is offered.

People don't wear perfume or cologne at my church and the air is adequately filtered and circulated for those with compromised immune systems or asthma.

I am encouraged to attend Sunday school, youth programs, small groups, or adult education, and will have individualized support or accommodations if I need them.

There is a quiet place I can go if I am overstimulated or need to move.

I know what to expect because pictures and descriptions on websites, social stories, or other aids are available to help reduce my anxiety about things that are new and unknown.

Support is provided for me if I need it so that my family members are able to fully participate in church activities.

When I advocate for myself or ask for an accommodation, people will listen and act, instead of dismissing my needs as not being a priority.

(Created by RCA/CRC Disability Concerns and in part adapted from Amy Kenny's "What's Nondisabled Privilege?")

Cadet Group Builds 16 Accessibility Ramps for Local Businesses

KRISTEN PARKER, June 16, 2023 -

Sixteen businesses in Stratford, Ont., are more accessible thanks to a project led by 14-year-old Nathaniel as a part of the Servant Leader Award for Calvinist Cadets.

Nathaniel has just completed his final year of Calvinist Cadets with Stratford Christian Reformed Church, where his dad, Jonathan DeWeerd, served as co-head leader. Cadets is the boys' club ministry offered in many Christian Reformed churches. Participants in the ministry are encouraged to complete tasks to earn badges and awards.

Nathaniel and his dad got the idea to create accessibility ramps for Stratford businesses last summer when they were walking downtown. Nathaniel noticed some existing ramps and asked his dad about their importance.

DeWeerd said, "It's hard to wrap your head around how some of these buildings had no way for (some) people to get in."

DeWeerd is the chief building official at the City of Stratford and knew that the Accessibility Advisory Committee in Stratford would be open to partnering with his son to create more ramps for the city.

The two approached the committee in the late fall and were connected to the businesses that needed ramps. The committee also coordinated getting the ramps to those businesses. Bickell's Flooring donated paint for the ramps, and Akins-Brewer Lumber donated the lumber.

With the supplies and plans, Nathaniel led six cadets in creating the sixteen ramps to be positioned in doorways to get over sills or gaps. Using the wood shop at Stratford CRC and working during the club's regular meeting time, it took about three to four weeks to build them, and Nathaniel spent time outside of Cadets to ensure that they were ready in time for the city's Accessibility Week (May 28-June 3).

DeWeerd said they've done other building projects in the community before, including making picnic tables for a school auction, but this is the first time the Stratford Cadets have done something specifically for the city.

Nathaniel shared about how part of his inspiration came from creating a more accessible city for people like his papa, his mom's father, who had a stroke a year ago and has lost his vision. DeWeerd said he's proud of his son for "stepping up and starting this journey of leadership."

Nathaniel said he wants to help people because Jesus helped people, and he hopes "that this inspires someone to do something for their community as well." Nathaniel plans to be a junior counsellor for Cadets at Stratford CRC next year.

**Welcome Back Students!**

Fall 2023 is here and we're so excited for another school year with students! Over the years Campus Life has become a community for young people. Our continued prayer is that students would hear and know God's Truth and live it out in their own lives.

-Katie Allmaras
Campus Life HS Director

Ephesians 5: 1-2 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."



2023 Fall Newsletter



Campus Life



MEET BLAIR! CAMPUS LIFE INTERN



Born and raised in St. Louis, I graduated from Fort Zumwalt West High School in 2021 and committed to Iowa Lakes CC to play baseball. I transferred to William Penn last spring, both to continue my collegiate baseball career and to study New Media with a minor in Religious Studies. I surrendered my life to Jesus in November of 2021, and have been on fire for Him and His Kingdom since. Although I'm not quite sure what I want to do after baseball yet, all I know for certain is that I want to do something with ministry and make a living putting in work for the Kingdom. My eyes have been opened and God helped me realize that I am His soldier among a lost generation, and that there is a war for souls going on. My passion is for God to work through me in reaching others for His Kingdom and stoking a fire in the hearts of the next generation to repent, seek Jesus, and live lifestyles reflectent of His light so others may follow.

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Ministry!



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September 11, 2023

Dear Church Families,

As we work our way in the new school year, we want to thank you for your help in providing for our needs last school year! We are grateful for the family of supporters who generously provided financial gifts, who gave time as volunteers, and who prayed and continue to pray for our students, staff, and families. Our annual tuition assistance goals and needs were met and surpassed, and many other needs were completely funded for the school year. We praise God for this! We have updates & information in this letter that we hope will help you better understand how your involvement continues to impact our ministry and the students and families we serve together.

Since the graduation of our 41 seniors in May, we have been reflecting on the academic success of this graduating class and are thankful to see a return to our "normal" with all of our high school seniors graduating and 88% pursuing plans to attend a 2 or 4 year college, university, or entrance into a trade school. We now are following these graduates to see how these plans have been fulfilled, or in some cases altered since May.

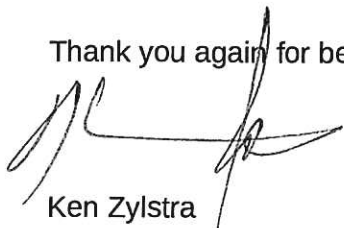
Over the summer months, our Executive Director search team worked through the interview process with Dan Meester, our current high school principal. The recommendation was given to the board for Dan to move into this position as Bob Ippel moves into retirement. The board approved the recommendation, and we look forward to having Dan serve in this role starting next school year. We will now start the process of seeking a new High School Principal.

We are excited to share that Celine Bia, a Rehoboth Alum from 2015, will be joining our administration team as our new Finance Director. Nathaniel Feddes returned to Rehoboth in August and is serving as our Operations Director, with oversight of Facilities, Transportation, and Food Service. Darius Yazzie, a Rehoboth Alum from 2011, has taken over the Transportation Manager role, and Drucilla Anderson has taken over as our Food Service Manager. We are currently working to fill the vacant Admissions Coordinator position. We are amazed at God's provision in providing for our staffing needs!

We continue to move forward with project needs and will be introducing our Community Builders Campaign later in the winter. This campaign will focus on completing funding for the Kuipers Gym Addition and also creating a community space in our campus commons for our middle school, high school, and broader Gallup community to enjoy. We hope to share more information in the coming months to encourage your involvement.

This school year we continue to be grateful and Amazed as we reflect on God's faithfulness over the past 120 years. A testament to Rehoboth's life shaping community is that each one of our 15 new staff members for the 2023-24 school year are either alumni, current parents, former staff, or teachers who did their student teaching at Rehoboth. We are also thrilled to see our student enrollment increase again with 430 students in our K-12 program, and 52 students in our Early Childhood Center (Pre-K). Please continue to pray for our teachers throughout the school year, and also for our administrative team as we work through the many staffing changes.

Thank you again for being a part of the Rehoboth story!



Ken Zylstra
Director of Advancement
kzylstra@rcsnm.org
(505) 488-3900 cell

Thank You!



OCTOBER 2023

Satisfied Wages

For Nicaragua



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Forecasted drought until May 2024, rain is needed.
- Pastor Earl, Director for Verbo Church in Nicaragua, is at home, but unable to walk
- Praises for a good harvest despite the low rains
- For the purchase of a property, Finca Avodah

Ongoing Events

This month Jari is leading a public health project. She is studying the effectiveness of a latrine treatment product from Soruba.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus - Philippians 1: 3-6



Praise God for machines!

Dear Friends and Family,

We give praises to God that our first planting season in Jinotega, was a success! We heard from farmers this whole summer. "The bean plants are doing good Jesse. They grow strong and very fast, but we will see how good the beans grow." Then, around July rain fell less frequently and in lower volumes. Some of the producers in our program started to get worried, because that is when the beans are growing in their pods. At the start of August we held a community meeting in San Marcos, where most of the farmers in our program live. Our meeting was focused on the harvest, and a new threshing machine we purchased to help them lower costs. They were excited to see and try the machine, the news helped to lift their spirits. We ended our meeting, giving thanks to God, and asking for His blessing on the fields and families of these men, who are becoming our friends.

By the middle of August, bean fields were ready to harvest! Producer Julio L. was the first to ask for the threshing machine. We brought it to his four acre field of beans where he had his crop drying under the sun, crisp and ready to go. Julio was excited to see us, and we finished threshing the beans by 5 p.m. Julio's son said the threshing work of these beans can last up to five days when beating the bean plants by hand, using sticks, and this season they completed it in one! This saved Julio five days of labor and salaries. This time saving machine allowed him to bring his crop to market quicker, while the prices were higher, and save on labor costs! Julio was able to harvest



Darwin and Jesse with the new threshing machine

seventeen quintals (a quintal is a 100 lb sack) of beans, he said he was very, very happy! Unfortunately, Julio suffered a fall and injured his knee this season. He was not able to get out to his field as much as he wanted to. We could tell he was beat on some days. However, Darwin, our team agronomist kept visiting him. We all kept praying for him, and let him know we were there to support his crops and his family. At the end of his harvest, Julio says he likes working with us, he thanks God, and says he works with what the Lord provides. The Lord gave him more than expected despite the low rainfall.

We have started to notice a change with the farmers manner of work in San Marcos. Just like Julio L., they are giving more praise to God! Their vocabulary is changing. Their attitudes are becoming warmer. We can see the Holy Spirit is working on their hearts, to love Him more!

Dry weather forecast

The El Niño weather phenomenon was starting to change the weather for this first planting cycle. El Niño is when the surface

waters of the equatorial pacific ocean get warmer. We have experienced warmer than usual temperatures in our region. There is a forecasted drought for Central America until May 2024. North of the city of Jinotega is Lake Apanas, we see the water levels are getting lower. While we have only lived in Jinotega for three years, the water is at the lowest levels since we moved here.

The low rainfall has caused many farmers to change what crops they were going to plant for the second cycle. Depending on where they live, some farmers have decided to skip planting for the second cycle. The dry weather has also made us change our plans too! We really wanted to plant a new hybrid corn variety to demonstrate for the producers in our agricultural program. Since no rain fell in September, we couldn't plant corn and decided to plant beans because of the shorter growing season.

Avodah Farm

Crop demonstrations are one of the many opportunities to take advantage of when we purchase *Finca Avoda*! In September, we sent out a letter asking for your support to help us purchase a small farm. We were not able to close the purchase of the property we chose, because the seller did not want to give us copies of the deeds and title work. We had to walk away. We were disappointed, but we believe that God has an even better property for us, our search continues. Your prayers and support allowed us to add Darwin to our team. You have also helped us with the purchase of the threshing machine. God has demonstrated His faithfulness through you. Thank you for showing Christ's love in Jinotega!

Jesse and Jari

CHURCH BASED BUSINESS AS MISSION

MAIL: **Jesse & Jari Rodriguez** 804020

EMAIL: jrodriguez@crcnapartners.org

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Donate online at: [Resonate Global Missions.org](https://ResonateGlobalMissions.org)—Jesse and Jari



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Days of the Harvest

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RYAN & JODY FABER | ZAMBIA | OCTOBER 2023

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Advancing Theological Education in Africa

Scholars predict that by 2050, half of the world's Christians will live in Africa. The continent is poised to become a leader in world Christianity. Equipping the African church for this responsibility requires sound theological education.

Beyond his work at Justo Mwale University, Ryan is involved in several endeavours to advance theological education in Africa. He recently spent time in Kenya, consulting institutions on curriculum on behalf of the Network for African Congregational Theology and participating in the inaugural general assembly of the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (pictured above).

There is tremendous need - and opportunity - for theological education in Africa. Meeting the need requires realising the opportunities for collaboration between educational institutions and between providers of formal and non-formal education. It is exciting to be part of these conversations and to witness how God is at work in the African church.

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for a successful trip to Kenya and increasing collaboration in theological education in Africa.
- Give thanks for the start of another homeschool year and pray for diligence in studies.
- Please pray for endurance for staff and students at Justo Mwale University and for our family as we enter the hottest season of the year.
- Please pray for IMU and its leadership as it addresses some significant financial and administrative challenges.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance for Evan and Graeme and their future plans.

I (we) would like to support Ryan and Jody Faber (802339)

Here is my gift of \$ _____ or call 877-272-6205 (USA) or 800-730-3490 (Canada)

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Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include Fund Code 802339 on the memo line.

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Gifts to ministries that are oversubscribed, or cannot be completed, will be directed to those that have a similar intent or ministry location.

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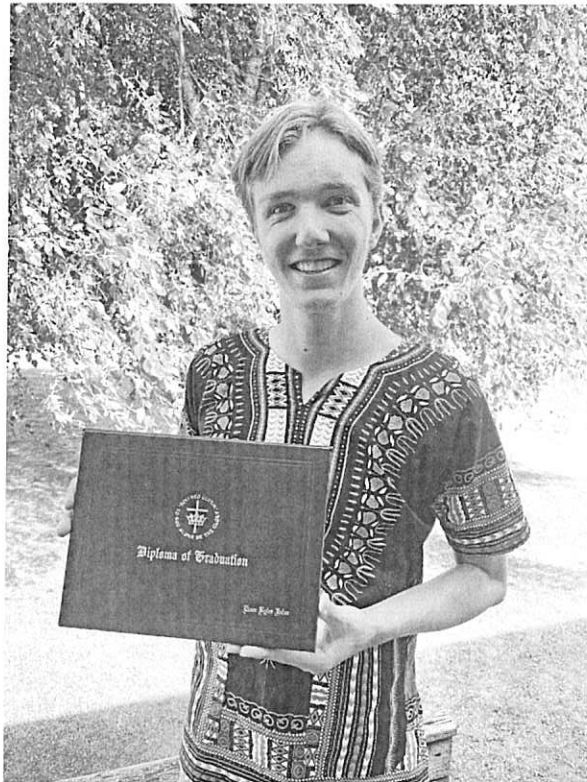


Victoria Falls ~ A wonder of the natural world

We have been in Zambia for almost two years, as the renewal process for our immigration paperwork reminds us. It is a long time to be away from family and friends in North America, but some visits over the past year have helped lessen the feeling of distance.

Last December, Darryl, one of Ryan's best friends since kindergarten, and his daughter Aleena visited us for a week. This past June, a friend of Ryan's family and her family visited us on their year-long trip around the world. And in July, Ryan's parents and brother and his family came for ten days. We were able to take a safari in Botswana and visit Victoria Falls with them.

We are looking forward to a visit from Jody's parents later this year.



Evan received the high school diploma he earned last year.

Evan is now working and living in Iowa, preparing for college in September 2024.



Another adult?! Graeme's 18th birthday in October.

Graeme is still with us in Zambia for at least one more year as he finishes up his high school education.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support,

*Ryan & Jody, Evan, Graeme, Torin,
Bronwyn, Gwennyth, Saeryn, and Norah*

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UNITED STATES
1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

P (616) 726-1144
P 877-272-6205

CANADA
3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

P (905) 336-2920
P 800-730-3490

RYAN AND JODY FABER
Justo Mwale University
Munali Rd. Chamba Valley
PO Box 310199
Lusaka, Zambia

E rfaber@crcna.org

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A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

ON MISSION WITH THE HELPER IN SOUTH AFRICA

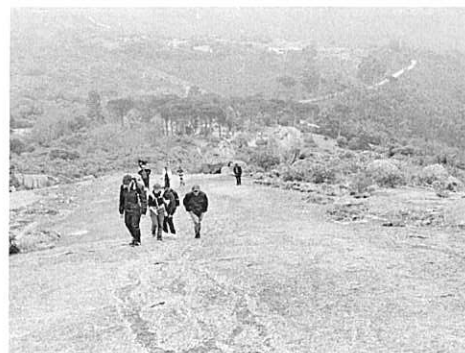
October | Issue 11



RETREATS FROM THE BUSYNESS OF THE EVERYDAY

With long workdays and hectic academic schedules, many in our congregation struggle to find rest. Because of this, we try to host an outing each month as a way of disconnecting from the busyness of everyday life for fun, fellowship, and rest. Sometimes this comes in the form of game nights or trips to Cape Town, but as the seasons change and warmer weather returns, we try to get outside to enjoy God's creation.

In August, we took a group to Paarl Rock to hike this interesting mountain and enjoy a picnic afterwards. This was a great opportunity to get to know some of the students in the church better as we hiked, talked, and ate together. As a result of this outing, a small group of students has formed to meet up simply to enjoy a break from their studies over a shared meal. Each time we meet, the group grows as people "taste and see. (Ps. 34:8)" I encourage them to invite others to participate in this small act of resistance to the busy pace of university life and signpost of the Kingdom of God.



Last month (September), we hosted our annual church retreat. We normally have this retreat on a farm in the rural community of Bonnievale, but due to some construction work being done, we instead gathered in Kleinmond (right on the Atlantic Ocean!). As opposed to the daytrip outings we host each month, this retreat was an opportunity for people to take a whole weekend to rest from their work and studies, enjoying the beach, hiking, fellowship, and good food.



We had families and students from ten different countries join us for this retreat! Though the weather was a bit unpredictable, people got outside to explore the beach, Christina joined a group of women on a walk in town, and I played games with the middle and high school students. In addition, we held a workshop on "Cultivating Family Worship," where I spoke about the importance of worship in the home for growing our faith and for the spiritual formation of children in particular. On Sunday, we worshipped in a local church and had a braai ("grill out") under the warm sun.

For some, this is one of the only times they will be able to get away from work. One such person is Ken, who works on one of the local wine farms. After the retreat, he sent a Whatsapp message saying, "Thank you so much for the wonderful time we had to switch off from Stellies!" Another member shared that this retreat was a reminder of how thankful they are for a family like Stellenbosch International Fellowship. These statements, and many others like them, are the reason we do this, and serve as a preview of the fellowship and rest that we will enjoy in the Kingdom.

KRUX SPRING SEMINARS

In August, September and October, we cohosted seminars put on by a ministry we partner with here in Stellenbosch: Krux. Each of these seminars reflected a different aspect of Krux's effort to provide theological discipleship and engage young adults (both Christian and non-Christian) with the message of Christianity at the intersections of faith, culture, and art.

The first seminar "Calvin and the Reformation" focused on the theology of John Calvin, the impact of the Reformation and its ongoing significance today. The second seminar "Spiritual Formation" introduced participants to various practices for personal devotion and growth in relationship with God. Finally, the third seminar "Understanding Old Testament Wisdom Literature" served as an introduction and discussion of how we interpret and faithfully appropriate wisdom literature for following God in the world today. These events received a lot of positive feedback, such as the following from one person who joined the spiritual formation seminar: "This was such a good reminder of the need to connect with God and different ways of doing it through Scripture and prayer." We hope to host more seminars like these in the future as a way of further equipping the church and thoughtfully engaging the broader community.



BIG NEWS!

Because of the ever-increasing price of rent and our desire to host guests and provide hospitality, we recently purchased a house! We move in on November 25th. It is our prayer that this new house will be a *home* for our family and a hub for hospitality and hosting ministry events in the future. And if you ever find yourself in South Africa, drop in!

A Partner Ministry with
Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

Email: pastor.helfers@gmail.com / **WhatsApp:** +27 61 615 2142
Church Website: www.sif.squarespace.com



PRAYER REQUESTS

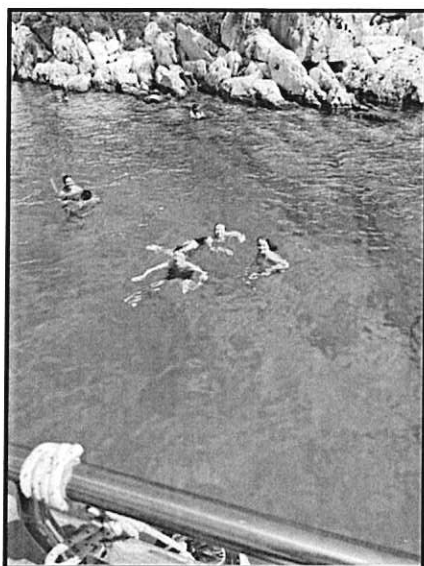
- Give thanks to God for the recent outings and church retreat
- For recent visitors to the church and further opportunities to reach out to students at the university through the lunch group
- Give thanks for the new home
- For a good end to the school year for Karina; for Makena to make friends at her new playgroup.

Olsen Update - October 2024

Romans 10:14

*"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him?
And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?
And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"*

Hello Everyone,



Thank you for supporting us with your prayers. We have had a very eventful last few months.

In the middle of August, we took a vacation to the Mediterranean Sea. We enjoyed relaxing on the rock beaches, playing games together as a family, and taking a boat cruise around the area. The clearness of the sea makes it possible to see the bottom at over 4 yards. After vacation, we went to a conference that helped us to draw closer to God and focus on our relationship with Him. It was very encouraging and refreshing.

In September, a team from Bettendorf, Iowa came for 10 days. They helped us out on one of our Island Weekends. The ladies worked at the henna stations while the men handed out comic books that briefly explain the gospel. Over the 2 days that the henna team was working, 184 people heard the gospel from over 11 different people groups. The Bettendorf team helped us with 2 community center nights. Each week we went to a local mall and looked for people who spoke English. We invited them to come to our community center. People who had been personally invited came to both nights. We were able to have spiritual conversations with some of them. Over the time that the team was here, we handed out 919 pieces of literature. As their leader said, "That's 919 windows to the gospel that we opened for people."



Throughout this time, we have continued in our normal ministry opportunities. Dan has helped with a 7-week Bible study engaging 4-5 men with stories of the Bible. These men enjoyed having a place where they could learn about Christianity and discuss openly the questions that they had.

Tammie has been able to meet with a couple of ladies individually and share the gospel with them. Our online ministry team has been working on new ways to try and reach people in the city, especially women. Our church has been working through some lessons on what it means to be a member of the church and has recently started a mid-week Bible Study. We are working to move toward healthier relationships and accountability.



Big Five Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the men who attended the Bible Study: Roger, Dustin, Henry, and Evan. May they be moved by the Word of the Lord.
2. Pray for the women that Tammie has been able to share with Natalie and Lily. They both talk about how they feel peace when they read God's Word. Pray that it will penetrate their hearts and transform them.
3. Pray for those people who heard or received information about the gospel in September. Pray for them to remember the conversations and take steps to learn more.
4. Pray for our church to grow into a healthy Body of Christ.
5. Last week, Hannah dislocated her kneecap. She has some ligament and cartilage damage from it. Pray for her knee to heal on its own and for us to find good physical therapy for her.

You are a valuable partner in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the peoples of Central Asia. God is redeeming people here and you are part of His story. We couldn't be here without you. If you feel led by Him, you can contribute to our family's and our colleagues' personal support for daily living expenses.

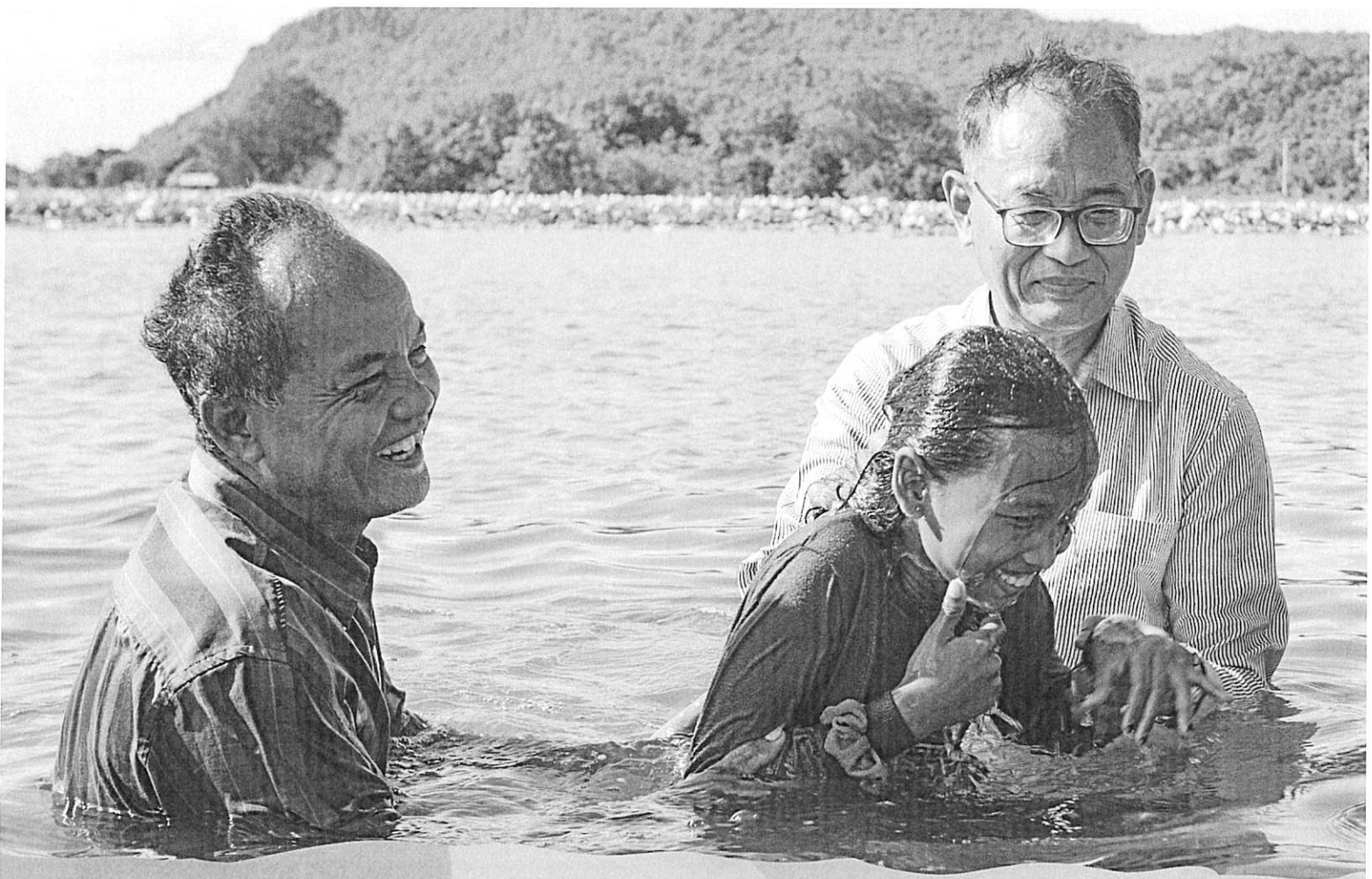
Please go to this

link <http://bit.ly/GiveInHonorOf> and under "Gift Designation" choose Most Needed. Select "More Options" and on that page, there is a Give In Honor/Memory section.

Under "Occasion" choose "Honor", under "Honoree's Name" list our names and under "Affinity Location" choose Central Asia. If you already give to the LMC Offering through your local fellowship, thank you!



Love, Dan, Tammie, Hannah, Micah & Faith



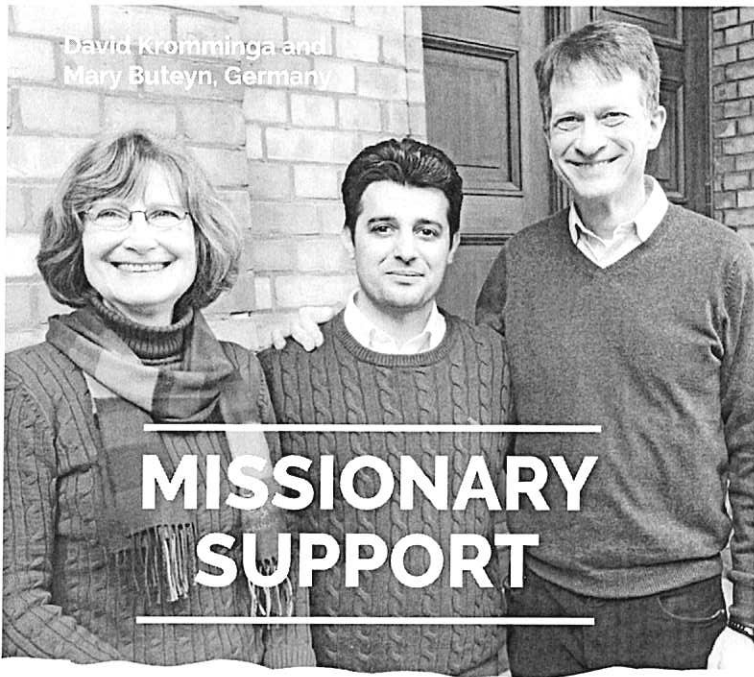
MISSIONARY SUPPORT

How Does it Work?



A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

Resonate 
GLOBAL MISSION



Resonate has two types of missionaries:

RESONATE CAREER-STAFF MISSIONARIES

are employed by the CRCNA and report to a Resonate Regional Mission Leader. Their ministry, budget, benefits, and fundraising goals are administered by Resonate. Resonate provides advancement support, planning and logistics, encouragement, learning, and care for these missionaries. Resonate Career-Staff missionaries use the updated missionary support model.

PARTNER MISSIONARIES are employed by other agencies or institutions and are supervised by the staff of those institutions. Their ministry, budget, benefits, and fundraising goals are not administered by Resonate. Resonate provides advancement support, planning and logistics, encouragement, learning, and care for these missionaries. Partner missionaries' fundraising goals are controlled by their employer.

There is a misunderstanding about what percentage of funds Resonate career-staff missionaries have to raise.

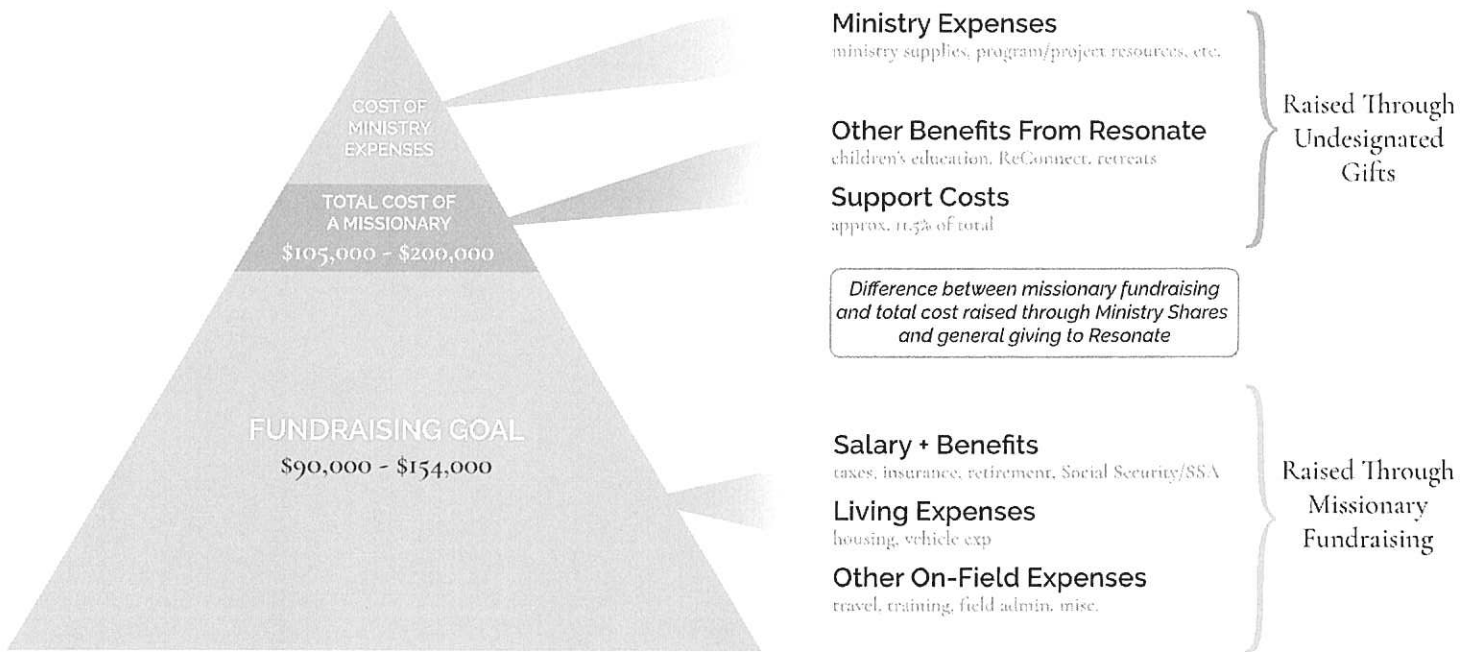
Resonate Career-Staff Missionary budgets vary based on ministry location and missionary family structure. The average cost of a full-time missionary is estimated using the missionary support model.

While it is true that many missionaries raise the majority of their ministry costs, general giving and Ministry Shares fund various missionary program costs as well. In 2014, our updated missionary support model was adopted, which covers roughly 75% of the total cost of the Resonate Career-Staff Missionary Program through direct giving. General giving, including ministry shares, is raised to fund the remaining 25%. Additionally, Resonate's advancement team fundraises to help close any remaining gap between the cost of the mission and what has been raised.

The updated missionary support model is similar to the previous model - but less complicated.

Previously, missionary support goals were calculated in a complicated process that used a formula based on actual expenses for each missionary in 8 designated categories. Now, support goals are based on individual budgets.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT MODEL FOR RESONATE CAREER-STAFF MISSIONARIES



Resonate's advancement team will fundraise for the "gap" between what is raised by missionaries and the total cost for the missionary program.

About one-third of the funds for the Resonate Career-Staff Missionary Program comes from general giving and Ministry Shares. Resonate's advancement team will continue to raise these funds to ensure that missionaries are not solely responsible for the funding of the missionary program.

The Johanna Veenstra Fund exists to help missionaries who have challenges in fundraising.

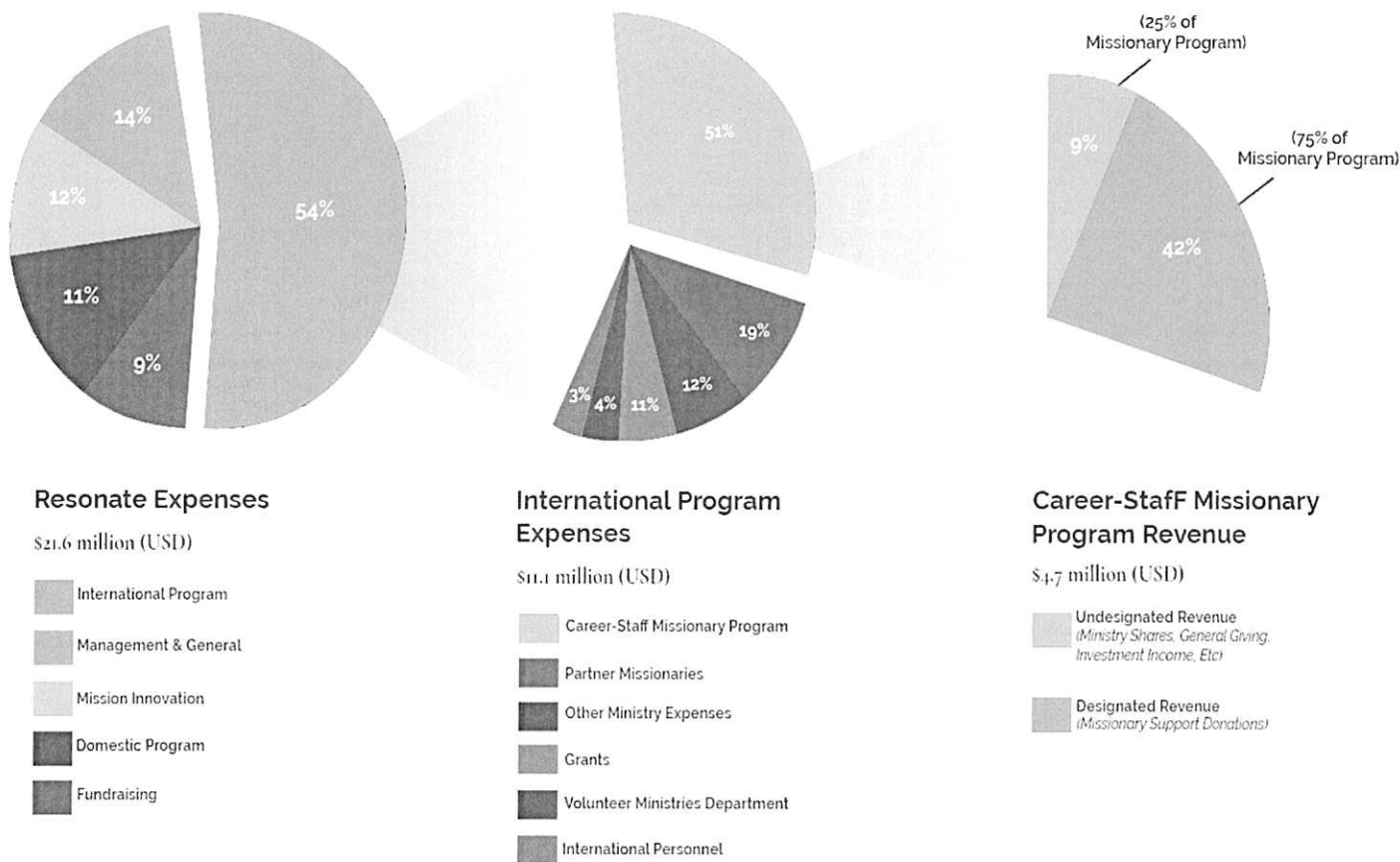
This board-designated fund assists missionaries, especially those from diverse and minority backgrounds, to remain in their ministry context when they have limited connections to traditional Christian Reformed Church congregations and supporters. It will continue to assist those qualified missionaries who have difficulty meeting their fundraising goal.

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

Missionaries and volunteers are just one part of Resonate's International Program.

Resonate supports ministry internationally in a variety of ways. In addition to sending missionaries and volunteers, we partner with national organizations, offer grants to partners, and support other ministry initiatives that align with our mission.

RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION BUDGET BREAKDOWN



Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

RESONATEGLOBALMISSION.ORG

UNITED STATES

1700 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407

P (616) 726-1144

P 877-272-6205

CANADA

3475 Mainway

PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1

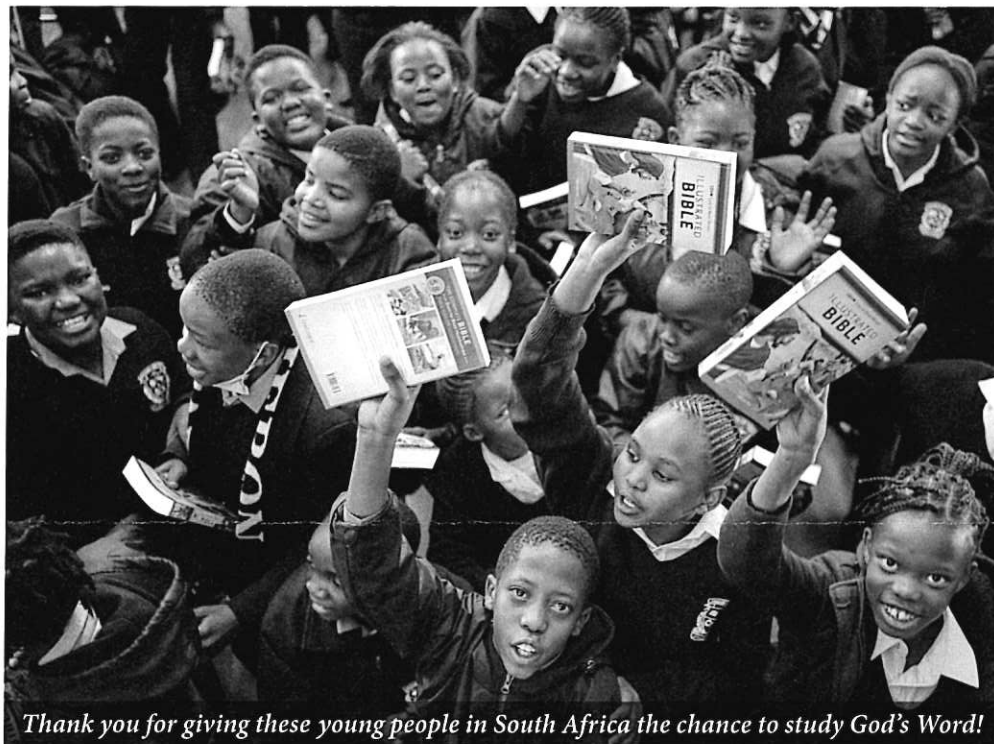
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

P (905) 336-2920

P 800-730-3490

Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

SHARE *the Word*—CHANGE *a Heart*



Thank you for giving these young people in South Africa the chance to study God's Word!

**YOU ARE MAKING
A WORLDWIDE
DIFFERENCE
WITH YOUR GIFTS**



People are
being engaged
in God's Word



Christians are
being trained to
share God's Word



Churches are
being planted
around the world

Share the Gospel with a World in Need

God is good! People in more than 50 nations are finding hope in trying times. In 2023, we already have reached more than 2 million people with God's Word. That's an average of about 379 people every hour! Your generosity continues to help bring God's Word to millions of hungry souls around the globe. You're part of the great things He is doing! Thank you.

With your gifts to provide Bibles and training, you are equipping Bible study leaders, church planters, and literacy teachers to share God's Word. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you are helping people to understand God's Word and come to faith. Thank you for making an eternal difference worldwide. You are a blessing!

God's Word Transforms Lives

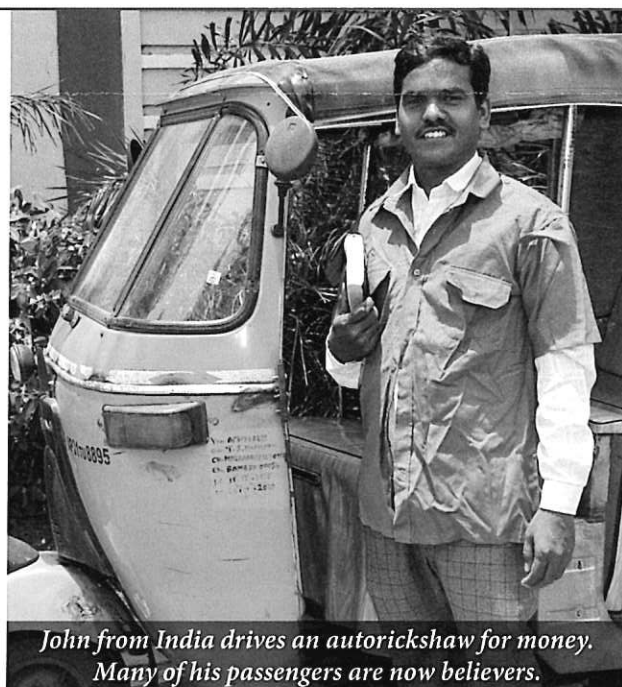
John in India wanted to be like his father. "My father was a dedicated idol worshipper. I wanted to follow in his footsteps," he says.

His father died when John was just a young boy, making his childhood difficult. As a teen, John found alcohol more alluring than books. "I was simply drifting through life until I met Christ," he shares. When he attended his first Bible study, the Lord spoke to him through the story of Jacob. "Light began to dawn and my life changed."

Now, John seeks to follow Jesus, instead of his father. He leads 10 Bible League Bible studies, reaching 15 families with the Gospel.

People in John's community crave the Good News. They're looking for something to believe in, and John is teaching them the truth of Jesus Christ. "People who were idol worshippers now worship the Living God," he says.

Continued on next page



*John from India drives an autorickshaw for money.
Many of his passengers are now believers.*

God's Word Transforms Lives *(continued)*

John sees lives transformed through his small group Bible studies. One study meets in the home of a former gambling addict. Another woman had a toxic relationship with her family, but after studying God's Word, she was able to forgive and love.

As he teaches his community about God's Word, John practices what he preaches. "The Word of God builds faith and encourages people to live differently. They have begun to reach out to their neighbors by sharing Christ with them."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for 500 children graduating from Bible League's Bible studies in Ghana! The Bible study leaders partnered with 12 local community clubs to reach kids with God's Word. Ask the Lord to continue working in the children's lives to strengthen their faith. Pray that God would reach many families and communities through the young believers.
- Ask God to bless a city in Thailand that hosted a large outreach event called "Holy City—Chiang Mai," where more than 3,000 people received Bibles and Bible study materials! Pray for God to ignite a passion for sharing His Word with neighbors, friends, and family. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower communities throughout Thailand to live for Christ.

Join Others in Making an Eternal Impact for Christ



You are making an eternal difference around the world and in the U.S., too.

When you join hands with the Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors to pray and provide Bibles and training worldwide, you help *share the Gospel with a world in need*. By God's grace and the power of His Word, each \$5 Bible you provide today has the power to transform a life. A family. A community. And as lives are transformed, God's Church will grow—on a global scale! You will help make disciples around the world, just as Jesus commands. Thank you!

Faithfully serving more
than 50 countries worldwide



Serving the under-resourced Church with Bibles and
training to transform lives worldwide through God's Word.



**THE WORD
IN ACTION**
BIBLE LEAGUE PODCAST

Listen to *The Word in Action*—a podcast about how God's Word is transforming lives around the globe. You'll hear from people who are spreading the hope of Jesus each day. Explore new stories monthly of how God is moving in the lives of kids, persecuted believers, church planters, and so many others.

*Subscribe, listen to, and comment on your favorite podcast app,
or tune in at: bibleleague.org/action-podcast*



MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. Matt. 18:5

Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964

FALL
2023

COLINA DE LUZ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and Friends of MCCA,

It is with gratitude and compassion that I share our ministry with you. My wife Suzie and I founded Colina de Luz 36 years ago along with Doctor Abel Mellado from San Pablo Church in Playas de Tijuana. Our goal was to come as missionaries representing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We had heard there was an orphanage that was in dire need of help, so we chose to visit – and it was in dire need! God spoke to my heart that someday this would become a lighthouse on a hill, so on July 4, 1987 when it officially became ours, we by faith, named it Colina de Luz (Hill of Light). Over the years Colina has become much more of a Christian Home for Children than an orphanage. We consider it a true honor to be able to care for God's precious children, especially the ones that the devil has badly bruised. Our main goal is to present Christ to them and then help them grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We do that in numerous ways.

Nearly all of these children come from abusive backgrounds and have been hurt in many ways. We know that we have a tough job in caring for them, so we show them that we love them unconditionally, even when they do wrong. We do this by showing them patience, compassion, love and yet sternness when needed, but always mixed with God's loving grace. We care for them when they hurt by giving them what they need to heal. Suzie and I have a combined one hundred plus years of experience working with youth and children. If you add in our staff of eighteen, it is a great many times more than 100 years!

We currently have 56 children living at Colina and have already raised 700, many of whom walk with Jesus and some who work in ministries inside and outside of Colina. Four of our former children are now adults on staff and they are also part of our leadership team. They love our home and everyone in it!. To continue reading Jim's letter go to

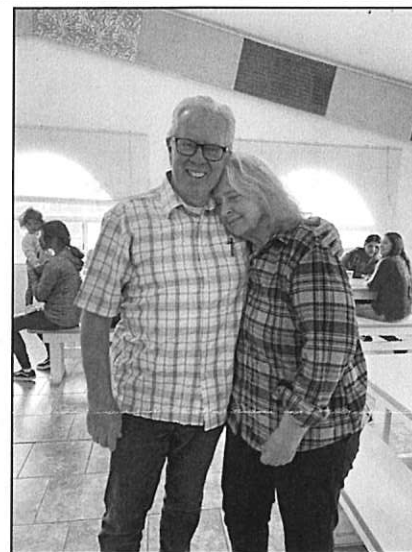
https://bit.ly/mcca2023_colina_letter

HEART FELT CONDOLENCES TO JIM DRAKE AND FAMILY

We at the MCCA have grown to love and greatly admire Jim and Suzie Drake. To those of you reading this newsletter, please keep Jim and the family in your prayers, as well as the staff and children of Colina de Luz. Lord grant comfort and Peace to them. Jim and Suzie put service to the Lord, through the ministry to the children, first in their lives. Jim continues with the ministry, and we all know we will see Suzie again.

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:

ALEX VERHOEVEN AND VONN LAYEL



Jim and Suzie Drake

Celebrating the life and faith of

Suzan Ann Drake



03/20/48 - 08/01/23

**Farewell Funeral and thanks to God
Saturday August 5, 2023 at 7:00pm**
Funeraria Santana C. Mexicali #290,
Machado Nte. 22706 Rosarito, B.C.

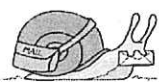
Sunday, August 6, departure to the pantheon at
10:00 am from the Funeral Home.

On August 1, 2023
Suzie went home to be
With the Lord.

Donations, which may be tax deductible can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., Mexican Christian Children's Aid is a, 501(c)(3), Charitable Organization. It began when a group of Christian business people were moved to address the sharp contrast between the affluence in the U.S., and the abject poverty found just across our southern border in Mexico. We purchase and provide monthly bulk food deliveries and other assistance to local Christian organizations in the northern Baja region. We deliver the food donations primarily to organizations that sponsor Children's Homes and or operate periodic Feeding Programs to needy families. Along with the food, Spanish translation Bibles, Gospel Tracts, and other items are generally a part of our deliveries. Our monthly runs consist of all volunteer drivers and riders who donate their vehicles full of fuel and literally everything needed to complete the mission each time we go. The MCCA does not own or rent a building, nor are there any paid staff.

The result is that 100% of all monetary donations goes directly to purchase food products.



Did you know, there is a great alternative to a Snail Mail Newsletter?
By signing up to receive a digital newsletter, you help us keep our costs down. It also makes it easy for you to forward a copy to family and friends if you so desire. With your smartphone scan the QR code, on the right, to easily sign up for email delivery of the quarterly Newsletter. Or, go directly to: www.bit.ly/MCCA_mailing_signup.



A Letter from MCCA supporter Dwight Flater

06/20/2023

Dear friends,

I am blessed to read that you are still carrying on the Ministry of MCCA's. Years ago I rode with Ken Adler to take supplies to the orphanages in Mexico. The day I rode along I witnessed a true miracle. A bridge had washed out and we couldn't go to the regular orphanage and the men heard of another some, proceeded to that orphanage and when we arrived they told us that they had used the last of their food that day and didn't know they would feed the orphans the next day. But God did! - And He directed us to them that day. God bless You all!
Dwight Flater
(Formerly of Redlands)

Hey There Brother Flater,
Thank you so much for sharing the miracle with us. Ken Adler's son Mike still drives for us to this day. Proverbs 16:9 promises that we plan our ways, but it is the Lord who directs our steps. A beautiful truth to go with. Hope all is well with you out there in High Point, N.C.
God Bless you Dwight!

September 9, 2023 at Door of Faith Children's Home



Left to Right: Tyler Borde, Andrea Huerta, Chris Oelrich, Rob Canton, Larry Feenstra and son Luke Feenstra

ZELLE AND ZEFFY ARE NOW AVAILABLE

MCCA has recently partnered with Zelle and Zeffy to maximize your charitable donations to our organization. They provide alternative options to mailing a check or using PayPal which charges a fee. Both Zelle and Zeffy are 100% free fundraising platforms. In a nutshell, there are no transaction fees, payment processing fees, or platform fees. Every penny of your donation will go to the purchase of food by MCCA.

The Zelle and or Zeffy platforms may ask you if you would like to make a contribution to offset their cost, but that would be independent of your donation to MCCA.

To donate using Zeffy or Zelle visit our Web Site at:
<https://mccaredlands.org/donate.html>





Mission Statement

MCCA is a ministry obedient to God's call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, Spanish translation Bibles and the opportunity to know the love of Jesus Christ.

MCCA Executive Board Contacts

Paul Vela	President	psvela76@gmail.com
Steve Diaz	Vice President	stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com
Tom Rasmussen	Treasurer	rasmussen.thos@gmail.com
Rich DeWitt	Secretary	rdewitt@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MCCA1964>
Web Site: <http://mccaredlands.org/>
Mailing Address: PO Box 9931, Redlands, CA 92375

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Gospel Singers Rehearsal
3 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Practice	4	5 Coffee Break p.m.	6 GEMS – Party Cadets Candlelight Practice	7 Coffee Break a.m. Love, INC Meetings	8 <i>Mary Van Engelenhoven's Birthday</i>	9
10 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Practice Homestead Service Candlelight Service	11 Friendship Class – Christmas Party <i>Marilyn Brummel's Birthday</i>	12 Coffee Break p.m. – Potluck <i>Elizabeth De Jong's Birthday</i>	13 Games Day Cadets – Party	14 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. – Brunch	15	16 Gospel Singers Rehearsal
17 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Program Blue Christmas <i>Joyce Slagter's Birthday</i>	18	19	20 Games Day	21	22	23
24 Prayer Service (am) NO Sunday School NO PM Service	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27	28 <i>Henry Van Arkel's Birthday</i>	29	30
31 Prayer Service (am) NO Sunday School	 <h1>December</h1>					