

SEPTEMBER 2025

Building God's Kingdom one life at time



First
Reformed
Church

LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 1

We are in need of volunteers in the following areas:

- Help to decorate float - Sunday, August 31 @ 2 PM @ the church
- People/kids to ride on the church float - meet @ church at 1:15 PM
- People to walk & hand out pencils & other items during parade
- People to hand out freeze pops @ church to those in the parade

Sign-up sheets for all of these areas are on the Welcome Table or sign up online. NOTE: We would like you to wear FRC volunteer t-shirts or VBS shirts. See the office if you need a t-shirt.

START OF 2025-2026 MINISTRY YEAR

Our Wednesday Night programming will begin on September 3 with the following:

- ♦ Family Night Meal - 5:15-6:30 PM
- ♦ Awana - 6-7:30 PM
- ♦ Youth activities - 6-8:30 PM -- see below for specifics
- ♦ Adult Bible Study - 6:30-7:30 -- in overflow but subject to change depending on needs of Awana



SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

3RD

Come and go registration night

10TH

Kickoff!
Theme: Jersey or team shirt

17TH

Regular meeting

24TH

Regular meeting

Family night meal: 5:15-6:30
Awana meeting time: 6:00-7:30

Contact Sami Fox for more info or to register

Contact Sami @ sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com if you would like to help with Awana.



HELP
US KICK
OFF
THE
YEAR
WITH A
GAME
OF KICK
BALL!

PARENTS VS STUDENTS

WHO WILL COME OUT ON TOP?

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2025
SHELDON CITY PARK FIELDS

MIDDLE SCHOOL: 6:00-7:00
PARENT MEETING (MS & HS): 7:00-7:30
HIGH SCHOOL: 7:30-8:30

"Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell."

~ David Platt

"Consider how precious a soul must be when both God and the devil are after it."

~ Charles Spurgeon

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Both Sunday school and Children & Worship will **resume on Sunday, September 7**.
A list showing the location and classroom number for each age group is on the Welcome Table at the front of the church.



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

To drop off items in the kitchen when the church is not open, use the code provided to you by your work group leader.

Family Night Meal - 5:15-6:30 PM

- Sept 3** Burgers/Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans, Watermelon
Sept 10 Taco/Taco-in-a-bag, Fruit, **Cookies**
[6 people bring 2 dozen cookies]
Sept 17 Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Lettuce Salad, **Bars**
[7 people bring 9x13 pan of bars]
Sept 24 Tater Tot Casserole, Applesauce, **Cake**
[7 people bring 9x13 cake]

Items that are to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (in bold lettering). Please have donated items here between 10 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday. If you can't get items to the church during this time period, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy.



MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

DATE: Thursday, September 11

TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM

LOCATION: Living Water Church
Bring a box for your groceries.

DATE: Monday, September 15

TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM

LOCATION: Living Water Church

Bring your friends and enjoy the meal and fellowship. The meal is a come and go buffet style meal. A bag of groceries is available to take home with you after you have had your meal. Bring a friend and enjoy some food and fellowship.

Sheldon Area
Unity Meal



FREEZER MEAL MINISTRY

Do you like to cook? Would you like to help others that may be in need of a meal? The Congregational Care Committee's ministry provides prepared frozen meals (entrees & maybe some cookies) for church members that find themselves in need of a meal due to unforeseen circumstances. Please include cooking instructions and date prepared. We could also use some gluten free meals. Please include if the meal is gluten free. The meals will be kept in the kitchen freezer. If you need a meal, just stop by the church while it is open and Wendy will let you in to pick them up, or you can get them on Sunday. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table for church members who would be willing to make meals for this ministry.



If you have lightly used (or new) adult or kids coats that you would like to donate, please drop off the clean coats at Love INC at 611 Park Row, Sheldon.

Distribution dates: October 9 & November 13

These dates are in conjunction with the Iowa Food Bank distribution held at Living Water Church.

BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

TEACHERS NEEDED

Please consider teaching Sunday School or Wednesday Night- Family night! We cannot run our programs without our volunteers!

SUNDAY MORNING- 10:45-11:30
WEDNESDAY EVENING- 6:00-7:30

Please reach out to Sami Fox if you are interested in volunteering.
sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com
712-363-0765



We are ALWAYS looking for subs for both Awana and Sunday school. Contact Sami at sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com to be added to the sub list.

FUN THINGS COMING WITH AWANA

We will have a monthly theme night and 3 "party"/dress up contests throughout the year. These will coincide with service project nights!



Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

Rocky+: It will be held on September 10 at Northwestern College. It begins at 7:00 PM, so we will meet at 6:15 PM to leave from the church.

BEC Frozen Food Sales : The Middle school will begin frozen food sales on October 1. Sales will take place after the morning service on October 5, 12 & 19. The anticipated delivery date for the frozen food items will be November 15. We are still finalizing the timeline for the sales. Watch your bulletins and the next Encore for definite dates and further information.

CORN MAZE: Both youth groups will be going to the corn maze on October 8. Middle school will leave around 5:45 PM and plan to return around 8:15 PM. High school will meet at 6:45 PM to ride a bus to the corn maze and return around 9:15 PM. We will cover the cost of all tickets.

TEC #17: November 21-23 at the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Caitie is looking for several sponsors. This is a Rocky Mountain High year. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.

MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

How does a man know if he is a "real man"? The answers can be discovered in Scripture.

Men, you are invited to join Evan De Hoogh, Rodney Kruse, and Jett Korver, as they lead a study through **Stuart Scott's book "Biblical Manhood: Masculinity, Leadership, and Decision Making"**, starting **September 28, 2025, during the Sunday School hour.**

This study will last 12 weeks and will cover Biblical masculinity, leadership, decision-making, and combating lust. We are seeking men who desire to dig deep into Scripture to see what the Bible teaches about "Biblical Manhood", fellowship with each other, and commit to holding each other accountable as men of God.

If being a part of this study is something you're interested in, please sign up at the Welcome Table. Expect to be challenged, convicted and encouraged through this study. You will be provided with a copy of the book prior to start of the study.

Each lesson is built on the last, for that reason we strongly recommend you sign up beforehand and start at the beginning of the book with us on September 28th and commit to the 12-week study. On the fence about whether to sign up? Talk to Evan, Rodney, Jett, or any of the Deacon's. All have gone through this study and can answer any questions you may have.

Men, we hope to see you on September 28!

Sept 2 James & Dixie De Jong - 68
Sept 5 Gerald & Harriet Van Meeteren - 62
Galen & Renee Van Velzen - **50**
Sept 6 Craig & Sarah Van Meeteren - 17
Sept 7 Larry & Elaine Ebel - 52
Sept 8 Brent & Melissa Hofmeyer - 13
Sept 10 Eric & Rachel Iedema - 20
Sept 12 Mark & Donna Koerselman - 51
Sept 13 Rick & Carma Nordahl - 39
Kyle & Kelsey Hoekstra - 11
Sept 14 Gered & Gina De Hoogh - 23
Nick & Beth Slykhuis - 12
Sept 17 Cindy & Gary Hassebroek - 49
Sept 19 Dennis & Sandra Mouw - 61
Sept 21 Murray & Nancy Martens - 51

Sept 23 Brandon & Rachel Krukow - 25
Sept 24 Jason & Renee Bork - 15
Jake & Emily Van Voorst - 9
Sept 25 Leroy & Barb Theis - 28
Sept 27 Tom & Karen De Boom - 23
Sept 29 Andy & Muriel Kanengieter - 14



Dear First Reformed,

Thank you so much for your continued support. We value your partnership. We would love to see a team from your church with us in Moldova for a week. Let us know!

THANK YOU

~ Grace and Peace
The Pascals

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your cards, visits, food, calls and prayers during my recovery from back surgery. God bless you!

~ Thanks ever so much
Millie Vos



Sept 1 Andie De Groot
Rilee Van Beek
Ted Riepma
Sept 2 Ashley Jorgensen
Sept 3 Lennox Snyder
Mark Vander Naald
Sept 4 Sam Storm
Merry Storm
Emmie Storm
Sept 5 Iola Whitsell
Sept 6 Kailey Elgersma
Sept 7 Aylah Sauer
Emily Groote
Sept 8 Nel Van Beek
Don Dykshoorn
Wally Wolthuizen
Greg Sawyer

Sept 9 Galen Blankers
Madison Meyer
Delores Dekker
Greg Winkel
Sept 11 Reka de Boer
Sept 12 Kenedie Stellinga
Sept 13 Edgar Jager
Sept 14 Glenda Riemersma
Stan Ten Kley
Sept 15 Murray Martens
Sept 16 Twyla Vogel
Allie De Hoogh
Summer De Hoogh
Brielle Sauer
Sept 17 Faith Ten Clay
Mike Vogel
Josh Jager
Mildred Blankers
Myrna Wolfswinkel
Sept 18 Linda Riemersma
Liam Crooks
Coreen Van Sloten
Sept 19 Mikayla Dykstra

Sept 20 Carla Kleinwolterink
Wayne Den Hartog
Crosby Van Peurse
Sept 22 Ella Van Maaren
Robby Christians
Larie De Groot
Barrett Korver
Sept 23 Joyce Fedders
Sept 26 Zach Kleinwolterink
Alyda Roetman
Sept 27 Vicki Holtrop
Brittany Peters
Sept 28 Kourtney Dekker
Judy Meyer
Marge Warner
Sept 29 Berdina Vander Naald
Carmen Holtrop
Sept 30 Kristin Van Engen
Claire Punt

BACKGROUND CHECKS

If you work with children/ youth in any way, please check your home mailbox and your church mailbox for background check forms that have been sent or provided for you to complete. We are trying to update our files and need these forms from all people who are working with children/youth for our fall ministry season. Please, fill out the forms and return them to the church office. You can put them in an envelope or fold them and put them in Wendy's church mailbox or in the slot on the office door.

GET THIS ONE RIGHT FOLKS!

A church visitor asked the pastor, "Can I request a prayer?"
"Sure, what do you want prayer for?"

"My cousin died last week. Pray that God will guide him in the afterlife."

The pastor asked, "Suppose you're taking an exam. Should you pray before or after the exam?"

"Obviously, before the exam."

"Right. When you pray after the exam, it's like you are asking God to change the grades. That is not possible because God is faithful. He cannot deceive the result. Similarly, when we die, the exam is over. We can no longer change our destiny. Hebrews 9:27 says that we die once and then face judgement. That means no second chance. I'm sorry for your relative. He can no longer be prayed for. That is why people need to understand the Gospel while they are still alive. They had to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior before it was all over."

Sinners who believe they can be saved after death will get the greatest shock of their lives. Teach the truth because that is the only thing that can set people free. (John 8:32)

from Man Church

Profession of Faith

Audrey Punt, daughter of
Nathan & Kristi made
her Profession on
August 10.



On August 17, Nora Jean,
daughter of Andy & Kelsey
Cooper was baptized. She
is the granddaughter of
Wayne & Debbie Den
Hartog & great
granddaughter of Marvin
Holtrop.



ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO CHURCH DIRECTORY

- **Ryer Dacken's address**
SGT Dacken, Ryer
Alpha BTRY/TF REDLEG
APO AF, 09333
- **Elaine Ebel's new address**
Prairie View, Rm, 17 S
610 Eastern Street
Sanborn, IA 51248
- **Bev Heemstra's new address**
1002 Sunrise Avenue
Sanborn, IA 51248
- **Jake & Brittany Korver's new address**
36166 290th Street
Worthington, MN 56187
- **Phil & Deann Kragt's new address**
2405 E. 3rd Street
Sheldon, IA 51201
- **Toby & Lindsay Maggert**
721 7th Street
Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone: 712.348.2086
Email: tobymaggert@gmail.com
- **Alyda Roetman's new address**
Prairie View, Apt. 3
612 Eastern Street
Sanborn, IA 51248

General Fund - August

	Jul 25	Jan - Jul 25	Annual Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	\$53,510.80		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	43,229.42	352,521.09	587,810.06
Interest Income	35.33	363.39	
Total Income	43,264.75	352,884.48	587,810.06
Gross Profit	43,264.75	352,884.48	587,810.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	9,584.89	19,000.00
Congregational Care	0.00	3,863.86	17,000.00
Education	3,715.05	13,678.45	21,850.00
Facilities & Grounds	3,412.45	53,340.27	128,000.00
General and Consistory	906.68	11,017.45	15,600.00
Office	525.69	10,539.71	21,645.00
Outreach	2,897.74	11,784.13	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	27,937.38	170,620.67	331,365.06
Safety & Security	15.00	15.00	
Transfer Out	0.00	45,000.00	
Worship	0.00	1,448.30	4,100.00
Youth Groups	600.00	1,042.17	4,950.00
Total Expense	40,009.99	331,934.90	587,810.06
Net Ordinary Income	3,254.76	20,949.58	0.00
Net Cash Flow	3,254.76	20,949.58	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 56,765.56		

CELL PHONES

For the sake of knowing and loving Jesus and to minimize distractions, mobile phones, electronic devices and toys, will no longer be welcomed or permitted in the classrooms or large group spaces at FRC. This applies to children and teens, Preschool - 12th Grade. A student may be permitted to use a phone or other device at the direction of a teacher, but only for a limited time. If a phone is brought in, it shall be turned off completely and stored in the basket provided in each classroom until the end of the class or learning time. Parents, thank you for helping your child to know and love Jesus and for helping his or her teachers and sponsors to minimize distractions. We also ask that the teachers and sponsors limit the use of their cell phones and electronic devices unless they are needed for the lesson. We need to set an example for our children and youth to follow.

Lower-Level Renovation

	Jul 31, 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	245,172.99
Total General Fund	245,172.99
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	7,575.00
Total Transfer In	7,575.00
Total Income	252,747.99
Gross Profit	252,747.99
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower Level Renovations	237,936.18
Total Building Improvements	237,936.18
Total Facilities & Grounds	237,936.18
Total Expense	237,936.18
Net Ordinary Income	14,811.81
Net Cash Flow	14,811.81

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



◇ Volunteer Opportunity in Japan - September 11-22, 2025

◇ Three churches in the Sabana Grande de Boya region of the Dominican Republic need their wooden roofs replaced with concrete.

For more details, see the posted material on the Information Hub above the table of "Free Books".

LOOKING FOR YOUR CHURCH MAILBOX?

Mailboxes have been redone. Yours should be close to your previous location and now in alphabetical order. Let Wendy know if she forgot your mailbox.

If you live in a care facility your mailbox is under the name of the facility.

"Hearing how God is moving in other places encourages and inspires our faith for what God wants to do in our own corner of the world." -- Matt Brown

Benevolent Fund - August

	Jan - Jul 25	Budget
Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	24,273.98	187,250.00
Missions	1,100.00	
Sunday School	776.00	
Total Income	26,149.98	187,250.00
Gross Profit	26,149.98	187,250.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	3,500.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	4,000.00
Grace Covenant Ministry-Annville	3,500.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	3,500.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	3,500.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	2,500.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	3,500.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	15,000.00
Love Inc	4,083.31	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	10,939.87	5,000.00
Mission to India-Church Planters	3,750.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	1,250.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal, Sasha & Sara-Moldova	1,500.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	3,500.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	3,500.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	7,000.00	14,000.00
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	3,500.00	7,000.00
Sandals On Sand Min (B Godbersen)	0.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	0.00	6,000.00
Talking Bibles	0.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	92.94	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	0.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis, Pavlos Meggan-Greece	3,500.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	6,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	60,616.12	186,500.00
RCA College Scholarships	750.00	750.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	14,332.98	
Total Expense	75,699.10	187,250.00
Net Ordinary Income	-49,549.12	0.00
Net Cash Flow	-49,549.12	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 40,776.51	

Ya gotta have faith

“

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.

MARTIN LUTHER

Southern Living

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

~Martin Luther King Jr.

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.”

~ Hellen Keller

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”

~ Corrie ten Boom

“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward if this faith is to see what you believe.”

~ Saint Augustine

“All that I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

“God never said that the journey will be easy, but he did say that the arrival will be worthwhile.”

~ Max Lucado

“Any faith that must be supported by the evidence of the senses is not real faith.”

A.W. Tozer

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

~Hebrews 11:1

“

The smallest seed of faith is better than the largest fruit of happiness.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Southern Living

Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA

July 24, 2025

Those present:

Elders: Greg Sawyer, Randy Fonkert, Leon Kleinwolterink, Brad Bosma, Dan Dykstra, Dixon Van Meeteren, Larry Vander Plaats, Bob Stellinga, Mike Kleinwolterink

Deacons: Marty Van Peursem, Tyler Drenkow, Evan De Hoogh, Rodney Kruse, Brady Peters, Jared Schaeffer

Absent:

Elders: None

Deacons: Cleiton Zanela, Nathan Punt, Brandon Krukow

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from Mark 10:41-45.
 - 1. The Son of Man came to serve and not to be served.
 - 2. Serving is a choice we make.
 - 3. Our model of service is Jesus
- C. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from June 19, 2025.
 - 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 - 1. VBS leaders & volunteers – 160+ kids – 50% increase.
 - 2. Safe & successful mission trip.
- E. Report from Deacons meeting - reported by Brady Peters.
- F. Report from Elders meeting - reported by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report
 - 1. Pastor Paul explained the purpose and make up of the Big Sioux Cluster of churches.
 - 2. Leadership meeting of cluster in Rock Rapids on August 20.
- H. Financial reports provided by Evan De Hoogh and were discussed.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- I. Committee Reports were discussed.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- J. Executive Team Recommendations reviewed.
 - 1. Job description, by-law updates and asking list approval.
Pertaining to:
 - a. Adult discipleship team
 - b. Hands of Hope Outreach
 - c. First Impressions Teams
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- K. Next Meeting: August 21, 2025 Prayer – Tyler Drenkow
- L. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:25 PM.
- M. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

The Forgotten Seed

Old Mr. Peterson, with his weathered hands and wise eyes, always tended his garden with meticulous care. One spring, a tiny sprout emerged in a forgotten corner. He didn't remember planting anything there. Yet, with gentle watering and sunlight, it grew into a vibrant sunflower, taller than any he'd intentionally sown. "Just like faith," he mused, smiling at its golden bloom. "Sometimes, the most beautiful things grow in unexpected places, nurtured by God's unseen hand and our patient hope."

Important Church Information

- ◆ **WEBSITE:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ **WORSHIP VIDEO:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm
- ◆ **BULLETIN:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm **OR** paper copies are available in the bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore and devotional
- ◆ **RADIO BROADCAST:** Sundays at 10 AM on FM 100.7
- ◆ **TV BROADCAST:** Tuesdays at 4 PM on local cable channel 12
- ◆ **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed
- ◆ **E-GIVING LINK:** Text the word "SFRC" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253) or give online at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/give
- ◆ **TRADITIONAL GIVING:** Mail to Sheldon First Reformed Church, 1101 7th Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 **OR** drop your offering in the slot on the church office door during the week
- ◆ **MY CHURCH APP:** Download on Google Play or the App Store **OR** text the words "SFRC APP" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253).
- ◆ **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES:** Call the church office at 712.324.2130 or email Pastor Paul at paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ **NEXT STEPS CODE:** The QR code is on the bulletin cover. Using your smartphone device scan the code & it will bring you to a page that will take you to our Connection Card, Prayer Requests, or Giving.
- ◆ **PARENTS:** Children's bulletins are available at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/children-s-bulletin.cfm.
- ◆ **SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDES:** Pick up in the youth house.
- ◆ **MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL:** Follow us on Instagram & Facebook @ Frcsheldonstudent ministries for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- ◆ **DURING THE WEEK:** The church is open from **7AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday, and from 7 AM-12 PM on 2nd & 4th Fridays**. During the week you may use the north & south doors to get your mail or drop off offerings etc. in the office. You will need to ring the door bell (silver button) to the right of these doors to enter the church. Wendy will buzz you in from the office.
- ◆ **SUNDAY MORNINGS:** The church doors will lock at 9:30 AM. If you find the doors locked upon your arrival, go to the front/east door and a team member will welcome you into the church
- ◆ If you would like to receive church emails & don't currently receive them, please call the church at 712.324.2130 & provide Wendy with your email address. You may also fill out the connection card with this info & place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.
- ◆ If you have moved, made changes to your emails or phone numbers, please contact the church office with the updated information by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing frcsecretary@outlook.com.
- ◆ **BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** If you would like items included in either, please get the items to the office by 10 AM on Thursday morning for the bulletin & the Thursday of the last full week of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter. **The deadline to submit items for inclusion in the October Encore is Thursday, August 25.**

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in **green**. If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. If you still need help, call the church and we will help you navigate the website.

2025 SHEPHERDING TEAMS

First Reformed Church, Sheldon

The congregation is divided into nine groups - one for each Elder/Deacon pair. Your consistory shepherding team is responsible for keeping in regular contact with the families listed under their names. If you are experiencing some significant trial or illness or you may be involved in a crisis situation such as a job loss, major life change, or family death feel free to contact your Care Elder or Deacon. If your family has experienced a joyful occasion like the birth of a baby, the marriage of a son or daughter, a wedding anniversary, a promotion at work, or retirement, etc. contact your Care Elder or Deacon as well. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

The names of your Care Elder & Deacon are located above the group in which your last name falls.

Team 1: Bob Stellinga & Tyler Drenkow

Ed Alons – Gered De Hoogh

Team 2: Brad Bosma & Nathan Punt

Jim De Jong – Betty Gonnerman

Team 3: Leon Kleinwolterink & Marty Van Peurse

Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

Team 4: Dixon Van Meeteren & Jared Schaeffer

Luke Jenness – Jaci Martens

Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse

Murray Martens – Carol Pomerence

Team 6: Randy Fonkert & Cleiton Zanela

Caleb Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Dan Dykstra & Brady Peters

Roger Sterler – Norma Van Gorp

Team 8: Mike Kleinwolterink & Brandon Krukow

Lyle Van Heuvelen – Darlene Verrips

Team 9: Greg Sawyer & Evan De Hoogh

Marwin Vogel – Brad Zuetenhorst

*“Building God’s kingdom
one life at a time.”
1 Peter 2:4-5*

Church Contact Information

Church phone number: 712.324.2130

Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com



2025 Ministry Teams Contact People

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Pastor Paul - President
Dan Dykstra - Vice President
Mike Kleinwolterink - Clerk
Evan De Hoogh - Chairman of Deacons
Brady Peters - Secretary of Deacons

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Nathan Punt - 712.449.9001
punt76@gmail.com

CALLING ELDER

Gary De Hoogh - 712.348.2647
gndehoogh@msn.com

CHURCH PRIVILEGE

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Bob Stellinga - 712.348.3330
stell@nethtc.net

We Care

Norma Van Gorp - 712.631.0977
rvangorp@netllc.net

ENDOWMENT FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MEMORIAL FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MISSION COMMITTEE

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

NURSERY

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636
kelseydh34@gmail.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mike Kleinwolterink - 712.348.1161
standaide@premieronline.net

PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

PULPIT SUPPLY

Dan Dykstra - 712-230-0379
faddjd@hotmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Dixon Van Meeteren - 712.324.1600
dixvm@nethtc.net

SAFETY & SECURITY

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

WOMEN TO WOMEN

Molly Sauer - 712.363.4268
pmsauer12@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Joyce Fedders - 712.539.9945
jfedders@nethtc.net



AN UPDATE FROM Beth Borgens

Keeping Missionaries on Mission from Cru's Boulder Office

August 2025

At FIU, College Begins in the Summer and Cru Shows Up

If you follow college sports, you've heard of the Florida International University Panthers. Home to 17 NCAA teams, this Miami-based campus has a student enrollment of 56,000, representing 142 countries. In a break with tradition, FIU allows freshmen to start college in the summer, right after high school graduation.

Who better to welcome this vast array of 18 year-olds than a Cru summer mission—right?!

This is why NYC-based staff members Thomas and Erin Rodrigues headed south earlier this summer. They and a few other staff members, joined by 22 Cru students from all over the U.S., coordinated opportunities to engage with these freshmen.

"Together we had 700 spiritual conversations, shared the gospel 379 times and saw 32 students place their faith in Christ," Thomas reports, "breaking every one of our goals."

Especially exciting was the growth in the Cru students. These young adults learned not only ministry skills (exposure to new evangelism tools, asking good questions, Bible knowledge, basic understanding of world religions ...) but also life skills: living in community, sexual wholeness, working through conflict, managing time... including lots of fun throughout.

This fall, local Miami Cru staff will pick up shepherding the new believers at FIU. As for the Cru student disciples, they're returning to their respective campuses better equipped to win, build and send their fellow students; and their FIU summer has helped instill in them a vision for the cause of Christ, promoting His love in their communities, jobs, and churches—at home and abroad—for years to come.

Ministry experience shared by: (Erin and Thomas Rodrigues - NYC Cru staff)

Life Updates & Prayers

After 3 months of adjusting to a new family rhythm, I am back in the thick of work. My maternity leave was not what I was hoping for. After a very sick and difficult pregnancy I was hoping for the light at the end of the tunnel and to begin healing, recovering and in general, feel better. Unfortunately, Emma and I were sick for almost 3 weeks in May, then James was sick for a couple weeks in June (the craziest of summer colds!), and then in July I suffered a stress fracture in my foot that I am hopefully almost healed from. I am also in the middle of doctoring trying to figure out why swallowing has been difficult. I'm looking forward to an uneventful month of rest and no doctor appointments sometime soon.

Emma is slowly adjusting to her new daycare/preschool, and Violet is living her best life doing her favorite things. They make each other laugh :).



- Pray for healing for my body; physically, emotionally, and mentally. And for sleep.

- Pray for Emma as she continues to struggle with her transition to preschool.

- Pray for wisdom as I am in the middle of determining which projects to say 'yes' to for this year.

- Praise God for the hundreds of emails I had indicating each staff and student who used the Spotlight Tool (that I helped create) on their summer missions. It's always encouraging seeing something you created being used on mission trips across the country. We are now exploring making Spotlight available to our international teams this year.

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER August, 2025



"There is one body and one Spirit...One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all."
Ephesians 4:4-5

The devil likes to divide Christians because he knows there is no power in division! That is why there are gangs against gangs, and ethnic groups against other ethnic groups. Matthew 12:25 says, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand." When Christians unite the evil one knows he will be defeated!

I have a Bible study every Monday with Mental Health men. I have known three of these men for over 10 years. Usually, they have had disagreements among themselves so one will not come to Bible study if the other one is coming. Some of the problems are racial. Therefore, we have talked about the love of Christ that we should have for all races and for all people. At our last Bible study all three were present and I was amazed how they were calling each other brothers in Christ! God's love is certainly at work in these men!

When I was on the Hill a few weeks ago, a young man was looking at some Christian books in the Chapel library. I asked him what kind of books he was looking for and he told me, "Any book that will help me grow as a new Christian." So we talked about how he came to know the Lord. He said, "About a year ago I was feeling hopeless. I had done many sinful things in my life. One night when it was dark in my cell I took some extra

pills to kill myself. I lay down in my bed, and then I knew I didn't want to die. I felt a heavy weight on my chest so I couldn't move. My cellie sleeps in the bed above me and his iPad that was hanging on the wall lit up for no reason. He had a cross that was hanging off the side of his bed. When his iPad lit up, it lit up the cross! I cried out to Jesus to save me and forgive me. The pressure on my chest was gone. I have been a new person ever since. I can't get enough of knowing more about Jesus and growing in His love!" God is always on time!

In early July six men were baptized! We heard some great testimonies of how the Lord had and is working in their lives. One of the men told me that when he was in lockdown, he asked himself "What have I accomplished in my 36 years of life?" He came up with, "Nothing, and I need to change! I want my life to count for eternity." I know he is bringing others with him to church and Bible study. Now he is opening with Scripture and prayer at Bible studies and the church services.

I have enjoyed meeting with a young man, who two years ago overdosed and was not expected to live. It is great to see how he is growing spiritually! He asked me if I could attend his graduation ceremony. He completed a six-month leadership class. I felt honored to be invited to witness 12 men graduate with Mayor Ten Haken as one of the speakers.

Thank you for your prayers. They are vital for my ministry in the prison! Thank you for your financial support as well! Blessings,

In Christ, *Harlan*

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org



Prayer Warrior

Annville Institute/Grace Covenant Ministries

PO Box 340, Annville, KY 40402

Phone 606-364-5151

Email: contact@gcmannvilleinstitute.com

July and August, 2025

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding; in all
your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *NIV*

During the evening of July 30, Lincoln Hall, with an amazing legacy and history, burned beyond repair. This loss is deeply felt by our staff and many in our community. God tells us to give thanks in all things, so we choose to give God thanks. We don't thank Him for the fire, but we thank Him for the memories, we thank Him for the countless lives that were touched in and around this building. We thank God that nobody was hurt and that the firefighters kept Sexton Hall and Annville Community Church from catching fire. Finally, we thank God for His sovereignty. We believe with all our hearts that God is in control and that He “works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.” -Romans 8:28. Knowing all of that, we rest in His will and ask you to pray for wisdom for us as we also seek God's will for us moving forward. To many of you and us, this was more than just a building-it represented a vision of Reverend Worthington from 1909. You can rest assured that that vision is alive and well today, and we will do our best to honor God and the vision of reaching out to our community with the redeeming love of Christ. We had big plans for Lincoln Hall. We may only see the ugliness of a fire, but God sees the big picture, and He has a plan, so we “Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus.” May God be glorified, even in this. For more information, you can follow us on Facebook or visit our website at <https://gcmannvilleinstitute.com/>



Memories of Lincoln Hall

WITNESS

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2
2025

A publication of Reformed Mission Services

IN THIS ISSUE

Ascension Reformed Church

Dominican Republic

Board Updates

Seed - Daytona Beach, FL

Disaster Response

Current Projects

Fundraisers

Carbondale, PA

Reformed Mission
SERVICES
rms.org

Ascension Reformed Church



**JEFF (MI), PHIL (MO),
TODD (MI), & WALLY (NY)**

THESE FOUR MEN COME FROM A VARIETY OF VOCATIONS THAT SERVED THE ASCENSION REFORMED CHURCH, COMPLETING MANY TASKS WHILE THEY WERE THERE.



Hopefully, it is not new news that the United Reformed Church in Cincinnati, formerly known as Westside Reformed Church (WRC), has a new location in an old Baptist church building that was given to them. Because of their new location, they renamed themselves Ascension Reformed Church (ARC).

RMS has been actively looking for volunteers to help with the remodel and restoration of this great old church, built in the late 1800's. Four of us, from Michigan, Missouri, and New York, volunteered the week of Jan 20-25. It was a really great week, albeit very cold. We demo-ed and installed new floor joists and subfloor where the organ pit was, demo-ed a wall where the old organ swell shutters were located, and filled that opening in with framing and drywall. There was a door to the side of that opening that needed to be moved and reframed. We also demo-ed old offices under the main stairwell to the fellowship hall and started prep work for plastering the sanctuary walls.

We met some really great people from the congregation as well as those who have been hired to lead the RMS volunteers, (Shout out to John Paul and Elliot!). The congregation supplied a wonderful house to live in for the week, lunch every day, and supper at the house each evening, often staying to eat with us, providing wonderful fellowship.

We were very blessed by this experience and pray for the continuing work toward the completion of this sizable project. We also pray that God would use this congregation and their new facility for His glory and honor in downtown Cincinnati.



TESSA REGNERUS

TESSA IS ONE OF THE STUDENTS FROM PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN DYER, IN THAT CAME FOR A WEEK IN MARCH.

Working at ARC was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life so far. Now, as a 16 year old, saying that isn't so grand, but it's true. During my time working there, I grew closer to God through my prayer life and through witnessing what His bride is. There was

so much time that I had on my hands just to talk to God and pray about what was on my mind, and I think I understand the power of prayer a bit better. I understand the importance of talking with God and walking with Him constantly through all things, even the dirty, nasty, gross parts of life, not just what I want Him to see. Working at ARC helped me realize what it is to serve and to be part of Christ's body eternally. It's easy to picture yourself in Heaven with the people around you on earth, but it's because of serving at ARC that I now know what it is to be part of an eternal body. In working on the Sanctuary, I had the privilege of looking through some of the old documentation of the church. And when I was looking through some of the papers, I found documents that dated back to the early twentieth century. The earliest paper that I found was a "ticket" to a Sunday School Christmas Program from 1876. I couldn't help but marvel at it, and think back on my Sunday School programs, a centuries old tradition I hadn't known I was carrying down. I was in wonder that in that moment I was standing in awe and worshipping in the same room as so many Christians before me, and I finally understood what the Church universal is.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT AT
ASCENSION REFORMED CHURCH IN CINCINNATI, OHIO,
PLEASE REACH OUT TO ROB BRINKS AT ROB@RMS.ORG.**



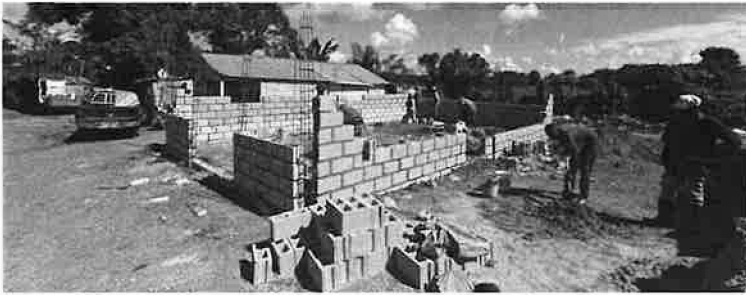
DR. NEAL HEGEMAN

DR. HEGEMAN, A FORMER MISSIONARY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR 12 YEARS, IS THE ACADEMIC DEAN OF MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY. HE IS ALSO THE AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS.

Dominican Republic

On January 7, 2025, Neal Hegeman and three volunteers from Reformed Mission Services (RMS) flew into Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. The volunteers were Steve Poll and a combination of father/daughter: Rick and Nyanne Boerman. They helped immigrants and nationals build a Haitian Dominican immigrant church in La Grua, about 15 minutes from Sabana Grande de Boya. Another mission group, from the Drenthe Christian Reformed Church, came with another agency and also stayed at the Ministry Center. They helped build more classrooms for the Juan Calvino school located on the Center's grounds.

It is a blessing to hear the devotions, prayers, and see the Christian teacher's dedication at the Juan Calvino elementary, middle, and high school. This is one of the eleven Reformed schools that have become public schools supported by the government, but which are operated by a well-organized group of Christian leaders and teachers.



The regional monthly meetings of the leaders of the 17 churches was held at Juan Sanchez. I was impressed that this monthly meeting was orderly; as well as gospel centered, something that has not always been the case and one reason for my annual visits.

When we first started working with the Haitian immigrants in 1981, there was rapid church growth. We responded by building many churches with wood slats sides and tin roofs. In the mid 1990's, a hurricane came through and knocked down about 120 church buildings throughout the denomination (Iglesia Cristiana Reformada en la Republica Dominicana). Work crews and nationals worked hard and about 90 were reconstructed with cement blocks. Very few put on a cement roof. Well, thanks to the termites (Hosea had locust, the DR has termites), it is time to put on cement roofs and complete the project. We are praying and planning to put on 20 cement roofs (only two churches in the zone have cement roofs).

Reformed Mission Services has committed to putting on new roofs starting January 2026. We need many work teams and some good-sized donations to keep ahead of the termites! Contact Rob at rob@rms.org if you are interested in helping!





Board Updates

2025 Face-to-Face Board Meeting

The RMS Board of Directors is made up of 12 men from our member churches, along with Rob Brinks, our Administrative Director, who serves as an ex officio member. The board meets three times a year via Zoom and gathers once a year in person.

This year, the board met in January in Phoenix, Arizona, and we are incredibly grateful to Phoenix URC for their hospitality. They provided meals, fellowship, and opportunities for us to connect with their congregation.

During our full-day meeting on Saturday, we reflected on the past year and were humbled by how God continues to bless RMS with new opportunities to serve and the financial resources to carry out the work before us. Discussions focused on new projects, future Ministry Development Trips, the growing TASC program, and welcoming our newest employee, Steve Poll.

Beyond the meetings, Board members and their spouses enjoyed fellowship over meals and activities, making the most of our time together to share ideas for the future of RMS.

If you're interested in serving on the RMS Board, please contact our chairman, Doug Field, at doug.field@rms.org.



New Board Members

Mark Stolk has been married to Michelle for 22 years and they have 4 children. They live east of Ponoka, Alberta, Canada and Mark farms with his two brothers and they do some equipment sales of seeding equipment. He and the family are members of the Parkland URC Church.

DeWayne Dykstra is a member of Redeemer URC in Orange City, Iowa. He is married to Kathy, and together they have four sons. Before becoming a Board member with Reformed Mission Services (RMS), DeWayne actively participated in several RMS Disaster Response and Ministry Development trips, serving in various locations. He has continued this involvement as a Board member by assisting in Black Cave, North Carolina, and Villahermosa, Mexico.

You can learn more about all of our Board Members at rms.org/about-us.



Memorandum From the Chairman Re: The State of the RMS Ministry Year End 2024

As of December 31, 2024, the state of Reformed Mission Services is strong. The ministry faces the challenges of 2025 on firm spiritual, structural and financial foundations. Calendar year 2024 saw advancement and growth in all spheres of operations.

In addition to our faithful and immensely capable employees, Administrative Director Rob Brinks, Promotions Coordinator Jim Iwema, and Administrative Assistant Lori Hovingh, we added Steve Poll as Assistant Administrative Director. Steve has stepped smartly into his new role which is to act as assistant to Rob Brinks in his multifarious duties. Steve has undertaken leadership of foreign trips including to the Dominican Republic and Peru. A significant part of his brief is to supervise TASC, and he is mobilizing to lead the TASC program in 2025.

By God's grace in 2024 RMS experienced an increase in our number of member churches to 76! Our member churches are the structural foundation of the ministry. We rely on them for both prayer and financial support. We desire to take the opportunity early in this report to express our profound gratitude to our Lord and to our member churches for their faithful, sacrificial and continuing support of our ministry.

Teens Actively Serving Christ (TASC) is an integral element of the RMS ministry. Annually, we organize week-long work programs for youth - 14-19 year olds for the five summers following their first year of high school - at member churches. In 2024 six TASCs were completed at: Grace URC - Alto, Michigan; Trinity URC - Visalia, California; Hudson Valley URC - New Hampton, New York; Redeemer OPC - Ada, Michigan; Covenant Reformed - Pella, Iowa; Oak Glen URC - Ejido-Uruapan, Baja California del Norte, México.

In 2025 we anticipate TASCs at the following locations: Ejido-Uruapan, Baja California del Norte, México (June 14-21); Cornerstone URC - Hudsonville, Michigan (June 21-28); Cornerstone URC - Sanborn, Iowa (June 21-28); Covenant URC - Pantego, North Carolina (June 21-28); Burlington URC - Burlington, Washington (July 12-19); Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church - Pompton Plains, New Jersey (August 2-9); Trinity URC - Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada (July 26-August 2). Adding our first Canadian site to the 2025 TASC lineup is particularly gratifying, as for the first time, we will have 7 sites in 3 countries!

Another element of our ministry is disaster relief. In 2024 we were very active in Northwest Iowa in response to serious flooding that occurred there. We had close involvement with the Rock Valley United Reformed Church whose church building was severely damaged including their basement. We are pleased to report that the restoration of the Rock Valley Church is nearly complete as of this writing.

Moving into 2025, RMS stands ready to assist with continuing hurricane recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. We will deploy our resources there as necessary and as desired.

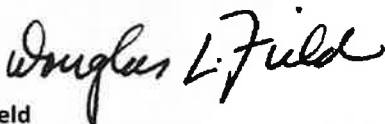
As is always the challenge with disaster relief, we never know what natural disasters will occur in any year. RMS prays that in 2025 (as well as in any coming year) that they will be minimal. Nevertheless, come what may, we are ready with resources, our shower and tool trailers and volunteer teams to respond where and whenever needed.

Both domestically and internationally, RMS conducted ministry development in 2024. Ministry development consists of dispatching teams of workers and materials to churches in need of infrastructure support. We supported Ascension Reformed Church (formerly Westside Reformed) in Cincinnati, OH with extensive repairs and remodeling to their church building.

On the foreign field, we went with teams twice to Peru, and to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Campeche, México on construction and improvement projects. Funds were raised for completion of a multi-year seminary construction project in Bhaktapur, Nepal. Assistance was provided to schools in such far-flung locations as Colombia, Africa and the Philippines. We have a potential opening for ministry in Japan and our Administrative Director Rob Brinks and Board Director Mike Kamps made an exploratory trip there.

The last element of RMS's activity is SEED. SEED stands for Serve-Engage-Evangelize-Disciple. The program consists of training events in missional topics, including apologetics and practical missions training. Read about our 2025 event on the following pages and stay tuned for more SEED events!

We have mentioned our gratitude and dependence upon our member churches. That profound gratitude also extends in full measure to our individual and corporate donors. RMS depends entirely upon its donors for all operating costs and expenses. Our donor base is growing yearly. Words are a poor medium for the expression of our appreciation to the Lord of the Universe, and to all of you for your ongoing generosity which is what allows us to continue our work. Thank you from the bottom of all our hearts here at RMS!



Douglas L. Field
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Daytona Beach Florida



ABBY VISSER

ABBY IS A FRESHMAN AT OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY MAJORING IN DIETETICS. SHE IS FROM OAK FOREST, ILLINOIS AND ATTENDS ORLAND PARK CRC.



Twelve of us participated in the RMS trip called SEED, which stands for Serve, Engage, Evangelize, Disciple. Monday all the participants, ages ranging from 15-65, from across the Midwest and Canada, traveled to Daytona Beach. Tuesday through Thursday we attended evangelism classes taught by Dr. Eric Watkins and were graciously hosted at their home. I loved every second of the classes and learned a lot. The weather was gorgeous throughout the trip, much better than the Midwest temperatures! We even got to have Tuesday's class on Evangelism and the Heart of God outside! As someone who grew up in a Reformed church, Wednesday's class was probably my favorite. It was titled "Evangelism and the Reformed Tradition", addressing many misconceptions about the evangelistic practices in Reformed churches. Thursday's class, "Evangelistic Paradigms and Practices" gave practical tips for evangelism that we could use on the trip and bring back to our home churches.

Our afternoons consisted of service projects in the area. We served Habitat for Humanity by painting a halfway house, assembling furniture and organizing at Restore, and laying tile and grout in a newly built home for Habitat. Members of the group also went to the home's of locals to assist with yard work there. On Wednesday, I along with four others, went to the new Habitat for Humanity home. Despite it being our first time laying tile, we did well and enjoyed it.

We were staying in condos right off the beach in Daytona Beach, so after our service projects we would head out to the beach. Armed with tracts written by Dr. Watkins and business cards for his church plant, Salt and Light Church, we split up into groups of 2 or 3 and walked along the beach or boardwalk and evangelized. The week we were in Daytona Beach was their annual Bike Week and so there were thousands of motorcyclists in the area. And that, along with many people on spring break, gave us great opportunities to evangelize. As an introvert who had never really done something like this, I was a little nervous to approach strangers and share the Gospel with them, but as a result I grew so much. Evangelism isn't something strictly for extroverts. The SEED team had some great conversations with people who were receptive to the Gospel. Not every person was receptive, but we trust the Holy Spirit will use that encounter to plant seeds in their life.

For our "day away" we went to St. Augustine, Florida. It's the oldest city in the nation and it was very cool to see the historical buildings and Spanish architecture. Another fun experience was surfing on Saturday morning. The coaches said the waves were perfect for beginners like us and I had a blast!

It was my first time participating in an RMS trip and I had an incredible experience. I hope to attend many more RMS trips in the future. I grew in my faith and evangelism skills and really enjoyed the trip. If you have the opportunity to go on a SEED trip, I highly suggest you take it!



"So do you go to a church?"

"Well, I go to church on Easter and stuff. My grandson is really into religion and that sort of thing. Which I think is great because I raised my kids to go to church on Sundays, and now they do the same." One woman told me in between puffs of smoke.

"You said you used to go to a church, so do you know what the gospel is, or have you ever heard of it?" I asked.

"No, I can't say that I have."



BRIANNA BRAAFHART

BRIANNA IS A HOMESCHOOLED FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND LOVES ALL THINGS MUSICAL AND WORDY. SHE IS FROM A BIG FAMILY AND RESIDES SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, AROUND THE REGION OF PELLA IOWA.

This is just a glimpse of one conversation I had with a woman on the boardwalk of Daytona Beach. Most of the people I encountered had stories similar to hers. Some people claimed to be Christians, but lived their lives like pagans. Others had heard of Christianity, but wanted nothing to do with it, or completely misunderstood it. And then there were those, although they were few and far between, who knew nothing about it.

They had never heard of the one whom we know as Savior. They knew not of true forgiveness, compassion, and love. Freedom was foreign. They were trapped by their sin, and although they knew deep down that they were broken, they had no idea how to become whole. Most attempted to fill this void with temporary fixes and drown their sorrows in things like alcohol, drugs, and other worldly pleasures. These were the people whom my heart broke for the most. It still breaks for them.

Now to some people, it might seem like I'm exaggerating, or being overly dramatic, and maybe I am. But to a girl who's grown up in a conservative Christian community, and lived her whole life in a small-ish town, seeing a grown man wander around with his arms in his shirt like a small child, visibly sweating and muttering to himself, is jarring. And this person was not alone. There were tons of people just like him. These people are lost. They are slaves to their sin and dead in their trespasses. They NEED Jesus. They need him just as much as you and me. All of them. Who are we to deny them the truth?

During our week in Daytona Beach, our goal was simple. SEED. Serve, Engage, Evangelize, and Disciple. And that's exactly what we did. Every day, from Tuesday to Thursday, we would wake up, go to our class on Evangelism, eat lunch, and then go serve in the community. Then, after that, we would all load up, and head back to the condo for our Evangelism Practicum. Although we didn't have time to properly engage in discipleship, we were able to see the fruits of it through the labors of Pastor Eric Watkins.

Before I came to Daytona, I didn't fully grasp the importance of each of these steps. In my mind, the service part was a little unnecessary. I know, it sounds really selfish, and lazy. But it wasn't because I didn't want to get my hands dirty, or work hard, I did. I love painting, and I love working hard. There really isn't anything quite like going to bed exhausted, sore from yesterday's work, and aching from today's. It also helps that by the time your body fully sinks into the mattress you're out like a light. However, I didn't really understand why we were cleaning and organizing furniture when we could be on the Boardwalk telling people about Jesus. Now I think very differently.

After spending three days serving in a community that I was otherwise unfamiliar with, I felt a strange connection to it, and the people I served with. I hadn't realized the opportunity I was missing in my own community until serving in Daytona. You see, when you're voluntarily working hard with people, you begin to respect them, and they you. I found myself wanting to know more about the people I was with, and conversations flowed smoothly. I was even able to talk with some people about Christ and what he has done for us on the cross. As Christians, being willing to serve non-Christians shows people that we truly believe what we say we believe. We actually believe that we are to take up our cross and follow Christ. (Mathew 16:24) We truly believe that we are called to serve others in humility and value them above ourselves. (Philippians 2:3-4, Galatians 5:13, Mark 10:45)

I learned that evangelism doesn't have to be planned. You don't have to have this great speech memorized, scripted out so that in this perfect scenario, you will be able to cover every key doctrine and principle of Christianity. Because in reality, the other person isn't going to follow the script. Evangelism isn't about proving that you're right; it's about showing how wrong you once were without Christ. It's not about us. It's about him. Knowing that made evangelism so much easier. I found it wasn't all that difficult to talk to people about Jesus, after all, there was nothing they could do to me. I have already been brought from death to life, I am a new creation.

I wish I had the time and paper to explain everything that I learned, but if I did that, we'd be here forever, and my hands would cramp up from typing, and you'd probably get bored and stop reading. So let me just end with this: Evangelism isn't that hard, it's just like any other conversation, and it's far more important. It's not something we need to fear. I found that the hardest part was just choosing to walk up to someone, and start the conversation. After that, everything just sort of happened.

I loved this trip, and enjoyed every second of it. It was wonderful to get to have communion with my fellow saints and learn about Christ together. I would do it again in half a heartbeat! If you ever get the opportunity, take it. It's a great way to get out of your comfort zone and start evangelizing, and to grow in your relationship with Christ.

Bat Cave, North Carolina



DEWAYNE DYKSTRA

DEWAYNE SERVES ON THE RMS BOARD AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS TRIPS OVER THE YEARS. HE ATTENDS REDEEMER URC IN ORANGE CITY, IOWA.



DISASTER RESPONSE

Four strangers—one from Iowa, one from Michigan, and two from Wisconsin—met in Bat Cave, North Carolina, at the end of March. None of them knew much about each other at first. But as they sat around the lunch table on that first day, the stories began to flow.

One of the guys started talking about a motorcycle trip he took in high school to the Black Hills of South Dakota. He was only 14 at the time. Another team member, Jim, chimed in: "Wait—I've heard that story before!" It turns out, Jim was friends with the same group of guys who went on that very trip. What are the chances? On RMS trips, you never know what old friendships will be uncovered or what new ones God will begin.

This group had come together to help with recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene, which struck in September 2024. Even six months later, the cleanup in the area is slow due to widespread road damage. But that didn't stop this team from getting to work. Their first project was a home that had lost much of its hill due to heavy rainfall. The storm had washed away the retaining wall, the deck, and part of the front porch. The team rebuilt the retaining wall, repaired the porch, fixed the well, seeded the lawn, and added rock to the driveway.

While working on the well, the crew's electrical skills came in handy—and opened the door to another project. A nearby house had been gutted and was waiting for a new start. The team purchased all the electrical supplies, rough-wired the home, and even provided light fixtures so the next crew could continue the work. They also cleared several trees that had been blocking roads for over six months.

One of the most memorable moments came at the blue house. The night before the team arrived, the homeowner prayed, asking God to help with the overwhelming amount of work that still needed to be done. The next morning, she woke up to the sound of power tools and voices outside her window. She was overwhelmed—not by the storm this time, but by how God had answered her prayer.

We're thankful for the prayers and support that made this trip possible and allowed us to be a blessing to many in this community. The work in the region is far from done, and many more hands are needed.

If you or a group from your church would like to volunteer, please contact Rob at rob@rms.org.



At Reformed Mission Services, we are grateful for the opportunity to come alongside ministries and missionaries around the globe by helping fund important projects that support the spread of the gospel and serve local communities.

Thanks to your generous donations, RMS has been able to raise funds for purchasing land and materials for new church buildings, ministry centers, and other needed facilities. When possible, we send funds directly to trusted missionaries or ministries, who then employ local workers for the construction—helping to strengthen the local economy while building for the future.

Only a few details of the projects we're currently supporting are highlighted here. To explore more details and see how you can get involved, visit rms.org/projects.

Current Projects

Africa & Philippines - Student Aid

- Cost: \$7,000
- RMS is helping seminary students gain access to LOGOS Bible software and internet service for their training with Heidelberg Theological Seminary.

El Salvador - Seminary Construction

- Cost: \$20,000
- This first phase includes the construction of a perimeter fence and foundations for a future seminary and Bible college to train pastors and laypeople.

Mexico - Church & Parsonage Upgrades

- Cost: \$30,000
- In Villahermosa, RMS is assisting with parsonage upgrades and improvements to church facilities.
- RMS traveled here in April, more updates in the next WITNESS!

Nepal - Aashish Church & Clinic

- Cost: \$60,000
- On his last visit to Nepal, Rob Brinks visited churches in the Himalayan foothills. RMS is partnering to build a new church and clinic. People from 12 villages walk for hours to attend worship services and Bible studies at this growing church. The project includes a clinic (two rooms attached to the church) which will bring essential health care to this remote region. Currently the nearest hospital is a five and a half hour walk.

Darjeeling Hills Bible College

- Cost: \$80,000
- Phase 3 is starting which includes a ground floor and 2nd floor for the Mount Zion School building. This building project will move them in the direction for accreditation.

Costa Rica - Roof over Playground

- Cost: \$6,000
- RMS had a team put a roof over the playground at the local Christian School.

Costa Rica - Los Cuadros Church

- Cost: \$13,500
- Land has been purchased and site work is underway. Phase 2 involves critical steps like soil testing and permitting before full construction begins.
- Next phase will be church construction.

Liberia - New Church Building

- Cost: \$8,000
- In partnership with the PresRC (NAPARC) mission work in Liberia, RMS is supporting the construction of a new church building for the local congregation.

Peru - Various Church Projects

- Cost: \$15,000 – El Carmen – The first floor of a new church building, with a team assisting in Nov./Dec. 2025.
- Cost: \$10,000 – Alto Qosqo – Funds needed to complete the construction of a new church sanctuary.
- Cost: \$6,000 – Picchu – A new metal roof is needed for the existing church structure.
- Cost: \$1,000 – Challwacocha & Huacahuasi – Cementing the church walls to protect against rain damage.

Dominican Republic - Church Roofs

- Cost: \$45,000 (\$15,000 each)
- Three churches in the Monte Plata region need their wooden roofs replaced with concrete. RMS is planning to send volunteers to assist with the work in 2026.

Cincinnati, OH - Ascension Reformed

- Cost: \$120,000
- Unexpected sewer and structural issues require funding before the church can continue with its next renovation phase.
- **Volunteers also needed!**

Carbondale, PA - Covenant Reformed

- Cost: \$45,000
- A recently purchased building will be used for Sunday School, Bible Study, and community outreach. Renovations are needed inside and out.
- **Volunteers also needed!**

West Michigan - Ministry Center

- Cost: \$600,000 or less
- RMS is leading efforts to construct a shared ministry center for Reformed Fellowship, RYS, and IRBC.
- Land options may lower costs significantly.

If you're interested in supporting one of these projects financially, please contact Jim Iwema at 712-541-4150 or jim@rms.org.

To learn more about volunteering for these or other upcoming trips/projects, reach out to Rob at rob@rms.org.

Visit rms.org/powerful-giving to explore how you can give in a way that may increase your impact — and potentially offer significant tax benefits.



TEENS ACTIVELY SERVING CHRIST

2025 Locations

Please pray for these upcoming TASC trips.

To see photos, visit rms.org/TASC during the weeks of the trips.

- June 14-21 - Ejido-Uruapan, Mexico
- June 21-28 - Cornerstone URC, Hudsonville, MI
- June 21-28 - Cornerstone URC, Sanborn, IA
- June 21-28 - Covenant URC, Pantego, NC
- July 12-19 - Burlington URC, Burlington, WA
- July 26-August 2 - Trinity URC, Lethbridge, AB
- August 2-9 - Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church, Pompton Plains, NJ



Sept. 13

Sporting Clay Fundraiser at
Caledonia Sportsman Club
Caledonia, MI

Sept. 6

Sporting Clay Fundraiser at
Hunters Pointe
Shooting Complex
Humboldt, SD

**SOUTH
DAKOTA**

MICHIGAN

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING



CARBONDALE, PA

Contact Rob at rob@rms.org if you are interested in supporting or volunteering

Covenant House Ministry Center

Covenant Reformed Church(URCNA) recently acquired the house next to the church, which will be transformed into "Covenant House," a ministry center designed to meet the needs of both the congregation and the community. Planned uses for the center include:

- A nursery for infants and classrooms for Sunday school.
- A clothes closet for those in need and a food pantry for emergency situations.
- Rooms for Bible studies and recovery groups.
- Housing for missionaries, visiting pastors, and other kingdom servants.
- Additional parking for Sunday services and Wednesday night activities.

To request additional copies of this newsletter, please reach out to us at rms.org/connect



Reformed Mission
SERVICES
rms.org



6607 Center Industrial Dr.
Jenison, MI 49428
616.466.8214 contact@rms.org

Newsletter



Summer/Fall 2025

God's Word Heard—Lives Transformed

Mosi's Story:

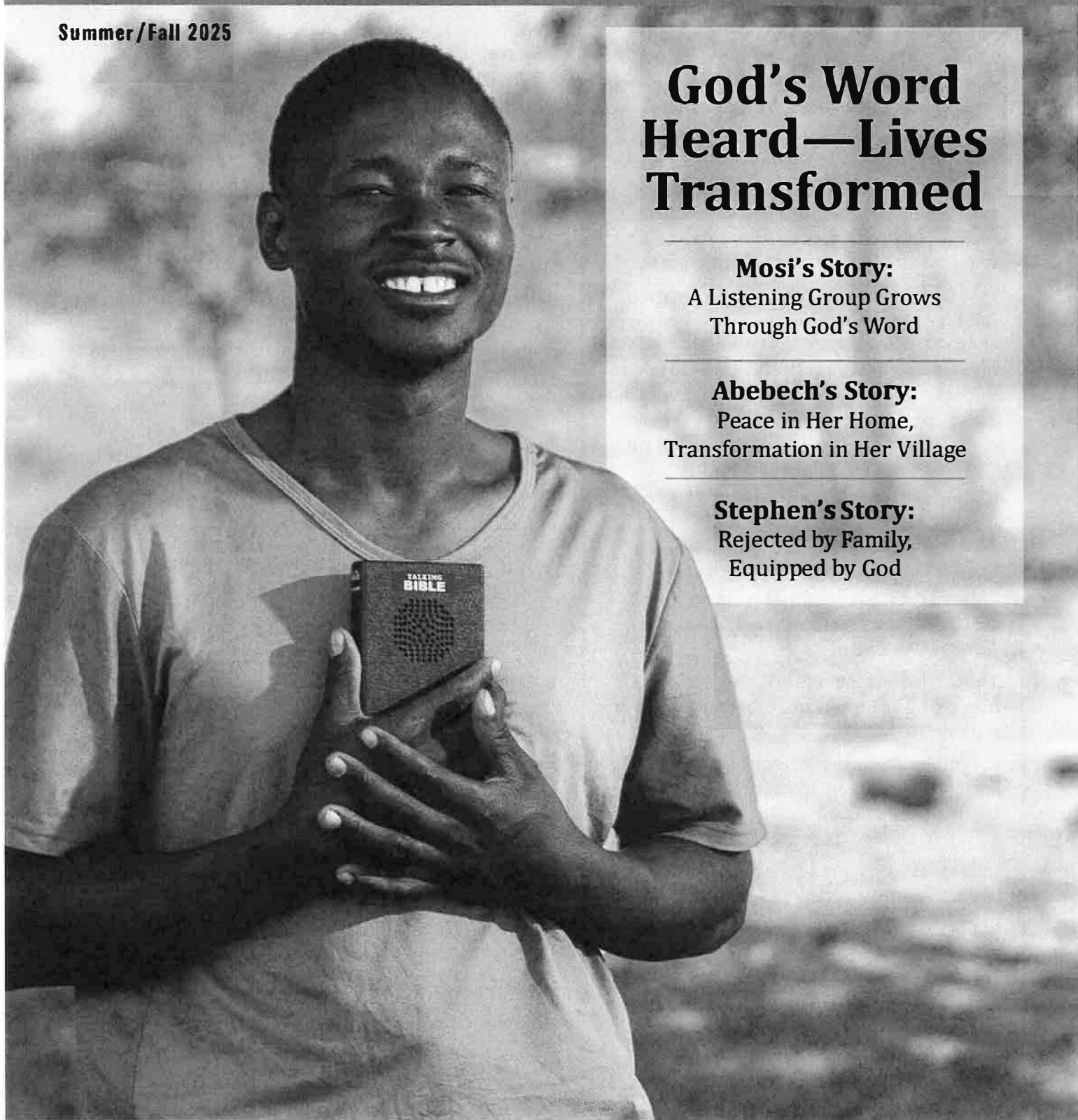
A Listening Group Grows
Through God's Word

Abebech's Story:

Peace in Her Home,
Transformation in Her Village

Stephen's Story:

Rejected by Family,
Equipped by God



FROM THE PRESIDENT: GOD'S WORD HEARD, LIVES TRANSFORMED

Dear Friend of the Bible,

Across the world, from the mountains of Ethiopia to villages in India, people are hearing God's Word for the very first time—and their **lives are being transformed**.

Abebech, a young woman in Ethiopia, used her Talking Bible to bring peace into a home marked by conflict. Her once-hostile father now encourages her to go to church. Her brother—once far from faith—gave his life to Christ after just a month of listening to Scripture.

In India, **Stephen** lost everything when he chose to follow Jesus—his home, his family, his security. But his faith only grew stronger. With the help of a Talking Bible, he now leads a prayer group where even non-readers are engaging with the book of Acts, sharing what they've heard, and applying it to their lives.

Recently, I heard about an elderly man who had never held a Bible because he couldn't read. But when a Talking Bible was placed in his hands and he heard God's Word in his own language for the first time, tears streamed down his face. *"Now I know who Jesus is," he said.*

These stories are not rare—they're happening again and again, **because of your partnership**.

For millions of non-readers, the Talking Bible is more than a tool—it's **a lifeline to hope, truth, and salvation**.

Thank you for helping us bring God's Word to those who can't read it—but can hear it, believe it, and be **changed forever**.

In Christ,



Paul D. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

ABEBECH'S STORY: PEACE IN HER HOME, TRANSFORMATION IN HER VILLAGE

Abebech's life has been touched by the power of God's Word, and through the Talking Bible, she is seeing **incredible changes in her family and community**.

Abebech, who came to Christ five years ago, received her Talking Bible two years ago. She began using it to bring peace into her home—especially with her father, who was often angry and difficult.

"I use it mostly for my father because he always fights with us, his children. So, I pray for him, and he becomes calm," she shares.

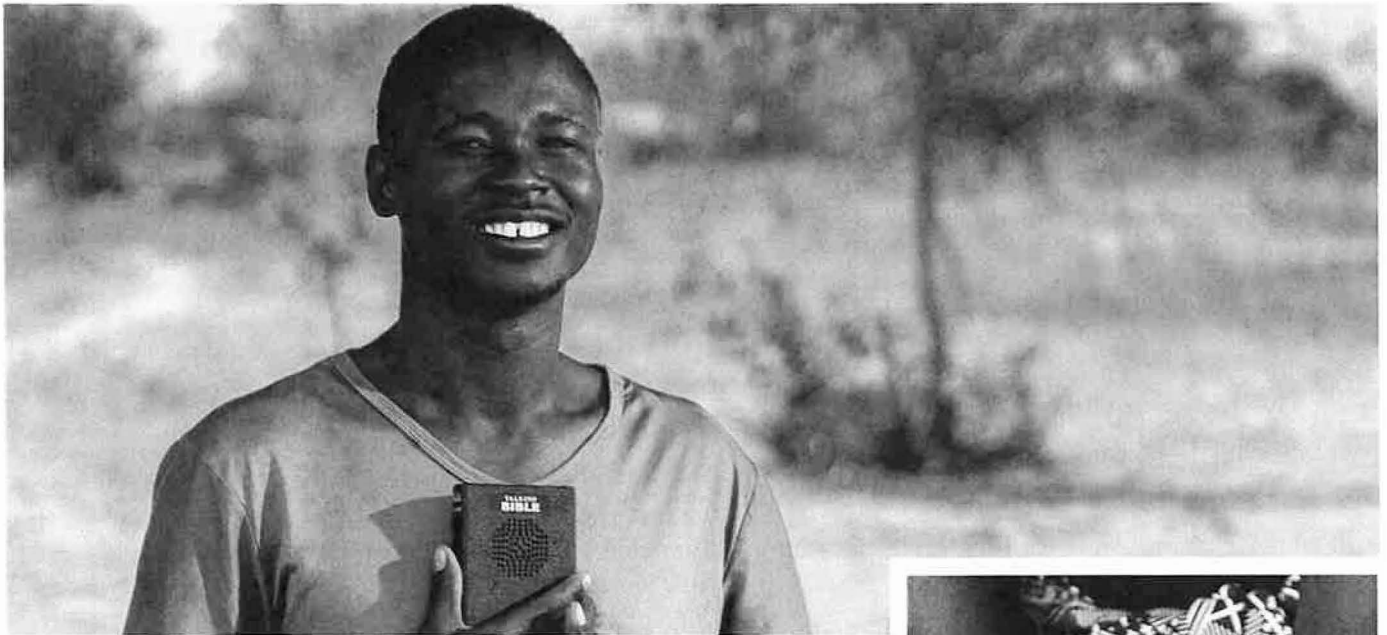
Over time, the atmosphere in her house changed. Her father, who once opposed church, now encourages her to go. **Her brother**, who had distanced himself from faith, **gave his life to Christ** after listening to the Talking Bible for just one month.

After long days working on the farm, Abebech plays the Talking Bible for a small group gathered near her home. Through these simple listening sessions, several people have already come to Christ. Many others are hungry to hear more and are asking for their own Talking Bibles.

Abebech is witnessing the power of God's Word in action. One by one, lives are being changed.

"I want everyone to hear," she says. "When they hear, they believe." 





MOSI'S STORY: A LISTENING GROUP GROWS THROUGH GOD'S WORD

"God has power—big power," says Mosi, a farmer and animal keeper who leads a small church group in rural Tanzania.

For years, Mosi struggled to engage the few members of his group. They met faithfully twice a week to read Scripture and pray, but without many readers and without strong participation, **growth felt impossible.**

Then, thanks to donor support, **Talking Bibles** became available in his region. Mosi was given one to use in his group—and **everything changed.**

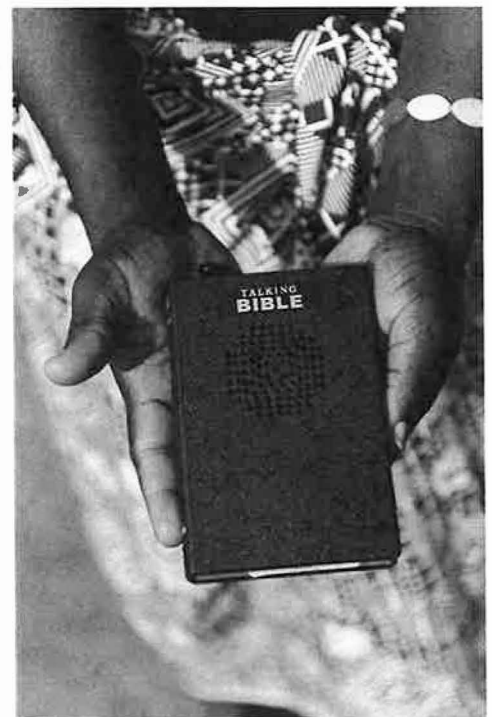
What began as a struggling gathering quickly grew into a **vibrant Listening Group.** Today, nearly **30 people come regularly to hear God's Word**—many of whom were not members of the church before.

When not using the Talking Bible in meetings, Mosi keeps it at home so his wife can listen. Only after hearing Scripture for herself did she begin to attend the Listening Group and grow in faith alongside him.

Throughout the week, people are drawn to Mosi's home—neighbors, friends, and fellow villagers—eager to hear the Talking Bible for themselves. These unplanned visits have become powerful moments for Mosi to share God's love, encourage returning to church, and welcome new seekers into the faith community.

Mosi sees clearly how much the audio Bible is changing lives. ***"When they hear the Talking Bible," he says, "they understand and pay attention in a way they couldn't before."***

For those who can't read, the Talking Bible is a powerful way to hear God's truth—and because of it, a once-small rural group has grown into a **thriving community of faith.** 📖



BE PART OF THE MOVEMENT:

Scan, follow, and invite your friends to discover how Talking Bibles are changing hearts and communities every day.



STEPHEN'S STORY: REJECTED BY FAMILY, EQUIPPED BY GOD

Stephen never imagined how much his life would change when a group of women in his village began sharing the message of Jesus with him.

As they told him about Christ, Stephen became deeply aware of the sinful patterns in his life. Convicted, he began attending church—and soon **gave his life to Christ**.

But following Jesus came at a high cost.

Rejected by Family

After his baptism, Stephen's high-caste parents were furious.

They disowned him, casting him out of the family home with nothing but the clothes on his back. Alone and rejected, Stephen moved to the city, taking on difficult jobs just to survive.

Still, **he remained faithful**. His suffering only strengthened his desire to share the Gospel.

Yet he faced one major challenge: **access to God's Word**.

Stephen had no Bible of his own, and most of the people he disciplined couldn't read. Whenever they gathered, they depended on others to read aloud—but that wasn't always possible.

Stephen longed for a way **everyone** could hear Scripture for themselves.

Equipped by God

A kind family welcomed Stephen into their home and opened their space for weekly prayer and worship. Around the same time, Stephen received a **Talking Bible—a gift that would transform his ministry**.

He began listening to Scripture as he prepared his messages. But he didn't stop there. Each week, he passes the Talking Bible to someone in the prayer group who cannot read, giving them specific passages to listen to throughout the week. When they gather on Sundays, they share what they heard—and how it changed them.

Now, the group is journeying through the book of Acts. Even those who never went to school can recall the stories, retell them, and apply them to their lives.

A Hope for Many

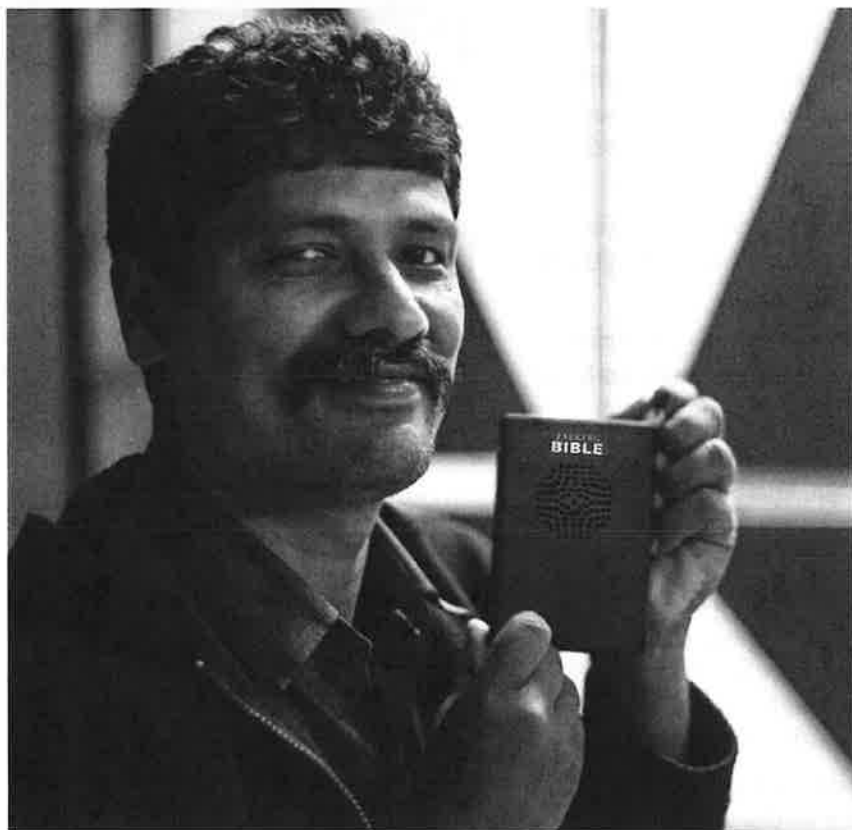
Stephen's hope is simple but powerful: *"I hope to receive more Talking Bibles soon so I can share this blessing with more people."*

Stephen's story is a powerful reminder. When people have access to God's Word, especially in audio, everything can change. 📖

You can help share God's Word!

People like Stephen and those he disciplines are hungry to hear God's Word but need access.

Your gift helps put **Talking Bibles** in their hands. **Donate Now!**



Stephen now shares the Gospel using a Talking Bible.



Want to share our newsletter? Email: info@talkingbibles.org, and we'll gladly send you extra copies!

Talking Bibles International is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization completely dependent on God's people.

Your donation is much appreciated and is tax deductible!

Summer/Fall 2025 Newsletter (Vol. 42 No. 1) is published by Talking Bibles International
419 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025 | (760) 745-8105 | www.talkingbibles.org





The Midwest Network Newsletter

A Word from the President

REV. D. MARC DE WAARD

...of all Believers

I thank the Lord for growing up in a family where there were ten of us – eight children and two parents. And often we'd have more than ten around the kitchen table as family from the Netherlands or business people from my father's vast connections throughout the world would stay with us. And this family became a microcosm of the church. Two older siblings (both took organ lessons) where one is a current elder in a Ref'd Church, the other a foster parent for First Nations children. Younger siblings include a business woman who has financially supported the work of many churches, a brother who provides and oversees housing for single mothers, another brother who is a pastor and counselor, a sister who plays piano for assisted-living facility services, and another sister (married to a pastor), who invests in the lives of many church children in so many ways. Alongside the support from parents (for instance, my folks helped us financially with seminary) – we certainly attempted to live into Col. 3:17.

From our beginnings there at Maranatha Ref'd Church – the church, and my family – helped instill in me the "priesthood of all believers." We as a family, and as a local church – were a unit. We were not "lone-ranger" Christians but were in this "living out our faith" together. From building cabins at a church camp to giving monies to see that people in Belize and Japan got to hear the Good News of Jesus – we did this together. We each had our own Bibles – and had devotions around the kitchen table at breakfast and supper. We had the Word expounded to us off the pulpit, and explored the Word further in catechism and youth group gatherings. We could approach God in praise and petition because of what Christ had done for us all – collectively, and individually.

I love the words "network" and "alliance". It speaks of connectedness, of partnership. I love the Scriptures that speak of worship (Rom. 12:1-2), of spiritual giftedness (1 Peter 4:10), and of my job description (Eph. 4:11-12). All within each local church are priests (1 Peter 2:9-10) including the Sunday School teacher, the deacon, the nursery worker, the usher and the elder. May it be that the Midwest Network churches collectively, recognize the privilege that is ours to encourage and strengthen each other, as well as to train and empower one another on in the faith. All who confess that Jesus is Lord – belong, body and soul, in life and in death to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. Let it be that we ask the Spirit, and seek out within our fellowships, the impetus, further training, and learning to be whole-heartedly willing and ready ... to live for Him (HC, Q&A #1).

I'm thankful for you all. I'm grateful for the privilege of having been president for these past two years. I'm thankful for Dennis Olsen (past-president) and his emphasis on the priesthood of all believers. I'm excited for Cody Moret's taking the torch now, and of leading us, alongside our great staff and Admin Team, into tomorrow if the Lord tarries. And I'm thankful that this Midwest Network – local fellowships made up of priests of God – will keep advancing God's kingdom!



Prayer Team Update

JACOB VAN DER LINDEN

The August Prayer Guide can be found on pg 4 or at : https://drive.google.com/file/d/IGqYnSR_LMqvUG2yE_qInglIWNizjLcKc/view?usp=drive_link

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at midwestnetprayer@gmail.com.

Financial Update

BRENDA VAN BEEK

Soon many of our churches will begin to work on 2026 budgets, and our Network Compensation and Benefits Team supports that work by looking at inflation and benefits data. The team will finalize a cost-of-living recommendation later this month, and plan to provide suggestions to the Admin Team for our benefits policies to consider, too. It's a small team, and we would welcome new volunteers! If you're interested in serving or know someone who would do it well, please reach out to Brenda.

We hope many of you had a chance to hear the conversation we had with Connie Buskohl, CPA, on our Last Tuesday webinar. She covered compensation and tax issues for pastors that would be helpful for deacons and treasurers to review. You can watch the recording [here](#). And as always, if you have questions, you can reach out to Brenda or contact Connie's office.

Q: WHAT DID DANIEL TELL HIS
REAL ESTATE AGENT

A: I'D PREFER A HOUSE WITH
NO DEN

Q: WHY DIDN'T ANYONE WANT
TO FIGHT GOLIATH

A: IT SEEMED LIKE A GIANT
ORDEAL

From the Network Pastor

SETH SUNDSTROM

Health Update

I've spoken with many of you, but here's an update for the rest of you. Earlier this Summer my hand tremor (have had it for years) got noticeably worse. After being referred to a neurologist, I underwent testing and found out I have Parkinson's disease. The only symptom I have is the tremor, which I'm told is a good thing. My doctor has started me on a med and we're exploring other diet and exercise elements that can help.

Please know that I'm doing just fine. While I have the shakes, my faith in Jesus is unshaken. I enter this battle knowing it'll likely get worse (like all things on earth), but it only increases the comfort I have knowing I belong to Jesus. So, pray for me if you're moved, but please don't mourn me yet...I still have some fight left.

Transitions/Updates

SETH SUNDSTROM

Seeking Pastor

Free Grace Reformed of Middleburg IA
Faith Reformed of Wisconsin Rapids WI
Immanuel Reformed of Belmond IA
Delaware Reformed of Lennox SD

Accepted Calls

Josh Whipple - Grant Reformed of Grant MI

Retired

Gary Hegstad - Delaware Reformed of Lennox, SD
(Continues to serve on the Alliance board and the Midwest network Covenant Keepers Team)

The Network has started to compile a collection of resources for our churches. Resource topics cover compensation and benefits, ordination, covenant keepers, as well as directories and forms.

<https://midwestnetwork.org/resources>

Password: Midwest2024

UPCOMING

EVENTS

REVITALIZATION COHORT BOOK CLUB

BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH @ 7PM

Book discussion based on "Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings about How Congregations Avoided Death." Each month you'll be asked to read a chapter, then join (zoom) a discussion with others from our Network for support and accountability. We will take 7 months to make it through the book, so the load is easy. Please take a moment to review the book, pray about who you can invite from your church, and get this on your calendar. If you need more convincing, I can connect you to a church that has recently used this resource.

WHEN - 3RD TUESDAY @ 7PM EACH MONTH BEGINNING SEPT. 16

WHERE - ZOOM

WHO - PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS AND THE CHURCH

WHAT - BOOK DISCUSSION

WHY - CHURCH HEALTH MATTERS

SEP 16 - INTRO & CHAPTER 1

OCT. 21 - CHAPTER 2

NOV. 18 - CHAPTER 3

DEC - CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO ZOOM

JAN. 20 - CHAPTER 4

FEB. 17 - CHAPTER 5

MAR. 17 - CHAPTER 6

APRIL 21 - CHAPTER 7 & CONCLUSION

TO SIGN UP: [HTTPS://ARC21.CHURCHCENTER.COM/PEOPLE/FORMS/1010870](https://arc21.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1010870)

MIDWEST NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14-15

AMERICAN REFORMED CHURCH - LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

A time set apart to worship Jesus, enjoy rich fellowship, and be equipped for the ministry God has called us to. This two-day gathering is open to pastors, elders, deacons, and all church members who desire to grow in faith and serve more effectively. We're excited to welcome special guests from Coram Deo and the Thrive Coaching Network, who will lead equipping sessions designed to equip healthy leaders and healthy churches for ministry. In addition, several of our own pastors from within the Midwest Network will be teaching and sharing practical proven ministry strategies. Whether you come to be refreshed in worship, to connect with fellow believers, or to gain practical tools for ministry, we believe you'll leave encouraged and inspired.

TO SIGN UP: [HTTPS://ARC21.CHURCHCENTER.COM/PEOPLE/FORMS/1026675](https://arc21.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1026675)

Midwest Prayer Guide:

Ways to pray for the Network

Pray for the Admin Team as they continue to discern how God is leading them to function as a team, as they discern how best to serve the Network and how best to work together as a body. May the path forward be something we understand and works well as they seek to serve Jesus.

Pray for those in our network who have health concerns, from a recent diagnosis to those who have the same health issues again or for a long time. Pray for family members that are aging, struggling with health issues, and looking for relief from pain. God, we pray for healing according to your will and for peace amidst the anxiety and sadness we might feel. Praise God for those who are recovering after successful surgeries, procedures and are healing.

Pray for God to work in the hearts of leaders in the network as we discern who will be our next vice president of Network. Pray for the person God is raising up to serve at this time. God grant them peace and courage to serve.

Pray for Pathways as they continue to work, develop. God the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, please continue to raise up leaders. God empower, and raise up pastors, elders, deacons and all other kinds of lay leaders.

Pray for the churches that are vacant, and for those churches looking to fill staff positions as well. We praise God for the churches that have been filled recently. Pray for leaders discerning what next steps you are calling them to live into at their current church or another ministry. May we continue to listen to the Spirits leading. God helps those in times of transition.

Pray for the young people in our churches as they look to find their way. Pray for those starting families, for those struggling to start families and those who are called to be single, whatever life stage they are in, may they know God is with them and have a good plan for them.

Pray for the discipleship ministries going in our churches. May the men and women of our churches seek ways to dig into God's Word and pray for one another. Praise God for ministry work being done by Christina leaders as they meet with people, disciple them, lead people to Christ, and empower others as they serve Jesus.

Pray that our leaders will take time to rest, go on vacations and to be abiding with Jesus.

Pray that churches may seek to share Jesus in their communities in contextual appropriate ways and to see people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God guide us to what communities you are calling to serve or plant churches as a Network.

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at, midwestnetprayer@gmail.com.
Blessing from the Midwest Network Prayer Gathering: Kim, Dennis, Fred and Jake



Bible Word Search

Books of the Old Testament

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


AMOS
CHRONICLES
DANIEL
DEUTERONOMY
ECCLESIASTES
ESTHER
EXODUS
EZEKIEL
EZRA
GENESIS
HABAKKUK
HAGGAI
HOSEA

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
JOB
JOEL
JONAH
JOSHUA
JUDGES
KINGS
LAMENTATIONS
LEVITICUS
MALACHI
MICAH
NAHUM

NEHEMIAH
NUMBERS
OBADIAH
PROVERBS
PSALMS
RUTH
SAMUEL
SAMUEL
SONG OF SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH



SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day 2pm Labor Day Parade 	2 1st Day of School @ SHS	3 5:15-6:30 Meal 6-7:30 Awana info night 6:57 Middle School Kickball 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7-7:30 Parent Mtg 7:30-8:30 High School Kickball	4 7am Executive Team Mtg	5	6
7 8am Praise Team Practice Sunday School resumes C&W resumes	8 6pm Congregation Care Mtg 6:30pm HOH Mtg	9	10 5:15-6:30 Meal 6-7:30 Awana 6:30-8:00 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7pm Rocky+ @ Northwestern 7:45-9 High School	11 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	12	13
14 8am Praise Team Practice	15 5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	16	17 5:15-6:30 Meal 1:30 Afternoon Circle 6-7:30 Awana 6:30-8:00 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	18 6:30 Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7pm Evening Circle 7:30 Consistory Mtg	19	20
21 8am Praise Team Practice	22	23	24 5:15-6:30 Meal 6-7:30 Awana 6:30-8:00 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	25	26	27
28 8am Praise Team Practice	29	30				