

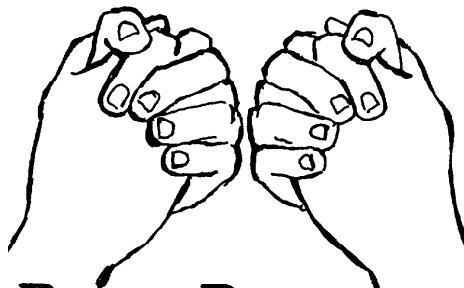
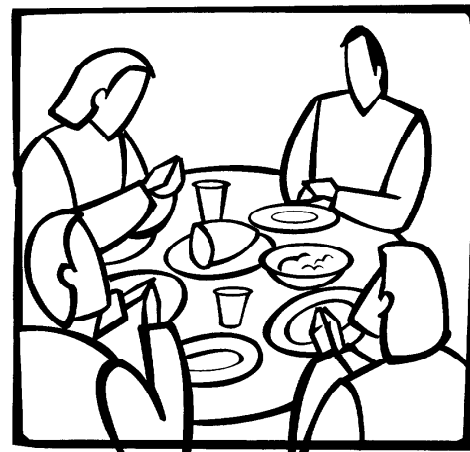
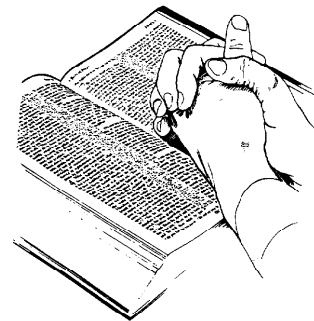
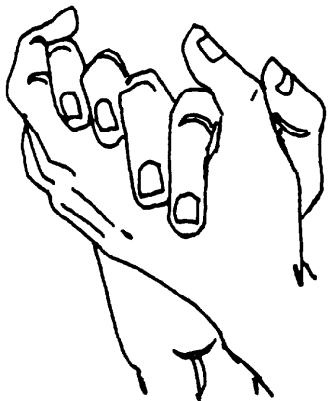
September 2007

# The Happenings



Published Monthly by Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church

“Fanning the Flame of Faith”



**Prayer Partners**



# Prayer



Your prayers are needed

## Rev. Conrad Van Den Bosch & the Family Bible

When Noordeloos CRC was about to celebrate the milestone of 150 years in existence, an interesting article appeared in the Lakeshore edition of the Grand Rapids Press. The caption read: "Holland Township congregation's events marking history," by Greg Chandler. The introduction read as follows: *In May 1856, a minister from The Netherlands, named Koene van den Bosch, preached from a farmer's wagon at the first service for a new church established north of Holland to serve the nearby rural community. Less than a year later, van den Bosch presented a letter, signed by 16 families, to the Holland Classis of the Reformed Church of Amerika, announcing the new church's intent to leave the denomination. The Noordeloos church, named for van den Bosch's birthplace in The Netherlands, and three others seceded from the RCA to form what is now the Christian Reformed Church.*

After research, checking an existing family tree of the "van den Bosch" family, I came to the conclusion that there is a connection between the late Rev. Conrad van den Bosch (1818-1897), and the 1637 Statenbijbel I bought from one of his descendants. He even had the same name, namely Conrad van den Bosch! Did Rev. van den Bosch or maybe his father take the big family Bible across the ocean when he immigrated to the U.S.A.?

I found it interesting; I became very curious, and put the following story together.

From time to time, (I think it is every 4 years) the yearbook of the C.R.C. displays a directory of deceased ministers. Occasionally I glance through the pages and look for the names of the preachers I used to know. But recently I read 3 books about the early Dutch settlers, and especially the name and information about Rev. Conrad van den Bosch came to my attention. I went to work and gathered information from these books, as well as from newspaper and magazine articles about the famous old Statenbijbel.

Rev. Koene van den Bosch, of the town of Noordeloos in The Netherlands, was called in 1856 by a Reformed congregation near Zeeland. The settlement there was later called Noordeloos.

The yearbook further states that Rev. van den Bosch later became the CRC minister of First church in Grand Haven MI. until 1869. After that he ministered in Illinois, and returned again to Michigan. He retired in 1881.

Rev. van den Bosch had served churches in The Netherlands, namely in Elburg, Het Loo, and Noordeloos from 1847-1856, before coming to the United States. He was the oldest son of Tamme van den Bosch, who had immigrated 8 years earlier with his wife and children. When Tamme van den Bosch and family arrived in Zeeland, MI., they were welcomed by Mr. John Steketee, a proven leader among the immigrants.

When Koene (Conrad) van den Bosch had accepted the call from a congregation in Zeeland, MI., he was installed in an "open air" worship service by Rev. Cornelius van der Meulen.

Soon afterwards Rev. van den Bosch protested and claimed that the church had forsaken the basic

principles. He felt so strong about it that on March 14, 1857, he seceded from the church.

Rev. van den Bosch sent a letter to the consistory of Zeeland, stating: "By this I notify you that I can hold no ecclesiastical communion with you, for the reason that I cannot hold all of who have joined the Dutch Reformed Church to be the true Church of Jesus Christ, and consequently I renounce all fellowship with you and declare myself no longer to belong to you. I am more constrained to do this by the fear of God on account of the abominable and church-destroying heresy and sins which are rampant among you, which, if the Lord will and we live, I shall present to the next meeting of the Classis. I hope that your eyes may yet be opened to see your extreme wickedness, to take it to heart, and be converted."

This letter was regarded by many as vitriolic. It was indeed biting, caustic, sarcastic, sharp and bitter. This was the start of the Christian Reformed Church. Rev. van den Bosch had a small church built near his house.

Later this church building was moved a half mile, near the village of Diepenhorst, now Beaverdam.

More churches seceded, and in May of 1857 they all gathered in Holland, and organized a classical group. April 8 was the original birth of the Christian Reformed Church. However, it would take 12 years before that name would become official. In the beginning the church was called: True Reformed Church. In 1859 Holland Reformed Church. In 1861 True Dutch Reformed Church. In 1864 Ware Hollandsche Gereformeerde Kerk. In 1868 changed back to True Dutch Reformed church. And in 1869 Christian Reformed Church.



The seceded churches experienced many difficulties and disappointments during the following years. For nearly 20 years failure threatened them.

There were only two pastors among the original seceders. But one of them, Rev. Klein, returned to the Reformed church, leaving Rev. van den Bosch only, to serve the community.

It took many years, before hatred and prejudices faded, and the two denominations could live together in peace.

It was maybe 10 years ago that I had the opportunity to buy the rare 1637 Statenbijbel from the van den Bosch family. They had no children, and other family members had no interest in it since it was printed in the Dutch language.

According to a Grand Rapids Press article in the year 2003, under the heading: "Biblical artifacts tracing Dutch history will be displayed," of Feb. 28, 2003, this particular Statenbijbel seemed to be so rare that only 3 are found in the United States. It is a copy of Martin Luther's first publication. And according to an article in "Calvin Connection" (Fall 1997), the Statenbijbel is a contemporary of the well-known King James Version of the Bible which first came out in 1611 in England. About 1500 copies of the Statenbijbel were printed in 1637.

Calvin College officials do not know how many yet survive, but apparently only one other North American library has a copy and that even in The Netherlands copies are scarce.

Calvin College's librarian Conrad Bult stated: "It has been part of 360 years of history. It's incredible to look at it and imagine the journeys it has taken — the lives it has touched — before coming to us. These Bibles were passed from one generation to the next and eventually some found

their way across the ocean, riding along with Dutch Reformed immigrants to North America. The Bibles were not just read from the pulpit, they were cherished by the people who owned them."

This particular Statenbijbel measures 15 inches by 10 inches; is 5 inches thick and weighs 15 pounds. "Think for a moment about the valuable space that it took on the trip from The Netherlands to this country, and you realize how important it was to the family."

So it was for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945). He was a descendant of Claes Maartenzoon van Roosevelt, who immigrated in the year 1640. He was from the City of Tholen, in The Netherlands. President Roosevelt was elected 4 times, before and during World War II, and each time took an oath, placing his left hand on his personal Statenbijbel.

Nearly every colonist brought along with him his precious family Bible from his native homeland. They prized this Bible above all else they possessed, because they were a religious people in the Protestant Christian faith. To them this was the rule of life. Many of them also owned the more precious Statenbijbel, which took the place of honor in their humble homes, to the admiration of all.

The Statenbijbel was a large Bible that was commonly used on the pulpit in The Netherlands, but they were available to the layman, many of whom purchased one for the sake of possession.

It was commonly printed in the text typeface, while some of them were printed in the German typeface, in rather large letters, with abundant marginal notations, making it a rather large volume.

To this was added their half-inch-thick wooden covers, overlain with decorated leather, and metal corner pieces, metal hinges, and a

clasp with a lock. This metal might be iron, brass, silver, or gold, depending on the taste and the purse of the buyer. That they were much treasured for their contents goes without saying. The shapes of these Bibles were different in size.

—Conrad Euwema.

My sources were:

Dutch Immigrant Memoirs and Related Writings. Selected and Arranged by Henry S. Lucas. Pub. by Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, MI 1997.

Legends of the Dutch, by Adrian van Koevering. Pub. Zeeland Record Co., Inc. 1960.

Albertus C. Van Raalte, and his Dutch Settlements in the United States. by Dr. Albert Hyma.

Kerk Historie met een knipoog. 1933. Washington. Redactie J.C. Karels. by Dr. H. Florijn.

Calvin Connection. Fall 1997. Calvin acquires rare Dutch Bible. by Phil de Haan.

Biblical Artifacts tracing Dutch History. Grand Rapids Press, 2/28/03.



## From the Librarian's Desk

It's time again to make out the schedule for the staffing of the church library. The new schedule will begin October 7 and we need adults and high schoolers to help the children check out books, and shelve returned books. You can sign up as a family if your children would like to help. The church library is open before and after the first morning service and the evening service. If enough people are on the list, you will only have to work twice a year. Please consider this as a way to help Hillcrest's children enjoy Christian books, DVD's, and videos. Call Carol De Jong by September 11 to get your name on the new schedule. Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers who continue to serve.

—Carol De Jong



## Library Schedule

**September 2**

Carol Goebel, Jana De Vries

**September 9**

Cindy & Becky Holtrop

**September 16**

Kris Huisingsh & Family

**September 23**

Deb & Eric Applebach



## RECALL NOTICE ON HUMANS

**WARNING:** Continuing to operate the human being unit without making these corrections voids the Manufacturer's warranty, exposing the unit to many dangers and problems --- and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

For free emergency service, call on **JESUS**. Thank you for your attention. If possible, please notify others of this important recall notice.

The **MAKER** of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code

named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed, Sub-sequential Internal Non-morality, or more commonly known as *SIN*

Some Symptoms:

- a] Loss of direction
- b] Lack of peace and joy
- c] Depression or confusion in the mental component
- d] Foul vocal emissions
- e] Selfish, violent behavior
- f] Amnesia of origin
- g] Fearfulness
- h] Rebellion

To correct this *SIN* defect, the Manufacturer, Who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs.

There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of *SIN* through the REPENTANCE procedure.

Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, **JESUS** into the heart component. No matter how big or small the *SIN* defect is, **JESUS** will replace it with:

- a] Love
- b] Joy
- c] Peace
- d] Kindness
- e] Goodness
- f] Faithfulness
- g] Gentleness
- h] Patience
- i] Self-control

Please see the operating manual, **HOLY BIBLE**, for further details on the use of these fixes. As an added upgrade, the Manufacturer has made available to all repaired units direct monitoring and assistance from the resident Maintenance Technician, the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Repaired units need only make Him welcome and **HE** will take up residence on the premises.



## An Answer to Prayer for Steve

Steve Zuiderveen, the new Administrator of Brookcrest, has the goal of maintaining the deliverance of high quality care that Brookcrest is known for, while preparing staff for starting the types of services and programs that will be required in the next 3-5 years. "I have found the residents and families to be very open and accepting at Brookcrest. The staff has also warmly welcomed me into the ministry we provide to the community. We are very blessed to have the many dedicated and caring staff and I am so proud to be able to be a part of it." comments Steve. Steve and his wife Brenda have 9 children: 6 by birth and 3 through adoption from Costa Rica. Six of them are still at home and they receive regular visits from their two grandsons ages 2 & 3. Steve has experience working as a missionary in Nigeria for Christian Reformed World Missions, holding the position of Director of Operations and VP of operations for two computer technology companies, and serving as an Administrator of a nursing home in Zeeland. He graduated from Grand Valley State University with a B.A. in Business and received his M.B.A. from Western Michigan University. Welcome aboard Steve!

## WINGS

Attention all Women....WINGS is busy planning a special season of study and fellowship and we hope you make it a part of your fall plans!! WINGS (Women In Need Growing Spiritually) is a women's Bible study that is held right at Hillcrest in the Fellowship Room on Wednesday evenings from



7:30-8:30 PM. It is open to women of all ages and friends are always welcome! Even if you have never attended, make this year the year you make WINGS part of your Spiritual calendar.

For our Fall session, we have an interesting study planned from the Getting to Know Your Bible Series on the book of Ecclesiastes that will take a look at Work, Wealth, Justice, Suffering and Death. We will be led by Tricia Bosma for this six-week study. The study will begin on Wednesday evening September 12 at 7:30 PM.

With the Lord's help we have planned a great season of WINGS! Watch for upcoming details on our annual Bus Trip (this year in November!!), a two-part study of Handel's Messiah and the Lenten Breakfast! But, make sure you don't miss out on the weekly fellowship and study that begins in September!! We look forward to seeing you there!!



### WHY WE LOVE CHILDREN !

1) Opinions: On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

2) Police # 1: While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?"

"Yes," I answered and continued

writing the report.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right," I told her.

"Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

3) Police # 2: It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me.

"Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked.

"It sure is," I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the back of the van. Finally he said, "What'd he do?"

7) Elderly: While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

6) School: A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!"

7) Bible: A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear."



## September Worship

### September 2

9:30 AM.....**It's Not a Job - It's a Calling**  
Ephesians 6:5-8  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

5:30 P.M. ....**True Faith Is...**  
Hebrews 11:1-3; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching  
Music: Hillcrest Choir

### September 9

8:30 & 10:30 AM.....**How to Really Pray - Part I**  
Ephesians 1:15-17  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

5:30 P.M. ....**Three in One**  
Matthew 3:16-17; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 22-25  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

### September 16

8:30 & 10:30 AM.....**How to Really Pray - Part II**  
Ephesians 1:18-19  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

5:30 P.M. ....**The Creative Father is Still at Work**  
Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 26  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

### September 23

8:30 & 10:30 AM.....**Where's Jesus Now?**  
Ephesians 1:19-21  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

5:30 P.M. ....**The Power that is Present**  
Romans 8:28; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 27, 28  
Rev. Brian Bosscher preaching

### September 30

8:30 & 10:30 AM.....**A New Kind of Corporation**  
Ephesians 1:22,23  
Pastor Brian Bosscher preaching

5:30 P.M. ....Guest Pastor Preaching



## September Missionary Birthdays

9-03-88 ..Marilyn Johnson  
9-07-86 ..Brian Prins  
9-09 .....Marcia Geurink  
9-21-90 ..Olivia Rigg  
9-27-92 ..Abigail Rigg



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church  
Multi-purpose Room  
Friday, September 7, 2007  
11:30 AM - 5:15 PM

For appointments call:  
1-800-GIVE-LIFE  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Articles for the October Issue are due  
no later than September 23.**

*Happenings* Staff

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**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1.....Chuck Vlieg
- 3.....Clinton Hop
- 4.....Kam Goebel
- 5.....Luke Dornbos
- 5.....Christina Stuive
- 6.....Jerod Goodyke
- 6.....Mary Disselkoen
- 7.....William Marino
- 7.....Megan De Graaf
- 8.....Nicole De Vries
- 8.....Dale Bremer
- 8.....Marley Byker
- 9.....Doug De Vries
- 9.....Dean De Koster
- 10.....Betty Niemeyer
- 10.....Paul Goebel
- 11.....Carol De Jong
- 12.....Scott Wesseldyke
- 12.....Thelma Bakker
- 12.....Idanne Bremer
- 13.....Ben Zuiderveen
- 13.....Levi Michmerhuizen
- 14.....Leah Van Schouwen
- 15.....Bob Vander Laan
- 15.....Michael Bobiak
- 16.....Seth Kanten
- 17.....John Kool
- 17.....Abby Brummel
- 18.....Dorothy Boersen
- 18.....Bob Huizenga
- 18.....Elizabeth Luidens
- 18.....Zachary Van Dyke
- 18.....Brenda Busscher
- 19.....Elmer Brummel
- 19.....Luanne Dykstra
- 20.....Scott Hooker
- 20.....Jennifer Byker
- 20.....Nichole Schuitema
- 20.....Logan Walters
- 20.....Libby Walters
- 21.....Doug Levering
- 21.....Olivia Rigg

- 21.....Trenten Witte
- 21.....Kari Brinks
- 21.....Noëll Engbers
- 22.....Jean Aten
- 22.....Brittany De Koster
- 22.....Stacy Hooker
- 23.....Shelli Boomsma
- 23.....Cami Barnes
- 24.....Deb Applebach
- 24.....Paul Vander Ploeg
- 24.....Bruce Hulst
- 25.....Sue Barnes
- 25.....Cindy Van Oostenbrugge
- 25.....Jessie Quist
- 27.....Abigail Rigg
- 27.....John Wagenaar
- 27.....Jeremy Dykstra
- 27.....Chase Cammenga
- 28.....Kelsea Kanten
- 28.....Bonnie Wiersma
- 28.....Ashleigh Vande Kopple
- 28.....Walter Hoffman
- 29.....Rob Huizenga
- 29.....Jessica Meijer
- 29.....Emily Kiel
- 29.....Sarah Volland
- 29.....Nolan Coallier

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1.....Mark Bremer
- 1.....Jeanne De Young
- 2.....Joyce Niewyk
- 2.....Henrietta Vande Kopple
- 2.....Brenda Hutt
- 3.....Terry Sikkema
- 3.....Luke Holtrop
- 3.....Joel Guthrey
- 3.....Lori Schuitema
- 4.....Sarah Hooker
- 4.....Deb Volland
- 4.....Marielle Hutt
- 4.....Abigail Vanderwell
- 6.....Krista Dornbos
- 6.....Jonathan Hoekstra
- 6.....Sarah Westrate
- 6.....Pete Peterson
- 7.....Tim Brummel
- 7.....Drew Billin
- 8.....Bob Beute
- 8.....Melanie Rigg

- 9.....Wendy Deur
- 9.....Mark De Graaf
- 10.....Ryan Emelander
- 10.....Craig Hoekzema
- 10.....Marilyn Hoffman



**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2.....Kee Joon & Mison Kang Lee
- 3.....Bruce & Deb Applebach
- 6.....John & Sally Kamphuis
- 9.....Kevin & Lori Bremer
- 12...Doug & Deb Volland
- 18...Carl & Berdiene Prins
- 21...Harold & Eileen Bremer
- 23...Rod & Kris Huisingh
- 23...Mark & Jennifer De Graaf
- 24...Bob & Ruth Mesbergen
- 25...Harley & Nancy Westrate
- 28...Jerry & Michelle De Groot
- 29...Konrad & Marilyn Marcus

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1.....Don & Elvinah Zwier
- 3.....Brian & Rhonda Kiel
- 5.....John & Barb Kool

**Please take a moment**

- to send a card
  - note
  - a prayer
- for the people**
- you know or would like to know
  - in your Fold
  - that are lonely, hurt, suffering
  - you would like to encourage
- There is no better day to start than today!**



## Kids Hope USA

Behind the scenes preparations are being made to get our KIDS HOPE USA mentoring program ready for



Fall. Once again a training will be held for new mentors. If you would like more information about mentoring or are interested in mentoring this year please call Anita Huizenga. Also, a prayer walk is being planned to surround Alward School the week before we enter the halls.

We have ten students returning to meet with their mentors and also look forward to new students to be partnered up. We give the teachers a month or two in the beginning of the school year to get to know their class and then refer students to us as they see the need. Hopefully all the mentors who had a year rest can be called back into active duty this Fall! We are continuing with two middle school students this year with an hour after school session. Who looks forward to these sessions the most, the mentors or the students?

Thanks Hillcrest for stepping up to partner with KIDS HOPE USA .....one church – one school – one child – one hour.

—Anita Huizenga

## Worship Centers

The doors for our Worship Centers will open on Sunday morning, September 16. Students will receive a letter or card



from their teachers telling them where to meet on that day. That information will be in your church mailbox by Sunday September 9. If you do NOT receive a note or letter that day please contact Anita Huizenga (669-6556 ext 207). Or if you are interested in registering your children for Worship Center contact Anita as well.

Boys and girls, don't you wonder what our new theme will be? Look for our new banner in church that morning! We also have a new song leader this year, but we can't let all the surprises be known yet, just come down to Shalomville and you will be glad you did!

Parent Orientation for new Preschool parents will be on Wednesday evening, September 12, at 7:30.

—Anita Huizenga

## Intermediate Church School

All fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students be ready to return to your Church School class on Sunday, September 16.

You may expect a call from your new teacher any time before that first kick off Sunday. Where will your class meet? Your teacher will tell you all you need to know when he or she calls.

If you are new at Hillcrest and want to be sure your student is registered for our Intermediate Church School please call Anita Huizenga (669-6556 ext. 207).

—Anita Huizenga



## Pfc 2007-2008 Preparing to Launch

The puppets are sleeping and the puppeteers are doing summer things, but God is working and preparing us for a new year of Pfc. The phone is ringing and ideas are churning and we can't wait to see what God has for us to do this year.

We CERTAINLY learned that God has big plans and is trustworthy to provide what we need and now we are praying for open hearts to clearly see his next call. Who will the puppets minister to? What obstacle will God knock down? Which of God's eternal truths will we be privileged to share?

What will God be teaching us as we minister to others?

Ephesians 1:9 *And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.*

We have lots of questions. Will you pray, again, for the Pfc ministry team? The prayers of our Hillcrest family are extremely important to us. Will you pray for God's clear leading for Pfc this year? We are so thankful to be a part of this work which has an eternal purpose in Christ.

The new 2007-2008 Pfc Ministry Team: Olivia Boomsma, Kaylee Borst, Abby Brinks, Kelsey Byker, Blake DeGroot, Stephan Hooker, Alyssa Kloosterhouse, Sarah Quist, Serena Montsma, Nate Schuitema, Tony VanDyke, Trenten Witte, Evelyn Zuiderveen, Carmen VanDyke, Brenda VanderPloeg.



— Youth News —

## Youth Director's Corner

I am so excited about what the Lord is going to do this year in the Youth and Children's ministries this year at Hillcrest. I am honestly blown away with the level of commitment and love our leaders and teachers have for your kids. I am so proud to be working along side of them all.

Will you help me extend the church's appreciation to these volunteers for their commitment? Our Youth Group Leaders are: Jodie Aukeman, Deb Bobiak, Dean and Linda DeKoster, Michael Elgersma and Steve and Sue Kass. This year's WildLife leaders are: Nate Dick, Steve and Joni Dykstra, Larry and Melanie Coallier and Kelly Zuiderveen.

I am so thankful for the team effort that both of these teams possess and I am looking forward to seeing what is in store for this new year. God is good!

*Serving together- Brent*

## Youth Group

We are happy to announce the beginning of a new and exciting year in Youth Group here at Hillcrest. This year we have an awesome leadership team that, is completely devoted to sharing Jesus love with the High Schoolers here at Hillcrest.

We had a leaders meeting toward the later part of last season and we began talking about the "look" and feel of Youth Group for the 07 -08 season. We were looking for something very simple yet something that would be constant reminder of who we are as a child of Christ. This is our theme of 07-08: look in the "Mirror" What do you see? **Jesus**, or the **World?** The Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3: 18b

We look forward to serving your children and families once again this year.

God Bless, Brent and all the Youth Group leaders.



## Hillcrest Skateboard Ministry Ends 5th Season:

Praise be to God for blessing another season with safety, weather, new relationships and fun by all.

God blessed it also with volunteers to keep it organized and running smoothly, a "Big Thank YOU to ALL"!

A couple of statistics:  
Average week attendance: 38  
Average age: 11 years

Again, give thanks to God for blessing this ministry and all the kids and parents that were there

—Community Ministry Team



## Wildlife

Ready set – let's head to the Coalliers! Saturday, September 29th we will be having our annual **WildLife** fun night. If you are in 7th and 8th grade you are invited to come and hang out with all your friends. We will be playing lots of fun games and activities.

Our first meeting night will be Wednesday, October 3rd. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We look forward to meeting all of you this year.

Remember September 29th at Mr. and Mrs. Coalliers. More information will be in your mailboxes as the date gets closer.





NANCY TEN BROEK  
CRWRC  
BANGLADESH, INDIA

Greetings from Dhaka. It was good to hear from so many of you over the last few months. Email communication certainly does make for swift and easy communication and I appreciate that it gets lost far less than the snail mail letters!! I do try to answer all of your emails so if you don't hear within a week or so, send the email again as the first one may have dropped into the Bay of Bengal!!!



I hope that many of you have received the June issue of the CRWRC Bangladesh/India Learning Circle newsletter. Although this is not a personal letter, it is a collection of articles written by us as CRWRC staff here, as well as our partner organization staff. I always enjoy reading these stories from the field and learning of the many changes in people's lives.

These last two months have been very busy and exciting. It is normally busy at this time of year due to the ending of one year (July-June) and beginning of a new year. However, there has been extra travel, special events and extra training over the last few months. One of the special events was the carrying out of the midterm review of the USAID-funded Child Survival project in Bangladesh. As many of you know, we are halfway through

this five year project working with mothers and children in areas of Panchagor, Dhaka and Netrokona with partner organizations Supoth, Sathi and Pari.

The purpose of this evaluation was to look at our progress according to our initial plan, and to make adjustments in order to achieve our objectives by the end of the five year period. We are currently working with almost 20,000 mothers and children under five. Interventions include training of traditional birth attendants and community health volunteers who help the community groups achieve better health in prenatal and antenatal care, nutrition, care seeking behaviour for diarrhea and respiratory infections, immunizations, sanitation, etc. For the evaluation, we divided in two teams to visit project sites. I was part of the group visiting the northern most part of the country, in Panchagor. We met with Government officials, group members, birth attendants, staff, and health volunteers to learn more about the program and the impact it is having. The groups gave many stories as to how the health education is helping them carry out better health practices.

It was exciting to hear the birth attendants proudly share stories about how the 21-day training they received has helped them carry out safe normal deliveries and refer high risk cases on a timely basis. Over 80 percent of mothers do not use skilled attendants for delivery and with a high rate of maternal mortality, training is essential for better delivery practice.

One of the barriers in care seeking behaviour is that the poor do not have money for transportation or treatment at medical facilities. The trained traditional birth attendants encourage families to save money prior to deliveries so

that money is available for facility treatment, if needed. The People's institutions, made up of the village groups have also introduced a new "Emergency Fund" that all community members can access as interest free loans for seeking medical care when needed at the clinics. Each group member contributes a small amount to this fund each week. During this evaluation we heard several examples of how this money was used. One example was of Rokia, a pregnant woman from Panchagor. Because of excessive bleeding she needed to get to a hospital. The money was used for a bicycle-pulled van to take her the five kilometers to the clinic. The communities are excited to see this fund grow so that they have necessary support when treatment is needed.

I am so thankful for all of the staff and volunteers involved in the Child Survival program. Many mothers and children are having better health because of this program and we are so thankful for the opportunity to be involved in this work.

Just before the evaluation, our CRWRC Bangladesh group of Kohima Daring, Debra Schout, Alana Strong and I traveled to Penang, Malaysia, for a regional meeting and retreat with our CRWRC Asia teammates. We meet together twice a year and usually have a retreat every second year. This year, Roy Berkenbosch led the retreat on Biblical reflections of the Story of the Prodigal Son. It was a wonderful break and a good time to study the Word together.

In mid-August I am looking forward to a week's vacation in the Netherlands. I hope to do some bicycle touring there with my sister and nephew, Carol and Eric Monsma.



PRAYER PRAISES AND  
REQUESTS:

1. Give thanks for the new Child Survival grant that CRWRC received for work in India. This grant will be done with our partner organization, Eficor and will take place amongst tribal communities in Sahibganj, Jharkand, India. This area is very close to Bangladesh and only a five hour train ride from Kolkata.

2. Give thanks for the excellent mid-term evaluation of the Child Survival project in Bangladesh. We thank God for all of the staff, community health volunteers and trained traditional birth attendants who are giving service to their communities.

3. Give thanks for an excellent Bangladesh/India partners meeting in June. This was a wonderful time to celebrate all of the work of the eight partner organizations.

4. Pray for those affected by flooding in Bangladesh and India. Pray that flood waters will recede and that there will be no damage to crops.

5. Pray for Doyal Chandra Paul, the Director of Supoth as he works with staff and board to expand the Supoth project into five new areas. Give them wisdom as they hire new staff, and select new villages to begin primary groups.

6. Pray for the work of SHALOM in Mizoram, Northeast India. This small project is working with those affected by HIV and AIDS. Pray for the workshops for church members on caring for those affected by HIV and AIDS.

## Grace?

What is Grace? What does it mean?  
Is Grace just understood but not to be seen?

Is Grace a fancy word we learned in Sunday School?  
Something we use in prayer to make us sound cool?

Is Grace giving-up that parking spot at the mall?  
Is Grace not poking fun of that kid in the hall?

Is Grace helping someone you don't even know?  
Is Grace forgiving without a big show?

Is Grace laying down your life for a brother?  
Is Grace forgiving the sins of another?

Is Grace being nice to someone you don't like  
When you would rather tell them to go take a hike?

God has shown me Grace through His love  
It's in my heart not way above

Salvation is a gift not something we've won  
Salvation is not a reward for the good things we've done (1)

God pours out his kindness on us like a flood  
Our freedom was bought with his sons blood (2)

We must obey God we belong to Him  
Don't slip back to your old ways of sin (3)

Now we must be holy in all that we do  
Because God is holy and he chose you (4)

God's Grace to me is a brand new day  
I can do it! Jesus has shown me the way

Grace shouldn't just be something we understand  
Grace should be a picture of every God's man

—*Bryan Rotman*

1. *He is so rich in his kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his son.* Ephesians 1:2

2. *Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done.* Ephesians 2:9

3. *Obey God because you are his children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil.* I Peter 1:14.

4. *But now you must be Holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you to be his children is Holy.* I Peter 1:15

