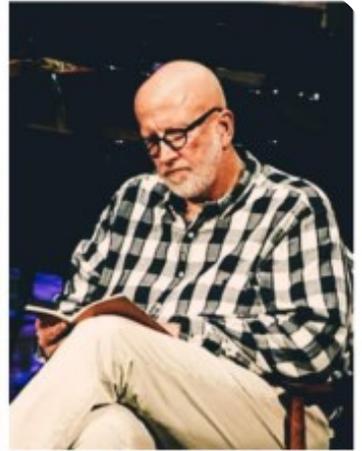


# MAURICE MOMENTS | JANUARY 2021



# MRC FAMILY NEWS

## Our members who are celebrating an "Over 80" birthday this month:

**Fred DeVries** - 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3

Royale Meadows Care Center  
1400 7th Ave SE, Room 609  
Sioux Center, IA 51250

**Don Van Horsen** - 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on January 3

518 4th St., PO Box 25  
Maurice, IA 51036

**Sharla De Jager** - 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 6

Landsmeer Ridge #605  
1007 7th St NE  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Berdena Grady** - 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on January 15

708 2nd St SE #103  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Joyce Groen** - 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 25

Landsmeer Ridge #612  
1007 7th St NE  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Eveleen Van Peurse** - 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 25

1007 4th St NE  
Orange City, IA 51041

**Eileen Wichers** - 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday on January 26

4792 US 75 Ave  
Maurice, IA 51036

**Leola De Jong** - 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 28

Prairie Ridge Sunrise Cottage  
1005 7th St NE  
Orange City, IA 51041

## Hospitalizations & On Going Health Concerns

- ◆ Val Dykstra, Brent De Kok, Isaac Schmidt, Bryan Van Gelder, Amy Muth, Colton Roorda, Teagyn Roorda, Linda Zevenbergen, Royce Jasper, Wanda Kuiken, Linda Vander Laan, Dave Vander Zwaag, Mark Kleyer, Cliff Wierda, Denny Van Ommeren, and for all those who have been affected by Covid. Also please continue to pray for our elderly who are confined to their residences during this time.

## Sympathies

- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **Marie Maassen's family and loved ones** with her passing.
- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **Stan & Shirley Eisma** and family in the passing of Shirley's brother, Bill.
- ◆ We extend our sympathies to **Rod & Vi De Jong** and family in the passing of Rod's mother, Lois.

## Praises

- ◆ Bill & Judy Vlietstra are thrilled to announce the birth of a new granddaughter. Jaine Ilene Vlietstra was born perfect in every way on November 4 to Travis & Colby Vlietstra from Orange City. Jaine joins big 4-year-old sister, Claire. We praise God for this "bundle of joy".

## Congregation Thank You Notes

- ◆ **Grandma Wanda** - Thank you so much for all the get well cards, and food, and now all the Christmas cards. I feel so blessed not only for having a loving family, but a special church family. I miss you all. Merry Christmas!
- ◆ **Lorna Bylsma** - Thank you to all who so lovingly helped make some hard days a little easier by taking the time to stop by to see how I was doing, especially after getting hurt. I so appreciated all the meals, desserts, goodie trays, gift baskets, cards, gift cards, calls, even peppermints, and more. The caroling was pretty cool too! You were all so uplifting! I can't thank you enough!
- ◆ **Amy Aberson** - I would like to thank the individual or family that gave Ashlyn such a generous basket while she was quarantined! She was so surprised! It totally made her day! I would also like to thank Ray & Lori's small group for all the food/treats they brought out! Such a blessing while I'm not feeling so well. It's been a tough year...but the kindness and generosity and support of others sure helps make it a little easier.
- ◆ **Marlin Wichers** - Thank you for the cards, food, and visits I received for my birthday and Christmas. It is all very much appreciated!

## Thank You Notes Continued

- ◆ **Lee & Emily Maassen and family, Marv & Jacki Maassen and family, Lloyd & Marcia Cleveringa and family, Terry & Cheryl Maassen and family, Grandkids & Great Grandkids** - *We as the Maassen family want to express our grateful thanks to the consistory for the plant and to all those who sent cards of sympathy and reached out to us in this time of mom's passing to be with her Lord. We also want to thank Pastor Wick for all he has done for our family through this time and all the letters he wrote mom through this year of Covid. We felt the church's love through all of this and Christ's love shared in this season. Our family to yours.*
  - ◆ **Kelli Bartlett on behalf of Angel Tree** - *Thank you to the many hands who blessed our Angel Tree families this year! We were able to deliver a total of 61 gifts to 11 different families and show the love of Jesus, and the church, through this ministry. Because of you, those children of incarcerated parents were able to receive gifts from their parents who might not have otherwise been able to provide for them this Christmas!*
  - ◆ **Genesis House** - *Dear Maurice Reformed, thank you for your generous Thanksgiving donation to Genesis House. We are blessed by your loving hearts. Your partnership with Genesis House is so valuable to us. Have a blessed Christmas season!*
  - ◆ **Family Crisis Center** - *Dear Friends at Maurice Reformed Church, we humbly thank you for the wonderful items you blessed us with at Thanksgiving, once again!*
- 

### MARIETTA "MARIE" MAASSEN

Marietta was born on August 10, 1924, in Alton, the daughter of John and Nettie (Vink) Fedders. She was raised in Alton and Orange City, where she attended school through the eighth grade. At a young age she started cleaning houses and worked at an egg plant in Sioux City.

She was united in marriage to John Edward Maassen on August 26, 1947, at the Alton Reformed Church. They made their home on a farm near Maurice where they raised their family and operated Maassen Dairy. In 1981, they moved to Orange City where they remained until becoming residents of the Kosgrove Estate in Sioux Center. John passed away on February 27, 2014, in Sioux Center, after more than 66 years of marriage. In April of 2014, Marie moved to Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community and in November of 2018, to the Prairie Ridge Care Center.

Mrs. Maassen was a member of the First Reformed Church in Maurice, where she participated in adult choir and Women's Circle. She enjoyed doing embroidery, often on kitchen towels, flower and vegetable gardening, and canning her fresh produce. She also liked to play the piano, which she did by ear, and singing at area nursing homes.

Marie was a devoted prayer warrior for all of her family including her four children and their spouses, Terry and Cheryl Maassen, of Omaha, Nebraska, and their three children, Michelle (Dan) Brands, Sara (Curt) ANdringa, and Kristin (Mitch) Friehe; Leroy and Emily Maassen, of Maurice, and their children, Stacy Maassen Surat, Aaron (Marissa) Maassen, Adam (Ashley) Maassen, and Stefan (Miranda) Maassen; Marv and Jacki Maassen, of Sioux Center, and their four children, Mary Maassen, Anna Maassen, Kody Poeckes, and Jaden (Joe) Melnick; and Marcia and Lloyd Cleveringa, of Orange City, and their three children, Amy (Jeff) De Boer, Eric (Jennifer) Cleveringa, and Dave (Molly) Cleveringa; 25 great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Henrietta Muilenburg, of Orange City.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a stepfather, Dick, Verdoorn; two brothers, Dick (Gert) Fedders and Gerald Fedders; three sisters, Bernice (Jay) Pruis, Nettie (George Smit and Henry) Mellema, and Johanna (Frank) De Haan; two sisters-in-law, Gert (Bert) Eisma and Elaine (Robert) Sherman; two brothers-in-law, Gerrit Maassen and Wally Muilenburg; and a stepsister, Alice (Arie) Mans.



# 2021 CONSISTORY

## 2021 CONSISTORY STATEMENTS

As we look ahead to the coming year, the 2021 consistory members were asked to identify why they feel they were called, along with their unique gifts and passions, to serve for such a time as this.

**Terry Baartman** - *I believe that God has called me to this place to help our Maurice family to find purpose and value in each other. My goal would be that each person here says these words "Who needs me" once we feel needed then we will find purpose.*

**Brad Cleveringa** - *I have the gifts of leadership, discernment, and wisdom. With those gifts, I have a passion for recognizing other people's gifts and helping plug them into an area that fits them. I enjoy building high functioning teams and watching them flourish. I also feel God has given me a gift of being able to look towards the future and dream about where we could go.*

**Eric Cleveringa** - *I have felt called to serve on consistory as it allows me to use my spiritual gift of mercy and my education and experience in missions. I feel that deacon benevolence is a great place for me to serve the church of MRC.*

**Dan DeVries** - *My spiritual gifts are encouragement, hospitality, and helps. While those could fit well with more than one team, my strengths of connectedness, developer, and futuristic contribute to my role on the Vision Administration team, helping people and teams do better work together, contributing to set direction for consistory, and thinking together with others about the big picture for MRC ministry.*

**Josh Dorhout** - *One of my top spiritual gifts in the Clifton Strengths Finder was competition. At first glance I would not have thought this is a "spiritual gift". You know, we're the church, we're supposed to be humble and meek. After reading more into it, I think this is a great gift for the church. It provides our church with a sense of "let's get the most out of our resources". Always looking and driving to make Maurice Church the best version of Maurice Church we can be.*

**Laura Haverdink** - *God has given each of us gifts to use—both in honoring Him and in building each other up. We are family together and I'm very grateful for each of you! Presently, God has called me to use the gifts of encouragement and intercession in the role as an elder and on the Member Engagement Team (helping people get plugged in and using their gifts). It's exciting to see how each of our gifts fit together and I look forward to serving God side-by-side with you and growing in our faith together!*

**Stacy Jasper** - *I'm looking forward to this year as a consistory! We have really gained some momentum, and are working as a team! I'm excited to see what God has in store for us as a church. Even though life itself is far from normal, I believe that we as a church body will have many opportunities to be the church outside these walls!*

**Billy Korver** - *When I was first asked, my human part said no, but after two days of fighting with myself, it hit me. It was less about me being an elder, and more about me being willing to let Jesus lead. So I am waiting to see where the next three years brings us.*

**Dan Leusink** - *My gifts are discernment, faith, and helps. My strengths are achiever, adaptability, responsibility, belief, and consistency. I feel that I was called to consistory because I want to help others. I also feel that God wants me to grow in my faith and leadership which I have been allowed to do.*

**Lee Maassen** - I feel called at this time to be an elder of the church to be a compassionate, caring person. To guide and direct the church in spiritual matters and concerns. I feel honored to be elected by my church members and hope they can trust me and confide in me in all aspects of life. I try to do my due diligence in leading the church family in spirit and in truth by God's holy word and trusting in Him only in all I do. One of my favorite verses to live by, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths."  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Brian Oolman** - As a deacon and being on the Physical Plant team, I feel that I can use my gifts to further the Kingdom through the use of our facility. I also believe that by being on the Youth Ministry team, I can help keep our youth programs strong so the next generation can continue to grow in their faith.

**AJ Smit** - I want to be obedient and serve my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has gifted me with the strengths of responsibility and a desire to keep learning. He has given me the spiritual gifts of giving and helps. In my role as a deacon, I will do my best to help serve the Bride of Christ—the Church—and "make God famous".

**Denny Vander Sluis** - I felt the Lord leading me to continue with the work of the Staff Relations team. I felt my gifts of leadership and encouragement were needed to provide unity and be an advocate for our church staff.

**Ray Van Gorp** - I believe that God has a special time for everyone, and now is the time for me. I believe that my gift of caring about and for others serves me well being on the congregational care team. This team really plays to my strengths as I enjoy visiting and showing kindness and concern for people.

**Mark Van Ommeren** - Through my daily work experiencing in serving customers by helping them solve various problems with their home repair projects, and being a part of a leadership team at work, I think God is calling me to use these same abilities to serve the Maurice Reformed Church, it's members, and others of this community.

**Michael Vermeer** - I have a passion for fiscal responsibility and it's our mission as a family to educate others to be fiscally responsible as well. I believe through that we are able to equip others appropriately to carry out God's mission for our lives.

## MRC NEWS & HAPPENINGS

### MRC NURSERY UPDATE

Dear MRC - We feel that in order to serve families with young children better, the nursery will now be a "parent room". Many children are not comfortable with their parents returning to the sanctuary without them. Therefore, parents of young children, ages 0-3, will be able to let their toddler play, while enjoying the service remotely. Thank you to all who have volunteered in the nursery in the past!  
Please contact Lisa Smit if you have any questions.

### POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN MEMORY



Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. What a beautiful way to remember your loved ones!

**Eileen Wichers in loving memory of Allen Wichers**

(the remainder of poinsettias purchased was listed in the Dec. Maurice Moments)



# MRC MINISTRY SPOTLIGHTS

## **DOOR GREETER MINISTRY - JERRY VERMEER**

The main purpose of the Door Greeter Ministry is to have a welcoming presence at the front door as people come into church. That way, if there is someone new that comes, he or she will feel welcome and loved right off the bat. The greeter can also direct them if they have any questions.

Characteristics that help in being a door greeter is to be a people person and to love to interact with people of all types. Having the gift of hospitality or helps is a great start!

Loren Vander Schaaf shared with me that he enjoys greeting everyone and tries to get a smile from everyone that comes through the door. He really enjoys interacting with the children that come through, greeting them with either a high-five or fist bump. He says seeing their reactions is priceless.

When asked about her experience as a door greeter, Judy Vlietstra said, "I just love doing it. I feel so blessed when people I know and don't know enter our church doors. Most come in with a smile but a few need that warm greeting to welcome them to worship. I know I am the greeter, but I end up being lifted and blessed. Maddi Halma, a 1st grader who attends our church with her family, is my 'greeter in training'. To be honest, I'm learning from her. No one gets by her without a greeting and infectious smile. She opens the door as soon as she sees someone on the sidewalk. Every time our Marine grandson, Xandr, attends church with us, he always wants to greet too. He says our church is so welcoming. Greeting gives us the chance to be the hands and heart of Jesus, welcoming whoever walks through the doors—helps set the mood for worship—open hands and open hearts.

I believe Judy sums up in a nutshell what greeting is all about!



## **USHER MINISTRY - LLOYD CLEVERINGA**

When talking with the individuals involved in this ministry, a similar theme is shared—the reason they like to do it is because they want to share a smile and show Jesus' love to everyone as they enter God's sanctuary. They like to give everyone a "hello" or "how are you doing today?". Some feel their gift is space utilization and want to get people seated as comfortably as possible and still get the pews utilized to capacity. As for my own experience with ushering, I feel those involved just want to make everyone's worship experience start off on a positive note and want to show God's love through their actions.

If you feel you would like to be a part of this ministry just contact Mark Van Ommeren, Alan Muilenburg, Jeff Van Der Weide or Dave Koopmans. They are always open to having more smiling faces and helping hands with the Ushering Ministry.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## AWANA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Parents are encouraged to help their children at home with memorizing their Bible verses! Learn them right along with your kids!

Awana begins again **January 6!** We meet every Wednesday night in January from 6:20-7:30.

Awana will have a special night on **January 27!** Pull out your flip flops and beach-wear for a fun Beach Night at Awana!



## ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars for **February 24!** We will not have Awana that night, but instead, get ready to cheer on your favorite car at the MRC Pinewood Derby Night! Sign up will be on the information table. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students are welcome to participate! You must sign up! Kits will be given to students later in January. More details to follow, so be sure to watch the bulletin and next month's Maurice Moments!



### **Memory Verses for January - Learn these as a family!**

**January 3-24** - *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* 2 Chron. 7:14

**January 31** - *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thess. 5:16-18



# JR GAP MINSITRIES



**“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11**



## January Schedule

- Jan. 6 - *Into the Battle: Front Lines*
- Jan. 13 - Testimony Night
- Jan. 20 - Tubing Night—Hinton, IA
- Jan. 27 - *Into the Battle: Battle of the Mind*

## January Lunch Schedule

*\*\*Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars\*\**

- Jan. 6 - Sara G, Erica J, Cole J, Allyson L
- Jan. 13 - Tegegn S, Elsie VB, Carter VG, Aiden G
- Jan. 20 - Alyssa G, Ethan H, Caleb H, Kylee W
- Jan. 27 - Jake L, Ryan M, Paul P, Jaiden R

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### **Middle School Retreat 2021 - Hidden Acres, Dayton, IA - Friday, April 9-Sunday, April 11**

Middle School Retreat is a fun weekend for middle school students and their adult leaders!

Middle School Retreat is held at Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, IA (about a half

hour south of Fort Dodge). Synod Youth Ministries partners with Northwestern College students to plan an awesome weekend of worship, large group sessions, youth group time, and of course, recreation and games! This year's

theme is *Magnify* focusing on taking a closer look at who we are, and who God is; instead of what our culture says about who we are and who God is. **Registration opens on January 4, 2021 and closes on February 20. The cost is \$115/participant and checks may be written out to Jr. GAP.**



### **Power Connection 2021 - Bethel University - Friday, June 25-Sunday, June 27** - Power Connection is an

event for middle school students in grades 6-8th and their adult leaders. Power Connection's mission statement is to provide an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to transform the beliefs of students and adult leaders into a lifestyle of faith in Jesus Christ. This year's theme is *Wonder. Wander.* focusing on Psalm 78 and the story of the Israelites during their 40 year wander in the desert. **Registration opens on January 4, 2021 and closes on April 10. Cost has yet to be determined per participant.**

### **Hinton Tubing Outing - Hinton, IA - January 20** - We are planning to once again continue our annual

winter tradition of going tubing! We plan to go to Hinton again this year. **On January 20, Jr. GAP will leave at 6pm and return at 8:30pm; while Sr. High will leave at 6:45pm and return at 9:15pm.** Make sure to dress accordingly. There is no cost. We look forward to a fun time!



### **JR. GAP JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Troy Dekkers - Jan. 8 | Karter Hooyer - Jan. 9 | Tegegn Smit - Jan. 15  
Kira Schrock - Jan. 17 | Miya Schrock - Jan. 17 | Gage Roorda - Jan. 19

*As we embark on a new year, and continue to journey through the second half of the youth group year, we near closer to our youth group mission trips coming in the summer. These mission trips are incredible opportunities to connect with God, each other, and our neighbors; and to serve, worship, and play! With these trips comes our yearly fundraisers, and the outpouring of financial resources from our church family and community to support our youth and reduce the cost of these opportunities. It is a true blessing to belong to such a supportive church family! Over the years, we have been able to reduce the cost of trips per participant by at least half, and in many cases, well over half the cost, and we hope to continue to do so in the future. Because these fundraisers hold great value, we also believe the student's participation and ownership in them is valuable as well. With that being said, the Belgian Waffle Fundraiser (Jr. GAP) and Sweetheart Banquet (Sr. High) are quickly approaching, and we wanted to communicate clearly that each youth participating in these fundraisers will enjoy the benefits and receive funds from the profit of the fundraisers towards reducing the cost of their summer trip. If for some reason there is a scheduling conflict and you are not able to be there, please contact Jon Eveland and we will make accommodations and make sure participation is possible.*

*Thank you for your understanding!*



# SR HIGH MINSITRIES



**“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11**



## January Schedule

- Jan. 6 - Into the Battle: Front Lines
- Jan. 13 - Testimony Night
- Jan. 20 - Tubing Night—Hinton, IA
- Jan. 27 - Into the Battle: Battle of the Mind

## January Lunch Schedule

*\*\*Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars\*\**

- Jan. 6 - Emily H, Ashton H, Keith H, Tayce K
- Jan. 13 - Miranda M, Brittini O, AJ S, Hanah VB
- Jan. 20 - Lexi VZ, Cole V, Karsen VO, Alex VH
- Jan. 27 - Brady VG, Brett VG, Cody VE, Adam VB

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Rocky Mountain High 2021** - Rocky Mountain High is officially at 100% capacity, so registration is closed. We have 41 students and 8 adults registered to attend Rocky Mountain High next summer. **Even though registration is currently full, you may join the waitlist in the event students drop out: [www.rockymountainhighinfo.com](http://www.rockymountainhighinfo.com)**

**Sr. High Omaha Zoo Overnighter - TBD** - We are still hoping to take a group to the Omaha Zoo to have an overnighter. Due to covid, like many things, we are uncertain the dates of this trip. Stay tuned!



**Sweetheart Banquet 2021 - February 4, 2021, 6:30-8:00 pm - Family Life Center** - It isn't too early to be thinking about our annual Sr. High Sweetheart Banquet! **We are seeking Sr. High students to help plan, coordinate, and organize the evening's entertainment, decorations, and theme!** If you would like to be a part of the planning

team, please contact Jon Eveland. **Also, please put this date on your calendar as well and take off work for this evening.** This is the same evening as the MOC-FV HS Large Group Speech Showcase again, so please make necessary arrangements as in years past. This is a great evening for the Sr. High students to serve and fun for those attending, but also a significant fundraiser for the Sr. High ministry to reduce the cost of Rocky Mountain High; so please make every effort to be a part of the evening.

**Hinton Tubing Outing - Hinton, IA - January 20** - We are planning to once again continue our annual winter tradition of going tubing! We plan to go to Hinton again this year. **On January 20, Jr. GAP will leave at 6pm and return at 8:30pm; while Sr. High will leave at 6:45pm and return at 9:15pm.** Make sure to dress accordingly. There is no cost. We look forward to a fun time!



## SR. HIGH JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Alex Van Horn - Jan. 7 | David Vander Zwaag - Jan. 14 | Adam Van Beek - Jan. 27

As we embark on a new year, and continue to journey through the second half of the youth group year, we near closer to our youth group mission trips coming in the summer. These mission trips are incredible opportunities to connect with God, each other, and our neighbors; and to serve, worship, and play! With these trips comes our yearly fundraisers, and the outpouring of financial resources from our church family and community to support our youth and reduce the cost of these opportunities. It is a true blessing to belong to such a supportive church family! Over the years, we have been able to reduce the cost of trips per participant by at least half, and in many cases, well over half the cost, and we hope to continue to do so in the future. Because these fundraisers hold great value, we also believe the student's participation and ownership in them is valuable as well. With that being said, the Belgian Waffle Fundraiser (Jr. GAP) and Sweetheart Banquet (Sr. High) are quickly approaching, and we wanted to communicate clearly that each youth participating in these fundraisers will enjoy the benefits and receive funds from the profit of the fundraisers towards reducing the cost of their summer trip. If for some reason there is a scheduling conflict and you are not able to be there, please contact Jon Eveland and we will make accommodations and make sure participation is possible. Thank you for your understanding!



# MOMENTS IN MISSIONS

The **special offering** for the month of January is:  
**Awakening Grace**



Awakening Grace is an organization that encourages families during the loss of a child during pregnancy and infancy to grieve bravely, heal gently, and remember boldly. To support these families, Awakening Grace provides care packages during or after their loss at any time. These care packages include comfort and memorial items as a small token of remembrance and love from the family of Awakening Grace to theirs. Awakening Grace also provides families with support finding resources in their community for funeral expenses if needed, support groups (both online and in person), and information about a woman's options during a miscarriage. Lastly, Awakening Grace provides photography services for pregnancy loss of any gestation. These services are meant to ease a small part of the pain of losing a precious child.

Please remember to keep the staff in your prayers during the times as they serve, and that the organization can remain staffed to address the needs that come in.

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## **RCA INTERNATIONAL PARTNER BRIAN & DONNA RENES**



In partnership with United Bible Societies, Brian serves as the training coordinator for Bible translation work. He trains translators, consultants, and others how to use special software that is designed specifically for Bible translation. With 500+ active projects around the world and over one billion people lacking access to a complete Bible in their heart language, God has called him to a big task.

Everyone should have access to the Bible in their heart language—from Scandinavia to Chiapas, Mexico, from South Sudan to Bali, Indonesia. With every project, Brian Renes and his team work steadily and patiently to translate, revise, and fine-tune over 30,000 verses in each language. In some areas, finding local support is difficult, but that is always Brian's goal. A person in-country knows the local language and can give more frequent support to Bible translators, almost always lending to a greater quality translation.

Because of the Covid virus pandemic, Brian has not been able to travel, but does his work from his Sioux Center home. In his last email he writes, "I so very much want to go out and minister, teach and help, but that is 100% impossible now yet. Every week I get an email message from the United Bible Societies saying all travel is still suspended. I had thought by now it would be possible, now I am hoping for early next year. We will have to see. In recent weeks I have heard of a few Bible dedications—one in Finland and another in Nigeria. God's Word will go out...!"

Continue to pray for God's word to continue to go out, and for Brian to be able to start his traveling to visit the areas soon.

## **RCA INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNER — BOB & AMY ABEL**

Book a dinner reservation, text a friend, say a prayer—these are all things you can do in 30 seconds. In that same amount of time, two children are sold for the first time into sex slavery. That adds up to 3,300 per day and 1.2 million sold each year. The only way to combat those numbers is through prevention. Remember Nhu provides freedom for children around the world by ending the supply of vulnerable children for the sex trade. Through the gospel, the children also receive freedom for eternity.

Bob Abel provides direction for Remember Nhu missionary staff, including pastoral care, new missionary transition, discipleship support, and leadership development. Remember Nhu currently operates in 16 countries through 100 homes for children, preventing 2,000 children from entering the sex trade.



As of the end of October, Bob writes, “We have some things to celebrate. First, Remember Nhu has no Covid-19 cases for any of our 2,000 children and nearly 200 staff in 16 countries! Child sponsorship, in the midst of Covid, has remained virtually unchanged (essentially no one has stopped sponsoring their child(ren)). Travel has opened up a bit for us and we have been able to visit some churches in person (a great joy for us). Also, we are nearly fully funded. We are just \$8,000 from the goal we have been given.”

Praise God with the Abels, for God working through the pandemic in keeping children safe and ministries thriving. Continue to keep the staff and children in your prayers as they adjust to ongoing changes. Pray also that God can supply the funds they need for their ministry.

### **WINTER WORK PROJECT**

As I write this article, World Renew has suspended all projects at all of their sites in the continental US through February. They are hoping to start up again in March, so we are looking at the possibility of going during one of the first three weeks in March, depending on availability and timing. Chris Gibson, the director of World Renew’s work projects in the US is going to be in communication and let us know when he has the go ahead.

We would be looking to go to the Port Arthur, TX area again like we did a few years back. Due to COVID, there will be some restrictions. Work groups will be limited to 8-10 people, and groups will have to be flexible as there is a chance that trips could be cancelled the week before they are scheduled. We do not have any dates yet, so I will not be setting out a sign-up sheet, but if you are interested, let me know so I can begin a head count.

- Jerry Vermeer, Mission Committee Member



# January 2021

## MRC Mission Prayer Calendar

Prayer notes from our partners in mission locally, regionally, and internationally

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Pray for <b>Brian Renes</b> ministering remotely with those working in Bible translation around the world.	Pray with <b>Bob Abel</b> for freedom for children at risk in the sex trade through the ministry of Remember Nhu.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pray for <b>Pastor Deb Rensink</b> providing hope, love, & healing to families affected by abuse.	Pray for the <b>Words of Hope</b> ministry to be able to bring the gospel in areas that are closed.	Pray for <b>Paradise Bound</b> staff and the mission teams ministering through the Daily Bread programs.	Pray with <b>John &amp; Lynne Hubers</b> for the Ethiopian seminary to stay open and for the students/ safety.	Pray with <b>Sierra Borchers</b> for strength & wisdom for the <b>WYAM</b> staff team in Texas.	Pray with <b>Brad Schelling</b> and <b>First Priority</b> for students' witness to reach other students for Jesus	Pray for <b>World Renew</b> meeting needs for those in disaster areas sharing God's love and hope.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pray for the <b>S family</b> , currently in the US, as they disciple, support, and encourage their coworkers in SE Asia. Pray for <b>Corban's</b> health.	Pray for wisdom and direction for <b>Meggan &amp; Pavlos</b> as they support the ministries among refugees on the Greek island of Lesvos.	Pray for wisdom and direction for our <b>consistory leaders</b> planning for the new year.	Pray for strength and wisdom for <b>Awakening Grace</b> staff as they minister to those grieving the loss of a child.	Pray for the needs of the <b>Hispanic</b> community to be met through <b>Amistad</b> and community resources.	Pray for the <b>ministry of the Genesis House and Family Crisis Center</b> as they meet needs of women and children in crisis.	Pray for <b>Tom Johnson</b> working with MH4H in Haiti. Pray for doors to open soon to travel to work with the programs there.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pray for <b>Life Groups</b> at <b>MRC</b> to continue to encourage and support each other and grow spiritually.	Pray for wisdom for the <b>Wilson's--Mark</b> teaching students, and <b>Deb</b> working with her staff in counseling in Cambodia.	Pray with <b>S &amp; A K</b> as they work with their translation staff as they take on new roles. Pray for wisdom for next steps.	Pray our <b>youth</b> may continue to see Jesus in a new way this year, and <b>MRC</b> volunteers as they disciple them.	Pray for safety and health for the <b>Heytsi's</b> in the <b>Ukraine</b> in their ministry especially with the homeless.	Pray for each of the <b>food pantries and hunger programs</b> meeting needs of the hungry in our community.	Pray for the <b>MRC care team leaders</b> ministering to the needs especially of those who are homebound.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pray for our <b>MRC staff team</b> as they lead, disciple, and care for members at <b>MRC</b> .	Praise God with the <b>Dekkers</b> , that He works through online language classes to bring the gospel to <b>N. Africa</b> and beyond.	Pray for <b>safety of our mission partners</b> serving in unstable areas. Pray for courage and love as they share of God's hope the future.	Pray for <b>Jon &amp; Erin H</b> as they walk alongside students in their high and low times entrusting them to Jesus as their hope.	Pray for the <b>ATLAS</b> staff as they meet with clients dealing with additional stress from the recent health crisis.	Pray for staff of <b>Open Doors Orphanage and Paradise Bound</b> to remain strong in faith & courage in continuing in the mission.	Pray for <b>Hope Haven &amp; Village NW</b> staff as they meet the needs of people with disabilities during so many changes in their lives.
31	<p><i>"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers ad request. With this in mind, be alert, and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."</i></p> <p><b>Ephesians 6:18</b></p>					
Pray for our <b>country and leaders</b> as they lead and guide through this time.						

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Worship Dan DeVries  10:45 Sunday School	<b>4</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM BSF Preparation  11:30 AM Staff Meeting  1-5 PM Stitches of Love	<b>6</b> 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP  7:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary  7:50 PM Sr. High	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship	<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	<b>9</b>
<b>10—Adult Choir</b> 8:25 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  9:30 AM Worship Stacy Jasper *Communion  10:45 Sunday School	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness  7:00 PM Good News Circle	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM BSF Preparation  11:30 AM Staff Meeting  7:00 PM Consistory Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP  7:50 PM Sr. High	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship	<b>15</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness  5:30 PM Recycled Teens at 10th St. Pub	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Wick Hubers  10:45 Sunday School	<b>18</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM BSF Preparation  11:30 AM Staff Meeting  1-5 PM Stitches of Love	<b>20</b> 6:20 PM Awana 6:00 PM Jr. GAP Tubing Outing  6:45 PM Sr. High Tubing Outing	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship	<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Worship Missy Dokter  10:45 Sunday School	<b>25</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness  1-4 PM Yarn Connection  7:00 PM Faith Bible Study	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM BSF Preparation  11:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 6:20 PM Awana 6:20 PM Jr. GAP  7:50 PM Sr. High	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship	<b>29</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	<b>30</b> 6:30 AM Elder's Breakfast
<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Worship Jon Eveland  10:45 Sunday School						