

Care & Share

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Family

After much thought and reflection, I have decided to take a different approach to my monthly Care and Share devotion. Instead of offering you a theological reflection on some or other biblical or theological topic, I have decided to offer you a more pastoral reflection in the form of a letter. My primary reason for doing so is to engage with you more directly about matters affecting our lives together as a community of Jesus followers. Simply said – this monthly letter is an opportunity for me, as your pastor, to speak to you heart to heart.

As many of you are aware, the CRCNA's Synod 2022 took place from June 10-16 at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. One of the most important matters addressed by Synod this year was the Human Sexuality Report (HSR), a report commissioned by Synod 2016. Before Synod 2022, there was much discussion and debate among members of the CRCNA regarding whether Synod would declare that the CRCNA's teaching on premarital sex, extra-marital sex, adultery, polyamory, pornography, and homosexual sex holds confessional status. Synod 2022 declared that the CRCNA's teaching on these matters does hold confessional status, stating that "unchastity in the Heidelberg Catechism encompasses adultery, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, polyamory, pornography and homosexual sex, all of which violate the seventh commandment."

Following Synod's decision, members of the CRCNA want to know what this means in practical terms. People are asking questions like: What does this mean for Officebearers? What does this mean for members? What does this mean for LGBTQI+ members of the CRCNA and their families? I believe questions such as these are important and that the members of local churches in our denomination deserve clear answers. Accordingly, the Council of Emo CRC will be discussing its official response to Synod's decision at its July meeting and will quite possibly issue a position statement during the first half of July.

In my years of pastoral ministry up to now, I have always felt very passionately about the principle the apostle Paul relates in his letter to the Ephesians, namely, “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15, ESV). I cannot emphasise the importance of this principle enough. We

need to engage with each other with truth and love – truth and grace. If we communicate the truths of our faith in an aggressive or intolerant way, we will end up alienating people, rather than helping them experience the life-changing grace of Christ. As the editor in chief of The Banner, Shiao Chong, urges in his editorial of June 27, 2022, “May we not become a church of loveless orthodoxy, lest Christ removes our lampstand.” Thus, while we should unashamedly and unapologetically proclaim all biblical and Reformed truth, may we always do so with love. Let’s remember Paul’s words to the church in Corinth, “And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing” (1 Cor. 13:2, ESV).

Please know I am here to journey with on your journey of faith, as you and I together seek to follow Jesus on the way of the cross.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Marno

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

July is here and field work has begun. Some farmers have started cutting for their silos. Most beef farmers are waiting for stability in the weather before they begin haying. The hay crops look great! We have complained about the rain and the snow but now we see the results. Vegetable gardens are getting green as well. Weeds or vegetables, green they become. Even though we have just passed the days which had the longest daylight hours, many of those days seemed shorter because of the dark cloud formations – which were beautiful. Travelling time and holiday time are now here. We had our sister visiting from Holland and on Friday, Louise and family will come and visit and make our home full of laughter. We wish all of you a blessed and safe summer. July 1st has come and gone, celebrating a country which is blessed with beautiful creation. When you have the opportunity to enjoy nature, be still and be grateful to our God, Creator of it all.

Please remember those of our church family who are sick and in need of prayer.

- Henry Kaemingh has been in and out of hospital.
- June Wheatley remains in the hospital in Fort Frances. She is in need of more tests.
- Gerald and Cassandra are thankful and so are we (Arend & Wilma) that the surgery went well last Friday for Gerald. The CAT scan cleared the need for more extensive medical attention, which was a big relief. The feeding tube was removed on Tuesday, so soft foods are on the menu for now. Gerald was released from the hospital on Wednesday and is now back in Emo. We are very thankful to our church family for upholding them in prayer. God has been so gracious!
- From Kay Redford: Thank you to all of my extended church family for the prayers, visits, phone calls, support and love given to me and my family during these last few months as I have dealt with my back issue. The love shown and felt has greatly helped us get through some very tough days. It has been really appreciated.

Congratulations to Dwight and Carolyn Stang who have become first time grandparents with the birth of granddaughter, Harper June McKinney, born on June 8 (8 lbs 7oz) to their daughter Kayla and Carter McKinney in Brandon, Manitoba.

Congratulations to all those who have graduated from grade eight, high school, college or university. Skylar has graduated from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), with her Doctor of Medicine degree. She will be attending residency in the Rural Family Medicine stream at NOSM in July. Mika Kooistra graduated from Dordt College. She has shared with us her experience in Liberia in this Care & Share.

Hannah Veldhuisen has returned after teaching for two years in Honduras. We welcome her home.

We welcome Andrew & Tiffany and Jaxson, Abel, Elijah and Lane as they have moved here after buying the family farm. Nico & Jeannette, we wish you well as you move in to your new home.

We wish Emily Esselink and Chris Campioni God's blessing as they make final preparations for their wedding on July 30. They will be married on the family farm with Pastor John Vanderburgh officiating.

Josh and Tessie Spyksma have moved back to southwestern Ontario. Tessie's mom has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer so they are happy that they are able to be there to support family through this. It's been a tough few months for them and they are still settling in to the area again. They ask for our prayers for her mom.

Birthday greetings to all who will celebrate a birthday in July. Our seniors celebrating are Dove Stahn on the 17th and Jack Wielinga on the 18th. Also Happy Anniversary to all those celebrating their anniversary in July. Those celebrating 40+ years are John & Donna Sinninghe (42nd on the 12th), Archie & Eleanor Wiersema (56th on the 16th) and John & Grace Hettinga (42nd on the 19th).

Hello to my Emo CRC church family!

It's been great to be back in Canada after a month of new experiences and travel all the way to Africa and back.

I was recently blessed to travel to Liberia as an intern for the non-profit One Body One Hope. Our group spent 14 days in country, working primarily with the Abide in the Vine Discipleship Church network, which is the Liberian organization with which OBOH partners.

Liberia is a country with a unique history, founded by former American slaves who were relocated from the United States, and is the oldest independent republic on the continent of Africa. Conflicts between the indigneous tribes of Liberia and the Americo-Liberian population resulted in two civil wars in the country, spanning from the 1980's until a peace deal was signed in 2003. These civil wars devastated the country and still impact development work to this day.

AVDC was founded by Pastor Emmanuel F Bimba and his wife Fattue S Bimba as a church and orphanage to care for children who had lost their parents in the war. This network has now expanded to over 25 church plants, with several orphanages and Christian schools throughout the country that are all sponsored by OBOH. Our work on this trip was to visit as many of these churches/schools and orphanages as possible and gather the stories of each place to bring back to donors in the United States. We interviewed pastors and principals all across Liberia, and hearing their life experiences was a testament to the intricate ways our God works. I found especially convicting how committed each Pastor was to the mission of their churches; to make disciples and to fulfill the purpose of Christ.

Another part of my work in Liberia was to visit and consult on some projects ongoing at the farm OBOH helped to start a few years ago. This was an especially exciting experience for me, because I got to see first-hand some of the profits that are coming from this farm after years of work. Rice, plantains, cocoa, palm and cucumbers are all crops being grown on the farm, and this coming year will be the first where palm and cocoa harvests can begin to be sold and generate revenue for the AVDC churches. A new bridge, processing facility and dam system are all projects underway that will continue to develop the farm. Out of the devastation of the civil wars, much of Liberian agricultural tradition was lost and the farm is now a place where they are able to regain and restore some of their practices which is a beautiful thing to see.

My experience in Liberia was a gift I will continue to treasure as I go forward. It is a special opportunity to be welcomed into an unfamiliar culture when there is a familiar God to link us all together. Please pray for the new friends I've made in Liberia and for the country as a whole. Over 80% of the population lives under the international poverty line, and lack of economic opportunity makes it very difficult for even educated Liberians to find jobs. Pastors in the AVDC network do not receive salaries and teachers make so little that their monthly rent is commonly higher than what they are paid. It is very difficult to improve your life when the funds to do so don't exist outside of international aid. Despite all this, the Liberian culture is very giving and welcoming of guests, and we were all so beautifully cared for in every place that we visited.

At the end of each interview we conducted, my team would ask the Principal or Pastor for a specific prayer request. Two of the requests that have stayed with me came from Pastors Enoch and Rebecca. Enoch asked for prayer that people in his congregation would make themselves available to the work that God has called them to, and Rebecca asked that God would help us to complete his projects. I was struck by the selflessness and kingdom-oriented nature of these requests coming from pastors in mud brick churches with no electricity or windows.

Both of these prayers I also pray over our own congregation. That we would make ourselves available to the work and projects that God is calling Emo CRC towards, and pursue them with all the enthusiasm of truly kingdom-oriented servants. There is so much blessing in pursuing the will of God, and this was displayed to me more than ever in the lives of Liberians whose trust in the Lord extended even to where they would find food for their next meal.

In Liberian culture, it is customary for a church congregation to conduct welcoming services for guests. The entire congregation stands around the guests and repeats three times in English and three in their native language, the phrase: "You are welcome." So, on behalf of my new Liberian friends:

You are welcome, you are welcome, you are very welcome here.

Thank you for being my church family, and for always making me feel welcome and supported throughout the places I have ventured so far. I know that you will continue to do so. I pray that we can extend the same kind of welcome even more into our community and remind others of God's love for Emo, Ontario. Know that you are all covered in prayers by the church in Liberia, they love you and pray that God will work in us as a congregation. Together we help to make up the family of God and I appreciate that reality more now than ever.

If you would like to learn more about One Body One Hope and all of the work they are doing in Liberia, please check out the link to their website below. Or, if you have questions feel free to come and talk to me! I'd love to tell you more face to face.

<https://onebodyonehope.org>

Much love,

Mika

Welcoming William!

*All Glory To God for the safe arrival of
William Henry Friesen!*

We are so thankful for His timing! Jess was scheduled to be induced on May 14th at 8am and in the morning at 3 am she went into labour naturally! This was an answer to prayer! Another answer to prayer was the timing of Jess' parents arriving on the 12th, being able to settle down and get their feet under them before we went to the hospital for 3 days, leaving them in our apartment. We followed this car on the way to the hospital with a message from God for us!



Our doctor was great! She spoke a bit of English and was calm through the whole process. Regularly we are reminded of how amazing and intricate His weaving hands are - we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

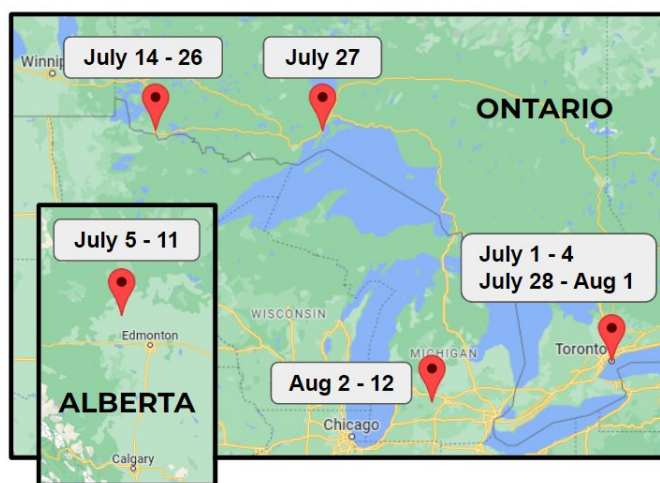


With many highs and lows in the first month, William has been, overall, very healthy and happy to tag along with mom and dad wherever needed. He has already spent a couple days at school (with mom working to finalize the yearbook) and even taught his first class!



Summer Travels

It has been lovely to have some non-school time here in KZ. We've been able to see parts of Kazakhstan that we don't normally get to see because we are so busy with school. In the meanwhile we have been busy doing paperwork for William's documents. Praise God his Passport and Visa are in our hands and we are ready to travel! God has been very kind through that process. Pray that we will have grace and patience with each other travelling with a newborn.



We will be sharing, Lord willing, in some fashion at 7 different churches! Please get in touch with us as we would love to see as many of you as possible!

GRADUATION & GOODBYES

For an international community the end of June brings celebrations and send-offs. We try to be intentional about goodbyes, for ourselves and for the students. This means reconciling relationships, affirming each other, dreaming about what is to come, and saying goodbye.

ACCREDITATION

This past school year was filled with lots of meetings as our school completed a comprehensive self-review and external examination. As in any time of reflection, there were moments that were humbling and illuminating, showing us where we have failed our students and community. There were also times of encouragement as we heard testimonies of parents, alumni, and others speak of ways our school has been a blessing to them.



PRAYER & PRAISE

Praise God for...

- Lifted covid restrictions that allow travel to be much simpler
- Tien Shan is fully staffed for fall 2022
- Large donation received from a Korean church to update our library

Pray for...

- Summer ministry of families in KZ
- TCK graduates as they transition



SENDING & RECEIVING STUDENTS

This coming school year is looking to be the highest enrollment that the school has ever had. Yay! PTL! However, we are aware (sombered) that many of the new families will actually be displaced families. Unfortunately, due to the war in Ukraine, both Ukrainians, Russians, and others living in those countries are fleeing and finding new places to do ministry and life. So while we are eager to welcome new students to our school we recognize that many of them are coming from some kind of traumatic event. Please join us to pray specifically for these families

- Wisdom for parents as well as teachers next year in counselling these children through these difficult life experiences
- Safety of their families and loved ones still in Ukraine or Russia
- For these families to find new communities of faith and new avenues of ministry.

Lastly, our school is putting in place a fund specifically to help financially support these refugee and displaced families pay for school fees. If you would be interested in helping these families in this way please let us know and we would be happy to share how you can help!

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

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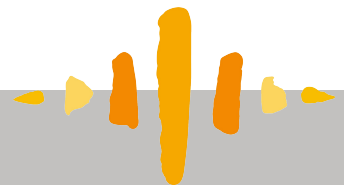


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Passing it on...

Last month we shared the exciting news that the Eastern Apurímac Quechua Bible is now complete and ready to print. Let us introduce you to a friend of ours from this translation team. Pastor Oscar (middle of the picture) is from a small, little-known city in a far-off part of the Peruvian Andes. His first language is Eastern Apurimac Quechua. At the very end of 2021, he and a team of four other pastors from his province finished translating the entire Bible into their language. It was a monumental task that took them 17 years. David Coombs is also a close friend of ours and he has walked alongside this team from the start by training, mentoring and ultimately doing the translation quality checks.



Oscar and the others are so passionate about the transforming power of God's Word that in February they started training new translators in another language (La Union Quechua). Oscar is thrilled to be able to pass on what he has learned and walk alongside this new team. At the same time, he is receiving additional training and mentoring (from David Coombs) in order to become a certified Bible translation consultant who can check and verify the accuracy and quality of translations for publication. All of the world's major Bible translation and publishing organizations have agreed on rigorous quality standards to ensure that God's Word is translated as accurate, clear and natural.

Please pray for Pastor Oscar and thousands of others like him around the world that selflessly give of themselves so that others can have God's Word in a language that they truly understand.

I, Justin, am responsible for our work within all of the Americas and this currently includes involvement in nearly 200 Bible translation projects. God's Word is going out into all the world, even the farthest and most forgotten corners of the planet.

Finance Update

As we continue in this ministry by giving leadership to the work of Bible translation and language development in the Americas, we trust God to supply our financial needs through churches and individuals like you. Part of our reliance on God is to make our needs known as we have them. For those of you who faithfully partner with us financially, thank you! We are very grateful. However, **we are currently lacking about \$630/month** to reach 100% of the ministry budget that Wycliffe Canada has set for us. **Would you prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner with us? Or consider an increase in your monthly investment if you are already a financial partner?**



Jesse graduated with a Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice. Jenni (who is in the same program) is on the home stretch, with only a practicum left to complete, and will be finished in August. We celebrate this accomplishment with them!



Caleb, Alixx and Beckham (six months). We LOVE being grandparents to this precious boy!

Thank you for your prayers, for your interest in this work, and for your financial partnership with us so that all people can have access to the Word of God in a language they understand best.

Justin & Tammy Hettinga

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To Partner Financially:

If you would like to make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation (pre-authorized payments), visit Hettinga.ca, and click "Give Now." 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 any of these giving options, please do not hesitate to ask for our assistance.





July

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	2 Kings 18:13-19:37	Acts 21:1-17	Psalms 149:1-9	Proverbs 18:8
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	2 Kings 20:1-22:2	Acts 21:18-36	Psalms 150:1-6	Proverbs 18:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	2 Kings 22:3-23:30	Acts 21:37-22:16	Psalms 1:1-6	Proverbs 18:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	2 Kings 23:31-25:30	Acts 22:17-23:10	Psalms 2:1-12	Proverbs 18:13
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	1 Chronicles 1:1-2:17	Acts 23:11-35	Psalms 3:1-8	Proverbs 18:14-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	1 Chronicles 2:18-4:4	Acts 24:1-27	Psalms 4:1-8	Proverbs 18:16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	1 Chronicles 4:5-5:17	Acts 25:1-27	Psalms 5:1-12	Proverbs 18:19
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	1 Chronicles 5:18-6:81	Acts 26:1-32	Psalms 6:1-10	Proverbs 18:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	1 Chronicles 7:1-8:40	Acts 27:1-20	Psalms 7:1-17	Proverbs 18:22
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	1 Chronicles 9:1-10:14	Acts 27:21-44	Psalms 8:1-9	Proverbs 18:23-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18	Acts 28:1-31	Psalms 9:1-12	Proverbs 19:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	1 Chronicles 12:19-14:17	Romans 1:1-17	Psalms 9:13-20	Proverbs 19:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36	Romans 1:18-32	Psalms 10:1-15	Proverbs 19:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	1 Chronicles 16:37-18:17	Romans 2:1-24	Psalms 10:16-18	Proverbs 19:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	1 Chronicles 19:1-21:30	Romans 2:25-3:8	Psalms 11:1-7	Proverbs 19:10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	1 Chronicles 22:1-23:32	Romans 3:9-31	Psalms 12:1-8	Proverbs 19:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	1 Chronicles 24:1-26:11	Romans 4:1-12	Psalms 13:1-6	Proverbs 19:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	1 Chronicles 26:12-27:34	Romans 4:13-5:5	Psalms 14:1-7	Proverbs 19:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30	Romans 5:6-21	Psalms 15:1-5	Proverbs 19:18-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	2 Chronicles 1:1-3:17	Romans 6:1-23	Psalms 16:1-11	Proverbs 19:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	2 Chronicles 4:1-6:11	Romans 7:1-13	Psalms 17:1-15	Proverbs 19:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10	Romans 7:14-8:8	Psalms 18:1-15	Proverbs 19:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	2 Chronicles 8:11-10:19	Romans 8:9-25	Psalms 18:16-36	Proverbs 19:26
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22	Romans 8:26-39	Psalms 18:37-50	Proverbs 19:27-29
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14	Romans 9:1-24	Psalms 19:1-14	Proverbs 20:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34	Romans 9:25-10:13	Psalms 20:1-9	Proverbs 20:2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37	Romans 10:14-11:12	Psalms 21:1-13	Proverbs 20:4-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21	Romans 11:13-36	Psalms 22:1-18	Proverbs 20:7
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28	Romans 12:1-21	Psalms 22:19-31	Proverbs 20:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27	Romans 13:1-14	Psalms 23:1-6	Proverbs 20:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	2 Chronicles 29:1-36	Romans 14:1-23	Psalms 24:1-10	Proverbs 20:12



JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 John Hettinga 	2 Wayne Kooistra *Remco & Mindy Van Zwol (11th) *Matt & Kim Veldhuisen (18th)
3 *Wayne & Wilma Kooistra (27th) *Gerald & Cassandra Wielinga (2nd) 10:00 WORSHIP	4 *Dirk & Susan Crans (7th) *Kris & Katy Esselink (13th)	5 *Darryl & Jessica Marissen (8th) *Albert & Carolyn Strydhorst (36th) 7:00 COUNCIL	6 Jonathon Kaemingh 7:00 WORSHIP	7 Caiden Kaemingk	8 *Dan & Alyssa Hettinga (16th) *John & Tessie Spyksma (5th)	9 Alex Veldhuisen 
10 Jenelle Kaemingh 10:00 WORSHIP	11 Arnold T Kaemingh	12 Gerald Veldhuisen *John & Donna Sinninghe (42nd)	13 Cole deGroot Teagan deGroot	14 Erica Lemelin Willeke Van Zwol	15	16 Reid Veldhuisen *Archie & Eleanor Wiersema (56th)
17 Dove Stahn Griffin Veldhuisen 10:00 WORSHIP	18 Jack Wielinga	19 *John & Grace Hettinga (42nd) 7:00 CONSISTORY	20 Kathy Kaemingh	21	22	23
24 Turner Redford 10:00 WORSHIP	25	26 Isabella Foster	27	28 Reta Dykstra Caleb Esselink	29 Marno Retief Carrie Smid *Lucas & Alyssa Koomans (5th)	30 *Peter & Yvonne Veldhuisen (28th)
31 10:00 WORSHIP						