

# BVVB

August 2017

Editor Janelle Daum

Volume 15, Issue 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST AND BEYOND

### **Birthdays:**

#### **August 2017**

- 4 Evelyn Ebright
- 6 Nick Hokenstad
- 6 Rob Thorson
- 13 Jodi Foley
- 14 Sara Rommann
- 17 Nora Sittig
- 18 Ben Rundus
- 26 Tom Osberg
- 31 Charlotte Ebright

- 10 Carl & Lindy Johnson
- 16 Gary & Julie Rommann
- 20 Lance & Debi Rundus
- 25 Gene & Judy Preston
- 29 Dan & LaDell Hanson

### **Nursery:**

#### **August 2017**

- 6 Aaron Skogen
- 13 Pam Osmanson & Hailey Skogen
- 20 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 27 Erica Skogen

### **Anniversaries:**

#### **August 2017**

- 1 Mike & Jolene Benson
- 2 Paul & Kay Stubbe
- 4 Alan & Maxine Savage
- 7 Terry & Chris Kramer

#### **September 2017**

- 3 Ginger & Katrina Nelson
- 10 Dee Olson & Dan Hanson
- 17 Aaron Skogen
- 24 Scott & Nora Sittig

**October 2017**

- 1 Marlene Smith
- 8 Justin & Sara Tiffany
- 15 Pam Osmandson & Hailey Skogen
- 22 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 29 Erica Skogen

**Children's Worship:****August 2017**

- 6 Dee Olson & Garrett James
- 13 2D Gerdes & Megan Questad
- 20 Theresa Friesen & Cade Fox
- 27 Barbara Young & Kyle Skogen

**Scripture Reading:****August 2017**

- 6 Trevor Skogen
- 13 Lindy Johnson
- 20 Hannah Frost
- 27 Kelsey Frost

**September 2017**

- 3 Theresa Friesen
- 10 Matt Questad
- 17 Gene Preston
- 24 Joan Murphy

**Greeters:****August 2017**

- 6 Justin & Sara Tiffany
- 13 Doyle & Barb Young
- 20 Dan & LaDell Hansen
- 27 Lindy Johnson

**September 2017**

- 3 Dan & Joan Murphy
- 10 Pat Lacey & Scott Sittig
- 17 Ray & Dee Olson
- 24 Paul & Pam Osmandson

**Ushers:****August 2017**

- 6 Paul Osmandson
- 13 Mike Kresak
- 20 Doyle Young
- 27 Gene Preston

**September 2017**

- 3 Scott Sittig
- 10 Terry Kramer
- 17 Justin Tiffany
- 24 Dave James

**Events Calendar 2017:**

**Thursday, August 3,** No Women's Evening Bible Study

**Sunday, August 6, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.,** Sunday School for the Whole Family

**5:30 p.m.,** Congregational Prayer Service

**Thursday, August 10,** No Women's Evening Bible Study

**Sunday, August 13, 9:30 a.m.,** Worship Service

**10:30 a.m.,** Fellowship

**10:45 a.m.**, Sunday School for the Whole Family  
**Thursday, August 17**, No Women's Evening Bible Study  
**Sunday, August 20, 9:30 a.m.**, Worship Service  
**10:30 a.m.**, Fellowship  
**10:45 a.m.**, Sunday School for the Whole Family  
**5:30 p.m.**, Congregational Prayer Service  
**Newsletter Articles are Due**  
**Thursday, August 24**, No Women's Evening Bible Study  
**Sunday, August 27, 9:30 a.m.**, Worship Service  
**10:30 a.m.**, Fellowship  
**10:45 a.m.**, Sunday School for the Whole Family  
**Thursday, August 31**, No Women's Evening Bible Study

## **NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM**

MISSION OUTREACH TEAM BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST JULY 13, 2017

PRESENT: Jolene Benson, Theresa Friesen, Joan Murphy, Dee Olson

SCRIPTURE: "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" [1 Chronicles 16:24]

PRAYER REQUESTS: Kevin V family in his passing; Sharon Hall (passing of her mom in Wisc.); Elmer (nursing home); LaJeanne/Jim (nursing home); pastor call; Benson trip May 28 (meds/health) to Philippines PTL

OLD BUSINESS:

May 7 Crystal Springs representative here to speak and Love Offering \$260

May Guatemala clothing drive went well, semi full left the end of May

June St. Francis House. We planned for, had signup, by the time people signed up the date was taken, the available dates (2 each in July, August and September did not work). We feel they are well covered with groups serving. Because pop and ice cream are special treats, 12 of the 2 liter pops were donated to the St. Francis House which were accepted with great happiness.

Jolene suggested each year we find a special need to meet for them instead of serving. How does the team feel about that? The team liked this idea.

Spotlight missions for Union Gospel has been in the bulletin and offering taken July 9. \$336.24

Double checking on 2017 payment White Cross (sent 2016 in 2017 because missed) Sent text to Mike to remind him.

Joan asked Ardie Halvorsen for info and pics of Guatemala mission to put on our board at church and again asked for them on 7/11.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Spotlight for missions:

AUGUST Baptist Pastors' Retirement,

Windswept Video (Windswept is in our budget, not a LO) Aug. 27

SEPTEMBER Brandon Valley Ministerium Love offering - Sept. 3 or 10

Dr. Brandon Steger medical mission, see attachment (info in bulletin, video and offering in September) Sept. 24 is offering for Steger's.

#### OTHER:

We plan to fill a box for Amanda this Fall. We will get a list of needs/wants and post it on the Bulletin board.

Leadership Team will be meeting with Pastor candidate Randy Battey on Saturday, July 15 at 4 pm.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST MISSIONS**

Please be in prayer for the medical missionary family we support, Dr. Brandon and Kim Steger and daughters Hannah, Katie and Grace. They will be heading overseas this August through April to work with refugees escaping ISIS. The family will spend three months in Greece working with refugees and administrative work (through YWAM), whatever God calls them to do. After that they will be in Beirut, Lebanon (through In His Image) where Dr. Steger will be working in a missions medical clinic. The youngest has expressed a concern, knowing there are those who do not want to hear about Jesus, that they could possibly lose their lives. She also expressed that she knows they will be in heaven should that happen. When they return to the USA, they will be moving from Oklahoma to Minnesota.

We will be showing the video of the Steger family's latest calling in September with an offering being taken at that time. The Stegers have saved enough money to cover their expenses, but have asked that support go to the clinic he will be working at in Lebanon. It costs \$9,000 a month to run and they lose their funding

in January. A letter detailing their work will be on the missions bulletin board. You can follow their travels at the blog [emboldenedsisters3.blogspot.com](http://emboldenedsisters3.blogspot.com) or email them at [emboldenedsisters3@gmail.com](mailto:emboldenedsisters3@gmail.com).

#### SPOTLIGHT FOR AUGUST:

Baptist Pastors Retirement (Love Offering August 6)

Windswept School:

Windswept Academy - Eagle Butte, South Dakota (August video and offering)

Welcome to Windswept Academy

A Christian School

Windswept Academy is a private, non-denominational Christian school, dedicated to providing students from the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation with a Christ-centered, quality, academic education in a Biblically directed learning environment. In addition to our challenging academic program, our curriculum also includes the history of music, art and a rigorous physical education program. In September 2015, we began our seventh year with 68 students ranging from Kindergarten to Ninth grade. Our mission is to prepare students for leadership and Christian service in their community and the world.

#### OUR FUTURE PLANS:

Windswept Academy is thriving and this is due in large part to our wonderful teaching staff who have come to us from all across the United States, to work for very little compensation, simply because they have a heart to help the Lakota children. Windswept Academy owns twenty-five acres of rolling prairie located four miles west of the town of Eagle Butte. Our vision is to utilize this property to provide housing for our teachers and their families. In our current situation, our teachers drive on average 50 miles each way to the school. With the bitter South Dakota winters and the high price of gas, it would be ideal for our teachers to be located closer to the school. The homes will cost approximately \$50,000 each.

## **REALITY CHECK WITH GOD AND YOURSELF**

### **Pastor's Reflections**

Some years ago, Karl Barth, acclaimed as one of the greatest theologians of his time, disclaimed any lofty title and said that "in God's scheme of things the little lady who came to clean up his office when he left at the end of the day might well

be in closer touch with the eternal reality of God than he with all his massive volumes of writing.” Then he added, “When he approaches the pearly gates, St. Peter will say of him, ‘Here comes old Karl with his pushcart full of books, but they will not gain him special favors in admittance. What God looks for is not a long resume, but a long record of service to his children.’”

We are accustomed to linking prestige and importance to our economic position or to our name recognition. Once in a great while we hear about someone like a Mother Teresa who became known the world over because she spent her time in different countries establishing orphanages and helping the poor instead of trying to get a name in headlines. Jesus himself said that anyone wanting to be great should simply be a servant. Wouldn't it make a big difference in our world if we simply put His words to work in our lives? If Jesus' words were somehow to echo in some corporate headquarters or in the halls of government, or even in everyday life, wouldn't that be great?

But I have to be honest with you. One important thing I've learned over the years in trying to understand, interpret, and apply the teachings of Jesus is that it is far easier and much more comfortable to apply them to others, to those “out there”, than to apply them to myself. I have also learned that unless I apply them to myself, unless I look inside first, I am missing something very important. It's as Jesus said, “Seeing the speck in someone else's eye but not seeing the mote in my own.” - Pastor Merv

## MY TASK

by Maude Louise Ray

To love someone more dearly ev'ry day,  
To help a wandering child to find his way,  
To ponder o'er a noble thought, and pray,  
And smile when evening falls.

This is my task.

To follow truth as blind men long for light,  
To do my best from dawn of day till night,  
To keep my heart fit for His holy sight,  
And answer when He calls.

This is my task.

## **Moments for Moms**

by jacqulene

What a warm feeling to walk into our grocery store, post office, coffee shop, ballpark, high school, or even along the sidewalk and hear someone call your name--to know and be known, to belong. An indescribable privilege is ours to belong to God, to be known by Him. Just as He reassured the Israelites in exile, He says to us, "see, I have written your name in the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:16 NLT. When we accept His gift of salvation, He says, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my own know me." John 10:14 NASB.

For 40 years Merv and I have been privileged to belong to the BVB congregation. We have loved and been loved. Thank you for the blessing of belonging to this family of believers, followers of Jesus Christ.

## **TIM & TONYA VENNELL**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

Summer 2017

Since last time...

Much has happened since the last time we wrote. Not the least of which is that our children have completed another year of school and are growing older, (wiser ?), and taller.

In high school, Lauren experienced her first AP (Advanced Placement) classes and has added many more to her upcoming senior schedule next year. She also just turned 18. She was 2 yrs old when we arrived in the Congo for the first time. WOW! Lydia has also finished her sophomore year with a bang but has struggled in many ways with her health. I will write more about that below.

Carson has finished 4th grade and one of his greatest accomplishments of the year was being the 3rd fastest mile runner in his school with a 6:48 mile. He was the fastest boy in 4th grade. Courtney completed 7th grade and was "shocked" to find that some of her teachers gave her a semester exam that covered the whole semester. Courtney enjoyed being in Builder's Club which is an organization that does community service projects. Natalie has completed her last year of middle school and has joined the National Junior Honor Society. She actually had to write an article for an English class and enter a writing contest. Her article was actually



chosen by a prominent teen website and made the “Article of the Day” in the Travel and Culture category.

I have a new position as the Operations Support Manager for our field programs. It is rewarding to help harmonize our aviation processes around the globe. Our goal is to strengthen the support to field programs as we strive to better equip our mission staff to meet the needs of the missionaries, churches, and humanitarian organizations that we serve in a world that continues to change rapidly.

Thank you so much!

Tim and Tonya

What could you possibly say to middle schoolers about MAF?

I just got back from 2 days of speaking at a middle school camp about the work of MAF around the globe. Since our goal is to help accelerate the Gospel message into isolated areas I told them about the Connect Box. This “box” (miniature router/communications device) is used by believers in places where information and communication about the Gospel can land you in jail or even in death. It is an “off-line” solution that allows someone to transmit information to another person’s smart phone. The one with the information just happens to ride the same bus as the one needing the information and it is passed digitally without being detected by those who are trying to catch Jesus followers. It was great for the middle schoolers to see creative ways they could serve in missions by using information technology as a means to get the Gospel message into the remote parts of the world.

Below is an article which I encourage you to read, knowing that so many of you have had a hand in shaping what Natalie thinks and feels because of your support for our family over the years. Our willingness to answer the Lord’s call to serve with MAF and your willingness to send us has grown each of us to better understand how the Body of Christ actually works and how cultures around the world are shaped. We are so thankful for the senders who have prayed for us, loved on us, and financially supported us in the work of getting the Gospel out into the isolated peoples of this world.

The Richness of Poverty

By: Natalie Vennell (14 yrs old)

Living in many different countries is not an opportunity most people get to experience, but for me it is just a part of my life. I have lived in four countries in the course of just fourteen years and for me it is always exciting to live in a new



place.

Some of my most amazing experiences happened overseas in Africa. Living in and experiencing many different cultures gives you such a unique view on the world. When you visit areas of countries that are poor and are filled with poverty, they truly show you how blessed you are to have a home to go to every night or food on the table every day. In many poor areas around the world you can't always have your basic needs met.

I have been to several orphanages and have seen the affect poverty has on people. The orphans I met were some of the most joyous people. One of my most recent memories is when I went to an orphanage in Kenya and I learned how hopeful and happy all the orphans were even though they were stuck in poverty. When I was there all of the children were so excited to have someone to hang out with and someone to bring them what we consider normal things in life such as toys or even candy.

The children were happy just to play a game of soccer or play with my hair. The orphans who lived there ranged from the ages of two to seventeen. They also showed us some of their traditions and games. In return we taught them some of my family's games and traditions.

My family has learned that the best way to form relationships with people is to learn about their life and help them in any way possible even if that just means playing with them. My entire family spent the day with them and we had the privilege of them sharing their lunch with us....

Please read the rest of the article at <https://tinyurl.com/y7jkuve6> or directly at: [http://www.teenink.com/nonfiction/travel\\_culture/article/953576/The-Richness-of-Poverty/](http://www.teenink.com/nonfiction/travel_culture/article/953576/The-Richness-of-Poverty/)

Prayer Requests:

- Lydia (16) has been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis and has missed many classes due to pain and discomfort. Please pray that we will find a treatment that will help her and that the Lord will give her the strength to work through this difficult time in her life.
- I also ask for prayer as I travel to some of our field programs as we implement new technologies that will make us more effective.
- We are moving into a real fixer-upper. Our hope is that it will eventually allow us

to be able to serve/keep/feed more people.

We are very excited about it. Support to:

Mission Aviation Fellowship, PO Box 47, Nampa, ID 83653, Memo: Vennell 9892

## **AMANDA BENSON**

July 16, 2017

Found Faithful Special Edition

Adopt a Student!

It's hard to believe, but it's that time of year again! The 2017-18 school year at Faith Academy starts in just 17 days, on August 2! This week, the new staff will have their orientation to the school, and next week we have our all staff retreat and then get ready for all of these young ones to return for another year!

I can't wait!

The past two years, I've allowed you the opportunity to be a part of the ministry at Faith Academy by "adopting" one of my middle school students. By adopting a student, you would be committing to pray for that student regularly throughout the school year. You may be able to communicate with your student, though not all of my students will communicate well. :) You do not need to send packages or letters. All I'm asking for is that each student is covered in regular prayer.

Some of you have already been a part of this program over the last two years. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers! If you would like to pray for your same student and they are still in middle school at Faith Academy, I'd be more than happy to pair them with you again! If you don't necessarily want the same student but still want to pray for someone, just let me know that, too. Maybe your small group, your family, or your church wants to have one student to pray for together!

Please let me know soon if you're interested by responding to this e-mail, and I'll add you to my list. Then, once school starts, I'll match you with a student. I'm praying that God provides people to pray for all 120 (roughly) middle school students this year!

Thank you for making a difference in one student's life and being a part of my ministry!

Amanda

# PRISON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

July 2017

The fourth of July is when we celebrate the freedom we have in the U.S. It is a great time of watching fireworks explode in the air with all their beautiful colors. When a person is born again there is freedom as well, and people's spiritual eyes are opened! This is freedom from the bondage to sin. When we humbly come to the Lord with a repentant heart, something great takes place! II Cor. 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." What a great sacrifice Christ made on our behalf! What a great hope He brings!

Two weeks ago at my Bible study, I showed the video, "Life Without Limbs". It is a powerful video about Nick Vujcic, who was born without limbs. Nick went through many difficult times in his life. When he was young he could not figure out, "If the Lord loves me, why was I born without limbs?" Today Nick goes around the world speaking about the power of Jesus Christ in his life. This video was filmed in a prison in Texas where he spoke to inmates. He talked about how we all go through hardships in our lives, but God is willing and ready to help us through these difficulties. Toward the end of the video Nick did an altar call for the inmates in that prison to come forward and kneel at the front. He invited those who were watching by video to do the same. I went to the front and knelt to invite those in the Bible study to come forward if they wanted to give their life to Christ. There were approximately 20 men present, and about half of the them came forward and knelt at the front to pray the prayer after Nick! It was a powerful moment to see these men kneeling, asking Christ to take over their lives and cleanse them from their sin! God is awesome in all His ways!

A few weeks ago I made rounds in segregation. I visited with a man who had been in paganism for 28 years, and who came to Christ a year ago. He has been growing in Christ ever since that time. When I was getting ready to move on to the next cell, I asked him if he had any prayer requests. He told me no. But then he said he was sorry for not getting out of his bed. He told me he was having back spasms and didn't want to move. I said to him, "I thought you told me you didn't have anything you needed to pray about!" I prayed for healing for his back and went on to the next cell. When I came to his cell recently, he told me

he wanted to thank me for praying for his back. He said that a few hours after I had prayed for him, he got out of bed and the muscles spasms were gone! I told him the main One he needed to thank was the Lord. He went on to say, that since Christ came into his life a year ago, he has never had a day where he did not feel the presence of God with him! Praise the Lord who cares about these men and answers their prayers!

Thank you for your prayers! I believe the Lord is using them to change these men's lives! Thank you for your financial gifts which make this ministry possible!

In Christ, Harlan Moss

Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. The checks can be made out to and sent to: South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), P.O. Box 90509, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0509. Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. My phone: 605-940-4220 email address: hpmoss1@yahoo.com

## **DARWIN & KAREN STOESZ**

(Please see Missionary Board for Pictures)

June 30, 2017

From Japan to Kansas

We can't thank you enough for those who prayed for us these last few weeks. They have been busy and we have seen how God is at work. We moved out of our home in Japan and after some rest arrived in Wichita, Kansas a week ago.

We have moved into our missionary home, we have two vehicles, two cell phones, toured the school where Anna and Clara will attend, and have eaten some great food. We are so blessed and excited to see what God has for us this next year.

We have a busy schedule this summer and then we hope to be able to plug in dates for visiting people this Fall.

Tentatively we have the following dates:

July 1-5 Mountain Lake, Minnesota

July 6-14 Wichita, Kansas

July 15-Aug. 6 SEND International Headquarters in Farmington, Michigan

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry in Japan.

Darwin & Karen & Anna (13) & Clara (9) Stoesz