



Oskaloosa  
1<sup>st</sup> CRC  
Newsletter

May – June 2026

***A Parent's Prayer***

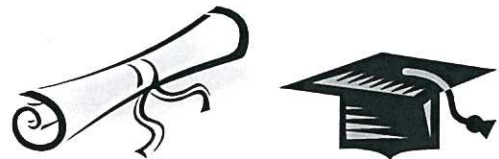
by Anonymous

Lord, give me strength just for today  
To lead my children in your way;  
Oh, give me wisdom, Lord, and grace  
To show to them your precious face!

And help me, Lord, to teach them, too,  
The things of Christ so rich and true,  
Just let them see in me, dear Lord,  
Your holiness in life and word.

Keep me from sinning with my tongue,  
From harsh, quick words that might have  
stung  
Their tender hearts that trust me so  
And watch to see which way I go.

Dear Father, keep my thoughts so pure  
That they will always know for sure  
My Lord has lead me all the way,  
Lord, grant my prayer just for today.



***A Graduation Prayer***

May God's blessing follow you all  
as you find new journeys to travel.

May you walk safely along the  
pathways of your dreams.

May His gentle hand guide  
the decisions you will make and the  
passions that you follow.

May your hearts and lives always  
reflect His love and truth,  
And may hope be a light within you  
that you carry into each new day.



*From Pastor Spronk's Desk*



## **THE SOVEREIGN LORD AND SPARROWS**

One of my favorite smartphone apps of the last couple of years is called “Seek.” “Seek” is a natural species identifier, and I have used it my backyard or in walks in Forest Cemetery. It helps me figure out what type of tree or flower or bird I am looking at, and I have used it with my Cadet Cadre to identify trees for the “Forestry” badge. Last year, we added a bird feeder in our backyard, and I have tried to learn the difference in the birds perching by our window (I still can’t completely guess correctly between a house finch or a house sparrow). The amount of natural diversity that I can encounter just a few steps out of my backdoor is amazing; as is how ignorant I still am of who and what everything is.

There is a comfort in knowing that while I am ignorant of sparrows and swallows, Jesus reminds us that our Heavenly Father knows them all. *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.”* (Matt. 10:29) The Sovereign Lord of the universe knows and cares for even the smallest and seemingly insignificant of creatures. Jesus mentions sparrows to make the point that our Father cares and loves us: so, don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

This Spring, I am going through the doctrines of predestination and election with the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Class. While we are getting into the nitty-gritty of what the Reformed believe about how our salvation takes place (yes, we will identify a different kind of T.U.L.I.P.), I am emphasizing to the students the biblical teaching of the Sovereignty of God. The God of the Universe who is in control of all things has sent His Son for us, and He ordained in His will His purposes in our lives. So again: Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows (even if Pastor Jon still can’t quite identify who are the sparrows in his backyard).

Pastor Jon

# Church Family News



Sherry Zehr  
505 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
1-402-689-2585  
[Sherry.verploeg@gmail.com](mailto:Sherry.verploeg@gmail.com)

## **In Loving Memory:**

Elizabeth Boender – 3/3/26  
Marilyn Brummel – 3/3/26



Henry & Leona Van Arkel  
641-660-4491

Sue De Bruin  
641-660-1995

## **Membership Updates**

**Transferred:** Jeremy, Amy, Brayden, Merrik & Jensen Brink  
to Cedar CRC of Cedar, IA ~ 4/13/26

**Received:** Tony & Rachael Hughes from 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God  
of Oskaloosa, IA ~ 4/13/26

Sherry Zehr from Midway United Methodist of  
Carl, GA ~ 4/13/26



## First CRC Council 2026

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Ryan Brink	Elder	2029	641-660-3124	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Roger Fynaardt	Elder	2029	641-660-6893	Fellowship
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
Jeff Van Donselaar	Elder	2027	641-295-3286	Youth Elder
Leon Van Kooten	Elder	2029	641-660-1602	Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups
Kirk Veenstra	Elder	2028	641-295-3056	President, Pulpit Supply
Ethan Boender	Deacon	2029	641-660-6731	Building Fund Treasurer
Mike Boender	Deacon	2027	641-660-3957	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Adam De Bruin	Deacon	2027	641-295-2111	Benevolence & Enduring Gifts
Lucas De Bruin	Deacon	2029	641-295-2883	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Dan McKinney	Deacon	2028	641-931-6491	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Brad McMahan	Deacon	2029	641-295-0479	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	General Fund Treasurer
Sherwin Plate	Deacon	2028	641-670-0584	Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee

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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 11/11/25

# Nursery Schedule

## May - June 2026

A.M.

May 3	Luke B, Leah S Hazel C
May 10 (Communion)	Kynnah C, Kate DB Caleb R, Peyton V
May 17	Rachael H, Allison B Mack J
May 24	Bethany DB (K), Anton B Maggie McM
May 31	Erica DB, Daxton R Avery K
June 7	Lisa DB, Tegan P Jayde DG
June 14	Heather C, Taylor H Zach DG
June 21	Kahrey C, Anniston M Jude DR
June 28	Tiffany R, Arianna J Kinley DB



# Countries of the Bible

R Q M G A M H Q A S K S T L S  
 Q M A D C B Q S A P U F U V C  
 L H C D D N I M O R I O P L R  
 W T E D P A A F P R H N A S E  
 J O D O M R K Y D G S B I K T  
 S Y O I I C C K S A I K A Y E  
 B A N A I T S I L I H P H K L  
 B O I I H J G A X E S O C G B  
 R A A S A A I P G J R J A O X  
 I V B A R P M Y A N A A N A C  
 W N H Y O E P R L Y T H H R H  
 Z M D I L T P R A M E L I T A  
 S S H I O O X X T G H A D U J  
 S T Z U A D N O I W O Q C N U  
 E A S S Y R I A A U E T T G J

ASSYRIA

CANAAN

BABYLON

PERSIA

TOGARMAH

TARSHISH

ROSH

ACHAIA

MACEDONIA

PUT

ASIA MINOR

INDIA

GALATIA

PHILISTIA

SAMARIA

CYPRUS

CRETE

ETHIOPIA

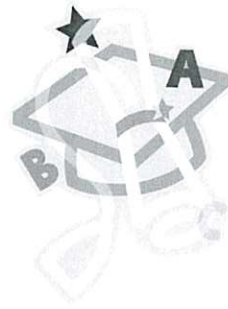
MELITA

EGYPT

JUDAH

**Note**—This list was obtained by searching Wikipedia and other sites. The modern equivalents are: Assyria (Iraq); Canaan (Israel); Babylon (Iraq); Persia (Iran); Togarmah (Germany); Tarshish (Spain); Rosh (Russia); Achaia (Greece); Macedonia (Greece); Put (Libya); Asia Minor (Turkey); India (India: Esther 8:9); Galatia (Central Turkey); Philistia (Gaza Strip); Samaria (Golan Heights); Cyprus (Cyprus); Crete (Crete); Ethiopia (Ethiopia); Melita (Malta: Acts 28:1); Egypt (Egypt); Judah (Israel)

# 2026



## *8th Grade Graduates*

*Allison Boender*

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Mark & Stacy Boender.

*Natalie Boender*

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of BJ & Cassia Boender.

*Clara Brink*

Will transition from Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior High to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School. She is the daughter of Ryan & Amanda Brink.

*Kwynn De Bruin*

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Joel & Hayley De Bruin.

*Nora De Groot*

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Lucas & Merribeth De Groot.

*Zachary De Groot*

Will transition from Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior High to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School. He is the son of Laremy & Nicole De Groot.

*Pippa De Ronde*

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Brent & Georgina De Ronde.

***Carter Hook***

Will transition from Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior High to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School.  
He is the son of Dustin Hook and Lynn Hook.

***Deacon Hughes***

Will continue to be homeschooled, attend Oskaloosa High School and participate in Oskey HSAP.  
He is the son of Tony & Rachael Hughes.

***Caroline Jabaay***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School.  
She is the daughter of Tim & Kristi Jabaay.

***Jared Roberts***

Will transition from Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior High to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School.  
He is the son of Marty & Crystal Roberts.

***Dawson Roozeboom***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School.  
He is the son of Luke & Tiffany Roozeboom.

***Trinity Roozeboom***

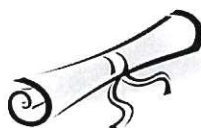
Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Oskaloosa Senior High School.  
She is the granddaughter of Steve & Sandy Roozeboom.

***Jace Shelquist***

Will transition from Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior High to Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School.  
He is the son of Tyler & Kourtni Shelquist.

***Nick Spronk***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 15 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School.  
He is the son of Pastor Jon & Keri Spronk.



# 2026



# *High School Graduates*

*Kynnah Chamberlin  
Anniston Meyer*

*Trent De Bruin  
Ben Spronk*



Kynnah graduated from CHAP (Christian Homeschool Assistance Program) High School in May 2025. She went on to Indian Hills Community College and received her CNA license while working part time at Jaarsma Bakery.

After receiving her CNA license, Kynnah worked at Oskaloosa Care Center in the Alzheimers and Dementia Unit and thoroughly enjoyed her time there. She is currently working in the field of private in-home healthcare.

In her free time Kynnah loves sewing, crocheting, shopping at Hobby Lobby, and babysitting her nephew Ace!

Kynnah is the daughter of Joel & Hayley De Bruin.



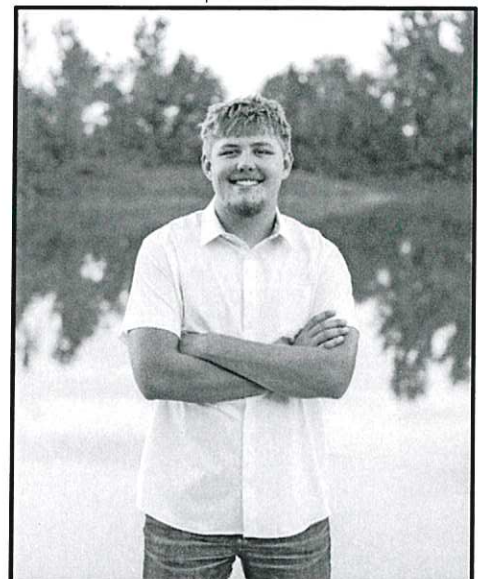
Trent De Bruin will graduate from North Mahaska High School on May 17, 2026.

He plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Actuarial Science.

While in high school, Trent was involved in Basketball, Football, National Honor Society, Student Council & Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, lifting, Bible studies and other sports.

Trent is the son of Doug & Robbyn De Bruin.

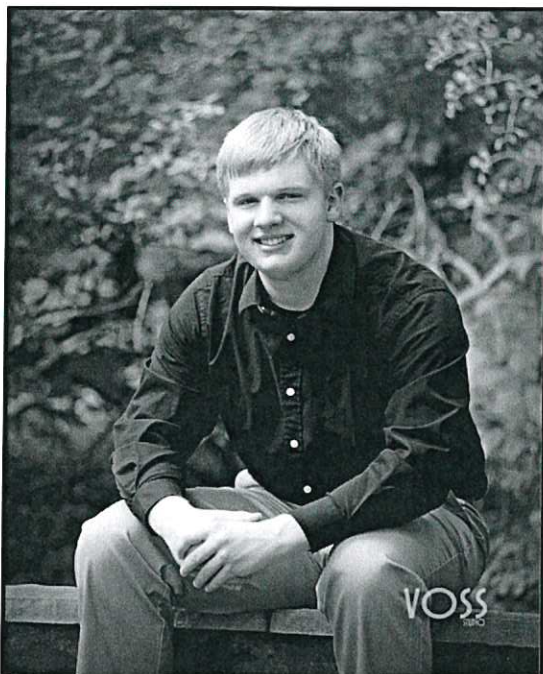
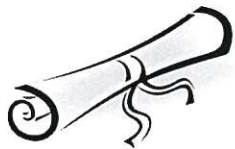
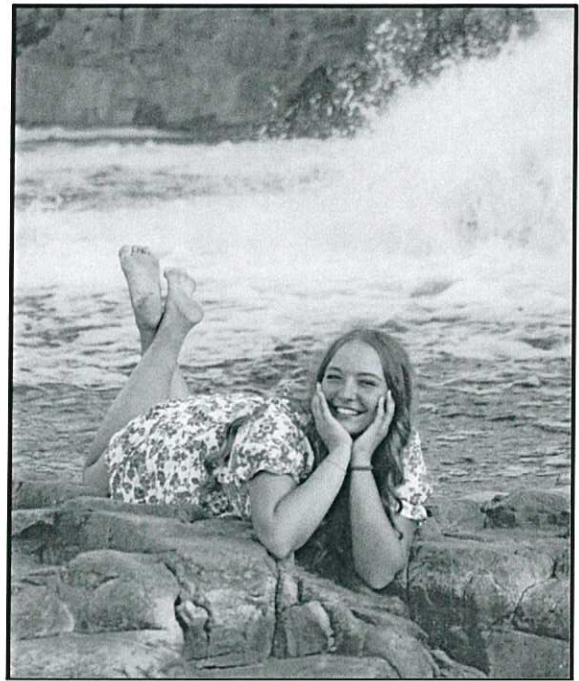


Anniston Meyer will graduate from Pella Christian High School on May 23, 2026.

She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to major in Political Sciences and Education.

Anniston was involved in the Fall Musicals, Winter Speech, the Spring Plays and Theatre Troupe while she was in high school.

Anniston is the daughter of Trent & Christie Meyer.



Ben Spronk will graduate from Pella Christian High School on May 23, 2026.

He plans to attend Dordt University to major in Secondary Music Education, minor in Organ Performance and participate in choir.

Ben was involved in the Concert & Chamber Choirs, Concert & Jazz Bands, Theatre Troupe, Speech and Student Council while he was in high school.

In his free time, Ben enjoys composing and arranging music and woodworking.

Ben is the son of Pastor Jon & Keri Spronk.



# 2026 College Graduates

Amelia Boender



Amelia Boender will be graduating from Dordt University on May 8 with an Associate's Degree in General Business.

She plans to continue working at the Mahaska Chamber & Development Group and is getting married to Tysen De Vries on May 25.

Amelia was involved in Intramurals and Women in Business while she was in school.

In her free time, Amelia enjoys outdoor activities, baking, gardening and lifeguarding.

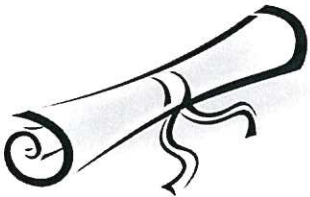
Amelia is the daughter of Mark & Stacy Boender.

## *You May Count That Day*

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard -  
One glance most kind,  
That fell like sunshine where it went -  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay -  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face -  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost -  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

by George Eliot





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530-272-8170

Eric's email: [eschering21@gmail.com](mailto:eschering21@gmail.com)

Penny's email: [pennyschering@gmail.com](mailto:pennyschering@gmail.com)

February 2026

Dear Friends,

Beginning in December our staff in the PIM education department at Ambunti operated the duplicating machine, photocopier and printers at full capacity to prepare materials and booklets for the teacher training which started in mid-January. The machines cooperated, there was enough paper and ink, and with the staff's hard work, everything was completed in time. For three weeks a packed training session has been progressing now with over 100 teachers. A majority in the sessions are women who do volunteer teaching at their home villages for the children in the early grades or kindergarten. This helps prepare the youngsters for our other PIM teachers who teach the higher grades.

The theme for this year is "The teacher who discipled." Based on (Mathew 28:19-20). The emphasis is that teachers be true disciples of Christ and live Christlike lives setting a good example for their students. Thus, to



teach subjects in a Christian manner a teacher needs to walk the talk rather than just go through the motions. Some teachers report this year's training has made an impact on their lives making them reconsider the way they have been doing things and bring them to repentance.

Our returning instructors include, Raychelle and Kerry Bajjah, of the YWAM mission in PNG, who are teaching a major part of the session. Matilda and Clinton Sowano of PIM, with Prisilla Kasen of PIM also joining in the teaching. Anne Thomas, a missionary working in

Cambodia, has been instrumental in giving guidance to this gathering.

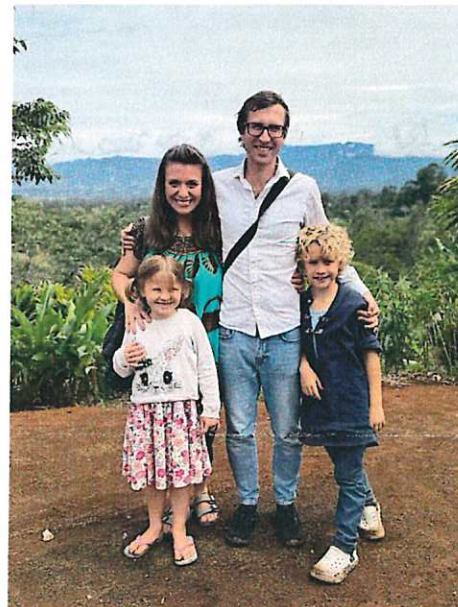
Before his passing last year, Friedemann Urschitz had contact with an Austrian family and they promised to come to Ambunti for a month. Both Sebastian and Rose Wernert are medical doctors and they with their two children arrived on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. With the teachers in town, the Wernert's were worked into the training sessions to give five lectures on health matters.

On the way back from Taiwan, Sandy and Doug were informed of generator problems in Ambunti. The old standby generator was also barely running and it quit the first day the Heidema's arrived, but in God's provision a substitute part they were able to find on way back was installed and this allowed the genset to be generating power for time of the teachers training.

At times it feels as if we are in an uphill marathon longing to reach the crest and then having an easier time. Pray for PIM: Air travel to Ambunti is impeded by a lack of pilots for MAF, the airstrip in Ambunti is no longer maintained by the government and our PIM tractor is waiting a service part, a lack of law enforcement there are no police in Ambunti, and then there is no functioning local court system.

Yet we are encouraged by seeing our teachers who have been uplifted by their recent training. Reminding our self of the Great Commission given by Christ. To know HIM and make HIM known.

Yours in Christ



# CADETS/GEMS CAR RACE RESULTS

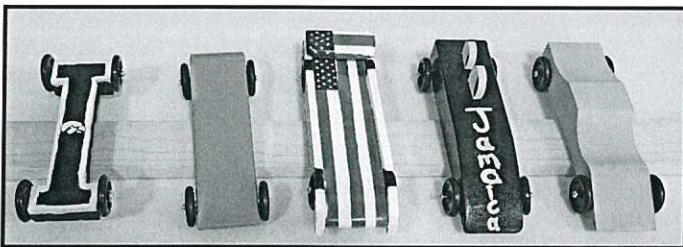
We had a wonderful time at the races on March 25.

Thanks to all who came out to support us, to those who participated and for the good sportsmanship shown by all.

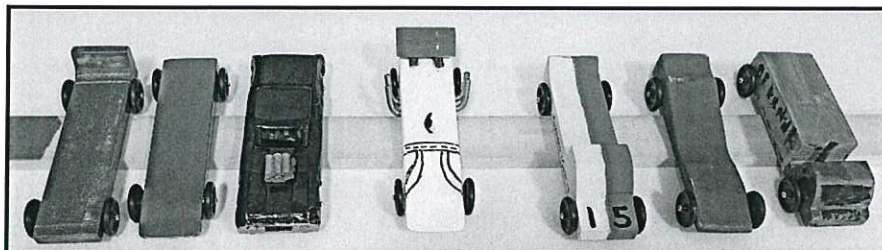
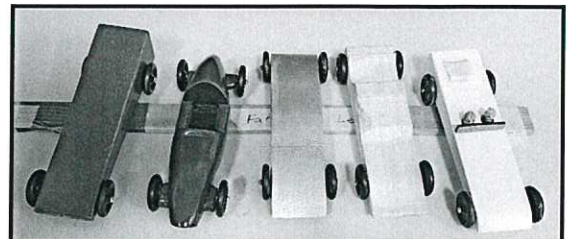
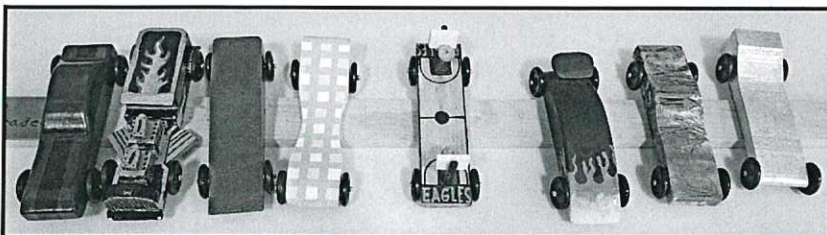
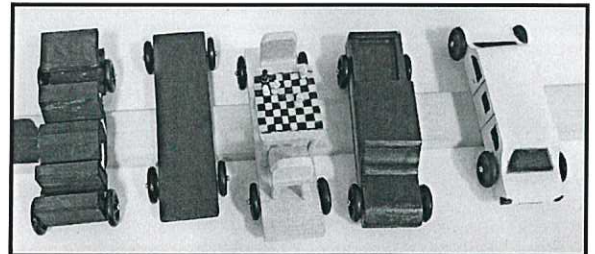


## Cadets

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Gideon, Will, Ryder	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Logan
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Levi, Malaki, Grady	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Rylee
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Daxton, Lake, Charlie	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Lake
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1)	Willem	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Willem
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)	Dawson, Nick, Zach	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show	Deacon
Fathers/Counselors Speed (1,2,3)	Laremy, Mike, David	Fathers/Counselors Show	David
Overall Speed (1,2)	Dawson, Levi	Turtle Race	Deacon



Top  
L-4<sup>th</sup>  
R-8<sup>th</sup>  
Middle  
L-5<sup>th</sup>  
R-Counselors  
Bottom  
6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>





## GEMS

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)

Piper, Lexi, Elsie

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Show

Elsie

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)

Larissa, Rebekah, Jayde

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show

Jayde

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)

Lizzy, Sophia, Cora

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Show

Kinley

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)

Kahlan, Louise, Emelia

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Show

Kahlan

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)

Kwynn, Caroline, Nora

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Show

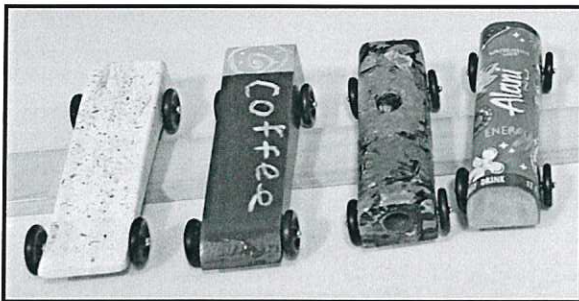
Nora

Overall Speed (1,2)

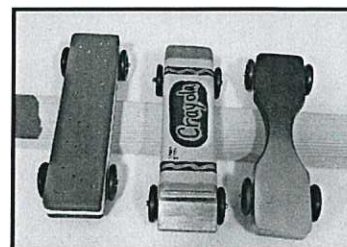
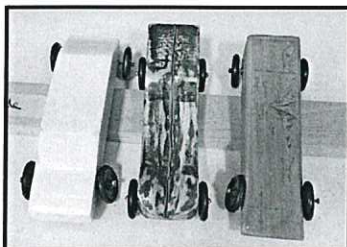
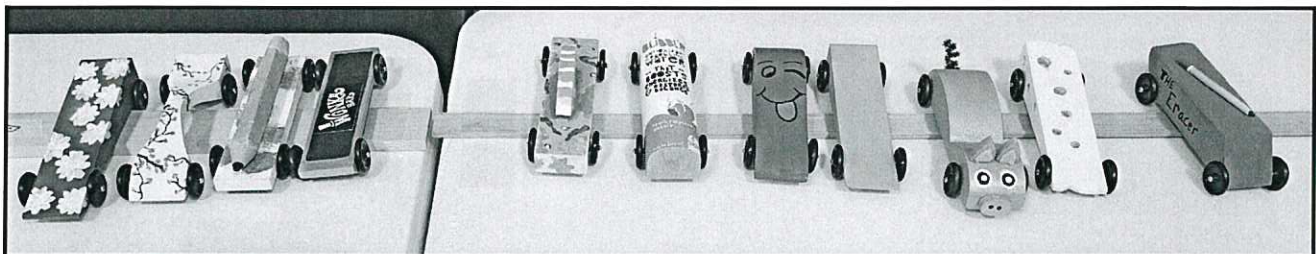
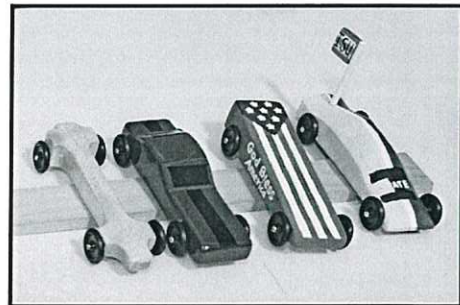
Kahlan, Lizzy

Turtle Race

Maggie



Top  
 L - 4<sup>th</sup>  
 R - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Middle  
 6<sup>th</sup>  
Bottom  
 L - 7<sup>th</sup>  
 R - 8<sup>th</sup>



APRIL 2026

# *Satisfied Wages*

*For Nicaragua*



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praises the judge ruled in our favor for our adoption!
- We receive our court documents at the end of this month, with no data or spelling errors.
- Our family new phase of bonding in the love of Christ.
- Our search for a new agronomist to join our team. We desire to add two more agronomists!
- Funding for our Cultivating Lives capital campaign
- Changing Jesse's residency status
- Jesse's travel to the U.S.A and Canada, and Jari and the kids time at home while he is gone.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; - 1 Peter 2:9



## Cultivating lives to grow hope

Dear Friends and Family,

We are celebrating ten years of ministry in Nicaragua, God is good! We remember the weeks leading up to our final days in Michigan very well. Weeks full of uncertainties and long goodbyes to you. While we still feel uncertainties in our life and ministry here, we know our Heavenly Father cares for us and has plans for His children. For us, these plans include ministry growth with a larger border! In our December prayer letter, we mentioned we were ready to start construction of our mission's house. We have started the construction! In the picture above the masons are building the foundations. This is the first step in a three year construction plan called "Cultivating Lives." We work alongside the Nicaraguan church to teach Christians to live out work as worship to God. In Jinotega, Nicaragua, the most common business is farming. The farmers we work with get to hear and learn how God loves them and their work can be a way to worship Him. Often times the farmer struggles to find value in his life and daily work. In a world with so many technological advances, our region still works by hand and beast. There are limited resources to access machinery and new technologies. This causes a sense of hopelessness. With your help, we can restore their hope with the power of the Gospel through the Church!

Since we started the agricultural part of our ministry in 2022, we see men marrying their long time 'wives,' they aren't cursing as much, and they are speaking freely about our Lord Jesus without the fear of ridicule! We know these kind of

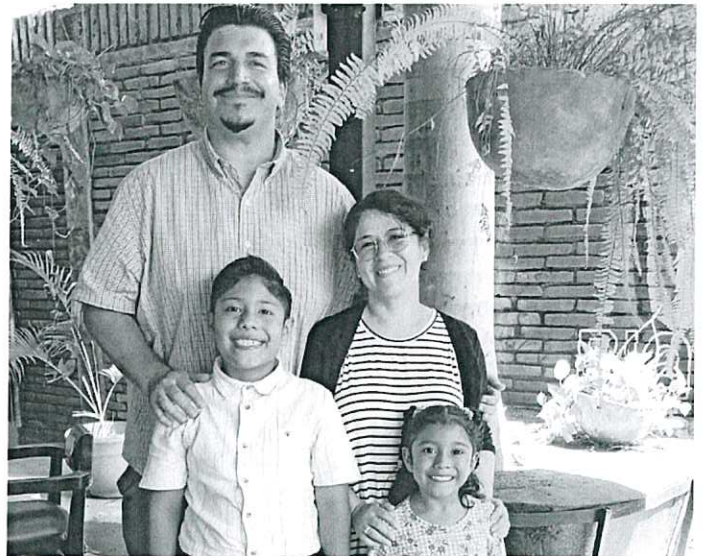
changes do not happens overnight. It is a longer process of discipleship that can take years. We look forward to seeing the current generation of Nicaraguan famers with a faith in Christ, that will teach their next generation about doing their work for God. This is why our plan is called Cultivating Lives. Together we can share the hope found in the Gospel so fields and farmers in Nicaragua can flourish as God intended them to!

### Ministry Foundations

Phase one of the Cultivating Lives campaign has been completed! Thanks to your support we purchased twelve acres of land in 2025. Now we are entering phase two, which consists of building a mission's house and a warehouse on the property. Why the need for these two buildings?

Currently the Rodriguez family rents a house in the city of Jinotega, outside of the communities we work in. Housing in Jinotega is costly for what is available and landlords can end your lease at will. We have been blessed to stay in the same house thus far, but renewing the lease is always a negotiation with rent increasing. We are also responsible for all repairs to the house. To add, if the owner of the land is not living on the property, a caretaker must live there. So it is best we move to the farm and cultivate lives in the area God has provided for us!

Currently, the ministry is working out of the garage of the house rented by the Rodriguez family. Space is limited to store seed and there is no temperature control. Therefore, we are limited in how much seed we can hold for the planting season. This means more trips to our seed bank 193km (120 miles) south, a four hour drive one way, during the planting season from May to December. We ask for your help raising funds for the second phase. An amount of



\$260,000 dollars is needed for this part of the campaign.

### Our family's joy!

On April 8, we finally had our court hearing to complete our adoption of Isai and Gili. The judge ruled in our favor and granted the adoption! The judge wanted to meet the kids and they were nervous to be there, but by the end of the hearing we all were joyous! Grateful to finally have this last step recognized by the Nicaraguan courts. Now we wait until the end of this month, to receive the court sentencing documents. With those documents we will be able to solicit new birth certificates and name changes! Thank you for praying with us for almost two years. God is faithful, and we are blessed by His lovingkindness!

I, Jesse, will be in Grand Rapids, MI, from April 28—May 8. Then I'll be in Leduc, Alberta, Canada until May 11. I would love to be able to meet with you and share the good work God is doing in our family and in Nicaragua. See you soon!

*Jesse and Jari*

### CHURCH BASED BUSINESS AS MISSION

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



**Resonate**  
GLOBAL MISSION



# MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

*"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me."*

Matthew 18:5

*Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964*

SPRING

2026

## Message from the President of the Board of Directors

My name is Paul Vela and I am entering my 4th year as President of this incredible group. It's both a joy and a humbling privilege especially knowing that I'm credited for the work that several people do... work that only our God could have orchestrated the way it turns out month after month, year after year.

First, to our donors: thank you for your generosity, a statement of faith and trust. Because of you, compassion is not just something we talk about, it's something we "do". You have chosen to invest in the lives of those we serve in Mexico. Through your generous contributions, these children can have hope; that they can know and feel the love of Christ. Your choice to donate echoes far beyond any balance sheet.



Paul (right) with a truck load of family members

To our volunteers: thank you for answering the call, again and again, to serve those Jesus called "the least of these." In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." You live that verse. You show up at the crack of dawn, you serve when no one is watching, and you remind us that love looks best when it's put into action. Our mission has hands and feet because you answer the call.

And finally, to our Board of Directors: thank you for your leadership, your wisdom, and your courage. It takes real faith to look at a 60+ year-old organization with a rich legacy and say, "Yes, let's let this kid run it." Your confidence, guidance, and occasional gentle course-correction have been a gift. I am deeply grateful for your trust and your partnership.

This organization has endured for decades because of people like you, people who believe that faith should be lived boldly, generously, and joyfully. Thank you for being part of this story, and for helping ensure that the next chapter is one filled with hope.

God bless you and thank you.

*Paul Vela*

## In Memory of George "Pete" Isaak

Born in Russia in 1927, George's family emigrated to the U.S. where he served in the United States Army, also in Redlands, CA as a public school teacher and finally, spent his retirement years serving in local churches as a Sunday school teacher. George also served on the Board of Directors of the Mexican Christian Children's Aid.

Pastor John MacArthur, in his book "Twelve Ordinary Men" wrote the following: 'If you've ever visited the great cathedrals in Europe, you might assume that the apostles were larger-than-life, stained glass saints with shining halos who represented an exalted degree of spirituality. The fact of the matter is that they were very, very common men'. MacArthur's point was simply "The men the Savior chose for His apostles were ordinary, human, and unremarkable. But, they were obedient to the Master's call." ... Like George "Pete" Isaak.

**Tax deductible donations can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>**

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., the 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, clothing 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. Accounting services and other administrative costs are all paid with cash back rewards when we buy our food with Credit Cards in Mexico

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



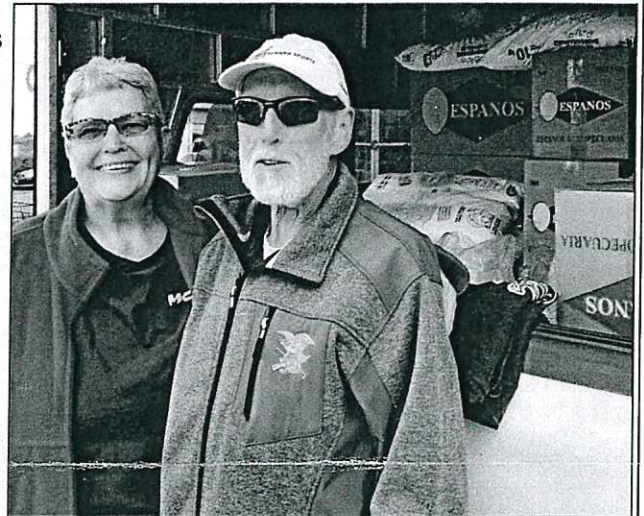
## In Memory of Jim Babcock



Below, on a recent morning at the far west end of the El Florido Market parking lot in TJ are the Babcocks, Jim & Helen. In the background is their truck, loaded to the gills and ready to roll. Faithful is too small a word for these two amazing and beloved people.

Jim's time with MCCA began back in 1991, when the Babcock's attended Bethany Reformed Church. Jim picked up one of the MCCA brochures and thought it would be interesting to go on one of the trips. Jim talked with Clyde Van Diest and started riding along with him. Helen wasn't riding along just yet as their kids were still babies.

Clyde and Jim bought Bob De Witt's truck when Bob's health prevented him from going. It was a six-passenger truck and with Clyde passing away in 2001, the Babcock's three younger children started to accompany Jim, and now Helen as well, on the trips. Together as a family many stories and blessings were shared on these trips. We got to see one of the youngest of the Babcock family grow up before our very eyes in their granddaughter Zienna, who has been on more MCCA trips as a baby/toddler than most of our newest volunteers



Later on, both Jim and Helen were asked to join the Board of Directors, and both continued on the board to this day. While Jim was a man of few words, you could always know when he had a strong opinion on a discussion point because he'd lean over and speak into Helen's ear. Just above a whisper, but never loud enough to speak over the main discussion. When it came to the roundtable portion of the meeting, you could always count on Jim to say "I'm good" regardless of how heated the meeting went or not.

Jim was good at being there for his beloved Helen. He drove and did the lifting, while Helen took care of the logistics and communications side of things. Quite a team indeed! They loved being part of the MCCA family and helping with the group's mission. It was near and dear to their hearts and remains so in Helen's. She was amazed by how faith and the Lord provided for this organization, the children, and all those involved.

In Mexico on the December 6, 2025, MCCA trip, after the trucks were loaded, we gathered to pray before leaving. As President of the Board of Directors, it was my honor to dedicate the trip to the memory of Jim Babcock. Recently we were all blessed to see Helen again when she resumed riding along. So beautiful to have her never-ending spirit of Love and Joy encouraging our group. Thank you Helen ... we love you mucho!

Sincerely,

*Paul Vela*



HEY THERE FRIEND, HAVE YOU GOT ONE OF THESE HERE PICKEM-UP TRUCKS ?



YOU MIGHT CONSIDER HELPING US DELIVER TO THE NEEDY KIDS IN BAJA MEXICO. WE'RE DANG SURE YOU WILL BE BLESSED !

On occasion we come up short of the trucks we require to make monthly food deliveries to Children's Homes in northern Baja Mexico. We have need for some substitute drivers with pickup trucks, especially heavy duty ones like the 2500s, or whatever. If you think you might like to give it a try there is no long term obligation or commitment required. For more information call Chris at (909) 838-1702. We have lots of fun and get blessed at the same time.

### 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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May</h1>						
3 Sunday School Recognition & Picnic	4 VBS Bible Teachers Meeting	5	6 Games Day	7 Love, INC Foundation Classes	8 Council Agenda Items Due	9 Sleepover
10 PC Chamber Choir-PM	11 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	12	13 Dorothy V's Birthday	14 Love, INC Foundation Classes	15 OSCI Graduation	16 Church Rented Out - afternoon
Gospel Singers – PM			20 Games Day	21 Love, INC Foundation Classes	22	23 PCGS Graduation
17 Ignite Senior Breakfast & Service	18 VBS Craft Teachers and Helpers Meeting	19	27 PCGS Graduation	28 VBS Worship Rally Meeting Love, INC Foundation Classes	29 Van Engelenhoven/ VBS Set-Up Team Meeting	30 Jones Wedding
Oskaloosa, EBF & North Mahaska Graduations	25 Pancake Breakfast	26 VBS Transportation & Rec Team Mtng.	VBS Decorating Linda VV's Birthday			
24 Boender/De Vries	Wedding					
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Blood Drive 	2 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Primary Election to be held in our Fellowship Hall	3 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Games Day	4 Vacation Bible School @ GNC Love, INC Foundation Classes	5 Vacation Bible School @ GNC (Parents are invited to the AM Opening Exercises) Council Agenda Items Due	6 Men's Bible Study
7	8 Council, Elder & Deacon Mtngs.	9	10	11 Love, INC Foundation Classes	12	13
14 Homestead	15	16 Ice Cream Social	17 Games Day	18 Love, INC Foundation Classes	19	20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Sundaes				Love, INC Foundation Classes		
21 	22 Ken DG's Birthday	23	24	25 Love, INC Foundation Classes	26	27 IGNITE Work Trip Starts -----
28 -----	29 -----	30 -----	 <h1>June</h1> 