

Plymouth Pulse



Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2014

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We congratulate the students from our church graduating in 2014. You are blessed by God to have achieved this milestone – and we are proud of you! We commend this verse to you from Proverbs 3:5: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Middle School Graduates

Nathan Diepstra

from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
Parents: Tom and Bea Diepstra
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Christian High

Shawn Yu

from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
Parents: Paul and Suelan Yu
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Christian High

Garrit Harkema

from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
Parents: Todd and Missy Harkema
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Christian High

Jacob VanDenHeuvel

from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
Parents: Howard and Marion VanDenHeuvel
Summer Plans: Cadet camping trip
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Christian High

Natalie Stuyfzand

from Grand Rapids Christian Middle School
Parents: Tom and Laura Stuyfzand
Summer Plans: Volleyball camps, babysit, relax
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Christian High

High School Graduates

Charlie De Vries

from Grand Rapids Christian High
Parents: Steve and Lori De Vries
Summer Plans: 3 weeks in the Dominican Republic (vacation), then a lawn care job.
Future Plans: Grand Valley State University in Natural Resources/Biology

Anna (Anya) Schmidt

from Grand Rapids Christian High
Parent: Pat Schmidt
Summer Job: Presently working Saturdays, looking for a job with more hours.
Future Plans: Anya hopes to become a special education teacher, attending GRCC for 1 - 2 yrs and then Grand Valley to complete her degree.

Emily Diepstra

from Grand Rapids Christian High
Parents: Tom and Bea Diepstra
Summer Job: Work at Camp Geneva on the maintenance staff.
Future Plans: Calvin College. “I am considering Social Work, Psychology, and Spanish.”

Josh Stuyfzand

from Grand Rapids Christian High
Parents: Tom and Laura Stuyfzand
Summer Plans: Work at Skyzone and take a trip to Wyoming
Future Plans: Grand Rapids Community College, taking Environmental Science and Engineering

Rachel Harkema

from Grand Rapids Christian High
Parents: Todd and Missy Harkema
Summer Plans: Work at Watermark Country Club, backpack in Rocky Mountains with a group from Calvin for 10 days, camp with family and friends.
Future Plans: My hope is to play golf at Calvin College while pursuing a major in religion with a double minor in youth ministry and Spanish.

Andrew Van Zytveld

from Unity Christian High
Parents: David and Betsy Van Zytveld
Future Plans: Attend Princeton University, majoring in Public Policy. Andrew looks forward to playing trombone in the band/orchestra and participating in the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship.

Equipping disciples to become neighbors...
...inviting neighbors to become disciples.

DUTCH REFORMED TRANSLATION SOCIETY

When Dr. James A. De Jong got up in the morning of April 16, 2014, little did he know that at 3:00 p.m. his well-planned meeting of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society (DRTS) would be interrupted. Before he could proceed to chair the business of the 20th anniversary meeting of DRTS he was surprised by a well-deserved volume of essays published in his honor. Smiles all around, none greater than that of the honoree. Then the business of DRTS proceeded. *Biblical Interpretation and Doctrinal Formulation in the Reformed Tradition. Essays in Honor of James De Jong*, edited by Arie C. Leder and Richard A. Muller, is available from Reformation Heritage Books.

-Arie Leder



From the desk of Sherlynn James:



Thank you all for your support of our first year of Little Oasis and Baby Oasis! Baby Oasis is "more than a sitter! Babies and toddlers have a Bible Study, too." Our goal is for each leader to sing, read, and pray with each child!

Recent ministry highlights include: Little Oasis paints bird houses with Mrs Suelan, Baby Oasis loves the easel and floor puzzles and PHkids like to GO on Wednesday nights! Kids' Night In was a hit! While the movie played, children really enjoyed the photo booth as well.

If you are interested in joining our Kidmin team next year, please contact Sherlynn.

The Journey of the Christian Life

"This painting portrays the life, the faith, and the Trinity through using many symbolic visual elements."

"The light, cross, and the descending dove represents the Trinity of God. The Bible and the lily, which is held by the woman, symbolizes everlasting life and purity. The woman yearns for the grace of God through the waterfall, and the promise of God is represented by the rainbow as she confronts the roaring waves of life. The way on which she stands is covered with many thorns and leads her to the end of the road which is the entrance to heaven. The snake is a symbol of Satan who is trying to kill the woman, but she tramples it."

Medium: paper mosaic and acrylic painting on wood.

Artist: Suelan Yu

Thank you, Suelan, for sharing this beautiful piece with Plymouth Heights!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! (continued)

College and Post-Grad

Susan Bardolph

from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Parents: Mark and Helene Bardolph
Degree Achieved: MD
Future Plans: Begin internal medicine residency at Loyola University Hospital in Maywood, Illinois.

Matthew Block

from Calvin College
Parents: Bert and Judy Block
Degree Achieved: Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering
Future Plans: Matt has a job at Epic Systems in Madison, WI. He will move there the end of May and start his new career June 2, 2014. Matt is also getting married here in Grand Rapids on August 9 to Nicole Teitsma.

Kari Brouwer

from Washington University St. Louis
Parents: Bob and Jane Brouwer
Degree Achieved: Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy
Future Plans: Be a therapist in the Chicago area

Sam De Vries

from Calvin College
Parents: Steve and Lori De Vries
Degree Achieved: BSN - Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Summer Plans: 3 weeks' vacation in the Dominican Republic; then get a job!
Future Plans/Hopes: Move out west, hopefully Colorado.

Chris Feys

from University of Michigan-Flint
Parents: Mike and Deb Feys
Degree Achieved: Doctor of Physical Therapy
Summer Job: Clinical work at Physiotherapy Associates in Holland
Future Plans: Obtain a job as Physical Therapist

Amber Gilman

from Calvin College
Parents: Bruce and Sandy Gilman
Degree Achieved: Bachelor of Arts in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology.
Future Plans: Amber plans to continue at Calvin this summer and for the coming year to obtain a Master of Arts degree in Speech Language Pathology.

Michelle Holwerda

from Calvin College
Parents: Paul and Susan Holwerda
Degree Achieved: BSN degree
Summer Plans: Study for the NCLEX exam (for her RN license) while working part-time at Cherry Republic in Glen Arbor, MI.
Future Plans: Pass the NCLEX and obtain a nursing job in a hospital somewhere in West Michigan.

Nathan Menkveld

from Calvin College
Parents: Todd and Pam Menkveld
Degree Achieved: BA degree in Computer Science
Summer job: Continuing to work at OST (Open Systems Technology) in Application Development and being hired full time.
Future Plans or hopes/areas of interest: Nathan and his wife (Elizabeth) are moving to Minn./St. Paul, MN, to work in the OST office there. They are purchasing their first home and look forward to house projects. Nathan loves to work with his hands and also enjoys backpacking, white water kayaking and rock climbing.

Justin VanDenHeuvel

from Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Parents: Howard and Marion VanDenHeuvel
Degree Achieved: Juris Doctor degree from law school
Summer Plans: Take the Michigan Bar Exam in July
Future Plans: Litigation and general practice law, joining his father at VanDenHeuvel Law firm.

David Veen, Jr.

from Calvin College
Parents: Dave and Cherie Veen
Degree Achieved: BA in Business, Marketing major
Future Plans: Looking for a position in the Grand Rapids area.

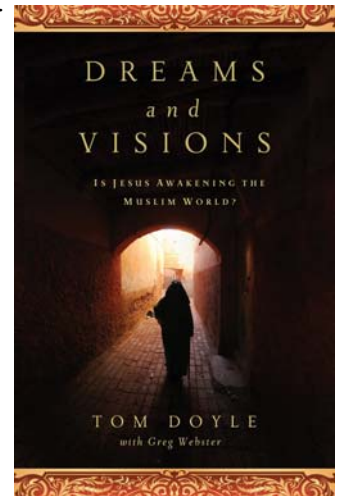
-Dawn Gebben



Dreams and Visions by Tom Doyle

When you saw the movie God Is Not Dead, you watched a Muslim father brutally throw out into the street his daughter who had become a Christian. In real life, according to author Tom Doyle, there would likely have been an "honor killing" instead. Because Allah is a bloodthirsty god, practicing Muslims have zero tolerance for any religious or political unrest or change. Any step away from strict adherence to Muslim law results in the erasing of shame via killing.

What's an imam? Every Muslim community has its imam, its religious leader. "As guardians of Islam, imams live to defend their religion at all costs - usually the cost of the life of anyone who dares to cross the government or to convert to Christianity. Most imams retain the jagged personal edge necessary to powerfully coerce Muslims into submission on a daily basis (Doyle17)." Did you know that in addition to the community's imam is its executioner, the man who quickly obeys an order from his imam to kill anyone for any infraction real or imagined?



Fortunately for us, most of the Muslims in the USA don't practice their religion as written in the Koran. Most do not hate or intend to kill any infidels. But almost 25 percent of our global population practices the fear-based Muslim religion, a Savior-less religion on which Satan has solidified his hold for centuries.

In contrast, Jesus offers Muslims love, warmth, and peace. How do Muslims get the courage to "go looking" for information about that Jesus who has appeared to them repeatedly in dreams? From Jesus Himself! He breaks through the fear wall and exudes a love that drives them to risk death by secretly finding out who He is. Because 80 percent of Muslims cannot read or write, the gospel has to be given to most orally by Christian mentors who read the Bible to them.

Tom Doyle, a missionary in the Middle East, has led many Muslims to Christ. But he is quick to say, "Reaching Muslims for Christ is perhaps harder than reaching any other people group (268)." Shocked and almost incredulous, this fascinating author receives Muslim after Muslim, each coming to him after having been approached repeatedly by Jesus in dreams. Here are some of those heartwarming, hair-raising stories that will find you burning the midnight oil to finish this page turner from our church library. Get your name on the clipboard waiting list so you can find the book in your communicator some Sunday morning!

--Alyce Boender

More regarding Tom Doyle: While Islam is often associated with terrorism, Doyle believes the majority of Muslims are peace-loving. "I believe Islamic terrorism is Satan's attempt to keep the Gospel message away from Muslims," he writes. But even Satan can't stop the Gospel from spreading. "More Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus today than ever before. In fact, we believe more Muslims have become followers of Jesus in the last ten years than in the last 14 centuries of Islam."

Welcome New Members!

Thank you for telling us a little about yourselves! We look forward to getting to know you better and pray that you experience the community of Christ at Plymouth!

"We lived in Holland for about 45 years, and we raised our three sons there. My husband, Frank, was a Computer Analyst for General Electric, and I was the Executive Assistant to the President of Herman Miller Inc. I am very fortunate to have two sisters and two sons in Grand Rapids. (Plymouth's member, Mae VanHekken is one of Cris' sisters.) My third son is a Pastor in Florida. I am very fortunate that my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren keep me connected with their everyday lives and activities. The congregation at Plymouth has been gracious and accepting and I appreciate their kindness. I am pleased to be a part of the congregation and the community and pray that God will continue to bless us with His love."

--Cris Dieleman



"I was born in Sioux Center, Iowa, and raised in Southern California, and am learning to embrace Michigan. I was introduced to Plymouth by my wife, Mary. Mary and I met in California in the mid 80's and recently married on November 9, 2013. I've enjoyed the fellowship at Plymouth and also enjoy seeing and participating in service areas. Recently, our family completed a mission/vision trip to the Dominican Republic. That trip changed all of us in many different and wonderful ways. I also found the recent Friendship Service to be very touching!"

Lynn's life verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6.

--Lynne Faber

Annual Friendship Ministries Sunday Worship Service, May 4, 2014



The Back Door

Churches have front doors and churches have back doors. The front door is prominent and we love to see people come through it. When they come often enough, we welcome them as members, we introduce them to the congregation and we put their pictures up on the screen. But if you've been in church for any period of time, you know that there's a back door too. People stop attending regularly, and then they stop attending altogether. While entrances are loud and happy, departures are often silent and sad. There's talk about what may have happened and why, but there aren't many answers. The departures leave people in church feeling rattled and even insecure.

Several months ago the elders started a process that we go through every few years here at Plymouth Heights. We put together that list of people who no longer attend Plymouth but who haven't actually transferred to another church. And based on current or previous relationships with those people, we assigned different elders and staff people to follow up with them. In the follow-up there's always an invitation to return to Plymouth Heights, but when that's not likely, those being contacted are encouraged to join whatever congregation they may be attending. Sometimes they already have, and we just didn't know about it. But just as frequently they're still "floating" from one church to another. And it's also more and more common not to be able to make contact at all.

And then the question is, "What to do?" The church order suggests (Article 67) that the membership of those who do not transfer to another church be lapsed after a period of two years. And in the not-so-distant past we've sent letters to non-attending members informing them that unless we heard from them, their membership would be lapsed. And we have followed through. But we've not done that for almost a decade. Pastoral concerns about individual members and the probable effects of being "lapsed" have led us to be a little more patient, and to try to maintain contact wherever possible.

The "back door" continues to be a troubling one. But the contacts that are made as the elders go through the list of non-attenders every few years often produce encouraging results. Those who do respond are happy that the church remembers them, and every once in a while our contact will encourage someone to take a relationship to church seriously again. In the meantime, keep praying for those you no longer see, and for the different people here who are keeping track of those who have slipped out the back door.

--Steve DeVries

Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day in the United States is celebrated on the third Sunday in June and is intended to honor fathers and their influence in society. It can also be a day when Christians remember the love our Heavenly Father has for us. Isaiah 64:8--"Oh, Lord, you are our *Father*. We are the clay. You are the potter; we are the work of your hands." Matthew 6:8--"Your *Father* knows what you need before you ask him." 1 John 3:1--"How great is the love the *Father* has lavished on us that we should be called children of God!" Here are pictures of Plymouth Heights babies who have been born since Father's Day, 2013. Congratulations, dads! May these beautiful children bask in your love and in the love of their Heavenly Father!



Tim Albers,
and Charlotte



Dave Block,
and Ashley



Jeff DenBraber,
and Bentham



Jonathan Poel,
and Quinn



Nathan Studer,
and Westin



Michael VanderMolen,
and Ava



James Van Hall,
and Gabriella

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Minister of Worship, Leadership	Rev. Steve De Vries
Minister of Congregational Life	Rev. Sarah Albers
Pastor of Youth and Education	Megan Wunderink
Minister of Music.....	Doug De Vries
Children's Ministry Coordinator.....	Sherlynn James
Head Organist	Annelle Dekker
Secretary	Janeen Van Swol
Custodian	Marv Huizenga

Follow-Up Event - IF:Grand Rapids

On Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, 44 women from 17 churches gathered at Plymouth Heights to take part in a new movement of women. Together we watched the recorded sessions of the IF:Gathering (Austin, TX February 2014), emphasizing Hebrews 12 and encouraging us to truly run the race God set before us. It was a great time of worship, fellowship and study. And as Liz said, "That's a wrap, or rather just the beginning..." Participants gathered for a follow-up event called IF:Table on May 28.

If you are interested or want to learn more please check out the websites or contact our IF:Grand Rapids leaders (Kelly, Liz, Pastor Sarah, Megan, and SherLynn).

www.ifgrandrapids.com or www.facebook.com/ifgrandrapids

—Katie Sytsma

