

PSALM 19:1-2

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”

KIDS HOPE

KIDS HOPE MENTORS SPEND JUST ONE HOUR PER WEEK, READING, TALKING, PLAYING, AND LISTENING TO AN “AT RISK” CHILD IN THE SCHOOL THEY ATTEND. BY HELPING THE CHILD FEEL LOVED AND VALUED, THEY HELP THAT CHILD TO LEARN, GROW, AND SUCCEED.



Recently, I asked the new Kids Hope Mentors to respond to a couple of questions. I was attempting to find out just what they were thinking when they were asked to “make room,” and serve students at Eagle Crest Academy.

When you were asked to serve as a Mentor to an “At-risk” student, what were your FIRST thoughts? (Miranda) I was a little nervous . . . wondering what I was getting myself into. I didn't know what to expect. I was also worried about my busy schedule and making this all work out. (Jeff) My first thought was that I really didn't want to do it. I have my own kids and don't feel real comfortable caring for someone else's. Second, I am really busy with life and didn't really want to add "one more appointment" to my schedule. Third, I didn't think that I had enough compassion to offer a child.

What have been the BEST and WORST things that have happened since beginning your mentorship? (Miranda) The best thing was one day I went to our meeting and my student ran up to me and gave me a hug. I loved it! There have been no bad moments. Honestly . . . it's been amazing. (Jeff) One of the best things that happened is that all of my concerns were wrong! My child and I have so much fun together that I really feel great after each and every meeting. He really likes to play games, and his favorite is PokeMan. Every week he is so excited to tell me about the games he has played with his brother, telling every last detail. Because I show so much excitement for his stories, he knows I care about him, even though I don't have a clue what PokeMan is about. I know I have made an impact in his life because if we have a snow day, he tells me the following week that he missed seeing me. The hardest and worst thing that has happened is when he talks about his father, whom he has never met. He desperately wants to know his dad! I hurt inside knowing that he has to experience this pain.

Knowing what you do now, would you say “yes” again to becoming a Mentor? Why or why not? (Miranda) I would definitely say yes! It's really amazing to spend time with my student, and she looks forward to it every week. One week I was sick and couldn't make it to our meeting. The following week when we met, the first thing she said to me was, “you weren't here last time.” So, I know she likes spending time with me too. It makes me feel like I am helping her out in some way. We always manage to have lots of fun together! It is well worth my time every week. I'm a young mentor, so we connect on a similar level . . . we both love sugar, junk food, and anything that doesn't have to do with school. (Jeff) I would absolutely say yes to becoming a mentor, without hesitation. All my prior reservations were just laziness and fear on my part. The hour I spend with my guy is so worthwhile, as I can literally see how that hour is impacting his life and schooling. He loves to read to me, and loves the help that I give him when he needs it. A little praise goes a very long way with a child, so I always make sure to let him know that his hard work will pay off. He would like to be an astronaut, and he knows that he can do it if he keeps up the good work . . . and he is!

Through KIDS HOPE, you can change a child's life...and that's no small change!

~ Story by Alan Parkes, Miranda VanDeBurg, and Jeff Davis

“LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME”

TO TEACH IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSROOM IS SUCH A BLESSING TO ME. I LOOK FORWARD TO IT EACH TIME I AM ASSIGNED. THE CHILDREN IN THE ROOM BRING A SMILE TO MY FACE AND A WARMTH TO MY HEART.

The stories that we teach in the classroom are very hands-on and really get the children involved. The stories are told in a sandbox with cute little people that resemble the characters in the story. Each child gets the opportunity to place the people in place during the story. We always sing a song together and also pray with the children. And, you don't have to be a good singer because the children don't care. You are

just there to lead these little people to Jesus.

Another reason I love to teach in the Special Needs Classroom, is a little guy by the name of Alex. Alex melts my heart. I have a large bump on my head and every time I walk into the classroom,

he will get up from whatever he is doing, walk over to me and say, “ouch” and ask me if it hurts. I tell him, “no.” Then he will kiss his hand and touch my head and say, “all better.” It just touches my heart that he does that to me.

I believe God has called me to teach in this classroom, and it has

been very rewarding. I feel that I am making a difference in the life of each child and one day when we are in heaven, I can say, “See, this is the Man I was talking about in those stories.”

“He said to His disciples, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14b

If you feel called to help out in the Special Needs Ministry, don't be afraid to take that step. You could make a big difference to a child and not even know it. Remember to pray and ask Jesus to watch over all the little children of the world.

~ Story by Tonya Jaehnig



LifeGroups at Calvary

HERE AT CALVARY WE HAVE SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SMALL GROUPS. (WE CALL THEM LIFEGROUPS) OUR GROUPS ENJOY EXPLORING CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER. HERE ARE A COUPLE OF STORIES THAT WILL GIVE YOU A PEAK INTO THAT EXPLORATION.

Belonging to a Life Group is like belonging to another family because you know you can count on them for anything at anytime. When my living situation evolved to the point where it was possibly dangerous for me to stay, I implemented our LifeGroup phone tree. Members responded immediately, having me COMPLETELY moved out of danger and living in a safe situation within three hours. My adult son, who despises ‘Christian hypocrites’ also helped with the move. To use his own words, “I'm completely blown away that you could make one call and people dropped everything to come help you. I don't know too many people who could do that; they're really sincere and living out the things they say.”

The ripple effects, from that one day of LifeGroup action, continue to spread. ~ Pam Barr

Our LifeGroup has been together approximately five years, but several new people have been added in that time, and one rather recently. She came to us from a Lutheran background, and we soon learned that she had some reservation about the “Dutch Reformed” folks. Well, as we continued to meet together and got to know each other better, it soon became clear that she was getting over her earlier suspicions. In fact, she has come to love all of us and we dearly love her, and we have a wonderful time whenever we get together.

At a recent meeting in her home, this relatively newcomer from a Lutheran background, let it slip that she was actually looking forward to dying, because she was so thrilled at the prospect of seeing all of us at her funeral. We all swallowed the lump in our throat hard, but assured her that if we were still among the living at that time, we would definitely be there. I think that says a lot about how much we have come to appreciate one another.

~ Sander deHaan

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
~ Hebrews 4:16

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

• **Bob & Mary Kruithof** and family as Mary's father, George Staat passed away on February 18.

• The families of **Sally (Frank) Wevers, Jane (Brian) Lemmen, Jack (Ginger) Waterway** as their father, Bernie Waterway passed away on February 23.

• **Tom and Karen Strikwerda** and family as Karen's father, Theodore Rozendal passed away on February 24.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Need	\$31,522.10
Received 2/21	\$27,397.84
Deficit	(4,124.26)
YTD (30wk) Deficit	(86,416.85)



CALVARY'S CORE VALUE #4: WE BELIEVE THAT BEING RESHAPED BY CHRIST IS A LIFE PROCESS AND WORTH A PRIORITY INVESTMENT!

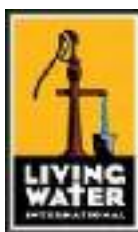
Each Christian should be able to share a personal story of on-going life change. What is God teaching me? How is God changing me? How am I being stretched?



**NEED MORE INFORMATION?
CONTACT OUR CHURCH
OFFICE AT 616.396.7550
OR VISIT CALVARYCRC.ORG**

400 BEELINE RD., HOLLAND, MI 49424

Announcement Highlights



MISSIONS UPDATE. Living Water International (LWI) is a faith-based organization committed to providing clean, safe drinking water to those in developing countries. LWI supplies capital outlay and logistical support while

encouraging its partners toward independent, self-sustaining status. LWI hires nationals and purchases in-country supplies and materials whenever possible, creating jobs and additional income to further benefit the community at large.

Clean, safe water is the greatest single factor contributing to the health and welfare of those in developing countries. More than 80 percent of the world's diseases can be attributed to unsafe water sources, sanitation, and hygiene.

Last year Calvary members spent time with LWI to help repair two wells in Haiti. Calvary has contributed \$5,000 towards this cause. This year, due to the earthquake, LWI has asked a team of seven guys to join them in order to repair more wells. Calvary Church is now planning on giving \$15,000 to LWI for five well projects that the team will work on.

If you are interested in being a part of this team, contact Joyce Johnson at 928.1320.

SPEAK UP. Tonight is your FINAL opportunity to attend a SPEAK UP meeting. This is your chance to help shape the future of Calvary Church. We will meet at 6 p.m. in Rooms A,B.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 28

9/10:30 a.m. Worship Service
(Auditorium)
6 p.m. High School Youth Group
(Lodge)

Monday, March 1

6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
(Lodge)
7 p.m. Families Victorious (Rooms A-B)
*Nursery Available
Good News Club for Ages 5-12
(Toddler Nursery)

Tuesday, March 2

9:45 a.m. Coffee Break (Cafe)
4 p.m. Middle School Open Lodge

Wednesday, March 3

10 a.m. Young At Heart (Ditto)
10:30 a.m. Families Victorious (Room A)
5:30 p.m. Family Night Dinner. Menu:
Ham, red skinned potatoes, mixed
vegetables, corn casserole, dinner rolls,
applesauce, salad bar, hot dogs, and
ice cream.
6:30 p.m. Family Night Activities

Thursday, March 4

9 a.m. Unemployed Support Group
(Room A)
4 p.m. Middle School Open Lodge
Assigned Times
Coed Volleyball (Lodge)
6:30 p.m. Relevant Class (Rooms A,B)

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

Weekly Fuel

MESSAGE The Creative, Imaginative Third Way of Jesus

PASTOR Steve Dozeman

SUNDAY Another Way
Matthew 5:38-42

MONDAY Primal Beginnings
Exodus 21:12-25

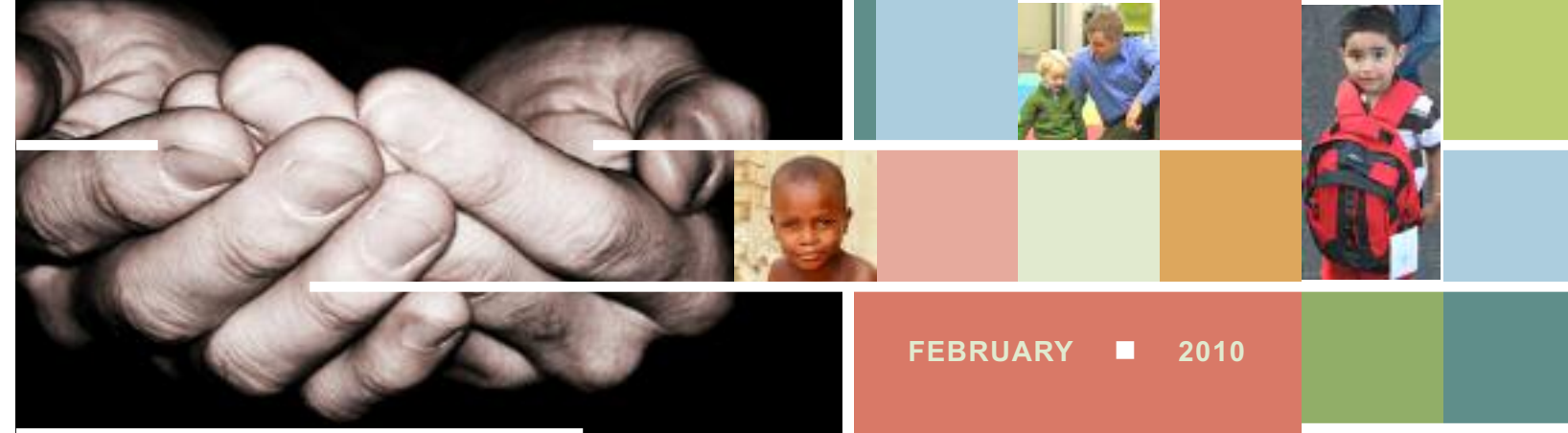
TUESDAY Jesus' Better Way
Luke 6:27-36

WEDNESDAY Repaying with Love
Romans 12:9-21

THURSDAY Justice - God's Deal
Luke 18:1-8

FRIDAY Living in Love
1 John 4:7-21

SATURDAY Love . . . Even Enemies
Matthew 5:43-48



FEBRUARY ■ 2010

CALVARY Connection

A Note From Pastor Frank

I didn't like what I read. The pastor and author stated, "I think pastors are the worst listeners. We're so used to speaking, teaching, and giving answers. We must learn to be quiet, quit being so verbal, learn to pay attention to what's going on, and listen." I think I will take that quote with me to a SPEAK UP event I am attending later this week.

We pastors may be worse than many, but most of us could work on the listening piece in our lives. Our homes would be better places if we learned to be quiet, pay attention, and listen - so would our work places, our friendship circles, and our faith community here at Calvary. James understood this and wrote, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

So let's encourage others to "speak up" and practice the scriptural advice to "listen up."

Relevant?

I have some new friends. I mean real friends, people I care about and who also care about me. I met them through Relevant. In my role as Community Impact Director, I meet a lot of people. Some are members of Calvary, and some are people from our local community, and I would consider most of these people friends. However, the new friends I am speaking about are the type of friends you share things with, and pray for, and have them pray for you. We worship and talk about God together.

I am always excited when Thursday comes around because I get to spend time with my new friends. We all look different and have different story lines, but we have come to see we are also a part of the same story. Some who attend Relevant have been Christians for as long as they can remember, others are new to the faith, and there are a few that are seeking and looking into Christianity, but we all learn from each other. I had a long-time Christian in the class tell me that this is the first time this person felt free to talk about questions they had concerning their faith. Another group participant got a new job, and although she was happy about that, the hours she works will cause her to miss Relevant. One of her first thoughts was, "Oh . . . I have to miss Relevant now."

In Relevant, we are open with each other and talk about everything from elections to aliens, and we feel safe while doing it. Everyone in the class has blessed me in some way; whether it's a new insight or reading a piece of scripture I never heard before. I think I can speak for everyone when I say we have all been blessed by each other. "Thank you God for my new friends and the blessings they bring."

If you would like to join Relevant or learn more about it, contact Matt Lehr at 616.821.3524.



Another round of Financial Peace University was recently completed at Calvary. Nine households completed the 13 week course, paying off an average of \$1,763 in debt and saving an average of \$2,792. Congratulations to all!

Some highlights from the course included a couple who paid off their car loan. Another family came in debt free but were able to save three to six months of expenses so that in the near future mom can go back to being a stay-at-home mom. Others were just beginning the journey and decided to take on a second job. Some of the participants said, "I have a power over money that I haven't had before." "I have a road map for how to improve our financial situation." "I am reminded that it is a marathon, not a sprint, and there is hope when you have a plan."

In this class, participants learned they are not alone and that money affects all areas of life. God wants to bless us, He wants to shower us with gifts so that we can, in turn, give these blessings to others. By learning how to use our resources wisely, we can be that blessing to others. Families in this course were single, engaged, had young children, or were almost nearing retirement. No matter what your age, or stage in life, money plays some kind of role in your decision making. Imagine not having any debt, not having bills . . . what could you do? Where could you go? Who could you help? These nine families are choosing to have financial peace forever and to change their family tree. If you would like help with your finances, Calvary has financial counselors available. Contact the church office at 396.7550.

~ Story by Jodi Dawson