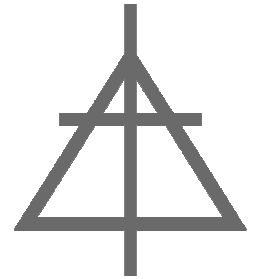


# The Echoes

January, 2010

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



## Our Pastor's Perspective

### 10 Oughts for 2010

A top ten list of things we ought to do this New Year as members of God's family.

10. We Ought to Pray. Romans 8:26 says, "We do not know what **we ought to pray** for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

9. We ought to bear with each other. Romans 15:1-2 says, "**We** who are strong **ought to bear with the failings of the weak** and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

8. We ought to pay attention. Hebrews 2:1 says, "**We must (ought to) pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard**, so that we do not drift away."

7. This is the ought of marital bliss. Ephesians 5:28 instructs us, "In the same way **husbands ought to love their wives** as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 1 Peter 3:7 says that the way we treat our wife impacts the effectiveness of our prayer."

6. We ought to get rid of speech impediments. Colossians says, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that **you may know how you ought to answer everyone.**"

5. We ought to be humble. Romans 12:3 says, "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you, **do not think of yourself more highly than you ought**, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."

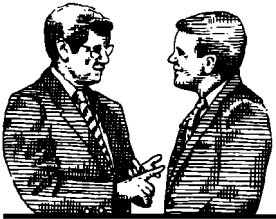
4. We ought to seek the will of God. James 4:14 says, "You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. **You ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'**" Ephesians 5:15-17 also emphasizes seeking the Lord's will when it says we need to "understand what the will of the Lord is."

3. We ought to sacrifice for others. 1 John 3:16 says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And **we ought to lay down our lives for one another.**"

2. We ought to provide support in the care of those involved in ministry. 3 John 1:8 says, "**We ought therefore to show hospitality** to such men so that we may work together for the truth."

1. We ought to love. 1 John 4:11 says, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.**" 1 John 3:11 and 16 says something similar as does John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12.

With thanks to Homiletics V 11.6, p. 64-65



### In Contact with Council

Roger Anderson opened the meeting of January 12 by reading from Matthew 12:46-50.

Previous minutes were read and approved.

#### Reports:

Pastor's report presented, several home and hospital visits were made.

Prepared and preached several sermons.

Pastor Weeda asked for permission to go on a Mission trip with EMCRC and MRC in February, motion made and approved.

Deacon's report presented and approved.

The building expansion loan with the bank was paid off from the building improvement fund to save the interest being paid to the bank. The building improvement fund will be reimbursed at the bank payment rate.

Valet parking will be made available for those wishing to use it. Don Wubben is making the arrangements.

Motion to adjourn until the next meeting on February 8. Kevin DeKoekkoek closed in prayer.

## Year in Review

Some changes have been made in our membership for the year 2009.

New members added to our number by baptism were: Cauy VanDerHeide, Violet Tuinstra, Madelyn VanDerMeulen, Addison Tuinstra and Elijah Korringa.

We had 8 professions of faith: Mary and Matthew Lynema, Kenny Mejeur, Lacey and Travis Smith, Leah Wubben, Shelby and Dustin Quick.

Joining our fellowship were Scott and Jennifer Tuinstra and their children, Henry and Violet.

The marriages that took place this year were: Jill Leep to Brandon Rosenboom, Nicole Haveman to Corey Wright, Jeff DeMann to Trisha Cook, Jon Weeda to Sarah Nicholson, and John Smit to Kara Bergsma.

We lost three members by death: Grace Mulder, Jim Scholten and Al Westendorp.

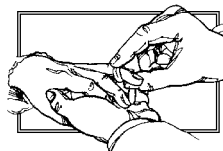


## Sunday School/ Catechism Teachers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Season

Following are those who are teaching Sunday School and Catechism for the second half of the education season.

Preschool/PreK	Joan Lynema/Ruth Katje
Kindergarten	Amy VandenBerg
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Linda Weeda
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce Tiemeyer
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Smit
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Steve VanderKam
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nick VanderHeide
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Weeda
Song Leader	Laura Westendorp

Jeremy Leep was married to Shannon Wiehof on October 20, 2009, in Japan.



### *United in Marriage*

Jeremy and Shannon met at a class in which Jeremy was involved. After living "off base" for a short time they moved "on base" for more comfortable living accommodations.

Shannon is originally from Houston, Texas. She has a young daughter. Plans are they will be stationed in Japan until 2011.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Jeremy and Shannon and we pray for God's blessing on them.

## Coffee Break



The 2nd half of Coffee break is underway as we begin a study of the book of Mark. In Mark we will study the story of Jesus' mission in this action-packed gospel. We will see that by Jesus' power and authority He showed the people of His day that He was the promised Messiah. But the people were looking for a different kind of Messiah. What will happen when they realize they didn't get what they wanted? See for yourself in this enlightening study.

Come join us every Wednesday from 9:45 to 11 a.m. for a great time of Bible study and fellowship!



At our Christmas party we played games. (Some of us don't know the words to our favorite Christmas songs) and we made cards to give to our service men and women. The cards that we made are for them to be able to send cards to their families. We made a variety of birthday, thank you, and blank note cards for them to use.

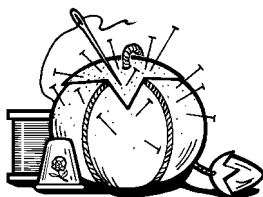
We continue to learn more about prayer and how God wants us to bring all of our worries to him. We are also preparing for Gems Sunday. We practice our singing every meeting. These girls can sing! Gems Sunday will be on March 21 and that will be here before we know it. We will close out our season in April with the Mother/Daughter dinner. (So Mom's, mark your calendar for April 21.)

This summer we have a group of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls that are going to the Gems camp at Miracle Camp in Lawton. We pray that this will be a blessing to them and that they will continue to grow in their relationship with God.

Thank you to all who make our Gems group a success, and thanks to the congregation for your prayer and financial support.

## Cadets Update

The Cadets have been learning some new things this year. In November they had a demonstration on tying flies for fly fishing. In January they will be preparing for the snow derby which is on February 6. On February 10 they will start selling sub sandwiches and those will be delivered on March 10. Another advance notice is that the Pinewood Derby will be on April 14 this year. We hope you can all come and watch.



## Sewing Night

The next sewing night will be the second Tuesday in February – February 9 (note date change). The project for that evening will be making a Potato Baking Bag. The materials needed for the project 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 material for more than 1 bag if you wish (to make a bag does not require a lot of time).

## Library News

Last year about 100 Fiction books were placed in the library, 32 DVD's, 16 Primary and some youth and Christian Living.



There is something for almost everyone if you love to read. Fiction, Historical Fiction, Suspense, Amish. Popular authors are: Karen Kingsbury, Lori Copeland, Colleen Coble, Wanda Brunstetter, Judith Miller, Tracie Peterson, Deeanne Gist, Liz Curtis Higgs, Francine Rivers, Karen Hancock, Kim Vo-

gel Sawyer, Robin Jones Gunn, Ted Dekker, Beverly Lewis, Terri Blackstock, Laurine Snelling, Lisa Bergman, Angela Hunt and of course there are more good authors as well.

Some people prefer one kind of book and some a different kind. We all have different tastes in a good book.

Authors are busy putting out lots of Amish Fiction nowadays and they are a good read and show us a different kind of life. Reading is a wonderful hobby which I really enjoy. Look for a good book soon. They all have a message for someone in one way or another. Happy and enjoyable reading! Look for more good reading throughout the year.

## “People’s Choice” Chili Cook-Off and Apple Pie Contest



The EMCRC Youth Group hosted the first ever (to our knowledge) Chili Cook-Off and Apple Pie contest on Saturday evening, January 30 at the school gym. As we were all novices at both planning and running this kind of event we were happy to note there was only a slight amount of chaos prior to people arriving with their favorite recipe chili and apple pies! All in all there were 15 different kinds of chili to sample from, 9 varieties of apple pies/crisps, rich chocolate brownies, and hot dogs. The recipes ranged from a sweet, mild Pumpkin Chili to a spicy white chicken chili with jalapeno to a Hearty Game Day Chili and everything in between. Those who attended were invited to try a sample of any kind of chili and pie and instructed to place their vote for their top three favorites; prizes were awarded to those who received the most votes in each category.

The top three chili recipes (from 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place) were: Mechelle Shaarda, Sue Tiemeyer, and Mary Bouman. The top three apple pie/crisp recipes were: Nancy Leep, Alice Damsteegt, and Lorraine VanDenBerg. The first place winners were each

given a \$25 Applebee's gift card.

Funds that were raised from the cook off will go to support the youth group serve trip to Franklinton, LA over spring break April 2-10, 2010 and with your generous donations we were able to raise around \$800. We would like to express our appreciation to those who made chili and pie and came out to taste test the recipes, and for your continued prayers and financial support of the youth group. We could not do this without each of you!

If you have M & M candy tubes to return, there is a collection basket on the back table in the church narthex you can place them in. Or simply hand them to any of the youth group kids or leaders.

Donations are appreciated and welcomed as we work to raise funds for our serve trip over spring break. There is a brown donation box in the church narthex for the youth group if you wish to make a contribution.

### **Elegant Dinner**

The youth group is planning to host an Elegant Dinner on Friday evening, February 26 here at church. The menu is being planned and more details will follow next week in the bulletin.

### **Pop Cans**

The youth group is continuing to collect your pop cans. If you have cans you would like to donate, we would be happy to pick them up or you can bring them to Bouman's garage.

### **Lock In/ Wii Tournament Advance Notice**

High schoolers mark your calendars for Friday, March 26- Saturday, March 27 for a fun night at the EMCS gym complete with a Wii Tournament, games, pizza, snacks, movies, and more! Plans are currently underway for this event which is open to all 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. More details and information coming so don't forget to check the bulletin, your email, and Facebook.

## **Get Away and Come Together**

Life has a way of overwhelming marriages. You start out fully focused on each other. But as the years go by, the time you had to simply relax and talk gives way to busy schedules. Before you know it, checking your e-mail on Saturday is more important than carving out a date night.

FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember conference is a chance to get away from the distractions of daily life. Cell phones are shut off. To-do lists are temporarily forgotten. It's a time to slow down and reconnect.

West Michigan Conf. schedule is Grand Rapids, Feb. 19-21, 2010. Kalamazoo, April 30-May 2, 2010. Registration begins at 5pm Friday. The conference goes until Sunday 12:30pm.

For more information or to register, go online to [FamilyLife.com/Weekend](http://FamilyLife.com/Weekend) or phone 1-800-358-6329. East Martin CRC is registered as EMCRC on the FamilyLife website. You can also contact Nancy Leep.

## **From Classis Kalamazoo**

Classis Kalamazoo invites students from their Classis (undergraduate or graduate level) who are planning to pursue full-time ministry in the CRC and are in need of financial aid for the academic year 2010-2011 to apply no later than February 28, 2010 by contacting Paul Vander Kamp, 2221 Ridgefield Rd., Portage, MI 49024, phone 269-321-0709, [vdrkmp@juno.com](mailto:vdrkmp@juno.com). Undergraduate students must be at least in their junior year during 2010-2011. Students presently receiving aid must reapply.

The Student Aid Fund Committee (SAFC) of Classis Kalamazoo is in need of one person to serve on our committee. Our committee has only one meeting per year! The role of SAFC is to evaluate applications for student education loans for those members of our Classis that are pursuing full time ministry in the CRC. If you would like to have a role in helping our local members achieve their call to ministry please contact Paul Vander Kamp by February 28 at 269-321-0709 or [vdrkmp@juno.com](mailto:vdrkmp@juno.com).

## Wild Game Dinner



The Wild Game dinner is scheduled for February 13 and will begin at 5:00 in the East Martin Christian School Gym. Our guest speaker is Randy VanDam, owner of DNR Sports in Kalamazoo. He specializes in hunting.

If anyone has wild game or would like to make a dish, please call Brenda VanDenBerg. Reservations are to be made by February 8 and to make those reservations call Brenda at 685-2352.

## Howard Hill Hustle

The Kalamazoo Christian Schools will be hosting "The Howard Hill Hustle". This 5K run/walk and Kid's 1K will be held on Saturday, May 15 beginning at 8:30 a.m. You will not want to miss this exciting new event with food to enjoy, live music, and fabulous race day prizes. Go to the race website at [howardhillhustle.kcsa.org](http://howardhillhustle.kcsa.org) and sign up now. More info and a training schedule can be viewed on the site.

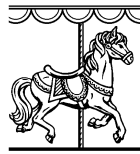
## Host Family Needed

Host families are needed for international students who want to attend Kalamazoo Christian High School. If you would be interested in hearing more, please contact John and Elaine DeJager from Partners in Learning Across Cultures, at 616-246-6302 or [jadj@iserv.net](mailto:jadj@iserv.net). If you have any questions before calling the DeJager's, feel free to call Sue VanHamersveld at the high school at 269-381-2250, ext. 217.

## Christian Reformed Conference Grounds

Looking for a great service opportunity? The Christian Reformed Conference Grounds is looking for male volunteers for its Special Needs Week which takes place from June 19-26. Be matched with a special needs camper and see how God can

use YOU to touch their lives and maybe even change yours. For more information, please contact the Conference Grounds at 616-842-4478 or Alison Eno at [eno\\_alison@yahoo.com](mailto:eno_alison@yahoo.com)



Beechpoint Camp is a Christian camp on Dumont Lake which primarily serves inner-city kids. They are in need of help with their horses through the end of April. If you are able to board one of their horses with your own for the next few months or would like to volunteer a few hours feeding and grooming horses at their camp contact Rick at 650-3903.

## Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who came out on Saturday, Jan. 9th for the Winter Blast Benefit Concert. We would especially like to thank R.E.L.I.C. and Trinity FTL for the great music and all those who helped make the concert happen. We raised \$595 to support our work in Guatemala. Many Blessings, One Heart Ministries

Bertha Lynema expresses her thanks to the Jr. High Youth Group for raking her leaves this fall. They raked lots of leaves and did a great job. Many thanks!!

Many, many thanks for the beautiful birthday cards and best wishes expressed on my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. God's blessings have been great and I pray for his guiding hand in whatever lies ahead.

Carolyn Bouman

Roy and I want to thank you for loving us and encouraging us through the last several months. It has been a long journey and the blessings we have received because of your prayers and support have carried us through to this point. Roy has finished radiation treatments. He will have a scan and will then see the doctor the following week for the results and a plan of action.

May you receive God's richest blessings in this new year.  
Roy and Val Wykstra

## Fishing with the Korringa Family

Caleb loves to fish like his brother and holds his own fishing with or against his older brother Solomon. This past year Caleb caught 3 largemouth bass over 17" on opening day. He has caught a number of fish out of Selkirk Lake trolling and fishing from the camper. Caleb's favorite form of fishing has yet to arrive. That is ice fishing. This past winter I was awakened at 5 a.m. on the first snow fall to bright young eyes and little hands shaking me.

"Dad, Dad, wake up! There is snow on the ground", a whispering voice came from the dark room.

"Okay, so?" I answered still asleep. "That means we can go ice fishing. Hurry up Dad!" Caleb answered. I had to send a sleepy disappointed boy back to bed, and explain to him that just because there is snow doesn't mean there is enough ice on the lake to go fishing. Ice fishing marks the time that a father and son get shut in a small room on the ice and relive the memories of the past year. It is a time when father and son enjoy the quiet and questions that have not had time to be addressed. I knew this time was special to me, but this confirmed that my sons viewed this time the same way. We don't need to catch fish to enjoy the time out. Although I have come away with a fair share of stories. Night fishing for crappies and tip up fishing is our favorite. I remember taking Caleb out the first time for crappies. We arrived on the lake about an hour before dark. As we set up most people were in the process of tearing down and heading home. I explained the type of fishing we were doing and that you need to wait to set the hook. After I got Caleb all set up with a line in the water, I started to set my line up.

That is when I heard "1, 2, 3, 4."

"Caleb what are you doing?"

"Waiting to set the hook Dad, 5, 6..." Fish on! We managed a small bucket of crappies that night. We relived that night's catch on the way back to

the car and all the way home. Talking about what you catch after the night is done is just as much fun as the process of catching the fish.

On another weekend on a different lake I took Caleb, my father and a young man I used to coach, out to try for northern pike on the tip ups. We drilled 7 holes in the very thick ice and my arms were getting sore. The last hole I decided to use an old hole someone had drilled the night before. It was frozen almost shut but left just enough room to slide the tip up reel down. We then set up the ice shanty and climbed in. No sooner than we all sat down did the first tip up go off. We ran across the ice, Caleb trying to keep up. His little legs only go so fast with all those layers. We arrived and a few seconds later Caleb arrives. We slowly raise the tip up and sure enough the reel is spinning and line is streaming out. We wait for the line to stop and set the hook. Fish on! I hand the line to Caleb and he begins to pull the fish in hand over hand. Now you know that small hole I chose to drop the last tip up down. The one that was just big enough to fit the reel down. Yup, that is the one that this fish is on and as he comes closer to the hole we realize the diameter of the fish is larger than the diameter of the hole. The line is then held to one side and the hole is chisled larger. Caleb waits for his fish and is rewarded with a 28" northern pike. This may not be a monster to some, but it was to Caleb and it was the only pike pulled off that lake that day. Caleb carried that pike across both arms through the groups of other ice fishermen proudly on his way back to the truck. The other fishermen commented on how they arrived 3 hours before us and still haven't had a tip up go off. Needless to say Caleb smiled and told everyone he ran into about his fish for the remainder of the winter.

Take a kid ice fishing and you will be amazed at what you learn. If you need a shanty, which is a must for a young kid, or any other piece of ice fishing equipment let me know. It is more than worth the cold. The conversations about school, God and family will put a smile on any father or grandfather's face. Our kids have a lot to learn from us – what better place than an ice shanty!

## Greeters

Feb. 7: a.m., Ken and Sandy DeMann, Steve DeMann; p.m., Dave and Jean Mejeur.

Feb. 14: a.m., Joan Kammeraad and Betty DeJager, Don Smith; p.m., Carolyn and Marcia Bouman.

Feb. 21: a.m., Russ and Tammy Quick, Bill Snook; p.m., Bruce and Renee Aukema.

Feb. 28: a.m., Geri and Sheri Van Elderen, Russ Quick; p.m., Bruce and Sue Tiemeyer.

## Ushers

Feb. 7: Brian Westendorp, Loretta Fennema, Joel Westendorp.

Feb. 14: Dan Wubben, Don Wubben, Ralph Suk.

Feb. 21: Keith Fennema, Loretta Fennema, Dean Wubben.

Feb. 28: Earl Wykstra, Matt Bourdo, Dan Jager.

## Nursery

Feb. 7: a.m., Jen Tuinstra, Christie Tuinstra, Jesse Damsteegt; p.m., Ruth Katje, Jenny Mejeur.

Feb. 14: a.m., Renee Aukema, Terri Jager, Tracy DeJager; p.m., Karen and Christine DeJager.

Feb. 21: a.m., Jeanine VanderKam, Sue Tiemeyer, Joan Lynema; p.m., Denise and Rachel Leep.

Feb. 28: a.m., Stacie and Amber Leep, Nancy Leep; p.m., Nancy VanderHeide, Brooke Leep.

## Children's Worship

Feb. 7: Dawn Anderson, Brooke Leep.

Feb. 14: Milly VanDerMeulen, Jenny Mejeur.

Feb. 21: Lauri DeYoung, Ann Smit.

Feb. 28: Mary Bouman, Shelby Quick.

## Library

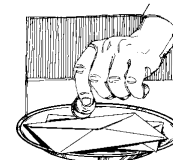
Feb. 7: a.m., Nancy Tuinstra; p.m., April Wubben.

Feb. 14: a.m., Jeanine VanderKam; p.m., Megan Westendorp.

Feb. 21: a.m., Betty DeJager; p.m., Jared Westendorp.

Feb. 28: a.m., Linda DeYoung; p.m., Joel Westendorp.

## Offerings for December



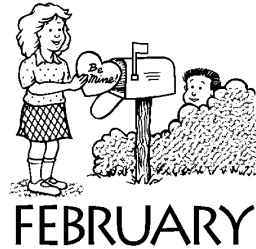
General Fund	\$ 30,398.86
Ministry Shares	12,784.98
Building Expansion Fund	5,098.00
Benevolence	1,368.00
Faith Promise:	
DeYoung	1,912.00
Meyer	1,437.00
Shaarda	3,087.00
Nightingale	1,477.00
E. M. Missions	1,847.00
Sound System	200.00
Education Assistance	173.01
E. M. Christian School	26,634.00
E. M. Chr. High School	11,103.95
CRWRC – General	5,000.00
Christian Neighbors	1,000.00
Martin Resource Center	1,000.00
Project Hope	1,000.00
Right to Life Ed. Fund	2,774.00
Crossroads Bible Inst.	1,000.00
Focus On The Family	1,000.00
One Heart Ministries	1,300.00
Moody Bible Institute	1,000.00
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	1,000.00
Family Life	1,000.00
Truth for Life Ministries	1,000.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	1,000.00
Total	\$116,494.80

### Year to date

General Fund – Ideal	\$87,500.00
- Actual	96,601.88
- Over	\$9,101.88
Ministry Shares – Ideal	\$43,148.29
- Actual	32,475.60
- Under	\$10,682.69

## Birthdays

- 3 Caleb Tuinstra
- 5 Ann Adrion
- 6 Jeanne DeMann  
Angela Tiemeyer
- 11 Vern Klaasen
- 12 Brice Nightingale (MK)  
Rebecca Westendorp
- 14 Chad VanderKam
- 17 Ashley Double  
Jessica Leep
- 19 Collin Coburn  
Brittany Jameson  
Audrey Nightingale  
Sena Scholten
- 21 Nicole DeMann  
Scott Tuinstra
- 22 Dean VanElderen
- 27 Steve DeMann  
Sam DeYoung
- 28 Tony Smith



16 oz. mostaccioli

1 lb. mozzarella cheese

Pan-fry sausage. Remove sausage from pan. Add green pepper and onion. Saute until tender. Drain off fat. Add tomatoes and tomato paste, water and seasonings. Layer in casserole – Mostaccioli, sausage, sauce, and cheese. Repeat layers. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

This recipe makes (2) 2 quart casseroles. May be frozen.

## Uprising in Jos, Nigeria

CRC Missionaries and Staff Safe in Jos, Nigeria — Sectarian violence broke out in Jos, Nigeria, during the afternoon on Sunday, January 17. A curfew from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM was imposed late Sunday afternoon. The violence was contained in one particular area of Jos throughout Sunday evening and Monday, but on Tuesday morning the violence spread to several areas of Jos and to some of the neighboring towns. A 24-hour curfew was imposed around 10:00 AM on Tuesday. Smoke could be seen throughout the city and frequent gunfire was heard until late afternoon on Tuesday. By Tuesday evening calm was restored and that calm has continued throughout the night. The 24-hour curfew is still in effect.

All CRCNA-related staff are safe. Hillcrest School has been closed indefinitely.

Please pray that peace will be restored to Jos soon. Thank God for His protection over all CRCNA-related missionaries and families.

## Anniversaries

- 1 Jim and Lauri DeYoung
- 21 Scott and Jennifer Tuinstra
- 22 Jerrad and Anna Voth
- 23 Dean and Carolyn VanderMeulen
- 28 Dan and Terri Jager

## Sausage Mostaccioli

- 1 lb. pork sausage
- 1 lb. Italian sausage
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 cup chopped onion
- (2) 1 lb. cans tomatoes
- 12 oz. tomato paste
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. oregano
- ½ tsp. pepper

But thou, O Lord,  
art a shield about me,  
my glory, and the  
lifter of my head.

Psalm 3

## From Josh and Mandy

We just wanted you to know we made it back to Uganda. Thank God! We were suppose to fly Saturday but our flight was canceled and we ended up flying Monday (with sick kids). For the full story feel free to read our blog; it was quite a trip this time. But we are here healthy and safe. Thank you for all your prayers! What a blessing to know people were praying. Continue to remember us as we adjust back to life in Soroti. We had a wonderful time in Michigan and now with God's peace and strength are ready to serve Him here again. Thanks everyone.

shaarda@hotmail.com

[shaarda.blogspot.com](http://shaarda.blogspot.com)

## From Wayne and Sandy

Today the world is celebrating Christmas: the coming of Jesus, 2000+ years ago. Here the firecrackers and rockets announced the day all night long. It is not nearly as bad here as in Honduras where the confetti from the firecrackers would cover the streets and the smoke around midnight would block the moon and stars. But the sad thing is that so many people know about the Christ-coming, but have never met him personally like those wisemen of old and the shepherds. But this past week I got one of these missionary thrills that makes life here all worthwhile. I have to start way back. About one year ago, one of our new evangelists, **Marilee** started a women's Bible study in her neighborhood. This quickly grew into a house church that meets on Saturday nights. About 20 people from the neighborhood gather in the dirt patio of **Genya and Simon** who also became believers at that time. One of the ladies who came was **Juanita** with her son, **Juanito** (baby) and sometimes her other two sons came too. One was a real rascal; the other I got to know better this past week. His name is **Luis David** (David for his father). A month ago at a house church party, **David** the father came. His wife, **Juanita**, had been praying a lot for him and asked the group to do the same. I noticed very quickly at the party that he was very open to the gospel and asking lots of questions. Two weeks later, **David** gave his life to Jesus and has been attending ever since. David needs steady work. Presently he is working washing cars on the street to feed the family. His wife must be attending about 3-4 groups a week now. David allows her to attend which is very a-cultural. Husbands here are often very domineer-

ing. This past Monday night she and her boys attended a new house group in Santa Cruz de Valle which is about 5 miles away. Her son, **Luis David** attended and for about three weeks has been very interested in the study; he has come regularly since about the time that his father became a Christian. He is 13 years old. After the study he asked me to give him a Bible. I told him that he had to complete the Bible League Bible study booklet first and I would give him a New Testament. He negotiated with me, "How 'bout if I complete one lesson?" "No," I said, "the whole booklet of 12 lessons." "How about three lessons" he negotiated. "No" I said, "all 12." I thought, "this will take him a few weeks if he is really serious." On Wednesday **Juanita** his mother invited me over for what I thought was a Christmas party dinner. Now, I am not sure what it was, there was a cake though, so I think it was a birthday party and maybe even a Jesus' birthday party. But it turned out to be a full-fledged-house-church-service with her whole family, neighbors, and many church people. And although I wasn't prepared to preach, I had the (sometimes-normal-preparation-time) of about 10 minutes to prepare a message. I invited the people to give testimonies and thank the Lord for something while I ran to the car to get my Bible, prayed that the Lord would give me a message and He did, and prepare the message. Well, imagine my surprise when **Luis David, the son** "attacks" me after the service and wants his New Testament. He completed the entire 12 lesson Bible League Bible study in just two days or less! I didn't have his gift, the New Testament along so I told him I would check the study over and bring him a full-easy-to-read-gift-New Testament along on Saturday night. I did check it over; and to my amazement, the entire booklet was filled out correctly, complete with a testimony of how in the past few weeks he had accepted Jesus and was now so happy to be a Christian. So I don't know when that record will be broken again: of finishing a 12 lesson study in two days or less, but rather than a New Testament, Luis will receive a full-easy-to-read-Bible. I will also be challenging him tomorrow to do the second Bible League Bible study and receive a fabulous study Bible as a gift when he completes that study. I wonder how long that study will take him? We just may have an entire family of evangelists, and preachers on our hands to train as disciples. Thanks for your prayers for **Juanita, David, and their three boys: Luis David, ?, and Juanito**. Also: three neighbor ladies came forward for prayer at the end of the service as well. May we all come to know the Christ Child (Savior, Lord, Emmanuel, Jesus) personally as this family and their neighbors are.