

OVERVIEW

OVERISEL REFORMED CHURCH



Missionary Spotlight: Matt Schrotenboer

I grew up in West Michigan and moved to Chicago in 2017 to study at Moody Bible Institute. During my time there, I had the opportunity to participate in the Urban Cohort Program, where I lived and got connected to Christ Church in Albany Park on the North Side. Since 2018, I have served in various roles. I started out as the Youth Director and transitioned into my current role as the Children's Ministry Director. I have also been heavily involved with homeless outreach, prayer walks, short-term mission trips, young adult mentoring, and camp counseling. My favorite part of serving in these capacities is seeing individuals grow into who God has made them to be. Apart from my roles with the church, I recently received an educator license and am pursuing opportunities to invest in youth through education. As much as I enjoy what I do, I am thankful that God also invites us to rest. I enjoy reading, exploring Chicago, bird watching, classical music, and kite flying.



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

Making The Best Use Of The Time

Ephesians 5:15-16 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time; because the days are evil.

When we think of the month of June we often times think of graduation ceremonies and open house celebrations. There are also many weddings that take place in the month. And then there is the vacations that take place because the school year is over and there is time to do those things without interfering with the scholastic year. And all these things are very good to do.

But then sometimes things happen that change our plans. There may be an accident or a death or some other unforeseen event alters what we had in mind. The verses above do not suggest that we shouldn't make those plans, but that we do so with a wise understanding that we are not the ultimate decision maker. There is a God who orders all the events of our lives, so we need to recognize Him as the ultimate authority.

Graduations and weddings are both viewed as a sort of "new beginning" in our lives. There is a change happening, there is anticipation of a new chapter. There is excitement and maybe some anxiety and a keen sense of being a part of something bigger in life than where we have been.

I think that for Christians there is the realization that we go into these new chapters of our life with a God who is walking with us. We may have our plans laid out the way we think it will go, but we also have the sense that even if things don't go as we plan, we have the Lord always beside us and he has the best in store for us. That is how we walk carefully and wisely, leaving the final outcome in Gods hands, because we do acknowledge that there is evil in the world and our hopes and dreams may change, but our God never will.

If you are graduating or getting married this month, enjoy the times to the fullest. But make sure you are walking with the Lord. And if you are reading this and don't know the Lord as your Savior, now is a good time to make Him your Lord. After all, June is a month of new beginnings and there is no better beginning that yielding to your Lord and Savior.

Have a great June and I'll see you one the journey! God bless you all!

Pastor Ken

june birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Jack DeHaan	2 Eleanor Krui­zen­ga Missy Ulberg	3 Brandon Dekker Matthew McC­o­ry	4 Terry Garvelink	5 Leah Blood	6 Glenn Klein­heksel Eliza Krui­zen­ga Kainen LaMar Kenneth Overweg
7 George Kooyers	8 Sherri Halstead Diane Hyland Matthew Will	9 Marian Brinkhuis McKensie Ulberg	10 Brad Grew Ezra Krui­zen­ga Heather Sewell	11 Norma DeVries	12	13 Mason Velderman
14	15 Pam VanHoven	16 Emily Schierbeek Jan VandeWege Judy Zuverink	17 Lloyd Becksvoort Brent DeWeerd Jenna Dozeman Natasha Grew Pam Stafford	18	19 Shelly Burton	20
21 Sophia DeWeerd Amy Schrotenboer	22 Dale Schaap	23 Steven Valkema	24 Sophia Blauwkamp Linda LaFleur	25 Rayah Blood Becca Louwerse Mary Slotman Landen Velderman	26 Saydee DeVries Norma Klein­heksel Sarah Lubbers	27 Susan VanHaitsma
28 Kaleb Essink Rodney Folkert Diane Francisco Matthew Helmus Bob Reimink Eileen Timmer	29 Kyah Klaasen Karen Veen	30				

Milestone Birthdays



(6/16) Jan VandeWege - 90 years



(6/24) Linda LaFleur - 60 years



(6/25) Mary Slotman - 70 years

june anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Chad & Karen DeJonge Luke & Megan Siriano	3 Rodney & Hazel Folkert Tom & Pam VanHoven	4	5 Don & Kim Mulder	6
7 Ryan & Rochelle Genzink	8	9	10 Kevin & Shanley Kruizenga Roger & Cheryl Veldman	11	12 Rob & Diane Hyland	13
14 Chris & Pam McDonald	15 Nate & Lynnae Genzink Greg & Amity Pothoff	16	17	18 Sean & Stephanie Mather	19 Kevin & Sarah Essenburg	20 Mark & Kathy Hoving
21 Matt & Tara Blood Chris & Cindi Kooyers Larry & Bette Sternberg	22	23	24 Ken & Carol Nagelkirk Don & Mary Slotman	25	26	27
28	29	30 Steve & Judy Boeve Vern & Verna DeWeerd				

Milestone Anniversaries

-  (6/15) Nate & Lynnae Genzink - 25 years
-  (6/30) Vern & Verna DeWeerd - 55 years
-  (6/21) Matt & Tara Blood - 30 years
-  (6/21) Chris & Cindi Kooyers - 40 years

Mary's Monthly Meal

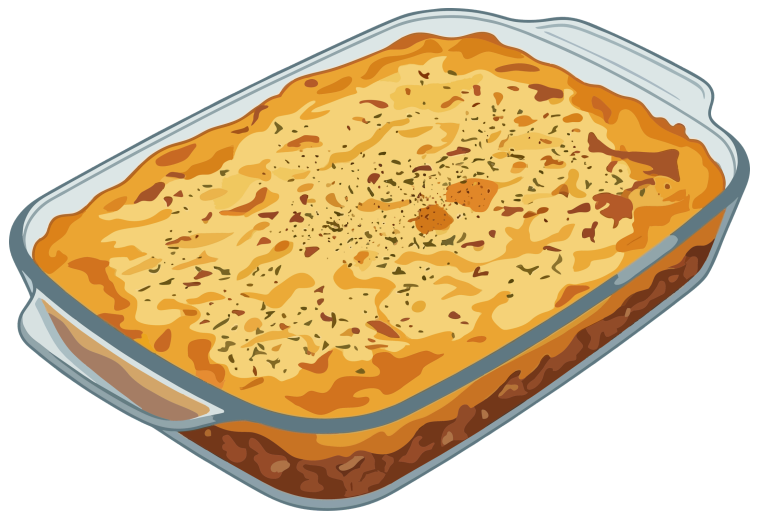
Cheesy Pizza Tator Tot Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

- 32 oz. Tater tots
- 3-6 oz. Pepperoni slices
- 2 cups Pizza sauce
- 2 cups Mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese

Optional

- Green pepper
- Olives
- Mushrooms

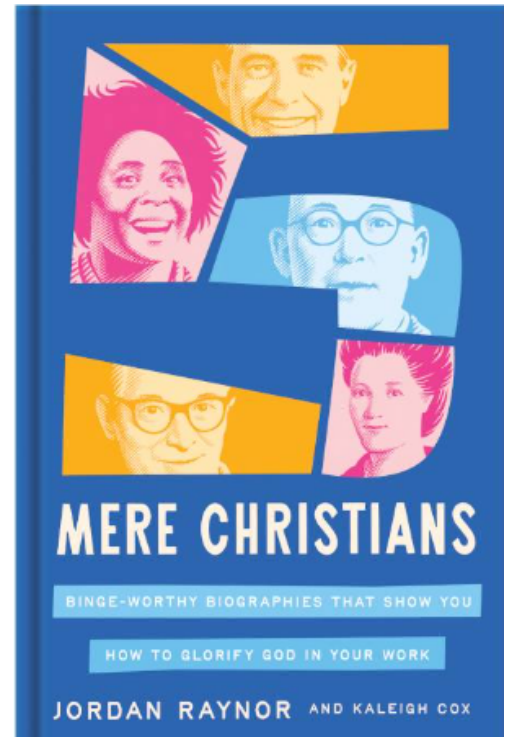


INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- Grease a 9x13 dish
- Spread thin layer of pizza sauce
- layer ⅓ pepperoni, ½ of tater tots, 1 cup sauce, 1 cup cheese, (sprinkle in any additions)
- Repeat layers
- Top with pepperoni and parmesan cheese
- Cover with foil and bake 20 minutes.
- Uncover and back for 20 more minutes.
- Cool 5 minutes, serve.

5 Mere Christians

Jordan Raynor
Non-fiction



Book Review:

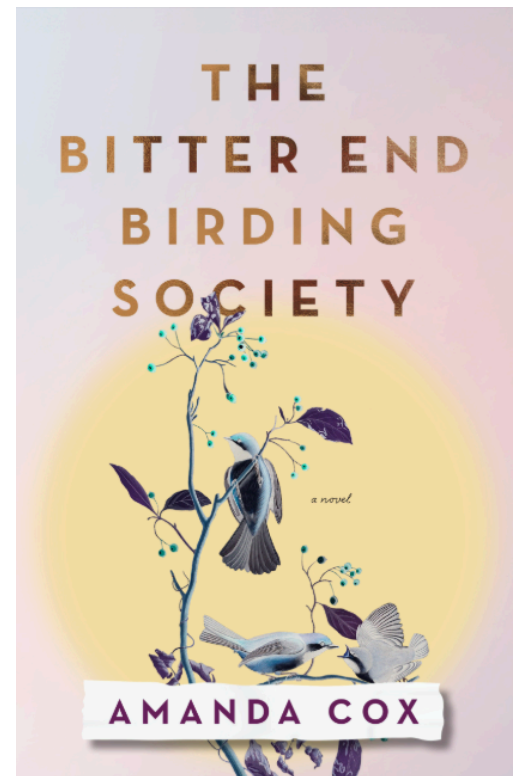
What does it mean to glorify God in your daily work? This book tells about the lives of 5 “mere Christians.” Each account is short and gives clear applications for our lives today.

Learn from Fred Rogers, Fannie Lou Hammer, Ole Kirk Christiansen, Hannah More, and C.S. Lewis.

The Bitter End Birding Society

Amanda Cox

Fiction



Book Review:

If you love generational historical-fiction stories and you haven't read Amanda Cox, you should get on that. She has a degree in professional counseling and it always comes through her stories. Each person in this story is broken, whether seen or unseen and they have to

wrestle with the things they're avoiding. Kind of like us, right?

Also, for the guys, romance does not drive this story, but friendship and family dynamics do.

What A Family!

What A Family! "I'm so glad I'm part of the family of God." We are all brothers and sisters in the Lord. Did you ever wonder, however, which people in our church are related? Here is an attempt to identify Earthly brothers and sister, etc., among those who are presently attending ORC or serving as missionaries. Listings are in no particular order. We have only included those family members who are no longer living "at home with their parents". We have only included those out of high school and above. If any family relationships have been overlooked, feel free to contact the church office to get them corrected.

SISTERS:

Linda Johnston
Belva Dubbink
(Hoffman)

Eileen Timmer
Linda Hemmeke
(Busscher)

Tara Blood
Tanya Mudd
(Vander Poppen)

Diane Hyland
Carrie DeNeef
(Wynsma)

Cindi Kooyers
Pam McDonald
(Schaap)

Sharon Nyhof
Karen Naber
(Peterson)

Adrianna Dekker
Aryn Machiela
(De Neef)

Lisa Will
Stephanie Mather
(Mentzer)

Bonnie Garvelink
Bev Grotenhuis
(Lohman)

Suzie Hott
Sally Loser
(Stum)

Laurie Haveman
Sarah Essenburg
Linda LaFleur
(Haveman)

BROTHERS:

Glenn Kleinheksel
Ken Kleinheksel

Dave Boeve
Steve Boeve

John DeNeef
Kevin DeNeef

Matt Essink
Tim Essink

Lloyd Becksvoort
Cal Becksvoort

Al Naber
Larry Naber

Kaleb Essink
Justin Essink

Gade Klaasen
Jesse Klaasen
Solomon Klaasen

BROTHERS & SISTERS:

Amy Valkema
David Kraker

Roger Slotman
Judy Boeve

John Zoet
Verna DeWeerd

Bruce Peters
Jodie Reimink

Jerry Broekhuis
Judy Avink

Bev Kreuze
Ken Kreuze

Deb Bos
Dennis Grysen

Abby Hop
Adam Snay

Gracie Immink
Grant Immink

Gabe Klaasen
Tsinat Immink
Bethlehem Klaasen
Jesse Klaasen
Solomon Klaasen

Rebecca Smith
Ben Koopman
Luke Koopman
Levi Koopman

Matt Schrotenboer
Mikayla Schrotenboer
Madison Schrotenboer
Makenze Schrotenboer

PARENTS & CHILDREN:

Keith & Laurie Lubbers:

- Lee & Mary Lubbers

Dawn Boeve

- Tim & Jodi Boeve

Ken & Mary Laarman

- Adam & Kelly Laarman

Norma Kleinheksel

- Randy Kleinheksel
 - Robb & Krista Kleinheksel

Kim Mentzer

- Lisa & Matthew Will
- Stephanie & Sean Mather

John & Joni DeNeef

- Niki & Jeff Dyke
- Kyle & Martha DeNeef

Ken & Carol Nagelkirk

- Ross & Jessica Nagelkirk

Cal & Jill Kroeze

- Dennis & Holly Kroeze

Dave & Kathy Jurries

- Kim & Kyle Dalman

Ron & Marcia Klein

- Jessica & Ross Nagelkirk

Bob & Shirley

Vanden Bosch

- Cad & Dara Vanden Bosch

Judy Klingenberg

- Nancy Klingenberg

Ken & Nancee Kleinheksel

- Kari & Matt Essink
 - Kaleb Essink
 - Justin Essink
- Carla & Tim Borr

Marilyn Essink

- Matt & Kari Essink
 - Kaleb Essink
 - Justin Essink
- Tim Essink

Jenny Blood

- Matt & Tara Blood

PARENTS & CHILDREN CONTINUED:

Margaret Wynsma

- Diane & Rob Hyland
- Carrie & Kevin DeNeef
 - Adrianna & Brandon Dekker
 - Aryn & Justin Machiela

Henry DeWeerd

- Dennis & Patti DeWeerd

Chris & Kristie Postma

- Ashlyn & Nick McDonald

Tim & Sherri Halstead

- Courtney & Andrew Peerbolte

Steve & Amy Schrotenboer

- Matt Schrotenboer
- Mikayla Schrotenboer
- Madison Schrotenboer
- Makenze Schrotenboer

Jeff & Nancy Snay

- Adam Snay
- Abby & Jonathan Hop

Carl & Shirley Van Order

- Karen Van Order

Lynn Bos

- Jeff & Niki Dyke

Sandy Heavener

- Mike & Emily Heavener

Dave & Jill Koopman

- Rebecca & Hunter Smith
- Ben & Daria Koopman
- Luke Koopman
- Levi Koopman

Dale & Elaine

Flokstra

- Rob & Amanda Flokstra

Larry & Sally Loser

- Annie & Steve Hamstra

Glenn & Beth

Kleinheksel

- Lynnae & Nate Genzink

Fran Slotman

- Don & Mary Slotman
 - Emily Bronson

Jaynet Immink

- Bruce & Glenda Peters
- Jodie & Bob Reimink

Chris & Pam

McDonald

- Nick & Ashlyn McDonald

Leon Klaasen

- Todd & Carrie Klaasen
 - Gabe & Kaylie Klaasen
 - Tsinat & Grant Immink
 - Bethlehem Klaasen
 - Jesse & Beza Klaasen
 - Solomon & Katie Klaasen

Bryan & Connie

Immink

- Grant & Tsinat Immink
- Gracie Immink

Saul & Eunice Ramos

- Martha & Jose Tirado

Chris & Cindy Kooyers

- Foster & Maryn Kooyers

Tam & Stacy Smith

- Hunter & Rebecca Smith

Barb Kraker

- Amy & Steve Valkema
- David Kraker

Betty Vander Veen

- Kris & Paul Huisingh

Missions Updates



Spreading the Good News of
the Gospel around the world.

"Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42, NIV).**1. Friday: Celebrating New Life**

As May Day reflects themes of renewal and growth, pray that the seeds of God's Word shared through audio Bibles would take root and flourish in the hearts of those hearing it for the first time. Pray for lives to be transformed as we bring His Gospel to even the hardest-to-reach places.

2. Saturday: Open Doors to Minister to Immigrant Women

Praise God for opening doors for ASM Bible Engagement Director Tara Rye to build relationships and share Bible stories with immigrant women from another religious background. Pray that trust would grow, that hearts would be open to the Gospel, and that they would be impacted by God's Word.

3. Sunday: Safe Delivery of Audio Bibles

Praise the Lord with Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch for the safe delivery of 2,500 audio Bible devices last month to Mozambique. We thank the Lord for all the partners and prayer warriors who made this delivery possible.

4. Monday: Bible Translation Conference in Guatemala

Praise the Lord that Latin America Director, Jim Loker, and Mitla Studio Manager, Diego G., attended CLATUB (Latin American Congress of Translation and Use of the Bible) in Guatemala last month. Pray the information gleaned will be used well and that God continues to connect our Mexico team with vital networks.

5. Tuesday: World Portuguese Language Day

Nearly 300 million people speak Portuguese in countries like Mozambique, Brazil, Angola, and Portugal. On World Portuguese Language Day, praise God for ASM Partners who provide Portuguese Bible translations and recordings. Pray for open doors to share His Word with those who still need to hear in this language.

6. Wednesday: The Last Mile Challenge

Pray for continued good connections following ASM's 21 April event focused on how to get God's Word the "Last Mile." Pray that more people would participate to get audio Bibles to their destination, so all may hear.

7. Thursday: Proclaiming His Glory on National Day of Prayer

"Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all peoples" (1 Chronicles 16:24, NASB) is the theme verse for today's National Day of Prayer. Pray that the name of Jesus will be lifted high in the U.S. and globally as the only hope for peace and redemption in our troubled world.

8. Friday: Preparing Audio Bibles for the Underground Church

Pray for God's help as our Mexico team loads 5,000 audio Bibles in 7 languages for a group working among persecuted churches. Pray for the arrival of the final 2,000 audio units that have not yet reached the studio.

9. Saturday: Emerging Leaders Sharing God's Word

Pray for former Bible Engagement Intern Sarah's global work alongside Audio Scripture Ministries' Gospel Partners. Ask God to use her and other emerging leaders to expand Bible Storytelling Movements worldwide.

10. Sunday: Partnerships Among New People Groups

Pray for ASM Executive Director, Naomi Frizzell, as she develops partnerships with national leaders to share God's Word in new locations and among new people groups. Pray for wisdom and understanding across cultures and languages, so that the Gospel may be shared generously.

11. Monday: Price Inflation Impacting Audio Bible Distribution

Pray for wisdom for Chad Vanden Bosch and the team in Mozambique about audio Bible distributions. Current world affairs have driven significant price increases and regional fuel shortages, affecting transport availability and reliability. Pray for wisdom as the team works to deliver audio Bibles to those who are waiting to hear.

12. Tuesday: God's Guidance for Leadership Decisions

Thank you for previously praying for the interim director of Gospel Partner Viña Studios in Guatemala. Continue to pray for their Board of Directors as they seek the Lord in choosing a permanent executive director.

13. Wednesday: God's Word Being Shared More Widely

Praise God for the spread of Bible Story-Centric Discipleship in Southeast Asia, where leaders trained in the Six

- 16. Saturday: Peaceful and Righteous Lives**
Pray for leaders and authorities in every nation where Bible Engagement work is taking place, that God would establish peace and open doors for His Word to be shared freely (1 Timothy 2:1-2, NIV).
- 17. Sunday: God's Word to Light our Path**
Pray that God's Word would be a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV), guiding us with clarity and hope in every step we take this week. Pray that as people around the world hear His Word, they would be led toward truth, transformation, and deeper faith.
- 18. Monday: Crop Resilience amid Severe Weather**
New Harvest Farm in central Mozambique has received 64 inches of rain over the past 5 months. While this rain has been great for the agroforestry test plots, it was too much for the staple crop (corn). There are once again widespread crop failures, which will lead to increased food insecurity. Pray for the NHF team as they work with local farmers to increase resilience in the face of extreme weather patterns.
- 19. Tuesday: Church Leaders Distributing Otomi Audio Bibles**
Pray for the efforts of local Otomi church leaders who travel to new regions with audio Bibles. Pray for the whole Bible in their language to also be printed and made available soon, and for the success of literacy classes so that many may not only hear, but also read the Scriptures for themselves.
- 20. Wednesday: Bible Storytelling from Nuer to Other People Groups**
ASM Gospel Partner Simon recently shared with a global group of ministry leaders how Bible storytelling has helped reach the Nuer people with God's Word. Pray that his testimony would equip and inspire these leaders to use oral Bible storytelling strategies to effectively share Scripture in their own communities.
- 21. Thursday: God's Word in Eastern Europe**
Pray for a group going to Eastern Europe who will take 60 audio Bibles with them. Pray for their safety as they travel and distribute the devices, and pray that those they minister to will come to know Christ.
- 22. Friday: Compassionate Care**
Pray for the Compassionate Care Team in Mozambique, led by Dara Vanden Bosch, as they serve vulnerable individuals and families, providing practical care and the hope of the Gospel. Pray that God would strengthen them, provide for every need, and use their presence to bring healing, dignity, and lasting transformation.
- 23. Saturday: Linguistics Courses for Bible Translation in Mexico**
Pray for native translators taking classes from May-July on translation principles and key biblical terms, and for others learning specifically to translate the book of Romans (25 May-5 June). Pray that these workshops will result in exceptional Scripture translations to be recorded in the future.
- 24. Sunday: Pentecost Sunday**
"When the day of Pentecost came ... a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house" (Acts 2:1-2, NIV). Praise the Lord for the gift of His Spirit today on Pentecost, and pray that fresh Holy Spirit wind would blow into each of our lives and our churches, to the glory of God!
- 25. Monday: Memorial Day in the U.S.**
As many pause to remember lives given in service and sacrifice, pray for God's peace to reach nations affected by conflict and loss. Pray His hope and healing would be made known through His Word in every place of need.
- 26. Tuesday: Leading Like the Early Church**
Pray for Tara Rye as she trains pastors using the To Go & To Grow model based on the Book of Acts, equipping them to share the Gospel in their own cities, reach their nations, and engage in cross-cultural ministry.
- 27. Wednesday: God's Word in Makua Shirima**
Praise the Lord for the successful completion of the full Bible recording in the Makua Shirima language from northern Mozambique, and the dedication of the translation and recording teams to bring this huge project to a close. Praise God that more than a million people will have access to God's Word in their own heart language.
- 28. Thursday: Mexico Recording Projects**
Pray for the recordings that could begin this month, depending on the availability of recordists and readers: New Testaments in a Chinantec language (Ojitlan), Zapotec (Loxicha), and Otomi (Mezquital Valley); and the book of Psalms in Mazatec (Eloxochitlan). Pray for the scheduling, safe travels, and preparation of the scripts.
- 29. Friday: Preparing for Future Ministry**
Pray for the ASM team as they plan for upcoming ministry opportunities, asking God to guide discussions about future trips, Bible Engagement trainings, and new Gospel Partnerships so every step aligns with His purpose.

Stand With Us!

a mission to live by - Ez. 22:30

A new beginning for the Tubacs



We are filled with gratitude as we share an incredible update with you. What was once a vision and the prayer of a little girl (Vilma, whose story we'll come back to later) has now become a reality.

Thanks to the generosity, sacrifice, and love of a dear friend **Gabe Smith** and his church, we were able to complete the construction of our very first home for a family in need. This project is more than just a house—it represents hope, dignity, and a new beginning for a family who has endured so much.

Seeing this come to life reminded us that God truly works through His people. Every effort, every contribution, and every prayer played a part in making this possible. This home now stands as a testimony of what can happen when the Church comes together and acts like the body of Christ as it was meant to be; it can go:—across borders, cultures, and communities—to live out a practical faith.

We are especially grateful to our friend and his church, whose willingness to give sacrificially made this project possible. Their love has left a lasting impact not only on this family, but on our entire community.

This is just the beginning.

We believe God is opening doors for more families to be reached, more lives to be restored, and more opportunities to stand in the gap where it is most needed.



La Misión Church

This is what it means to live a practical faith.

To show up.
To serve.
To love in tangible ways.

KNOW - SERVE - GROW - SHARE

"Living a practical life of simple faith, for the glory of God and for the good of others"

www.lamisionchurch.com | 505.455.3027

https://mysc.onlinegiving.org/donate/guest_donate?&fund=In+the+Gap&lf=1



The construction team and the kiddos catching their breath after a hard working day.
Cody, Shawn, Gabe (left to right)



For donations please go to:
https://mysc.onlinegiving.org/donate/guest_donate?&fund=In+the+Gap&lf=1

Vilma's story



A couple of years ago, my wife Andrea was walking through the narrow, dusty paths of a small village in Guatemala, serving as an interpreter for a missions team. In the middle of the day, a little girl approached her—full of joy, curiosity, and laughter. Her name was Vilma.

As they talked, Andrea asked her about her life and her dreams.

"My family and I live in a house with just one room and a small kitchen," Vilma said. "There are nine of us." Then, almost as a whisper of hope, she added, "I ask God for a bigger house." Andrea told her, "I will be praying for that."



After that day, we lost sight of Vilma. We didn't know where she lived, and even after asking around, we couldn't find her again.

Some time later, our friend Gabe felt led to help build a home for a family in need. A local pastor guided us to a house—dirt floors, metal sheets with holes for walls, and a roof that could barely keep the rain out. We knew immediately: this is the home we are meant to build.

During one of our visits before construction began, a little girl walked up to us and asked, "What are you doing at my house? Did you come to visit me?" **It was Vilma!!**

We stood there in shock. Without knowing it, God had led us straight to the very home of the girl who had once prayed, in simple faith, for a bigger house.

On the day we dedicated the new home, we did something special. We asked Vilma when her birthday was. "I don't know," she answered. So we made a decision: that day—the day her new home was given—would also become her birthday. We celebrated with cake, laughter, and a reminder that she is seen, known, and deeply loved by God.

Vilma's story is more than a beautiful coincidence. It's a testimony of a God who hears, who remembers, and who responds—even when we cannot yet see how.



For donations please go to:

https://mynsc.onlinegiving.org/donate/guest_donate?&fund=In+the+Gap&lf=1

Los Seguidores

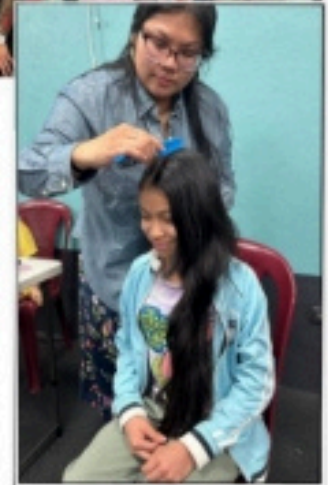


Family at work: Ginny Smith

In the mean time as the construction team and I were at the worksite (about 3 hours away from the city), Gabe's wife Ginny and Adrea did an amazing job leading the classes and other activities with the students.

Ginny shares her experience:

I've had a blessed opportunity this week to spend time with these INCREDIBLE kids, from playing new games and sharing some of my favorite scriptures to teaching English (and even some Vietnamese) and pampering a number of beautiful young ladies. I was blessed to work alongside Andrea along with my two daughters. To Andrea, thank you for sharing your precious children with me; I can see why they mean the world to you. To the children, thank you for being who you are and for sharing your week with me!



Brenda & Carter's visit

We were so grateful to welcome our dear friends Brenda and Carter during their recent visit. Their time with our students was full of joy, creativity, and meaningful connection—teaching English, exploring acting skills, and creating moments our kids won't forget. They created a space where our students felt seen, encouraged, and inspired to dream.

Brenda brought her special touch, filling our library with new books and our space with excitement. Moments like these remind us how powerful it is when people show up with love and purpose.

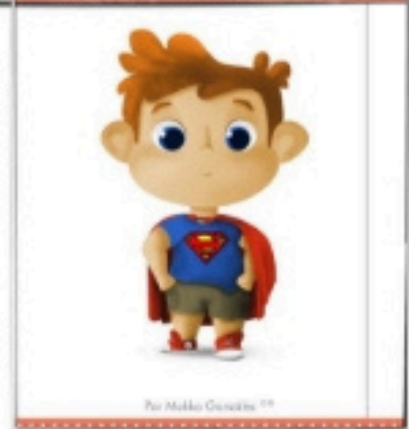




An unexpected connection: Makko Gonzalez

We also had the privilege of welcoming Makko Gonzales, a Guatemalan writer whose work has recently become part of our ministry.

I had known Makko for about three years now but, up until then, I had only known him as the person we rented vehicles from to transport visiting teams (that's the guy who induced us fault)—but after coming across one of his posts, I discovered his writing—and even found his book *How to Become Better Children* already on our shelves.



It was a powerful reminder of how God connects stories in unexpected ways. During his visit, Makko shared with our students, and his time with them was truly impactful.

A house full of sound

Our music academy is back, and once again our walls echo with the sound of strings, keys, and drums. What was once quiet is now full of life—each note a reminder that God is raising a new generation with purpose, creativity, and hope.



*Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth. For his unfailing love for us is powerful;
the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord Ps. 117 NLT*

Thank you so much:

From Vilma's prayer for a home, to friends like Brenda and Carter pouring into our students, to unexpected connections like Makko's story—each moment points to the same truth: God is at work.

He is weaving stories we could not have planned, bringing the right people at the right time, and using simple acts of faith, love, and obedience to create lasting impact. What may seem small—a conversation, a visit, a book—can become part of something much bigger in His hands.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Through your prayers, your generosity, and your support, you are helping make these stories possible. And we truly believe—there are many more stories yet to be written.



Follow us on Instagram



@INTHEGAPGT

Prayer Wall

+Pray for God's grace, guidance and wisdom be upon ourselves, to lead us reaching more people for Christ.

+ Pray for the Lord to lift more leaders in our church that could serve in the different areas of need.

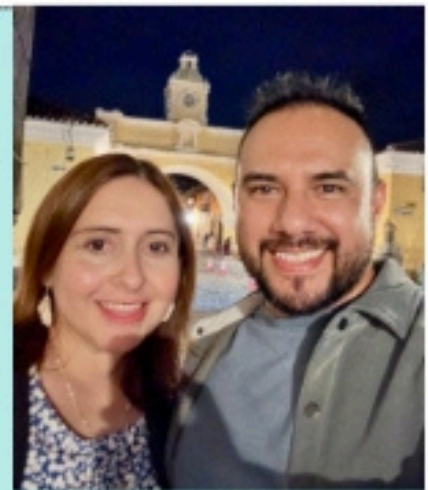
+Pray for more teams and interns who feel led to come and serve alongside us—teaching English, arts, math, sharing the Gospel, helping with construction, and finding other ways to serve and meeting practical needs in our community.

+Praise the Lord!

Amen!

20th. Anniversary!!

Andrea and I are celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary on May 6th, and we wanted to share this as a special moment of gratitude to God. We are thankful for His faithfulness through every season.



Thank you so much for standing with us!

Your partnership is crucial and has been a powerful tool in God's hands to help us get where we are. May God richly bless you.

We love you all.

Elio, Andrea & the kids



Life. The Other Choice!

Volume 37 May 2026

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

When the Unthinkable...Happens (humanlife.org)

In today's world, chemical abortions are often described as safe, simple, private, and convenient. Nothing could be further from the truth. But what is never discussed is: "What happens after a mother takes the abortion drugs?" Put simply, the baby is starved to death when Mifepristone cuts off the baby's nutrition and then labor is induced by Misoprostol to empty the womb.

Most chemical abortions are done outside of a medical facility, and the human remains, blood, and residual pharmaceuticals are usually disposed of by flushing them down the toilet. They flow into a wastewater system NOT designed to test for or remove human remains and medical bio-waste before the wastewater is released back into the environment.

We are living in a time where pharmaceuticals and "reproductive healthcare" are not only impacting individuals—but also communities, infrastructure, and even the environment.

In Sumter County, S. Carolina, authorities began an investigation after a 6-inch fetus was discovered at a local water treatment plant. Workers made the unsettling discovery during routine operations, prompting law enforcement to step in and determine what had happened and where the remains came from. This isn't speculation anymore. This isn't a hypothetical scenario used to provoke and emotion. This is a REAL event—one that forces us to pause and ask deeper questions about what kind of society we want to live in.

Join us for our Annual 5k Walk/Run
Where: City on a Hill, 100 Pine Street, Zeeland, MI

When: Saturday, May 16th

Registration: 9:30am

Walk begins: 10:00am

Instructions:

1. Use the pledge sheet to gather pledges. One person/family per pledge sheet. *(a pledge sheet can be downloaded at www.rtlhofholland.org or scan the QR code at the bottom of this page).*
2. Wear a prolife shirt!!
3. Pay the day of the walk; \$30 per person or \$60 per family (children under 15 MUST have a parent/guardian - 18 years or older) is require if you do NOT have any pledges.
4. Registration begins at 9:30am at City on a Hill - bring your pledge sheet and any money you have collected.
5. The approximate 3 mile walk will begin at 10am after prayer. You will be walking on the sidewalks or if you choose to run, you may do so on the side of the road. *Both options are at your own risk!*
6. Light luncheon will be served after the event at City on a Hill in the conference room to the right of the Café.
7. If you have a conflict with May 16th you may still participate by walking at your convenience.

Questions? Call Ann at 616.396.1037



2026 Annual Focus on Life Dinner

When: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Where: The Pinnacle Center

Time: Doors open at 6:30pm



Guest Speaker:

Lydia Taylor Davis— Lydia is a Christian pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life of America.

Based in North Carolina, she first gained recognition as president of Campbell University's Students for Life chapter - where she became known statewide as "the pro-life girl" - and later won a widely attended campus abortion debate in 2023.

Lydia is known for her pro-life content on TikTok, reaching tens of millions and educating Gen Z on the truth about abortion.

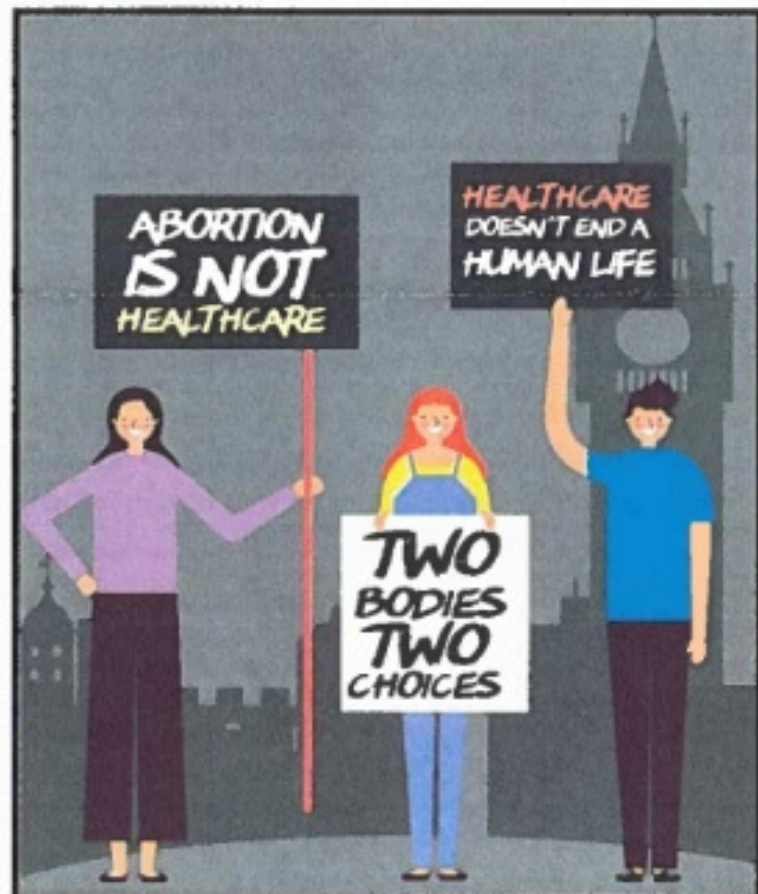
Her investigative videos exposing late-term abortion facilities have surpassed 50 million views across platforms. She has been featured on Fox News, the Wall Street Journal, ABC, Newsmax, the BBC and more.

This night is a great opportunity for teens and young adult to feel inspired!

To visit our website directly!



- ~ **May 16th** - Annual Walk/Run will be held at City on a Hill in Zeeland 9am-Noon.
- ~ August 24-29—Hudsonville Fair (volunteers needed)
- ~ **October 20th** - Annual Focus on Life Dinner with guest speaker Lydia Taylor. She is a pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life of America.



End of the Year Update For our Kids Hope Program



This year ORC joined Hamilton Reform Church with providing mentors to Hamilton Elementary and Middle School. There are 22 kids being mentored each week. 22 kids that have a caring adult pouring into their lives, loving on them and reminding them that they matter! ORC had 7 mentors this year.

- Suzanne Barnum, Michele Bennet, Tara Blood, Jill Koopman, Ken Mol, Gary Scholten, Hunter Smith and Ron Wingerter.

These mentors spend an hour each week working with students on school work, reading, playing games and building meaningful relationships. We appreciate their time and commitment.

In May we had an end of the year party to celebrate our time together. We enjoyed a visit from the Critter Barn - the baby chicks were a big hit! We played Bingo with lots of great prizes. And ended our afternoon with Pizza and lots of snacks. Many of our students' families also joined us which made for a great afternoon of fellowship.

We are looking forward to next fall where we can again make an impact and show kindness and love to some of the students and families at Hamilton Elem. If you would like to get involved and mentor a student next fall, please see Jill Koopman.

WORDS
OF
HOPE

+ Good News

JUNE

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the start to spring as much as I am!

Things have been good and busy around Words of Hope with lots of travel and connections happening, and many **amazing ministry updates** from our fields.

As we near the end of our fiscal year, we are incredibly grateful for your partnership. We are so close to reaching our goal!

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing a **VERY** exciting announcement. God is opening the door for something new through Words of Hope! While I can't share all the details just yet, here's a hint: a brand-new ministry opportunity overseas is in the works ... and you'll have the chance to be part of it from the very beginning.

Stay tuned. I can't wait to tell you more soon!

For now, I have the latest updates from our field leaders.

These highlights are so inspiring and I hope you see how much of an impact you are making across the globe. Here is your good news monthly update:

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan, our Dinka-language ministry continues to share messages of peace, reconciliation, and healing in communities long affected by conflict. Local leaders and government officials have recognized **the impact** these broadcasts are having throughout Lakes State and beyond.

One especially encouraging development is the partnership between community leaders and our radio ministry to promote peace-building across the region. Even amid challenges, including the ministry's own radio station being off-air and transportation limitations, programs continue airing through government and private stations, reaching listeners across Greater Bahr el Ghazal where Dinka is widely spoken.

This quarter alone, seven different programs focused on peace-building, Christian living, evangelism, and trauma healing aired twice weekly. Ministry leaders are now intentionally adding "Christian healing" content to address the deep emotional wounds left by years of war.



NEPAL

In Nepal, ministry expansion continues as Words of Hope begins producing programs in additional heart languages, including Maithili, Magar, Sherpa, and Tharu. The team also welcomed new staff members to strengthen ministry coordination and outreach.

One inspiring story comes from Alyssa Tharu, a theology student with a passion to reach her own Tharu community with the gospel. After years of creating social media content, Alyssa sensed God calling her toward deeper ministry. **She is now training as a radio producer and creating Christ-centered programming in the Tharu language to reach people in her home region with hope and truth.**

The Nepal team also conducted pastoral formation training for **17 students** and continues airing discipleship programs from five radio stations across the country.



ALBANIA & NORTH MACEDONIA

Words of Hope Albania continues seeing remarkable digital growth and listener engagement across the Balkans.

Over the past quarter:

- Facebook content reached approximately 1.3 million views
- Instagram content received over 71,000 views
- YouTube subscribers grew to more than 1,400

The ministry is also expanding devotional programming into Macedonian, where listeners are already responding enthusiastically.

One listener from North Macedonia shared how nightly devotionals have transformed her family life:

“As a family, we gather, we talk, we pray. We are closer because of it.”

Another listener from a Muslim background said the programs have opened her heart to learn more about Jesus and Christianity for the first time.

In Albania, a woman named Vjollca shared how the ministry’s “Through the Bible” program helped her recognize God’s purpose in her life after years of struggling with infertility and eventually adopting a son she now calls “a gift from God.”



Thank you for praying, giving, and standing with Words of Hope as we continue sharing the gospel through media, discipleship, and encouragement around the world.

I look forward to sharing more good news with you soon!

With gratitude,

Brittany Aldridge
Donor and Church Relations

UPENDO ORPHANAGE

Photo Update

