



## **Missionary Spotlight: Amy Back | Grain of Rice Project |**

I am originally from Brookville, Indiana, and I graduated from Hope College in 2006. After teaching for 2 years, I spent 8 months in Kenya living with a Kenyan family and helping with their ministry. Later I went on to teach art for 8 more years in Northwest Indiana. That first trip in 2008 led to more than a decade of traveling back and forth to Kenya in the summers when I wasn't teaching. My sister and I founded Grain of Rice Project in 2014 in hopes of empowering artisans and children. What began as a simple artisan program in an informal settlement area of Nairobi eventually transformed into Grain of Rice Academy, which is located in Nanyuki, Kenya and has over 200 students. Our goal is to provide high quality Christian education that helps students think critically and creatively to become problem solvers in their community.

I love coffee, traveling, a good book, crafting, making art, and being in nature (especially Kenya's perfect 75 degree weather!). I live in Kenya with my husband and 3 kids (2 biological and 1 foster). In my free time, I enjoy experiencing Kenya's wildlife. Sometimes we hear hyenas from our house at night!



## **2026 Consistory**

### **Pastors**

\*Rev. Mike Pitsenberger  
Pastor Ken Kleinheksel  
Pastor Kevin Kruizenga

### **Elders**

\*Steve Schrotenboer  
Glenn Kleinheksel  
Nate Genzink  
\*Bob Reimink  
Bruce Peters  
Jeff Snay

### **Deacons**

Lee Lubbers  
David Kraker  
\*Dean Jipping  
Craig Theodore  
Scott VanHaitsma  
Jonathan Hop

\*Executive committee

# A Note From Pastor Ken

As I Have Loved You

John 13:34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

February has become known in America as the love month because of Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. And often times we don't think very deeply about what love really means. We think about giving gifts to our spouse and, maybe, going out for a nice dinner and reminiscing about when you first fell in love. And there is nothing wrong with that romantic love, in fact, that is good to do on a regular basis to keep that relationship alive.

But when we look at the verse above it challenges us in a many deeper ways. Yes, there are times when we don't really like the person we are in a relationship with, but we still love them. Sometimes that requires sacrifice (maybe I should say often times it requires sacrifice). But it is a given that you both are in it for the long haul.

But when we look at what Jesus commands (yes, commands) it goes way beyond the romantic love between people. We see that we are to love people as Jesus loved us. And then we begin to see the depths of Jesus' love for us. We see that we are to love people that are not desiring that love and do not return that love to us. We see that we are to love our enemies. And if He commands it, that means there will be times when we are at odds with other people, yet we are to love them. We are to love people that are not as well off as we are, and people that are better off than us. It means we are to love those who disappoint us and frustrate us beyond measure. And it means a whole lot more than that, because that's what Jesus did for us. If you think that Jesus loved you because you were so lovable, man, you have another thing coming! He loved us when we were dead in our trespasses and sins! Not much to love there is there?

Verse 35 says that by loving one another all people will know that you are my disciples. That tells us that in Jesus' day it was different and odd to love one another. This was a new commandment. Something that would be a challenge to believers in Christ. But the commandment still holds today. Love one another even when it is not advantageous to you and even when it hurts so that people will know that we are Jesus' disciples.

Jesus never said it would be easy to be a follower of His. So that is the challenge for us this February. By all means, love your spouse and treat them lovingly this month. But also, take up the challenge to love one another as Christ has loved you. Have a great February and I'll see you on the journey as we love others as Jesus loved us! God Bless You All!

Pastor Ken

# february birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Arlyn Breuker Makenzie Brinks David Kraker Jim Mentzer Madison Schrotenboer	3  Rich Hoving	4  Belva Dubbink Sue Schierbeek	5  Laura Boeve Avery Grew Luzia VandenBosch	6  LuAnn Broekhuis Hailey Dalman Lee Lubbers Chandler Timmer	7  Chris Kooyers Leah Prince
8  Carole Koops	9  James Andersen Martha DeNeef Cindy Sneller	10  Matt Blood Liam Laarman	11  Kaleb Pothoff	12  Anderson Boor Linda Hemmeke Josiah Lubbers	13  Darlene Schaap	14  Dawn Boeve Courtney LaMar Makenze Schrotenboer
15	16  Gideon Gemmen Amber Velderman Bernadette Will	17  Kathy Hoving Lois Sanchez	18  Don Becksford	19	20	21  Brenen Louwerse Craig Theodore
22  Gord Kempkers Bruce Peters Mike Pitsenberger Avery Reimink	23  Dean Jipping Pual Theodore	24  Larry Grotenhuis Gerrit Heavener Don Stienstra	25  Carrie Klaasen Karla Nyhuis	26  Aiden Lickley	27  Lynnae Genzink Steve Hamstra Dave Michalak	28  Maryn Kooyers Noah Laarman Courtney Peerbolte

## Milestone Birthdays



# february anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Terry & Bonnie Garvelink	3	4 Bryan & Missy Ulberg	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Jim & Kim Mentzer	12 Matthew & Lisa Will	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Bill & Mary Nykamp	24 Andrew & Courtney Peerbolte	25	26 Jim & Jamie Bussis	27	28

## Milestone Anniversaries



# Mary's Monthly Meal

## Hobo Casserole

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1 t. garlic powder
- 1 t. onion powder
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. pepper
- 4 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup milk
- 1 ½ cup cheddar cheese
- ½ t. paprika
- 1 t. butter



### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Grease a medium size dish
- In a large skillet brown ground beef and onion, drain
- Add in garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and pepper
- In a small bowl whisk together soup and milk
- Begin layering the dish by placing a layer of thin potatoes, then half of the beef mixture, and finally half of the soup mixture.
- Repeat entire process again with remaining ingredients. Potatoes, beef, soup
- Sprinkle cheese on top
- Cover with foil and bake 1 hour, then remove foil and bake for another 25 minutes.

# 2026 CONSISTORY

## PASTORS

Rev. Mike Pitsenberger  
Pastor Ken Kleinheksel  
Pastor Kevin Kruizenga

## ELDERS

	Year Complete	Branch
Steve Schrotenboer, Clerk	2026	2
Glenn Kleinheksel	2026	5
Nate Genzink, Asst. V.P.	2027	4
*Bob Reimink, V.P.	2027	1
Bruce Peters	2028	6
Jeff Snay, Asst. Clerk	2028	3

## DEACONS

Lee Lubbers	2026	6
David Kraker	2026	3
*Dean Jipping, Chair of Deacons	2027	4
Craig Theodore, Benevolent Fund Treasurer	2027	2
Scott VanHaitsma, General Fund Treasurer	2028	1
Jonathan Hop, Asst. Chair of Deacons	2028	5

\*Identifies the Executive Committee



## 2025 OVERVIEW

BIRTHS	
Piper Elizabeth Peerbolte	January 27, 2025
Cohen Daniel Koopman	March 26, 2025
Caroline Elaine Dyke	April 23, 2025
Harold (Hal) Ivan Smith	May 15, 2025
Barron Lee Dekker	May 20, 2025
Olivia Grace Caswell	May 22, 2025
Eliza Ann Kruizenga	June 6, 2025
Maeve Angela Kooyers	October 24, 2025
Lillian Joyce Hop	November 8, 2025
Adeline Sue Louwerse	December 3, 2025

BAPTIZED	
Zadok Newton Immink	January 5, 2025
Olivia Grace Caswell	August 3, 2025
Eliza Ann Kruizenga	September 14, 2025
Cohen Daniel Koopman	September 21, 2025
Harold (Hal) Ivan Smith	September 21, 2025
Caroline Elaine Dyke	October 5, 2025
Barron Lee Dekker	October 26, 2025
Nadia Rose Peerbolte	November 9, 2025
Irina Lynae Peerbolte	November 9, 2025
Piper Elizabeth Peerbolte	November 9, 2025
Heather Lynn Sewell	December 21, 2025
Arturo Sanchez	December 28, 2025

RECEIVED AT CONFESSION	
Jeremy Cortright	February 3, 2025
Laura Cortright	February 3, 2025
Alec Smith	July 7, 2025
Jeffrey Dyke	September 8, 2025
Clay DeWeerd	October 6, 2025
Arturo Sanchez	October 26, 2025
Jenna Dozeman	November 3, 2025
Elizabeth (Betsy) Veldman	November 3, 2025
Heather Sewell	November 16, 2025
Martyna Fiejasz	December 8, 2025
Loida (Lois) Sanchez	December 8, 2025
Hannah Bronson	December 28, 2025
Audrey Bronson	December 28, 2025

RECEIVED AT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	
Stephen Hamstra	February 3, 2025
Annie Hamstra	February 3, 2025
Susan Hott	February 3, 2025
Larry Loser	February 3, 2025
Sally Loser	February 3, 2025

RECEIVED @ Affirmation	Of Faith Continued
Jane Naber	March 3, 2025
Niki Dyke	September 8, 2025
Jose Tirado	December 3, 2025
Martha Ramos de Tirado	December 3, 2025

RECEIVED BY LETTER – COMMUNICANT	
Andrew Caswell	January 12, 2025
Morgan Caswell	January 12, 2025
Daria Koopman	May 5, 2025
Arlyn Breuker	October 6, 2025
Erma Breuker	October 6, 2025
Brenen Louwerse	November 3, 2025
Rebecca (Becca) Louwerse	November 3, 2025

RECEIVED – BAPTIZED	
Addalyn Caswell	January 12, 2025

TRANSFERRED COMMUNICANT	
Lucas Reimink	March 3, 2025
Steven Roberts	October 6, 2025
Christine Roberts	October 6, 2025
Matthew Roberts	October 6, 2025

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DEATHS	
Sarah Geurink	April 30, 2025
Celia Kleinheksel	May 3, 2025
Bruce Homkes	June 13, 2025
Alison Wingerter (non member)	August 10, 2025
Kathleen (Kathy) DeWeerd	October 29, 2025
Delores Kole	November 26, 2025
Kathleen Schipper	November 28, 2025
Marcia Slotman	December 11, 2025
Arlene (Arkie) Hoekje	December 19, 2025

MARRIAGES	
Solomon Klaasen & Katie Harrison	January 18, 2025
Cody Brinks & Raeghen Behnke	June 26, 2025
Lewis Bueschel (non member) & Alyssa Streur	July 5, 2025
Victoria (Tori) Folkert & Gavin VanderKamp	July 18, 2025
Emily McDonald & Joshua Klein	August 1, 2025
Jesse Klaasen & Beza Fite	August 9, 2025
Logan Pitsenberger & Mercedes (Cedie) Tiffany	November 21, 2025



## MAKE AN IMPACT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

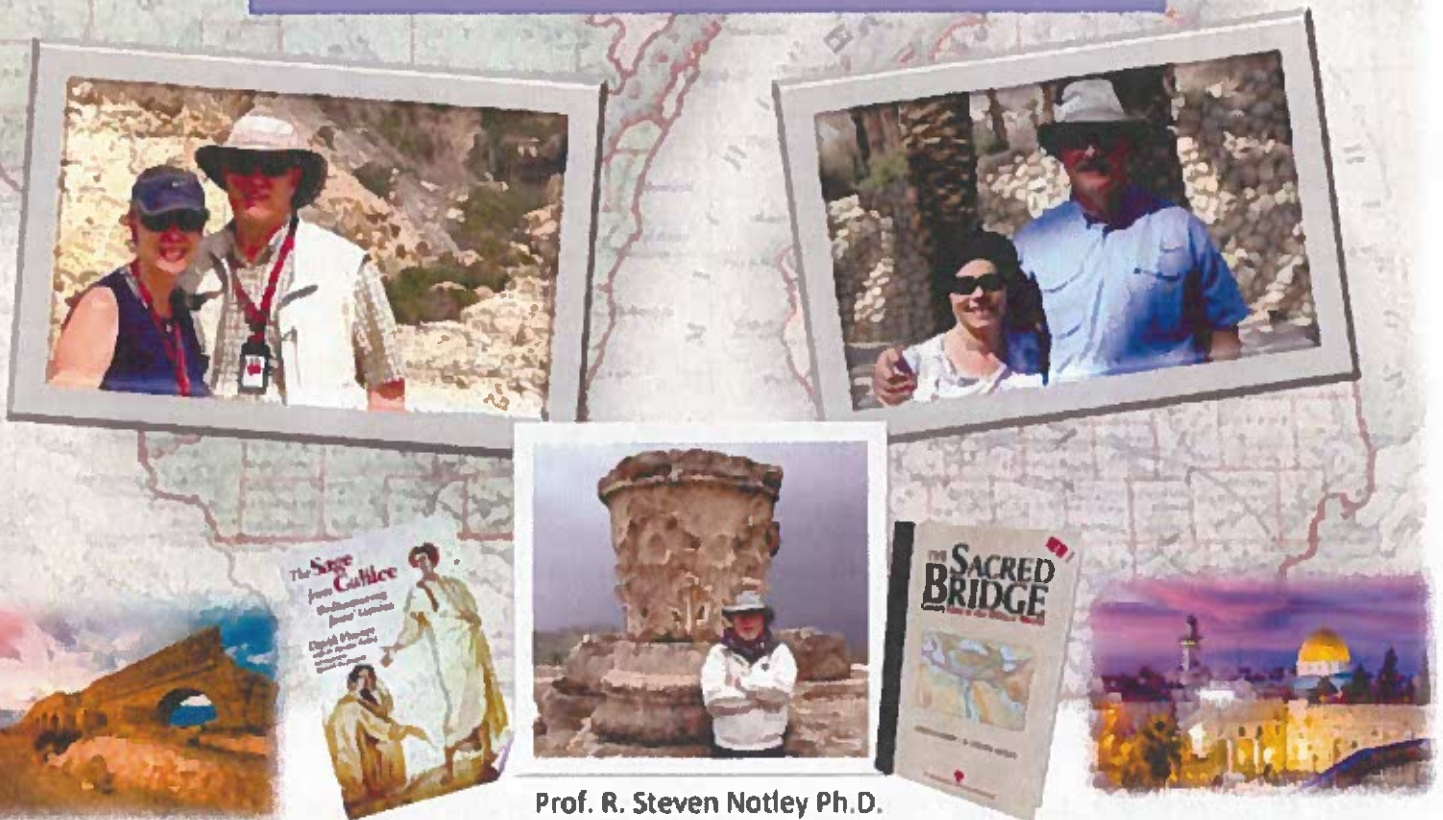
Come join us on Saturday, April 25, 2026, for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Love & Lean Walk/Run for Mental Health! Walk or run a 5K or 1.5 mile route on sidewalks, bike paths and trails through the wetlands. Physical activity is good for mental health! The route, which starts at the Zeeland stadium, will be lined with memorial pictures, motivating interaction, sidewalk chalk inspiration, middle school band members and encouraging message signs. Proceeds this year will be donated to the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan (be nice.), Winning At Home, iUnderstand and Team Be Better. Let's come together as a community to support each other and help reduce the shame and secrecy surrounding mental health so less people struggle silently and more people seek help. More information can be found at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Zeeland/LoveLeanWalkforMentalHealth>



# From the Great Lakes to the City of the Great King

**Israel Trip- June 12-25 2027**



Prof. R. Steven Notley Ph.D.

## The Bible Comes Alive as you Read the Text and Touch the Stones

You are invited to Join Bruce and Mary Okkema & Tom and Lori Williams on this 12-day tour of the Land of Israel. Both of our Families have been traveling to Israel for the past 20+ years and we wanted to share our journey with our family, friends, and new traveling companions. This tour is curated to include some of the most beloved and interesting sites; locations which help us see and hear the Biblical narratives with a fresh perspective. This will be a study tour, full of rich biblical insights, challenging conversations and deep spiritual blessing. We will be led by our good friend and scholar Dr. Steven Notley Ph.D. He is one of the pre-eminent scholars of the Jewish world of First Century and the unique language, culture and worldview in which Jesus' teaching were first heard. His knowledge of Historical Geography allowed him to co-author one of Carta's most comprehensive biblical Atlas- the Sacred Bridge. Steve is also the academic director of the Bethsaida-Julias Archeological Excavation, a site we will visit as we travel along the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Our Lives have Been Transformed by Traveling through Israel, We Would Love to Share that with You



**Beersheva - Caesarea - Megiddo - Nazareth - Sephoris  
Magdala - Hazor - Dan - Caesarea Phillipi -  
Capernaum Mt. of Beatitudes - Bethsaida/Julias -  
Chorazin - Jordan river - Galilee Boat Ride - Ancient  
Jerusalem - City of David - Western Wall Tunnels -  
Hezekiah's Tunnel - Pool of Siloam - Pools of Bethesda -  
Traditional Via Dolorosa - Qumran - Masada - En Gedi -  
Dead Sea Float - Bet Shean - Gan Hashaloshah - Bet  
Alpha Synagogue - Bethlehem - Mt Olives - Garden  
Gethsemane, Church Holy Sepulchre  
and much more.**

**We anticipate a full trip, Space is Limited, So Please Contact Us Soon!**

**Dates:** June 12-25, 2027. (Arrival day in Israel June 13, Departure on 25<sup>th</sup> or late evening of 24<sup>th</sup>). Each Participant will be responsible to purchase their own flight(s) to meet this itinerary once the trip is confirmed.

**Cost:** Land Prices are still being negotiated as we finalize the itinerary and hotels; flight prices are too early to predict. We suggest that each participant budget \$5,500 for the entire trip (land, air, lunches, souvenirs, sundries), in anticipation of rising travel and land-based costs.

**Partnership:** We are partnering with Emmaus Journeys (Steve and Sunya Notley) for all the land details of our journey. Our Tour will be listed on their [website](http://emmausjourneys.com) (emmausjourneys.com) soon and will be updated as more details come in.

**Study Tour:** Our goal is to see and explore as much of the land, walls, valleys and mountains as we can reasonably traverse in our 12-days in Israel. This itinerary requires a bit of walking (hiking for some) and is not suitable for someone with limited mobility or difficulty in walking uneven trails. Our pace is steady, though not hurried, as we move from site to site; some days will feel longer than others. As a study tour, we will spend time reading the bible texts, Josephus and other ancient texts; as well as discussing ideas that challenge our (often) simplistic understanding of biblical passage. Come ready to be challenged physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually- you will never be the same after this trip.

**Questions?:** Website will eventually have more details, if you have questions- call or email us.

Okkema: [okkema@zyrafoam.com](mailto:okkema@zyrafoam.com) or 616-836-2224 for phone or text

Guilliams: [lsguilliams@gmail.com](mailto:lsguilliams@gmail.com) or 715-630-0200 for phone or text

# Missions Updates



Spreading the Good News of  
the Gospel around the world.



# PRAYER LETTER UPDATE

Update from Josh Ouano family

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners at Overisel

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the peace and joy that comes from our Lord. I wanted to take a moment to share an update on what has been happening in my life and ministry, and to thank you for your continued prayers and support.

## Ministry Highlights

Over the past few months, I have witnessed God's faithfulness in many areas. the ministry opportunities continue to grow as I connect with more people and share the love of Christ among Muslims in the community in Southern Philippines. The work continues by the grace of God livelihood projects like Rice selling and dishwashing liquid production.

## Ministry Highlights

- The 2 children are in homeschool and I in public school.
- My wife Sharlet is still needing your prayers for complete healing.
- My schooling hybrid from The Expositors Academy is ongoing and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester next year.

I am grateful for the encouragement and support from fellow believers, which has strengthened me during challenging times. The relationships formed in this season have been both a source of joy and a reminder of the importance of community in our walk with Christ.

## Prayer Requests

Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the gospel. Your support makes a tremendous difference in my life and in the work, God has called me to do. I am deeply grateful for each of you. Thank you for the seed money to buy second hand vehicle that will useful as I scouted cars suitable for family and ministry need.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to connect further. I look forward to sharing more about what God is doing in the coming months.

May the Lord bless  
you abundantly,  
Josh Sharlet and Kids





# UPDATE FROM GRACIE IMMINK

## IMPORTANT UPDATE

January 9th

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share a brief update with you regarding my ministry journey.

After four years of serving with Word of Life Korea, it saddens me to share I have decided that I will not be continuing with Word of Life Korea moving forward. The role I had originally been preparing to step into is no longer available, and with recent leadership and directional changes, there is uncertainty regarding what a future role for me might look like in the coming years. In light of these changes, and after a season of reflection and counsel, I do not feel that continuing with Word of Life Korea is the right fit for me at this time.

I am deeply saddened by these changes, and that God is shutting this door, but I'm also so grateful for my time in Korea and for the relationships and ministry experiences God allowed during those years. I continue to pray for the team and for their ongoing work among the people there.

To those who have supported me financially, thank you for your generosity and partnership. Knowing so many of you partnered with me in that way truly means so much to me. To provide clarity, all financial gifts given in the past were received by Word of Life Korea and designated toward ministry in the field; I did not personally receive or manage those funds. As I step away from this role, please discontinue sending financial support by check or through my ministry page online. If you have set up automatic or recurring gifts, you will need to update or cancel those payments through your online giving account. If you feel God has led you to continue investing in the ministry and people of Korea, I encourage you to prayerfully consider giving directly to Word of Life Korea via this link:  
<https://give.wol.org/location/southkorea>

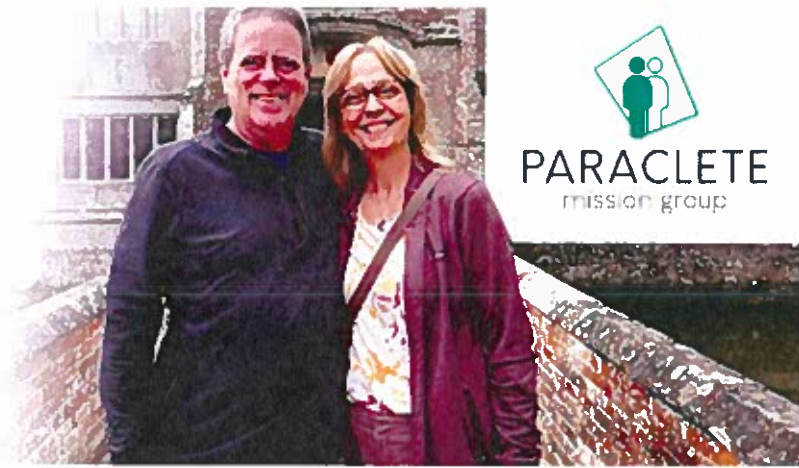
Thank you to each of you who has supported me through prayer, encouragement, and generosity over the past several years. As I enter this season of transition and discernment, I would deeply appreciate your continued prayers.

If you would like to connect personally or have questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

With Gratitude,  
Gracie Immink

Phone: (269) 455-0076  
Email: [g20cowgirl@gmail.com](mailto:g20cowgirl@gmail.com)

# MARK AND BERNANDETTE *Bennett*



Iranian National Flag

Oh, my friends. Have you been watching the news? There is a serious revolution happening in Iran right now. This is simply amazing!! I have been getting videos of the action there. Millions of people are on the street protesting against the brutal reign of Ali Khamenei. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has been firing on the people and killing many. The last count I had was over 2000 killed and many more jailed. The IRGC has said that they were going to execute 1000+ protestors this Wednesday. Pray also for the country to be free and for some sort of democracy to be restored to that nation!! I long for my believing friends and the underground church there to be free to worship Jesus openly again!! Oh, pray my friends pray!! I've been in fervent prayer for this people group and more intensely this past week. The battle is not over, and we need to cover this country with prayer!!

For the latest news go to YouTube and Tousi TV

I have learned so much from my friends there and in Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Syria. I had no idea of the geopolitical influences at work in this part of the world. They are complicated beyond my wildest understanding. The real battle though lies in the spiritual realm. The enemy is doing all he can to keep this country in bondage to Islam, but he is losing!! 68% of all the mosques in this country have closed in the last 10 years. The youth want nothing to do with Islam, and many people claim to be agnostic or atheist.

This country is ripe for revival!! When revolution raises its head often a strong revival follows. This revolution reminds me of our time in Lithuania right after the fall of the Soviet Union. We got there a few months after Lithuania declared its freedom. There were tank barricades in the streets, soldiers with machine guns, bullet holes everywhere and there was incredible openness to the gospel. If the Lord brings a change of government in Iran now there will be another HUGE opportunity for the gospel and I want to be part of that proclamation of the gospel again!! I will go to Iran and be part of what the Lord will do there!

Oh, friends pray that the Lord of the Harvest would make a way for this country to be free and for Berny and I to go there to share Jesus, plant churches and make disciples!! If regime change happens, I will attempt to go this summer. Please pray for discerning the Lord's direction in this.

So grateful for you and your heart for the lost,  
Mark & Bernandette

## Please Please Please pray for

- The complete and total overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran Government
  - Return of the Shaw if Iran as king
- Democratic government to be raised up
  - A great revival to break out in Iran
- The Lord to show me when I should go

Do you have a minute to pray right now!! Thank you soooo much!!



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your continued prayers for our brothers and sisters in Iran. These are days of unspeakable horror and deep lament. As news trickles out of Iran, Words of Hope is learning new accounts of terror and losses to our family.

Two days ago we learned of another death. This time the uncle of one of our close community members. He was the father of two children. He is just one of the many thousands that have now perished.

The full account of suffering is unknown. Reuters, citing unnamed Iranian intelligence sources, reported at least 5,000 killed. London's Sunday Times reported 12,000 to 16,000. It is impossible to comprehend such staggering loss. Each of these people is a human being created in God's image.

Let us continue to pray:

- For the sovereign hand of God to be at work to stop the violence against innocent people.
- For the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to stay close to the believers in this deep valley, that their faith may be sustained during this time of mourning.
- For the leaders of our Persian team as they seek to minister to the needs of our Persian family, all while concerned for their own families and relatives.
- For Iranians to continue to turn to Christ. He is their only hope.
- For this evil regime to fall and for times of peace to return to this beautiful country.

Pray also for a small team from North America that will visit with Iranian refugees in the month of February. I will be joining this group as we seek God together in prayer. I would love to deliver to them your messages of hope and encouragement, reminding them that they are not alone, that they have brothers and sisters all over the world. You may send a card to:

Words of Hope  
700 Ball Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

I am praying the words of Psalm 23:4:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

May our dear sisters and brothers experience the closeness of our faithful Savior and Shepherd who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

In Christ,  
Rev. Jon Opgenorth  
President of Words of Hope





# FIRESIDE CHATS

Lives are *changed* at Camp, where Christ is hope!

Dear Friends,

This weekend at Winter Camp, Cam arrived carrying something in his pocket: his report card.

That small piece of paper tells a much bigger story about why camp exists and why Winter Camp matters.

When Cam first arrived at Camp Beechpoint this past summer, he was carrying deep grief. He had lost his father to violence, and the weight of that loss showed up in how he guarded himself. Camp became a place where something new could begin, a place of care, safety, and honesty. That week, healing took root.

Winter Camp marked Cam's second time back.

As soon as he walked into the lodge, he scanned the room, searching for his cabin. When he spotted his cabin leader from the summer, he ran straight to him and wrapped him in a hug. He reunited with the camper, Malik, who had shared his father loss story months earlier, the two of them jumping up and down with joy.

This time, Cam didn't need to test whether he belonged. He knew.

Throughout the weekend, Cam naturally stepped into leadership without being asked. During a chapel message, he noticed another camper sitting alone off to the side. Cam quietly got up, walked over, and invited him to come sit with their cabin so he wouldn't miss hearing the message. Cam wasn't fighting to find his place anymore. He was creating space for others.

One of his cabin leaders also had a meaningful conversation with him about repentance, forgiveness, and assurance of salvation. As they talked, something clicked. Cam began to understand that even when he messes up, turning back to Jesus for forgiveness is possible.

And then there was the report card.

Cam pulled his cabin leader aside and said, "I brought something to show you." From the back pocket of his jeans, he carefully unfolded his report card, the same one he had carried with him all weekend. He wanted his cabin leader to see how well he was doing in school.

That moment said everything.

Cam had brought his report card because he knew there were people at camp who would celebrate his progress, encourage him, and remind him that he mattered here.

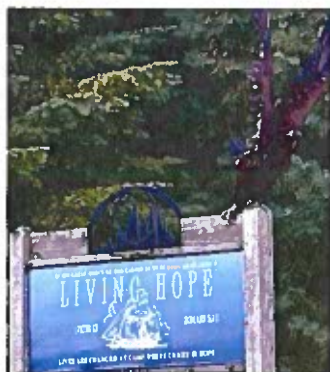
Throughout the weekend, Cam also experienced what camp uniquely offers: a safe space to be vulnerable. After chapel and during sharing times, he pulled his cabin leader aside just to cry and share what was going on in his heart. He talked about how deeply the teaching on forgiveness had impacted him, especially the truth that God chose to forgive him.

As Winter Camp came to a close, Cam shared how much he hopes to come back to camp again and, one day, to return as a camp leader himself.

Cam's story reminds us why Winter Camp exists.

It's not just a weekend away. It's a continuation of what God is doing, building on relationships, reinforcing truth, and giving campers a place to hear from Him and be changed by Him. Sometimes the impact shows up in tears, leadership, and growth. And sometimes, it shows up in a folded up report card, saved carefully for the people who care.

Gratefully,  
Brent Boersma  
Executive Director, Camp Beechpoint



## PRAISE

As you know, we've been in a season of growth at Camp Beechpoint, and growth brings higher expenses. That's why I'm grateful to share that, for the first time in my years here, we finished the year financially in the black. It's a meaningful step toward stability, made possible by a community that believes in this mission. Thanks be to God!



## PRAY

Summer staff recruitment is in full swing! Applications for summer staff are now open! If you know someone that would be interested in a summer of ministry, encourage them to be on mission at Camp Beechpoint! More info on website.



## PARTNER

Now Hiring Communications Coordinator!

Camp Beechpoint is seeking a creative and passionate Communications Coordinator to manage our communications and marketing efforts.

[Job Description](#) (access on online overview)

# News + Updates



As we step into a brand-new year, our hearts are full of gratitude and expectation. We are excited for the new opportunities God is placing before Love INC of Allegan County and for the ways He continues to invite us into His work of transforming lives and communities. We know that this year will hold many good things—not because of our own strength, but because of God's faithfulness and the partnership of generous supporters like you. Thank you for walking alongside us. With your prayers, your giving, and your trust, we are confident that God will do more than we can ask or imagine through Love INC in the year ahead.

Happy New Year!

## Quarterly Update

October-December

In the final quarter of 2025, our volunteers served 2,095 hours, answering 124 requests for help through our Connection Center (including 32 requests from new families), and meeting 1,186 needs in our community.

Our LIFE Skills, 10 Homes for 10 Families, and Homes of Hope volunteers served (collectively) 190 hours.

38 LIFE Skills class sessions and 58 mentor meetings were held.

## LIFE Skills Food

an invitation to bless local families

At Love INC, we have the blessing of walking alongside people who are finding their way forward after life has taken some hard turns. One simple but powerful way we care for them is by sharing a meal during our evening gatherings and snacks at our after-school meetings in our LIFE Skills Program.

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Right now, we're looking for folks who'd specifically be willing to help out with Thursday night meals. Nothing fancy is needed—just real food from real people, offered with love.

If you've ever thought, "I'd like to help somehow, but I don't know what I can do," this is a great way. You can sign up for one time, or on a regular basis, whatever fits you best. We'll help you with any questions and make it easy.

Want to bless some folks with food and hope?

Sign up at [loveincnwa.org/lifeskillsfood](https://loveincnwa.org/lifeskillsfood)

Thanks so much for being part of what God is doing here!

## Thank You!

a message from a local family

Every once in a while, we are fortunate to hear back from a local family who've been blessed, in some way, by Love INC through one of our 30 Partner Churches. Amy was kind enough to share a letter with us. Her words are a beautiful testimony of hope, generosity, and the difference made when a community comes together to reflect Christ's love. We're honored to share her letter with you, and grateful to be able to come together to help local families in need.



Dear Love INC,

I would like to thank you for being such a blessing to me and my daughters. Without your help, sometimes I am not sure if I would be able to make it. I especially thank you for your Christmas program. Without this Christmas program, my children would go without, so for this I thank you.

God Bless,  
Amy

To continue supporting the work we're doing here at Love INC, creating space for more people like Amy to feel the love of God and experience transformation, [click here](#).



## Cleaning Out?

donate to Heart to Heart!

On the other side of the giving season, and at the beginning of a new year, we often hear of people cleaning out, de-cluttering, and/or passing on items that no longer serve them. It's our hope that you will consider Love INC's Heart to Heart Resale Store with these items. We are sincerely grateful for the many items that are donated, and we strive to be good stewards with what we are given. We commit to use your donations in the following ways:

- Sold in the store which provides a wonderful revenue for the Love INC ministry
- Recycled
- Repurposed
- Shared across our Love INC locations in Allegan County
- Shared with a variety of other ministries

### Donations we are unable to accept:

- Cribs
- Car + booster seats
- Unframed mirrors
- Old exercise equipment
- Computers
- Printers
- Televisions
- Large desks
- Large entertainment setups

### Donation Drop-off Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30am-5pm

First + Third Saturdays of each month, 9:30am-2pm

Friday-Monday, Closed

### Donation Drop-Location:

Heart to Heart Resale Store, 4621 135th Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419

## Connect With Us

find us online

Learn more about Love INC, how to get involved, and more at [loveincnwa.org](http://loveincnwa.org). You can find us on Facebook and Instagram, too!

Looking to see what else is going on in the community? Visit our [Community Events](#) page to see what our partner churches and organizations have going on.\*

\*Partner churches, have an event to share? We're happy to post it to our Community Events calendar and share on our social media for you!



**Happy New Year from all of us at CranHill!**

As we step into 2026, we want to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family for a year filled with peace, joy, and growth. Looking back on the past few months, our hearts are full. We are incredibly grateful for your recent donation, but even more so for the steadfast support and prayers you have poured into this ministry. Your partnership allows us to create a space where lives are transformed and the beauty of God's creation is celebrated. Thank you for being such a vital part of our community.

### **A Strong Start to 2026**

The year is off to an incredible start! Since the first of January, we have already hosted our College & Young Adult retreat along with two Middle School Elevate retreats. We are thrilled to share that a total of 605 participants joined us at the ranch.

Most importantly, every single one of these young people heard the life-changing message of Jesus. The weekends were a beautiful blend of spiritual depth and winter wonder; campers enjoyed high-energy fun in the snow, balanced with "warm-up" time inside enjoying activities and fellowship.



## Standing Strong After the Storm

While we celebrate these successes, we also face a significant challenge. During the last week of December, a devastating ice storm swept through the Big Rapids area. We experienced major damage, including downed trees, roofs damaged by falling limbs, and a massive amount of debris. We are currently consulting with arborists about the remaining trees in our beloved Chapel in the Pines, but unfortunately, it appears a many of the red pines will need to be removed for safety.

Our staff did an amazing job of quick cleanup, working tirelessly to ensure the grounds were safe and welcoming for the Elevate weekends to proceed without interruption. However, much more cleanup and repair work remains. We would deeply appreciate any help you can provide toward the costs of professional tree removal and facility repairs.

Use this link to donate: <https://www.ultracamp.com/donations/donationintention.aspx?idCamp=575&campcode=chr&lang=en-US>



## Looking Forward with Faith

As we navigate these repairs, we remain firm in our mission to Transform Lives into the Image of Christ. This mission is the heartbeat of everything we do, from the quiet moments in the woods to the high-energy retreats. We look forward with anticipation to God's leading as we move forward this year, and we give Him all the praise, honor, and glory for the lives being changed.

Thank you for being such a dedicated part of the CranHill family. We couldn't do this without you.

With deep appreciation,

Joel Russcher  
Advancement Director



# PHOTO UPDATE FROM ORPHANAGE & VOCATIONAL CENTER IN OGEMBO



With support from Overisel Reformed Church the center has been able to provide meals, shelter, medical care, and cover the cost of school fees for the children in their care.

**"The joy in these little ones' hearts is a testament to the impact your support has had on their lives."**