



July Niekerk News 2026

Niekerk Contact Information:

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Prayer Line: 616-396-2697

Interim Pastor

John Nyitray

Office: 616-396-4388 #3

Phone: 616-834-3853

Email: john@niekerkcrc.org

Youth Director

Trisha Texer

Office: 616-396-4388

Email: youthdirector@niekerkcrc.org

Administrative Assistant

Julie Mulder

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00am—2:00pm

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: secretary@niekerkcrc.org

Worship Coordinator

Carol Hochhalter

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—noon

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: worshipleader@niekerkcrc.org

Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

Newsletter DEADLine

For the
August Niekerk News is:
July 19, 2026

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

Freed To Bless

This year we celebrate 250 years of freedom as a nation. We give thanks for the abundant provision we enjoy. And we recognize that this great blessing calls for great responsibility and generosity.

Christ's people have been set free regardless of what nation we live in. Believers all over the world have been freed from sin's penalty and are being freed from its power, we are freed from the fear of death, freed from self-centered living, freed to bring blessing. As Christians, we are free to no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus. And because of Jesus, we are set free to serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13). This freedom grows as we serve Jesus and yield to His lordship. Our liberty shines brightly in our living as servants of Jesus!

Jesus Christ is Lord and, as disciples of Jesus, we will grow in our desire to please Him. His lordship informs our lifestyle. We've been freed to be like-minded—working to maintain unity and harmony in the fellowship. We're free to be sympathetic. We identify with the feelings of others. We're freed up to lovingly accept one another as family. We grow to be compassionate and kind, quick to encourage and help each other and those around us. To be a people and place of blessing will mean that everyone knows that they are cared for. Such a fellowship is like a breath of fresh air in our troubled world.

I have noticed that Niekerk has some generous candy providers. The children freely run to them on a Sunday morning and they are blessed! They know that the generosity of these adults is communicating love. When our children were young, we often stopped by the farm of the "root beer couple" on the way home from school. Bill and Hattie would serve them some delicious root beer during our visit. My children were blessed by their warm welcome and generosity. Of course, believers exercising their freedom to bless others is not limited to candy or soda pop. God's Word calls us to use our freedom to bring blessing that heals, that ministers, that attracts others to the Lord. We have been freed to bless.

The Holy Spirit helps us remember the costly, generous gift of our freedom in Christ. He then empowers us to use the freedom we have to do good and not harm. On this 250th anniversary of our nation, we are thankful we have the freedom to boldly express and live out our freedom in Christ.

Pastor John Nyitray

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Carl Helder read from Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 10:14-16
02. Council Minutes of May 4, 2026. Approved as written.
03. Search Team Update: Jim Hondred and Mary Jo Staal from the Search Team met with the Council to review interactions with Tim Nelson and discussed steps moving forward in the search process. They shared that the Search Team will continue to serve. Discussion took place and concerns were raised about the impact of 40 "no" votes after the Search Team's unanimous recommendation. Also concerning was the negative, anonymous communication with Tim and Mary, asking them not to come to Niekerk. This shows a lack of unity and trust in our calling process. While we know that the Lord works in all this, Council feels it is important, as scripture says, "to make every effort to keep unity of the Spirit through bonds of peace." We must and will seek to do this.
04. Notes and Letters. It was also discussed that we are seeing an increase in the number of "notes/letters" that are being sent to the staff and Council. They are negative in nature and are not signed. It has been a policy of Niekerk CRC that if a note/letter is not signed, it will not be recognized and discarded. It is understandable that we may not all agree on everything, but there is no need to hide or create something that is hurtful. We have Elder/Deacon districts where you can share your thoughts and/or concerns.
05. Deacons' Meeting Summary - Scott Edewaard

a. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

May offerings confirmed:

May 3	Niekerk Christian Education	\$2,296.00
May 10	World Renew – Tanzania	\$8,438.00*
May 17	Hockey Rock	\$899.00
May 21	Benevolent Fund	\$70.00
May 24	Lakeshore Little People's Place	\$1,135.00
May 31	Bravo CRC	\$2,004.00

*more to come this week. Total will be over \$10,000.

b. July and August Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

July 5	Multiplication Network
July 12	Positive Options
July 19	Reframe Ministries
July 26	Building Men for Life
August 2	Intervarsity/Aaron Green
August 9	Haven Missionary Homes
August 16	Laura Helder
August 23	Health Pantry
August 30	Niekerk Christian Education Fund

*Tentative schedule for September

September 6	Appalachian Reach Out
September 13	Bravo CRC
September 20	Josh & Anna
September 27	Gateway Missions

- e. Reminder on evening prayer meets in the sanctuary no later than 4:45pm with the praise team and pastor.
- f. Christmas Boxes Proposal. A proposal for the Christmas boxes to be utilized again this upcoming year was given. The Deacons will pay for the shipping expenses for this. Approved by the Deacons.

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
June 14	Al Petroelje	Cal Compagner
June 21	Ren Broekhuizen	Duane Terpstra
June 28	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
July 5	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
July 12	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
July 19	Cal Compagner	Duane Terpstra
July 26	Bill VanderHeide	Cal Compagner
August 2	Ren Broekhuizen*	Jim Dykstra
August 9	John Nyitray	Jim Dykstra
August 16	Cal Compagner	Duane Terpstra
August 23	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
August 30	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga

*Communion

*Reported that Pastor Duane Terpstra is leaving Bravo CRC due to medical reasons. Not sure currently how it impacts Niekerk pulpit supply.

08. Shepherding Team Minutes provided by Pastor Nyitray
09. Next Communions: August 2, October 4 and December 6
10. Currently, there have been a number of young people attending Profession of Faith class and will soon be publicly committing their lives to Jesus.
11. Next meeting, August 3, 2026, at 7:30pm. Elders and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.
12. The meeting was adjourned.
13. Closing prayer: Dale Walters

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 274,334.17
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 231,797.30
Over(Under) Budget	\$ (42,536.87)

May 31, 2026

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$41,655.88
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$183,361.47
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$186,530.74
This Month Disbursements	\$31,088.28
Year to Date Disbursements	\$235,696.95
Fund Balance	\$470,089.20

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$25,605.33
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$25,605.33
YTD Disbursements	\$13,133.07
Allocated Not Paid	\$9,750.00
Fund Balance	\$12,602.29

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$19,661.23
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$19,661.23
YTD Disbursements	\$6,272.50
Fund Balance	\$118,127.71

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	18,003.26
Year To Date Special Fund	49,158.61
This Month Disbursements	18,103.26
Year To Date Disbursements	48,958.61
Fund Balance	200.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 38,768.06
Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	3,384.09
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	10,786.00
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	8,842.31
Community Impact	1,741.95
Health Pantry	1,741.45
Family Mission Trip Fund	6,965.84
Fund Balance	\$ 44,640.40

Cash Balances		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	\$	672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 05/31/26	\$	655,409.60

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	231,797.30	274,334.17	(42,536.87)
Disbursements	255,102.52	274,334.17	19,231.65
Allocated Not Paid	9,750.00		
Spendable Income	(33,055.22)		(23,305.22)

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d. May Benevolent Fund Balance:	\$14,591.89.
Number of Disbursements	1
Amount	(\$414.23)
Number of Deposits	1
Amount	\$70.00
May Ending Benevolent Fund Balance	\$14,247.66

Benevolent Needs Discussed. Decided to give some gift cards to a couple to be used as they need. Deacons will reach out to them as well to see if we can help in any other way. No benevolent needs outside of the congregation at this time.

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July Thank You Notes

Dear Niekerk Family,

We want to thank you for your cards, calls, and concerns regarding our sister and aunt, Viola Flokstra.

Carolyn Rietman
Christie Rietman
Jerry & Sharon Zeerip
Aubrey & Dennis Bird

Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls and food for my bout with sepsis. We thank God for healing and your love.

Judy Stoel

Thank you congregation for the many cards, gifts, and well wishes I received for my 90th birthday. You are truly a remarkable congregation. Blessings to all.

Alan Van Haitsma

I would like to thank everybody for their prayers, cards and kind words around my surgery.

Willemijn de Blois

Hello Niekerk!

Thank you so much for your generous support. I included a quick note on how God is at work among the students here. Thank you so much!

Aaron Green

This past year was quite a year! There have been a lot of challenges, but we continue to see God's faithfulness on campus! I included a picture that a student made at our end of year retreat because it illustrates what I hear again and again with students who get involved in our fellowship. It is such a joy and privilege to get to see students come to college and grow closer to God than they ever have before. Some have been in the church all their lives, some have struggled and wrestled with their faith, and some just started following Jesus this year. But so many of our students are overflowing with their love of their Savior. And are so excited to come back to campus and share it with a new generation of students. There's no way we could do this without the generous support of our ministry partners, and I want to thank you deeply for being a part of these changed lives that I get to appreciate time and time again. Thank you!!!





Saturday,
August 8th
5:30pm



@ Calvary
on 8th



www.heightsofhope.org/5k

Get ready to Race Through the Decades at this year's **Decades-Themed Heights of Hope 5k** and **1.5 Mile Fun Run**.

Whether you're racing with neon 80s speed, jogging in the chill vibes of the 90s, or enjoying a casual stroll in classic throwback style with neighbors and our beloved mascot,

Flash the Flamingo, there's a pace and an era for

everyone at this race.



July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday			1	2	3 Jerry Zeerip	4
5 Brian Bosch Emmett Honderd	6	7	8 Steve Kragt	9 Gary Morren Delia Gale	10	11 Stan Brandsen Jan Boeve
12	13 Donna Lampen	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Jerry Brower Mike Schutter	22 Alden VanDyke	23 Brent Kapenga	24	25
26 Melissa Dozeman	27 Kendra Van Ham	28	29	30	31	



Deb Eisen

Cell phone: 616-990-3820

Plaggemars Cell Phones:

Earl: (616) 886-5167

Lin: (616) 990-8939

No landline

Duane & Gay Tucker

Quincy Place Assisted Living

12300 Quincy St

Holland, MI 49424

Duane's room #126

Gay's room #NC11

Joyce Morren

Cell phone: 616-298-0157



**American
Red Cross**

2026

Blood Drive Dates

Wednesday, July 15

Wednesday, September 9

Wednesday, November 11

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 Graduate



Cora Rigterink

Cora graduated from Holland Christian High School. She will be attending Hope College in the fall where she will be playing soccer. She is currently undecided on her major.

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 !!

Heights of Hope 5K Registration is Open!



Join us on Saturday evening, August 8, for the Heights of Hope 5K & 1.5 Mile Fun Run. This year's theme is Decades, so gather your friends, pick your favorite era, and join the fun while supporting the work of Heights of Hope.



Registration is now open for both racers and volunteers. When you register, be sure to join our church's team to help boost our numbers! Find all the details and register at www.heightsofhope.org/5k.



CHURCH SECURITY

July

July 5 **Marcas Helder**

July 12 **Terry Bosch**

July 19 **Denny Stoel**

July 26 **Carl Helder**

**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.



Church Calendar

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

Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole, Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham Pot Pie, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Cream Turkey, 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.



July

- 7-5 AM** Kathie Helder
Carol Venema
PM Deb Slenk
Kim Walters
- 7-12 AM** Sara Heeres
Laura Vander Zwaag
PM Deb Haan
Linda Timmer
- 7-19 AM** Kathi Petroelje
Kaylin Van Dyke
PM Sandy Van Dyke
Lisa Kragt
- 7-26 AM** Jenn Schierbeek
Renee & Kayla Texer
PM Abby Helder
Sue Hoekstra

August

- 8-2 AM** Trisha Texer
Jessica Schutter
PM Dana Hondred
Kris Roelofs
- 8-9 AM** Pat Texer
Margaret Timmer
PM Lindsey Haan
Dawn Folkert
- 8-16 AM** Emma Texer
Melinda Kryger
PM Char Janssen
Kathi Helder
- 8-23 AM** Carol Venema
Deb Slenk
PM Kim Walters
Linda Timmer
- 8-30 AM** Laura Vander Zwaag
Deb Haan
PM Sara Heeres
Jenn Schierbeek

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



July & August DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

July 6	Hockey Rock
July 13	Hockey Rock
July 15	Red Cross Blood Drive
July 20	Hockey Rock Family Day
July 31	Monthly Prayer Meeting
August 3	Council Meeting
August 9	Outdoor Service
August 28	Monthly Prayer Gathering



Church Members in Care Facilities

Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch
Nonie Rietman

Quincy Place Senior Living

Jim & Lorraine Snay
Duane & Guy Tucker

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

Heritage Nursing & Rehabilitation

Jerry Brower



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.

Wrapping Up in Peru

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

Hi everyone!

I wish I had the capacity to write sooner but it's been quite hectic lately as I left Guatemala and hit the ground sprinting in Peru. But, I arrived safely in Peru and met up with Carol & Hugo (Carol's pastor) on June 4th. Already, we are nearing the end of our time in Peru which means I will be heading back to Michigan soon!

Guatemala...

My last bit of time in Guatemala was sweet and stretching. I was able to deepen my connections with the missionaries, kids, and some of the workers at Eagle's Nest (EN). I continued to serve wherever was needed which often times was in the bodega to organize donations and with the kids to help with homework. It was stretching as my brain started to fatigue with learning Spanish, and I also began to feel the lack of relational depth as time went on.

I am so grateful for my time in Guatemala. Looking back, I was able to make a lot of progress in learning Spanish (even though it doesn't always feel that way...), be a part of the beautiful work that God is doing through EN, learn more about the culture, meet and grow in relationship with people there, learn more about myself and grow in relationship with God, and much more. I am excited to continue reflecting on my time and look forward to returning later this year for another few months of studying, volunteering, and building relationships.

Peru...

Wow...we've been running hard and fast. Pastor Hugo came on this trip to meet the people and ministries Carol has poured into over the past 30+ years as Carol begins to prepare for the transition when she is no longer able to come to Peru. There are so many different pieces to Carol's ministry—visiting rehab centers, drug holes, families, children's homes and ministries, the prison, walking the streets to share, listen, meet a need if the Lord leads, etc. We had about six days to get all of this done to the best of our ability before Hugo left... Our days were FULL to say the least. We expected a little reprieve once Hugo left, but I think Carol would agree with me saying that has not been the case haha. Our days continue to fill up.

This trip has been extra emotional as Carol begins to process and share with others of a time transition coming, her first son here in Peru, Beto, has cancer and is awaiting to see if they can operate or not, some of the men who were in rehab are back on the streets, there have been situations in which trust has been broken in very hurtful ways, and more. Yet, I continue to learn so much from the way Carol loves, grieves, prays, and yields to the Lord. Every time I am with Carol I understand more and more just how much God loves and has grace for His children and yearns for relationship with us because of how I see Carol love and grieve over the lost here in Iquitos.

- Mono has been on the street and struggling with addiction for a while. He has distanced himself from Carol over the years, but this visit has been different. We bumped into him on one of our evening walks. He had an infected tooth and asked Carol for help. So, we were able to bring him to the dentist a couple of days later to have a couple of his teeth pulled. Since then, we have had a couple of pleasant interactions with Mono. He has even mentioned wanting to get away from drugs and alcohol.
- Diego has also been on the street and struggling with addiction. We usually see him each night during our evening walk. He will often ask for food but won't talk much and will avoid eye contact and any form of contact such as a handshake. One night, we found him sitting in a motocar, he smiled, greeted us with a handshake and smile, and said God bless you...we could hardly believe what had happened. These moments may seem small but it is such a gift to see God's work and faithfulness in watering the seeds that have been planted.
- We took three guys out for dinner one night—Manuel, Gonzalo, and Angelo. You can never be quite sure how the guys will act when they are together haha. But, they were all extremely delightful and were perfect gentlemen in our time spent. We shared many laughs and had a great time. Gonzalo has been very hot and cold in interactions past years but this year he has been mostly calm and respectful. This night was special as Carol was able to have more meaningful conversations with him.



At Beto's fundraiser to get him to Lima for surgery (left to right: Beto's mom, Beto's dad, Beto, Beto & Jessie's daughter, Carol, Jessie w/ Hugo & I in the back)

Next...

As I mentioned, I will soon be heading back to Michigan! I am excited to have some time to spend with family and friends, time to process and reflect on the past 3.5 months, and time to prepare for what is next!

Thank you to all of you who have filled out the form on regarding your update preferences! It is so helpful to hear from all of you to know how I can better keep you updated. I will be looking over the responses and making adjustments once I am back in Michigan. If you haven't had the chance to fill it out, you can still do so! Here is the [link](#). (:

Prayerfully

God's heart is moved by His people's prayers! It would be such a blessing to have you partnering with me in prayer. Here are some ways you can pray. (:

Pray for...

1. Eagle's Nest as they are in a very big transition season. Tiffany and Terry, one of the long-term missionary couples of 8+ years, will be leaving this coming Fall. This will leave many hearts grieving as well as gaps in how the ministry operates. *Please pray for comfort, peace, understanding, and provision!*
2. Financial provision...*PRAISE*... Since my last update, I have been blessed with \$2,600 to help close the gap I am trying to close for 2026! Continue to *PRAY*... I am still looking to close an \$4,900 gap by the end of 2026!
3. Beto & Jessie—Beto is in Lima with his dad awaiting surgery on the 16th. However, there is concern that it may be inoperable. Jessie has been having gall bladder problems and is also expecting surgery. *Please pray for supernatural peace for Beto and Jessie as well as their families, provision, healing, good care teams, and for both of them to remain rooted in Truth.*
4. God to continue watering the seeds planted and for those on the street and in addition to enter relationship with Christ and step into freedom.
5. Greater surrender, peace, wisdom and discernment as conversations about committing long-term are starting to come up.
6. Strength to continue pressing in as I am starting to get a bit tired mentally/emotionally due to the language barrier.
7. I am just a few days away from leaving Peru to head to Michigan! Please pray for smooth travels, health, safety, my transition back to go well, and peace and clarity as I begin reflecting and processing more.
8. Eyes and ears to be opened and hearts to be softened to receive the good news.

Financially

Since stepping into full-time ministry this year, I am solely dependent on individuals who are willing to financially partner with me and sow into what God is doing and where He is leading.

I am currently in the process of building partnerships with individuals who are willing to support me long-term through monthly and/or annual giving.

Monthly Goal: \$3,500 **Left to raise: \$1,825**

Yearly Goal: \$42,000 **Left to Raise: \$21,900**

Also, for 2026, I am looking to close a \$4,900 gap by the end of the year. Any amount helps and is greatly appreciated! (**\$\$ amounts updated 06.13.26**)

I would love to talk to you about what your involvement could look like! If you would like to have a further conversation, please email me. You can find my email address in the bottom right hand corner of this page.

Ways to give:

- Venmo—@helder8
- Cash or check—contact me for the mailing address
- Tax-deductible way to give:
 1. Click on the link <https://network153.net/product/guatemala-laura-on-mission-at-eagles-nest-gua006/>
 2. Enter donation amount & select "add to basket"
 3. Enter billing details—you will have an option to create an account. It may be a good/helpful option if you are planning on recurring giving, but it is not necessary.
 4. Choose how you want to give and continue
 - Check—you will mail in a check to the address shown. There is NO processing fee.
 - PayPal—there is a 5% processing fee.
 - Credit or debit card—to do this, you will need to select PayPal first. Then, you can select credit or debit once you are on the page to enter your PayPal information. There is a 5% processing fee.
 5. You will be sent an email receipt. If you need a more formalized receipt, you will need to reach out to Network153, and they will send you one.



If you have any questions, I would LOVE to sit down with you, hop on a call, or answer them over email or text. :)



BibleLeague®
INTERNATIONAL

SHARE
The Word
CHANGE
Young Hearts



Thank you for helping young people across Africa to hear the Gospel.

Share the Gospel with Young People

"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus proclaimed these familiar words in Luke 18. Through this one statement, Jesus reveals His heart for young ones. He made Himself available to the kids, just as He always does for people—no matter their age.

Whether it's in schools, through sports, or at church, God is doing mighty work in the hearts of young people. Our Bible study curriculum for children—the *Discovery Series*—has created new opportunities to spread Christ's hope to kids in places like Haiti and Brazil for the first time.

God's Word Transforms Lives and Communities

Her smile is so bright it might hurt your eyes. Four years ago, that smile had disappeared.

Hopelessness had taken hold of Ashley. At 11, believing her life was meaningless, she cut her wrists.

Ashley lives in Batangas, Philippines. Despite the vibrant community around her, she felt surrounded by darkness.

After her suicide attempt, Ashley tried to find purpose. But nothing helped. Suicidal thoughts still filled her mind. She felt like her life had no meaning—like a puzzle with a missing piece. Then Ashley's little sister, a new Christian, helped her find it at church. One day, her sister excitedly said, "Hey, big sister, come with me to church. It's cheerful there!" Seeking joy, Ashley decided to give it a try.

There, she met Pastor Bitek, a Bible League-trained Christian. His teaching on John 10:10 brought Jesus alive for Ashley. Finally, Ashley found the piece to make her whole. It had been Jesus all

Continued on next page



God's Word Transforms Lives (*continued*)

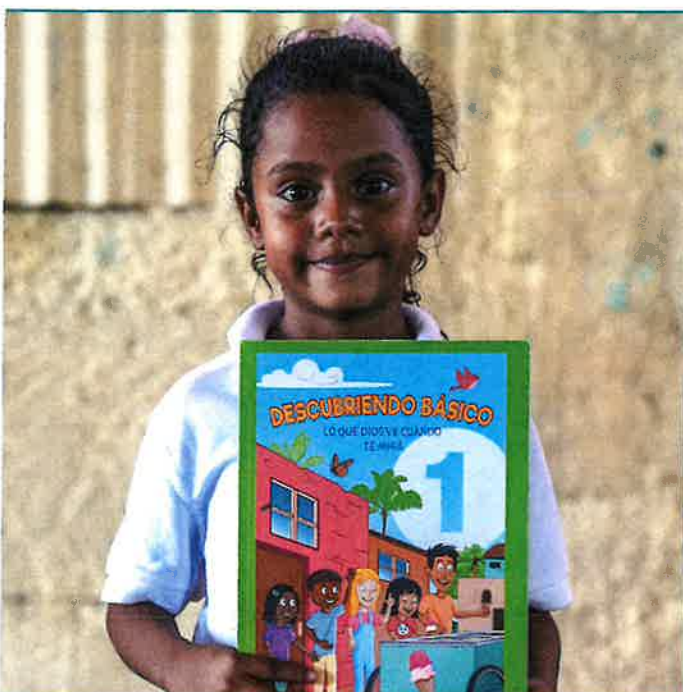
along. She continued studying God's Word through the Bible League Bible study. Eventually, she accepted Christ as her Lord.

Now, at 15, her smile is back. Since becoming a believer, she has also completed Bible League's Bible-based Literacy class. Today, she is joyfully teaching literacy to children in remote areas. But it's not all rainbows. Flecks of gray still appear as she endures anxiety attacks. In those moments, she turns to Jesus. "Talking to Him truly empowers me to turn my sorrows into joy."

Today, Ashley isn't just surviving—she's helping others to discover the same hope that saved her life.

Prayer Requests

- One hundred kindergartners in Indonesia are hearing how much God loves them through Bible League's children's Bible studies. May these little ones grow up rooted in Christ and His Word.
- Pray for the children at schools in Adeiso, Ghana, who recently completed their Bible League Bible studies.
- Praise the Lord for the 72 children in Egypt who have finished the *Discovery Series* Bible study program. Ask God to transform their lives and families through the power of the Gospel.



The Holy Spirit is transforming young lives!

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 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



HOPE FLOWS IN HAITI

In a time when Haiti is struggling with gang violence and widespread poverty, you are equipping young people to be servant leaders in their communities and to spread the gospel. Learn how you helped inspire and empower this Resonate partner IMPACT club to make it much easier—and safer—for their community to collect clean water at www.resonateglobalmission.org/well

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for new believers. Ask God to draw them closer and closer into relationship with him and give them boldness and wisdom as they share the gospel with family, friends, and neighbors.
- Pray for those who are looking for hope. Ask the Holy Spirit to provide meaningful connections and relationships with Christians who can share the truth of the gospel with them.
- Pray for your missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers as they faithfully share the gospel and disciple people in communities around the world.
- Please pray that God continues to provide the prayer support, resources, and financial provision needed to sustain and grow these vital ministries.
- Pray for new leaders around the world who are starting churches, sharing the gospel, and serving their communities.

Andrew Zokoe, Donor Relations
(616) 699-0317 | azokoe@crcna.org
resonateglobalmission.org

Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

 A Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church



SPRING IMPACT REPORT 2026

FROM THE DIRECTOR

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

—*Luke 19:10*

Because Jesus came to seek and save the lost, we are invited to step into a story far bigger than ourselves—one of restoration, hope, and redemption. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission! You are helping to make the gospel story a reality for people all around the world.

Serving with you,
Kevin DeRaaf



'I KEEP MY EYES ON JESUS'

Dasha grew up thinking she was a Christian, but when she started school at Resonate partner LCC International University in Lithuania and met your missionaries, she learned there was more to faith! Read how God changed Dasha's life: www.resonateglobalmission.org/dasha

A DEACON BUILDS A WELL

Training that you provided inspired and equipped a deacon in Venezuela to build a well for a school that hadn't had clean, running water in sixteen years! Read more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/omar



A CHAMPION OF FAITH

Like many people in Cambodia, Sreypitch grew up practicing Buddhism—but she wasn't sure what she believed. Your missionaries walked alongside her and helped her explore her questions. Now, she's sharing her newfound faith in Jesus! Read more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/sreypitch

'EVERYDAY MOMENTS'

Thanks to your support, GraceAnn learned that leadership isn't only about planning events, but showing up in and recognizing God at work in ordinary moments.

Learn more about her experience being mentored by your campus minister at Guelph University in Ontario: www.resonateglobalmission.org/graceann



PLANTING WITH NEWCOMERS

From Ontario to California, you are making it possible to start new churches for communities of immigrants and refugees. Read more about how you're reaching Chinese immigrants in Michigan, Spanish-speakers and Arabic-speaking neighbors in Ontario, and Punjabi speakers in California with the gospel at www.resonateglobalmission.org/newcomers



Finance Team Financial/Member Secretary <i>General Fund Treasurer</i>	Joe Texer* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Scott Edewaard* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder Carol Hochhalter	Char Janssen, Gary Morren, Nancy Windemuller, Pastor John Nyitray
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	Tom Staal* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Judy Stool 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
Worship Team Banner Changes Flower/Decorations Greeter Coordinator Nursery Visual Arts Power Point Sound Booth	Carol Hochhalter* 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

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 4/23/26

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

Niekerk Yellow Pages

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