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## ARTICLES

### It's 2020!?!?!

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

It's 2020 and the world has drastically changed since I was a kid. Ponder some of the conveniences we have today which did not exist that long ago.



- La-Z-Boy Recliners: There are cheap, uncomfortable recliners out there, but there are some super comfy ones too.
- Fleece Blankets: Whoever thought polyester could be so soft? We even have awesome bed sheets, pajamas, and jackets out of this material.
- Culver's or your favorite restaurant: Christiano's, Benvenutos, J's BBQ... I'm pretty sure most of them weren't around or maybe we just couldn't afford to go to them. Either way they are a blessing now.
- Navigation: It's probably in your car and on your phone!

- TV: It's not just color, but huge, in HD, has surround sound, and streams 1000's of movies on demand. Remember when you were lucky all three networks came in clear?
- Internet: This one has radically changed our lives! Students all get laptops. Nearly everyone has instant access on their phone to an enormous wealth of information, videos, and relationships. You can video chat with your kids in Paris, connect with long lost friends on Facebook, and "go to church" without leaving your La-Z-Boy.

Life is good in so many ways! Give thanks for a moment, cause you really do have it made. **Some change has been really, really good!**

At the same time, pornography, sex trafficking, violent crimes, and depression are destroying lives everywhere. Our government is at war against itself, while putting us trillions of dollars in debt. We are more stressed than ever, but more pampered than ever. Our denomination can't even figure out the divisive culture. **How do we navigate this troubled world?**

Well, the Apostle Paul had some

exceptional help for the church in Ephesus and it still applies to us. Over the next few months we will dig into his letter and connect it with your life. Join me Sunday for "Change: What Happens When Jesus Shows Up." If you have some time, read through Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

## Pay It Forward By Adrea Daane

During the morning of Sunday School on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December,



some of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and High School students were given the opportunity to participate in a "pay it forward" activity. The deacons were generous enough to support this great benevolent opportunity to give some of the kids of our church a more hands-on and hopefully life-changing lesson. Although we value teaching lessons to the kids every week in class, we are so excited to see how they will be able to take this lesson and DO something with it. This activity will then give us a chance to follow up with a lesson which will hopefully have a more lasting and memorable impact. We are encouraging the kids, during this season of giving, to

find a way to “pay it forward” to someone around them. So many times we hear of the ways as a church we are reaching out and using our tithes to work in God’s kingdom, but how awesome an opportunity to get to actually take the initiative, find the cause, and follow through with it ourselves. Look for more details, stories, etc as I get them from the kids. I’m so excited to see what they will come up with!!

## **Mission Trip**

### **Jessa Ter Beest**

From January 3-10, 2020, our young adult group is heading on a mission trip to the Jamaica Deaf Village. This trip is organized through Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf and the Reformed Church of America.

The center we’ll be serving at is a village and labor skills school for many of the deaf adults in Jamaica, so we’ll be participating in bilingual (Jamaican Sign Language) worship and spending time with the people there learning more about their jobs, helping with some on-site projects, playing soccer, telling our stories and listening to theirs with the sign language we learned ahead of time (and through writing back and forth in notebooks), and building Christ-like

relationships that bridge the gap between America and Jamaica, and the hearing and deaf communities.

The theme for the week is “Our Story.” We’ll be talking about the fact that we are all a part of God’s big story and how this mission trip is a part of that story. The theme centers on the idea that God has a plan for each of us and he intentionally intersects our stories with others to build His kingdom.

As you can probably tell, it’s going to be a full week of listening to, learning from and loving on the people we meet at Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf, and there is going to be a great opportunity for growth within our group. We would love it if you would pray for this mission trip experience. Pray for the group of us who are going – Brittany Daane, Nick Fenrich, Caleb Glewen, Chloe Harmsen, Shyler Harmsen, Marty and Lora Huizenga, Henriet Jurjens, Adam Luck, Dustin Pluim, Lydia Respalje, Samm Respalje, Hunter Schultz, Jessa TerBeest, and Katelyn Van Buren - that we would be open to learning from the community we’re visiting and grow closer as a group and closer to Jesus. Pray for the staff who are living at JDV and will be leading us during the trip. Pray for the community members who we meet – that we could love and

honor them well. Pray especially for the adults and kids who we'll get to do ministry with – that they would connect the love we show with the love Jesus has for them. Finally, pray for our team members – that we could really experience this mission trip week and God's bigger story for our lives in a fresh and effective way.

Thank you for all of your support financially and through prayer during the preparation of this mission trip. We look forward to sharing our stories with you when we return.

## **Library Update**

### **By Pauline Peters**

Now that the Christmas Season is behind us, it's time to catch our breath & spend a little quality down time. It's a good time of year to expand our minds with a good book. Our library is exceptionally stocked with books that can take you back in time. There are quite a few historical fictions, so it is a great way to refresh & learn about the history of days gone by. We also have the option of working our brains with the who done it books. It's always fun to see if you can figure out who's all involved & who is really the not nice person. There's also the option of learning about a different culture than we are accustomed to like the multiple Amish

series we have. There is also a great selection of non-fiction books, to read which can give some insight in dealing with different life events, both good & bad. Don't forget that while our social lives are a little slower we can speed up our spiritual lives with the many different study books in the old pastors study. There are DVD's to go along with some of the studies. After you're done studying for the day, you can also relax with an assortment of DVD's that are also in the library. Don't forget about the younger people in the house with many options of books & DVD's for children. Let's get them started young.

## **Golden Lifers Update**

### **By Roxy Schouten**

Along with Jude 3 "I felt compelled to write to you and urge you to contend for the faith". What is that urgent and compelling message? We just passed our annual Christmas celebration and each year more and more professing Christians are denying some vital elements of the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Specifically I want to address the Virgin Birth. Perhaps we have delegated that as an unimportant component of that miracle. Part of that may be that some belief systems over emphasize to the point of making Mary into someone who she

was not.

A prominent pastor/author who openly denies the validity of the Virgin Birth calls it “only a symbol against patriarchy” and a “statement against bloody sacrifices of man”. Another pastor/author labels the virgin birth as a “myth to give Jesus ‘street cred’ for His later ministry”. Perhaps you have run across similar sentiments.

We may argue that this is a minor part of the belief but it is one of the first “dominoes” with each affecting and toppling our whole belief system. Those 7 “dominoes” include:

1. Old Testament prophecy of a Virgin Birth and all other prophecies
2. Jesus Christ humanity and divinity
3. Jesus Christ eternity
4. Jesus Christ sinlessness
5. Our bodily atonement – our supernatural New Birth
6. David’s lineage future earthly reign
7. New Testament inerrancy

Medically we can offer some explanation of the Virgin Birth necessity. In Lev 17:11 the principle of “Life is in the Blood” is laid out. We know that the blood of the unborn baby does not mingle with the mother’s blood. The mother’s blood transfers

nutrients to the baby but the blood does not mingle. (Note – in trauma during pregnancy or at birth injuries there may be contact with the mother’s blood and that leads to issues with RH factor in the blood and must be addressed but that is another unrelated issue.) More can be explained medically but a majority we must take by faith that what the Scripture tells us is truth. That Truth is that a miracle did occur resulting in Jesus being fully man and fully God and born of a Virgin.

If Jesus was not a fully sinless human He could not be our sacrifice for sin. If Jesus was not fully God He could not have carried it out.

Don’t tip over this “domino” because the resulting crash will be devastating to your faith as this “domino” tipping will affect significantly large numbers of Truth “dominos”.

Blessings for the New Year in Jesus Christ.

## MESSAGES

Thank you for the basket of fruit that Pastor Van Wyk delivered to my room. I appreciate your kindness so much. It gave me so much pleasure to share the fruit with others who live here. Kinds

deeds change lives!

-Arlene Henning

Thanks to the church for the fruit basket delivered to our home by Ann Boerson. It was greatly appreciated.

-Bev & Bob Kastein

Thank you so much for the delicious basket of fruit I got from the church. Thanks to Rollie and Barb for delivering it and our visit together.

-Marilyn Kamphuis

Thank you for the CD's, bulletins, and cards from the congregation.

-Donna Kastein

Thank you so much for the prayer quilt and the prayer support behind it. It is a wonderful ministry you are doing and I am blessed to be receiving it! It is comforting to know of your ongoing prayers.

-Dale Heeringa

Thanks for the fruit basket we received. Thank you Rollie and Barb Schroeder for the delivery and visit.

-Jim & Karen Stelsel

Dear Ties to Home-

Thank you for the gift card! It means a lot to know someone is thinking of me!

Thanks again,

Meghan Flier

Thank you for the fruit basket and thanks to Gloria Mulder for dropping it off.

-Marcella Vande Berg

Dear Ties to Home-

Thank you for the gift card.

-Blake Dobbratz

Thank you so much for your recent food donation. Your efforts on our behalf truly benefit those in our community who are struggling. We appreciate you!

-Waupun Area Food Pantry

Thank you very much for sponsoring a team in Kickin' for Kevin. The event had an amazing turnout. Your contribution has helped our family greatly. We really appreciate all the support and kindness. Thank you!

-Paul Ramirez Family

Thanks so much for the great basket of fruit and to Bob Pluim for delivering it.

-Geraldine Loomans

Thank you for the fruit and goodie basket.

-Jerry & Dorothy Mills

We want to thank you for the fruit basket and the visit from Scott. It was much appreciated.

-Paul & Audrey Elenius

Thanks to the Alto Reformed Church for the basket of fruit, it was delicious! Also, a big thanks for all who remembered me this Christmas with cards or visiting! I appreciate it all so much.

-Dayton Ter Beest

## EVENTS

January 5 - Sunday School Resumes

January 8 - Bible Class Resumes

January 26 at 11:45am - Discovering Membership

January 29 - Bible Class PJ Night! Come for some popcorn and enjoy a lesson in your PJ's. You won't even have to change for bed when you get home.

## NEWS

### 2020 Executive Committee

Kevin Van Wyk, Pastor  
Ron Daane, Vice President  
Gary Navis, Clerk of Consistory & Elders  
Cory Kok, Chair of Deacons  
Jason Vande Zande, General Treasurer  
Ned Derksen, Benevolent Treasurer/Care Team

### 2020 Consistory

Elders:  
Randy Bruins, 2020 – Equipping Ministry Teams  
Scott Van De List, 2020 – Care Ministry Team  
Mark Zeatlow, 2020 – Care Ministry Team/Sacraments  
Jack De Jager, 2021 – Worship Ministry Team  
Reuben Hopp, 2021 – Care Ministry Team  
Gary Navis, 2021 – Clerk of Consistory & Elders

Randy Bresser, 2022 – Outreach Team/Task Force  
Ron Daane, 2022 – Vice President/Task Force  
Carl VanderKooi, 2022 – Equipping Adults Team/Task Force

Deacons:

Ned Derksen, 2020 – Benevolent Treasurer/Care Team  
Matt Pluim, 2020 – Facilities Team Leader  
Jason Vande Zande, 2020 – General Treasurer  
Joel Bruins, 2021 – Equipping Children & Families Team/Equipping Youth Team  
Cory Kok, 2021 – Chair of Deacons  
Chad Loomans, 2021 – Outreach Team/Worship Ministry Team  
Andy Glewen, 2022 – Facilities Team Assistant  
Cody Mueller, 2022 – Clerk of Deacons/Equipping Adults Team  
Erick Redeker, 2022 – Facilities Team