

Rachel Alyssa Rae
Katie
Liselle
Megan Linda
Ericka
Abigail
Molly
Joyce
Emily
Shanae
Mary
Shelly

Dear Good News Church members + Pastor Schneiders,

Consistency. To build a solid foundation, consistency makes all the difference. Each month, we can count on your gift to Alpha Center. It is that simple. January, February, March... every 30 days or so, there you are, faithful as always.

We want you to know your consistency and faithfulness matters. Because of you, we are better stewards of our resources and are better able to plan for a bright future. It makes a difference knowing you are there for this ministry. Your promise to help is why we can continue to guide the clients we serve toward positive, life affirming decisions.

Many blessings to you and your families this Thanksgiving Season.

Our Sincerest gratitude, Alpha Center

Good News Church,

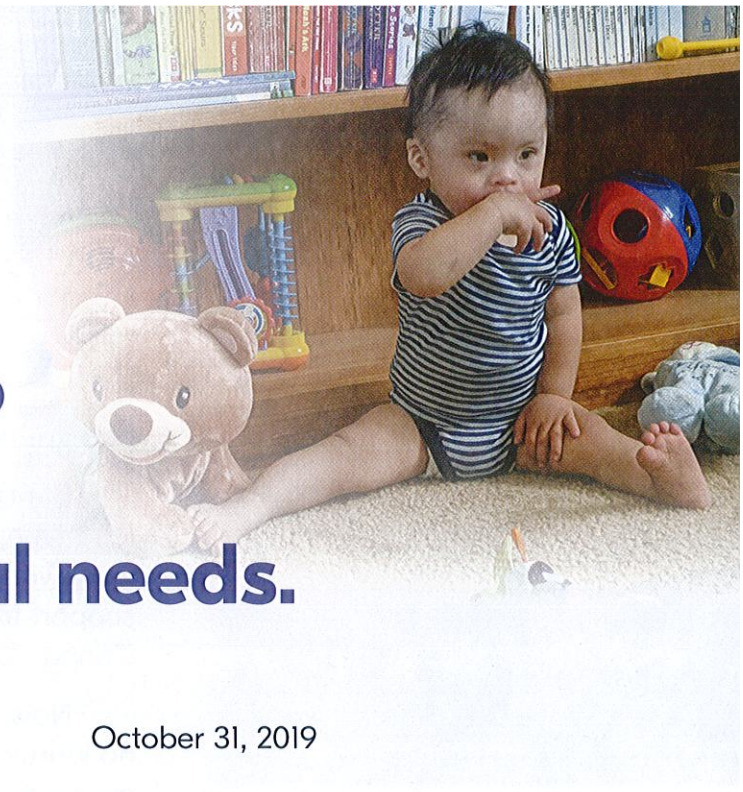
Thank you for
the donation of
\$250.00 to
McGovern Cares.

Your donation will
help make the
holiday season
nicer for some
of our families
in need.

Steve Fisher
Counselor
George McGovern
Middle School



Your gift doubles to change the lives of children with special needs.



October 31, 2019

Dear Pastor Kevin,

I can't thank you enough for showing God's love to vulnerable children. You're helping adoptive parents like Cody and Mari welcome children like Evan into their homes.

After more than 10 years of marriage, Cody and Mari were eager to start a family. They considered several options, and friends suggested they look into adoption. Cody and Mari envisioned a future filled with family, hope, and love. But they had no idea how difficult it would be.

Right now, thousands of kids with special needs here in the U.S. and around the world are waiting for parents like Cody and Mari. Your donations give some of the world's most vulnerable children the opportunity to thrive in loving homes.

This is an exciting time to give. Thanks to a generous matching grant from an anonymous donor, every dollar you donate will double in impact.

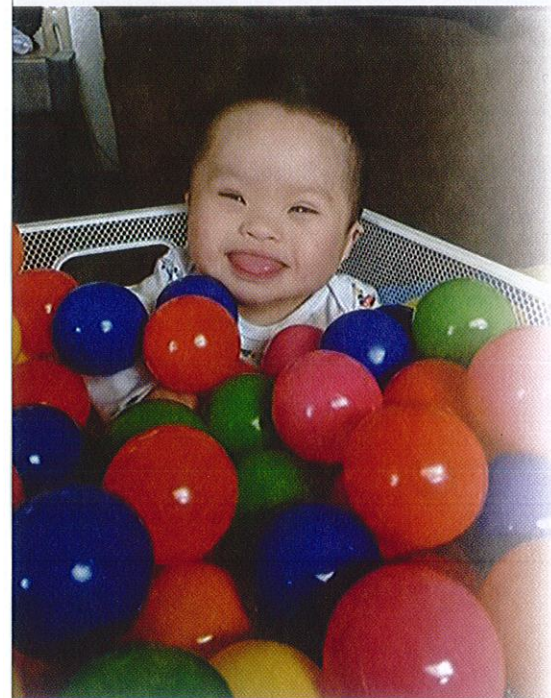
This means your gift of \$500 today will become \$1,000, \$1,000 will become \$2,000, and \$2,500 will double to \$5,000 to help children with special needs find a loving family. Your gift will:

- Offset the costs of medical care for a child with special placement needs
- Help families with the expenses of ongoing care for children with special needs
- Help children with special needs find a family

I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.

Matthew 25:40 MSG

continued...



In 2016, Cody and Mari prayerfully reached out to Bethany to begin the adoption process. When they received an email about Evan, a baby with Down syndrome and a heart condition, they immediately felt God was calling them to welcome him into their family.

“God is amazing and unfathomable,” says Mari. “He (Evan) had our hearts the first time we heard of him.”

But caring for Evan hasn’t been without its challenges. For a long time, Mari traveled for hours every day to be at the hospital with Evan, who needed help breathing and eating. Thanks to support from generous people like you, Cody and Mari received a Caring Connection grant to help with Evan’s medical care.

Now, Evan’s thriving. As he approaches his first birthday, he’s no longer on oxygen and is eating on his own. He loves rolling across the floor to grab his toys and chase the family’s cats.

“Bethany Christian Services has brought us such joy. We were so blessed to receive the Caring Connection grant when we were struggling to make it back and forth and provide everything Evan needed,” says Mari.

At Bethany, we believe we can change the world through family—together. Right now, thousands of children with special needs are waiting for a loving home. They urgently need someone to care for them, to give them the love and belonging every child deserves.

You helped bring Evan, Cody, and Mari together—and I hope you’ll take this opportunity to change the lives of even more children. **Without your help, many children with special needs in the U.S. and around the world won’t receive the care they need.**

Thank you so much for considering a gift that will double in impact to bring vulnerable children into the committed care of a loving family.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Palusky". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chris Palusky

President & CEO, Bethany Christian Services

P.S. Don’t forget! Every dollar you give will be matched. Thank you for considering a life-changing gift today!





--- From prison walls to the freedom found in Christ's boundaries ---

417 S. Summit Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Jeff: 605-695-0048
Office: 605-201-8493

Website: kingdomboundaries.org
Facebook: Kingdom Boundaries Aftercare

October 30th, 2019

Dear Consistory:

I would like to take a moment to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Good News Church for their continued partnership with Kingdom Boundaries. Like any mission orientated ministry, we cannot continue to walk alongside these men without your prayers and support.

In order to keep you informed about our mission/ministry, I would welcome an opportunity to give you an update about the work we are doing in Sioux Falls. We have found that a very interesting and effective way to communicate this is to have time during a Sunday school period for a panel discussion. This panel will consist of 3-4 men that would give a brief testimonial and then give those attending an opportunity to ask questions. We have done this in several locations and we always run out of time before running out of conversation.

Would you consider giving us an opportunity to express our gratitude to you, and bring you up to speed as to the current and future ministry plans at Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare? It would be greatly appreciated!

With you, serving Christ!

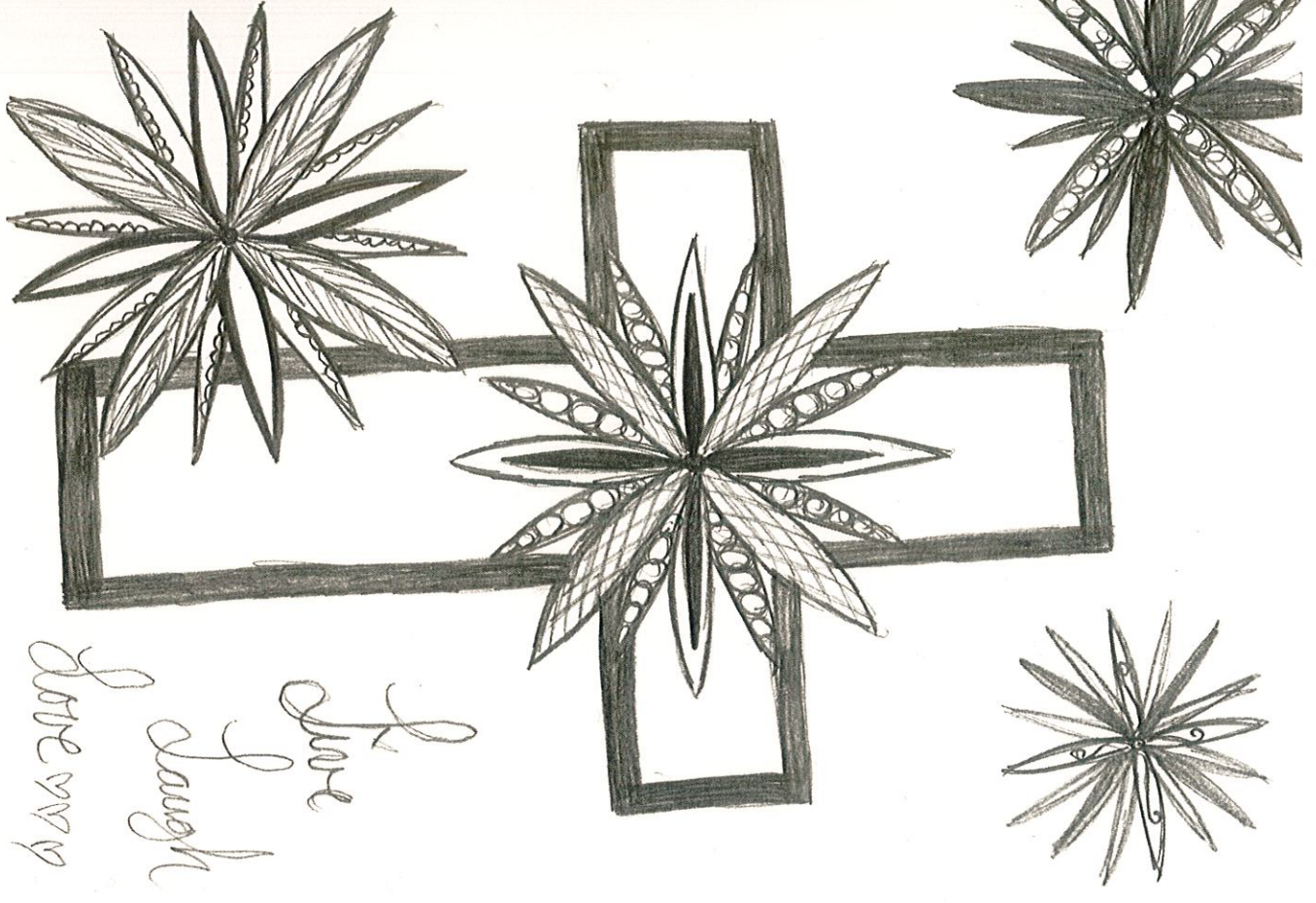
Thank you,

Jeff Haverhals – Ministry Director

Friends in Christ,

Thank you for being a part of Living Stone Prison Church. We are so blessed to have the support of outside believers who see the importance of bringing the gospel message to the prison. This is made possible by your financial support. Your financial support helps in many areas and I want to personally thank you. We have an amazing opportunity to learn about the Word of God and apply to our lives. Again, thank you so much for your financial support.

God Bless,
Nick



Love
Joy
Laughter
Love

Thank you!

Register today

mission2020.rca.org

Dear friends at Good News Reformed Church,

As chair of deacons at First Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, I see clearly and often that our church believes strongly in mission. Jesus has commissioned us to bring the Word to all people and take action to help all of God's children.

Our church is raising funds to bless the RCA Global Mission celebration, Mission 2020, by sending a minimum of ten church members, from across generations, to attend. We know that each member will in turn be blessed by the experience and learning available at Mission 2020.

We hope that you, our sister church in the RCA, will join us in taking similar action to bless and be blessed by Mission 2020. We encourage you to raise funds and send at least one member, but hopefully ten or more delegates, to this significant event.

In Christ,



Darin Klooster
Chair of Deacons
First Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan



Instructional Planning Center

201 East Thirty-eighth Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105-5898
(605) 367-7900 Relay Services for Hearing Impaired: Dial 711, then the desired number

Cynthia H. Mickelson, President
Carly R. Reiter, Vice President
Nan Baker, Member
Kate Parker, Member
Todd Thielke, Member

Dr. Brian L. Maher, Superintendent

October 21, 2019

Ms. Mary Morgan
Good News Church
1800 S. Valley View Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-0521

Dear Ms. Morgan:

Thank you for the charitable contribution you have made to the Sioux Falls School District, as follows:

Donation for GMMS Cares \$250.00

The School District has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this document for your records. It is an important document necessary for any available federal income tax deduction for this contribution.

On behalf of the students and staff of the Sioux Falls School District, we appreciate your generosity. Wonderful people like you make our schools and community a better place and your donation will help us to fulfill our mission—"To educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world."

Best regards,

[Signature]
Timothy Koehler
George McGovern Middle School

Receipt form with handwritten details: 03954, Date 10/31/2019, Received from Good News Reformed Church, Two Hundred Fifty and no/100 Dollars \$250.00, For #018 GMMS Cares, Amt of Acct., Amount Paid, Balance Due, Paid Cash, Check 24804, Money Order, By R. Koehler, THANK YOU

RCA GLOBAL MISSION DEAR FRIENDS UPDATE

**from Joshua Vis and Sally Vis
October 2019**

Dear supporting church or individual,

I want to share some significant updates about the work Sally and I are doing in Israel and Palestine and/or about the issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Over the last three years, Sally and I have been making changes to our work as we think creatively and critically about our capacity and vision. First, we have more clearly articulated our mission philosophy and our mission field. We are missionaries to the people of the U.S. and Canada on behalf of the Palestinian people. Our message is this: Palestinian lives matter. They are not disposable for the sake of American and Canadian foreign policy in the Middle East. Palestinians are being systematically occupied and oppressed by Israel, denied basic human rights, and sometimes killed for peacefully protesting their oppression. They are suffering, and a majority of Christians in the U.S. and Canada (unknowingly in many cases) support their oppressors. Our work, then, is to persuade Christians (and anyone else who is curious about our work) that they should oppose the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

This focus has already changed our tours. Speakers and experiences dedicated to informing participants about the history and current realities of the Israeli occupation now make up about 35% of our tours. We have also added conversations on biblical inspiration/authority and faith development to the tours. We came to realize that these issues often play a substantial role in how people understand the role of history, archaeology, experience, tradition, and science in our interpretation of the biblical text. And, of course, because so much of the Bible, the Old Testament especially, presumes that God has a special relationship with the Jewish people, these two pieces of our tour (the contemporary and the ancient) actually converse with one another. We seek an honest engagement in these difficult conversations. Even more broadly, the mechanisms of oppression that are embedded in the Israeli occupation rhyme with the mechanisms of oppression all over the world. Our tours are a microcosm of the challenge of seeing the complexity of systemic oppression, acknowledging the complexity of the biblical text (both on this particular issue, but also more generally), admitting the complexity of our faith journeys, and thinking about how we can mature in our faith so we become agents of love, peace, and justice. We are aided on these tours by the wisdom of our Israeli and Palestinian partners, by the biblical text, and by all of the wonderful biblical scholars, historians, and archaeologists who have dedicated themselves to their craft. As you can imagine, it is an intense experience and we are grateful for every group that allows us to guide them through it.

We continue to administer our Arts and Fitness Camp at Shepherd's School in Beit Sahour, a city next to Bethlehem, every other year and will be doing so again in June 2020. This tour combines the elements of our standard tour with a four-day camp for Palestinian youth (and with some of the teachers at Shepherd's School). You learn about the conflict. You see major biblical and archaeological sites. You get to know and to share your time and energy (and maybe your athletic or artistic gifts) with Palestinians. It's a wonderful experience for all involved.

We are working on an exciting new project in the West Bank, scheduled tentatively for early to mid-September 2020. We will be rebuilding a Palestinian home that was demolished by the Israeli military. We will be providing more information about this opportunity soon. The home rebuild needs 20 participants and will cost \$40,000, which we will need to raise. The participants will help local Palestinian builders construct a simple home for a Palestinian family. Please contact us (jvis@rca.org or svis@rca.org) if you are interested in participating in or helping fund this project.

We are also looking for ways to be more useful to churches and individuals through our time and the creation of resources. We will be working on resources for churches and individuals to learn more about the Israeli occupation and the broader history and current realities of conflict. We especially would like to create professional videos of our Israeli and Palestinian speakers. We want to make shorter and longer videos for various uses, including use in worship services and classes. We realize that most people cannot travel with us to the region and we want to

make some of the tour accessible to anyone and everyone. But, we want to do it well. This means hiring a team to travel with us to Israel and Palestine to tape interviews with our partners. We have a proposal from a team based in Holland, MI, and the cost of such a project is likely to be in the \$80,000-120,000 range. Just as a point of comparison, it costs roughly \$120,000 for 30 people to go on one of our tours. If these videos could reach more than 30 people, then they are worthwhile. I expect these videos to be seen by thousands of people. This is a good investment. If you agree, please let us know. If you can contribute, please reach out to us.

We have also concluded that it is time for the RCA to become politically engaged on this issue. Until now, the RCA has been raising awareness of the injustice of the Israeli occupation, but we have not been active in the political arena. That is changing. We have already begun to add our voices to statements and letters to the President and congressional leaders from organizations like Churches for Middle East Peace. I will personally be spending more time in Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of the RCA. I will provide more information on this work in the coming months, which leads nicely to my next update.

Second, I want to note that we will be creating an email list and sending out a monthly email update. The email will include a short list of recommended articles on Israel and Palestine, and occasionally on the Bible or faith. We will also include a short list of notable podcast episodes. We will highlight any legislation or U.S. government actions that are of importance so you can contact your members of Congress. Finally, we will give updates/thoughts on our work. Please email me (jvis@rca.org) or Sally (svis@rca.org) if you or someone you know would like to be put on the list.

Last, we want to thank you for your support. This is a worthy cause. It is vexing and challenging, but progress is being made. The conversation in the U.S. is changing. Criticism of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, and sympathy for the suffering of the Palestinians is becoming much more mainstream. The progress is slow but real. Our work is also becoming more refined and more effective. We are small, but we are part of a bigger movement that is seeking justice for Palestinians and peace for both Israelis and Palestinians. Over the past 13 years, the RCA's work in Israel and Palestine has raised awareness about the injustice of Israeli occupation. We will continue to do so through tours and the creation of resources. The home rebuild will be a project that shows our solidarity with the Palestinian people. We will continue to add our voice to the many other organizations—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and otherwise—that are calling for justice for Palestinians and peace for Israelis and Palestinians. We hope you will support us as we do so.

Sincerely,

Josh Vis and Sally Vis
joshvis.com

Joshua and Sally's ministry

Josh and his mother, Sally, educate individuals about the injustices of the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. They also offer individuals opportunities to support Palestinians, Israelis, and others who seek an alleviation of and ultimately an end to the Israeli occupation. Learn more at www.rca.org/vis and at joshvis.com.



Fall 2019

Dear Faithful Partners in Christ,

What a wonderful year of blessings Inspiration Hills has enjoyed in 2019. It is hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is less than a month away. We are thankful that we have had the blessing of watching God work in so many miraculous ways during this past year. We are thankful for the staff and their hearts of servant hood, for the Board of Directors and their guidance and direction. We are thankful for all the summer campers who made decisions to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life, and many others who grew in their relationship with Him. We are also thankful for all the financial and prayer support that you the churches and individuals provide. There is so much to be thankful!

Along with being thankful, we also reflect on this past year and the many projects and challenges Inspiration Hills encountered. There were staff position changes, and the financial challenges that we face through debt, repair and upkeep of the Main Lodge and other buildings, and the increasing costs it takes for ministry to take place. Ministry is when we all work together as partners to accomplish God's plan and purpose. There is still some time left in 2019, and we continue to seek your financial support to end the year meeting our budget. Please consider Inspiration Hills in your Thanksgiving offering this year.

As we give thanks to God for what He has done and is doing, we look ahead with excitement to what next year will bring. We are excited about Summer Camp 2020 and the new summer staff who will lead it. There is excitement for the new decisions that will be made for Jesus Christ, and the new retreats that will be offered. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future, and we are to humble ourselves before God. Humility is realizing we are totally dependent upon God to provide the direction and resources needed to fulfill what He has called us to in the present and future. In humbleness, we give thanks to God and you for your continued gratitude and faithfulness to us. We covet your prayers and your financial support! Please prayerfully consider a financial contribution to Inspiration Hills during this Thanksgiving Season; your gift will be used to further God's kingdom here at Inspiration Hills all to the glory of God!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Timmer", followed by a horizontal line.

Rick Timmer
Church Engagement Coordinator

Olsen Update

Luke and Jen Olsen serving with Cru to reach the world.



LET'S BE FRIENDS

OCTOBER 2019

Some have asked, "What does your time look like outside of class?"

When we are not in class, we are busy making friends with students. In fact, our team has met over 150 students this past month! Now we spend our time developing friendships with these students that provide us opportunities to have spiritual and gospel conversations. Eating lunch, shooting hoops, and sipping on bubble tea are all fun ways we have been able to hang out with students.

God is already moving in the lives of students here. A few teammates have already had the opportunity to share the Gospel with new friends. It's an amazing blessing that God is stirring in the hearts of these college students.

John 10:16

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.



^ Making Friends!
> Luke sharing about his family in language class



Prayer Requests:

Pray as we continue to meet with students for wisdom and discernment and boldness to share the gospel.

We are doing a "Who is Jesus Christ?" outreach the week of Nov 4 - Please pray that students curiosity would be sparked and for many gospel conversations.

We found out Lily has a peanut allergy. Please pray for us and her as we navigate a world of new foods.

Thank you for your prayers - we feel them daily.

Thank you for being a part of God's Kingdom work, your investment is impacting lives for eternity!!

2804 N LYMEGRASS AVE SIOUX FALLS, SD 57107

JENNIFER.OLSEN@CRU.ORG • LUKE.OLSEN@CRU.ORG