

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.  
Psalm 42



February Niekerk News 2026

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**Worship Coordinator**

Carol Hochhalter  
**Office Hours**  
**Monday—Thursday**  
**9:00am—noon**  
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Email: worshipleader@niekerkcrc.org

**Prayer Line Maintained by:**

Brian Bosch

# NewsLetter DEADLine

For the  
**March Niekerk News is:**  
**February 15, 2025**

**Gifts for Visitors**

Just a reminder, there are gift  
bags and folders that can be  
handed to our visitors



***Phonebooks can be  
found by the  
Information Center  
magazine rack.***



# *a letter from the pastor*

## **A Time for Prayer**

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I Thessalonians 3:11-13

May God himself; our Father, and our Lord Jesus make it possible for us to come to you very soon. And may the Lord make your love grow and overflow to each other and to everyone else, just as our love overflows toward you. As a result, Christ will make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy when you stand before God our Father on that day when our Lord Jesus comes with all those who belong to him.

It had only been three weeks. Paul and Silas entered the city and proclaimed the good news about Jesus. People received their message and their lives were changed. Then, opposition arose. It wasn't safe for Paul and Silas to stay in Thessalonica. The new believers sent them away at night in order to protect them.

Paul could not be with this new fellowship of Christians. But Paul could pray for them and that's what he did. It's clear from his first letter to the church there that Paul's prayer arose out of the crisis of opposition. It was motivated by his growing love for them and a clear understanding that God answers prayer. Prayers go where we cannot.

Paul prayed that he could see them again and that their love for each other would grow deeper. He most likely was able to visit them on his third missionary journey. The increase of their love for which Paul prayed also took place. In 2 Thessalonians 1:3, we read, "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."

It is through prayer for others – prayers of intercession – that love is increased. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer hate or condemn a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face that before may have been intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner. This is a happy discovery for the Christian who begins to pray for others. There is no dislike, no personal tension, no estrangement that cannot be overcome by intercession as far as our side of it is concerned."

How's your prayer life? Like the Apostle Paul years ago, God has given us good reason to pray. He fills us with compassion to intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ. He's given His Word to direct our prayers and He's sent the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us in prayer. If we're so equipped, who is to blame if we remain prayerless? Let's be faithful in praying for each other more and more.

The goal of such faithful prayer is expressed in verse 13: "As a result, Christ will make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy when you stand before God our Father on that day when our Lord Jesus comes with all those who belong to him."

Pastor John

December 31, 2025

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 667,023.00
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 628,527.56
<b>Over(Under) Budget</b>	<b>\$ (38,495.44)</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$58,468.53
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$508,618.47
Over Budget Receipts	\$5,000.00
Interest	\$22,263.34
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$535,931.81
This Month Disbursements	\$35,305.79
Year to Date Disbursements	\$504,775.73
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$519,135.41</b>

<b>EVANGELISM FUND:</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$44,371.30
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$2,100.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$46,471.30
YTD Disbursements	\$46,834.60
Allocated Not Paid	\$0.00
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$9,880.03</b>

<b>BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$40,624.45
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$5,500.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$46,124.45
YTD Disbursements	\$29,351.62
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$104,738.98</b>

<b>SPECIAL FUND:</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	20,518.45
Year To Date Special Fund	220,852.18
This Month Disbursements	20,818.45
Year To Date Disbursements	220,852.18
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>

<b>MISCELLANEOUS FUND:</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 46,334.39
<b>Current Fund Balances:</b>	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	2,464.54
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	0.00
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	13,973.79
Community Impact	1,846.62
Health Pantry	2,338.51
Family Mission Trip Fund	6,965.84
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 38,768.06</b>

<b>Cash Balances</b>		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$	632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 12/31/25	\$	672,522.48

<b>CHURCH BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL DOLLARS</b>	<b>BUDGETED DOLLARS</b>	<b>INCOME VARIANCE</b>
Receipts	628,527.56	667,023.00	(38,495.44)
Disbursements	580,961.95	667,023.00	86,061.05
Allocated Not Paid	0.00		
<b>Spendable Income</b>	<b>47,565.61</b>		<b>47,565.61</b>

# NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## Council Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026, at 7:30 PM

### Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Carl Helder read from John 13 and 1 Corinthians and opened with prayer.
02. Council Minutes of December 1, 2025. Approved as written.
03. Elders'/Admin Meeting Summary: Carl Helder
  - a. Carl opened with devotions and read from Colossians 2.
  - b. Approved the receiving and dropping of memberships to the Shepherding Team. The Shepherding team will approve any new membership changes going forward.
  - c. Received a letter from the CRC to complete a survey about how we feel about the denomination. Each Elder will look at the survey and work on a response for this survey
  - d. Interim Pastor report. Need to make a point of meeting visitors. Discussed the amount of time he will visit the shut-ins.
  - e. Elders still meeting programs within our church, this will be completed within the next few weeks.
04. Search Team Update: Dave Helder. There is a candidate that Chemistry Staffing would like Niekerk's Search Team to discuss. The Search Team plans to meet with him shortly.
05. Deacons' Meeting Summary as provided by Bryan Van Dyke.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Dale Walters.

- a. Review of December 1<sup>st</sup> Deacon's Meeting Minutes.
- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

December offerings confirmed:

December 7	Benevolent Fund	\$3,188
December 14	Holland Deacons' Conference	\$1,877
December 21	Multiplication Network	\$1,257
December 25	Bravo CRC	\$923
December 28	Special Education of Holland	\$1,122

- c. February Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

February 1	CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach)
February 8	GEMS International
February 15	World Renew
February 22	JCBT (Jerusalem Center for Bible Translation)

- d. December Balance Summary

Benevolent Fund Balance:	\$1,961.64
How Many Disbursements	0
What Amounts?	0
How Many Deposits?	2
For What Amount	\$9,261.45
December Ending Benevolent Fund Balance	\$11,223.09

- e. Do we have any known benevolent needs inside the congregation?  
Discussed existing known benevolent needs and one new potential need that we will be reaching out to in order to see if financial assistance would be helpful at this time.

- f. Do we have any known Benevolent needs outside of the congregation? Jon Boeve updated the Deacons about a family that he recently discovered is under financial stress and we will see if there is a way we can be of assistance in the coming months.
- g. Niekerk Family Mission Trip Fund. The 2026 Niekerk Family Mission Trip. Joe Texer plans to run a bulletin announcement sometime in February about allowing members to start signing up for this trip. Presently, we have \$6,500 in funds earmarked for this trip. Depending on the number of members that sign up for this, we could evaluate if a loose offering would be necessary to support the cost of the trip.
- h. Open Discussion, Correspondence & Other Items  
Proposal received from Verna Jansen & Linda Nyhof to allow for displays to be setup in church promoting upcoming walk events for CROP Walk, Positive Options, and Right to Life. This proposal was approved.

Closing Prayer by Bryan Van Dyke  
Meeting Adjourned.

06. Pulpit Supply Schedule provided by Randy Hoogewind (\*Subject to Change)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
January 11	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
January 18	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
January 25	Leighton Seys	Cal Compagner
February 1	Ren Broekhuizen	Duane Terpstra
February 8	Joel VandeWeerken	Cal Compagner
February 15	Ren Broekhuizen	Al Petroelje
February 22	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
March 1	John Nyitray	Jim Dykstra

\*Working on pulpit supply after April 5, 2026.

07. Shepherding team Minutes from December 15 provided by Pastor Nyitray
  - a. Brief discussion on the letters that went out to non-attending members.
  - b. Motion to accept the leaving of the fellowship of Niekerk to join with Family Church: Shane & Rachel Plaggemars, Steve & Lori Klaasen and Jake Leenstra
08. Next Communion: February 1 with Pastor Ren Broekhuizen and April 5.
09. Nomination process:
  - a. Randy acknowledged and expressed a thank you to the outgoing Councilmen.
  - b. Discussed positions that may be open and the transitions that may happen.
  - c. Spent considerable time in discussion for the nominations of Elder and Deacon. Completed the list of nominations and letters will be sent to those who were nominated.
  - d. Casting of lots will be on March 8, 2026, at the morning service.
  - e. Installation will be April 22 by Pastor John.
  - f. Super Council meeting scheduled for April 13.
10. Council had a time of mutual censure where a time of praise and encouragement was shared for Niekerk and its members.
11. Next meeting, February 2, 2026, at 7:30pm.
12. The meeting was adjourned.
13. Closing prayer: Jon Boeve

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Zeb Driscoll	3 Cody Kragt	4 Jack Bosch Nancy Bosch	5 Jan Bosch	6	7
8 Heidi Roelofs	9	10 Holly Riemersma Carol Venema Maryann Wagenveld	11 Kathie Helder Kris Roelofs Carol Keen Michael Haan	12 Jan Hop	13	14 Steve Slenk
15 Brad Heeres	16 Bob Steenwyk	17 Loie Sneller	18	19	20 Mike Venema	21 Shirley Bosch Brynley Texer
22 Curt Brower Terry Bosch	23 Cole Texer Jim Means	24 Lou Wagenveld	25 Tim Leep	26	27 Jim Snay	28 29 Joyce Dalman



## **FEBRUARY**

**2-1 AM** Lindsey Haan  
Sue Hoekstra  
PM Lisa Kragt  
Trisha Texer

**2-8 AM** Deb Haan  
Margaret Timmer  
PM Dawn Folkert  
Dana Hondred

**2-15 AM** Emma Texer  
Melinda Kryger  
PM Deb Slenk  
Kathie Helder

**2-22 AM** Carol Venema  
Linda Timmer  
PM Kaylin Van Dyke  
Kim Walters

## **March**

**3-1 AM** Sara Heeres  
Kathi Petroelje  
PM Laura VanderZwaag  
Sandy Van Dyke

**3-8 AM** Lisa Kragt  
Trisha Texer  
PM Jenn Schierbeek  
Sue Hoekstra

**3-15 AM** Pat Texer  
Abby Helder  
PM Jessica Schutter  
Lindsey Haan

**3-22 AM** Margaret Timmer  
Dana Hondred  
PM Kris Roelofs  
Deb Haan

**3-29 AM** Dawn Folkert  
Kathie Helder  
PM Melinda Kryger  
Deb Slenk

**Nursery Volunteers:** Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Kaylin Van Dyke with any concerns.



# February Thank You Notes

Thank you for the Christmas cards, calls, carolers and goodies! I thank God for good health, friends and family, and for many years that He has given me, and for family and friends all year long.

Ida Janssen

Thank you for the many Christmas cards, goodies, carolers and calls during the holiday season.

Jerene Janssen

## A Prayer Request

Dear Niekerk family,

This is a request for prayer. God willing, we are planning to leave for India on February 11 for three months. Please pray for our safe travel and stay in India. Mohan will continue to teach and we will be involved in seminary life helping out wherever we can.

Pray for good health for us. We are thankful that Judy is becoming stronger, but please pray for God's healing touch for going to India.

Thank you,  
Mohan & Judy Chacko



### February

Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons

Mira black tumbler

Carhartt sage green stocking  
cap

Meijer yellow bag with books

*\*\* Items can be picked up in the  
office under the elder and  
deacon mailboxes\*\**

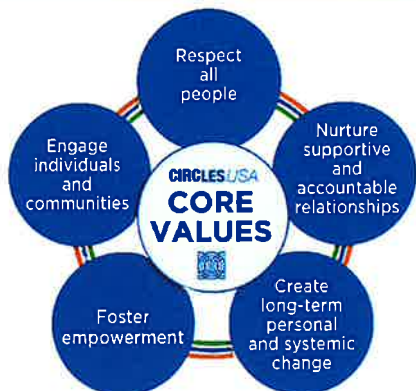


Ron & Christine VanGelderens  
316 Aniline Ave N  
Holland, MI 49424



Heights of Hope partners with Circles, USA & Good Samaritan Ministries to offer Circles, an 18 - month national program designed to empower and equip families to move out of poverty and thrive. The method is intentionally, relational, and community-driven. It brings together people from all walks of life to support our Circle leaders and create change in our community.

Every Tuesday night **Circles** meets at our church. We support them with the use of the building. The program also provides the participants with a meal. If you are willing and able, consider providing a meal for these dedicated leaders and their support team. Scan the QR code to see what dates are available.



## February & March DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 1	HS Youth Group
February 2	Council Meeting
February 4	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
February 6	Hand2Hand Packing
February 6-7	Ladies Craft Weekend
February 8	GEMS Sunday
February 13	Hand2Hand Packing
February 15	HS Youth Group
February 18	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
February 21	Cornhole Tournament
February 25	Cadets & GEMS Pinewood Derby
February 26	Hand2Hand Packing
February 27	Monthly Prayer Gathering
February 28	Youth Group Event
March 1	HS Youth Group
March 2	Council Meeting
March 5	Men's Bible Study
March 6	Hand2Hand Ministries
March 12	Men's Bible Study
March 13	Hand2Hand Ministries
March 15	HS Youth Group
March 21	MS Youth Group
March 26	Men's Bible Study
March 27	Monthly Prayer Gathering

## 2025 HISTORICAL FACTS

### Niekerk Christian Reformed Church

## Births

VanderZwaag, Declan Lee  
Son of Ken & Laura VanderZwaag

August 10, 2025

## Baptism

Maas, Cohen Cruze                      January 12, 2025                      Pastor John Nyitray  
Son of Matthew & Morgan Maas

Tase, Paul Daniel                      September 7, 2025   Dr. Paul Mpindi  
Son of Jerry & Sarah Tase

VanderZwaag, Declan Lee      October 5, 2025      Pastor John Nyitray  
Son of Ken & Laura VanderZwaag

## Re-affirmation of Faith

Gale, Delia                      January 19, 2025                      Pastor John Nyitray

## Deaths

DeWeerd, Verna	February 13, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray
Eisen, Bob	April 12, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray
Petroelje, Connie	May 3, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray & Pastor Benj Petroelje
Prins, Cliff	July 13, 2025	Private Ceremony
Alofs, Wayne	August 3, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray & Pastor Tom Pettinga
Holmes, Pam	October 3, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray & Pastor Jason Pierce
Scholten, Leona	December 23, 2025	Pastor John Nyitray

## Transfer In

Tase, Jeremiah & Sarah  
Children: Aden & Paul  
From: Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Lowell, Michigan

### Transfer Out

Louwerse, Brenen & Becca  
November 9, 2025, Bulletin  
To: Overisel Reformed Church, Hamilton, Michigan

## Marriages

Venema, Trent and Mandie Compagner	Friday, May 30, 2025
Oakland Christian Reformed Church, Hamilton, Michigan	
Officiated by Pastor VanderZande	
Helder, Andrew & Makenna Ramsey	Saturday, June 21, 2025
At: Inisfree Estate, Pullman, Michigan	
Officiated by Pastor Steve Spitters	
Van Harn, Nathan & Kendra Koopman	Saturday, June 28, 2025
At: Niekerk Christian Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan	
Officiated by Pastor John Nyitray	
White, Steve & Jamie Brower	Saturday, October 25, 2025
At: Townsend Park, Rockford, Michigan	
Officiated by Pastor Scott White	



# CHURCH SECURITY

## February

**February 1** Ric Lucas  
Mike Schutter  
**PM** Ric Lucas

**February 8** Mark & Jan Hop

**February 15** Denny Stoel  
Jim Means  
**PM** Jim Means

**February 22** Terry Bosch  
John Timmer  
**PM** Terry Bosch

**\*\*Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Jon Boeve with any concerns.**

## **INDOOR WALKING!**

**Mondays and Thursdays**  
**9:00am to 11:30am**

The church will be open for those who need to get out, get moving, and stretch their legs. Whether you're an Olympic speed walker or a casual slow walker, all are welcome to come out, bring their kids, invite a friend, and start walking laps here at Niekerk.



Remember to schedule your meetings, community group events, and any other activities with the church office.

## Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Chicken Lasagna, Beef Lasagna, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Taco Bake, Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole, Cheesy Broccoli Rice Casserole, Chicken Pot Pie, Beef Enchiladas, Poppyseed Chicken Casserole, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Soup and Chili. These meals are for members of our church with needs and for those outside our church that could use a helping hand.



**BRING  
YOUR  
CRAFTS**

## **Ladies Quilting & Craft Day**

Ladies take your sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, stamping or any other activity and join other women for a craft day starting at 9 AM until 4 PM in En Gedi. No need to sign up; come when you can, and leave when you must.



H2H is collecting individual microwave popcorn packs (UNPOPPED popcorn) and individual Rice Krispies bars for the month of February and March



**American Red Cross**

## 2026 Blood Drive Dates

Monday, March 16

Monday, May 15

*One blood donation may help save three lives.*

*The American Red Cross commented that Holland is in the top ten of the Michigan cities for blood donations! The average donation is 1.12 with Holland at 3.4 donations.*



## Church Members in Care Facilities

### Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch  
Nonie Rietman

### Riley Grove

Jim & Lorraine Snay

### Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve  
Nick Ellerbroek

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[www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org)



Here is the QR code for Niekerk!



# Wednesday Nights at Niekerk

Speaker Reiner deBlois remains involved with Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators by giving them training to enable them to bring excellence to Bible Translation.



JCBT's 5-Month Semester Program strives for

## Excellence

"For almost 30 years the Jerusalem Center of Bible Translation has been providing an excellent training program for translators, consultants and consultants-in-training. This program has, from its inception, received the blessing of the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University and is fully accredited. The training is provided by renowned scholars and seasoned translation consultants and is therefore guaranteed to provide the students with those competencies that will enable them to bring excellence to Bible translation."



Reinier De Blois, Academic Director

Semantics  
Discourse Analysis  
Historical Geography  
Poetry  
Living Biblical Hebrew  
Advanced Reading  
of Biblical Hebrew



**NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
WEATHER POLICY and PROCESS  
Updated 3-13-20**

1. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **warning** for Ottawa County which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity, that activity is cancelled.
2. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **watch** or any kind of severe thunderstorm alert for Ottawa County, which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity, the Executive Committee\* shall determine whether or not that activity is cancelled.
3. The Executive Committee\* shall decide whether or not congregation-wide meetings and functions (*e.g. Worship Services, Congregational meetings, and the like*) shall be cancelled in situations of severe weather, which have not produced National Weather Service alerts (*e.g. heavy snow; fog; ice; and the like.*).
4. Each group's leadership shall decide whether or not to cancel, postpone, and/or reschedule the activities and/or functions of their own groups. (*e.g. Youth Group, Cadets; GEMS; Summer Bible Club; Hockey Rock, etc.*)
5. Cancellation notices will first be send by email on the Info@niekerkcrc.org. If you currently receive the bulletin and newsletter by email, you will also received the cancellation notices also.
5. Next, the cancellation notices will be posted on local TV stations: WOOD TV CHANNEL 8; WZZM CHANNEL 13; WWMT CHANNEL 3.
6. Rescheduling of any church related function or event shall be arranged, if reasonably possible, so the postponed meeting or event is not rescheduled to conflict with already scheduled events.

\*For purposes of this policy, the Executive Committee will be deemed to include the preaching pastor, President and Clerk of Council when determining the cancellation of a worship service.



# Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators

The Home for Bible Translators - an Accredited Hebrew University Program since 1995

## STUDY OF THE HEBREW TEXT AND THE LAND OF THE BIBLE



**The JCBT dormitory, library and classroom**



**The Rothberg School of Hebrew University**

### WHICH STUDY PROGRAMS DOES JCBT PROVIDE?

The study programs are designed primarily for Consultants and Consultants in training.

1. The semester program of the JCBT/Rothberg School of the Hebrew University
2. Special courses on Biblical books
3. Two week Land of the Bible study program for consultants, consultants in training and others



### 1. THE SEMESTER PROGRAM OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY 5 MONTHS - FEBRUARY TO JUNE

Languages of instruction: English, possibly French.

PRErequisite: Good level of Biblical Hebrew for acceptance, determined by a written entrance evaluation. Free tutorial provided for promising applicants upon application to ensure the level.

The courses are:

1. Living Biblical Hebrew.
2. The Hebrew text, its history, characteristics and textual criticism.
3. Semantics of Biblical Hebrew.
4. Discourse Analysis of Biblical Hebrew.
5. The Hebrew Poetry in Psalms and Prophets.
6. Comprehensive course on the LAND as the CONTEXT of the text in terms of Biblical geography, archeology, plants, animals, agriculture, religious customs and life in Biblical times.

Faculty: Experienced consultants from variety of Bible translation organizations, who are experts in their fields. Experts from Hebrew University and other Israeli universities in their fields.

## HOW MANY CREDITS DOES THE SEMESTER PROGRAM GIVE?

The semester program provides 25 academic credits accredited through The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Application deadline: September 30, 2023

For more information please contact:  
[office@bibletranslators.org](mailto:office@bibletranslators.org)



## 2. SPECIAL COURSES "ONE BOOK AT A TIME "

**The book of Proverbs - by Murray Salisbury**

Dates: November 20 - December 8, 2023

Contact: [office@bibletranslators.org](mailto:office@bibletranslators.org)

## 3. TWO WEEK LAND OF THE BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM FOR CONSULTANTS, CONSULTANTS IN TRAINING AND OTHERS

The course provides mind changing insights and experiences about the facts and features of the Land where the Bible was written.

Languages of instruction: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish - upon request

Contact:

Wilma Bosman-Levy: [Wilma@bibletranslators.org](mailto:Wilma@bibletranslators.org)



**Learn More About These Special Opportunities.**

Check out JCBT's website: [www.bibletranslators.org](http://www.bibletranslators.org)

Write us: [office@JerusalemSchool.org](mailto:office@JerusalemSchool.org)



# Life. The Other Choice!



**RIGHT TO LIFE**  
OF HOLLAND AREA

Volume 37 January 2026

607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423 ~ 616.396.1037 ~ [rtlholland@egl.net](mailto:rtlholland@egl.net)  
[www.rtlhofholland.org](http://www.rtlhofholland.org) ~ <https://www.facebook.com/RighttoLifeofHolland>

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

*Dr. Catherine Wheeler, a former abortionist tells her story*

Dr. Wheeler arrived at an outpatient surgery center prepared to perform an abortion. She was trained to do second trimester abortions on women who were carrying babies with adverse diagnosis. Her profession had taught her that it was "compassionate" to abort babies with abnormalities. The anesthesiologist on staff at the surgical center looked at the schedule and said, "I thought this was somebody who had a fetal demise; I did not realize you were doing an abortion. I am NOT doing this!" he said. The anesthesiologist's words surprised Dr.

Wheeler and created a newfound discomfort for her. She hadn't even considered that there was the option for an anesthesiologist to say no.

At the time and even today, the narrative was: *Anybody who was against abortion hated women.* In her mind she thought, *this guy is one of the most respected and kind people I know; he clearly cares deeply about women.* From this moment, she decided to stop performing abortion and start referring clients to an abortion clinic - until the day her resolve was tested. Dr. Wheeler had not performed an abortion for about a year. But then she was faced with a dilemma of a 16 year girl who was pregnant. The teen's mother lamented that if her daughter carried the baby, she wouldn't be able to finish school and her chances of becoming a doctor would be ruined. Dr. Wheeler declined at first; but they persisted, she felt pressured to agree, even though she would be breaking her decision not to perform abortions again. When Dr. Wheeler entered the surgery room and began the procedure, she felt the room suddenly grow dark and she felt a heavy, evil presence. Terrified she chose to finish the procedure. But it was like blinders came off, she says. She realized



she was about to kill a human being. At that moment she decided to renew her vow to never do another abortion again. Dr. Wheeler grew up in a Christian home and had a strong foundation of faith. And while in college she rejected her parents' Biblical worldview and made a decision in college that following God wasn't the path she wanted to take. It took another 15 years after her last abortion, before Dr. Wheeler dedicated her life to Christ and made a choice to be publicly baptized and profess her new faith in Christ. The day she was baptized she ran into a woman she had performed her last abortion on and she was persuaded to go talk with her. Dr. Wheeler started praying for her after this

interaction when God began dealing with her past. Dr. Wheeler embraced the reality that Jesus paid for all her sins on the Cross and she received His forgiveness so God could use her life for good. She wanted to tell people the TRUTH about abortion and she wanted to do in a loving manner. **"God speaks truth in a way where He doesn't crush people"**. Dr.

Wheeler is now on the board of the American Association of Pro-Life OBGYN's (AAPLOG) and stated the first chapter in the state of Colorado. She is also on the medical advisory board of Save the Storks, which offers pregnancy resources and ultrasounds. She is also the newest member on the Focus on the Family Physician's Resource Council. However the biggest movement in her pro-life advocacy journey is the random conversations she's been able to have with both men and women. God has put her in front of people to have conversations. Dr. Wheeler prayed for God to make something beautiful out of "her broken shattered life for His glory" and He has done just that. She has been able to use her experiences for the good of others and to fight for LIFE-AFFIRMING medical care for women and the rights of pre-born babies. "God took my prayer and took everything that was a complete disaster...I can't believe what He's done with the brokenness".



**Hope Package Night**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

**Items needed:**

Baby wipes

Baby wash

New stuffed animals for GIRLS

New throw blankets for BOYS

**1st Night bags needed with items for ages:**

Boys 12, 14, 16

***Please drop off items prior to March 12th so  
we can organize donations for that night.***



**January 24th** - March for Life beginning at 11:00am with a walk around Centennial Park and ending with Devotions & Prayer at Central Avenue CRC Church.

**March 12th** - Hope Package Night 7:30pm

**March/April** - HS Student Essay Contest

**May 16th** - Annual Walk/Run will be held at City on a Hill in Zeeland 9am-Noon.

**Conference Book Ads 2026**

If you, or you know of a prolife business, who would like to advertise in our annual conference book, or new, starting Sept. 2026 you can advertise on rtl.org as a digital ad and you can opt to advertise both ways.  
Contact Betty or Ann at 616.396.1037

**Types of Ads:**

- ♦ Patron: \$15-\$100
- ♦ Display & Digital: \$100-\$1,000

**DEADLINE:**  
**1st - April 10**

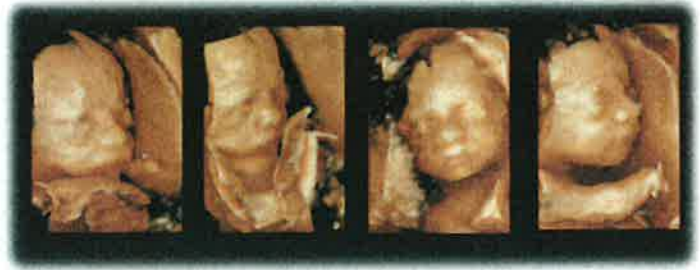
**To visit our website directly: Use your cellphone camera, center on the QR code below (should see a yellow square) and press OPEN on your camera screen.**

**Find out information on our events and other prolife information, download flyers or registration forms and you can make donations directly to us by using PayPal.**



**Be the Voice for the Voiceless! Life. The Other Choice**

**March for Life - Holland**  
**Saturday,**  
**January 24, 2026**



**March begins at 11:00am at Centennial Park on the corner of 10th and Central. We will walk around the park for about 20 - 30 minutes.**

Followed by  
**A Devotional & Prayer Service for Unborn Children**  
***Devotions led by - Ann Wilson/President of RTLHA***

**11:30am at Central Avenue CRC Sanctuary**  
**259 Central Avenue, Holland, MI 49423**

***The events are FREE - Join us with Family and Friends!***  
***FREE WILL offering will be taken at the Memorial Service.***

*January 23, 2025 marks the 52nd Anniversary of the date of the infamous Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions which legalized the violence of abortion throughout our country during the entire nine months of a woman's pregnancy. Since that date over 64 million+ pre-born lives have been destroyed. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in July, 2022. November, 2022 - Michigan's abortion ban was overturned by Proposal 3 as well as several prolife laws!*

***Sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area,***  
**607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423**



**Any CANCELLATION due to weather tune into WHTC AM, JOY FM or WPNW AM**  
**and it will be posted on our Facebook page!**

These major corporations “care” about their female employees so much they will help murder their children. These companies will pay the expenses (shown below) to help fly women to pro-abortion states where abortionist will brutally dismember or poison their babies.

**829 Studios** - \$3500

**Accenture, Inc.** - travel

**Adidas** - \$10,00

**Adobe** - travel & lodging

**AIRBNB** - travel

**Alaska Airlines** - abortion travel

**Amazon** - \$4,000

**American Express** - travel

**Apple** - coverage for an abortion and travel

**AT&T** - travel

**Bank of America** - travel

**Blackrock, Inc.** - travel

**Box.com** - travel and medical

**Bumble** - has a relief fund for Texas women so they can leave the state for an abortion

**Chobani** - travel, lodging, and child-care for employees and their dependents.

**Cigna** - travel for employees and their family

**Citigroup** - travel

**CNN** - travel

**Comcast/NBC** - travel

**Compass, Inc.** - travel for employees and companions

**Crocs Inc.** - \$4,000

**CVS Health** - expenses for out-of-state abortion

**Dicks Sporting Goods** - \$4,000 including for spouse/dependents

**Disney** - Travel

**Doordash** - travel for employees and dependents

**Dove USA** - travel

**Duolingo** - travel

**Expedia Group** - travel

**Fidelity Investments** - travel

**Footlocker** - travel

**Ford Motor Co.** - HAS for travel

**Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.** - travel

**Google** - travel

**Hewlett Packard** - travel

**Ikea** - travel

**Indeed, Inc.** - travel

**Intel Corp.** - travel

**J. Crew** - travel

**JPMorgan** - travel

**Kroger** - \$4,000

**Levi Strauss** - travel for part-time and full time employees

**Live Nation** - travel and bail for any employees arrested during a pro-abortion protest

**LYFT** - travel

**Macy's** - travel

**MasterCard** - access to abortion termination

**Meta** - travel

**Microsoft** - travel

**Morgan Stanley** - travel

**Netflix** - \$10,000

**NY Times** - travel

**Nike** - travel and lodging

**Paramount** - travel

**PayPal** - travel

**Procter & Gamble** - will pay for employees to get an abortion

**Reddit, Inc.** - travel

**Screen Actors Guild** - travel and lodging including dependents if they travel out-of-state

**Sephora, USA, Inc.** - travel

**Skechers** - \$4,000

**Sony** - \$10,000

**Starbucks** - travel

**Target** - travel

**Ulta** - travel

**Unilever** - travel

**Yahoo** - \$5,000

**Yelp** - travel

**Zillow** - \$7,500 for travel



multiplication  
network



Merry Christmas!



THANKS TO YOUR PARTNERSHIP  
IN THE GOSPEL, WE STARTED  
OVER 15,000 NEW CHURCHES  
THIS YEAR! WE THANK YOU  
AND THE LORD THAT WE COULD  
GATHER IN AFRICA WITH LEADERS  
FROM 66 NATIONS AS WE PRAISED  
GOD FOR 25 YEARS SINCE OUR  
FIRST TRAINING.

TOGETHER WE SANG "SIYAHAMBA" IN  
SEVERAL LANGUAGES, DECLARING  
THAT WE ARE "WALKING IN THE LIGHT  
OF GOD." SINCE THE YEAR 2010 WE  
HAVE BEEN 90,000 NEW COMMUNITIES  
OF FAITH POINTING TO THE LIGHT OF  
THE WORLD, JESUS CHRIST. AS WE  
CELEBRATE THIS CHRISTMAS MAY  
THAT LIGHT ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH.

TOGETHER IN MISSION,

*John W. Hyland*

Dear Friends at Niekent  
Christian Reformed Church,

Wishing you a joyful  
holiday season  
from all of us at  
Multiplication Network!

We are writing to express our heartfelt  
gratitude for your faithful partnership  
with Multiplication Network in 2025.  
We are deeply thankful for your generous  
financial support which allows us to equip leaders  
and plant churches globally, but also for your  
steadfast prayers knowing that we have  
the Niekent Church family praying for us  
provides a strong spiritual foundation.  
Your support found 6 new churches in  
Rwanda!

Thank You for walking beside us.  
With Gratitude in Christ  
Diane W. Hyland

## 2025 Ministry Results

As of October 31, 2025



Churches  
Started:



Church Planters  
in Training:



People Reached  
with the Gospel:



People Who Now  
Follow Jesus:



People in  
Bible Studies:

### Hub Results

Hub Results	Churches Started:	Church Planters in Training:	People Reached with the Gospel:	People Who Now Follow Jesus:	People in Bible Studies:
Asia	551	1,000	29,598	6,574	5,911
Caribbean	835	1,098	62,278	26,708	6,728
East Africa	7,105	12,577	954,413	315,709	151,858
Eurasia	24	58	565	221	219
Europe	70	71	826	171	422
Latin America	4,748	4,749	84,292	28,601	23,509
West Africa	1,355	2,160	239,070	137,105	130,207

**Total** **14,688** **21,713** **1,371,042** **515,089** **318,854**

## 2024 Global Ministry Results



Churches  
Started:

**14,531**



People Reached  
with the Gospel:

1,336,048



People Who Now  
Follow Jesus:

482,844



People in  
Bible Studies:

338,319



Churches using  
the TYCP tool:

3,341

## Churches Started Annually

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
4,281	4,257	5,563	4,354	6,093	7,092	11,808

## Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 1-20-26

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
<b>Community Impact Team</b>		
Building Men for Life	Cheryl Bosch,	Deb Slenk, Joe Texer*, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sarah Walters
Growing Hope Globally	Dave Walters	
Hand2Hand Ministries	Carl Helder	Trisha Texer
Heights of Hope Rep's	Sara Heeres	
Hockey Rock	MJ Staal	Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Health Pantry	Kim Walters	
	Dale Walters	
<b>Congregational Life Team</b>	<b>Ken Schierbeek*</b>	
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	Jan Hop &	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk
	Jane Steenwyk	
<b>Wednesday Night at Niekerk</b>	Ken Schierbeek	Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke
<b>Community Groups</b>	MJ Staal/Jamie Hop	Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Greeters/Welcome Assistant	Linda Nyhof	
Pine Rest Counseling	Carl Helder	
Newsletter Editor	Julie Mulder	
<b>Discipleship Team</b>	Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigtterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Catechism Teachers	<b>Kurt Rigtterink*</b>	Scott Helder (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> ), Char Janssen (6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> ) Carl Helder (8 <sup>th</sup> )
Childcare/Nursery	Kaylin Van Dyke	Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
Education Team		
Library	Marilyn Russcher	Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke
Little Lambs	Kim Walters	
Sunday Night Bible Study		Elmer & Leona Nyhof, Gary & Marilyn Russcher
Sunday School Superintendent	Kaylin Van Dyke	Abby Helder & Trisha Texer
Cadets	Jim Means	Henry Bosch, Terry Bosch, Mike Roelofs, Wayne Tjarks
GEMS	Nancy Means	Carol Hochhalter, Char Janssen, Stephanie Edewaards, Kristi Driscoll, Nancy Means, & Kaylin Van Dyke
Youth Director	Trisha Texer	
Middle School Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Young Adults		

<b>Finance Team</b> Financial/Member Secretary <i>General Fund Treasurer</i>	<b>Bryan VanDyke*</b> Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
<b>Missions Team</b> Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	<b>Bryan Van Dyke*</b>  Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
<b>Prayer Team</b> Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder  Carol Hochhalter	Char Janssen, Gary Morren, Nancy Windemuller, Pastor John Nyitray
<b>Support Team</b> Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen  Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	<b>Jon Boeve*</b> Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman  Cheryl Bosch Judy Stoel Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop Joe Texer  Jamie Hop Jon Boeve	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema    Jack Koeman, Bev Leegwater, & Karen Lucas Jon Boeve, Jessica Bosch & Jamie Hop Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer  Julie Mulder  Jim Means, Ric Lucas
<b>Worship Team</b> Banner Changes Flower/Decorations Greeter Coordinator Nursery Visual Arts Power Point Sound Booth	<b>Carol Hochhalter*</b>  Donna Lampen Linda Nyhof Kaylin Van Dyke  Jamie Hop Jamie Hop	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal  Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan  Melissa Dozeman, Jan Hop, Tim Leep, Bryan Van Dyke Zeb Driscoll, Jamie Hop, Jacob Staal, Mary Jo Staal, Joe Texer



Joseph A Brouwer  
4063A Hancock Circle  
Hill AFB UT 84056

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## Meet Our Missionaries



Mohan and Judy Chacko  
Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
51-C Rajpur Road  
DehraDun, UA 248001  
INDIA  
Email: [judychacko@ptsindia.com](mailto:judychacko@ptsindia.com)

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Email: [aaron.green@intervarsity.org](mailto:aaron.green@intervarsity.org)

Josh and Virginia Ham  
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Yaoundé  
CAMEROON  
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Jim and Sarah Langteau  
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Nations of SE Asia  
813 Michigan Street  
Ishpeming, MI 49849  
Email: [james\\_langteau@wycliffe.org](mailto:james_langteau@wycliffe.org)

Matt and Emily Slack  
Resonate Global Mission—England  
Phone: 231-394-1794  
Email: [mslack@crcna.org](mailto:mslack@crcna.org)

Restoring Hope Missions  
PO Box 161  
Zeeland, MI 49464  
Website:  
[www.restoringhopemissions.com](http://www.restoringhopemissions.com)

# Niekerk Yellow Pages

## **CURT BROWER BROWER BUILDERS**

Pole Buildings, cement  
work, rough & finish  
carpentry, siding &  
roofing.

1-616-836-1747



## **PREMIER PIANO SERVICE**

Tom Hochhalter  
Registered Piano Technician

1907 W. 32nd Street  
Holland, MI 49423

616-335-9690  
tomhochhalter@gmail.com

**Mike Venema  
Carpet Cleaning  
Water Restoration,  
Strip & Refinish VCT Floors  
Warehouse Floor Cleaning  
Janitorial Services  
616-218-5381**

## **HOP INSURANCE AGENCY, INC**

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HOLLAND MI 49423  
616-396-5728  
800-805-9393

mhop@fbinsmi.com & jhop@fbinsmi.com

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