



Oskaloosa 1st CRC Newsletter

January – February 2025

TWELVE CHRISTIAN QUOTES FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. **Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will. – Jonathan Edwards**
2. **Of all persons the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. He has dealt with life at its source. In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation. – A.W. Tozer**
3. **The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. — G.K. Chesterton**
4. **New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. – Elisabeth Elliot**
5. **Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given; While angels sing with tender mirth, A glad new year to all the earth. – Martin Luther**
6. **Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace. – Chuck Swindoll**
7. **Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail. – Charles Stanley**
8. **God specializes in giving people a fresh start. – Rick Warren**
9. **Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto man His Son hath given; while angels sing with tender mirth, a glad new year to all the earth. – Martin Luther**
10. **The only way to get rid of your past is to make a future out of it. God will waste nothing. – Phillips Brooks**
11. **Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past. – Henry Ward Beecher**
12. **I wish, my brothers and sisters, that during this year you may live nearer to Christ than you have ever done before. Depend upon it, it is when we think much of Christ that we think little of ourselves, little of our troubles, and little of the doubts and fears that surround us. – Charles Spurgeon**

From Pastor Spronk's Desk



CONFESSIONAL RENEWAL

As we turn to 2025, our church and our denomination are entering into transitional times. After the decisions of Synods 2022, 2023 and 2024, there is a marked sense that the CRC is seeking to turn back to its confessional roots. And there is slowly building a wealth of excellent resources that are coming not top-down from denominational offices but rising up from a younger generation of CRC pastors and lay people calling us to greater confessional identity and loyalty.

In this space before I have promoted *The Abide Project* and their associated writings which can be found at abideproject.org. Furthermore, there are many excellent podcasts that are CRC-related currently being produced with new episodes on a weekly basis. *Reformed Podomatics* is hosted by Pastors Mark VanDyke and Zac Dewey of Almond Valley CRC, in Ripon, CA and they tackle contemporary issues facing the Reformed churches. *Three Forms Podcast*, by Pastors Lloyd Hemstreet and Tyler Wagenmaker of Western Michigan, walks through the teachings of the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort. Additionally, *The Messy Reformation*, by Pastor Jason Ruis and Deacon Willy Krahnke, has continued to have episodes that explore issues of discipleship and evangelism in the CRC. And there are podcasts related to the CRC from folks in the wider Reformed church like the *Heidelcast*, *Mortification of Spin*, and the *White Horse Inn*. I'd encourage you to listen to these podcasts from these leaders who are seeking renewal, not just in the CRC, but in the wider Church in North America.

Finally, our congregation will focus on preaching through the Heidelberg Catechism in 2025. Our preaching ministry will focus weekly on the Lord's Days and we are encouraging our families to use the *Comforting Hearts, Teaching Minds* devotional by Starr Meade. Think of this year as a Year of Jubilee as we join with this movement of the Spirit in declaring with the faithful: "That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ." May our Lord use this year to comfort our hearts and to teach our minds.

Pastor Jon

Church Family News



Pastor Erik & Jacque Kamp
6996 Highway F 36 W
Newton, IA 50208

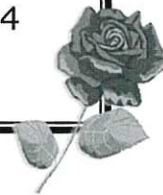
Wilbur & Nancy Kelderman
1757 240th Avenue
Tracy, IA 50256
641-218-0125

Delmar & Marilyn Vos
316 East 1st Street
Pella, IA 50219
1-641-780-5947 (D)
1-641-780-4543 (M)

In Loving Memory:

Mary Van Engelenhoven – 10/27/24

Lester Fynaardt – 11/8/24



Membership Updates

Transferred: Jerry & Jill De Bruin

~ to The Bridge Church/Oskaloosa, 11/4/24

First CRC Council 2025

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Lucas De Groot	Elder	2027	641-777-4970	Worship Committee
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups
Allen Groenenboom	Elder	2028	641-660-6719	Building & Grounds Comm.
Tim Jabaay	Elder	2027	319-899-8343	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Steve Kaisand	Elder	2028	641-891-2672	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Doug Richards	Elder	2027	641-660-6455	Education Comm. & Library
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Jeff Van Donselaar	Elder	2027	641-295-3286	Fellowship
Kirk Veenstra	Elder	2028	641-295-3056	President, Pulpit Supply
Mike Boender	Deacon	2027	641-660-3957	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Adam De Bruin	Deacon	2027	641-295-2111	Benevolence & Enduring Gifts
Dan McKinney	Deacon	2028	641-931-6491	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Chris Pierson	Deacon	2027	641-670-0081	General Fund Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Sherwin Plate	Deacon	2028	641-670-0584	Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer

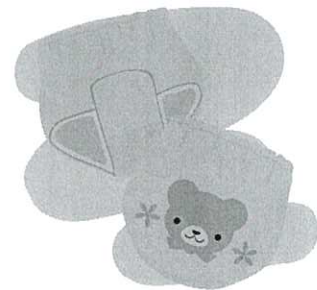
Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary		673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
Katelyn Van Donselaar	Custodian		1-641-226-1495	

Nursery Schedule

January - February 2025

A.M.

Jan. 5	Stacy B, Kate DB Daxton R
Jan. 12 (Communion)	Kynnah C, Elijah B Caroline J, Avery K
Jan. 19	Kahrey C, Finn S Peyton V
Jan. 26	Georgina DR, Luke VD Kohen DB
Feb. 2	Kelly P, Dean DR Larissa H
Feb. 9	Cassia B, Dylan R Nora DG
Feb. 16	Ellize C, AnnaBelle C Caleb R
Feb. 23	Mary Beth J, Kwynn DB Malaki B





Sew Day



The committee has set February 4, 2025
as our day to work on quilts.

We will be laying out quilt tops to sew, sewing quilt tops and
tying tops. We have plenty of yarn to use for tying but
bring your favorite needle or sewing machine.

We will meet from 9 to 3, so you can come
when it fits into your schedule.

We will order pizza for lunch and the committee
will furnish snacks, coffee, and hot tea.

Come join us for a fun day of fellowship as we work
to help those who are less fortunate.



Questions?

Contact Delores at 641-295-2983
or Ellize at 641-295-6000.





Fall 2024

Dear *Friends at First CRC,*

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We pray that this letter finds you and your church family well and wrapped in Christ's Love.

Lake View Camp was blessed with a great summer, and we continue to praise God for all that we were able to accomplish through His wonderworking power. We give Him thanks and praise for a great summer staff, for all of the campers who attended this summer, and for all of the volunteers who came out to give of their time and talents. We also praise God for our special partnerships with churches like you who help us bring the good news of God's love, salvation, and grace to His children. Together with you, we will continue to answer the daily call to put our hope in Jesus and help those around us to do the same.

This summer was full of God's grace and goodness. With many of our camps at full capacity, we were able to see hundreds of beautiful faces, both familiar and new, praising, worshiping and learning about our Good Father. We held 25 camps this summer and had just under 1,000 campers. The summer included several overnight camps for elementary, middle school, and high school campers, three day camps for elementary-aged kids, and three weekend "Grand Camps" for grandparents and their grandkids. We also held eight Angel Tree camps for at-risk youth in elementary, middle school, and high school. In addition, we held a camp specifically for elementary-aged children who are a part of the Congolese refugee community in the Des Moines area. We are excited to participate in God's global heart by welcoming the nations to experiencing the Gospel of Jesus at camp. God's hand was upon us guiding us, correcting us, providing for us, and holding us up – which is exactly what we learned at camp this summer!

Summer 2024 - I AM

***"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,
'Do not fear; I will help you.'" Isaiah 41:13***

This past summer's theme focused on who God is as the Great I AM and what He does for us. We learned many of the "I am" statements Jesus spoke of Himself in John, such as Jesus being the Gate, the Good Shepherd, the Living Water, and the Bread of Life. We studied the verse Isaiah 41:13 and learned of God's constant provision, constant presence, and ultimate sovereignty in our lives. We learned that no matter what we may face in life, what mountains or valleys we may be asked to walk through, we do not need to fear for the God who takes hold of our right hand will help us. Hearts were changed and lives were given to Christ this summer. All glory to God!



Grand Camp



Elementary Camp Worship



Survivor Nootka Tribe

Together in Pursuit of Christ

We work hard at Lake View Camp to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with every camper that attends. We hold steadfast to the right hand of God, for He has never let go of ours. When we work together with churches like you, we help others to turn to God in their own lives and put their right hand into His. We must persist in ministry to bring the Gospel of God's love, grace, and salvation to all who God allows us to reach. At Lake View, we daily seek out opportunities that God is calling us to serve Him, minister to others, and make a difference. We love serving your families and church members!

We praise God for all the ways His churches support Lake View, for His Glory and for His Name!

As you determine how best to partner with Lake View, please consider giving in one of the following areas:

- Camp scholarships—for Angel Tree campers (children with a parent in prison), for other "at-risk" youth, and for families requesting financial assistance
- Development to add additional buildings and recreation opportunities at Lake View Camp
- General camp support to be used where most needed in the camping ministry

As you review your benevolent giving for the year, please pray about contributing to this growing ministry. Consider how your giving may help the kids and families relying on your support. Be encouraged that God is faithful to do more with the money we give back to Him than we could ever do ourselves. We continue to seek God's wisdom on how best to serve Him and His children, how to share the message of who He is and His great love, and how to be good stewards of the resources that He provides.

Thank you for all your church does for God's children. We look forward to partnering with your church and continuing to spread God's Word.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Diana L. Brummel

Diana L. Brummel
Executive Director

We ♥ First CRC! Thank You again for the many ways you support God's ministry at Lake View! You are part of the Firm Foundation that God builds our ministry on!

Just a reminder that during the off season (fall, winter, spring), our facilities are available to host a church retreat, leadership retreat, or a men's, women's, or youth retreat. We have already hosted all of the these, so let's look at dates for your church! We can help with programming and meals or we can just be your host site. Call or email to discuss the options. We would love to share our beautiful 264 acres with more of God's children—big and small!



Part of the 2024 Summer Staff. We had over 30 camp counselors this past summer!



High School Camp 2024
65 campers - what an amazing week!



We held a High School Retreat in January and a Middle School Retreat in February.



Your generosity is putting smiles on the faces of people in Nicaragua and worldwide!

**YOU ARE MAKING
A WORLDWIDE
DIFFERENCE**



People are engaged in
God's Word



Christians are trained
to share God's Word



Churches are planted
around the world

Share the Gospel with a World in Need

Because of your generosity, people around the globe are finding hope in Jesus. Thank you. You're helping people in more than 50 countries to have the Bibles they so desperately crave. Whether it's war, poverty, or persecution, people everywhere are experiencing heartbreak. Yet, believers are persevering. They are spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities. And you're part of it. Amid such hardships, people are craving the hope of Jesus. The Lord is growing His Church.

Even in some of the most unexpected places, you are equipping Christians to reach their communities with God's Word. Thank you for transforming lives around the world!

God's Word Transforms Lives and Communities

"When I was a Buddhist, I never had a happy mind. I would always feel an emptiness inside." Hemalatha is a 65-year-old grandmother in central Sri Lanka. About 30 years ago, she discovered the way to fill that void when she and her husband became Christians. She notes, "When we accepted Him, we found peace and happiness."

Ever since, Hemalatha and her husband have faithfully attended a church about four miles from their home. Over the years, her faith has grown deep roots through studying God's Word. Recently, she attended training to become a Bible League Bible study leader.

"My dream is to pass on to my neighbors what I have learned and received," she gently responds. Browsing through the booklet on her lap, Hemalatha adds, "We can take these books and the Bibles and use them to reach out to others. I joined this training because I want to be strong in and through the Word of God. It will help

Continued on next page



God's Word Transforms Lives *(continued)*

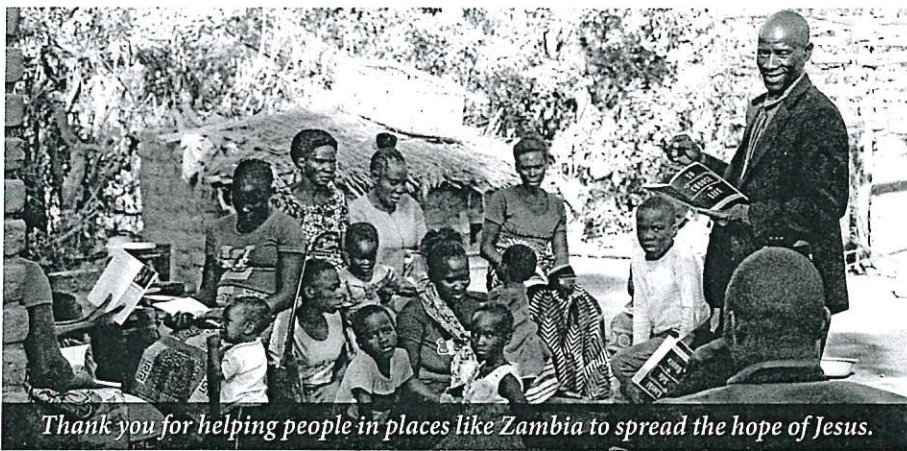
me do personal evangelism and explain the Gospel to the people I meet.”

Though Hemalatha has already been sharing the Gospel with her neighbors, she knows Bible League's Bible studies will help her reach even more people in her village. She explains, “Your Bible study materials are so easy to understand! It's a blessing to have this kind of resource. Some people can't buy a Bible because it's expensive. But now, with your program, giving Bibles has become so easy.” Your desire to provide Bibles and training is making a difference in lives like Hemalatha's.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Bible League's team in Mozambique recently reintroduced Bible studies in the prison in Boane. Give thanks for the inmates and guards who are taking part in the studies.
- Bible League's ministry director in Venezuela asks for your prayers. A recent nationwide blackout left most of the country without electricity. Bible study training workshops were suspended as a result.
- Pray for the 100 Sunday school teachers in Hong Kong who received training to lead Bible League's Bible studies for children.

Join Others in Making an Eternal Impact for Christ



Thank you for helping people in places like Zambia to spread the hope of Jesus.

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

Faithfully serving more than 50 countries worldwide



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



**THE WORD
IN ACTION**
BIBLE LEAGUE PODCAST

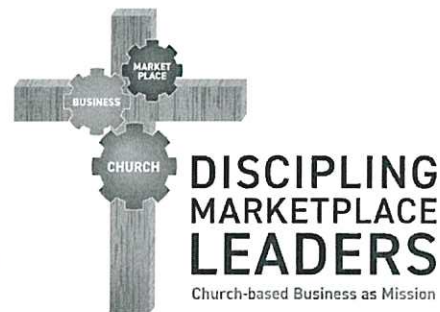
Listen to *The Word in Action*—a podcast about how God's Word is transforming lives around the globe. You'll hear from people who are spreading the hope of Jesus each day. Explore new stories each month of how God is moving in the lives of kids, persecuted believers, church planters, and so many others.

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

DECEMBER 2024

Satisfied Wages

For Nicaragua



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the upcoming court dates and paper work in our adoption
- Wisdom as we navigate our ministry growth!
- Praising God for His completed promises
- The purchasing transactions for Avodah Farm, we have just begun this long process.

Ongoing Events

- ◇ Planning a trip to Honduras in January 2025 for a three day DML workshop

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, - **1 Peter 1:3-4**



The Peace of God

Dear Friends and Family,

We are a family that prays. We are a people who are called to pray. We are able to talk with God and have joyful hope. We pray to connect with our Heavenly Father. Prayers can be praises and gratitude, while others are full of lamenting. Either way, we are to pray. Prayer is faith. Our Heavenly Father will answer those prayers. Staying connected with God through prayer is important to us, and is an integral part of our ministry. We have a devotional every Monday morning with prayer time to start our work week. As we go to visit a farmers field, our agronomist Darwin also takes time to pray with them.

At the end of the technical visit in October, Darwin prayed with farmers Cruz and Max at their workplace, their corn field. He asked for any specific prayer requests. Expecting a common prayer for the crops, he was surprised when farmer Cruz told him his daughter had an accident and broke her arm, she was hospitalized. When they finished praying, farmer Max gave a testimony, that he had a very strong pain in his knee, but the pain has gone and he walks better since the prayer during their previous technical visit! At the publishing of this prayer letter, Cruz's daughter is out of the hospital and recovering from her accident.

We are learning how much the farmers enjoy the prayer time, and when it doesn't happen, they can miss it! In another visit, Darwin visited farmer Jacinto in his home. Jacinto asked Darwin why they had not prayed together during the first planting cycle this year. Before the visit was over, he reminded Darwin again before he left his street from afar. Darwin



mentioned he was left speechless and pondering about that moment. He never thought someone was going to remind him that he hadn't prayed in their field! He took this as a personal challenge and motivated himself not to neglect opportunities to pray with farmers, regardless of the circumstances he found himself in. He said he will always make time to dedicate his work to God through prayer!

I (Jesse) have a memory I cherish and think of often. In April's letter we introduced you to Karla. A business women with a store who employs ten young women. Every Monday she also has a Bible devotional time with her employees. As I was leaving after a morning training session, I was blessed to see her employees gather around her in a circle, as she was sitting in a chair by the cash register. She led a meeting and prayer for a big event they were going to have! This is a reminder of the importance of God's blessings in our work!

Waiting during prayer

Our decision to leave Michigan and start our

ministry in Nicaragua eight years ago was decided in prayer. After four years of living in the Nicaraguan capital city of Managua, it was time to move north to the mountains of Jinotega. Another decision confirmed in prayer. Our joyful hope for children in our home was a prayer that did not cease through out our marriage. This year our Heavenly Father answered that prayer! We have been praying for a ministry farm for the last four years. We found the land, and this month we have finished a land survey to start the purchasing procedure! We maintain this prayer, because purchasing land is a long process. We continue to wait on the Lord. He is our hope, we do not know what comes in the future, but we rely on the character and promises of our Heavenly Father. This time of year, we remember the hope found in the promise of Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of waiting, the author and perfecter of our faith!

Our peace

There are many changes coming to our lives and ministry, happening in a short span of time. Our family has grown and so will our ministry! These sudden changes bring some anxiousness about what is to come. However, thanks to our hope in Jesus Christ we pray for the Holy Spirit



CHURCH BASED BUSINESS AS MISSION

MAIL: **Jesse & Jari Rodriguez** 804020

EMAIL: jrodriguez@crnapartners.org

Resonate Global Missions

PHONE: USA 616 432-9172

1700 28th ST

NICA +505 8465-8277

Grand Rapids, MI USA • 49508

Donate online at: ResonateGlobalMissions.org— Jesse and Jari



Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

to take our anxiousness and replace it with joyful hope, and wait for God to reveal how He will bring us His peace. He has shown us His love through you! You have rejoiced with us in welcoming our children home! Your love helps to bring us peace. As Philippians 4:6-7 states:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

We have peace because we remember during Christmas season that God came to earth, as a baby in order to later give himself as a pure

sacrifice so we can be restored to Him. We look forward to what the future brings to us, because Jesus Christ was born. He is God’s promise to His people, He died on the cross and rose from the dead! What does this mean? It means we wait, with hope in the promises of God, who loves us so much. The Lord Jesus will return! He has promised us! We invite you to join us in rejoicing and praising God for His faithfulness and justice. Share the peace of Jesus Christ with everyone you encounter this Christmas!

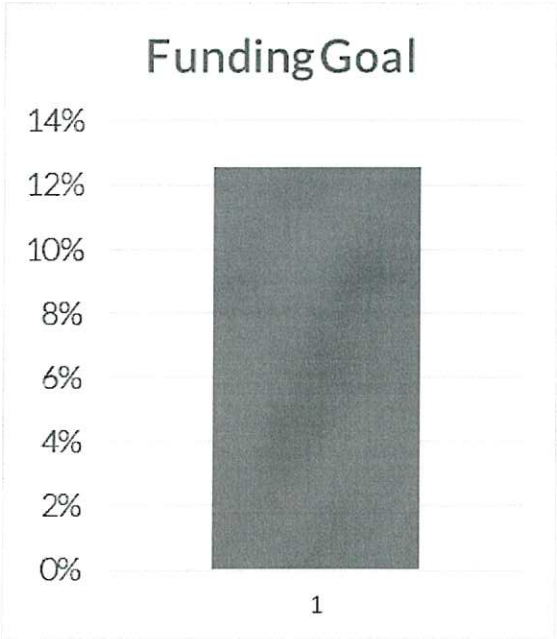
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jesse and Jari

Ministry Support Update

We have a clear mission for Satisfied Wages in Nicaragua. It is time to start Avodah farm, and bring God’s justice to the marketplace in Jinotega. This farm will create income, jobs, research and training for Jinotega’s agribusiness economy. With your support we can start the farm and bolster the Nicaraguan Church with more marketplace ministries. These Christian disciples will be on bean farms, in the municipal market and universities.

We are so thankful for your prayers and encouragement. Your prayers helped us to persevere for the Gospel in a nation ready to be reclaimed for God’s kingdom! **Will you help us continue this work by giving a year end gift? Your support is vital and you can empower this ministry for a long term impact in Nicaragua!** If you would like to give a gift, please use the enclosed coupon and envelope. Or go online: Resonate Global Mission, Support, Jesse and Jari Rodriguez



Resonate USA
 1700 28th Street SE
 Grand Rapids, MI
 49508-1407
 Phone: 877-272-6205
Resonate Canada
 3475 Mainway
 P.O. Box 5070, STN LCD 1
 Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
 Phone: 800-730-3490

Donate Online at
resonateglobalmission.org/donate

I (we) would like to support **Jesse and Jari Rodriguez (804020)**
 Here is my gift of \$_____ or call 877-272-6205 (USA) or 800-730-3490 (Canada)
 Resonate will make every effort to use your gift for the program or project you designate. Gifts to programs or projects that are oversubscribed, or cannot be completed, will be directed to those that have similar intent or ministry location.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____
Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include the above # (804020) on memo line 8MP

GENEVA 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GENEVA | 01



We pray this report finds you well and excited for the Christmas season! As we look back at our second year at Geneva, we are so grateful for the people God brought together to think deeply about the intersection of the learning and work that we do and the faith that we live out. Over the past year, we have offered diverse learning experiences to students, faculty, staff, and community including lectures, concerts, panels, meals, film nights, trips, and book clubs. Literally hundreds of people have engaged with a Geneva event in the past year, and we are eager to see the transformative work that God will do in the upcoming year.

In this report you'll see some highlights from the year, how we are doing financially, and ways for you to get involved in and give to the work of Geneva. We ask that you take time to pray for God's continued provision for Geneva, and consider giving a year-end gift to help us finish strong to meet our financial goals. We need to raise an extra \$21,000, in addition to our normal fundraising efforts, to help us finish the calendar year strong!

In 2025, we're hopeful that God will continue to bless Geneva through your generous support. One exciting way that we see God doing that is through our inter-department and inter-church partnerships that made many of 2024's most successful events possible. Last year, Geneva partnered with The UI Lecture Committee, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Law, Public Policy Center, and Religious Studies, History, and Political Science Departments as well as churches and ministries such as International Neighbors, Navigators, Ratio Christi, Grace Community Church, One Ancient Hope, New Life Church, Parkview, and more!

Thank you again for your generosity, and for helping Geneva provide excellent events and learning experiences that center the work we do and the faith we live out. Geneva does not exist without your support! Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Brett and Leigh Ann Erickson
Director and Associate Director of Geneva



2024 FINANCES AT A GLANCE

GENEVA | 02

A look at our current operating expenses, and what we've raised since the beginning of the year.

\$156,875 (JAN-DEC 2024)
TOTAL BUDGET

This includes our entire operating budget.



\$136,066 (JAN-NOV 2024)
TOTAL REVENUE RAISED

We have worked hard this year to engage new donors and supporters this year as so many individuals attended Geneva's free events.



\$20,809 (TOTAL NEEDED IN 2024)

We have had some fundraising success this year. We partnered with multiple university departments to host free events with award winning speakers. Individual donations continue to increase. We still have a ways to go to meet our 2024 budget, and we appreciate your support of this ministry that serves students, staff, and faculty at the University of Iowa.



2024 ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

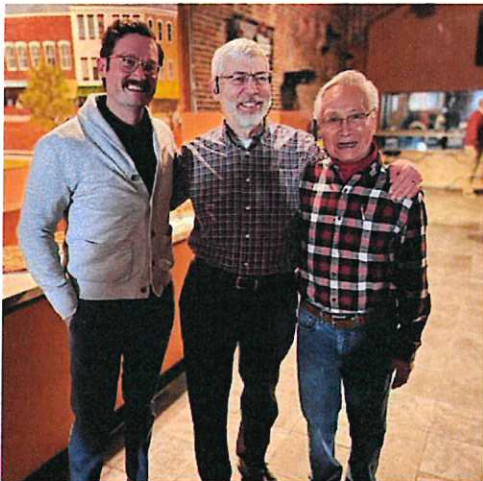
GENEVA | 03



What makes Geneva events unique is the diverse engagement of students, staff, faculty, and community. Our goal is to provide spaces that help people understand the intersection of faith and work, and, thereby, grow in both!

Here are some event highlights from 2024:

- **Waffles & Wonder:** University professors and staff discuss big questions on life and faith. Presenters included professors of law, physics, medicine, political science, public health, and more!
- **Geneva Studios:** Jon Guerra, singer, songwriter, and film composer, returned to Geneva Studios. Other musicians that performed for Geneva studios included David Ramirez, Marcy Each, and The Bird Hunters.
- **Trips to Pella & Maquoketa Caves:** Over 80 international and domestic students came to Pella for the Tulip Fest hosted by Calvary Church, followed by a group of international and domestic students who spelunked Maquoketa Caves.
- **Field Groups:** A writers group made up of UI Writers Workshop MFAs, faculty, other students and community members meets bi-weekly to workshop and discuss faith and writing. Other groups that met this year were the Faith and Justice Group, and UI Campus Prayer and Fellowship
- **Faculty Book Studies:** Faculty read & discussed, Biblical Critical Theory by Christopher Watkins, The Air We Breathe by Glen Scrivener, and The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness by Tim Keller
- **Geneva Lectures:** NY Times Best Selling author and journalist David Brooks presented in January. Other renowned authors and speakers for Geneva this year included Anne Snyder, Molly Worthen, Derek Muller, Alan Noble, and many others!



2025 EVENTS



There is a lot to look forward to in 2025, and our increased programming means we have increased our budget to ensure that our programming remains free for all. Keep an eye on our website for updated events. geneva-ui.org



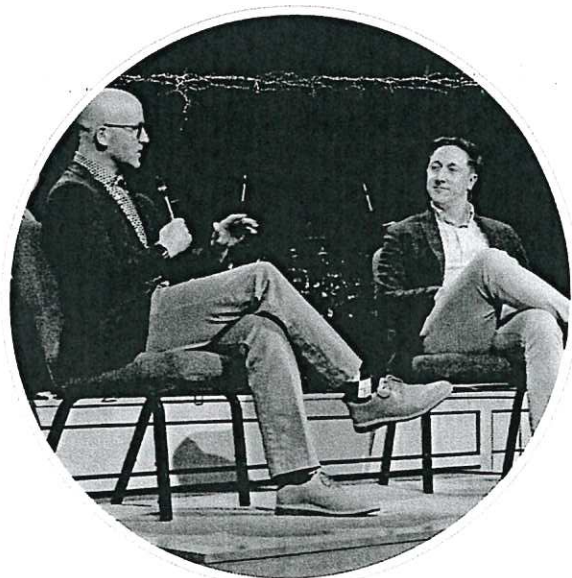
TESTIMONIALS

I am grateful to be a member of this university community who has been blessed by the Geneva Intergenerational ministry through its many programs on and off campus. Geneva speaks to many needs: the spiritual, the intellectual, the social, and the emotional needs and aspirations of both students and the wider community. I have personally been enriched in a multitude of ways, all of the above, including making new friends. Just as rooting for a football or a basketball team brings people of many different backgrounds and interests together, so does Geneva, especially under the guidance of the "coach," Brett." Geneva has a history of being guided by distinguished leaders in the past, including Pastors Ed Laarman and Jason Chen.

Thank you Geneva.
Arnold, UI Psychiatrist

Geneva has given me the opportunity to be a part of a community here in Iowa City. As a single graduate student, I have been blessed to find this group of people. I am thankful for the opportunity to explore new ideas regarding my faith and cherish the reprieve it allows during my busy schedule.

-Erik, UI graduate student



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF GENEVA



Thank you so much for taking the time to read through our 2024 annual report. We hope this finds you rejoicing in the beauty of God's glorious work through Christ this Christmas season. As you've read, God has been unbelievably gracious to us this past year, and we thank Him that he's used you to showcase His grace.

As you know, we aim to make all of our events and programming free for students, staff, faculty, and community members. What we're able to offer as a result of your support brings to mind Matthew 5:15-16,

Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Because of your generous support, we are able to keep the lamp of the gospel on a stand for all of those in our community to see, and as John 1:9 states, to point to "The true light, which gives light to everyone..." Thank you for helping us let this light shine.

Mail checks to:

Geneva
500 N. Clinton St.
Iowa City, IA 52246

Give online via PayPal:



Stay Connected:

Check our website for upcoming events geneva-ui.org or schedule coffee with Brett! Email geneva@uiowa.edu



MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

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

Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964

WINTER
2024

The first stop on the Miracle Ranch run, also known as Rancho Milagro, is **Door of Faith**. It is an Orphanage that has been in operation for many years and the MCCA has been making monthly food deliveries there for many years as well. Back in 1985 a woman from Redlands, Ann Vander Zee, towed a small trailer across the border and drove to Door of Faith. She parked it on the property and volunteered there, for a period of time, living out of that little trailer. Ann was Liz DeWitt's Aunt. Liz would go on to marry Richard DeWitt, who still drives his heavy duty pickup truck into Mexico each month on the MCCA runs.



Door of Faith is located in the La Mision district of Baja, about 50 miles south of the border and not far from the coast. It sits on a large piece of property, nestled among dozens of small farms near a river bed. It is one of the larger children's homes we deliver food and Bibles to. Currently they care for about 80 children of all age groups. It is very well organized and focused on providing a family environment where physical, mental, and especially spiritual health are emphasized. An excerpt from their mission statement reads as follows, "The very reason we are here is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ through serving and seeking Him; our ultimate goal here is to raise responsible Christian adults." Prayer, Worship, Bible and healthy food are the order of the day at Door of Faith.

**** On page two of the newsletter meet DJ and his family who volunteer full time at Door of Faith. ****



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

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

100% of all monetary donations go directly to purchase food products for needy children and their caregivers.

"No one has ever become poor by giving." Anne Frank

Strong Tower Ministries stmbaja.org

Door of Faith Ministries dofo.org

Blog: djfromtheorphanage.org

**** The following is a recent Ministry Update sent to us from Door of Faith ****

Since the early 60s, **Door of Faith** has carried out the mission of caring for children at risk in Baja California. We sit on over 100 acres about one hour south of Tijuana, in the small town of La Mision. Our large and colorful campus is more of a small town than an institution. We have 8 homes/dorms around the property for our many children, interspersed with support buildings and staff housing. We have everything a small town might: Medical clinic, classrooms, a library, a barbershop, bakery, and many other buildings to support the work here.

There have been many challenges over the years but God has kept his hand on the work here and carried the home for many decades. We are so thankful to MCCA and the many organizations and individuals that continue to make this work possible.

An organization is only as good as its leaders. In late June our long-term Mexican Director passed away. This turned into a very difficult transition, but we are so excited about the changes since then. We are proud to introduce our new Director: Diego Barajas. **Diego has a long history here as he was raised at Door of Faith from a very young age.** While attending Law School he married his wonderful wife and they went on to have two children. Diego and his family are excited about being back here, and working with the whole team to provide the best home possible to the many children in our care. **Like Diego, our new assistant director, many of our "house parents" were raised here at Door of Faith as well.** They grew up learning how to give back, and they're now putting that upbringing into action.

Our goal has always been to bring children from very difficult backgrounds through healing. **We want to raise them up to be healthy, productive members of society. It's SO great when we see the healing, and the results of all the effort.** We couldn't do this without people like you praying for us and helping in so many areas.



LOOK WHO'S BACK! During this exciting transition, DJ and Lynette Schuetze are back volunteering full time at Door of Faith to help with training, building a solid team, and hosting groups. Please pray for the whole team as we continue the long tradition of caring for kids in the best way possible.

**** Dennis Mc Kee ****

On October 13, 2024, our beloved brother Dennis went home to be with the Lord. He and his wife Janis attended Calvary Chapel in Beaumont, CA. He taught a Bible Study there. Dennis began helping load MCCA trucks back in 2000, and began riding along into Mexico with Robert Moore in 2006. Dennis was full of God's love and a faithful member of the MCCA ministry. We grieve with Janis and the family as for a time they will miss him, but Dennis is not lost, because we know where is.

Hours before Jesus was arrested and went to the cross, He said the following to His beloved Disciples, "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:2-3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS - Beginning January 1, 2025 the newly elected Executive Board's term will begin. Continuing as **President** for a third term will be Paul Vela. **Vice President** - Charles Shinski, **Secretary** - Don Dresner. Steve Diaz will remain **Treasurer** until a replacement is found.

Mission Statement

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

MCCA Executive Board Contacts

Paul Vela	President	psvela76@gmail.com
Don Dresner	Vice President	donandglady@msn.com
Steve Diaz	Treasurer	stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com
Rich DeWitt	Secretary	rdewitt@yahoo.com

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



CARY CONNECTION

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

Enriching the lives of children

“What A Mess!” That phrase speaks volumes.

That was the theme for our summer enrichment program. We instilled in the children that even though you are a mess, God will still come into your life and make you whole.

We are reminded by many scriptures but one that I like is “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6. That is enough encouragement to get me through a troubled time.

During those six weeks we took the children on different trips: Catfish Row and the water park in Vicksburg, MS; Military Park in

the activities, Teens for Christ for hosting VBS, and UMMC School of Dentistry for providing a free dental service. The children also enjoyed a fun field day and end of the summer program.



Children enjoyed a variety of activities during our summer program.



Vicksburg, MS; Spinners in Cleveland, MS, for roller skating; and 601 Escape Room in Jackson, MS. Some of the children attended a cooking class with Mississippi State University Extension Service. They were also educated on budgeting and financial literacy with Susan Perry with Bank of Anguilla. We also appreciate Precious Mobile with Sylvia McNeil for all

We had the pleasure of spreading the gospel to over 80 children. We look forward to continuing this journey that the Lord has called us to do year after year.

WOMEN OFFERING WOMEN SUPPORT

More than a name, W.O.W.S. is just what the Lord does to this group of women at Cary Christian Center each week! The W.O.W.S. Bible Study Ministry has become a wonderfully precious time for twelve to fifteen ladies from Cary and the surrounding communities who attend. It is a time when we come together for Bible teaching and fellowship, we have now learned to expect God's Holy Spirit to WOW us with His presence!

The group is an extension of the Parent Child

Ministry's (PCM) former M.O.M.S support group. It began with a “kick off” during the Spring Women's Conference in March of this year. PCM Manager, Barbara Williams hosted an amazing time of growth and connecting for women in the community that included breakout sessions focused on Spiritual, Mental, Physical, Emotional, and Prayer life for women of God. The theme for the conference was Proverbs 31:28 “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.” Many

attending were excited to sign up for the W.O.W.S. Bible Study which began less than two weeks later, and has continued every Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, at CCC.

As the lead of this group, let me be the first to say that it has truly been a blessing for me! I am overly excited to prepare to “teach” each week knowing that I will be more than filled with what God has to offer during our time together. My prayer is always that God will use

Continued on Page 2

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

shelbynext

Through Shelby Giving Online:

Online contributions can be made from ShelbyNext Giving portal by credit card, Debit card, Google Pay or ACH Bank Account. We also have a ShelbyNext Giving that can be downloaded to your mobile device or you can use ShelbyText Giving by texting "Give" to 662-863-3343. Please click on the drop-down arrow in the fund box to choose what ministry you would like your donation applied to.



United Way of West Central Mississippi



Our Paypal Portal:

Online Contributions can be made from a PayPal Account or Major Credit Card Account. Please include in the "Purpose" field which ministry you would like your donation applied to: General, Parent-Child Ministry, Volunteer Ministry, The Village (Children and Youth), or Thrift Store.



Donating Goods to our Thrift Store:

You can send new or used goods to be sold in our thrift store.



BARNABAS

The Barnabas Foundation:

The Barnabas Foundation makes it possible for individuals and families to discuss estate planning from a Christian perspective. It may surprise you that many assets may be more tax-efficient to give than cash. Consider gifts of Stock, Life Insurance, Real Estate, Gra Business Interests, Tangible Personal Property. To find out more about the benefits of this kind of giving please call 1-888-448-3040 or visit barnabasfoundation.com

Continued from Page 1

me to share His Word with others in a way that will warmly invite them to a more personal encounter with Him. The theme for this ministry (which lined up perfectly with the theme for the Conference) has been focused on encouraging others to begin to see themselves the way God does, and "Unlock" the purposes for which He created them. The peace, strength, and joy I have found in releasing myself to God for His use is a gift that I want to share with as many as He will allow. Being a part of this group not only gives me opportunity to exercise the gifts God has given me, but also provides me with weekly support through prayer and fellowship.



It is so refreshing to watch and be apart of how the Holy Spirit strategically maneuvers each lesson, all for God's glory. The women of W.O.W.S. are becoming more bold in sharing, praying, and demonstrating their



gifts and talents as we each allow God to "Unlock S.E.L.F. to Share with others, Encourage and Love one another, and Fellowship together!" "Special thanks" to CCC Executive Director, Carl Watley and PCM manager, Barbara Williams for their vision and support of this ministry. Pray with us that God will continue to WOW us with His presence as we seek Him!!

Djuana Coleman

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore. —Psalms 16:11

Sharing God's Gifts

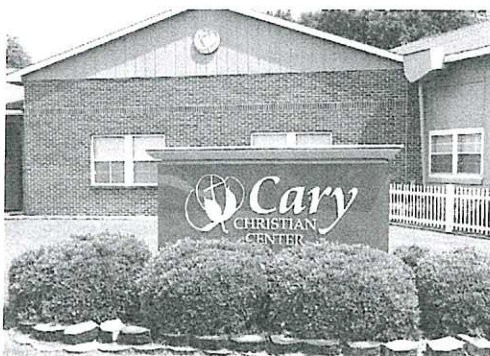
"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." —Roman 12:6-8



This Scripture is a summary of Youth Pastor Samuel (Sam) Jackson, Christ Community Church, Beatrice, Nebraska. For 22 years Pastor Sam, his staff, and their Teens for Christ have served our Anguilla, MS community. Think of the time, work, and expense involved!

His group of teens taught Vacation Bible Class at 2 different local churches—morning session at one church, and afternoon session at another. We adults discovered that teenagers teaching children is one of the most effective method to teach God's word!

Pastor Sam, your staff and your Teens—THANK YOU! FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS WITH US.



The Mission of Cary Christian Center is to actively proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to enable individuals to reach their full potential in Christ.

—Ephesians 4:12, 13

The Vision of Cary Christian Center is to break the cycle of poverty through relationships one person at a time.

—Romans 12:2 & Jeremiah 29:11-13

CARY CHRISTIAN CENTER

P.O. Box 57 • 154 Cottonwood Street • Cary, MS 39054

www.carychristiancenter.org

December 12, 2024

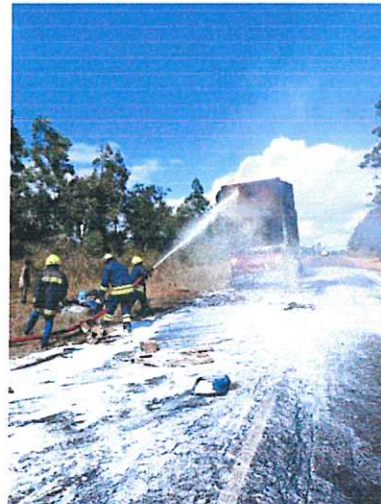
First Christian Reformed Church
815 N 11th St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577-2410

Dear First Christian Reformed Church,

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the incredible impact we've made together. Because of generous supporters like you, Mobility Worldwide has brought life-changing mobility to thousands of individuals around the world this year.

Yet, there is still so much work to be done.

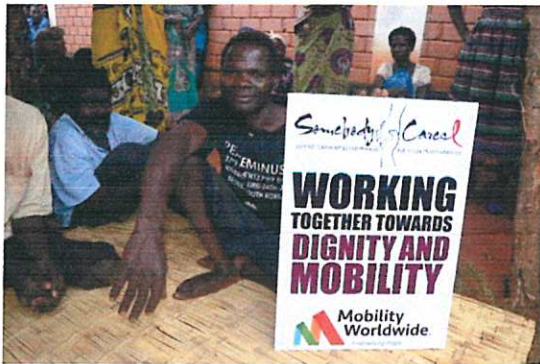
In June of this year, a shipping container full of Mobility Carts caught on fire and was completely destroyed as it nearly arrived at its final destination in Lilongwe, Malawi. It was a devastating moment, and the hundreds of recipients were told they'd have to wait a bit longer to receive a Mobility Cart.



It was at this moment that the power of the Mobility Worldwide community came together to make sure these folks in Malawi would not be forgotten and a Mobility Cart would arrive as soon as possible. In an unprecedented effort, a full container was sourced from the network of Mobility Worldwide affiliates, door-to-door shipping was covered by a generous donor, and a new container arrived in November.



On December 3rd of this year, these Mobility Carts were finally distributed at an event organized by Somebody Cares Ministries, our valued partner in Malawi. It was a time when hope and the power of human potential was celebrated. The lives of people living with disabilities in the Malawian community were immediately improved through the power of mobility and people became more deeply connected through the power of joy.



YOU are what makes this work possible, and we need your help to keep making an impact around the world. Everyone deserves the opportunity to access the world around them and you can be a part of improving the lives of people with disabilities around the world.

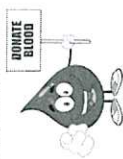

With gratitude,




A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "CJ Stanfill".

Christopher J Stanfill, Ph.D.
Executive Director



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year! <i>Marilyn V's Birthday</i>	2	3 Council Agenda Items Due	4
5 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School – (K-8 to Homestead) Aft. Worship Begins	6 Council, Elder & Deacon Mtngs.	7 Coffee Break p.m.	8 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE	9 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m.	10	11
<i>Elaine B's Birthday</i>			<i>Rose VW's Birthday</i>	Love INC Foundation Classes	<i>Arvin VE's Birthday</i>	
12 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Homestead Worship Comm. Mtng.	13	14 Coffee Break p.m.	15 Cadets GEMS IGNITE	16 Coffee Break a.m.	17	18
			<i>Bert B's Birthday</i>	Love INC Foundation Classes		
19 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	20 Blood Drive 	21 Coffee Break p.m.	22 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE	23 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m.	24	25
		<i>Jim B's Birthday</i>		Love INC Foundation Classes		
26 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	27	28 Coffee Break p.m.	29 Cadets GEMS & Gents Night IGNITE	30 Love INC Foundation Classes	31 Council Agenda Items Due	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<h1>February</h1>						<i>Luana VG's Birthday</i>
2 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	3 Sew Day Set-Up Council, Elder & Deacon Mtngs.	4 Sew Day Coffee Break p.m.	5 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE	6 Coffee Break a.m. Love, INC Foundation Classes <i>Marion V's Birthday</i>	7	8	
9 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Homestead <i>Betty DR's Birthday</i>	10	11 Coffee Break p.m. <i>Rosemary VV's Birthday</i>	12 Cadets GEMS IGNITE	13 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. Love, INC Foundation Classes	14 	15	
16 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	17	18 Coffee Break p.m. <i>Mary Ann VK & Dorothy G Birthdays</i>	19 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE	20 Coffee Break a.m. Love, INC Foundation Classes	21	22 Cadet Snow Derby	
23 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	24	25 Coffee Break p.m.	26 Cadets GEMS IGNITE	27 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. Love, INC Foundation Classes	28 Council Agenda Items Due	