

Share n Care

*There is no one holy like the LORD;
There is no one besides you;
There is no Rock like our God. —1 Samuel 2:2*

Volume XLIII, Issue 8

August 2017

Gems Leadership Conference 2017 “In His Steps”

I was once again blessed to be able to attend the Leadership Conference at Dordt College Sioux Center, Iowa. The conference officially started Thursday night with “Women’s Night of Worship” where we were encouraged to sit and journal and check out different stations:

- 1.) Nail our sins to the cross.
- 2.) Bowl of water to remind us of our baptism.
- 3.) Bread and wine to remind us of the Last Supper
4. Mirror to write what God is telling us who we are.

Our first general session was on Fri. morning with Cindy Bultema the new Gems Executive Director. We have dreams and detours in our life. Detours are part of life. They are a way that God brings us through to bring us to His plan. God is a God of miracles and can bring us out of our deep, dark, lonely pits. We need to be

1. Honest
 2. Open
 3. Prayerful
 4. Expectant.
- www.cindybultema.com

My first session was “Defining Words for Daddy’s Daughters.” We went through Psalm 45 verse by verse.

1. Read God’s word
2. What does God word say?
3. What does God’s word mean to me? (Listen to His voice.)

This was so that we and our girls understanding would be open to the ways in which our Father desires to clothe us. (Cont. pg 8)



GEMS 2017 Conference Updates

The GEMS leadership conference was held at Dordt College, July 27

The theme for the GEMS this year is “In His Steps.” We learn the theme song and actions to “I Want to be Like Jesus.”

The general session started on Friday morning with the new GEMS Executive Director, Cindy Bultema, speaking about our dreams in life and the detours that God sometimes takes us on. With those detours we can be better or bitter.

How do you handle detours:

1. Be honest with your feelings (Feel-Deal-Heal)
 2. Be open to your detour Hebrews 12:2
 3. Be prayerful
 4. Be expectant
- God is for you

The seminars that I attended were very informative. In one, the speaker talked about clutter and time awareness. Keeping our homes and lives clutter-free is challenging and we’re always short on time.

The conference ended Sunday morning with speaker Aaron Baart. He said “if we want to learn how to walk in Jesus’ steps:”

1. We have to first focus on Him, before ourselves
 2. He may have to tire us out first (we want to be in control)
- We need to get REALLY excited about the Holy Spirit

It was a joy worshipping and talking to other GEMS counselors with one goal in mind—Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior. I’m looking forward to our GEMS year!
—Marilyn Stulen

Birthdays



August Birthdays

- 6 Miriam VandeSteeg-93rd!!
- 9 Tom Radke
- 10 Barb Liedman
- 11 Pastor Jeff Vanderhooft
- 13 Avery Dierenfeld
- 16 Shirley Rolffs
- 18 Don DeRonde
- 24 Sylvia Visser-94th!!
- Joan Starkenburg
- Gretchen Kleinsasser
- Heather Ruplinger
- 27 Hannah Vanderhooft

- 28 Marilyn Stulen
- 29 Bea Visser
- 30 Anna Green
- 31 Doward Visser-96th!!

September Birthdays

- 1 Jayden Dierenfeld
- 4 Gail Novak
- Jay TeBrake
- 10 Miranda Roelofs

Anniversaries



August Anniversaries

- 10 Bill and Karen Leenstra
- 14 Mike and Pat Dahlseid
- 15 Herm and Dee VanNiejehuis

September Anniversaries

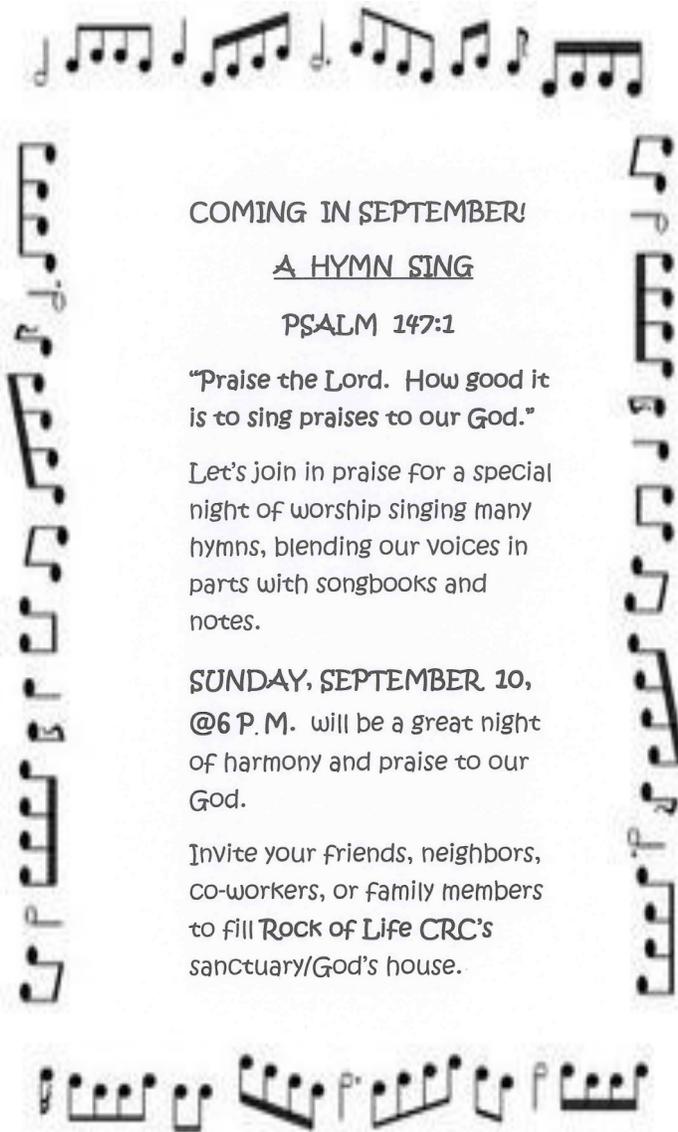
- 1 Dave and Verdelle Marcus
- 5 Joe and Kelsey Leenstra
- 8 Terry and Chris Reimer

2nd Sunday Offering Schedule

- August 13**
- CCS
- Grace Place
- Friendship
- Hope Haven
- September 10**
- CMCS
- James House
- United Campus
- Ministries
- Habitat for Humanity

Worship Events

- August 13:** Worship Service-10:00 am with Jerry VanSomeren. Service at the Lake-11:00 am. Pastor Jeff will be leading the service out at Kandiyohi Lake.
- August 20:** Fresh Encounters Prayer Service-6:00 pm. Join us as we seek the face of God
- August 27:** Pastor Jeff will be starting a 4 part sermon series on Jonah-"I Don't Wanna"
- September 10:** Old Fashioned Hymn Sing-6:00 pm—See Next Page for full details



COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

A HYMN SING

PSALM 147:1

"Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God."

Let's join in praise for a special night of worship singing many hymns, blending our voices in parts with songbooks and notes.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, @6 P. M. will be a great night of harmony and praise to our God.

Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, or family members to fill Rock of Life CRC's sanctuary/God's house.

"Songs and hymns refresh the body. Hymns invoke the spirit to rise to its maker for strength. When we live in a day without a hymn or a song, we disregard the essence of the day" — Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

"Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!"-Psalm 150:1-6

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."-Martin Luther

New Mission Agency Name Resonates with Synod 2017



Synod 2017, the general assembly of the Christian Reformed Church, approved a new name for the agency made up of the former [Christian Reformed World Missions](#) and [Christian Reformed Home Missions](#) – Resonate Global Mission.

Before talking about the name, Amy Schenkel from the former Home Missions and Joel Huyser from the former World Missions showed [a video](#) and presented some of the reasons for bringing the two agencies together. Huyser said that we live in a new world in which people we thought we would meet on the mission field have come to live next door to us.

"The joining of Home Missions and World Missions is not first of all a structural change," he said. "It's about facing the challenge and also the opportunities of this new world."

Schenkel said that there is a one in four chance that the person living next door has no church experience at all. Churches, she said, are feeling disconnected. "Even though what we're doing on Sunday is good, we need to learn missionary habits that help us to love our communities."

In order to meet the challenges of doing mission in this new context, Home Missions and World Missions were brought together into a single agency.

The co-chairs of the temporary board for the new missions agency, Joy Engelsman and Carel Geleynse, walked the synod through the process followed in selecting Resonate Global Mission as a name, and deciding on a tagline of "Engaging people, embracing Christ" and a modifying statement of "A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church."

Engelsman and Geleynse explained that the organization did extensive research with their supporters and the broader church community. This research showed that people wanted the name to characterize an agency that would be "courageous, resourceful, and innovative." They wanted the name to be metaphorical, more like Apple than, say, General Motors. They wanted it to be the sort of name that led people to ask about it rather than a name that was explicit about what it named.

They also had some specific criteria in mind. They needed a name that would translate well into other languages, that would work in societies that are not open to the gospel, and would have resonance with their audience.

<https://thebanner.org/news/2017/06/a-new-name-for-a-new-agency>

Prayer Corner

What are your top worries today? Your kids? Your job? Your marriage? Money? Health? All of the above?

You're not alone. Everyone worries—right? What else are we supposed to do? There are so many things to be anxious about. Some of us are even anxious about our high anxiety levels. We worry about our blood pressure, which only increases our blood pressure.

But the cure for worry is not worrying less. It's praying more.

I have believed for years—and have told as many people as I can get to listen—that I think worry and prayer are two sides of the same coin. Worry is simply “negative prayer.” Or, if you prefer, “anti-prayer.” It is the opposite of praying. You can worry, or you can pray, but you can't do both. Worry negates prayer. Prayer cancels worry.

I think that's why, in Philippians 4:6, Paul, the great first-century church planter, told the people in the Philippian church, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6, NIV). The antidote to anxiety or worry, in every situation, is to present your requests to God. To put it even more briefly, “Don't worry, pray.”

It may sound simplistic but it is not easy. Consider two scenarios:

Scenario 1: You're worried about your health. You've noticed things but haven't told anyone. You should probably see a doctor, but that takes time—and money. And that brings up another worry: finances. You never seem to have enough, and you're sure your health insurance premiums will skyrocket next month. Which ignites your worry for your health again, and you're right back where you started.

In that scenario, you've expended a lot of energy and gotten nowhere. Worse, your anxiety may actually make things worse, exacerbating your health issues and exhausting your energy to review your budget.

Scenario 2: You've noticed a few things that could prompt you to worry about your health, so you turn to prayer. “God, thank you for Your invitation to cast all my cares on You, knowing that You care for me (1 Peter 5:7). I don't know what's going on with me health-wise, but You do. I don't even know where the money would come from to see the doctor but if that's what I need, help me to trust You to supply all my needs according to my riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Heal me. Help me. Handle all this for me and give me wisdom, in Jesus' name, amen.”

That may not be how you pray but it does present a contrast. The first scenario fills your mind, heart and body with fear, anxiety and stress. The second empties your mind, heart and body of those harmful substances while also drawing you and God closer together. And, since God loves to answer prayer, it produces positive effects—some you may hope for and others you may not expect—in you and for you. So what are your top worries today? Start there. In those situations, “by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).

<https://www.guideposts.org/faith-and-prayer/prayer-stories/power-of-prayer/you-can-worry-or-you-can-pray/Bob-Hotstetler>



Remember in Prayer:

Our Shut-ins

Carol Faber
Shirley Jensen
Martha Kiel
Hilda Nieuwebeerta
Henrietta Tanner
Doward and Sylvia Visser

Our Servicemen

Jacob Lefever

Our College Students

Christine Mikelson-Dordt
Miranda Roelofs-NSU
Kailey Van Eps-St. Scholastica
Michael Vanderhooft-
Alexandria Tech

Faith Promise Missions Updates Children of the Promise



Twice a week, every week, there is a group of people gathered in the fan-cooled classroom on our campus: mothers feeding their babies, grandmas holding their grand-babies, fathers rocking their newborn, and Gabi.

Gabi is our Haitian nurse who not only helps care for the children on our campus, children in the Nutrition programs and the occasional employee, but also teaches a nutritional preventative class for those in the Nutrition program. In this

class, Gabi provides education for caregivers to help prevent the recurrence of nutritional needs. The goal is that when families graduate from either Nutrition program, they are better equipped to care for their current and future children. Gabi teaches these caregivers warning signs of malnutrition or illness so they can seek care sooner, the importance of breastfeeding, common health struggles in Haiti, action steps if a child gets ill, and other important practices to keep their family healthy. We have seen families leave this class and be ambassadors for the Nutrition programs in their own communities greatly due to the fact they have received this education!

Every week, families whose lives look far from peaceful as

they fight to provide the health needs for their child come a room to learn about something that seems so simple yet has the power to impact everything.

What we love most about these preventative classes is that they have long-term effects that trickle into the other programs. Our goal is to provide caregivers with the knowledge they need to keep their family healthy and to equip them to care for their children at home. This decreases the need to admit children into our Rehab Care and Foster Care programs, and keeps Haitian families together!

(August, 2017 e-Newsletter)

Steve and Chris Van Zanen

Dear Friends at Rock of Life CRC,
As we prepare to return to Lithuania on August 7 we are thinking of all those who are with us in reaching students for Christ. Your interest and support are so appreciated. We hope our prayer letters are keeping you informed about how God is working at LCC.

We look forward to spending a month in Minnesota next Summer reporting in area

churches. Thanks for you support and prayers.—Steve and Chris

MISSION

Steve will teach a required course for third year students, introducing them to the beauty of the Savior and the application of Christian faith to all of life. He will also teach advanced courses. Among the minority who come to the school with a living faith, some are aiming for full or part-time ministry. Steve's contribution to the theology major will help prepare them for a lifetime of service. He will also have a broader role in the Europe team of Christian Reformed World Missions which includes missionaries in six countries.

Chris expects to serve in human resources, assisting expatriate staff and faculty as they adjust to life and work in Lithuania. She will also provide hospitality for students and may explore the development of service-learning opportunities for LCC students.

Faith Promise Missions Update– Little Lambs

Little Lambs Summer Camps 2017

Dear friends, as we prepare for the summer camps this year, I can't help but reflect on the 25 years of this ministry and how it all started in 1992. That summer for the first time, 6 Americans went to help to run a camp program for the orphans in Ukraine. After that summer Little Lambs Ministry was born and so it began. The former communist pioneer camps that were used to indoctrinate the young people in the Soviet Union, now hosted Little Lambs Summer Camps for orphans. Hundreds of Americans went to the camps to share the love of



Christ with the children of Ukraine. Over the years many relationships were started and memories were built. For most children those were the best times of their lives and for most of the volunteers the camps were a life changing experience. Thank you friends for walking alongside Little Lambs Ministry for many years.



Thank you Little Lambs for your service to the fatherless children in Ukraine. After my first camp in 2008 in Berdichev, I moved to Rivne and became good friends with Tanya and Maxim who had been orphans themselves and then started a home for the orphans. Thank you for the camps, which have a very lasting impact on the kids and adults lives. I have heard so many stories from Ukrainians who have served in the camps or been the kids in the camps! Thank you for what you do.

Love Esther Dundas



Missions Update— United Campus Ministry

Greetings,

The summer is about halfway done for most people, but the schedule for Campus Ministry is just about to hit full speed again. Fall sport athletes will be arriving the first week in August, and the semester starts in less than one month.

Last year continued our growth as a ministry, as we saw our ministry serve somewhere around 9,000 meals, host multiple studies, and do a lot of outreach. We want to do it all again. This means we need a few things.

We need your prayer. We believe prayer changes things. There are students coming in from all around that are adjusting, searching, broken, hurting, or just lonely. Our ministry seeks to help those students get involved with this community and explore faith. Pray for them, and also pray for the people trying to serve them and love them. It means a lot to us.

We need simple household items, such as toilet paper and trash bags. We go through a lot of these items, and we also give them away as care packages. Little things like a roll of toilet paper, or a few garbage bags to keep an apartment clean are subtle ways to bless these students. We've used these simple blessings to build relationships! It may sound silly, but it's been a pretty cool way to minister.

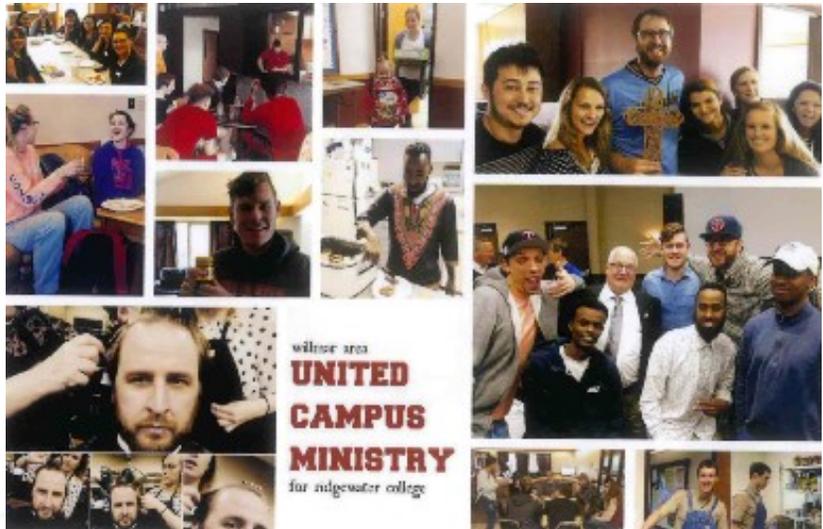
This semester, we'll continue with the meals, we're adding a worship service, and we're doing another Alpha series. The next paragraph will explain one other things we're looking at doing.

We need financial support. The ministry has been blessed over the years, so thank you. We do have some building repairs that need to happen, and United Campus Ministry is looking to hire another person for one day a week, in an effort to reach more students, specifically female students. These added expenses are in our budget, but they are added expenses, and we depend on funds raised from donations. Thank you in advance for any prayerful consideration.

I love talking about this ministry. God has been wonderful and faithful. If you'd like to meet and talk about this ministry, please give me a call at 320-905-0345, or email me at jeffreyaschmitz@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much.

Jeff Schmitz
United Campus Ministry



This season's theme is a curriculum for Christlikeness as presented by Lenae Bulthuis. By seeing Jesus, listening to Him and walking in His steps, girls and women will be challenged to live as Jesus lived. The aims are to see Jesus- His character, life, and ways- with as much clarity as possible by being in the word.

- To learn how to live by listening to Jesus and acting on what He says
- To walk so closely to Jesus, we live as He did. We are to remember who Jesus says we are (true identity)

Another session I was able to attend was "Creating Beautiful Lives" given by Julie Hulstein CEO of ViBella Jewelry where I created a necklace with handmade beads. The ViBella mission centers on providing a path out of poverty for their artisans and deep desire to form

a community that is encouraging and prayerful. The employment that ViBella artisans are given creates more beautiful lives for them, their children, and their communities.

I also was able to spend some time cutting patterns for shoes out of old jeans for "Sole Hope". Sole Hope creates shoes for people in Uganda to prevent jiggers in their feet which over time the eggs multiply and destroy soft tissue and the wounds are prone to infection. They believe actions based on love and hope can change a nation. Their model for love and ultimate hope is that of the greatest Servant, Jesus. . www.solehope.org

Once again, Thank you everyone for this opportunity to prepare for the upcoming season of Gems. Thank you also for the support you give our Gems club.

---Deb Kleinhuizen

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly seated and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, "Hi there." He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy whose toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard, and his nose was so varicose that it looked like a road map.

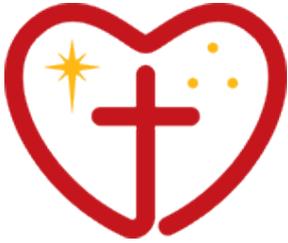
We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. "Hi there, baby; Hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster," the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Erik continued to laugh and answer, "Hi, hi there." Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby.

Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, "Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo." Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk. My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence but not Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skidrow bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.

We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik," I prayed. As I

drew closer to the man, I turned my back, trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly, a very smelly old man and a baby expressed their love and kinship. Erik, in an act of total trust, love, and submission, laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labor, cradled my baby. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood, awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest lovingly, as though he were in pain.

I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am; you've given me my Christmas gift." I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly and why I was saying, "My God, my God, forgive me." I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment. The child saw a soul, and his mother saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, "Are you willing to share your son for a moment?" when He shared His for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." ([Matthew 18:3](http://www.bible.com/bible/1/Matthew/18/3))



The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.—Max Lucado

Know your target

Businesses must know their target market. Writers must know their target audience. And we all make better decisions when we consider the target of our actions.

A college religion teacher set up a cardboard target in his classroom. “Draw someone who has upset you,” he instructed. Students sketched ex-boyfriends or -girlfriends, coworkers who’d mistreated them, childhood bullies. Each, in turn, then placed their drawing over the bull’s-eye and took aim with a bow and arrow. Afterward, the bull’s-eye was riddled with holes. The students congratulated one another ... until the teacher pulled back the target, revealing Jesus’ scarred, torn face.

Silence fell as he read: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

In choosing actions – no matter the human target – remember who else will be struck by your arrows. Let’s take aim with love, not hurt.

The power of weakness

In *Tramp for the Lord*, Corrie ten Boom describes traveling to Russia during the Cold War – when Christians were being persecuted – to thank an old woman who’d been secretly translating Christian books (including ten Boom’s). Ravaged by multiple sclerosis, the woman could move only an index finger. Yet with it she typed constantly, translating words while praying for people who’d eventually read them.

Ten Boom’s reaction was, “Oh Lord, why don’t you heal her?” But the woman’s husband said God had a purpose in his wife’s suffering. Although the secret police closely watched *other* Christians, they left this woman alone, assuming she couldn’t accomplish anything.

Jesus works through our weaknesses, making his power perfect in them (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). He doesn’t ask if we’re capable – only if we’re willing.





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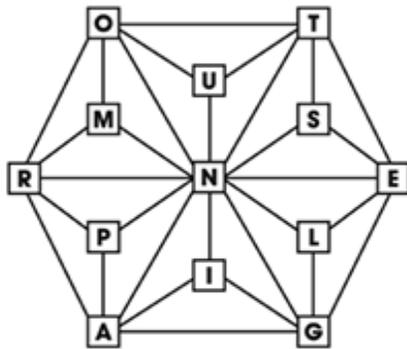
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Kid's Corner

Puzzle!

Try to spell as many words as possible. Start anywhere and move along the connecting lines. Don't skip letters; for example, you can't form *must* because to get from *m* to *u* you'd need to skip either *o* or *n*. You may return to use the same letter twice, as when you form *noun*, but you can't use the same letter twice in a row.



4-letter words: _____

5-letter words: _____

Words with 6 or more letters: _____

Answers include: 4-letter words: gain, pain, lens, note, page, nuts, nest, sent, rant, rain, part; 5-letter words: giant, paint, tents, notes, stone, stout, note; 6-letter words: morning, routes, rouses, giants, mounts, promote, rags, rag.

Willmar CRC Statements

Purpose Statement

Worship

God in obedience to His Word

Equip

God's people to do His work

Proclaim

God's love and grace to His World

II Timothy 3:16&17

Values Statement

Loving

God above all, and our neighbors as ourselves

Praying

in all circumstances because God controls our ministry

Preaching

and teaching from God's Word, the Holy Bible

Giving

of our time, gifts and money which are blessings from God

Seeking

the Lord's will and direction in everything we do

Helping

others to find and follow Jesus.

Ephesians 4:1b-2

Vision Statement

Reaching Up

to God as we listen for His voice in our prayers of thanks, confession and praise.

Reaching In

becoming more Christlike, clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness

Reaching Out

Boldly through the power of the Holy Spirit, with words and deed, in our Community and worldwide.



BE HAPPY IN THE LORD

Happiness and joy are frequent themes in the Old Testament book of Psalms.

Directions: Solve the crossword using the clues below. Then fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse.

ACROSS

- 3. A word for happy (rhymes with had)
- 4. What you do when you're very happy
- 5. A song written by David
- 7. Full of joy

DOWN

- 1. People who obey God
- 2. Our Creator
- 6. The month after April



"But may the 1. _____ be 3. _____ and 4. _____ before 2. _____; 6. _____ they be happy and 7. _____." 5. _____ 68:3, NIV

Answers: (across) 3. glad; 4. rejoice; 5. psalm; 7. joyful; (down) 1. righteous; 2. God; 6. may; 7. joyful; "But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful." Psalm 68:3, NIV