



February 2020

Emo Christian Reformed Church

Care & Share

Last Care and Share?

This may well be the last time I get to write as your pastor in the 'Care and Share'. We can hardly believe that its been 21 months since we came to Emo. The time has past so quickly. Quite honestly we did wonder, when we thought of doing transitional ministry, how we would fare being in churches barely long enough to establish strong ties to the community. Would we feel disconnected, or less grounded or would we feel kind of isolated from not having formed deeper connections to the people of the church? We assumed that shorter stays would mean shallower connections that would not have the time to pull deeply on our hearts.

We assumed incorrectly. We were wrong. Many of you wasted no time knitting your hearts to ours with the wool of loving kindness. The dominant pattern followed here is a picture of grace and mercy. Even our kids – who know churches – say this place is different. Our hearts will hurt when we must leave. How cuckoo to think that an easy separation would be better. That would only mean that together we would have failed at relationship which is the one ingredient in healthy ministry that most reflects the heart of our God. If there was any part of this work that should be considered a must, a fundamental requirement for success, its relationship characterized by loving kindness.

One of the downsides of "Transitional Ministry" is this idea that the churches that need a transitional minister must have some significant problems. People imagine that needing help is a negative thing, something akin to what we judge the church of Corinth to have been, a church rife with "quarrels and jealousy", a church that argues about its pastors or is acting "worldly". But the truth is that even the people of Corinth are told that, "God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things to shame the strong". The fact is that all churches are in need and all are chosen and enriched "... with all knowledge" (1 Cor.1:5), not the least of which is the knowledge of his love for us (Eph.3:18,19). In fact, we are told that without that love we are nothing (1Cor.13:1-3).

The truth is that we are all badly in need of help. The Contemporary Testimony, OWBTG, confesses that we are "... a broken communion in a broken world." The God who IS LOVE, loved his broken world and gave his only Son, so that we'd be restored to Him. His love is the active ingredient in the healing bond that is created between broken pieces – us. His love has created a healing bond between us - a bond we will miss.

Our prayer is not that you will no longer be broken but that you will be a safe place for broken pieces to gather and heal and find mercy when you need it most. Our prayer is that you will not run from brokenness nor celebrate it but that you will allow his love to be the healing balm, the glue that holds the pieces together. You are HIS and you are SPECIAL and we will miss you more than we can say.

God bless you all and thank you for being his church in Emo.

Love

Kasey and Liz.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

First of all, I'm (Sietske Van Zwol) doing the "Our Church Family" page for the February Care & Share. This does not mean that anyone else cannot come forward to take up this role. I will start with a heartfelt thank you to Gertie Kamerman for all her work she did for so many years. It is always easy to forget or miss something. Thank you Gertie for your input for the family part of the monthly Care & Share newsletter. Life can be very busy but it is good to think about your church family. Please, when there is something in your life which you would like to share, let us know. How can we show the love of Christ when we don't know of each other's joys and sorrows? February is an exciting month. First we have Valentine's Day. Roses and chocolates are bought for the special valentine in your life. It is nice to receive appreciation but the year has 366 days this year. Then we have Family Day. It is good to think about your family. Families are the foundation of our society and country. Be thankful for your family, friends, church family and so much more.

Eleanor Wiersema has been released from the hospital after surgery and a week stay. She is doing well. Harrold Boven had hip surgery in Dryden. He is home and recuperating. We wish Harrold and Eleanor a full recovery.

Also remember to pray for all those dealing with colds and flus. This year, they have been quite nasty.

We are thankful for the good news of a good pathology report for Cheryl and also the positive news about Ron Sikkema. My the Lord give complete healing to all patients who deal with cancer.

Thank God for the new life given to Dan and Kaylene Agombar. Hudson James Douwe was born in Thunder Bay and is doing well. He is so cute. I'm sure Kate loves her little brother.

Three weddings are in the planning.

I was thinking about the sermon from Pastor Kasey a while ago about how we used to put Lord willing in front of our plans. I remembered too that it was common to put D.V in front of meetings etc. D.V. stands for Deo volente, which means Lord willing. We know all this this but do we think about it?

We wish these couples—Jamie Veldhuisen & Ally Visser and Zach Koomans & Brittany Bushby and Gerald Wielinga & Cassandra Plett—the Lord's guidance with all their wedding planning.

Our sympathy goes out to Ann and Jack Wielinga in the passing away of Ann's mom, Annie Wesselink, in Thunder Bay. We all know that the time will come when we will have to part with loved ones but it is always painful. For the person who is called home, it is a homecoming. We wish Ann the assurance that God never forsakes those whom He loves.

Happy birthday to all who are celebrating a birthday this month. May the Lord give you more blessed and happy years. Our seniors who are celebrating birthdays this month are Wilma Wielinga on the 3rd and Donna Vos on the 16th. Also, we have Corrie and Janice Wiersema celebrating 57 years of marriage on the 16th of February. May the Lord continue to show His love and care for you. For all of you who have an anniversary this month, we thank God with you.

Sietske's e-mail address is sietskevanzwol@gmail.com. If you have something you would like to share in the Care & Share newsletter you can email her or Jeannette at emocr@gmail.com. The Care and Share is for everyone. Please do share your news or thoughts.

We are thankful for our Sunday School students who on the last Sunday of the month, go so willingly to the Emo Hospital to sing for/with the patients there. Thank you to the teachers and drivers who accompany them. This time is a blessing for those who come to sing and the patients. Here is a picture that was taken the last Sunday of January.



As you get together with family or friends, see how many of these questions you can answer correctly. The answers will be in the next Care & Share.

- Who was king after king David?
- Who wrote the book of revelation?
- Was Jerusalem the capital for the 2 tribes or the 10 tribes after the separation of the 12 tribes of Israel?
- What was Daniel's name when he lived in Babel?
- Which disciple was first called Simon?
- Which of Jacob's sons had to serve in the temple?
- Which brother didn't meet Abel?
- What was the name of the angel who told Mary about her giving birth to Jesus?
- What is the name of the building where the Jews came together on the Sabbath?
- Was Terah the father of Abraham?
- On which wedding did Jesus change water into wine?
- Which language was first used for the New Testament?
- Who wrote the Apostles' Creed?



From the Hettingas:

Dear Emo CRC,

How are you?

*Thank you SO much for your recent financial gift to us/our ministry! What a blessing, especially since we are under budget right now with our financial support level. Thanks for helping to meet this need. We appreciate your faithful partnership with us over the years as we give leadership to the work of Bible translation and language development in the Americas....so that all people can have access to the Word of God in languages they understand best.
Happy New Year!!*

From the Emo Food Bank:

Christian Reformed Church

Thank you for your generosity and donations of food items during the 2019 year. Your donations help keep our shelves stocked for those in need.

Thanks again, Charlene McTavish, Emo Food Bank

From Pastor Church Resources

Dear Emo CRC

Just a note to thank you for your generous gift of \$335 for the m ministry of Pastor Church Resources.

We greatly appreciate your partnering with us as we walk alongside pastors, pastors spouses, congregations and ministry leaders in a variety of ways.

Your gift impacts many.

(I hope things are going well in Emo. It still holds a very special place in my heart!)

Lis Van Harten, Co-Director Pastor Church Resources.

The following is an email that was received from Mark Mast on January 4:

New Year Greetings from Mark & Tina

Thank you for your faithful prayers, along with the financial support that you recently sent through OHC. We are so grateful for the blessing of your support and partnership in ministry.

We pray that you are enjoying a blessed New Year!

I (Mark) am sending you a update of the recent ministry trip I took to Pikangikum First Nation.

It is a collection of thoughts that I put together throughout the course of the week.

Praise the Lord for what He is doing there!

Thank you so much for your support of our work/ministry with One Hope Canada.

We are so thankful to the Lord for you! Thank you especially for your prayers.

All for Jesus,

Mark & Tina

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I was so honored and blessed to teach the Christmas Story to the children at Eenchokay Birchstick School in Pikangikum First Nation from December 9-13! The children/teens were so receptive to the Good News of Jesus!

I also preached each evening, and on Thursday night went past 6 families in the community, dedicating their homes to the Lord. After the message I preached at church on Wednesday evening (Elijah and the Contest at Mount Carmel), with a challenge to “stop wavering between two opinions, for if the Lord is God serve Him, and if Baal is God serve him!” (1Kings 18:21), God moved, and people wished to surrender their lives, family and home to serving the Lord.

It was a powerful evening! We went past 6 homes between the hours of 7:00pm and 1:00am. There was sweet surrender and beautiful brokenness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour! Please pray for these dear families as they strive to be victorious overcomers in Jesus’ Name! The enemy is strong, but “greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world!” 1 John 4:4

Even with the bitter cold in “Pik“ (-30) we had a big crowd out at Freedom From Addictions too. I told the Christmas Story in rather dramatic fashion.

Afterwards, I had some great conversations with people, and many just hung around to drink coffee and visit. I noticed more than ever that a spirit of joy and happiness prevails. It is very refreshing. Hopelessness and despair have reigned far too long as a stronghold here in this community. May the Light of Jesus shine brightly this Christmas season!

Thank you for the blessing of your prayers! Continue praying that the Lord gives people Hope and a reason to live! Jesus is the Answer!

God answered your prayers in mighty and powerful ways. It was an awesome week. My heart is overwhelmed with gratitude to the Lord for precious friendships that were forged because of the Gospel!

A very special “Divine Appointment” on Friday evening when my flight to Winnipeg was cancelled. I had a precious visit with Kenneth & Victoria Strang. They have nine children, with only four yet living. Three have committed suicide (all in their early 20s). One died of drowning. Then another died of infant death syndrome. The most recent suicide occurred last Christmas when their daughter hung herself in the closet of their home. She was not discovered for two days. She was especially close to her daddy, and often would accompany him fishing, trapping and hunting. There was no explanation for why she took her life. She seemed to be a very happy young lady. A huge dark cloud hangs over this family, but they are striving to be Overcomers by God’s grace. I had on and off communication/visits throughout the week, but Friday night I went over and for the first

hour, basically engaged in small talk... I didn't want to bring anything up about the anniversary of their daughter, even though it was on my mind, and I certainly wanted to talk about it. I didn't want to open wounds if their way of dealing with things was to keep silent. But as I was leaving, and literally putting on my shoes, Kenneth brought it up, and I immediately could tell that he wanted to talk. So I slipped back out of my shoes, took a seat on the couch with him (and Victoria sitting not far away), and we talked very candidly about everything... the hurt/pain/mourning and uncertainty they are feeling about facing this Christmas season. I was able to have a meaningful time of prayer with them, and trust that the Lord will help them cope. They are hurting so much and only the Lord can heal them.

(***Footnote: Today (January 4), I received an excited text from Kenneth informing me that last evening, his wife Victoria got saved! Praise God for his grace and faithfulness to this dear family!)

Thank you for your prayers for Pikangikum! I am amazed every time I come at how many lives have been blessed and touched with the love of Jesus.

On Saturday afternoon I flew to Winnipeg, the only passenger on the plane! I felt like royalty! After a 3 1/2 hour drive from "Winterpeg" I made it safely home to Rainy River.

I took some photos of Pikangikum from the air. Please say a prayer for the 3,500 souls that call this beautiful place "home". A big piece of my heart remains in Pikangikum and I am already longing to return to find it.

I especially feel an urgency to maintain communication and pray for the 6 families whose homes/families we prayed over on Thursday evening. It is so refreshing to see the Lord at work in such powerful and tangible ways! How I pray that the Lord continues the good work that He is doing in their lives.

Pray that many people will see Jesus as the reason for the season and place their faith in Him for salvation.

A few weeks ago, the Lord impressed upon me Isaiah 9:2 in regards to my visit to Pikangikum.

"The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned."

Pray for people in Pikangikum to see the Light of Jesus this Advent/Christmas season!

#JesusIsTheAnswer #ThankYouJesus #LookingToJesus

All for Jesus,

Mark & Tina Mast

The following is an email that was received from Mark Mast on January 25:

Thank you for your prayers this past week while serving in Pikangikum First Nation. It was so awesome to see the Lord continuing the work He has begun over the past couple of months; that of awakening His people to the wonder of Salvation, Life and Peace through our Lord Jesus Christ! I was so privileged to preach the Word each evening, with Pastor Simeon Moose praying that I be "released to preach the Word of God with power and the anointing of the Holy Spirit."

How awesome to experience the Lord's answer to his prayer as people came forward to dedicate and surrender their lives to Jesus! For some it was for salvation, for others a renewed commitment to following Christ, for others repenting and forsaking sin, and ultimately for everyone to be victorious overcomers in the mighty Name above all names, JESUS CHRIST!

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1Corinthians 15:57)

- Pray that the Lord continues the work He began during the past couple of months!*
- Pray for solid preaching/teaching from the Word of God (church services have been held almost every night for the past two months).*
- Pray that many more are drawn to saving faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.*
- Pray for people to establish a consistent walk with the Lord.*
- Pray that people experience genuine and complete deliverance from addictions and sinful habits.*
- Pray earnestly that Satan be thwarted in his efforts to lure people back into sinful life styles.*
- Pray for pastors Simeon Moose, Thomas Peters and Alex Owen, along with the elders and leaders of the churches.*
- Pray for Colleen Estes (Living Hope Native Ministries).*
- Pray for discipleship and follow up initiatives that are being conducted by Wanita Pascal and others.*
- Pray for pastors, missionaries, evangelists, teachers, doctors, nurses, police, social workers and other servants of God that visit Pikangikum and minister in various ways.*
- Pray that God's grace and power prevail and that Jesus Christ is Lord of Pikangikum!*

To God be the Glory!

All for Jesus,

Mark & Tina

January 15, 2020

Happy New Year, friends!

Christmas 2019 was a memorable one for us, as it was the first Christmas with the addition of two beautiful, talented ladies: Caleb's wife, Alixx, and Jesse's girlfriend, Jenni. Neither Justin nor I grew up with a sister, nor have a daughter, so having these two lovely ladies around is a blessing and adds a whole new dynamic to our family. I guess you could say it was an "estrogen enhanced" Christmas. We love hanging out with all four of them.



Caleb & Alixx



Jesse & Jenni



Caleb & Alixx are enjoying married life and are in their third year of university. Jesse & Jenni are in their second year of university and are in the same program (Criminal Justice) at Mount Royal University (MRU). This semester they will be doing a student exchange program, through MRU, in Seville, Spain. Jesse's still figuring out a way to travel...AND get university credits at the same time!

Celebrating 100 years of a vision!

2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the work of Cameron Townsend, the founder of [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#) and [SIL International](#)*, among the Kaqchikel people of Guatemala. The vision that was born during his years in Central America birthed the movement we know today: for all people to have access to the Word of God in languages they understand best.



Cameron Townsend in Guatemala, c. 1923

In recognition of what God has done over the past century, the SIL Board and Executive Leadership team hosted a celebration event in Antigua, Guatemala in November. Justin led the team that was responsible for designing and organizing the event. Together with some of SIL's historical global partners, as well as

Guatemalan and Latin American partners, they celebrated the last 100 years, reflected on where they are at present, and together considered the future of the movement. Praise God for what He has done and is doing around the world. Here is [SIL's news release](#) about the event if you would like to read more.



January - February Comings and Goings:

- January 13-17: Justin is in Oaxaca, Mexico for the SIL Mexico Branch executive committee meetings.
- January 26-February 1: Justin will be in Lima, Peru to co-lead a leader orientation with staff from Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Spain and the USA.
- February 4-7: Justin will be in Mexico City to meet with some of our principal partners in the Americas.
- February 21-29: Justin will be in Medellin, Colombia with his immediate leadership team to do their annual planning together.
- While this travel schedule is rather heavy, Justin generally spends more time in virtual meetings from home than in face-to-face meetings in far-away places. We anticipate less travel in March and April.

- When I'm not traveling with Justin, I'm either assisting him with administrative responsibilities, or answering the phones at the Wycliffe Canada office.

Here are some ways in which you can pray for us in this ministry:

1. Pray that Justin, as SIL Americas Area Director, will have wisdom, discernment, and the ability to listen well to people.
2. Pray for two Bible translation teams in Colombia that are in the very last weeks of checking their New Testament translations. Pray that it goes smoothly. Pray that no crisis will happen in the lives of those doing the work. Pray that errors or poor translation choices will be caught and corrected.
3. Pray that God will supply the remaining financial needs we have. (See details below.)

Finance Update

As we continue in this ministry by giving leadership to the SIL work of Bible translation and language development in the Americas, we trust God to supply our financial needs through churches and individuals who wish to partner with us. For those of you who faithfully partner with us financially, thank you! We are very grateful. However, in the last couple of years, we have lost several faithful financial partners due to various reasons. **We are currently lacking about \$785/month to reach 100% of the ministry budget that Wycliffe Canada has set for us.** After months of being under budget, we are really feeling the effects of this shortfall.

How can you help?

- Please pray....right now if you are able! James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
- Prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us.
- Would you consider an increase in your monthly investment if you are already a financial partner?
- Lastly, would you introduce us to someone who might have a heart to join with us in the life-changing ministry of Bible translation?

Please contact us if you'd like to talk more about this.

Thank you for partnering with us to carry out Cameron Townsend's vision for all people to have access to the Word of God in languages they understand best.

Serving together,

Justin & Tammy Hettinga

**SIL, Wycliffe's closest partner, is a faith-based nonprofit organization that serves language communities worldwide, building their capacity for sustainable language development by means of research, translation, training and materials development.*

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If you would like to make a **one-time donation** or **recurring monthly donations**, visit Hettinga.ca, type in the amount and click "Give Now." For **pre-authorized giving from your bank account**, simply fill out and submit this "[Pre-authorized Monthly Debit Agreement](#)" form. **To donate by credit card over the phone**, please call 1-800-463-1143 (9am-4pm Mountain time) and ask for the Receipts Department. **To donate by mail**, please make cheque(s) payable to Wycliffe Canada and mail to the Wycliffe address above. (Please include a separate note that states "for the work of Justin & Tammy Hettinga." If you have any issues with this, please do not hesitate to ask for our assistance.



“Annnnd it’s out again.”

This has become Charlotte’s refrain each time the power goes out, which has happened more frequently than we would like. Of course, she immediately returns to whatever activity she was immersed in, seemingly unfazed.

Her response is sometimes a stark contrast to our own of frustration and annoyance. Being unable to use the oven; worries about how long it will be out and how it will affect the food in the fridge; and having to use flashlights and battery powered lamps all add to the many adjustments we have to make living here in Ethiopia.

But her response embodies a different approach. Acknowledging the frustrations and inconvenience of no power, we can move on to identify other resources we can use to carry on with our daily tasks. In other words, the phrase “Annnnd it’s out again” teaches us to also be grateful for what we have and resourceful in utilizing those things to their greatest potential, even sometimes forcing us into creatively learning how to use things in different ways.

It is easy to become cynical and dejected in the context of adjusting to a new life in a new context and culture. “Why do they do it that way?” “Life would be easier if others communicated better (i.e my way).” “Why is this taking so long?” “I could be so much more productive if the oven and laundry machine were working.” All of these thoughts, and more, have occurred in our minds at some point or another.

But we’ve quickly learned that gratitude is the best antidote to cynicism and the best tool in our cross-cultural living toolbox. Gratitude turns our hearts towards God and away from our selfish desires and needs. Most importantly, gratitude deepens our recognition of God’s provision and draws us closer to seeing the world through God’s eyes. Gratitude humbles us as we acknowledge our interdependence on others and full dependence on God for every good thing (James 1:17). And this further extends to a deeper appreciation for God’s grace.

Each night we are intentional in naming specific things we are grateful for. And we are grateful for so many things. Among them:

- A place to live
- Food on the table (and in the fridge)
- Beds to sleep in
- Friends and neighbors ready and willing to lend a hand or teach us the ropes of navigating the city
- Eyob, a taxi driver, who comes when we call and willingly takes us wherever we need to go
- Selamawit, our language teacher, for her patience and encouragement as we stumble through learning Amharic
- Opportunities for ministry and mentoring with our friend Dawit, students at EGST, and in encounters with various people we meet on the street, at church, and supermarkets
- For you and your prayers and support. Without this, we wouldn’t be here.

Of course, as we write this we say, “Annnnd it’s out again!” May we respond in gratitude and draw closer to God in a world of constant change and upheaval.

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom and guidance for Than as he assists with revising and revisioning the Post-Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Development program at EGST
- Sustained cultivation of partnership development at EGST
- Deepening relationships with faculty and staff at EGST
- Continued growth and enjoyment for Charlotte at Bingham Academy
- Patience and energy for language learning

Continual cultural learning and relationship building with Ethiopians

Support Update: As we look toward 2020, our monthly budget will be increasing by \$268. Would you pray about joining our monthly support team or increasing your monthly support? If you'd like to join our monthly support team or give a year end gift you can do so at the link below or by check to the address below.

<http://uwm.org/missionaries/31554/>

United World Mission
PO Box 602002
Charlotte, NC 28260-2002



November has been a busy month! Than participated in several academic seminars and workshops at EGST. He also met many development students as he signed registration forms for the next term. Last weekend he had the opportunity to preach at our church.

Ruthina has been managing the house, carpool logistics and trying to conjugate verbs for Amharic. Next week she'll have her first Amharic exam to move on to the next phase. She also had the opportunity to attend a women's retreat with women serving all around Ethiopia.

Charlotte is enjoying school. This past week was "Learning Comes Alive" week and each day she was able to wear a costume. Above you'll see her costume for "nature day." She's also preparing for the Kindergarten nativity which will be performed next week.



February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Paisley Esselink
2 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	3 Lucas Koomans Wilma Wielinga 9:30 DORCAS	4 7:30 COOUNCIL	5 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	6 Aidan Osadchuk 6:30 G.E.M.S.	7	8
9 Alida Esselink 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	10 Bram Van der Kroef	11 Zachery Koomans Corinne Webb	12 Katrina Koomans 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	13	14 	15
16 Kylie Veldhuisen Donna Vos *Corrie & Janice Wiersema (57th) 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	17 Isaac Dykstra Alyssa Koomans Family Day 	18 7:00 CONSISTORY	19 Cora Vansmeerdyk Matt Veldhuisen 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	20 6:30 G.E.M.S.	21 Rebekah Crans *Theo & Deb deGroot (10th)	22
23 10:00 WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISM	24 Karen Koomans Kay Redford	25 Courtney Bethune	26 10:00 COFFEE BREAK	27	28	29 *Brad & Corinne Webb (28th)