

January Niekerk News 2026

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Worship Coordinator

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Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

NewsLetter **DEADLine**

For the
February Niekerk News is:
January 18, 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**

“For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.”
Philippians 1:20 (NLT)

Here comes 2026! To say the past year has been eventful is an understatement. Stormy weather forecasts, unsettling national problems, assassinations, global conflicts and terrorist attacks marked the news cycles. For some, 2025 was a time of financial uncertainty. Others have faced the sorrow and separation of the deaths of loved ones. Last year showed how unpredictable life events are. Many of last year's troubles revealed how far from God our world has strayed and how desperate we have become.

The truth is 2026 will soon be here and unless Jesus comes again, we will still be living in a world of hurt. The change in the calendar will not change that. It is true as well that 2026 will also be a year of opportunity to honor Jesus. The change in the calendar won't change that either.

Remember, we are living before the One who knows us inside and out, who alone has the words of eternal life and who has promised to be with us always. A good thing about last year were the testimonies of our brothers and sisters in Christ that even in the darkest valley, Jesus was with them. They shared how He brought comfort, peace and hope. He continues to bring good out of the hard things of life. We can count on Him to be the same every moment of every day that comes to us in this new year.

We do not know what the future holds but this we know: *“This is my Father’s World” “... that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.”* And that truth is what freed the Apostle Paul to seek to honor Jesus at all times. He didn't know if he'd be released from prison or not, if he'd be allowed to live or be put to death. He simply did not know. But what He knew is God had begun a good work in his life and would carry that work on to completion. So, his big goal was to leave unknowing worry behind and to honor Christ in every part of his life.

What a goal for us in the new year! – that our lives will bring honor to Jesus. No matter what, He's promised to carry us through. Let's be faithful in following Him, in growing to know, love, serve and obey the Lord in all things.

Pastor John

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 611,437.75
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 550,906.24
Over(Under) Budget	\$ (60,531.51)

November 30, 2025

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$57,903.92
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$455,149.94
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$12,763.34
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$467,963.28
This Month Disbursements	\$39,292.09
Year to Date Disbursements	\$469,469.94
Fund Balance	\$486,472.67

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$39,316.70
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$2,100.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$41,416.70
YTD Disbursements	\$35,077.20
Allocated Not Paid	\$9,000.00
Fund Balance	\$7,582.83

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$36,026.26
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$5,500.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$41,526.26
YTD Disbursements	\$30,851.62
Fund Balance	\$98,640.79

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	550,906.24	611,437.75	(60,531.51)
Disbursements	535,398.76	611,437.75	76,038.99
Allocated Not Paid	9,000.00		
Spendable Income	6,507.48		15,507.48

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	117,076.00
Year To Date Special Fund	200,333.73
This Month Disbursements	117,576.00
Year To Date Disbursements	200,033.73

Fund Balance	300.00
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MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
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2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 46,334.39
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Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	964.54
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	52,425.92
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	13,953.79
Community Impact	2,299.22
Health Pantry	2,804.81
Family Mission Trip Fund	6,465.84

Fund Balance	\$ 90,092.88
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Cash Balances	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$ 632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 11/30/25	\$ 692,089.17

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Randy Hoogewind read from Philippians 4:4-9.
02. Council Minutes of November 3. Approved as written.
03. Elders'/Admin Meeting Summary: Carl Helder/Joe Texer
 - a. Randy opened with prayer and read from 1 Peter 5:1-11
 - b. Pastor John gave an interim report
 - c. Worship Team Report: A brief discussion on worship. Encouraged everyone to thank Carol Hochhalter and Julie Mulder for their extra work lately.
 - d. Christmas oranges are ordered. Chocolate needs to be ordered.
 - e. Elder visits to the various programs will begin in January.
04. Search Team Update: Dave Helder. Nothing new, the Search Team to possibly give a brief update during the congregational meeting.
05. Deacons' Meeting Summary as provided by Bryan Van Dyke.

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Bryan Van Dyke.

- a. Review of November 3 Deacon's Meeting Minutes.
- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

November offerings confirmed

November 2	Bible League International	\$1,537
November 9	Sidewalk Counselors	\$1,364
November 16	Niekerk Christian Education	\$3,021
November 23	Growing Hope Globally	\$1,205
November 27	Holland Rescue Mission	\$257
November 30	Building Men for Life	\$412

- c. January Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

January 4	Niekerk Christian Education Fund
January 11	Lao CRC
January 18	Positive Options
January 25	Cadets International

- d. Benevolent Fund Balance: \$2,601.64
- How Many Disbursements: 1
- What Amounts: 640.00
- How Many Deposits: 0
- For What Amounts: 0
- November Benevolent Fund Balance 1,961.64

Benevolent Needs Discussed: Do we have any known Benevolent needs inside of the congregation? We discussed updates on several needs for members of the congregation as well as some members that we could be reaching out to.

- e. Open Discussion, Correspondence & Other Items.
 - 1. Reinier deBlois/JCBT: Reinier will be speaking at one or two Wednesday Nights at Niekerk and we could also schedule an opportunity for him to speak after a morning service about his involvement with JCBT with a possible offering in the month of February.
 - 2. Winter Parking Assistance. We discussed Deacons being available during the Winter months to assist members in the parking vehicles or giving help where needed when the parking lot is snowy/icy. Teams collecting for respective weeks will be responsible for being at church sooner to assist with this.
 - 3. Thanksgiving Offering. Counted and processed the Thanksgiving Envelopes received.

Next Meeting and Devotions: Monday, January 5, Dale Walters
Meeting Adjourned

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
December 7	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
December 14	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
December 21	John Nyitray	Candlelight Hymn Sing
December 25	John Nyitray	
December 28	Jim Dykstra	Tom Pettinga
January 4	Joel Vande Weerken	Tom Pettinga
January 11	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
January 18	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
January 25	Leighton Seys	Cal Compagner
February 1	Ren Broekhuizen (Communion)	Duane Terpstra

Working on pulpit supply after February 8, 2026

- 07. Shepherding team Minutes provided by Pastor Nyitray
 - a. Shepherding Team meeting in a few weeks.
 - b. Brief discussion on the visitors' report.
- 08. Discussion on the Congregational Meeting of December 8
 - a. Discussed the format of the meeting.
 - b. Hoping to have Jim and MJ give a brief discussion on the Search Team status
- 09. Severe Weather policy will be put in the bulletin and Niekerk News. The decision on whether to cancel services or events will be made by at least two or the following three people.
 - a. President, Elder Clerk, and the Pastor (or Interim Pastor)
 - b. It will be communicated to Julie Mulder to email the decision and put it on the media
 - c. The pastor preaching will be informed by the President or Carol Hochhalter (if needed)
- 10. New Member, Profession of Faith, Baptism, and other membership matter provided by Joe Texer
 - a. Trent Venema transferred to Oakland CRC. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - b. Daryl, Brenda and Tessa Van Dyke transferred to Hudsonville Reformed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- 11. Nomination process: We have three Elders and three Deacons going out and two Elders and two Deacons coming in. This will make our total to be 15.
 - a. Discussion on what all the Council positions are and what positions need to be filled.
 - b. Next week nomination notices will go out to the congregation.
 - c. Next month we will start the nomination process selecting eight names of each. Ultimately the top four names of each will be put in the box to be drawn, with four names of each to be alternates.
- 12. Next meeting, January 5, 2026, at 7:30pm.
- 13. The meeting was adjourned. Closing prayer: Matt Maas

January Thank You Notes

Thank you for the many Christmas cards and birthday cards for Cal. We appreciate the prayers, the carolers who visited us, those who visit Cal, the meals that continue to be provided. We're blessed to have a loving family at Niekerk. Blessings to you all in the coming year.

Cal & Deb Schierbeek

Thank you for all the best wishes and cards for my 81st birthday. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Elmer Nyhof

Thank you for all the cards and best wishes for my 80th birthday. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Ivan Janssen

Thank you for the many prayers concerning my recent cancer diagnosis. Those prayers have been answered in wonderful ways. I will be having three radiation treatments after the first of the year. And after that just a few checkups over the next year or so. Praise to our great Healer!

Jean Tjarks

Just have to say thanks for so many blessings this Advent season! For those who worked with the children and put together the Christmas program done so well, thank you children! For the carolers that came to brighten my life. For cards, goodies, and expression of encouragement from dear people of all ages. Thanks again! Psalm 133

Stan Brandsen

One of the special highlights of this Christmas season was when the carolers came and sang for us. They were very much appreciated! Thanks also for the many cards and well wishes expressed along with the goodies delivered. A special thank you to our Heavenly Father for His special gift that came at Christmas but can be appreciated ALL year long.

Jerry & Elaine Brower

Thank you Niekerk family for the many cards and calls for my 90th birthday. Also to the carolers and for the many Christmas cards and wishes for Christmas. Very much appreciated.

Sid Staal

I have so much to give thanks for:

- Thank you for all your many cards and notes for this blessed season. You make it my joy!
- Thank you to all you "carolers" for stopping at my apartment! You made my evening!
- Thank you to our "flower committee" for making our church look so beautiful! You make my season!
- Thank you for all you Kiekerk "singers" each Sunday. What a joyous sound! You make my Sunday's!

Vern Hoeksema

A very sincere thank you for care and support given to each of us in many ways. It is appreciated. Bill is experiencing some positive results from the Vyvgart medication and will continue with the infusions-with a cycle of once a week for four weeks, then off for four weeks.

Bill and Carol Keen

January Thank You Notes

How can I (we) thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, cards, and phone calls during my time in the hospital. It was a very scary time being so far from home and not sure what was wrong. But we felt those prayers, and were given the peace that only the Lord can give! We have such a wonderful church "family"!! *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you I do not give you to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid!*
John 14:27

Carol and Larry Smith

Dear Niekerk family,

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to each of you for all your prayers, love and care shown to Judy in her hip replacement surgery. Thank you to Pastor John and Maria for their encouraging visits, to all of you who provided delicious meals for us, and to those who sent cards. We were overwhelmed by your love and care and are blessed to be a part of the Niekerk family. God bless you. Thank you so much!

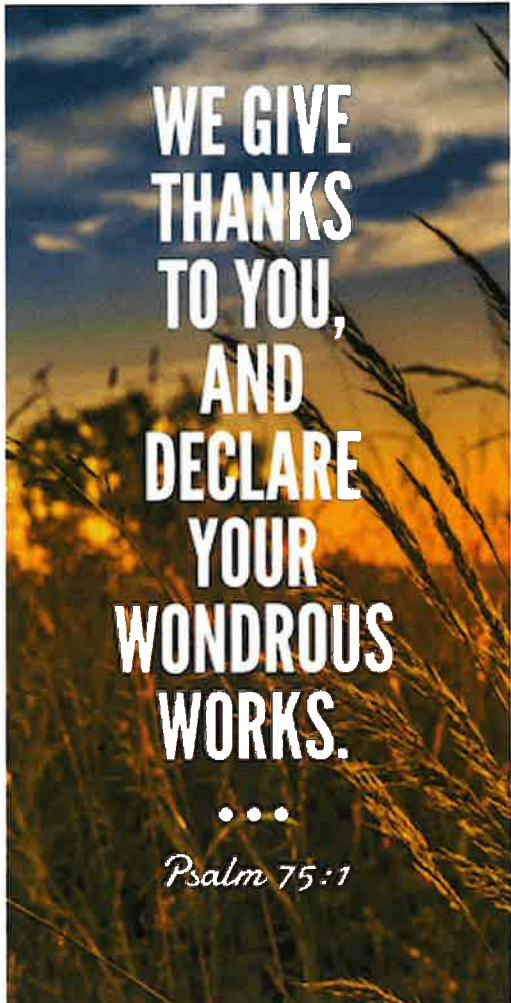
Mohan and Judy Chacko



Thank you to everyone who served this Christmas season! Thank you to the decorators, to those who planned and practiced for the Christmas services, to the Sunday school children and their program and their leaders, the choir and their practices, the carolers, the children's messages, the sound and video people, cookie bakers, the pastors, the praise teams, and to those who cleaned up afterwards.

Thanks for sharing your gifts!
It was noticed and appreciated!

January



2025 Thanksgiving Offering

	<u>Totals</u>
Niekerk Christian Education Fund	\$23,060
Holland Deacons' Conference	\$8,410
Bravo CRC	\$6,260
World Renew (CRWRC)	\$6,085
Benevolent Fund	\$5,800
General Fund	\$5,000
Gateway Missions	\$4,875
Capital Improvements Fund	\$4,500
Growing Hope Globally	\$4,060
Building Men for Life	\$3,955
Heights of Hope	\$3,785
Positive Options	\$3,665
Hand2Hand Ministries	\$3,445
Holland Christian Schools	\$3,420
Family Mission Trip	\$2,710
Hudsonville Christian Schools	\$2,600
African Inland Missions	\$1,830
The Gideons	\$1,670
Reframe Ministries	\$1,660
Restoring Hope Missions	\$1,565
Resonate Global Missions	\$1,465
Health Pantry	\$1,430
Niekerk GEMS/Cadets	\$1,420
World Home Bible League	\$1,295
Niekerk Missionaries	\$1,100
Zeeland Christian School	\$1,070
Community Impact	\$1,000
Good Samaritan Center	\$800
Lao CRC	\$250
South Olive Christian School	\$250
Salvation Army	\$100
My Brother/Sister's Home	\$50
Hockey Rock	\$50
Christian Reformed Conference Grounds	\$25
ARO	\$25

2025 Total Thanksgiving Offering \$108,685

December

Lost & Found



Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons
Make Your Mark Gallery
 coloring book
 Black 6" comb
 Pink-flowered handkerchief

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



Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

Attention puzzle lovers of all ages!
Get ready for some friendly competition and fun at our
Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament!

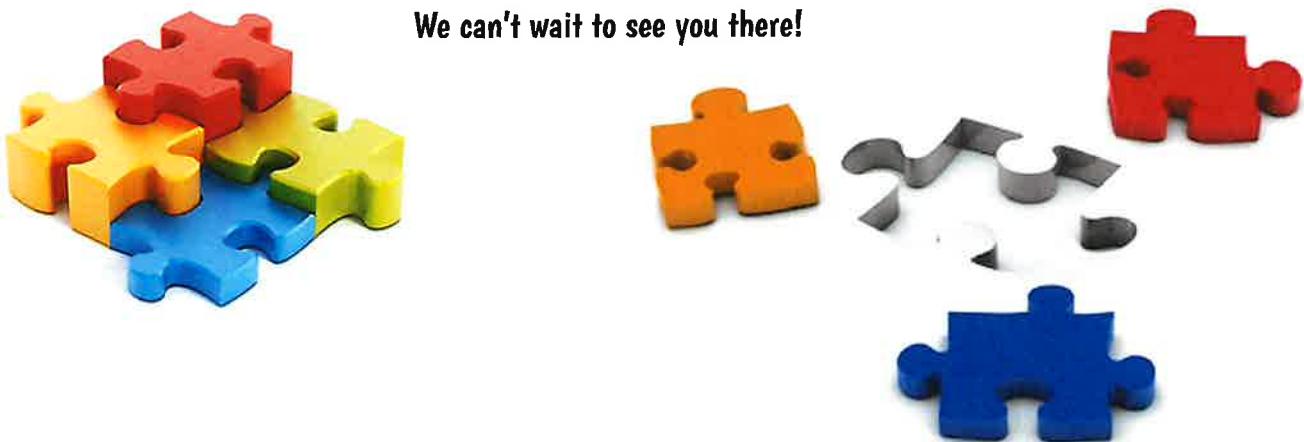
Date: Saturday, January 24
Supper: 5:30pm with the puzzling to start at 6:15pm

Gather your best puzzling friends to make a team that will guarantee fun times!
Kid teams and adult teams!

Join us for an exciting event where everyone will be working on the same puzzle at the same time! Put your puzzle-solving skills to the test as teams race to complete a single jigsaw puzzle in the shortest time possible. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, it's all about having fun and coming together for fellowship and good times. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest teams who complete the puzzle!

Sign-up today on the sheet at the Information Center for adults and kids or contact the Fellowship Team for more details.

We can't wait to see you there!





Nursery

JANUARY

1-4 AM Dana Hundred
 Kathie & Claire Helder
PM Linda Timmer
 Sara Heeres

1-11 AM Kathi Petroelje
 Deb Slenk
PM Kim Walters
 Kaylin Van Dyke

1-18 AM Laura VanderZwaag
 Jenn Schierbeek
PM Kris Roelofs
 Pat Texer

1-25 AM Sandy Van Dyke
 Jessica Schutter
PM Abby Helder
 Char Janssen

FEBRUARY

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

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

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

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



Wednesday Nights at Niekerk

Winter 2026

January 7: Cream turkey on buns

Program: CAMO/ Central America Medical Outreach

This is the organization Cheryl Bosch and Jamie Hop with when they are involved with their medical teams in Central America. See more information on the next page.

January 21: Baked potato & chili - No program

February 4: Pizza

Speaker: Reiner deBlois remains involved with Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators by giving them training to enable them to bring excellence to Bible Translation. See more information in the February Niekerk News.

February 18: Ham and cheesy potatoes

Speaker: Reiner deBlois continues his presentation on Jerusalem Center for Bible Translators

March 4: Tacos—No program

March 18: Breakfast for supper—No program



H2H is collecting individual Goldfish Cracker packages and Ramen noodle packs (3oz size only, no large bowls) for the month of January.





**American
Red Cross**

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.

2026

Blood Drive Dates

Monday, January 19

Monday, March 16

Monday, May 15



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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ENGAGE

- Volunteer
- Like us on Facebook and Instagram (friends of Positive Options)
- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at www.lpcenters.com
- Participate in a 2023 event at www.lpcenters.com/event
 - * Golf Marathon: September 8
 - * Center Open Houses
- Be a Prayer Partner and receive a monthly prayer calendar by email at www.lpcenters.com/prayer-support



December 1, 2025

Dear Niekerk Christian Reformed Church,

We've all seen those remarkable moments when animals care for one another—when the most unlikely creatures unite in simple acts of love and protection. There's something profoundly pure in those gestures, something that reminds us of the innocence of a child.

Christmas, at its heart, is about that same innocence—when a child bore the burden of humanity and brought light into a world shadowed by pain.

Because of your generosity, CAMO delivered 217,767 medical and educational services this year—providing care, hope, and dignity to thousands across Honduras. 492 volunteers and a team of 69 staff members gave their time and talent to make these life-changing moments possible.

As we close another year, I extend our gratitude for your compassion and commitment. You have helped transform fear into hope for countless families. Yet the needs remain great.

Your year-end gift ensures that CAMO continues to *bring light where suffering once lived*—through medical care, education, and community development that restore lives.

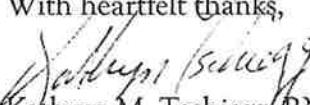
This year, that light shines through the story of Nohemi, a three-year-old who arrived at our shelter holding tightly to her mother's hand. Both had been beaten and were trembling with fear, seeking refuge. Despite her age, Nohemi was her mother's protector. She could sense when an epileptic seizure was about to begin and would gently make her way to our staff to warn them.

Soon we discovered that little Nohemi was nearly blind. Through the compassion of CAMO and the Robles Eye Clinic, her sight was restored. Her mother received the medical care and support she so desperately needed, and together, they began a new life free from abuse. Today, Nohemi lives safely with her aunt in a loving, stable home.

This Christmas, may the purity of a child's heart soften our own, transforming fear into hope and pain into compassion.

Together, let us keep being bearers of light in a world that still needs it so deeply.

With heartfelt thanks,


Kathryn M. Tschiegg, RN, BBA
Founder & Executive Director

Thank you for your generosity!

Check out our new CAMO products at shop.camo.org. For daily updates, please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages.

CAMO's tax-exempt number is 34-1740695

CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDICAL OUTREACH INC. 322 WESTWOOD AVENUE ORRVILLE, OH 44667 (330) 683-5956 / WWW.CAMO.ORG

CAMO AT A GLANCE 2024 – 2025

We have completed our 32nd year. CAMO's impact has been made possible by the generosity of donors, the dedication of our Honduran and U.S. staff, and the unmatched skill of our volunteers. Each person—whether giving time, talent, or resources—plays a vital role in creating tangible impact and remarkable outcomes. There is a story behind every life touched and every service delivered, proving that lasting change happens when people unite with purpose, integrity, and heart. Through this united effort, CAMO continues to sustain 81% self-support in Honduras, with the remaining funds provided by our generous partners. This year also marked the start of construction on our new 43,560-square-foot warehouse, a milestone that ensures continued growth and lasting impact for years to come.

THE YEAR NUMBERS

217,767

MEDICAL SERVICES PERFORMED

7,946

BOXES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATED

626

PIECES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED

492

VOLUNTEERS
IN HONDURAS AND
THE UNITED STATES

3,034

PEOPLE EDUCATED



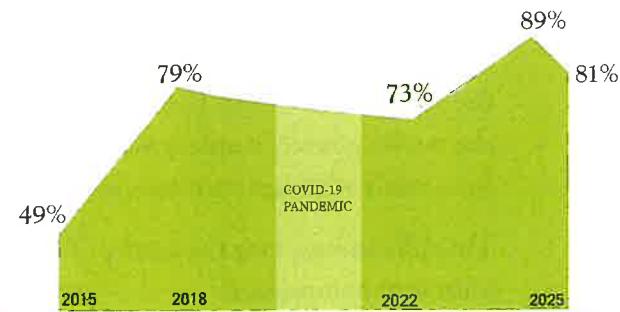
SERVE / EDUCATE / EQUIP
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

CAMO.ORG

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES



HISTORY OF FUNDING FROM WITHIN HONDURAS



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK: GROWTH AND IMPACT THIS YEAR

MEDICAL SERVICES

- Expanded Access: 151 brigades reached underserved communities with essential care.
- Specialized Growth: Expanded cardiology, neurology, and women's health improved advanced care access.

EDUCATION

- Medical Training: Certified 1,393 professionals through AHA life-saving courses.
- Primary Education: Supported 16 schools with training, screenings, and essential supplies.

CAPITAL PROJECT

- Sustainable Growth: \$1.1M raised toward \$2.8M goal for lasting impact.
- Expanded Capacity: New 43,560-square-foot facility increases clinics and training.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Empowering Communities: Expanded Trade School and Daycare improved family opportunity.
- Strengthening Infrastructure: Upgraded facilities and health partnerships improved community care.

DONATIONS

- Volunteer Impact: 158 volunteers processed and shipped life-saving medical supplies.
- Global Reach: Supported 60 institutions with \$2.3 million in donations.

NATIONAL WIDESPREAD IMPACT



FOLLOW OUR
DAILY POSTS



Happy New Year, Niekerk Family!

<https://lshelder8.wixsite.com/mission-updates>



I hope you all had a lovely holiday season with family and friends. I wanted to bring you in on where I feel the Lord is leading me as we head into 2026.

Some of you may have already heard, but I believe that God has asked me to take on learning Spanish as it will directly impact the ministry I look forward to being involved with. As you can imagine, there are a TON of options of how one might go about doing so. Since I knew I was going to be home at least through December, I went ahead and purchased a 3-month subscription to an online learning platform to get started. However, there is a reality to learning a language that requires you to be immersed in it as well as the culture.

So... I have been looking into options in which I can be immersed in the language and culture while also stoking the fire of passions God has put on my heart. While I was at Eagle's Nest orphanage in Guatemala, I heard about a couple Spanish schools and have done more research since. These schools offer highly intensive one-on-one learning experiences that are primarily conversation based while mixing in cultural experiences. The programs run on a week-to-week basis which allows for flexibility if the Lord directs me somewhere else while I am there. AND, it would allow me to volunteer at Eagle's Nest as well since the school I am primarily looking at is only about 20 minutes away (with public transport). As of now, I am planning on going to Guatemala in February/March to start studying Spanish and serving the Nest for about three months.

While all of this excites me, it also presents the real reality of truly stretching my wings and flying while trusting God to completely provide for my every need in a whole new way...which is a bit daunting. However, I am remaining confident, excited, and at peace because I have seen the Lord provide and the ways He has used so many of you in various ways to spur me on.

If you desire, here are two ways you can get more involved!

Prayer and lots of it!

1. Increase in self-discipline specifically with spiritual disciplines
2. Continued discernment and a fresh yielding to the Lord
3. Wisdom in how to navigate fundraising in a new way
4. Holy connections — prayer warriors, encouragers, ministry opportunities, mentors, meaningful friendships
5. Eyes & ears to be opened and hearts to be softened to receive the good news

Financially, I am officially shifting from one-time goals to monthly support—outside of a one-time “start-up” need! Since I am stepping into full-time ministry, I will be solely dependent on individuals who are willing to financially partner and sow into what God is doing and where He is leading.

So, I am starting to build a community of people who are willing to support me long-term through monthly support and/or annual giving and would love to have you join in on what God is doing!

Start-up costs: \$3,000

Monthly Goal: \$3,500 Yearly Goal: \$42,000

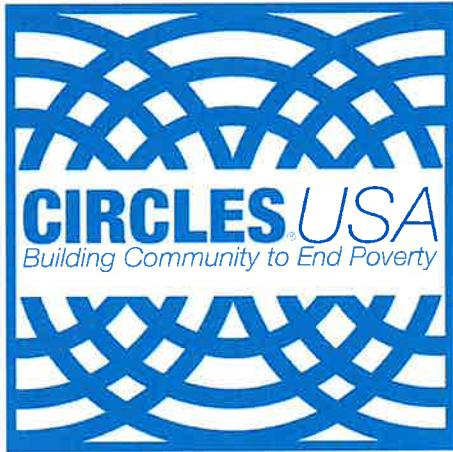
Left to raise: \$2,816.67 Left to raise: \$33,800.04

You are all truly such a blessing. It is always a highlight for me when I get to come to Niekerk and see you all. Thank you for all the ways you have continued to love and support me!

If you are interested in getting more involved and/or learning more, please reach out via email and we can find a time to connect. (:

Blessings,
Laura Helder
lshelder8@gmail.com





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.



January & February DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- January 2 December's Prayer Gathering
- January 4 HS Youth Group
- January 5 Council Meeting
- January 7 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- January 9 Hand2Hand Packing
- January 16 Hand2Hand Packing
- January 18 HS Youth Group
- January 19 Red Cross Blood Drive
- January 21 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- January 23 Puzzle Tournament
- January 24 Puzzle Tournament
- January 30 Monthly Prayer Gathering
- February 1 HS Youth Group
- February 2 Council Meeting
- February 4 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- February 6 Hand2Hand Packing
- Chili Cook Off
- 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



After a disaster strikes, community leaders often scramble to organize an immediate response, providing shelter, food, and counsel for those affected.

Without disaster recovery knowledge or experience, they rely on grit, determination, and compassion to guide them minute-by-minute, day-by-day as the recovery process unfolds.

While World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) restores homes and hope after disasters, we also strongly desire to empower local partners in their disaster recovery. Capacity building is an important part of our mission because it improves the partner's disaster preparedness and resilience in their own community. It gives attention to the people, resources, and networks that will be present long after DRS' response in a disaster-impacted community concludes.

This summer, the San Saba County, Texas, community experienced back-to-back flood events, washing out many roads and damaging over 100 homes. During a chaotic time in Texas due to the tragic Guadalupe River

flood, the staff at Hill Country Community Action Association (HCCAA) knew external help would empower their ability to assist their community.

Thanks to shared networks, HCCAA invited DRS to hold flood clean-up and mold remediation trainings for their Texan community. Because of our many decades of flood recovery work, volunteers started by providing training on safety and best practices. The following day, the group worked in two homes, demonstrating to the HCCAA staff and others how to remove debris, do demolition, scrub and sanitize affected areas of the properties, and spray shockwave to kill remaining mold.

One HCCAA staff member shared that DRS' training helped their team feel that they could handle the flood clean-up in their community. "For any mold regrowth we will encounter, we feel comfortable and confident about the clean-up process."

In the southeast region of the United States, DRS Regional Managers are leading Recovery Tools Workshops for new disaster recovery organizations. By attending these workshops, organizations like forming long term recovery groups gain confidence while receiving orientation to volunteer management, case management, an unmet needs process, financial management and grant writing, and more.

We are grateful that DRS volunteer leaders can utilize their industry skills and knowledge to build the capacity of many disaster recovery partners! So far, 400 participants have attended this workshop.

As Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians, God values our efforts to "encourage one another and build one another up." As DRS continues to respond to natural disasters this reconstruction season, thank you for joining us in support of local partners who make a lasting difference for those we serve.

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Here is the QR code for Niekerk!





LIFE. The Other Choice!

One of the biggest misconceptions about abortion is that it is “reproductive healthcare”. The abortion industry will use the term “reproductive healthcare” and claim that abortion is an essential procedure to ensure women have access to appropriate medical care. The ONLY case in which an abortion is medically necessary, when the life of the mother is in jeopardy and the ONLY way to save her is to unfortunately end the pregnancy and is **LEGAL IN ALL 50 states**. A survey done by Human Life International found that, in the case of 2.4 million abortions only 1.14% were done to save the life of the mother.

Healthcare should always be used to improve the quality of life of the patient. In the case of abortion, there is **ALWAYS** the taking of a human life - this is the opposite of healthcare. Instead of finding a way to provide life-affirming care, abortion is used to terminate the pregnancy without having to spend any time or effort in increasing the quality of life for the woman and child. Abortion is promoted as “safe and easy” but several studies have shown that there are many physical and mental repercussions. ***The Ethics and Public Policy center published a study in 2025 showing that, of 865,727 chemical abortions, 10/95 of women suffered serious adverse effects like sepsis, infections, or ER visits. Another study by the British Journal of Psychology found the women who had an abortion were 81% more likely to deal with negative mental health; 34% more likely to develop anxiety, 37% more likely to have depression and 155% more likely to commit suicide.***

Regular Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00am-3:00pm



Due to a small staff there may be times we are closed during these times.

Weather Policy: If the public schools are closed, our office will be closed or delayed!



2025 Holiday Hours

CLOSED: December 22-26

CLOSED: December 29, 31 & Jan. 1st and 2nd

December 30 - open 10am-Noon

Paige's Story...

Paige's story began in deep heartache and a prayer of surrender. Struggling with mental health, she asked God to reveal Himself—and He responded with a peace only He can give. Soon after, Paige discovered she was pregnant. "It felt like God was saying, snap out of it," she recalls. She answered with a silent yes, and chose a deep sense of purpose and conviction that is inspiring others.

With new resolve, Paige faced her unplanned pregnancy and began surrendering old mindsets to God. **Seeing her baby on the ultrasound, she recognized his humanity. That moment shifted her views from Pro-Choice to deeply valuing life in the womb.**

Through the Positive Options education program, Paige found hope and encouragement. "It can be scary," she says, "but there's no better place to go." Her journey is a powerful testament to God's redeeming grace—one that reminds us this Christmas of the beauty found in surrender and the life-changing hope of Jesus. May your heart be filled with that same peace and joy as you celebrate and cherish time with your family this holiday season.



Merry Christmas!

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FROM POSITIVE OPTIONS
BOARD AND STAFF**

AGAIN JESUS SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING,
**"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME
WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."**

JOHN 3:12

Dear Niekerk family; 12/11/25

Together we are building a vibrant community
where every life is valued, loved,

protected and transformed because of
the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DID YOU KNOW?

MY HEARTBEAT
STARTS AT 16 DAYS.
I CAN SMILE
AT 12 WEEKS.
MY BRAIN
ACTIVITY
CAN BE DETECTED AT 5 WEEKS.
I HAVE
FINGERPRINTS
AT 9 WEEKS.

MY FEET LOOK
LIKE THIS AT
10 WEEKS.



My life started the moment I was conceived. My sex or gender was at that point determined by my own DNA.

I AM A HUMAN BEING
IN EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

I WAS MEANT TO BE.

With gratitude,
Wm. M. Alford

merry christmas



**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.



The Greener Side

InterVarsity in the Upper Peninsula

Aaron Green

1910 Robindale Drive, Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-370-4835 Email: aaron.green@intervarsity.org

Stories of God at Work

This semester has been one of the most fruitful starts to a year we've ever had in ministry. The chapter is growing, people are coming to Christ, and students are thriving in their walk with Jesus. Enjoy these stories!

New Life in Christ

We recently had Rick Mattson, an InterVarsity speaker who travels around the US, visit our campus for the week, answering tough questions and sharing the Gospel. We saw five people make decisions to follow Christ. Gavin, one of these students, shared how he had been confirmed in church but never really read the Bible or understood anything about it. He started reading through Matthew, spending most of an hour every night reflecting and praying on what he read.



Rick Mattson sharing the gospel with students at our weekly meeting.

Commissioning New Leaders

Usually in the fall we have 2-3 new leaders step into helping lead small groups. This year we ran a special event to commission our new small group leaders because we had eight new leaders ready to go. The exciting thing is that most of these new leaders are starting entirely new Bible studies to reach friends that are not Christian or are totally unconnected with any fellowship on campus.

Starting an Athletes Ministry at Bay College

During one of my visits attending Bay College, I sat at a table and randomly struck up a conversation with a basketball player. I found out that his name was Trevor and that he was a Christian. This past month I've been working with Trevor to launch an Athletes Ministry at Bay College. He's already found several believers to be a part of his core, and we have plans to do an event in January to extend an invitation to many of the other athletes on campus.

I feel like I should mention that our Football ministry at MTU is still thriving, with sixty plus players on the team attending and several players becoming Christians.



Nick, one of our graduating students. Nick will start med school at MSU in the fall. He shared how a friend reach out to him while contemplating taking his life, leading to a thriving spiritual life the rest of his time at college.

Ways to Pray

- We have 27 MTU students attending Urbana right after Christmas in Phoenix. Many are eager to explore missions, so pray for God to meet them as they discern their calling
- Next semester starts January 5. We have a lot of plans for outreach in the early weeks, as well as a UP Wide Conference we are inviting students to Jan. 16-18
- Pray that God would raise more staff for the UP! We are thankful for how incredibly fruitful the work He is doing has been. But it is hard to cover everything with just two staff and there are many opportunities we have to pass on until we grow our staff team again.

Our **VISION** IS TO SEE: **STUDENTS & FACULTY TRANSFORMED & DEVELOPED** campuses renewed **WORLD CHANGERS**

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Prayer updates from our ministry with InterVarsity in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



[Give a gift to support Aaron](#)

[Give a gift toward student scholarship](#)

SHARE The Word

CHANGE Young Hearts



Your support in 2025 helped 19,126 young people in Venezuela to study God's Word.

Share the Gospel with Young People

For 87 years, Bible League International has believed that lasting change begins with a Bible—and someone who cares enough to share it.

One of our key ministry programs is helping young people to know their Savior, Jesus Christ. We provide hands-on Bible study materials that get kids and teens excited about Jesus. And we train leaders who guide them.

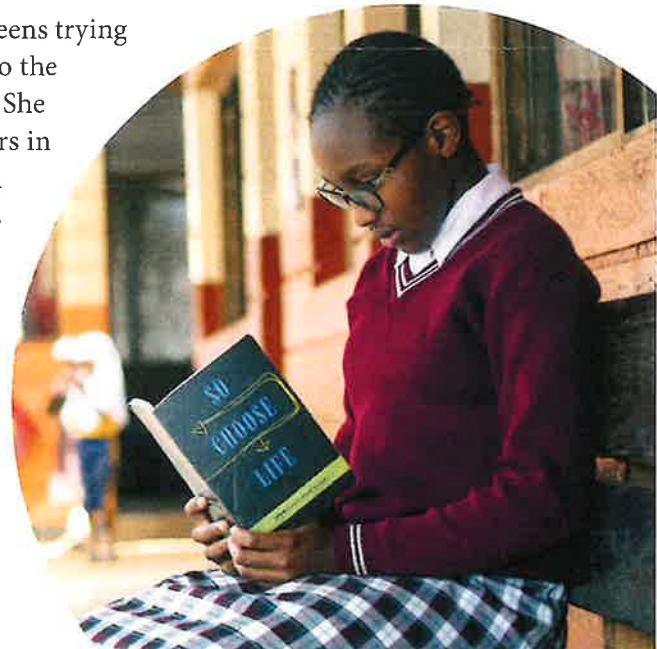
About 40% of those who studied God's Word through Bible League's ministry are children and youth. In 2025, nearly 690,000 children around the globe heard how much their heavenly Father loves them. Our new materials for children—the *Discovery Series*—have been instrumental in helping to engage more children in God's Word.

God's Word Transforms Lives and Communities

Stacey, 12, lives in a slum area in Nairobi, Kenya. Like so many tweens trying to navigate the world and figure out their place in it, Stacey fell into the wrong crowd. She began to disobey her parents and cause trouble. She recalls, "I became a great burden to my parents and even to teachers in schools." Her parents were not believers, and she had never known about Jesus—until her school began using Bible League's materials in her classroom.

Through studying God's Word, Stacey understood she needed to change the way she was living and make better decisions. She beams, "While doing the booklet, I realized I needed to change by making the right decision of receiving Jesus."

Since then, Stacey has seen profound change in her life. She beams, "What I loved before, and thought was the best, I came to realize it's only being with Jesus that gives real, true life, joy, and peace."



Continued on next page

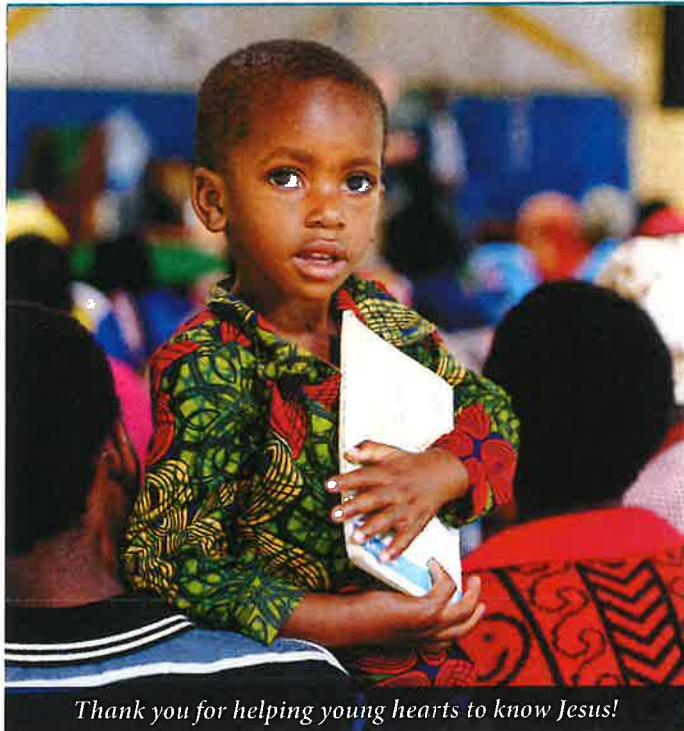
God's Word Transforms Lives *(continued)*

She stopped hanging out with the wrong crowd, began going to church, and implemented prayer within her family. The young evangelist explains how they now pray as a family every morning before school and every night before bed. Stacey gushes, "This has brought great transformation in our home."

Stacey's story shows what's possible when you help a child know Jesus. Reaching kids with the love of Jesus creates a ripple effect throughout their families—and their communities. Thank you for your faithful support in helping to shape the next generation of Christ followers. You are a blessing!

Prayer Requests

- Ask the Lord to transform Siyabonga's heart, a homeless young person in South Africa, who has been going through a Bible League Bible study for youth. He is now in a shelter and will continue with the Bible study.
- Hrachya, a 16-year-old in Armenia, is helping lead children's Bible studies at his church. May God bless him as he ministers to young people in his community.
- Please pray for the 105 children attending Bible League's Bible-based Literacy classes at a school in eastern India.



Join Others in Leading Young Hearts to Christ

When you join with the Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors, you're making an eternal difference in young hearts in at least 42 countries! Your gifts and heartfelt prayers provide Bibles and invaluable biblical resources that help young people know Jesus. Each \$14 you provide today has the power to root a child in God's Word. Young people are often more open to the Gospel and eager sharers of it. Through them, siblings, grandparents, and parents discover God's Word. Entire families transform. Thank you!

Faithfully serving more than 50 countries worldwide
We equip the under-resourced Church to make disciples, transforming lives through God's Word.



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 monthly 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





FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Dear friends,
As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I'm reminded of the words of Psalm 107:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

There is so much to be thankful for here, as God continues to move powerfully behind the walls of our jail. We've witnessed lives changed, prayers answered, and hearts softened to the truth of the Gospel. Each week, we see new stories of grace and redemption as men and women encounter the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

I am deeply grateful for every volunteer, prayer partner, and supporter who makes this ministry possible. Because of your faithfulness, we are able to bring the light of Christ to people who desperately need hope.

Above all, I thank God for the privilege of serving in this mission field. We praise Him for open doors, transformed lives, and the undeniable evidence of His Spirit at work among the men and women incarcerated.

May this Thanksgiving be a reminder of His goodness, His steadfast love, and the great harvest He is bringing forth in our community.

GOD IS TRANSFORMING LIVES

We rejoice to share that more men and women have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior inside the Ottawa County Jail! Many others are being discipled and growing daily in their walk with the Lord. Each week,

we witness hearts softened, faith renewed, and hope restored. We give all praise and glory to God for the incredible work He is doing behind the walls of the jail!

NEW LIFE GROUP

We are thrilled to share that a New Life Group has officially launched in one of the women's pods at the Ottawa County Jail! This is a tremendous answer to prayer and a beautiful example of God opening new doors.

The group meets on Monday mornings, Monday evenings, and Wednesday mornings, giving the women multiple opportunities each week to grow in their faith. They are currently studying The Gospel of Mark, Practicing the Way, Go in Peace, and Healing the Wounded Heart, each one helping them draw closer to Christ and experience His transforming love.

While there are still some limitations in what we're able to do, we are praising God for making this new group possible and for the faithful volunteers who lead, encourage, and walk alongside these women each week.

ANNUAL BANQUET CELEBRATION



Our Annual Ottawa County Banquet was held on October 7 at Second Church in Allendale.



It was a beautiful evening of worship, testimonies, and heartfelt gratitude as we celebrated all that God has done through this ministry. Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, hosted a table, or gave so generously. Your partnership continues to fuel this life-changing work and make an eternal difference in the lives of those we serve.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As we move forward, we are praying for continued open doors to share the Gospel and deepen discipleship opportunities within the jail. Please join us in prayer for the following:

The Women's New Life Group- that God would use these studies to bring healing and transformation, and the group would continue to grow as more women attend each session.

The Men's Relaunch Program and Ongoing Bible Studies- that participants would be strengthened in their faith and firmly grounded in the truth of God's Word.

1:1 Conversations- that God would give our chaplains and volunteers the right words to speak, and that His Spirit would break through powerfully, leading many more to Christ.

Our Team- that they would remain steadfast, encouraged, and refreshed as they serve faithfully each week.

Continued Provision- that God would supply every need through the prayers and generosity of His people.

The harvest truly is plentiful, and your prayers and support are a vital part of this ministry. Together, we are witnessing God bring forth an incredible harvest behind the walls.

Ottawa County Jail
12130 Fillmore
West Olive, MI 49460

Chaplain Jon Deur
616-786-4183
JonD@jailministry.org



@RTFjailministry



jailministry.org



@reachtheforgotten

JAIL MINISTRY AWARENESS MONTH FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR



Rev. Dr. Rick Eschenburg

You can find online calendars listing every "special focus" month of the year, but you won't see Jail Ministry Awareness Month among them. That's because three years ago JMAM was our own internal declaration, not through legislation or Hallmark, but from our deep love and passion for jail ministry.

- We wanted a special season to highlight the good that God does daily in the jails we serve.
- We wanted a time to intentionally recognize our chaplains and volunteers, highlighting their faithfulness to God as they serve the Forgotten.
- We wanted to help explain the difference between jails and prisons. Jails require a unique approach to bring the light and hope of Jesus into some of those very dark corners in our communities.
- We know that November is the start of our Thanksgiving and Christmas season, which can be a truly difficult time for those we care for in our jails. By dedicating JMAM, we prepare for *Christmas in the Jail*, a time of remembering those in jail with the simplest of gifts.

We invite you to not only stand with us financially, but to kneel with us in prayer. May God draw those far from Him near, and may His hope and healing be made real in Michigan's jails. ***Thank you for your faithful support, we cannot do this work without you.***

Ways to Give:

Phone:
616.784.4620

Online:
jailministry.org

Mail:
1480 Buchanan Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dependent solely on your generosity



GUIDESTAR



THANK YOU for your prayers & financial support! Our ministry would not be possible without you.

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

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 11-24-25

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

Niekerk Yellow Pages

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