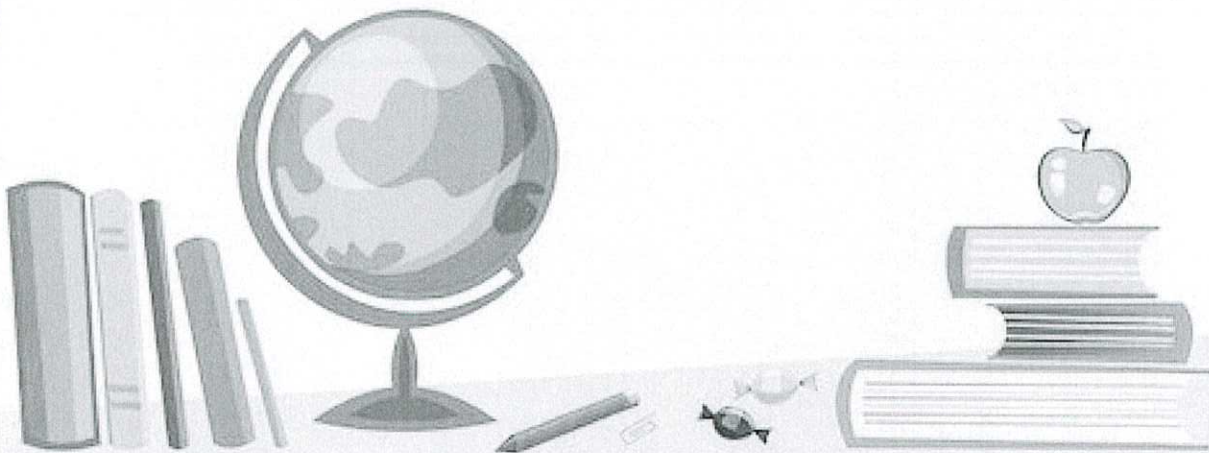




Oskaloosa 1st CRC Newsletter

September – October 2025

**How shall the young direct their way?
What light shall be their perfect guide?
Thy Word, O Lord, will safely lead,
If in its wisdom they confide.
Sincerely I have sought Thee, Lord,
O let me not from Thee depart;
To know Thy will and keep from sin
Thy Word I cherish in my heart.**



From Pastor Kamp's Desk

PURE AND FAULTLESS



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

In the ancient world the orphans and widows were the most vulnerable individuals within a community. This was because it was a father or husband's responsibility to provide and protect their family. This was the social structure which the Roman world operated under. This means when a woman became a widow or a child an orphan there no longer was anyone socially responsible to care for or protect them. They had to fend for themselves in a society that did not offer much opportunity apart from servitude or becoming a slave.

This is one reason why the kinsman-redeemer laws in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Leviticus 25:47-55) were so significant. It is what makes the story of Ruth so beautiful as it shows in Boaz's willingness to become a kinsman-redeemer and take upon himself the religious responsibility to care for the widows Ruth and Naomi. The book of Ruth could be what James has in mind when he describes the *"pure and faultless"* religious life which the Father accepts.

Now an incredible development which immediately takes place within the church is that we see the needy people (Acts 4:32-35) and the widows (Acts 6:1) are being cared for to point that if they are ignored, they felt free to object to the Apostles. Already, there was an assumed responsibility shared within the church to protect and provide for their vulnerable members. Other scriptures, however, do not allow this responsibility to become an indefinite handout which can be abused, but rather seeks to help the vulnerable become stable and fruitful within the church and the wider world. (1 Timothy 5)

This practice of the early church created an alternative relief system to the surrounding culture which was not only more merciful but also honorable. Rather than establish subservient relationships which exploited the vulnerable for personal advantage; the church lived in familial relationships which were restorative through the practice of sacrificial love in a Christian community. The church did more than just provide for the financial needs; it also provides an identity of brother and sister and surrounded them with a caring community. The ability of the church to transform lives the Roman World used or ignored was one of its best witnesses to the power of God's gospel.

I have been reflecting upon this early church example because of the recent presentation by "Safe Families" which is an organization that works to link vulnerable families with strong Christian communities to keep children safe and help families flourish. They spoke with such passion of the power of the Christian Church to transform lives which no amount of welfare or money can match.

This mindset is reflected in the mission and ministry of Love, INC in Oskaloosa that seeks to show mercy through transformational Christian relationships. Both organizations seek to return the church to her first witness which was to live a pure and faultless religion which cared for the widow and orphan in a way that humanized and honored them.

And so, as we enter this fall time and a new school year, may God give us eyes to see those who are vulnerable and a heart to care for them so that we might live a life which pleases God.

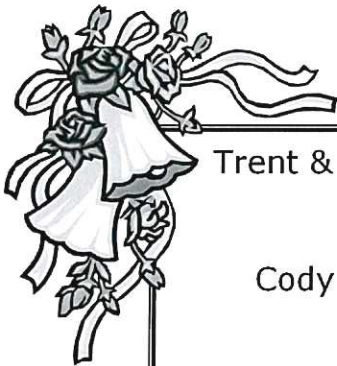
Church Family News



Henry & Leona Van Arkel – 641-660-4491

Elmer Vos – 641-295-1241

Ruth Vos – 1-641-638-0410



Trent & Lauren (Dunsbergen) Van Gilst
6/21/25

Cody & Victoria (Colwell) Boender
7/19/25

Lance & Courtney (Van Donselaar) Dykstra
8/16/25

Degan & Emily (Vander Molen) Shipley
8/16/25

Professions of Faith – 8/17/25

Luke Boender
Trenton De Bruin
Olivia De Groot
Taylor Hol
Natalie Plate



First CRC Council 2025

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor	641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor	641-417-9433	

Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups
Allen Groenenboom	Elder	2028	641-660-6719	Building & Grounds Comm.
Tim Jabaay	Elder	2027	319-899-8343	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Steve Kaisand	Elder	2028	641-891-2672	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Doug Richards	Elder	2027	641-660-6455	Education Comm. & Library
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Jeff Van Donselaar	Elder	2027	641-295-3286	Fellowship
Kirk Veenstra	Elder	2028	641-295-3056	President, Pulpit Supply

Mike Boender	Deacon	2027	641-660-3957	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Adam De Bruin	Deacon	2027	641-295-2111	Benevolence & Enduring Gifts
Dan McKinney	Deacon	2028	641-931-6491	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	General Fund Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Sherwin Plate	Deacon	2028	641-670-0584	Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee
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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Katelyn Van Donselaar	Custodian	1-641-226-1495
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Updated 12/3/24

Nursery Schedule

September - October 2025

A.M.

September 7	Tiffany R, Pippa DR Hannah B
September 14	Joan K, Harper McK Molly C
September 21 (Communion)	Adalli B, Galen H Jared R, Raegan DG
September 28	Stacy B, Johnathon J Clara B
October 5	Karen F, Cayden P Violet DG
October 12	Ki B, Nick S Cora DG
October 19	Georgina DR, Olivia DG Carter H
October 26	Kelly P, Natalie P Lake DR



Attitude Alert



The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on my life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think, or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church...a home. The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday, regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...or that people will act in a certain way We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing that we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude....I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% is how I react. And so it is with you....

WE ARE IN CHARGE OF OUR ATTITUDES.



By Charles Swindoll

2025 – 2026 Sunday School Calendar

2025

2026

September 7 SS Begins/Lesson 1

September 14

September 21

September 28

October 5

October 12

October 19

October 26

November 2

November 9

November 16

November 23

November 30 Thanksgiving Break
(No Classes)

December 7 K-8 Program Practice

December 14 K-8 Program Practice

December 21 SS Christmas Program
Christmas Break

December 28 Christmas Break

January 4

January 11

January 18

January 25

February 1

February 8

February 15

February 22

March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

April 5

April 12

April 19

April 26

Classes resume and
K-8 visit Homestead

GEMS Sunday/Potluck
(No Classes)

Spring Break -
(No Classes)

Cadet Sunday –
Regular classes

Easter – (No Classes)

Mission Emphasis Sunday TBD

May 3

Last Classes & Sunday
School Recognition/Picnic

Sunday School Teachers 2025 – 2026

	<u>Teachers:</u>		<u>Substitutes:</u>
3's	Trent & Christy Meyer	(2)	Carol De Ronde-Richards
4's	Carol De Ronde-Richards	(4)	Trent & Christy Meyer
K	Kristin Plate	(5)	Larry & Sue De Groot
1 st	BJ & Cassia Boender	(4)	Ben & Courtney De Bruin
2 nd	Katelyn Van Donselaar	(7)	Tiffany Roozeboom
3 rd	Ben & Ki Boender	(11)	Ryan & Amanda Brink
4 th	Mark Boender	(4)	Mike & Mary Beth Jackson
5 th	Rachael Hughes	(7)	Mike & Mary Beth Jackson
6 th	Joleen Lowsma	(13)	Primary - Mitchel & Lyndsay Veenstra Secondary - Brent De Ronde
7 th &	Brad & Jill McMahan	(3)	Kurtis De Bruin
8 th	Brad & Jill McMahan	(17)	Kurtis De Bruin
9 th	Steve & Sandra Plate	(6)	Leon Van Kooten
10 th	Pastor Jon	(9)	Joel Groenenboom
11 th &	Steve & Jenessa Kaisand	(8)	Kirk Veenstra
12 th	Steve & Jenessa Kaisand	(4)	Kirk Veenstra

Adult Pastor Erik

Incentive Cupboard – Deb Bruxvoort

K-4 Music – Lyndsay Veenstra, Kelly Pierson

5-8 Music – Tiffany Roozeboom, Keri Spronk

SS Program – Lyndsay Veenstra, Kelly Pierson

Friendship Bible Study



Friendship meets at 6:30 p.m. on alternate Monday evenings. Our first meeting was on July 14.

This year we are studying a series on God Our Father.

Visitors are welcome.

If you have any questions, contact Dale De Bruin at 641-660-6945.

Tuesday Evening Coffee Break & Story Hour



GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK

DISCOVERING TOGETHER

Any women of the church & community are invited to attend Tuesday Evening Coffee Break.

We will begin September 16, 5:40 pm with an outdoor meal at Church.

The evening will include a picnic dinner, socializing for the women and playtime for their children. Each week following will include an evening meal at 5:40 followed by Bible study at 6:15 for women and Bible stories, games & crafts for their children.

We will be continuing our Study of John. (Nursery can be arranged for infants.)

This non-denominational Bible study is for ANYONE.

Call Deb 641-660-8290 or Dena 641-660-5671.

Games Day

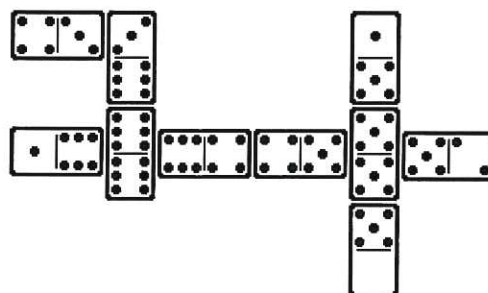
We would like to get a count on how many would be interested in coming to Games Day this year.

We have a GREAT time playing dominoes and enjoying fellowship during coffee time.

We meet every other Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. starting on September 17 and are open to all ages.

I thought we might start the year with a Tram ride around our beautiful town.

If you would like more information, please call Dena at 641-660-5671.





Cadets

STAND FIRM

CADETS 2025-2026 • 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

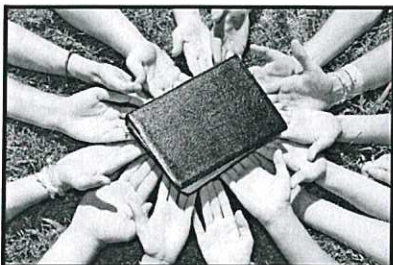
Cadets is for boys in 4th – 8th grades. They meet weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. from September 17 – April 1. We start with a Bible study and then move on to project work which ranges from soap carving to small engine repair. If you know of any boys in that age group that would like to attend, please contact Mike Jackson at 660-1146 or Gene De Bruin at 660-3297.
(See related article later in this newsletter.)

GEMS

Girls' Clubs

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a 4th-8th grade girls club that meets every Wednesday evening during the school year from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Our year will begin on Wednesday, September 3.
If you know of any girls in the 4th -8th grades that need to be contacted or if have any questions, please contact Crystal Roberts at 660-2214 or mandcroberts@gmail.com.

IGNITE



IGNITE is for anyone in 9th – 12th grade. We generally meet each Wednesday evening from 7:00 -8:30 in the church basement.
Our Kick-Off will be held on September 17.
Plan to bring a friend and join us for Bible Study, Fun Activities, and Service Work.
(See related article later in this newsletter.)

Thursday Morning Coffee Break



GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK

DISCOVERING TOGETHER

Thursday morning Coffee Break will start their 2025-2026 season on September 18 with a coffee time/fellowship at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. We will continue our study of Romans 8 – 16, *Led by The Spirit* from The Discover Your Bible Series. We meet each Thursday morning at 9:30 for a snack and fellowship before an hour of Bible study at 10:00. We meet from September through April.

We would like to encourage ladies of all ages to come and bring a friend as we fellowship together and learn more about God's Word. We are a non-denominational group and enjoy learning from each other.

Our leaders for this year are Gloria De Bruin (660-6856), Faye Drost 660-8978), and Delores Ryken (295-2983). We look forward to seeing you. Call one of the leaders if you have any questions.



Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study: Esther – Trusting God's Plan

Who? – Women of all ages ready to meaningfully engage with God's Word and each other are welcomed.

What? – This year we have an exciting Bible study of Esther based on the teachings of Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. The study focuses on trusting God's plan, being aware of God's providence, expanding humility as you wait on His perfect timing, and bearing the fruit of self-control.

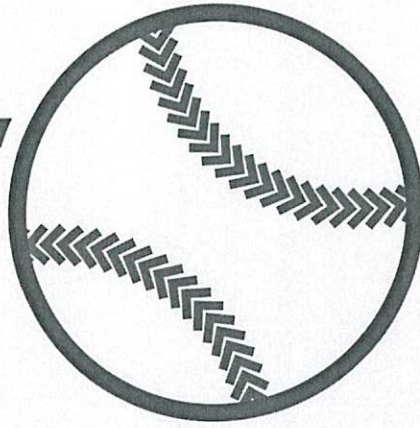
We will look at the passage with key questions uncovering God's character in a book that never directly mentions God as we seek to incorporate lessons into our own lives.

Where? – We meet in the church basement (by the lower kitchen).

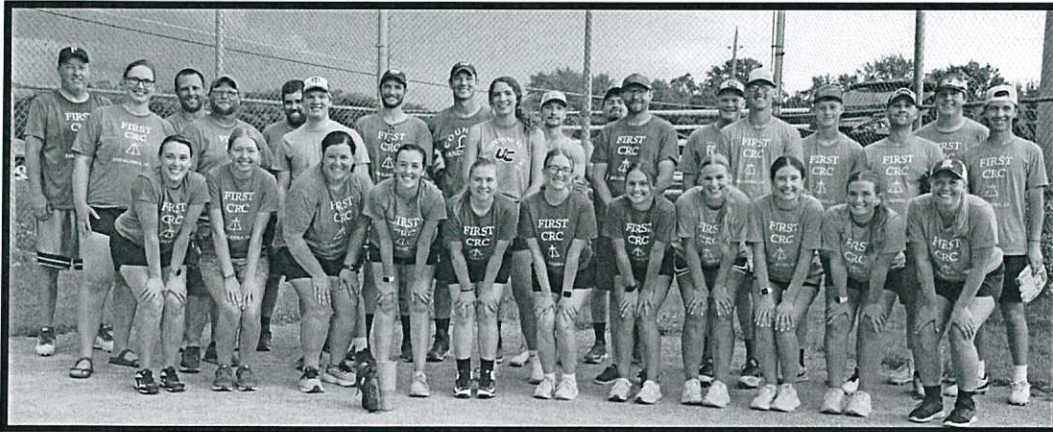
When? – We usually meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for Bible Study from 8:30-9:30 a.m., followed by a short prayer and share time. We tentatively plan to begin on Thursday, September 11, for prayer and share with regular Bible Study beginning on September 25, 2025. Please check the supplement for more information or contact Cheryl Groenenboom.

Why? – We want to make connections in God's Word and build each other up in Christ. Standing firm in Christ is easier when we surround ourselves with trusted friends and solid believers who study, challenge, pray, encourage and grow together.

2025



**1ST CRC
CHURCH
LEAGUE
SOFTBALL
SEASON**

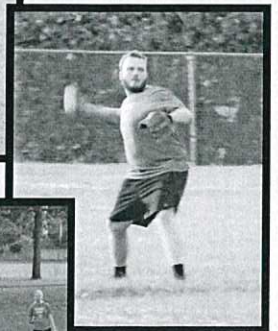


Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. Colossians 3:23



The 2025 Church League Softball season began at the end of May and finished with tournament games the first week of August. This year our church had 3 teams represented. This years coaches were Ben Boender, Brad Mc Mahan & Zech Van Donselaar. Each team was ready to play the season with determination, perseverance, willing to work together and hopefully win a few games. Having fun was the main goal! Thank you to the coaches, players and to everyone who came out to support the teams this year!

Your support is appreciated!!



2025 5-Day Camporee



Back – Weston S, Gene DB,
John S, Jared R, Caleb R,
Dan S (Tracy CRC)

Front – Malaki B, Willem VE,
Gerrit VE, Deacon H,
Peter R (Peoria CRC)

On Tuesday, July 29, 2 counselors and 9 Cadets from 1st, Tracy & Peoria CRC's left for the 5-Day Regional Camporee held near Yankton, SD. We stayed at a Boy Scout camp along the Missouri River. We set up our tents and gear, picnic tables were provided.

We had light rain on us a couple of days (it wouldn't be a Camporee without it ☺), but we still did everything that we wanted to get done.

After the family worship service and lunch on Saturday, we loaded up and headed for home. We had a great time and met a lot of new people from the Northwest Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota Cadet Clubs. Feel free to ask one of the boys that went along how they enjoyed the week and what they did during camp.

Camporee is a fantastic experience and from July 15 – 22, 2026 the International Camporee will be held just southwest of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Camp will be at about 4,000 feet of elevation and from camp you will be able to see the Canadian Rockies.

We would like to see many Cadets from our church go and enjoy this opportunity.

Cadets is for boys in 4th – 8th Grade and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. This year's Cadet season will start on September 17 with the Campout to be held September 26-27.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Mike Jackson (641-660-1146) or Gene De Bruin (641-660-3297). We're looking forward to another great year.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

Mark your calendars:

KICKOFF IS SEPTEMBER 17

more details coming soon!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

7-8:30 PM

HIGH SCHOOLERS
9TH-12TH GRADE

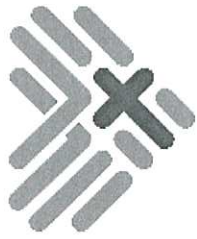
LESSONS

FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
FRIENDSHIPS

Questions? Call/Text Vicki at 641-295-4543

OSKALOOSA 1ST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
815 North 11th Street, Oskaloosa

LEADERS:
BJ & CASSIA BOENDER
IRV & ANNE DE BRUIN
JEFF & VICKI VAN DONSELAAR
KIRK & PAM VEENSTRA



ATTENTION GOLFERS!

Join us for a great day on the green!

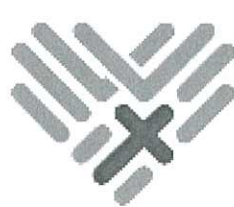
Love INC of Mahaska County is hosting a Golf Tournament on **Saturday, September 20** at Edmundson Golf Course.

- **Shotgun Start:** 10:00 AM
- **Cost:** \$90 per golfer or \$350 per foursome
- **Location:** Edmundson Golf Course

To register, email your list of players—and let us know if you need a cart—at: events@loveincmahaska.org
Questions? Contact **Keith Van Donselaar** at **641-780-6802**

Registration Deadline
September 10th

COME OUT, HAVE FUN, AND SUPPORT LOVE INC!



love
in the name
of Christ

**Mahaska
County**

Presents

MAHASKA CONNECT

Save the
DATE

***Sign up to be the hands
and feet of Jesus!***

Please join us for an interactive morning serving
our homeless/home insecure neighbors.



Fellowship Bible
— CHURCH —

Saturday, November 8th

SAM JOLMAN

The Sex Talk You Never Got



**October 3 & 4, 2025
FAITH CHURCH**

Sam Jolman (MA LPC) is a trauma therapist with over twenty years of experience specializing in men's issues and sexual trauma recovery. Being a therapist has given him a front row seat to hear hundreds of men and women share their stories. His writing flows out of this unique opportunity to help people know and heal their stories, and find greater sexual wholeness and aliveness.

www.samjolman.com

Friday, October 3, 2025 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Recover Your Romance

It's easy to believe that passion and romance naturally fade with time. We dismiss it as the cute thing for young couples. We think long term marriage is more about grit and sticking it out. But what if passionate love had less to do with hormones and more to do with vulnerable risk? And what if intimacy could be rekindled with a little courage and care? Come hear Sam Jolman, author of the book *THE SEX TALK YOU NEVER GOT*, share on how to turn sex back into love making and your roommate marriage back into a romance.

Saturday, October 4, 2025 ~ 7:30 - 10:30 AM
The Not Awkward Sex Talk

Fathers, there may be no more nerve racking step in the fatherhood journey than having the sex talk with our sons. We want to give the plumbing conversation and maybe a quick purity lecture and be done. But what if our sons need a bigger conversation? Most men know this is true but get stuck on what to say and how to risk saying it. Come hear an age appropriate talk with your teenage son that will help you break the silence. Sam Jolman, author of *THE SEX TALK YOU NEVER GOT*, will help give you a framework for that dialogue and empower you to risk the talk. Sexuality is one of the most neglected conversations in many men's stories. Let's keep that from being true for your son.

Father-son
event
Breakfast
included

Free and open to the public!

RSVP to office@faithcrpella.org is appreciated but not required!

For more information: Brian Ochsner 641-628-1335 pastor@faithcrpella.org

Thank you!

"At school, Bible League's Bible study taught me truths about God. I liked the way topics spoke directly to me. John 3:16 helped me to know God. I learned that God loves me and will care for me. You're helping save people from darkness!"

—Anne, student and new believer in Kenya

Dear Friend,

In these days of global uncertainty, more and more people are craving a sense of hope and peace in their lives. Many are finding both for the first time in the Bibles, Bible study materials, and training you so generously help to provide worldwide.

During the first half of this year alone, you have made it possible to share that hope and peace with 189 people worldwide **every hour of every day**. By the power of the Holy Spirit, many are coming to understand God's Word and finding new life in Jesus Christ. Praise God!

Though addressed to us, the words of thanks here are meant for you. They are but a tiny sampling of the expressions of thanks we receive.

God truly is using you today to change lives forever.

Blessings,



Tim McPherson
Donor Relations Director

P.S. Need prayer? Have questions?
Please contact me. Thank you!

"My goal is to reach 500 people this year. I started this Bible study group with 20 adolescents. Now, this group has reached 100. Thirty people recently received baptism. Thank you."

—Jacques, Church planter in Haiti



"For me, the Bible is my guide for life. When I read the Bible, I learn the truth in it. I will find all the answers in the Bible—to love God by knowing and understanding what He wants through the Bible. When we obey His commands, we will live in true peace, which God has promised."

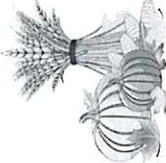
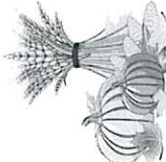



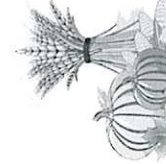
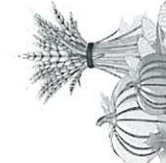
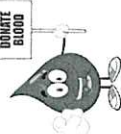
—Esther (right), Bible study leader in Indonesia



"I love how these materials from Bible League take the reader from the basics of faith to deeper knowledge. With these materials, we can strongly root the participants in the Word of God."

—Vardan, Bible study leader in Armenia



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<h1>October</h1>						
5 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	6 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	7 Coffee Break - pm	8 Cadets GEMS IGNITE Youth Group	9 Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – am Love INC Foundation Classes	10 Council Agenda Items Due	11 Pat B & Ralph VD's Birthdays
12 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Homestead	13	14 Coffee Break – pm	15 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE Youth Group	16 Coffee Break – am Love INC Foundation Classes	17	18
19 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Worship Comm. Mtng.	20	21 Coffee Break – pm	22 Cadets GEMS IGNITE Youth Group	23 Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – am Love INC Foundation Classes	24	25
26 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Joint Reformation Day Service with Bethel – there	27 Blood Drive 	28 Coffee Break – pm	29 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE Youth Group	30 Coffee Break – am Love INC Foundation Classes	31 Council Agenda Items Due	Cal B's Birthday