

# HILLTOP NEWS

"A city on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14b



*We love because  
he first loved us.*

*1 John 4:19*

GRAAFSCHAP CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## February 2012

# Thank You!

Dear Members: You have made my Christmas brighter. Thank you for your goodies and Christmas cards. God bless you all. - Verna Bruischart

We thank God for the love shown to us and cards sent— Christmas, get-well cards to Howard and sympathy cards in the passing of our dear son, Paul. We have a caring congregation. Thanks to Rev. Scripps and Rev. Vanden Heuvel, who came and visited in the hospital and praying for us. - Howard & Marge Busscher

Thank you to the congregation for the many Christmas cards and cookies that we received and thanks also to the young people who delivered them. It was very much appreciated. - Don & Cork Dokter

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and gifts given to me after my surgery. It meant so much to me. Thank you very much. - Rachael Geurink

Thank you, Church Family, for the many Christmas cards I received and the delicious breads. It sure is nice to be remembered by so many members. - Bertha Hulst

Just a thank you isn't sufficient, but we want to thank everyone for the many prayers, good, visits and so many cards.

Jerold is doing well considering all things. He is beginning to eat a little soft, solid food. He is still tired. The chemo shrank the tumor considerably, so it was easier to remove and only one third of his stomach had to be removed.

God has blessed us way beyond our expectations. We're thankful for medical means available and for those who work in whatever capacity. Thank you, Rev. Scripps, Rev. Vanden Heuvel and Nancy, for your visits. They mean so much. Jerold's favorite verse is I John 3, How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God."

- Jerold & Jean Hulst

We would like to thank Rev. Scripps and the congregation for their prayers, cards and support during and after Terry's battle with cancer. What a blessing to be part of the family of God. - The Chet Prins Family

Thank you to the congregation and young people for the Christmas greetings, visits and goodies. It was all much appreciated since after my fall on December 15, I was

unable to get out for a time. Thank you for your continued prayers. God is good!  
- Herm & Ruth Schierbeek

Since my move to Rest Have, I would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers, cards and visits. They are very much appreciated! It has made my move so much easier. - Jean Schipper

I would like to send a big thank you to all those who came to sing Christmas carols with me and all who sent the many Christmas cards. It was very much appreciated. - Paul Van Loo

Thank you, everyone, for the Christmas cards and good wishes. It meant a lot to me. Thank you for the carolers that stopped by and brought goodies. It all made for a joyous holiday season. God bless all who think of me. - Kay Van Opynen

Thank you very much for remembering me with cards this Christmas season. It is very much appreciated. - Jane Van Oss

Dear Graafschap CRC,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas cards we received from members of the congregation! We are proud to serve active duty soldiers and their families and retirees and their families as physicians with the United States Army. Thank you for your support as we serve! We pray for God's richest blessings on you and your families this year!

Love,  
Trish (deHaan) & Yanni Papadopoulos  
Silver Spring, MD

Thank you for all the groceries that you gave us to use. We appreciate this so much. We are so blessed! God bless each one of you. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. De Wys, for taking it all to our home.

- Residents of My Brother's House 1

## Birthdays:

- 8 - Marjorie Busscher, 80 years
- 18 - Mary Bouwman, 87 years
- 15 - Donald Dokter, 80 years
- 22 - Jerold Hulst, 86 years
- 28 - Edgar Mosher, 85 years

## Anniversary:

- 19 - Russell & Jean Goeman, 61 years



Dedicated to the one I love

I love you not only because you love me  
But because you love God more than me  
I love you because Christ is the center of your life  
And you no longer live, Christ lives within you  
I love you because with the help of the Holy Spirit  
You love, you care, you share  
I love you not only for what you are  
But for what you are doing in my life  
I love you because you not only accept the fact that in my life  
God comes before you  
But that you are happy because of it  
I love you because your Christian fellowship  
Has brought me closer to my God  
I love you because you accept me the way I am  
And at the same time, you help me to see  
Where I can go  
I love you because you are willing to hurt me as well as yourself  
By showing to me my foolish actions  
Which I knew were wrong, yet I was too lazy to correct  
I love you because you add to my smile  
A warmth I have not felt by anyone else  
I love you because you are you  
And you accept me as me  
I love you because you love  
Because you care  
Because you share  
I love you because you are

More than a friend...

Linda Louisa Johnson

This was published in 1976 in a book called  
A Collection of Poems  
By the Iowa, Colorado and Michigan  
Society of Poets



### HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, MARGE BUSSCHER

Howard and Marge Busscher have been married for 61 years. Howard was drafted in the army for two years. He served a stint in Alaska for eighteen months.

They had eight children (seven boys and one girl). They lost a son, Paul, recently to a short battle with cancer. They have 27 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Howard is presently at Resthaven Care Center recovering from a partial leg amputation. You can find Marge at his side every day of the week. Howard will be able to come home when he is able to get up by himself without any help.

Although Howard and Marge have had a difficult few months, they continue to thank God for all His blessings.

### Knitting Group

The Knitting Group continues to meet every Friday evening, working on various projects—some for charitable causes, some for ourselves. We have worked on several projects together and continue to make prayer shawls, caps for the Newborns in Need, and various items for the Mitten Drive. (A memorial gift in the name of Jennie Johnson enabled us to purchase yarn and make 41 items for the Mitten Drive.)

If you have any leftover or remnants of yarn or abandoned projects that you would like to dispose of, the Knitting Group would be delighted to turn them into usable items. Please bring them to the church kitchen or contact Barb at 392-3232.



## GAME-WATCHING

### Pam's Story

In a recent email, I read about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible

damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue.

While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: *If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher.*

Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is indeed a preacher. He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football. Pam's son is Tim Tebow.

The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy. His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah.

Tim's notoriety and the family's inspiring story have given Pam numerous opportunities to speak on behalf of women's centers across the country. Pam Tebow believes that every little baby you save matters. I pray her tribe will increase!

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always!

### Vitamin F

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all so different in character? How can I get along with them all? I think that each one helps to bring out a "different" part of me.

With one of them I am polite. I joke with another friend. I sit down and talk about serious matters with one. With another I laugh a lot. I listen to one friend's problems. Then I listen to another one's advice for me.

My friends are all like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When completed, they form a treasure box. A treasure of friends! They are my friends who understand me better than myself, who support me through good days and bad days. We all pray together and for each other. Real Age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health. Dr. Oz calls them Vitamins F (for Friends) and counts the benefits of friends as essential to our well being. Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes. If you enjoy Vitamins F constantly you can be up to 30 years younger than your real age. The warmth of

friendship stops stress and even in your most intense moments it decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50%.

I'm so happy that I have a stock of Vitamins F!

In summary, we should value our friends and keep in touch with them. We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together, and pray for each other in the tough moments.

Thank you for being one of my Vitamins!

## ★ PEARL ★ HARBOR



### Pearl Harbor Mistakes

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz. Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him.

When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained:

#### **Mistake #1:**

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

#### **Mistake #2:**

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships,

they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships.

If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America . . . And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

#### **Mistake #3:**

Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist.

But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job.

We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, "**IN GOD WE TRUST**".

### **How to Witness to Jehovah's Witnesses**

(Submitted by Linda Louisa Johnson, 4593 Church Street, Holland, MI 49423)

A member of Graafschap CRC, Holland, MI, I have written three women's suspense books, *Needle in a Haystack*, *Family Secrets* and *Beachcombers 911*.

One sunny winter morning, I was sitting in my living room peacefully having a cup of coffee when a car of four pulled off the road. Two got out, going door to door. I knew immediately they were Jehovah's Witnesses.

One nice looking, middle aged woman came to my door and rang the doorbell. It was near Christmastime. It was relatively warm, so I went outside to meet her.

She read the Bible story about the shepherds and the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus. She asked me if I

had a church. I said, yes and that I was a Christian. She gave me their magazine and a Christmas magazine.

When she was about to leave, I said to her, "Remember, Jesus is God." She looked at me and said, "I believe Jesus was the son of God." "Yes", I said, "He is the Son of God."

I sighed. I knew I did not handle that well.

Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God. They believe that Jesus was the son of God. And we are made in the image of God, thus we are all children of God. We are all God's sons and daughters.

When my husband came home from work, I remembered how I admired Jehovah's Witnesses to go door to door witnessing for God. Very rarely do we as Christians go door to door to witness, even to our neighbor. Yet, Jesus called his disciples to be fishers of men.

Matthew 28:18,19 (and Mark 16:15) Jesus says, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Do we do that?

Yesterday a car pulled in my driveway. It was my friend from Jehovah's Witnesses. She again shared scripture. When she was about to leave, I cringed inside. Reluctantly I said again, "You know, Jesus is God." Again she said, "I believe he is the son of God." I let her down. I did not know the scripture well enough to give her the answer.

I went inside and started studying my Bible. I found over twenty-five verses that said Jesus was the Son of God.

But I found verses in the Bible that said Jesus is God. From the New King James:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh." (John 1:1, 14)

"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known me, Philip?" He who has seen me has seen the Father, so how can you say, "Show us the Father?" (John 14:9)

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19)

I wrote these verses down and put them in my Bible. I also wrote them in my Bible. I wish that my friend would come back. I know she wouldn't. But someday, somewhere, a Jehovah's Witness will ring my doorbell.

I will smile and greet her kindly. I will listen to her scripture and welcome her magazine. Then I would say, "I have something for you." I would go to my Bible and pull out the sheet. I wouldn't read the scripture, I wouldn't argue. I would say with a smile, "Remember, Jesus is God," and hand her the paper. And let her read it alone, look up the scripture and let her ponder what was written. And then let the Holy Spirit work.

Jesus is God. We must share the gospel, and we must all find our gift on how to make disciples.

Editor Note: In addition to what was well said, those who correct for Crossroad Bible Institute, when doing Great Truths Lesson 5, also note scripture teaching Jesus is truly God. Isaiah 9:6 tells that the child born (Jesus) is "Mighty God". In Matthew 1:23, Jesus' name, Immanuel, means God with us. Any time "el" is in a name, this is the name for God. Romans 9:5 contains the words, "Christ, who is God over all." Colossians 2:9 reads, "In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives." Jesus accepted the praise of doubting Thomas. After Thomas touched Jesus' wounds, he testified, "My Lord and my God." Hebrews 1:8 praises, "Your throne, Oh God, will last for ever and ever." This is said about Son Jesus. Philippians 2:5-11 tells of his emptying himself by becoming man, clearly assuming his divinity, Titus 2:13 says, "Glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

The lesson makes a great point with logic that one would use in geometry: Things equal to the same or equal things are equal to each other. Revelation 1:8 calls God the "Alpha and the Omega". Revelation 22:13 calls Christ the "Alpha and the Omega". Since both God and Christ are the "Alpha and the Omega", Christ must be God.  
- Cal

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## "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

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O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God's call to a fruitful pastoral ministry — with his sister's assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It's a poignant reminder that God's love sustains us even when human love falls short.

## GEMS Update!

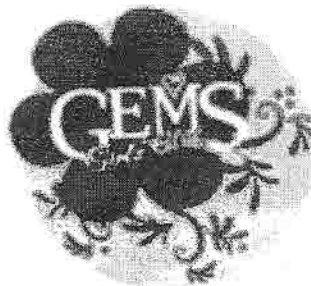
Here is a little update on what has been happening with our GEMS Group here at Graafschap! GEMS stands for *Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior*. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00. Each week we have had 10 wonderful girls come!

We open each meeting with a time of devotions and singing before we split into two groups for our lesson. This year our Theme is *Get Wisdom: Go Beyond the Gold!* It is based on Proverbs 9:10 and Proverbs 16:16-17. We have been talking about making wise choices - whether it is with our words, our actions or with our friendships - to name a few! We have been looking at how making wise choices begins with God!

After our lesson we come back together to work on a craft which the girls are always excited to dive into!

We also have a few other activities throughout the year. We put together a couple of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, we plan to go sledding this month and we have the Derby Race in March! We would love to see you there!

It is great working with these young girls and it is fun to see how excited they are to be here each week. We appreciate your prayers and support!



FEBRUARY 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			



Saturday, February 4, 5:30 PM

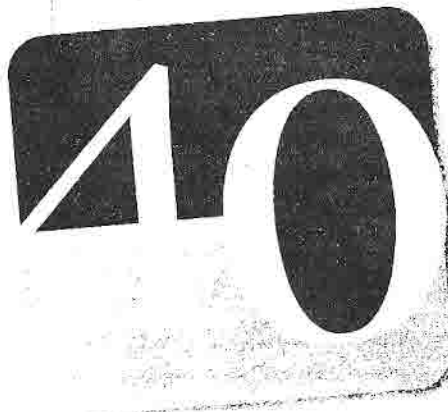
- 1 – Prayer, 6 AM  
Fellowship Dinner, 5:30-6:30  
GEMS, 6:30  
God's Kids, 6:30  
House of Prayer, 6:30  
Woman's Bible Study, 6:30
- 2 – Ladies Aid, 1:30 PM  
Volleyball, 7 PM
- 4 – Chili Cook Off, 5:30
- 6 – Historic Library  
Knitting Group, 7:15  
Bible Study Fellowship, 7:30
- 7 – Seniors Fellowship,  
Stewardship Committee  
Education Committee, 7:30 PM
- 8 – Prayer, 6 AM  
Women's Bible Study, 6:30  
Worship Team #2, 6:30
- 9 – Elders, 7 PM  
Volleyball
- 13 – Knitting Group, 7:15 PM  
Bible Study fellowship, 7:30 PM
- 14 – Heritage Center Committee, 7 PM
- 15 – Prayer, 6 AM  
Fellowship Dinner, 5:30  
GEMS, 6:30  
Gods Kids, 6:30  
Women's Bible Study, 6:30
- 16 – CPR, 4:30  
Ladies Aid, 1:30  
Volleyball, 7 PM
- 20 – Historic Library  
Knitting Group, 7:15  
Bible Study Fellowship, 7:30 PM
- 22 – Prayer, 6 AM  
Fellowship Dinner, 5:30  
Women's Bible Study, 6:30  
Worship Team #4, 6:30
- 23 – Council, 7 PM  
Volleyball, 7 PM
- 26 – Couples Bible Study, 4:30
- 27 – Knitting Group, 7:15  
Bible study Fellowship, 7:30
- 28 – Heritage Center Open 7-9 PM
- 29 – Prayer, 6 AM  
Fellowship Supper, 5:30  
Women's bible Study, 6:30  
Worship Team # 1, 6:30

### + Christian Symbols +

**40**

This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension.

Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



### St. Valentine's sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

**JEFFREY & MELISSA BOS  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD MISSIONS  
BANGLADESH  
DECEMBER 2011 UPDATE**

December in Bangladesh means turning off the fans and putting on light sweaters. Winter vegetables like cauliflower show up the markets, and a tent goes up in the courtyard at the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh (CCTB). At the end of every year the school invites alumni of the college to join students, faculty and staff for a revival meeting. The attendees spend three days singing, praying, and sharing how God is at work in their lives.

This year the revival theme was "The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few". Mrs. Hosneara was among the alumni who shared their testimonies this year. Her ministry is primarily among new Christians. She works with a community development program and also tutors CCTB Theological Education by Extension (TEE) groups. Mrs. Hosneara and her fellow alumnae were recognized at this year's revival for being the first class to graduate from CCTB's Bachelor of Theology program in 1992.

On December 9 more people joined the crowd to celebrate the graduation of 15 Bachelor of Theology students. For 10 months these students received further training for ministry through residential courses, Timothy Leadership training modules, researching and writing thesis papers, visiting various ministries, and participating in daily devotions and worship. All 15 students plan to return to pastoral, children's ministry, and evangelistic work with their sending churches. Jeff taught the students courses in English, research methods, and Old Testament poetry. Melissa shared stories and seeds with their wives in the garden. Isaac, Sophia and Alexis shouted in Bangla and explored the college campus with their children. We will miss these students and their families but are delighted that they return to their communities to share what they have learned while at CCTB.

**PRAYER & PRAISE**

**Pray** that these graduates will form Theological Education by Extension groups in their communities and grow the work of CCTB.

Melissa's parents, James and Suzanne DeJonge, are here with us for six weeks. Although we are certain their grandkids drew them, James and Suzanne also wanted to volunteer during their visit. James is working with CRWRC office staff to revise job descriptions and policy manuals. Suzanne is teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at Grace International School while the regular teacher is on maternity leave. **Give thanks** with us for that James and Suzanne can be with us and share our life in the desh. **Pray** for their safe return home to Michigan, USA on January 4, 2012.

On November 26, Mr. Martin Audikary came to the CCTB to meet with Jeff and sign a contract as new principal of the college starting January 1, 2012! **Praise God** for a new CCTB principal after several years of waiting!

**ATTACHED PHOTOS**

**Giving Testimony** CCTB graduate, Mrs. Hosneara, gives her testimony of God's work through her ministry.

**Getting Ready** In the graduation tent Jeff gives final instructions to students at the graduation rehearsal.

**Drinking Tea** We spend our Saturdays at CCTB. Here Melissa's parents, James and Suzanne DeJonge, join the kids during tea time

*For more photos of the alumni revival meeting, CCTB 2011 graduation, and our life in Bangladesh, go to [www.flickr.com/photos/bosinthedesh](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bosinthedesh)*





**From the Higbys:  
December 2011**

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. --Titus 2:11

Give thanks to God with us for His outpouring of grace to us in Christ Jesus. Labor with us in making Christ known, so that people from all nations may know His saving grace.

Merry Christmas from our home to yours! We are thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate Christ's birth together as a family and with our extended church family.

Kevin, freshman at John Brown University, arrived safely to us in Michigan last Friday evening after driving approximately 1000 miles in two days by himself. Needless to say, we have been thankful for the lack of snow.

Henry, sophomore at Calvin College, moved in the following day. I (Doug) also arrived home the same day from my meetings in North Carolina and Texas, so we have the whole family together for about two weeks. There was just enough snow that fell last night for a snowball fight, but not enough for a snowman. We still all get a bit giddy when the snow falls and act like little children, not having seen any for years.

It took a while for our church speaking schedule to get started due to my rather full conference and meeting schedule in the fall, but in 2012 things are lining up quickly. You can find our schedule on our website. Because Roger attends school locally, most of those trips will be on weekends, requiring a lot of road trips from Grand Rapids and back. We enjoy sharing the positive things that God is doing, but both the schedule and expense of all the travel will be taxing on us in numerous ways and we would appreciate your prayers.

God has opened the door for a special opportunity in Ghana in January and February. Several SIL colleagues and I have an opportunity to facilitate a Rapid Word Collection workshop for the Balsa people who speak the

Buli language. They have an active whole Bible translation project and are excited about promoting their language in the hope of seeing it taught in the classroom. One of the requirements for the language to be officially recognized by the government is for it to have a dictionary. My colleagues and I are going to northern Ghana on January 16 to get the workshop started and to ensure that the specific procedures we have established are followed. In addition, there will be a professional video crew to capture what is accomplished and create a promotional video to drive more languages groups to do the same. However, all these plans came about last-minute and we covet your prayers for smooth operation, including Ghanaian visas for the five members of our team. Please also be praying for advance preparations on the ground in Ghana, that the team will arrive to find the participants ready and prepared. Our minimum goal is to collect 15,000 words and put them up on the internet with English translations, but who knows, maybe we'll beat the world record?

We wish you God's blessings in the coming year as you serve Him where He has placed you. We look forward to see how God will lead us in the year 2012 as we work out our next assignment location and remain open to His leading. We hope to see many of you, and hope also that you will be encouraged by the good reports we bring of God's faithfulness. May you experience that same faithfulness in your own lives, and as our...

Partners in the Gospel, (Phil 1:5)  
Doug & Priscilla Higby

Doug & Priscilla Higby are serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Doug is the International Language Technology Use Coordinator and Priscilla is coordinating the translation of academic materials into French.

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(616) 499-3337  
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Website: <http://higbyfamily.com>

# Key Khobor



“What’s the News?” In Bangla

The Newsletter of Jeff & Melissa Bos, CRWM Bangladesh

## Qualified Leader Found

Martin Audikary is no stranger to the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh (CCTB). Twenty-one years ago he was a faculty member. When he left he continued to return to help teach courses as a visiting lecturer. He has also lead Theological Education by Extension groups supported by the college.

On January 2nd Martin returned to the college taking on the new role as principal. It was like a reunion. Martin says, “Quite a few people are new and several ones



*Jeff shares a meal with Martin, at right, at CCTB*

are still here with a wealth of experience I will need to learn from.”

Martin comes to CCTB after service as a church pastor, work

with the National Council of Churches, and general secretary of the largest Baptist denomination in Bangladesh. He has

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Trainers/Translators Needed

The Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) team in Bangladesh consists of Jeff, Wailes Rangsha who is a colleague from CCTB, and Shagota Chism who

works with CRWRC-Bangladesh. Both Wailes and Shagota are heading abroad for master’s degrees this spring. While we are excited for their oppor-

tunities for further study, this leaves Jeff without crucial help for translating and leading sessions. **Pray** that replacements are soon found.

Issue 48

January 2012

### *Praises:*

- Give thanks that Tripto, our driver and errand runner, is responding to drugs for lymphatic tuberculosis. His doctors believe he will be able to leave inpatient treatment in May.
- Jan. 19-22 we plan to join other CRWM missionaries in the Asia region for a retreat in Thailand. We are thankful for this time of rest and sharing.

### *Prayer Requests:*

- CCTB is planning to run the Masters of Arts in Christian Studies program at the college this year. Pray that at least 7 students enroll before planned start date on February 1.

*Jeff & Melissa Bos  
Isaac, Sophia & Alexis*

c/o CRWRC  
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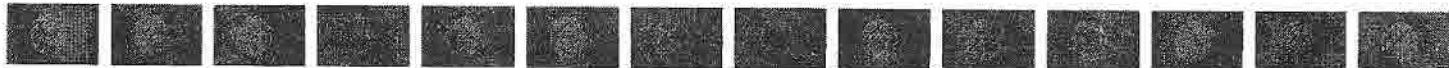
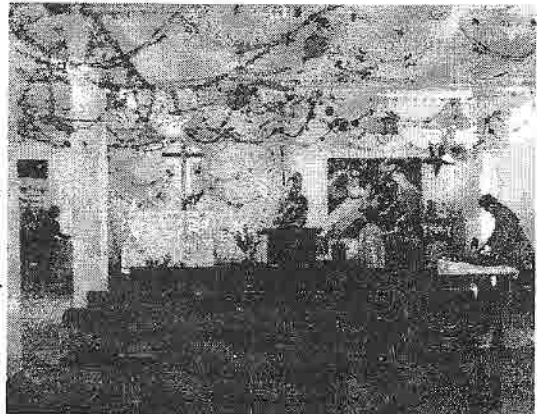
 **Christian Reformed  
World Missions**

CRWM  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

[www.crwmm.org/donate](http://www.crwmm.org/donate)

At St. Thomas church where we attend English services, Christmas decorations in the worship room are streamers and balloons. There are a few paper stars, and flashing lights hang over the manger scene. It looks more like a birthday party than Christmas. But that is just what it is— a celebration of Jesus' birth. We hope you had a worshipful Christmas, and continue to see God made manifest during this new year.

*Jeff and Isaac help set up for a carol service at St. Thomas Church of Bangladesh English service.*



*(Continued from page 1)*  
more than 15 years of employment with Christian international development organizations in Bangladesh. He holds bachelor and master degrees in theology. He is excited to be back. "I have a deep regard for theological education," Martin says. He regards "reading of the bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit" an act that brought him to personal faith and continues to enrich his life. "I believe people need to

come to the knowledge of God's Word for transformation. In Bangladesh, I see there is great need for theological education."

**Thank God** for bringing Martin Audikary to CCTB. **Pray** for him and his family to feel at home at CCTB and to build good relationships with the staff. **Pray** that he may sense God's leading as he works with others to fulfill CCTB's vision for training Christian leaders.



*Top: Sophia and Alexis peak out from a rickshaw  
Bottom: Melissa & Isaac buy cucumber and kohlrabi from a vender near the college*

Glory to God, Peace on Earth!

*"For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have eternal life."  
John 3:16*

What is the central message of God in Christ?



How can we present this message untainted despite our sins and shortcomings? We believe that these two questions were at the heart of the church throughout history.

On Nov. 23, we had the 5th charity concert for the victims of the 3-11 earthquake and tsunami. Most of the attendees were

not Christians however, they still had a good time singing gospel songs, hymns, and watching a short video of the day that the tsunami hit the Sendai area. We were able to witness God's love in spite of the great loss that many people experienced. We made about \$800 by selling tickets, and sent the charity collection to a mentally handicapped facility in the tsunami stricken area that has not received proper assistance.

Over 70% of new adult Christians in Japan tell us that they had good experience with churches or Christian neighbors prior to considering attending church regularly. We are patiently sowing the seeds and in due time, God will gather his people.

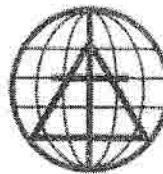
On Dec. 10, we had the Children's Christmas party. Two CRWM board members, Mr. Powell and Mr. Sankey were visiting Japan at that time, both board members joined our Children's Christmas party. Mr. Powell shared a



Christmas story with the children. After the message, we sang "Jesus Loves Me", the children had a good time with these two brothers. Thank you, brothers! You have left a good impression in the hearts of these little children. We believe that someday some of them may come to the Lord Jesus Christ because of the sweet memory that you left them with. We took this opportunity to teach the gospel of Jesus' love. Afterwards several moms told us that their children really enjoyed the party.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! We are working together for the glory of God to be revealed in their hearts.

Japan needs your prayers!



CHRISTIAN REFORMED

WORLD  
MISSIONS

Dec. 25, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS



*Our evangelistic activities are moving forward as always. On Dec. 10, Mi-sook led a Korean Cooking class. There were 23 people who attended the class, and Jay told us a wonderful Christmas story about what is the right way of celebrating Christmas. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the message. Of course, they came for the cooking class. However, they come knowing that a short message will be shared.*

*There were four ladies from Toyosenkyo among them. They have been learning how to be the master's faithful servants in the midst of hardship. They know that my family would be leaving Toyosenkyo soon. Some times, I wonder how Jesus' disciples felt (John 16:28), when Jesus announced his departure. The members of Toyosenkyo may be experiencing similar feelings, knowing that we must go back to US for our home service and that when we return we may not come back to Toyosenkyo. Sometimes, members have expressed their anxious feelings to us. We, the members of Toyosenkyo, have been working together for six years. Please pray for the members of Toyosenkyo so that they may have the strength to continue the work without us. "Glory to God, peace on earth among those who his favor rests!"*

*Hallelujah!*

If you would like to contact our family please send an e-mail to  
jeonggho@gmail.com. Thank you!

