

# FAITH & LIFE

November 2024



*GROW DEEP LIVE TALL*

*Jeremiah 17:7-8*



First Christian Reformed Church

1401 16<sup>th</sup> St

Rock Valley, IA 51247

Rev. Matthew Haan

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## Abundant Thanksgiving



October is nearly over and November with the joys of Thanksgiving is right around the corner. There is much to be thankful for this year even though the stress points in our community and in our individual hearts have been many.

We can be thankful that in a crippling flood, our community has grown stronger. We can be thankful that when the State of Iowa wondered if we were going to get one school open on time. We rallied together and have all three operational.

We can be thankful that our community is young, willing in heart, and ready to take on the challenges of rebuilding, reworking and renewing. We can be thankful that so many affected families are still facing the future together instead of being swept away in mass.

We can be thankful that the Lord in his providence and care has preserved his house of worship here, and nearly every house of worship in our community.

We can be thankful that in the midst of needing the same trades for countless projects the weather has remained stable enough to be able to get by with minimal heat and cooling these last number of months.

We can be thankful that the harvest and fall field work is nearly complete with abundance graciously seen.

We can be thankful that all of these thanksgivings and countless others have come from the protective, generous, faithful, hands of our Heavenly Father who is able to do so much more than we can ask or imagine!

The apostle Paul writing to the church at Corinth said, "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)

Indeed we have seen the richness of God Almighty in this year, in this season, and in our lives. God shows that he is at work and gives all that we need and then more to make us rich in his righteousness. That righteousness is the glory of Christ Jesus given freely to us that we would be able to fully celebrate all of the blessings he gives.

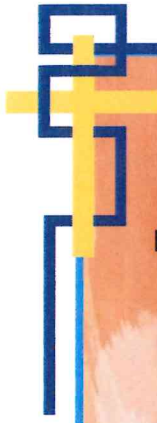
In this passage Paul gives thanks that God through his gracious hand has revealed himself to the people of Corinth in abundant ways. Paul praises God that these people have moved from merely seeking abundance to sharing it generously with great joy in every occasion.

Beloved family of First CRC, we as the Pastor's family, praise God for your generosity! Your sharing of your abundance with us, through your words and your hands brings tears to our eyes and overwhelming joy to our hearts. We thank God for each one of you! You are an indescribable gift to us.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt, Holly, Benjamin, Titus, Ezra and Andrew





## BIRTHDAYS

November 4 – Harriet Vande Kamp will be 88.

November 16 – Pat Kats will be 87.

November 30 – Harvey Van Otterloo will be 87.

November 20 – Lynnette Rozeboom – Let's remember our janitor and all she does for 1<sup>st</sup> CRC!

## ANNIVERSARIES

November 3 – Gerrit & Kay Vis will be married 50 years.

November 30 – Howard & Lynette Altena will be married 51 years.

## BABY BLESSINGS

-- We rejoice with **Eric & Erica Van Surksum** as they were blessed with the birth of a healthy baby girl, Natalie Grace, on Wednesday, October 2! She was welcomed home by her siblings Savannah & Jonah.

## BAPTISM BLESSINGS

-- **Koen Jax Van't Hul**, son of Mitchel & Shelby, was baptized on Sunday, October 20.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

-- **Brielle Jansma, Erin De Kam, & Lindsey Van Bemmell** professed their Faith on Sunday, October 13.

## WEDDING BLESSINGS

-- We rejoice with **Jaden & Katlien Den Boer** as they were united in marriage on Friday, October 4.  
May the Lord bless you both as you build your life together!

## SYMPATHY

- We express our Christian sympathies to **Alex & Alexis Rust & family** in the passing of Alex's mother, Linda Rust, on September 27. Linda was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in August.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Al & Harriet Van Zanten & family** in the passing of their brother-in-law, Dick Morlag, as he passed away on September 28.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Alvina Van't Hul and all extended families**, in the passing of Alvina's brother, Donald De Jager on October 8.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Bob & Cherie Groeneweg, Betty Hoogendoorn, Pat Kats, and Gerrit & Esther Kats** in the passing of Alta Mae Groeneweg on October 9.
  - We extend our Christian sympathies to **Sara, Caleb, Charlie, & Brylie Johnson**, as the kids' grandfather Lonny Johnson of Doon passed away on October 11 at the age of 64 due to illness.
  - We extend our Christian sympathies to **Jim Driesen** as his his sister-in-law Gaylene Eshuis passed away on October 16 at the age of 67.

## SPECIAL CONCERNS

- **Marv Faber** began chemotherapy treatments mid-October. Pray for strength, comfort, and healing through each treatment.
- **Laura Van Kalsbeek** had her gallbladder removed on September 23. Pray for continued healing as she recovers at home and had a set back with a UTI infection early October.
- **Albert Van Grootheest** underwent knee surgery on September 3. Please continue to pray for Albert as his recovery has been a struggle. Pray for continued strength and complete healing.
- **Addison Van't Hul**, daughter of Loy & Taryn, underwent testing to determine the cause of sudden hearing loss and balance issues. Continue praying for restored hearing and health for Addison.
- **John De Roon** – continue to pray for John as he struggles with pulmonary fibrosis, as well as a progression of his Parkinson's Disease.
- **Howard Altena** – pray for continued strength and progression of his health and clear direction going forward for the next steps with his battle with cancer.
- **Gene Van Bemmell**, brother to Ver Van Bemmell & Bonnie Wiersma, received a double lung transplant. Continue to pray for him as he continues to recover at Mayo long-term and for the family as they walk through this trial together with him.
- **Continue to pray for all those affected by the flood and in the process of recovery.**
- **Pray for our nation and the importance of the election.**



## Welcome Erin De Kam

Hello! My name is Erin De Kam, and my parents are Rod and Twila De Kam. I have one sister, Shannon, who is married to Mark Van Maanen. Together, they have three kids (Logan, Ethan, and Aria). I spend a lot of time with them and enjoy my "auntie" title! My dog, Buddy, also takes a lot of my time and keeps me on my toes. I grew up in Rock Valley and went to the Netherlands Reformed Christian School. For college, I attended Southeast Tech for Media Design. Currently, my home is in Rock Valley and I am the Marketing Manager at Kooima Ag. Outside of work, I am on the Rock Valley Ambulance and Fire departments. I enjoy spending time helping on both departments as this is a passion of mine. In my "free time", I enjoy traveling, golfing, and anything that has to do with art. I am excited to be a part of the church and cannot wait to see what God has in store for me here!



## Welcome Lindsey Van Bemmelen

Hello all, I am Lindsey Van Bemmelen. I grew up in Doon and now own a little house there. I went to the Doon PR school through 6th grade, then Hull PRCS for 7th and 8th and Trinity Christian High School. I then attended Dordt and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration: HR & Marketing. Now, for the past six years, I've been working at Peoples Bank in Sioux Center as a Mortgage Originator. My parents are Mike and Lori (Van Den Top) Van Bemmelen. My Dad works at Valley Vet Clinic and my Mom works at Peoples Bank in Rock Valley. My two brothers, Nick and Ethan, own Van's Automotive Repair in Doon. Nick is dating Crista Koedam, and Ethan got married earlier this year to Shelby Riebeling. In my free time, I like to stay pretty busy. I'm on the Doon Days Committee which plans Doon Days along with a few fundraisers throughout the year. I really enjoy traveling and playing golf when I can. I also recently joined a weekly Trivia League which has been a lot of fun. I'm really thankful for my experiences at First CRC so far and look forward to growing with you all!





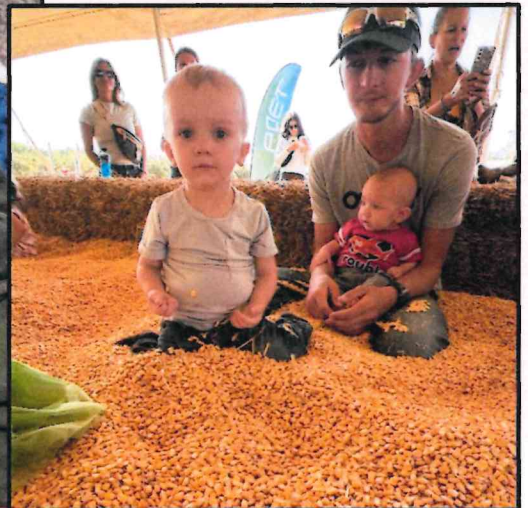
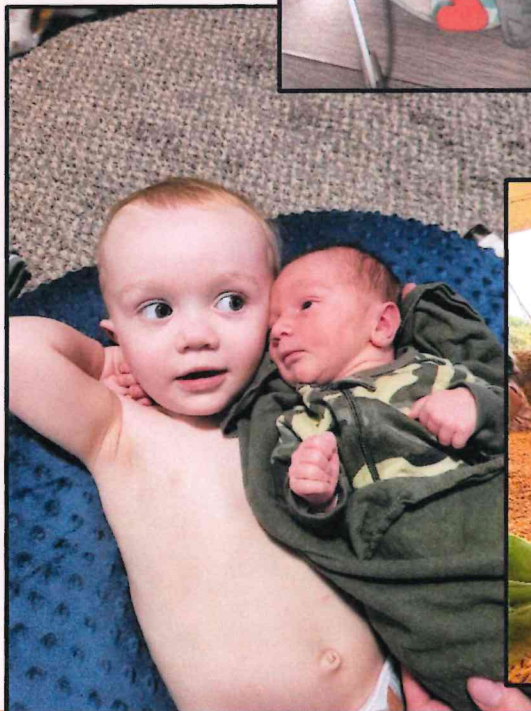
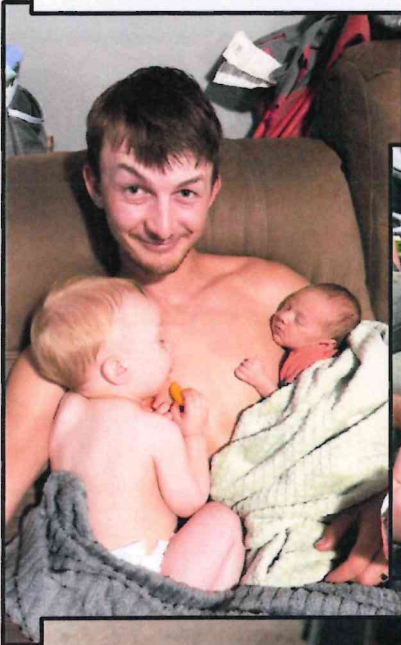
## Congratulations Mitchel & Shelby Van't Hul Family

Koen Jax was born May 5, 2024  
to Mitchel & Shelby Van't Hul.

He weighed in at 6 lbs 2 oz  
& was 20.5 inches long.

His excited brother, Crew Junior  
welcomed him home.

Proud Grandparents include  
Mike and Christal Van't Hul  
and Great-Grandma Carol Van't Hul.  
Koen's dad works at D&K in the winter  
months and at James De Jong in the  
summer. His mom is staying at home  
for a while with the boys.  
Koen and his family live in Hull.





## Congratulations Zach and Lucy (Borkowski) Elbers

Lucy and I were married June 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a beautiful summer day; it was about 75 degrees and almost no wind. Wedding pictures were taken on the Kiwanis trail and at church. We were married in 1<sup>st</sup> CRC with Pastor Matt officiating and had our reception at the Parkview Event Center. Everything went smooth and according to plan. That could not have happened without all the planning and work put into it by Lucy and our parents who have been such a huge blessing in our lives raising us in Christian homes. Lucy and I met at Dordt as we were both on the cross country and track teams. Lucy is originally from Irwin, Iowa but went to school in Harlan, Iowa. Lucy's mom is originally from Doon. Her mom's side of the family is from the area and that is what drew her to Dordt.

Our bridesmaids included Anika Homan, Margeret Myskowski, Taylor Droog, Molly Mulder, and Mary Kate LeLoux who are all great friends of ours. Groomsmen included my brother Carson, Lucy's brother Collin Borkowski, and our friends Tristan Hulstein, Jonathan Veldman, and Chris Ellens.

For our honeymoon, We left June 3<sup>rd</sup> for Italy from Omaha's airport. We flew into Rome and saw the Colosseum, the Vatican, Amalfi, and many other sights. We then took a train to Florence and saw the Duomo Cathedral, toured a winery and the countryside, the leaning tower of Pisa, and saw pieces of art, like Michelangelo's sculpture of David. We then took a train to Venice where we saw the canals and the coast. It was beautiful and something we will never forget.

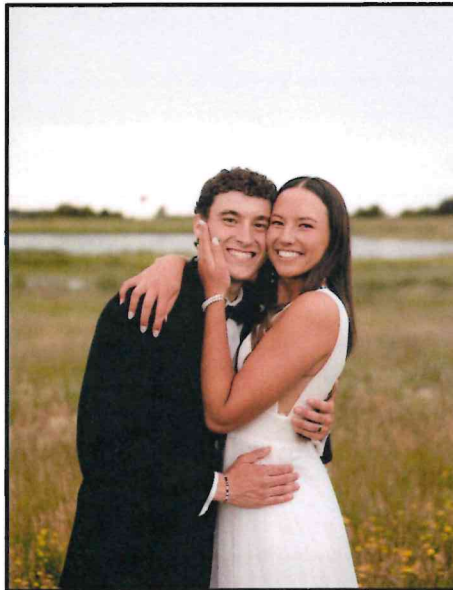
After returning June 11<sup>th</sup>, I moved into the apartment Lucy was living in during her final year at Dordt in Sioux Center. July 15<sup>th</sup> we moved to an apartment in Vermillion as Lucy is attending USD's graduate program for physical therapy. I work at Peoples Bank in Sioux Center in the Wealth Management Group. It has been an incredibly busy summer with getting married, going on our honeymoon, the flood, and moving twice, but seeing God's providence through everything has been humbling.





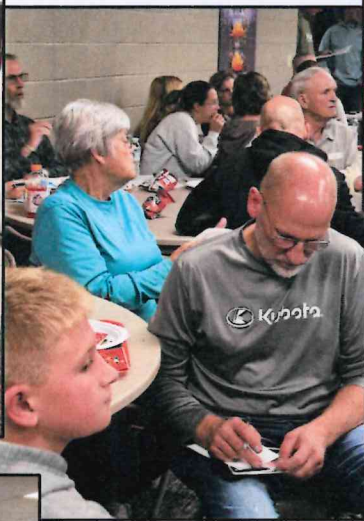
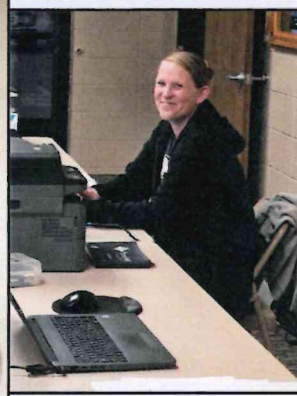
## Congratulations Dylan and Jadyn (Faber) Petitt

Dylan Petitt and I got married on June 14 this past summer. We met in high school at Western Christian and started dating in 2019. We got married in Sheldon at the Crossroads Pavillion Event Center. The ceremony was held outside, and the weather was great for it! The reception was held inside at the event center. I had my sister, Amera, as my maid of honor. Dylan's sister Lacey was a bridesmaid as well as three friends: Madison Vis, Gracie Dykstra, and Karli Olsen. Dylan's two brothers, JD and Josh, were his bestmen, and his groomsmen were three of his friends: Wyatt Gulker, Brayden Van Meeteren, and Brady Van Meeteren. We went to Jamaica for our honeymoon and had a relaxing time in Montego Bay. Currently, we both attend Dordt University. I am a current senior graduating in May with an elementary & special education degree. Dylan is a junior biology major hoping to attend medical school after graduating from Dordt. We currently live in an apartment in Sioux Center.





# Christian Education Auction Oct. 16, 2024





## *First CRC families RELOCATED temporarily:*

(This list is **ongoing**, please notify us of **anyone not listed that should be added**, corrections if something is listed incorrectly, and **updates** to your location as time goes on, etc.)

- Tim & Kendra Van Tilburg – 3102 Fig Ave., Rock Valley
- Jacob & Amanda Maassen – 722 Riverview Drive, Rock Valley
- Starla Van Otterloo & Sam – 2730 340<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley, IA (Chris & Whitney's)
- Warren Van Otterloo – living with Rick & Bonnie – 2137 340<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley
- Loy & Janice Van't Hul – 1411 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley (Alyssa's)
- Kevin & Diana De Groot – living with Janice Attema – 1415 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Rock Valley

## *Updated ADDRESSES:*

- Don & Lois Postma - Sheldon Christian Retirement Home, 1414 Elm Court, Sheldon  
New Phone – 712-541-3228
- Jim Driesen – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #114 , Rock Valley
- Elaine Bolkema – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #113 , Rock Valley
- Faye Medalen – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive # , Rock Valley
- Chad & Sandra Van't Hul family – 1108 Main St., Rock Valley
- Galen & Paula Kats – 2746 300<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Valley
- Karl & Alyssa Bos – 1215 Division Street, Hull
- Laura Van Kalsbeek – 1111 7<sup>th</sup> St. – Northside Crt, Hull
- Josh & Katie Byl – 1810 Aspen Street, Hull
- Jaden & Katlien Den Boer – 2618 Warren Circle, Rock Valley
- Lyle & Joyce Van Engen – 910 Greenway Drive - #206, Rock Valley
- Harm & Bonnie Wiersma – 1407 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Apt. A, Rock Valley
- Verlyn & Sandy Van Bommel – 2115 Maple St. – Apt. 4, Hull
- Alvin & Sue LeLoux – 800 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- Eric & Tracy Breuer – 1310 12<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Valley
- Kevin & Kristin Jansma – 701 Fairway Drive, Rock Valley
- Erin De Kam – 818 Fairway Oaks Drive, Rock Valley

There are many more congregation members that have been severely affected by the flood, whether it be their home, business, school, farmland, and more.

Please continue to pray for our entire community as together we continue to help each other long-term to clean-up, process, recover, and rebuild!





**USA ELECTION DAY**  
**REMEMBER TO VOTE**  
**Tuesday, November 5**

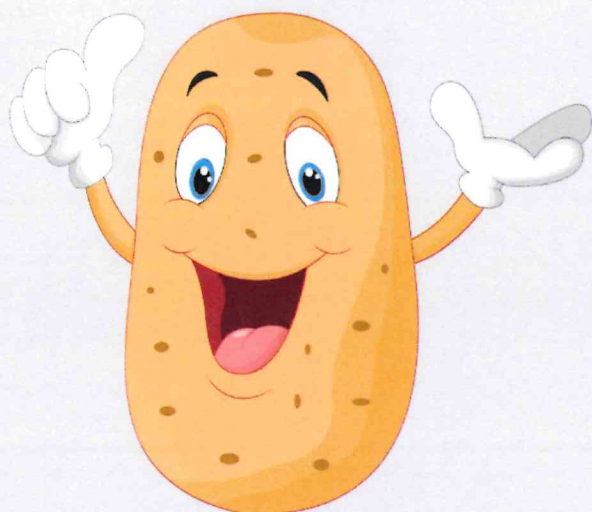


**FIRST CRC ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday,  
November 18  
7:00pm**







# **IGNITE YOUTH GROUP Potato Bake**

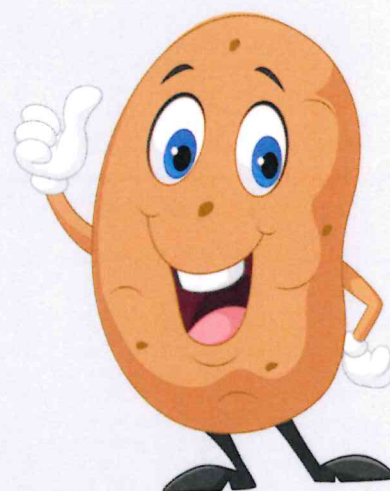


**DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

**TIME: 5:30PM – 7:30PM**

**PLACE: FIRST CRC FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**ENJOY HOT BAKED  
POTATOES WITH ALL THE  
TOPPINGS  
AND A VARIETY OF  
DELICIOUS SALADS!**



**FREE Will Donation  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO  
IGNITE YOUTH GROUP**





## What Am I Harvesting?

As I write this the harvest season for farmers is fast approaching. If you have taken a drive down any road in the country you have been blessed to see the progress of the corn, beans, alfalfa and other plants. Soon, men and women will be working late hours to harvest these crops and to bring in the bounty that God has blessed them with. This season of the year can always be met with reflection as we consider the work that was done to first plant the crops in the spring, make sure they are watered and irrigated throughout the growing season and then harvesting the crops and bringing them in for storage and later use or for use now in feeding livestock or feeding our fellow man.

This reflection has also caused me to think and ask myself a question: What am I harvesting? What have I started in my life with the intent to grow and prosper? What have I irrigated with words of truth and love from God and his word and what have I said and done as the growing process continues? What harvest is there for me to take up at a specific time and using my own life, bless other people's lives with as well? What growth have I allowed others to experience through me and how have I allowed them to continue their own growth and their own journey of faith? These questions may be many but I think that they all are important as we look at what God has allowed to be planted, to grow, and to mature in our lives.

Perhaps it is a relationship that was recently started or is being revisited after some time apart. God allows the opportunity for people to get together or come back together and begin to grow that relationship. Perhaps it started as something small as a simple phone call or visit, but over time it has grown into a blossoming friendship. Now may be the time to harvest within that friendship, not to end it, but to look at the blessings that you have received from it and carry those forward into a new relationship. It could be the start of a new job where God put it in your life to connect with an opportunity. You have been diligent in the work that he has called you to and are still waiting for a harvest to come. These and many similar situations are present for all of us. I'm sure that all of us can reflect on opportunities that we have had or are currently in the midst of. Whatever the situation, know that God is at work and that you are soon to be reaping a harvest.

Sometimes we go through life situations where we wonder how God can produce a harvest out of this. How can he take our feeble efforts, lack of progress, dead ends that we often face, and perhaps overall disappointment and turn it into a rich harvest? It is then that we look to the master farmer and seek his plan and not our own. When we submit to the plan of the Father, we would be amazed at the harvest that is being produced. So, as we take stock of the life that we have been given and the opportunities and situations that we are currently in the question must again be posed: What am I harvesting? We may not fully grasp the answers to that question but we have a Father who knows what he is doing in and through us and is willing to invite us to participate in the process and journey.

The Wheeled Worshiper





*Early Childhood Development Training at the Teacher's Garden*

## Praise in a New Space

The Teacher's Garden has finally moved into the new, larger office space it has been needing. It's three times bigger than where we've been for the past five years. On September, 7, leaders of the national church, association of Christian schools, and friends joined the national board of the Teacher's Garden in worship to dedicate the new office to the Lord. The landlord, a very kind man of God who leased the building to us on a 5-year contract was also among the guests. He shared:

*"I'm honored to play a small part in what is happening as you train teachers to make a positive difference in my country's educational system".*

Likewise, we thank God for the various groups of builders, plumbers, painters, electricians, solar and moving companies, and youth group who also contributed in varying capacities to making that move possible.

## A Bigger Movement

The day following the dedication of the new office building, we launched a week-long training with a group of 40 preschool teachers. In fact, that was the first time we were able to conduct a training with that many teachers at once. So, the new bigger office

space is already being put to good use. The training participants were very highly motivated and engaged. They brought life, joy and experience as we interacted with



*Worship time with Dr. Sosthene*

one another. The training included biblical worldview and integration with attention to the national curriculum, early childhood development, and arts in student learning. A few participants who are not yet born again in Christ were ministered unto through one-on-one interactions and prayer with our team. The entire group also joined us in the ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) Africa chapel held with overall 120 leaders from

across the African continent.

One participant shared:

*"We are thrilled to know that what is happening here through the Teacher's Garden is part of something far bigger. The Spirit of God is really moving through Christian education across Africa as we prepare the next generation for good work."*



*Peer group discussions with teachers*

## Called for Good Work

That feedback points to the guiding theme for that training: **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**  
-Ephesians 2:10

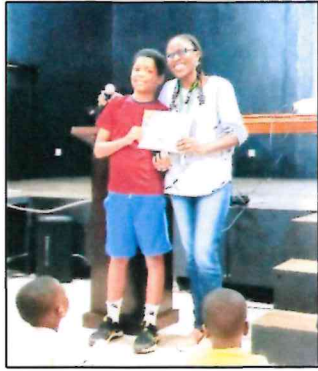
That is, we are called by God through Christ to bear Kingdom fruit for eternal hope through what we do. Let there be good work and lasting fruit as we shine Christ in the classroom, at church, in our families, our workplaces, and beyond for God's eternal glory.



*Early Childhood Development training participants*



## Family



*Isaac awarded as the student of the month*

Our three younger boys, Nathanael (14), Isaac (12) and Samuel (almost 9) are attending an international school in Conakry this school year. They are adjusting well with the new environment, making new friends, and connecting with their teachers. Isaac was selected as the middle

school student-of-the-month for diligence in academic work, kindness, and a heart of service toward others. That public affirmation was a great encouragement for us as parents. We strive to see God's character shine in and through our children just as we long to see in the next generation through our Christian education ministry.

Sosthene has recently been on a few ministry trips back-to-back, including a strategic meeting with Driesta University, a reformed academic institution in the Netherlands. He jokingly said: "If you see my



good Dutch friends out there in Iowa and Montana or Michigan, be sure to tell them, I made it safely to the motherland!!!"



*Ms. Janina Meier joins the ACSI Africa Team*

ACSI Africa is working in collaboration with the church, national associations of Christian Schools, and Christian universities toward equipping 1 million African teachers in Biblical worldview and integration by the year 2050. Ms. Janina Meier, a specialist in education from Germany, just joined the Africa team as program coordinator. Based in Guinea, she will work under the supervision of Dr. Maletoungou on the teacher certification pilot project.



*Francophone West Africa roundtable with ACSI*



*Gift to the Teacher's Garden*



*ACSI Africa leaders at the roundtable of Christian education*

### How to Give

Support for our work in Africa can be sent to Resonate Global Mission at:

<https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionaries/sosthene-and-kara-maletoungou>

To give to the **Teacher's Garden**, please go to:

<https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/give-us> . In

the first drop-down box, choose "Projects-Africa."

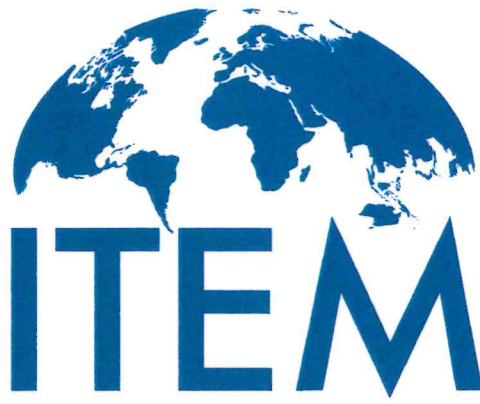
Then choose, "West Africa Christian Education Resource Center"

***Thank you for your prayers and support!***

### Thanksgiving and Prayer Items

- Thank God for the provision of new space and increased manpower at the Teacher's Garden for greater impact
- Pray for more financial resources toward the Teacher's Garden annual budget so we can make the best use of the new space God gave us
- Pray for God's continued favor and wisdom upon the board of the Teacher's Garden in the US and the national board in Guinea
- Pray for strength and a special anointing upon our family so we will remain humble and diligent at a time of increased ministry commitments





INTERNATIONAL  
THEOLOGICAL  
EDUCATION  
MINISTRIES

*Equipping today's leaders to train tomorrow's pastors.*

## ITEM Quarterly Investor # 20 – October, 2024

### Becoming an Influencer for Missions

Social media and technology have combined to create a new kind of persuader called an “influencer.” An influencer is an individual who has the power to affect the decisions of others because of their authority, knowledge, position, or relationship with their audience. An influencer persuades other people to become interested in something, to “buy” into a product or idea. Whether we have thousands of “followers” or not, most of us do influence others by our words or actions. How about becoming an influencer for missions?

Why consider an often-overlooked topic? The answer lies in understanding how important missions is to God. Scripture tells us that missions is on God’s heart. Often the last words people share with someone before they die or go on a trip, reveal what’s important to them, what’s on their hearts. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He gives His followers His last command, the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Acts 1:8.

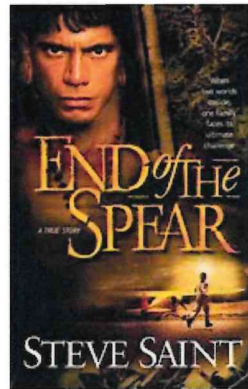
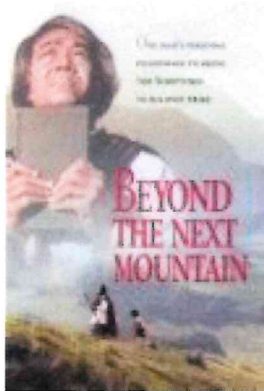
**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”**

Sharing the Good News of how men, women, and children can escape the consequences of their sin and gain eternal life here and hereafter was the most pressing issue on Jesus’ mind before He left earth. He wanted this to take place worldwide. That’s missions!

Shouldn’t what was and is on Jesus’ heart be on your heart also? Think back to when you first heard the good news yourself. What a life changing event! Hasn’t that influenced your life ever since? If you could do something to influence just one person’s eternity, wouldn’t you? Then become an influencer for missions.



How can we impress missions on our hearts, inscribe it into our hearts? We could become more familiar with people who already have missions on their hearts, missionaries. Perhaps we could read biographies of missionaries such as *The Life and Diary of David Brainard*, America's first missionary to the Indians; *The Life of David Livingstone*, the great explorer of Africa; *The Small Woman, the Heroic Story of Gladys Aylward*, courageous missionary to China; or *Chet Bitterman, Martyr for Christ*, who was kidnapped and killed by revolutionaries in Colombia in 1981. There is also, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya – A Biographical History of Christian Missions*, with many short biographies of missionaries from all over the world since the time of Christ. You might be inspired by videos about missions such as “*Beyond the Next Mountain*” or “*End of the Spear*.” And you could meet real missionaries by offering to host some of the missionaries that may be visiting your church and get to learn about missions first hand from them. Catch from them their excitement and enthusiasm about what God is doing on their mission field.



As you become more informed about missions, your “product,” so to speak, you will want to become more aware of your “customers,” those you want to influence toward missions. Find out what they are currently interested in and why. What do they think about missions and why? How could being more connected to missions benefit them; how could missions meet a need they have? For some people, missions provides a larger purpose beyond the ordinary daily issues of life. For others, missions connects them to the bigger picture of God’s kingdom. To yet others, missions provides an opportunity to invest their financial resources in something that offers a meaningful return. And for some, missions captures their imaginations and excitement about making a real difference in the world. Explore these and other possible ways that missions might attract hearts of people. Once you’ve begun influencing others about missions, you can share resources such as mission newsletters, inspiring stories, missionary biographies, videos, etc., that feed their growing interest. You may want to meet together to pray for specific missions and see how God answers.



Missions is a huge task, indeed a worldwide task. The current world population is 8,076,243,165 as of 5 pm. central time on October 1. And it's exploding by 140 people every minute! How can we ever hope to reach the world with the gospel at that rate? Consider the beauty of mathematical doubling! If you double 1 by 2 and then that by 2 again, and again, after 32 such doublings, you have 8,589,934,592! Now, if you divide the world's population by how rapidly multiplication can work....

**8,076,243,165**  
**(current world's population)**

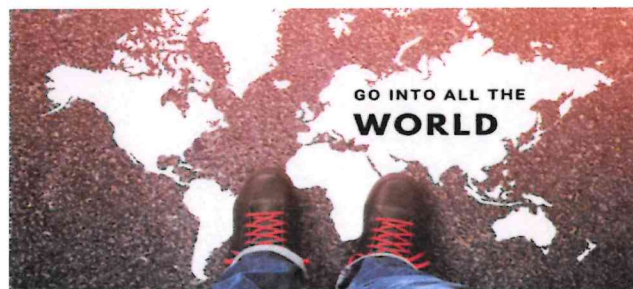
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**8,589,934,592**  
**(1 doubled 32 times)**

... the task doesn't seem so overwhelming anymore, does it? So, that means you don't have to influence thousands, or even hundreds of people; just two people, who will in turn influence two more, in order to spread the influence of God's kingdom to the ends of the earth!

**That's missions by multiplication.** That's what ITEM is doing, multiplying missions by training leaders who then disciple many others who continue the multiplication process worldwide.

**So, then, are you ready to become an influencer for missions?**



**Investments in ITEM in the US may be sent to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or at [www.ITEM.org](http://www.ITEM.org) through PayPal. Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to: Action International Ministries 3015A 21st NE Calgary AB T2E 7T1**





### **“With Gladness and Thanksgiving”**

The long day of the year is almost done,  
and nature in the sunset musing stands,  
gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,  
looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands: ...

Empty and folded are her busy hands;  
her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,  
as in the twilight of the year she stands,  
and with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,  
in the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,  
and lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,  
and sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm.

~Kate Seymour Maclean (1829-1916)

### **“In AWE of Everyday Joys”**

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- A** is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- W** is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- E** is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the “ordinary” can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.

### **“Simple But Lifesaving”**

In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV.

Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. “I never thought something so simple would save my life,” she said.

Another lifesaver many people find too simple is God's grace. We quip, “If something seems too good to be true, it probably is,” and “Nothing in life is free.” We're used to payments or paybacks. We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch. When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and holy as salvation be a free gift from God? Don't we need to do something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a “godly” life?

All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as thanks for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life. ~Heidi Hyland Mann

### **Bible Trivia**

Shortly after the birth of the church at Pentecost, which apostle(s) taught an Ethiopian official about Jesus and then baptized him?

- A. Philip
- B. Peter and Andrew
- C. James
- D. Paul and Silas



See next page for answer



### **“Veterans Day Salute”**

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who “came back to faith” during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star.

Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraces the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. “That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people,” he told a reporter. “I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it.”

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



### **“Veterans Day”**

by Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young and soldiers old  
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.  
Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We're proud of all the soldiers who  
Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.  
They fought for us and all our rights.  
They fought through many days and nights.  
And though we may not know each name,  
We thank all veterans just the same.

### **“Be Prepared...to Wait”**

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God's goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,” says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That's an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus? ~Janna Firestone  
We often speak of pastors as having a divine “calling.” God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a “call”?

### **“What Your Heart Clamors To Do”**

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a *father* doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that “work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do,” and that “we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride.” What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is *your* divine call?



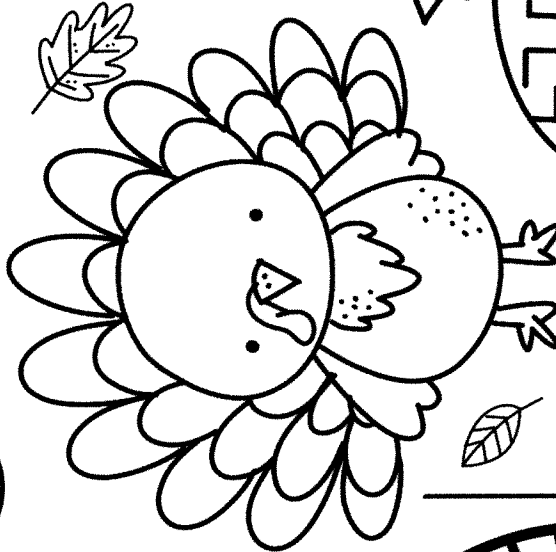


Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

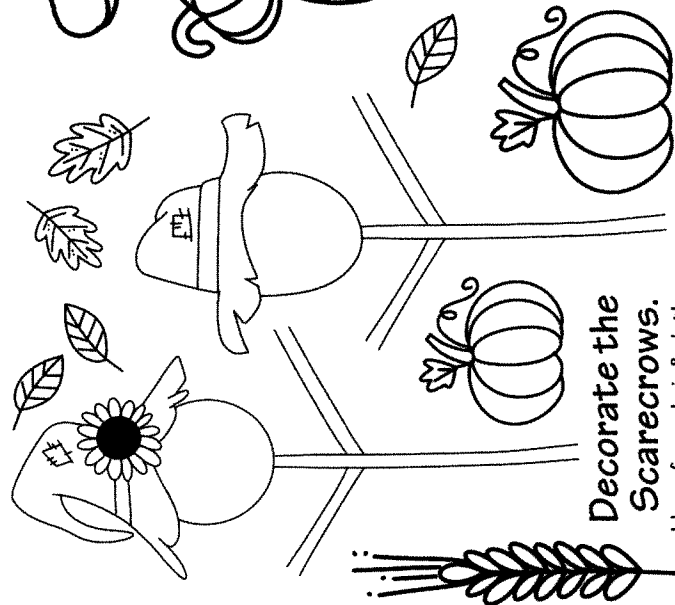
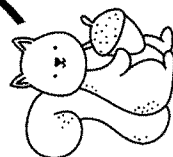
**HIS LOVE ENDURES  
FOREVER.**

Psalms 136:1, NIV

What are you thankful for?

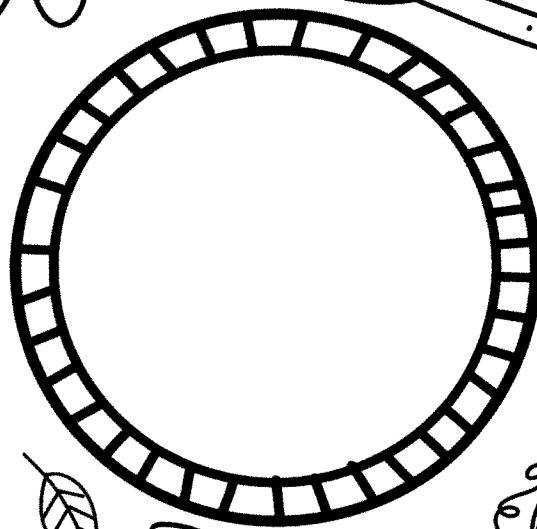


How many  
pumpkins  
can you find?

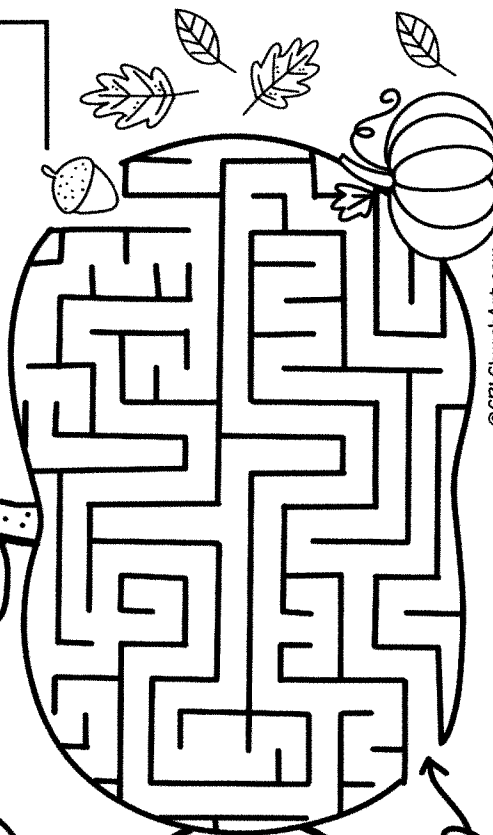
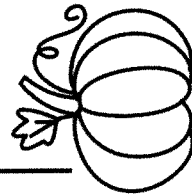


Decorate the  
Scarecrows.

Ideas: faces, hair & clothes



Draw your favorite  
Thanksgiving Dinner!







## Letter Writing to our MISSIONARIES



### RIBBENS

### MALETOUNGOU

### KLOMPIEN

November 3	Karl B	Eric B	Josh B
November 10	Mitchell B	Randy B	Cody D
November 17	Rick D	Vern DB	Kevin DG
November 24	Zach DJ	Steve DK	Clarence DR

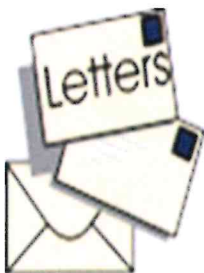
### Resonate Global Mission

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1700 28<sup>th</sup> St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: [mrribbens@crcna.org](mailto:mrribbens@crcna.org) – Mike  
[mrribbens@gmail.com](mailto:mrribbens@gmail.com) – Megan



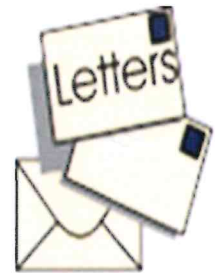
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EMAIL: [mklompier@crcna.org](mailto:mklompier@crcna.org)





## GREETERS



November 3	Eric & Erica VS Alyssa VH Chad & Sandra VH	Carol VH, Mary VH Loy & Janice VH Loy & Taryn VH	Larry & Yvonne
November 10	Mark & Deb VH Mike & Christal VH Mitchel & Shelby VH	Tim & Kim VT Tim & Kendra VT Mike VZ	Vern & Ellen
November 17	Jack & Kelsey VB Gerrit & Kay V Harm & Bonnie W	Glenn & Leah W Blake & Genae Z Ryan & Jamie Z	Harlan & Priscilla
November 24	Evan & Kim A Howard & Lynette A Mike & Tammy B	Myron & Amy B Austin & Allison B Dan & Shannon B	Ron & Darletta
November 28 Thanksgiving Day	Elmer & Lori B Karl & Alyssa B Eric & Tracy B		

## USHERS



November 3	East: Josh B, Mike VZ West: Dan B, Darin P	AM PM	Genae Z, Kelsey VB, Kaysha A, Abby A Taryn VH, Brennan VK
November 10	East: Joel B, Matt VE West: Jace M, Alvin L	AM PM	Sharla VR, Tammy B, Brielle J, Jaelyn K Jamie Z, Mason J
November 17	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Benjamin H, Keith L	AM PM	Amy B, Allison B, Alison L, Ada K Kelsi B, Jaydn L
November 24	East: Jeff E, Rick D West: Joe M, Gene L	AM PM	Shannon B, Em D, Harper VB, Faith K Jamie DJ, Titus H
November 28 Thanksgiving Day	East: Cody D, Mike B West: Cole VDB, Colton VO	AM	April DK, Priscilla D, Kayla VE, Sloan M



2024



2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>the Gerrit Vis' (50)</i>	2
3 Joel Baartman	4 Harriet Vande Kamp (88) <i>the Kevin Jansma's</i> <i>The Davis Van Roekel's</i>	5 Amanda Maassen <i>the Jacob Maassen's</i>	6	7 Cherie Groeneweg Larry Haak <i>the Randy Vande Kamp's</i>	8 Shanna LeLoux	9 Kamden Jansen Rashana Mulder
10	11 Attyn Bleyenberg Kennedy Van't Hul	12	13 Brian Faber Darin Pollema Jeff Van Bommel Mike Van Zanten Shelby Van't Hul	14 Alvin LeLoux Pam Maassen James Vanden Bos Jaslyn Van Otterloo <i>the Ver Van Bommel's</i>	15 Jake Davelaar	16 Pat Kats (87)
17 <i>the Mike Kooistra's</i>	18 Katie Byl Kacie Van Bommel	19	20 Kenzie Kooima Lynnette Rozeboom <i>the Austin Bliet's</i>	21 Travis Jansen <i>the Randy Byl's</i> <i>the Dereck Van Der Brink's</i>	22 Alayna Davelaar <i>the Evan Vanden Bosch's</i>	23
24	25 <i>the Jeff Elgersma's</i>	26	27	28	29 Shannon Bloemendaal Eric Breuer	30 Harvey Van Otterloo (87) <i>the Howard Altena's (50)</i>