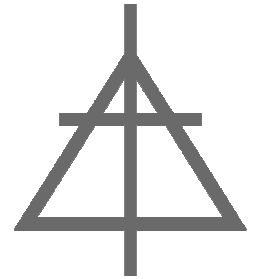


The Echoes

February, 2010

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



Our Pastor's Perspective

NY Boy, 11, Faces Charges Over Pencil Attack

From Associated Press

February 10, 2010 12:05 AM EST

SAUQUOIT, N.Y. (AP) — An 11-year-old boy faces assault and weapon charges for trying to stab a classmate with a pencil over a math problem. Police in New Hartford, 80 miles west of Albany, said the boy was mad because a classmate kept trying to help him in math class on Monday. When the would-be helper wouldn't back off, police said the boy lashed out with a sharp pencil and inflicted a scratch treated by the school nurse.

Officer Shane Yoxall, working as a resource officer at the Sauquoit Valley Middle School, investigated. The 11-year-old, whose name wasn't released, was suspended from school and charged with felony attempted assault and misdemeanor criminal possession of a weapon. He must report to Oneida County probation officials on Feb. 23.

I read this article from the Associated Press on February 10 about an 11 year-old boy who was being charged with felony attempted assault and misdemeanor criminal possession of a weapon when he lashed out with a pencil at a classmate who kept trying to help him in math class. He inflicted a scratch that had to be treated by the school nurse. Now he's facing weapons and assault charges.

This story caught my eye because I had a similar experience in high school. I didn't realize how serious my action was. It was in drafting class. I took the class very seriously because neatness and accuracy was important. Ray was the class nuisance. As he walked to the pencil sharpener, he'd bump people along the way, causing erratic lines and mistakes. Actually, I don't know whether he did that to a lot of others, I just know that several times he did that to me. I was a mild mannered guy in high school, mostly a blend into the woodwork kind of guy, painfully shy, maybe an easy target.

Ray came by one day and bumped my arm again. My anger

flared. I stood up and with the only tool in my hand, I stabbed the pencil underhand in his butt. He yelped! I told him to leave me alone.

The incident closed and Ray never bothered me again.

I've remembered the incident at various times, always defending my action against a bully. Now I'm not so sure. I could have been prosecuted for assault and possession of a weapon because of the way I used it.

Or have we as a culture become so "assault and weapons conscious" and "prosecution oriented" that we can't allow some events to have simply played out naturally and resolved in their own way. Ray and I did not become buddies after that incident. He was still bigger, older and stronger than I was, but we came to an understanding that made for better relations in the classroom. Some times I do wonder what Ray's perspective on the incident might be. Someday I'll ask him.

An even more compelling question is, "What would Jesus want me to do?" I did not do the right thing, even though I may justify my action. Turning the other cheek and allowing God to make things right rather than taking matters in my own hands is still the better way. Jesus went the way of the cross, accepting the shame, abuse and death we deserved so he could make us right with God. We stand up to injustice done to others so that God's honor is upheld.



Cadets Snow Derby

On February 6, our Cadets competed with 16 other Cadet teams in the snow derby. Our boys did very well. We scored perfectly on all but one station. We took third place and were only five points out of first place. Congratulations boys!

P.S. We need one of our good compass reading Cadets to ride shotgun with Doug next year. :)



Steve Smit and Jenny Mascorro became engaged in the Dominican Republic when the Smit family was there on their mission trip. They are both graduates of Tri-Unity Christian School,

but didn't date in high school. They started dating a year later when Steve was doing a 2- month mission trip in the Dominican and Jenny came there on a mission trip with a Grandville team.

Steve snuck a ring on the trip, hiding it in Joe's luggage, in case his luggage was searched in customs when Jenny was with him. He gave her the ring the last night we were in the Dominican.

Jenny is the daughter of Rudy and Nancee Mascorro of Grandville. She is working at Cosmoprof selling hair products to hair salons. Steve works for Shanska Construction Co. and is going to Ferris for Construction Management.

An October 22 wedding is being planned. Our "Best Wishes" to Steve and Jenny.

Did You Know?

Dustin Quick graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College with an associate's degree in Applied Sciences in December 2009. He has applied to Ferris State University where he hopes to join the pharmacology program in the fall. Congratulations, Dustin!

Jill and Joan Lynema were named to the fall dean's list at Western Michigan University. To be eligible for the dean's list students must have a 3.5 grade-point average in at least 12 class hours. Congratulations ladies!

Ann Smit was chosen to be the Sophomore representative on the court for Tri-Unity's Homecoming celebration on February 12. Congratulations, Ann!

Smit Family Mission Trip



We wanted to share a little about the mission trip we went on in January. It was an amazing trip, and we are still processing through all that happened. Keith said to me just yesterday that a day doesn't go by that he doesn't think about it, and I agree. It definitely was more than we could have anticipated. What a blessing for us to see our kids and their families working together, eating together, and having fun time together. We can't tell you how blessed we feel!

The traveling went quite well, beside the fact that Tom's suitcase didn't arrive in the Dominican until Thursday (we got there Monday). Thankfully he had family that are the same size and didn't mind sharing. We had a little problem getting Sam and Silas, who were adopted from Guatemala, out of the Dominican. But other than that, it was quite uneventful.

The building of the new house for the Valenzuela family went very well. We stayed on schedule, if not a little ahead everyday. The first day was putting the block walls up. The second day we prepared it for a roof, and worked on getting the floors leveled so we could pour the cement for them. Thursday some worked on the septic system, some worked on pouring the floors and some on the roof. Friday we were digging a trench for the sewer line to go to the septic and leveling out the yard, which had big piles of clay and rock that had to be moved by shovel and wheelbarrow. Saturday we painted and got the house ready to move the family in on Sunday. Whenever someone didn't have a job on that worksite there was rebar to bend and tie for the next house that was to be built.

On Sunday we moved the Valenzuela's possessions to the new house and had an emo-

tional ceremony giving it to them. They were so thankful to have a house with indoor plumbing and that wouldn't collapse in the rain (they lived in a house made of old tin and cardboard), and we felt very blessed to be able to come down for a week and do what we could to provide it for them. It seems almost insignificant when you see all the needs in the neighborhood we walked through, but I suppose there will always be more work to do. We just pray God continues to provide the workers needed. We felt privileged to be the ones God chose to use in this way, but it really made us realize again how special each one of you are in being part of this project. You were all so very faithful in your prayers, and in your financial support, donations for the Dominicans, and encouragement to us as we prepared for this amazing adventure, and did it. God is truly faithful!

We took lots of pictures and some videos. Most of them are on face book, if you can get on line to see them. We also have a video on You Tube. It's labeled Smit Family D.R. trip 2010. It's definitely an experience we will never forget, and we just want to say thank you again for all your support and prayers!

Love to you from all of us,
The Keith Smit Family

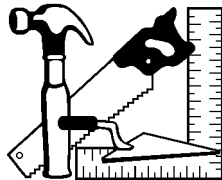
February Mission Trip

Sixteen volunteers from East Martin Christian Reformed Church and Martin Reformed Church left on Saturday night, February 13 for Louisiana to work in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans through February 20.

They worked along side those who run the Carpenter House, a Resource Center for those in need of meals, food and clothing.

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents: Don Brunink and his brother, Bruce Mejeur, Dave and Karen Misner, Mark Van Elderen and Pastor Jake.

Franklinton, LA Here We Come!



We have worked with CRWRC Disaster Response Services in the past to find a place for us to serve during spring break. This year we are returning to the same organization we worked through in 2008, WASHINGTON EMERGENCY RECOVERY ONGOING CADRE' (WEROC) in Franklinton, LA.

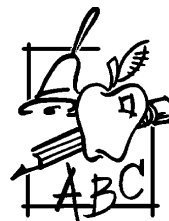
We have about 25 people who plan to go. We plan to travel with mini vans again so, yes, only one small piece of luggage! We plan to leave on Friday, April 2, around 4 p.m. and travel straight through to Franklinton. Saturday afternoon we hope to get settled in and then on Sunday worship at Pastor Joe and Sharon Kelly's church in Franklinton. Joe and Sharon are the directors of WEROC, the organization that will assign our work schedule. We will call Trinity Baptist Church our home for the next 5 days as we work on different projects in the Franklinton area.

Our present work schedule is:
Half of a house needs to be wired, insulated, and dry walled.
One large room of a house needs to be wired, insulated, and dry walled.
One house needs to be painted.
Plumbing under a mobile home needs repair. There IS enough space under the home to work properly.
Install one window air conditioning unit in a mobile home.

The website for the church is: <http://www.trinityfranklinton.com> if you would like to check it out. The website for WEROC is: <http://www.trinityfranklinton.com/templates/System/details.asp?id=25357&PID=379226>.

We have had several fund raisers to help cover the costs of the trip and we want to say Thank You to those who have given so generously. There is still a lot to raise so please give a donation your prayerful consideration. There is a box in the narthex or see any of the YG leaders. Please pray for a safe and productive week.

Kindergarten Round-Up



East Martin Christian School Kindergarten Round-Up, for children who will be 5 before September 1 and are ready to enter kindergarten in 2010-11 school year, will be held on March 27 at 10 a.m. Kindergarten Testing will take place at this time. This will be held in the East Martin Christian School Kindergarten room and will be a fun time for parents and their children who will soon be entering Kindergarten to meet the teacher, visit the school and classroom.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 672-5722.

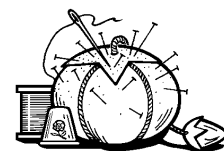


Spelling Bee

On January 29 the EMCS classroom spelling bee winners participated in the school spelling bee. In a hard-fought spell-off that lasted over an hour, the sixteen spellers finally were down to two finalists – Jesse Damsteegt and Rose Van Elderen. For a third year, our school spelling bee champion is Jesse, who correctly spelled eclipse for the win.

Rose and Jesse will represent EMCS in Wayland at the regional bee to be held on Tuesday, February 23. We wish for Rose and Jesse much success!!

Sewing Night



Sewing Night was canceled in February due to inclement weather so we will make Potato Baking Bags on Tuesday, March 16. The materials needed are: 2 pieces of material 12 x 22 inches each and 1 piece of (high loft preferred) polyester batting 12 x 22. The result will be a great new way to bake potatoes in the microwave – bring enough materials for more than 1 bag if you wish as it doesn't require a lot of time to make.

Dear partner in ministry,
This is a letter to say thank you for the generous way in which Christian Reformed churches and members are responding to the urgent needs of the people of Haiti. Thank you for caring and thank you for sharing.



I am humbled once again by how the church responds in times of crisis. As of this week, donations to the CRWRC for the Haiti disaster response had already topped \$2.1 million, and the money is continuing to come in, through church offerings and individual gifts, including almost \$700,000 that has been donated online via the "Help Haiti" and CRWRC web sites.

CRWRC is helping to meet the immediate needs for food, water and shelter by distributing tarps and rice, beans, and pasta to more than 1,100 families in the Port-au-Prince area. It is also working to provide clean water.

As CRWRC continues its short-term response to the needs of earthquake survivors, it is also gearing up for a multi-year reconstruction program. It has identified six villages in Leogane, an area that was hardest-hit by the earthquake, for the next phase of its work. The response will likely include building temporary and permanent housing as well as helping people re-establish livelihoods, provide programs for social needs, form community groups and care for children. It will also include rebuilding infrastructure such as wells and latrines.

Please continue to remember Haiti in your giving and your prayers. I am grateful that the CRC has been walking alongside the people of Haiti for more than 30 years. We were there before the earthquake and we will continue to be there long after the world's attention has moved elsewhere, not only ministering to physical needs but reaching out with the gospel through the work of CRWM and Back to God Ministries International. Thank you for making this possible.

For up-to-date reports on the disaster response efforts and to learn more about the CRC's ministry in Haiti, visit our "Help Haiti" page at <http://www.crcna.org/pages/>

helphaiti.2010.cfm. We have also created an online discussion forum for churches and individuals who are engaged in ministry in Haiti. You can join that conversation by going to <http://network.crcna.org/forums/working-haiti>.

Rev. Jerry Dykstra
Executive Director, CRCNA

Thank you so very much for your contribution to the ministries of the CRC. Gifts like yours are critically important as the agencies of the church dedicate themselves to advancing the cause of Christ. Rev. Gerard Dykstra

From Martin Area Resource Center: Thank you very much for the generous donation of \$1,012.76. Donations like yours will help us to assist many individuals in our community who may need help.

We offer assistance with food, clothing, furniture, appliances, utilities, and referral services. Without donations from our community, these services would not be available in the critical economy.

We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and wish you a happy New Year.

From Christian Neighbors: Thank you so much for your continuing financial support of our food pantry ministry! We truly appreciate your generosity.

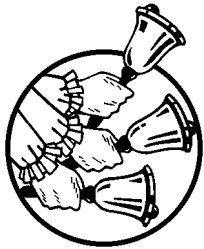
From Focus on the Family: As we begin a new year, we're especially aware of the way God blesses us through good folks like you. Your generosity is a great encouragement to us. Thank you so much!

From Truth for Life: Thank you for your gift of \$1,000. We're thankful to play a small part in your spiritual walk and growth. It's the continuing support of people like you who help us to bring the truth of God's Word to bear on the lives of people around the country and throughout the world.

Thanks to all those who remembered me with prayers, flowers, phone calls, emails and cards at the time of my ear surgery. And most of all, Praise God that the hearing has improved significantly.



Marcia



Dear EMCRC Jr. High Youth Group,

Thank-you for ringing the bells for The Salvation Army's 2009 Red Kettle Campaign!

In our third year of an all-volunteer bell ringing force, your time and efforts helped us to have more kettles covered throughout the season than ever before. Consequently, our kettles have so far received almost \$40,000 more in donations this year compared to last. What an achievement!

Thank-you for withstanding the cold wind, snowy days and nights, and hours of standing on your feet. By making these sacrifices, you will have helped The Salvation Army reach thousands of families in Allegan and Kalamazoo counties through all of its services and programs including emergency utility assistance, emergency food pantry, Thanksgiving food baskets, Christmas Toy Shop, after-school youth programs, senior citizen luncheons, and much more!

Beyond this, you have helped The Salvation Army spread the hope and joy of Christmas - the love of Jesus Christ.

Thank-you again for all time you've given us and God bless you!

Major Don Tekautz - Corps Officer

From Wayne and Sandy:

Tonight I was at a birthday party of one lady, Dalia, who became a Christian this year. It was a first for her in the fact that she had a wonderful family



of believers around her and also all of her now Christian family was there. She has had a rough week and nearly lost the baby that she is carrying hopefully for a few more months. Her husband, Mario, is an alcoholic and wasn't there until he came home later. I think that they served him food and cake up at the house. But her father, Santiago, who is also an alcoholic was there tonight and also came to the Saturday group. He didn't think that he would ever be able to leave drugs and alcohol (his testimony tonight), but he almost died from drugs last week and this was the third time so now he says that he has no interest in going back. He was studying at one time to become a priest and knows the Bible very well. These are the kinds of testimonies that just keep us going and seeking to bring in more like them.

Pray for our Saturday meeting where a new Christian lady, Genya, will bring us to her father's home, her mother died there last week Wednesday. We expect that many family members may come and some will receive Christ. They have been witnessing to the family for quite a while now and having us there shows openness. The catholic purgatory prayers will be earlier. This whole family is so on fire for the gospel in the past year. They host the Saturday night church.

But there are also discouragements. One family, Juanita's, left the church this past week after they had just all come to Christ during the past year. A pastor came by and "robbed" them from our group. We are saddened but hope that he will pastor them well.

Another church leader, Felix, is angry at us for not visiting and leading a study that we can't cover at the present because two of our pastors are gone for a few weeks. So he stopped coming with some of the family members.

Thanks for your prayers. The spiritual battle rages for souls here.

Thanks for praying for our son David who was in the hospital over the weekend in the Dominican Republic. He is out and doing much better. Dengue and pneumonia.



Offerings for January

General Fund	\$8,795.00
Ministry Shares	2,058.00
Building Expansion	1,452.00
Benevolence	394.00
Faith Promise:	
DeYoung	135.00
Meyer	35.00
Shaarda	70.00
Nightingale	35.00
E. M. Missions	314.81
Education Assistance	295.00
Projection System	50.00
Parking Lot Fund	283.00
Jr. High Youth Group	400.00
E. M. Christian School	791.83
E. M. Christian High School	380.00
Youth Unlimited	207.00
Peter Fish	75.00
CRWRC – General	55.00
CRWRC – Haiti	6,043.00

Total Offerings \$21,868.64

Year to Date

General Fund – Ideal	\$100,000.00
- Actual	105,396.88
- Over	5,396.88
Ministry Shares – Ideal	\$49,323.76
- Actual	34,533.60
- Under	14,790.16

Roasted Cheddar Potatoes

Frozen potato wedges make these cheesy, crouton-topped spuds supereasy.

- 1 pkg (24 oz) frozen oven-fried potato wedges (with skins)
- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp smoked paprika or paprika
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup shredded white or other Cheddar cheese (4 oz)
- 2/3 cup crushed croutons (about 1 cup croutons)
- Sour cream (optional)

Heat oven according to package directions for potatoes. Place frozen potatoes in a large re-sealable plastic bag. In a small bowl, combine oil, garlic, paprika and salt. Drizzle over potato wedges; seal bag. Shake to coat potatoes.

Spread potatoes in a single layer in a lightly greased 15x10x1 inch baking pan. Bake, turning once, according to package directions.

In another small bowl, combine cheese and croutons. Sprinkle over potatoes during the last 3 minutes of baking. Using a large spatula, transfer potatoes to a serving dish or platter. Serve with sour cream (optional). Makes 8 servings.



Son-Life Camp

The theme for 2010 is “Called”, from Matthew 28:19. There are many camp opportunities for ages 6 – 16 with great games, swimming, and challenging Bible study times. For more information check out their website at www.SON-LifeCamp.org or contact Jenn at 792-2081.

Back to God Ministries Prayer Request



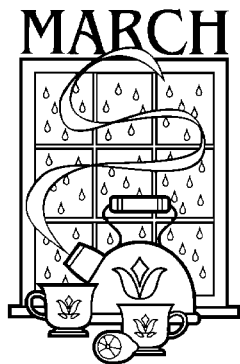
Pray for a teacher in Henan who uses Back to God Ministries Chinese-English Today to share the gospel with students. He writes, “Your English World website is very helpful to me too, for I am also learning English myself, just a few steps ahead of my students.”

Birthdays

- 1 Sheryl Johnson
Harold Wykstra
- 2 Gordon Grevenstuk
Bertha Lynema
Crystal Rook
- 4 Phyllis Grevenstuk
Les Lynema
Sheri VanElderen
- 6 Marlene Leep
- 7 Tanner Smith
- 8 Cory Lindsey
Henry Tuinstra
- 9 Nicole Wright
- 10 Tyler VanDerMeulen
Joel Westendorp
- 11 Linda DeYoung
- 12 Ellie Korringa
Chris Leep
Mechelle Shaarda
- 13 Rose VanElderen
- 14 Kathy Adrianson
Steve VanderKam
- 15 Mike VanElderen
- 18 Henry Korringa
- 19 Cameron Tuinstra
- 22 Sara Denzel
Kyle Leep
Tom Smit
- 23 Jacob DeYoung
Brenda VanDenBerg
- 24 Andrew VandenBerg
- 25 Liam Ganley (Rillema)
- 27 David Bouman
Dan Wubben, Sr.
- 28 Renee Aukema
Megan Westendorp
- 29 Tim Westendorp
- 30 Mary DeMann
- 31 Tom Lynema

Anniversaries

- 3 Bruce and Renee Aukema
- 20 Doug and Jeanne DeMann
- 26 Geri and Sheri Van Elderen



Greeters

March 7: a.m., Scott and Becky Rillema, Bruce Tiemeyer; p.m., Henry and Nancy Tuinstra

March 14: a.m., Communion – Elders; p.m., John and Merrie Beth DenBoer

March 21: a.m., GEMS, Randy Bouman; p.m., Marion and Mary Visser

March 28: a.m., Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra, Wayne Leep; p.m., Earl and Linda Wykstra

Ushers

March 7: Joel DeYoung, Roger Anderson, Josh Anderson

March 14: Steve DeMann, Jerry Bronkhorst, Kevin DeKoekkoek

March 21: Kevin, Eric and Jeff Bouman

March 28: Ken DeMann, Glenn Leep, Nate Leep

Nursery

March 7: a.m., Mary and Anna Bronkhorst, Jen Tuinstra; p.m., Joanne and Kari Mejeur

March 14: a.m., Deb Smit, Jennifer DeYoung, Jenna Wubben

March 21: a.m., Luanne Suk, Sheri Van Elderen, Rebekah Westendorp; p.m., Jenny Mejeur, Lacey Smit

March 28: a.m., Ruth Katje, Mary Bouman, Rose Van Elderen

April 2-Good Friday: Nancy VanderHeide, Brooke Leep

Children's Worship

March 7: Denise Leep, Lacey Smith

March 14: Communion

March 21: Dawn Anderson, Angie Tiemeyer

March 28: Milly VanDerMeulen, Hannah Damsteegt

Library

March 7: a.m., Ida Wetendorp; p.m., Tim Westendorp

March 14: a.m., Carolyn VanderMeulen; p.m., Ashley Tiemeyer

March 21: a.m., Nancy Tuinstra; p.m., Ally DeYoung

March 28: a.m., Jeanine VanderKam; p.m., Lily Van Elderen