



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## PASTOR'S PAGE

December 2018



### Coming January 2019 - Explore God!

We all wonder about God. In the Explore God sermon series and small group meetings we will be asking 7 big questions.

Does Life Have a Purpose? Is There a God? Why Does God Allow Suffering? Is Christianity Too Narrow? Is Jesus Really God? Is The Bible Really Reliable? Can I Know God Personally?

You will not want to miss out on this exciting opportunity. Come and join us each week and don't forget to invite a neighbor to tag along.

**See you then!**  
**Pastor Jim**

*If you would like to host a small group in your home or lead a small group, sign up at the information center or call the office as soon as possible.*

*If you are interested in attending a small group, sign ups begin December 16th. We will have a table set up in the lobby on the 16th.*

*Special points of interest:*  
Christmas Opportunities, pg 3

Missionary Updates  
pages 4 - 8

Celebrations - page 10

### *Inside this issue:*

Pastor's Page	1
GEMS News - Donja Versteeg	2
Christmas Opportunities	3
Joe's Journey-Joe Zandstra	4-5
Eric & Penny Schering	6
Calvin & Jessica Wunderink	7
Kyle & Jen Beckrich	8
World Prayer - Joe Zandstra	9
Anniversaries/Birthdays	10
December Calendar	11





## GEMS News

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders...”**

Did you catch that? To us a child is born; Jesus, he was the baby that was born for us. I think every year when Christmas rolls around, I find myself pondering this thought, that a baby, the Christ-child was born for me & every time I’m left thinking WOW, that’s an incredible gift that we have been given.

**...Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices, oh night divine, oh night when Christ was born! ...The king of kings lay in a lowly manger; in all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger, Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! ...Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name; Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise his name forever! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!**

Will you take time the time this Christmas season to be still & thank Him for this incredible gift of love (a baby) he gave to us so many years ago? Will you praise his holy name?

**Helen Keller once said “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”** That quote of Helen’s is a perfect description to how our Service Project “Operation Christmas Child” went. On Wednesday, November 14 our Gems girls packed shoeboxes, we filled those boxes to the brim with various items & as a group we prayed over the boxes too, as a whole it was a great experience. Especially knowing that these very boxes would be shipped across the world and handed out to other kids for Christmas. It really made me thankful for what God has blessed me with here. The grand total of packed boxes that we sent out was 132, wahoo!!! So, a huge shout out goes to YOU our congregation for the support & prayers you gave to us with this project. Thank You!!!

**...and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6**

***Wishing you a Merry Christmas!***

***Be Blessed  
Donja Ver Steeg***





**Join us this Advent Season as we study John the Baptist  
“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”**



**Christmas Opportunities at Community Church**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Yet for many of us, it's the most distracted and stressful time of the year! Our vision is that each of these Christmas worship services will be an oasis from the busyness, a time to refocus on Christ, and an opportunity to be filled with wonder and joy.

**1. Come to the brand-new Family Cookies and Carols Service on December 9 at 4 PM!**

We will gather around the piano in the Community Café and sing Christmas carols by request for half an hour, accompanied by the smell of baking sugar cookies! Then we'll spend another half an hour decorating cookies together. This is for all ages!

**2. Join us for the Christmas Candlelight Service: December 16 at 5 PM**

A. This is our big, outreach-focused Christmas celebration. Be sure to invite friends and neighbors to join us that night. Expect great music, an inspiring re-telling of the greatest story ever, carols by candlelight, and of course hot chocolate and cookies!

B. You can join the choir until December 3 by signing up at the Information Center. It's easier and more fun than ever: just 3 rehearsals, and 2 powerful anthems to learn.

**3. Dive in to our Advent Series: “Prepare the Way!”**

This Advent Season (the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas), we'll be using the teachings of John the Baptist to prepare our hearts for celebrating Jesus' birth. There are two ways you can get involved this year:

A. Light some candles: Starting December 2, we will be having a family, couple or group of friends light the Advent Candles at the beginning of the service. This will involve lighting some candles, reading a short paragraph, and leading in a brief, pre written prayer. Sign up today at the Information Center.

B. Coloring contest: We are holding a coloring contest in multiple age categories (including adults) for some fabulous prizes (spoiler alert: it's candy). Pick up a John the Baptist coloring sheet at the Information Center, and start creating! Be sure to include your name and age on your masterpiece. Artwork is due before/on December 9. Prizes will be awarded on December 23.

**4. Join us on Christmas Morning! Start your Christmas Morning off right with worship at 9:30 AM.**

Our service that day will have a traditional flavor, and will be a great way to celebrate the importance and the wonder of God coming to earth!





## Joe's Journey

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ from India! (Subko Jai Masihki Bharatse!)

This past month has gone by so fast! I hope you are all doing well. It is hard to believe it is almost December. The weather has gotten cooler here, but is still very mild. Here are some highlights:

I made a visit to Mussoorie in late October. It was so good to see some people I had not seen since last year, and to worship with the church at Mussoorie. I made contact with Islam and Inam, the two tailors, my former Hindi teacher, my former pastor, and of course my good friend Chandra.

We have a basic diet at the base. We either eat chick peas or noodles for breakfast, and then two square meals of rice and dal everyday, with a side of vegetables. Sometimes we eat fish or chicken. I like all of this, but it can be hard to eat rice and dal so much, so sometimes I only take a little bit, or eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich instead. I also like to eat out sometimes and enjoy eating treats like eggs, french fries, pasta, or pizza. I caught a cold after visiting Mussoorie, and I got a little sick a couple other times because I ate something bad, but for the most part my health has been holding up well. For Thanksgiving, my friend Shobit and I celebrated with a pumpkin pie at a local cafe.

Diwali celebrations were the first week of November. These were big celebrations, basically celebrating the victory of Hindu gods over evil. People burn candles, set out colorful lights on their houses, or set off fireworks, because this is necessary to rebuke demons according to their beliefs. Shops on the street put out displays of tables, and sold special treats and fireworks. The lights reminded me of Christmas lights back home, and the horizon lit up with fireworks like the fourth of July. Everyone was setting off firework cannons and rockets. It was very loud!

We have chores to do every week. I especially like breakfast preparation, but we rotate between preparation, cleanup, sweeping & moping, and classroom cleanup. Sometimes on Thursday afternoon, we have general cleanup, which might include sorting tiny bugs or pebbles out of the rice, picking up garbage, or other odd jobs. This particular evening we filled in a hole the previous DTS team dug in front of the base in order to repair a sewage problem.



**Diwali fireworks and treats**

We have classes that cover a variety of topics, such as the character of God, God's truth and divine plumb line, submission and authority, or spiritual warfare. I learn a lot from these classes. Some things God is emphasizing to me, inside and outside of class, are verses about following Jesus such as Luke 9:23, meditating on the Passion of Christ, seeking God's face (Psalm 27:8), learning about the soul, spirit, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23), and the discipline of fasting.

The outreach locations for January and February were announced. One group will probably go to Minali and Dharamsala. Another group is going to work among the Garwali people of Uttarakhand and also to Rajasthan. My group is going to Nepal and Roorkee, a city in Uttarakhand with a large Muslim population. I will give you more updates when we know more.

### **Prayer points:**

- please keep Zhaville and Ricky in your prayers, as they are recovering from drug addiction and are no longer taking DTS.
- pray the Hindu people would meet the Light of the World who conquered sin and death and has power to break all chains.
- pray the students and staff at DTS will know God more and more.
- pray for us as we prepare to go on outreach, and for the people we will encounter.
- praise God for everything He is doing at DTS Dehradun!





I miss you all very much. Feel free to contact me with what is happening by you, or if you have any questions. I always enjoy receiving mail from you.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, wherever you are.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

***In Christ, Joe***

Here are the staff and students. Top row, left to right: Mang, Matthew, Avito, Ashish, Khual, Shane, Jacob, Akhil, Sawmte, Joe, Girish, David Raj, Ricky, Joseph, Zhavilie, the top of Mark's head, Ito, Thangboi (the chef) Middle: Vishal Bottom row: Deepti, Rintei, Aasma, Annie, Cheimila, Lala (the DTS leader), Lun (Lala's wife), Partei (Mark's wife), Lovepreet



***The Base***



***Chandra & I visit Mussoorie***



***Filling a hole so cows won't fall into it***



***Thanksgiving & Pumpkin Pie***



***The Dining Area at Suppertime***



***Sorting Rice***





## Schering Family News



Dear Friends,

“I have set before you an open door which no one can shut” (Revelation 3:8). It is amazing what the Lord is doing in Papua New Guinea through Religious Education (RE)! The Education Department encourages all high schools to teach RE. Problem is, the department doesn’t provide any resources.

Most of the pastors teaching R.E. are just “preaching”,...they don’t have any books. In early 2014 Pastor Terence heard about how Pacific Island Ministries provides resources for R.E. He came knocking on our door in Wewak. (below: Pastor Terence teaching RE class at Maprik High School).

Over the last five years we have provided for Pastor Terence for RE use at Maprik High School:

- In 2014 – 70 copies of *With All My Heart book*.
- In 2015 – 150 copies of *Ten Hot Topics*
- In 2016 – 203 copies of *Eleven More Hot Topics*
- In 2017 – 250 copies of *Leadership for Melanesia*
- In 2018 – 290 copies of *David a Man After God’s Own Heart*

High school students in PNG are very interested in learning what the Word of God teaches about Sorcery, Domestic Violence, Land Disputes and the other topics in *Ten Hot Topics!*

In 2017 Andreas, who teaches Science and Personal Development at Maprik High, tagged along with Pastor Terence to the PIM house in Wewak and asked us about the book *Heroes at the End of the Earth*. Eric replied, “Sure, how many copies would you like, 70?” Andreas: “1200 copies.” That was a shock, but we had 1200 copies to give him. *Heroes at the End of the Earth* works out well as an English literature book for the PNG context, written from a Christian perspective.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, these books and the teaching of Pastor Terence have produced dramatic results. Nationwide, only 40% of grade 12 graduates make it into universities. They take an exam near the end of the school year which is the key factor in gaining entrance into tertiary.

Of the 56 students Pastor Terence taught for 4 years all of them were accepted into university in PNG! Of approximately 300 grade 12 students at Maprik high, 75% made it into tertiary schools, very unusual for PNG.

Thanks for your interest in the ministry in PNG!

### Family News

Eric and I had an excellent three weeks in California for the annual PIM Board meeting, for a memorial service for my Mom and for visits to supporting churches and individuals. We were also delighted to have three of our five children and their families to our condo in Kalamazoo for Thanksgiving :- ) What gifts we have been given!



Tickets out of Grand Rapids on December 27 and out of LAX on December 30 should put us in PNG by January 3. We are excited about seeing everyone again, hearing their stories of what the Lord has done, and making the most of the open door the Lord has set before us. Thank you for your prayers for the Lord to go before us and make us a blessing to everyone to whom he sends us.

**Gratefully,  
Eric & Penny**





## Czech-ing in with the Wunderinks

We have been chugging along this school year. Jessica has been taking Czech classes which have been very good, but also challenging as Czech is a difficult language to learn. She has also been working with students on the Fall play, *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen. The show opens the last week of November and the students are really working hard to put the finishing touches on the work.



Both of us have been enjoying our roundtable devotional times with the students. While most would say they are Christian, they are also young and it's great to get to answer their questions and get to know them. Calvin has also been mentoring an 11<sup>th</sup> grader which has been good for the both of them.

We did not get any Thanksgiving break but did get to have a few church friends over to celebrate. We are also staying here over the Christmas break and are looking forward to some of the Christmas markets and a few days off. Calvin's parents are coming in February and we are really excited to see them.

### ***Praises and Prayer Requests***

That more of our students would be willing to hear about the gospel and open to it. And we want to just pray for all our staff and students as we have some sort of cold bug going around that's been pretty long-running.

### ***Best Wishes from Prague! Veselé Vánoce! (Merry Christmas!)***

### ***Calvin and Jessica***



Thanksgiving with friends



Opening night of the play  
***Don't Drink the Water*** by Woody Allen





## Beckrich Family News



Last month I received a text from one of our staff that a freshman woman trusted in Christ! She was the 16th student this semester to put their faith in Jesus for the first time. Jenn and I are so thankful for each of you partnering with us in this mission to reach lost college students with the Gospel. Would you take a few minutes this morning and pray by name for each of these students?

Pray that:  
 Their professions would be genuine.  
 That they would begin to be rooted in God's Word.  
 That they would become lifelong laborers for God's glory.

Pray for:  
 Joel Knackmuhs  
 Dillon Compliment  
 Clayton Ragan  
 Collin Stewart  
 Moussa Ibrahim  
 Mary Borum  
 Chynna Smith  
 Daniel Steward  
 Kevin Thomas  
 Paige Wonderlin  
 Jhai'sa McDaniel  
 Oscar Sillas  
 Daniel Thurman  
 Alvin Ma  
 Clay Browning  
 Mariah Leclercq



*Right now Cora's favorite word (& animal) is puppy so Jenn decided to make these fun puppy costumes for Halloween.*

**Thank you for Praying,  
 Kyle, Jenn and Cora**





## PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

After 5 years, we prayed through the entire world! It was an honor and privilege to profile four or five countries each month. Every country is in desperate need of prayer, and I never cease to be amazed by what the Lord is doing all over the world! The Lord is at work in every country. This is the last article, but I encourage everyone to continue praying for the world. I decided to end by touching on the continents, and therefore I decided not to include a map. I realize a brief article like this can not do a country, much less a continent, justice, but I still want to highlight a few things going on:

1. December 1-5 **AFRICA** 48.77% (about 503,742,508 people) Christian.  
Praises: praise God Christianity has grown to become the religion of almost half of Africa's population, and nearly 2/3 of sub-Saharan Africa; praise God for the impact prayer movements are having on Africa; the impact of the gospel on the educated; several countries experiencing significant growth in the Church; the mission force of Africa is growing and intensifying.  
Challenges: pray as Africa continues to struggle with poverty; instability in East Africa; Sudan's civil strife; Nigeria and the Sahel, dividing Muslims and Christians; the AIDS crisis; cross-cultural missions; the unreached in Africa; leaders of the African countries.
2. December 6-10 **NORTH AMERICA** 77.09% (271,097,376 people) Christian, **CARIBBEAN** 82.90% (35,117,154 people) Christian, **LATIN AMERICA** 92.14% (503,374,334 people) Christian.  
Praises: political stability and a shift toward democratic structures; the spectacular growth of evangelicals; the growth of Pentecostals; people movements among the Amerindians; Bible translation achievements; rapidly maturing missions vision; impact of Christian use of media; missions in the Americas; impact on spiritual, economic, and social conditions.  
Challenges: pray against the vice of illegal drugs, in particular cocaine; widespread human needs such as education, lack of clean water, and poverty; care of the environment; leaders of countries here; countries facing an uncertain future: Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, and Guyana.
3. December 11-16 **ASIA** 8.84% (about 368,075,984 people) Christian.  
Praises: the remarkable church growth here (22 million in 1900 to 370 million in 2010); growing churches in lands previously cut off to Christianity; extraordinary harvests in China and India; indigenization of Christian ministry and leadership in Asia; increase in Muslim Background Believers; increased stability in some areas; emergence of missionary involvement.  
Challenges: pray for the unresolved conflict between Israelis and Palestinians; increased persecution in China; tensions in the Himalayan region, such as Kashmir; unrest in SE Asia due to political and religious factors; that Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Orthodox Jews will find peace in Christ; the tinderboxes of Yemen and Afghanistan; the Golden Triangle; the Korean Peninsula; missions presence here; human trafficking; leaders of Asian countries.
4. December 17-21 **EUROPE** 71.34% (about 522,017,165 people) Christian.  
Praises: a relatively stable two decades; religious freedom in the former Communist world; positive and encouraging developments in the Church, such as growing impact of evangelical movements, new prayer movements, positive impact of immigrants in cities; missions involvement here; socio-cultural trends that open doors for Christian witness; Christian media.  
Challenges: a just response to the refugee crisis; not corrupt government in Russia and other countries; European leaders; ethnic tensions within countries; revival and turning to Christ instead of moral uncertainty, societal disintegration; the growth of Islam; the Orthodox Church.
5. December 22-26 **THE PACIFIC** 74.02% (about 26,526,812 people) Christian.  
Praises: the strength of Christianity here; renewal of the Pacific vision for mission and prayer.  
Challenges: pray for missions agencies here; unrest and violence for ethnic, political, and economic reasons; the younger generation; reconciliation with historic wrongs associated with the arrival of Europeans; leaders of the countries here; unity and revival in the Church.
6. December 27-31 **ANTARCTICA**  
Praise God for everything He is doing here and around the world!

***Thank you, Joe Zandstra, for leading us in Prayer for the World these past 5 years!***

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## December Anniversaries

Bob & Jan Miller	December 1
Jim & Cecilia Chapman	December 7
Mike & Pat Schimick	December 9
Mick & Tammy Dyniewski	December 17
Dave & Staci Laud	December 26

Greg Fieldhouse	December 17
Jeff Kruithof	December 17
Bobbi Paulsen	December 18
Kathryn Bein	December 19
Cecil Meadows	December 20
Cecil Meadows, Jr.	December 20
Alex Hamilton	December 21
Jaxon Hubers	December 21
Jessica Sipkema	December 21
Jan Tiemens	December 21
Kyle Beckrich	December 22
Lowell Meyerink	December 22
Jim Roodzant	December 22
Lilly Biancardi	December 24
Doreen Piekarczyk	December 24
Pam Uffelman	December 26
Mateo VanBaren	December 26
Reid Klarer	December 27
Archer Veld	December 27
Ken DeVries	December 30
Emily Kozak	December 30
Sandy Kulik	December 31
Ross Peterson	December 31



## December Birthdays

Timothy Coffer	December 1
Johanna Molenaar	December 1
Joan Perkins	December 1
Miranda Ruvalcaba	December 3
Dave Laud	December 5
Ruth Pals	December 5
Therese Adkins	December 6
Jack Pfau	December 6
Jennifer Vincent	December 6
Kevin Crane	December 7
Ray VanDyk	December 7
Dave Kaminski	December 9
Kristyahna Peterson	December 9
Arlene Ridder	December 9
Lillian VanSchouwen	December 9
Everly Kuiper	December 10
Shawn Kuiper	December 10
Jake Peterson	December 10
Amy Sipkema	December 10
Sarah Anderson	December 11
Janet Chancy	December 11
Evan Fieldhouse	December 11
Al Womac	December 11
McKenzie Taden	December 13
Jay Tiemens	December 13
Holly Westerhoff	December 13
Nick Zeldenrust	December 13
Cathy Mayton	December 14



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**New Church website:**

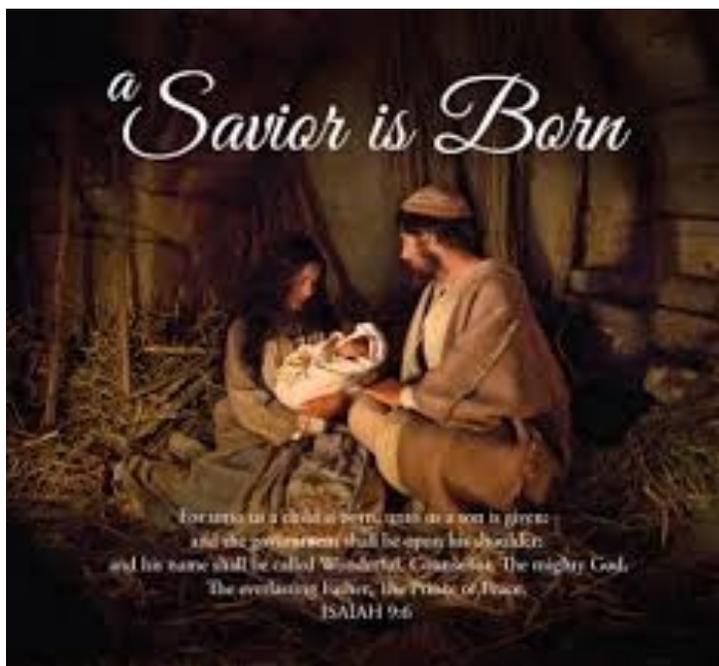
**communitychurchroselawn.com**

Newsletter Email: [proodz@netnitco.net](mailto:proodz@netnitco.net)

Editor - Patty Roodzant

Community  
Church

**LIVES TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST**



Community Connection December 2018

Page 11

## December Calendar

### Sunday Mornings

Kids church for ages 3 years to 2nd grade during 9:30 service, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th

No Kid's church on the 23rd and 30th but family friendly activities will be available in the Cafe

Sunday School Hour begins after worship from 10:45 - 11:30 for all ages, December 2nd, 9th and 16th

**Family Cookies and Carols Service - December 9th, 4:00 PM**

**Christmas Candlelight Service - December 16th, 5:00 PM**

**Christmas Day Service - Tuesday, December 25th, 9:30 AM**

**Advent begins December 2nd**

### Women's Bible Studies

Mondays, Coffee Break Bible Study on Forgiveness - 9:15 AM

**Coffee Break Christmas Brunch Party - December 17th**

Tuesdays, Bloom Bible Study at Jo Vanderzee's - 7:00 PM

Wednesdays, Bloom (Bible Study) and Sprouts (PreK) - 8:45 AM

**Wonder Wednesday Christmas Brunch and Craft - December 12th**

December 1st - Wood Splitting & Delivery, Community Wood Yard, 7:00 AM - Noon

Sunday, December 2nd - Yellow Host Care Group Lunch, 11:30 AM

**December 6th - Connections Class, 6:30 PM**

**Friendship Club - December 7th, Christmas Party, Noon - 2:00 PM**

**Parents' Night Out - December 7th - 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Must sign up! Call the office today.  
\$5.00 per child ages 3 - 5th grade. Needed: High School ages and adult volunteers - contact Stacy.**

December 8th, Food Pantry, 9:00 AM - Noon

**Breakaway Night - December 12th - Dinner 5:00 - 6:30**

GEMS Christmas Party, Cadets, Detonate Party, 6:30 PM

Thrive (Seamless Bible Study) at 6:15 at the Generations Center

**Detonate Meeting Nights - December 5th and 12th, Christmas Party on the 12th (Breakaway night)**

*Detonate will then take a Christmas Break and resume January 9th. Merry Christmas!!*

**REACH December 22nd - Ice skating, 3:00 - 9:00 PM**

Phil's Friends every Tuesday 10 to 4

