



BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2022

Editor Janelle Daum

Volume 20, Issue 7



“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:18

We all have a multitude of things we can be thankful for, don’t we. Just list your possessions sometime and you will realize how blessed you are. Then add in all your family and friends, and all of those people who have made a significant impact on your life. Consider your salvation and all of the spiritual wealth that God has laid at our feet. Those blessings are indescribable. Next, think about the world we live in, how it is perfectly suited to our needs and how it is filled with so much beauty. The blessings of God for which we can be thankful are overwhelming. He certainly does love us greatly.

E-mail: jbvbeditor@hotmail.com your article.

There are other things we can be thankful for. We can be thankful for the things that others do for us even if, at times, it isn't exactly what we expect from them. I have shared the story before of a stockbroker who had made millions of dollars in investments for an Arab sheik. The sheik was so pleased that he offered the broker rubies, gold and a silver-plated Rolls Royce. The broker declined the gifts... he had merely been doing his job. But the sheik insisted.

The broker finally told him, "Well, I've recently taken up golf. A set of golf clubs would be a wonderful gift." Weeks went by. One morning the stockbroker received a note from the sheik. It read:

"So far I have bought you three golf clubs, but I hope you will not be disappointed. Pebble Beach Golf Club was not for sale, and of the three I bought for you only two have swimming pools."

We can also be thankful for what does not happen. How many times has the Lord kept us safe from accidents or disasters? How many times have we been in the position where we could make a big mistake and the Lord sent someone along to help us to avoid it? We can even be thankful for things that people don't do. One of Winston Churchill's colleagues once came up to him with a handful of pictures and opened the conversation by saying, "You know, Sir Winston, I've never told you about my grandchildren." Churchill clapped the man on the shoulder and replied, "I realize it, my dear fellow, and I can't tell you how grateful I am!"

That's how God blesses us. He goes far beyond anything we could ever imagine. So how do we say "thank you" to God for His blessings? His blessings are all around us. We can't escape them. Everywhere we turn we find God's blessings if we are looking for them. So, since His blessings are so pervasive, our thanks need to match them. It isn't enough to just say "thank you." The measure of our thanks to God should match the measure of His blessings.

That's what Paul is saying in I Thessalonians 5:18 when he tells

us, “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” The giving of thanks isn’t an event or a holiday; it’s a style of life. To give thanks in all things means that we have developed an attitude, and a heart, and a lifestyle that is constantly overflowing with gratitude to God.

A lifestyle of thanksgiving celebrates God. It’s overwhelmed with the goodness God has done, and it joyously celebrates Him.

A thankful life exalts God. It remembers only the good and lets gratitude for God’s blessings overflow in celebration. It doesn’t let self get in the way of giving God glory. A lifestyle of thanksgiving puts God on the throne and worships Him there.

Thanksgiving is a lifestyle that is overwhelmed with the goodness of God. Are you a thankful person? Then find ways to let others see that goodness of God through your life.

Blessings,
Pastor Randy

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Franklin Graham, thank you so much for your partnership with Operation Christmas Child! I enjoyed speaking with you and am happy to send this information, as requested.

The 2022 National Collection Week is November 14–21 and we want to make sure you have everything you need to pack shoeboxes again this year. If we can do anything to help you prepare or if you have any questions, feel free to call 1-800-353-5949 or your local Operation Christmas Child Regional Office and we’ll be happy to help. You can also visit the Project Leader Resources page on our website for information and many helpful links.

If you haven’t already, you should receive a Project Leader

Resource Kit in the mail, which you can use to order the resources you need.

October 24th is the last day to order free materials for guaranteed delivery before National Collection Week, and November 1st is the last day to order preprinted shoeboxes in time.

Through your participation with us in this work, we are sharing the Good News of Jesus' great love with millions of children around the world every year. Thank you, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Ursula Carpenter

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM REPORT

The discipleship team met October 17, 2022 at BVBC at 2pm. Present were Pastor Randy, Pam Osmanon, and 2-D Gerdes. Absent: Theresa Friesen.

Dates were set for the annual Christmas program and practice for December 18th during Sunday School hour and practice Saturday December 17th at 10:30. Those involved in the program will include college age and younger students. There will be no Sunday school on December 25th or January 1st.

October 30th will be the next Sunday school social to include all college age and younger. Pizza ranch will provide the lunch and those on discipleship committee will provide desserts. Games with prizes to follow. A flyer advertisement will be placed in the bulletin.

The budget for next year's discipleship committee will remain the same as this year. All were in agreement to keep it the same. Next meeting scheduled for November 8, 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

BIRTHDAYS:

November 2022

- 4 Dan Hanson
- 4 Ginger Nelson
- 7 Garrett James
- 7 Barbara Young
- 11 Ray Olson
- 15 Manuel Luschas
- 20 Pat Lacey
- 21 Caitlyn Onnen
- 22 Kay Stubbe
- 28 Alan Savage
- 29 Maegan Questad
- 30 Lindy Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES:

November 2022

- 17 Ray & Delores Olson

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

November 6, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Dan & LaDell Hanson

Scripture Reader:

Maegan Questad

Usher: Gene Preston

Children's Church:

Pam Osmanson

November 13, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Scott Sittig & Brad Sittig

Scripture Reader: Kyle Skogen

Usher: Stan Friesen

Children's Church:

2D Gerdes & Caitlyn Onnen

November 20, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Aaron & Erica Skogen

Scripture Reader:

Garret James

Usher: Dave James

Children's Church:

Shawna James &

Katelynn James

November 27, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Gene & Judy Preston

Scripture Reader:

Trevor Skogen

Usher: Scott Sittig

Children's Church:

Erica Skogen & Cassie Skogen

December 4, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters: Dan & LaDell

Hanson

Scripture Reader:

Theresa Friesen

Usher: Gene Preston

Children's Church:

Nora Sittig & Caitlyn Onnen

December 11, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Scott Sittig & Brad Sittig

Scripture Reader:

Maegan Questad

Usher: Bill Kinderman

Children's Church:

Doris Conradson

December 18, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters:

Aaron & Erica Skogen

Scripture Reader: Kyle Skogen

Usher: Stan Friesen

Children's Church:

Theresa Friesen

December 25, 2022

Nursery: Marlene Smith

Greeters: Gene & Judy Preston

Scripture Reader:

Garret James

Usher: Dave James

Children's Church:

Marlene Smith & Andie Skogen

“Please check the Ushers, Greeters, and Scripture Readers schedules carefully, as they may have changed. If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please either trade with someone or ask someone to fill in for you. Please email Dixie and the Church with the changes so we can update the bulletin.”
bvbaptch@alliancecom.net,
dixiebattey@gmail.com

EVENTS CALENDAR 2022:

Sunday's

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

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

Wednesday's

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Awana

7:45 p.m. Middle & High School Youth Group

Thursday's

3 p.m. Prayer & Women's Bible Study at BVBC

6:30 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study

Saturday's

November 5, 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study via Zoom

November 19, 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, November 2, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feeding South Dakota

Sunday, November 6, Daylight Savings

Monday, November 7, Spiritual Vision Team Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, Election Day

Wednesday, November 9, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feeding South Dakota

Friday, November 11, Veterans Day, Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 12, 8 a.m., Leadership Team Meeting

**Sunday, November 13, Team Budget Proposals and Ballot
Information are Due**

Tuesday, November 15, 2 p.m., Discipleship Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feeding South Dakota

Friday, November 18, Newsletter Articles are Due

Sunday, November 20, Team Annual Reports are Due

Monday, November 21, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feeding South Dakota

Tuesday, November 22, 7 p.m., Outreach Team meeting

Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day, Church Office closed

Sunday, November 27, Annual Report Packets will be available

Wednesday, November 30, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feeding South Dakota

Sunday, December 11, Annual Business Meeting and Potluck

MISSIONARY UPDATES

AMANDA BENSON - PHILIPPINES



October 1, 2022

BACK TO ROUTINE

As I've talked with so many different Faith Academy staff over the past few weeks, almost everyone tells me the same thing: I'm so tired. As I've reflected on this, I have realized how much we had adjusted to the pandemic schedule and how much different life is now.

You see, things here in the Philippines have been much different than life in the US. We had online school for almost two full years. Just this past month, the government finally made wearing masks outside optional (inside is still required for the foreseeable future). Our online teaching schedules, though very hard with distance learning, were much different than when teaching in person. We could work our schedules to be basically what we wanted them to be, and we had next to no extra curricular activities. Though we started in-person school last February, we were still hybrid (some kids online and some in person), we only taught four days a week, and we still had very limited extra curricular activities.

However, this year, we have basically gone back to normal, besides wearing masks in class. This means that we have started all of our activities - from after school clubs, to sports, to music concerts. And oh, how wonderful that is! However, I think that the quick jump back into these activities (and teaching a 5 day week instead of a previously 4 day week online) has made us all tired. This next week is our last week of the first quarter, and then we have a week off, which I think we all need.

I have been reminded recently how God gives us our weaknesses so that we remember that we are dependent on Him. We bring our weaknesses to Him, and He gives us strength. Sometimes He lifts us up and carries us through these times when so much is going on, while other times He brings us to a place of rest. I am praying that this upcoming break is restful and refreshing for all of the staff and the students. Our school theme this year is “Renew, Revive, Refresh,” and that is exactly what we all need right now so that we can continue to serve where the Lord has placed us.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support as I serve here at Faith Academy. May the Lord strengthen you in your weaknesses, even as He does for me.

Amanda

Praises

- We have been able to do most of our normal activities! It's been amazing to be back to doing all of those things, even if it is tiring.
- This past month has had its rough moments, but I feel like I had a few significant conversations with people that have helped me to end it in a better mindset. I'm thankful God has placed these people in my life to help me grow and process.
- We have October break coming up! That means we've almost made it through a fourth of the year!
- Kelly and I have had such a great group for our Bible study, as have

the other middle school groups. I think we figured maybe only 7 out of our 39 8th graders aren't joining a group! There seems to be so much more interest since the pandemic.

Prayer Requests

- The front of my shoulder has been bothering me. My friend who is an athletic trainer thinks it is tendonitis, which means it could take a while to heal. It doesn't really functionally bother me, but sometimes it makes my arm and shoulder really achy and sometimes it affects my sleep. Pray that it would heal quickly and that the things we are doing would be helpful.
- This is a busy month! I will be traveling with some friends to Malaysia over our October break. Then, the week after we have our sports tournaments with our international Christian schools conference teams. Pray for safety with all the travels coming up!
- Pray that God would provide the staff we need. We really need a middle school Science teacher for this next quarter, as the one that is supposed to be coming is still waiting on her husband's visa, so she can't be here yet. The person filling in no longer is able to. We also really need a middle school English teacher and some PE teachers.

October 19, 2022

PowerUp! Prayer Update

Praises

- I had a fabulous trip to Malaysia last week! It was very restful, I had great time with friends, and I got to see God's creation in another country.
- I went on a site visit for Outdoor Ed on Monday. We needed to check out our only possibility for a base camp. I believe it is going to work, so I feel confident moving forward with planning. I'm so excited and grateful!
- I am so grateful for God's continued work in my life. Sometimes I

feel like I have a long ways to go, but God is good and continues the work He started.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for continued wisdom as I plan Outdoor Ed. I am now on to the phase of figuring out what everyone is going to be doing.
- Pray that I would have a good balance of time this quarter. I have a feeling that I'll be spending a lot of time planning Outdoor Ed, which means I'll have less time to devote to other vice principal things as well as teaching things.
- Pray that as I continue to process my life, that I would focus on the Lord and on serving others. I think it can be easy to focus on myself and forget the need to serve others well, even if I am processing hard things.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- That God will do great things in the hearts of students and staff this year at Faith Academy. Our school theme is Renew, Revive, Refresh.
- That Marissa and I would use our house well to serve our housemate and our community.
- That God will provide all the staff we need, both for the rest of this year and for next year.

DARWIN & KAREN STOESZ - JAPAN



September 29, 2022

Ministry Update

Home Service travel is increasing in the next few weeks, and we would appreciate your prayers. Darwin is going on a two-week trip, and you can see the specifics of his travels in the schedule below. It is fun to see many friends and family but also difficult to prepare for so many speaking engagements.

Darwin also will be representing SEND International at a missions' conference in Bismarck, North Dakota at the Annual STEER missions conference entitled "It's Not About Us". If you are a farmer or a rancher and interested in using your skills to further the Kingdom of God, check out their website as it is a very interesting ministry. You can also help us personally with our ministry with SEND International as we are one of their donating organizations.

<https://www.steerinc.com/>

Due to COVID-19 issues Darwin was not able to visit his parents in Minnesota but he looks forward to some time with them this upcoming weekend.

Pray for Darwin as he travels, pray for Karen and Clara as they stay behind in Elbing, Kansas. Pray for Anna as she continues to

study hard at John Brown University in Kinesiology.

Support Update

We are still working out our faith promises to see where we are at. We are so thankful for those who give sacrificially to our ministry. Home service is a time that we get to reestablish our relationships with our financial and prayer partners. We cover these expenses with funds set aside for home service. We are thankful those who have given a few extra gifts for our home service, but we are still lacking in some one-time gifts for home service.

In addition to your faithful monthly giving, would you consider a one-time gift to help give us a boost in our home service account fund?

SEND International's office is located near Detroit, Michigan. All gifts can be made out to SEND International. You can give via mail or electronically. For convenience, many people decide to sign up online and choose to have their gifts automatically debited from their bank or credit card.

If you could put somewhere on your donation "Home Service Expenses". You can give via online <https://send.org/give/missionaries/stoesz/> and when you see the box, "Add instructions to the receipting department" just put "Home Service Expenses".

You can also send a check written out to "SEND International" and send it to PO Box 513 Farmington, MI 48332 and put a note with the check to have it go towards Darwin and Karen Stoesz Home Service Expenses.

Contact Information

Our contact information for the year is:

Our physical address is 219 W 1st St Elbing KS 67041

Our mailing address is PO Box 33 Elbing KS 67041

Our main phone number for text and calling is: 316-708-0127 (Feel free to send us a text)

Thanks for your prayers for us. Darwin

Prayer / Schedule Update

Our tentative schedule so far is as follows. Of course, all dates are subject to change. Please pray for us especially for these events:

Wednesday's Darwin will be helping with AWANA as much as he is able despite his travels

Oct 1 Cornerstone Bible Church – Mountain Lake, Minnesota

Oct 5 Bethesda Church AWANA – Huron, South Dakota

Oct 7-8 STEER Missions Conference – Bismarck, North Dakota

Oct 9-11 Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church – Lustre, Montana

Oct 13 Karen as she celebrates her birthday

Oct 14-18 Anna visit from John Brown University

Oct 21-23 Union Valley Bible Church – Hutchinson Kansas

Oct 27 Berean Academy Middle and High School Chapel – Elbing, Kansas

Nov 11-12 Clara helps with makeup at the Berean Academy Play

Nov 17 Berean Academy Elementary Chapel – Elbing, Kansas

Dec 1 Emmaus Mennonite Church (Karen only) – Whitewater, Kansas

Dec 5 Darwin and Karen wedding anniversary

Dec 15 John Brown University last day

Dec 21 Berean Academy last day

Jan 4 Berean Academy starts up again

Jan 9 John Brown University starts up again

Feb 1 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 8 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 15 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 22 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 24-26 Faith Evangelical Bible Church – Henderson, Nebraska

Please pray:

1. Pray that Darwin's teacher Mr. Tsuneizumi and Karen's friend Yuko-san would put their faith in Christ.
2. Pray for Anna and Clara that they would have continued growing relationships with Jesus.
3. Pray for Anna at John Brown University and studies kinesiology.
4. Pray for Clara at Berean Academy that she would seek God and make good friends.
5. Pray for wisdom as we setup our schedule of activities for home service.
6. Pray for safety as we drive many miles here in the USA

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry.

Thank you so much for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Darwin & Karen & Anna (19) & Clara (15) Stoesz

October 18, 2022

Ministry Update

Thank you for praying for me, Darwin, as I travelled approximately 2,500 miles. I drove through portions of the following states: Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. I was able to visit with many supporters and share what we have been doing in Japan. After driving through such open and wide spaces I now appreciate living in our small town in Kansas and realize that we are not that far from larger cities as some of you experience.

Support Raising for farmers and ranchers

One ministry that I gained appreciation for is a ministry that for the last 65 years has been providing financial support for missionaries using a resource that many farmers and ranchers have and that is

how their operation can directly fund our support and missionaries like us through an organization called Steer Inc. What are the benefits of working alongside Steer Inc.?

- Increase your giving to world missions with no cash outlay.
- There is no risk or hardship.
- You will not have to declare the project as income or pay Social Security Tax.
- You will be giving to world missions in good or bad years.
- You can use your farm/ranch in service to the Lord Jesus by raising dedicated livestock and crops for world missions.
- Gives you a tremendous opportunity to witness for Christ in your family and the marketplace.

How can you be involved? Email ministry@steerinc.com to find out how you can be involved. Remember you can choose which mission organization to support (If they are on the approved list – SEND International is on that list) and which missionary you want to support.

If you want more information, check out this website: <https://www.steerinc.com/>

Family Update

Karen finished her two classes with Moody Bible Institute and will start another two classes next week. The classes are “Care of the ministry leader’s soul” and “Ministry to Women in Pain”. Clara enjoys Berean Academy and is making good friends. Anna loves her studies at John Brown University and enjoys her kinesiology classes. We enjoyed extra time with Anna this last weekend as she came home from college for the first time since school started. We look forward seeing her again at Thanksgiving.

Support Update

Home service is a time that we get to reestablish our relationships with our financial and prayer partners. We cover these expenses with

funds set aside for home service. We are thankful those who have given a few extra gifts for our home service, but we are still lacking in some one-time gifts for home service. It is hard to say how much we need at this point, but if we could have up to \$2,000 this would help offset some of these shortages.

The easiest way to give towards our home service expenses is to go to the following website: <https://send.org/give> and when you search for projects look for a project called, “Unlisted Project # 530117” and when requested put on your note that it is for Darwin and Karen home service expenses.

You can also send a check written out to “SEND International” and send it to PO Box 513 Farmington, MI 48332 and put a note with the check to have it go towards “Darwin and Karen Stoesz Home Service Expenses”.

Thanks for your prayers for us. Darwin

Prayer / Schedule Update

Our tentative schedule so far is as follows. Of course, all dates are subject to change. Please pray for us especially for these events:

Wednesday’s Darwin will be helping with AWANA as much as he is able despite his travels

Oct 21-23 Union Valley Bible Church – Hutchinson Kansas

Oct 25 Karen begins another two classes with Moody Bible Institute

Oct 27 Berean Academy Middle and High School Chapel – Elbing, Kansas

Nov 2 Darwin donate blood with American Red Cross

Nov 5 Getting together with Darwin’s Classen relatives – Yoder, Kansas

Nov 6 Crossroads Community Church – Halstead, Kansas

Nov 8 Election Day in USA

Nov 11-12 Clara helps with makeup at the Berean Academy Play

Nov 17 Berean Academy Elementary Chapel – Elbing, Kansas

Nov 22-25 Thanksgiving with Stoesz family – Mountain Lake, Minnesota

Dec 1 Emmaus Mennonite Church (Karen only) – Whitewater, Kansas

Dec 5 Darwin and Karen wedding anniversary

Dec 15 John Brown University last day

Dec 19 Karen's Moody Bible Institute class last day

Dec 21 Berean Academy last day

Jan 4 Berean Academy starts up again

Jan 9 John Brown University starts up again

Feb 1 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 8 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

Feb 15 Whitewater Community Church AWANA – Whitewater, Kansas

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3. Pray for Anna at John Brown University and studies kinesiology.

4. Pray for Clara at Berean Academy that she would seek God and make good friends.

5. Pray for wisdom as we setup our schedule of activities for home service.

6. Pray for safety as we drive many miles here in the USA

Thank you for your continued partnership in our ministry.

Thank you so much for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. Sincerely, Darwin & Karen & Anna (19) & Clara (15) Stoesz

HARLAN MOSS - PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY



October 2022

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13

In Luke 21 Jesus said, “Men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the earth.” I believe we are in those days. The best time to share the gospel is in times of uncertainty! Some people we approach might be reluctant to hear, but there will be those who are open to listening. When we talk to people about the Lord and they are not interested, that should not discourage us. When we continue to approach people we will find those who want to hear the gospel. We should never take it personally when they are not interested, because it is not about us, but God and their eternal destiny.

Rodney, who is a church member at the prison, attends the Wednesday afternoon Bible study for the new inmates. A few weeks ago, after the Bible study, he felt the Holy Spirit telling him to pray with a young man who was new in the prison. Rodney told me when he felt the Lord telling him that he said to the Lord, “Lord I don’t even know who he is. I don’t know if he will want me to pray for him.”

Rodney obeyed, went to him and asked him, "Can I pray for you?" This young man agreed that he would like him to pray for him. At the next week's Bible study Rodney led him to the Lord and introduced him to me. He was interested in growing in Christ, so I gave him a Bible study for a new believer. Thank the Lord that Rodney listened to the Spirit! I mentioned in my last newsletter that I don't have the freedom to go cell to cell to visit men. An inmate who lives in another part of the prison told me, "Give me literature to hand out, and I will find a way to hand it out. Also, I have another man who is willing to do the same in another area." Praise the Lord for the Christian men who are stepping up to get Christian literature distributed in various parts of the prison!

One of the men in the segregation area who I have a one-on-one Bible study and meeting with once a week, is getting a lot of negative shouted at him as he comes to Bible study. In the past he would get angry at all the names he would get called, but now he understands that those people don't know Jesus. He said, "When I am in my cell and others call out negative things to me and against me, I start reading my Bible. Lately I have been reading my Bible every day for an hour and a half! I realize those who talk against me are still in the darkness where I used to be!"

I told a young man I visit with weekly, to write down some questions he had. The next week he came with good questions. He has gone through many difficulties in his life. A couple of the questions were, "Why do I seem to always get the short end of the stick? Will God always be willing to forgive my sins?" We talked about how God does not waste the painful times in our lives and how God uses them for us to help others going through similar hurts. Yes, God will continue to forgive our sins if we are truly repentant! Praise the Lord for that truth!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! God's Word will not return void! In Christ, Harlan

PAUL & JANET HARKNESS - AWANA



October 9, 2022

Janet had her first follow-up appointment today in Kearney with the surgeon. Things are looking good. She goes back on November 9th. She is now in a removable brace. She still has times of great pain. Thank you for your prayers!

Please pray for us as we leave for Nashville tomorrow morning. We found out yesterday that we are required to attend one of these, so chose to get it done while the travel weather is good. We plan to be home next Tuesday night. Pray for the travels and learning from this good training.

CHAIN OF LOVE BRAZIL

July/August/September 2022 Newsletter

Dear COL friends,

We praise the Lord that life is back to normal here in Brazil, especially at Chain of Love. What seemed to be a “new normal” because of the pandemic turned out to be just a temporary period of facing the virus, albeit a period when we experienced terrible loss. Although the pandemic continues, its effects are no longer as serious now as they used to be. At Chain of Love, all our children are back

at school (no more online classes), some of our teenagers have returned to their part-time jobs, and we have welcomed teams from North America. All these things bring joy and happiness to our COL family.

ANOTHER TEAM FROM TEXAS

Recently, we welcomed a team from two different churches in Texas that was led by our representative for the US, Robbyn Hanstad. Among other things, Robbyn organized a conference for teenage girls with the theme of “All Things New.” The conference emphasized adolescence from a medical and Christian perspective. The housemothers and their children (both their COL and biological children) participated in this conference and enjoyed learning about the transformation that the bodies of teenage girls undergo during adolescence, as well as how to glorify the Lord with their bodies. The event emphasized that regardless of anything bad they may have experienced in the past, now they are a new creation in Christ. They left the conference overjoyed.

EASING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS OPENS DOORS FOR NORTH AMERICAN VISITORS AND MISSION TEAMS

Good news! It is now extremely easy for teams or individuals to come to COL from the United States or Canada!

The Brazilian government has simplified some of the COVID-19 restrictions and measures concerning foreigners entering the country. Now, the only requirement still in place for visitors arriving in Brazil is to show proof of vaccination or present a test with a negative result. Either will now suffice.

Mission teams make such a huge difference in the lives of our children! If you are interested in bringing a team or your family to spend some time at COL, or even if you want to come here by yourself, please contact us at chainoflove.canada@gmail.com if you are in Canada or robbynhanstad@gmail.com if you live in the US.

SANCTUARY

We are excited to let you know that our sanctuary, the Herman Effa Auditorium, has been renovated and has become a much cozier environment. Its acoustics have improved, and our children and teenagers are really excited to participate in the events held there.

We often talk about giving our children and teenagers a higher and better quality of life. We want to give them what they have never had before and return what was taken from them. This is reflected in many things we do at COL—from the delicious and nutritious food we feed them to this cozy sanctuary to embracing them completely with love to so much more—and all of this is possible in large part because of your prayers and contributions to this ministry.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Thank you to each and every one of you for helping us reach our goal of purchasing school uniforms for our children. The funds we received have surpassed our goal, and we have been able to put aside the excess amount to be used next year if any more school uniforms are needed. Something that may initially seem simple, such as uniforms, is significant for our children; being neatly dressed in a well-cared-for uniform just like their school classmates are wearing does a lot for a child's self-esteem. This is especially true for COL kids, the majority of whom didn't know what it was like to experience good care until they walked through our doors. From our hearts and on behalf of all our children, thank you very much! May the Lord bless each of you.

CAMPS/CHRISTMAS

Christmas is coming—and here in Brazil, that means summer holidays are on the horizon!

(January and February are summer months in Brazil). This is the time of the year that we usually invite our sponsors to donate so we can send our children and teenagers to summer Bible camps.

However, as the camps were closed because of the pandemic, we asked you to contribute instead toward a special Christmas meal for our children for the past two years.

Happily, the camps are operating again this summer, and our children and teenagers are excitedly looking forward to going to Bible camp! They always have so much fun and return more interested in spiritual issues. We estimate we will need about US \$6,700 (or CND \$9,200) to send most of our children to camp. A small number of the COL children will not go to camp because they are too young or because, in some cases, judges send them back to their biological families for their school break. Additionally, some teenagers work part-time and won't be able to go.

We are grateful that we've already received some donations for this purpose. We are also using funds that sponsors and supporters sent for camps in the years the camps were closed due to the pandemic. This is truly an investment in their lives. For those sponsors who have already sent or will send money for Christmas gifts, we will respect your decision and are happy to have you help to make our children's Christmas even more joyful and full of happiness. The decision on how we use the funds you donate is yours.

BRAZILIAN MAIL SYSTEM

Unfortunately, there have been reports of failures in the Brazilian mail system. Some sponsors and supporters in Canada and the US sent us packages that ended up returning to the sender, took too long to reach us, or even went missing. We hope this hasn't happened to letters sent to our children. If you wish to send packages to COL, please, choose to track them or send them with a team on a short-term mission trip coming to COL. You can contact us at chainoflovehomes@gmail.com to find out when the next team is coming.

CÁTIA

We are pleased to share that Cátia is recovering well from her

breast cancer! She is still on medical leave, and the doctors will decide when she is ready to return to Chain of Love. Thank you so much for your prayers. While she and her husband Andre are not here, Elisa and her husband Jander are in charge of House 2.

PRAYER REQUESTS

* For wisdom, strength, and encouragement for our staff (especially our housemothers)

* For our children and teenagers to have an encounter with Christ

* For the trip the COL team is making very soon to North America. Please pray for God's protection, guidance, and leading, and also that God will bless us with more sponsors and partnerships

Thank you so much for blessing our children!

Jaques C. Ribeiro

Sponsorship Coordinator

THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS CANADA

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.” ~ C.S. Lewis

PAKISTAN: Escaped Child Bride Seeks Annulment

Sources: Kross Konnection, Pakistan Christian Post, CLAAS

Anita Emmanuel was 16 years old when she was kidnapped by her rickshaw driver over a year ago in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. Since both of her parents worked, arrangements had been made for Muhammad Wasim to drop the Christian teenager off at school each day and then bring her home after classes. Everything was fine until Muhammad began to become more friendly and, unfortunately, Anita did not recognize the warning signs.

On August 31st, 2021, Muhammad drove Anita to another town, threatening to kill her if she created a disturbance. There, after being forced to sign a document, Anita was informed that she was now a Muslim, and that she and Muhammad were married.

For months, Anita was kept in a locked room where she was sexually abused and frequently left without any food or water. When her parents weren't able to find their missing daughter, they filed a police complaint against Muhammad, which was followed by threats demanding that they withdraw their objection. Finally, after several months, Anita escaped from the room where she was being held captive and managed to return to her family's home.

Anita and her parents went to court to have the marriage annulled due to its fraudulent nature. Through the help of CLAAS, the family has retained a lawyer, who also filed a case against the captor and his family because of their harassment. For protection, Anita and her family have been forced to move to another community. To learn more about the harassment encountered by Christians in Pakistan, go to our country report.

Praise God that Anita has been able to safely return to her family. Pray that the courts will bring justice to this young teen's case, providing the necessary rulings to completely free her from any legal claim by her captor. May God's peace, comfort and healing fill the hearts and minds of Anita and her parents as they begin to recover from the traumatic ordeal.

CHINA: Christian Education Facilities Face Closure

Source: ChinaAid

In recent months, seminaries in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, have been raided and forced to close by officials who claim that the Christian schools are illegal. On August 8th, the Wenzhou Bowen Bible School and the Wenzhou Bible School were both raided. These raids followed an official announcement which was issued to the seminaries three days before. The claim is that the schools were organizing events without government authorization and had not registered their activities with officials.

On September 20th, the National Security Department and Bureau

of Religion raided the Canaan Seminary, which is also located in Wenzhou. After officials destroyed all the equipment in the church building where the classes were being conducted, Pastor Huang Jianle and three teachers were taken into custody. All the seminary students were instructed to leave the premises and return to their homes.

In an unrelated case, a Christian man organized a religious training event on June 28th. In the days that followed, Ji Chungang was charged with organizing the event without authorization. On September 13th, he was fined 150,000 yuan (about \$28,600 CAD) by the Dali Municipal Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs. He has 60 days to either submit an application for reconsideration or file a lawsuit.

In addition to arrest, threats and conviction, the use of severe financial penalties is often one of the heaviest burdens imposed by the Chinese government to persecute religious minorities. For additional information on the persecution of Christians in China, and/or to review previously posted reports, go to our country report.

Please pray for wisdom on behalf of all those involved in these cases. Ask the Lord to provide the Christian leaders of the seminaries and churches guidance and discernment as they seek to continue empowering and equipping believers with Biblical training. Overall, may Christians throughout China receive greatly needed encouragement and refreshment so they can remain bold and steadfast in their faith, in spite of ongoing government oppression.

REPORT UPDATE

SUDAN: Apostasy Charges Added to Christian Couple's Case

Source: Open Doors

Hamouda Teya Kaffi and his wife Nada Hamad Koko have been facing ongoing problems since he first came to faith in Christ during 2018. Since it was unlawful for a Muslim woman to marry a non-

Muslim man, Nada's family initially forced her to have the marriage annulled by an Islamic court. At the time, Hamouda could have been accused of apostasy, an offence punishable by death, but he was fortunately spared of any criminal charges.

In 2020, apostasy was completely decriminalized in Sudan, and so the couple reunited in 2021, with Nada announcing that she had also become a Christian. Under pressure from her family, however, charges were laid against the couple, claiming that Nada's conversion to Christianity was not valid and, therefore, their current marriage would be deemed unlawful. If convicted, the couple will then be considered guilty of adultery. For more details on their case, see our previously posted report.

Hamouda and Nada were scheduled to appear in court on September 15th when they found out that charges of apostasy were being added to their case, despite that law having been revoked in 2020. Because of the new charges, their hearing was postponed.

On August 30th, similar charges of apostasy against four Christians were dismissed by a Sudanese court. The laying of these new charges against Nada and Hamouda when there is little probability of them being upheld is being seen by human rights advocates as an attempt to intimidate and pressure the married couple to return to Islam. Even if all charges against the Christians are dropped, the couple's situation has now become known in their community, placing them at great risk of danger.

Please prayerfully uphold Nada and Hamouda as they now face these additional charges, along with the psychological pressure from Sudanese authorities, as well as hostile family and community members. May the outcome of this court case be in favour of the Christian couple. Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to the governing leaders of Sudan, helping them to realize the need to respect the rights of all citizens in their country.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE



A letter of gratefulness from one of our church partners:

“From the start of the war our city was surrounded on 3 sides by the Russian army. Many times it was shelled. Many buildings were ruined, and many people died including women and children. We had about 150 rockets that landed. In the time of more active fighting people didn’t have electricity, water, heat, gas, food, medicine, or hygiene items. Thanks to your help, we were able, not just to give people food, medicine and hygiene items, but also hope that God did not abandon them...

He cares for them through brothers and sisters in Christ who, although they are removed by distance, they have open hearts and are not indifferent to our grief. Thanks to your help, especially in the first days of war when there was nothing left in the stores and it was even impossible to buy diapers for babies, by God’s mercy we were able to obtain what was necessary and many people came to the church for help. This was a priceless help! People will never forget it. We will never forget the look in peoples’ eyes who, thanks to your help, were literally kissing bread and with tears in their eyes were thankful that the Lord, through you, was taking care of them.

Once again, from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank you, dear brothers and sisters. We are praying that the Lord would never forget your deeds of mercy.

With respect, love, and thankfulness, and hope for further
partnership,
Pastor MS”

Missionary Contact Info.

Amanda Benson:

Website: send.org/benson

Email: oboejo09@gmail.com

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Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: SEND International
PO BOX 513, Farmington, MI 48332, Missionary #169352

Paul & Janet Harkness:

Website: highplainsawana.org

Email: paulh@awana.org

Phone: 308.730.2468

Address: 1713 L ST, Ord, NE 68862

To partner with us by your donations:

Go to <https://www.awana.org/missionary/harkness/>

Harlan Moss:

Email: hpmoss1@Yahoo.com

Address: South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association, Harlan Moss,
PO Box 90509, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0509

Phone: 605-940-4220

Darwin & Karen Stoesz:

Our physical address: 219 W 1st St Elbing KS 67041

Our mailing address: PO Box 33 Elbing KS 67041

Our main phone number for text and calling: 316-708-0127 (Feel free to send us a text)

How To Give to North American Baptist Missionaries:

Step 1: Go to the NAB's new missions webpage nabonmission.org.

Step 2: Click on the “missionaries” label.

Step 3: Click on the national missionary to whom you would like to designate your support.

Step 4: Click on the “give to..” button on the national workers page.

Step 5: Fill out the form. All gifts given through the NAB are tax deductible.

**BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTING A CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD**