

Bethel News

BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

January 2012

It's a new contribution year for the Tax Free Savings Account. If you pay income tax, and have savings, it pays to participate. Consider the CRC Community TFSA. Currently earning you approximately 3%. No fees. Funds invested in CR churches and Christian schools also at 3%. If mortgage rates increase, you also earn more. Contact administrator Harry Houtman, harry@crceextensionfund.org or 416-461-1207.

FAITH ALIVE NEWS - Sign up for Faith Alive News and get free email updates from Faith Alive Christian Resources about ministry tools that can help you as you live and serve. If you sign up between Jan. 1 and Feb. 9, and you'll be entered to win a Kindle Fire and other Faith Alive product! Sign up today at FaithAliveResources.org/FANews or [Facebook.com/FaithAlive](https://www.facebook.com/FaithAlive) - or call us at 1-800-333-8300.

PARENTS: In recent months it has been brought to our attention that our children need to be reminded to respect church property. The Gym is available for your enjoyment. Please put away equipment and make sure outer doors are not left open a crack. The Prayer room, classrooms and council room are not play rooms. Please make sure food and drinks are consumed in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning. Thank you for helping.

Ministry Webinars - Too busy to attend a training event? Join others across the CRC for "Webinar Wednesdays" - one-hour, live workshops you can attend from your home, office, or church. All you need is a computer. Get the full schedule and free registration at: www.crcna.org/webinars

WORLD MISSIONS - Join CRWM in the Dominican Republic! Do you speak Spanish? Are you interested in church planting, community development, theological education, children's/youth ministry, teaching and curriculum design, or administration? If so,

Christian Reformed World Missions may have short-term mission opportunities for you. Visit www.crwmm.org/serve for more details.

VOLUNTEER ON A CRC MINISTRY TEAM! - The Christian Reformed Church and its ministries has a variety of team opportunities currently available for church groups or for individuals to join a group on their own. World Missions has summer opportunities in Asia for a VBS team and a team for Teaching English to Adults, as well as a Prayer Mission trip to Eastern Europe this Spring. CRWRC has work team opportunities in both Haiti and Japan. For details on these and any other opportunities to serve with the CRC, please visit www.crcna.org/servicelink or email us at volunteer@crcna.org

CRWRC HIV/AIDS DISCOVERY TOUR. - YOU are invited to join a small group of people in a LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE to witness the work and ministry of CRWRC in Kenya and Uganda and see the amazing ways that God is working in the lives of those living with HIV/Aids. You'll experience first hand what CRWRC is doing to stop the spread of AIDS, and connect with people, families, and communities who are eager to share their experiences with you. The result? You'll discover hope—and be encouraged to take action on AIDS in your own community and around the world. Tour dates are April 15 - 29, with the application deadline of Feb. 1. Is God tugging at your heart on this one? Then check out further details at www.crcna.org/servicelink or email volunteer@crcna.org

Special Needs SERVE - July 14-19, 2012 – OTTAWA, ON: A 5 day spiritual journey for youth between the ages 14-26. This unique SERVE project is for young people with special needs who cannot be accommodated on a traditional SERVE program. Participants will spend time serving God through work projects, worship, and prayer. The events of SERVE are tailored to the ability of the individual so that each person can experience the joy that comes from serving God. Please contact Joanna Janssen at jo_janssen_8@hotmail.com or Pastor Ron Hosmar at youthpastor@calvincrc.ca or 613-225-2889 Ext. #3 more information. Learn more about SERVE at: <http://www.youthunlimited.org/events-2/ottawa-on-special-needs/> or <http://www.ronhosmar.blogspot.com/2010/07/serve-day2-saturday-participants-arrive.html> and look in the July 2010 entries.

MENTORS NEEDED - Special Needs SERVE July 14-19, 2012 – OTTAWA, ON - We are seeking youth and young adults, who would like to walk alongside a participant who has a special need. Your help is needed to encourage the participants in all areas of their journey. We look forward to some great work sites, worship, and sight seeing! Please contact Ron Hosmar at youthpastor@calvincrc.ca or 613-225-2889 ext. 3 for more information.

Offering Schedule:

	AM	PM
January 22	Heritage Community Christian School	Home Missions
20	Cadets	Home Missions
February 5	CRC Race Relations	CRWRC
12	Our Missionaries	CRWRC
19	Building Fund	CRWRC
26	Homestead	CRWRC

Ministry Shares in the Christian Reformed Church

Did you know that each adult professing member in the CRC is asked to contribute a base amount of \$350.06 in 2012 for denominational ministries? This works out to just \$29.17 per month, or \$1 per day per adult member. This is done through our churches in a system called "Ministry Shares."

Do you wonder how much you can do for a dollar per day?

\$43.97 for **Back to God Ministries International, the media ministry of the CRC, reaching millions of people in ten languages in 200 countries and also providing eight English ministries.

>>\$35.91 to support **Calvin Seminary** and train new pastors who will be serving as our missionaries, staff, and pastors.

\$12.49 for **Faith Alive, the publishing ministry of the CRC, providing Christian resources and distributing The Banner each month.

>>\$46.88 to assist **Home Missions** as they work in regional teams focusing on multiplying new churches and campus ministries, cultivating diverse missional leaders, developing small group ministry, and providing coaching and training with existing churches.

\$60.56 for **World Missions supporting more than 200 missionaries serving in over 20 countries. The ministry share portion includes 40% of the support for missionaries around the world.

>>\$38.19 to hold our annual Synod, provide **administration** for our denominational ministries, and support our Board of Trustees.

\$13.94 for "The Network**" as they convene online and other groups for sharing of best ministry practices, networking and training, use regional networks to connect churches and plan collaboratively, simplify access to denominational resources, organize volunteer opportunities, and focus on smaller congregations through a program called Sustaining Congregational Excellence.

>>\$32.86 to many specialized ministries such as 1) **Chaplaincy and Care Ministry**--developing and promoting the ministry of chaplains in the workplace, in prison, in battle, and in the grip of illness and addiction and facilitating ministries of care with pastors and congregations; 2) **Disability Concerns**--assisting churches in including people with disabilities in their ministries; 3) **Pastor-Church Relations**--providing consultation or mediation services to churches and assisting congregations in their staff ministry; 4) **Race Relations**--leads and encourages the church on including multiple cultures in our life together as a church; 5) **Safe Church**--creating awareness of abuse, promoting abuse prevention and ministries of healing; 6) **Social Justice and Hunger**--working to address the root causes of world hunger and poverty, educating and encouraging CRC members to engage in social justice issues.

\$0.36 in **special assistance funds to help with requests that don't fit in the above categories of need. (Who moves that minister out of your parsonage when he retires from serving your church?)

>>\$28.30 to **Redeemer College**, \$28.30 to the **Institute for**

Christian Studies and \$8.30 to **Calvin College** that is used to provide a reduction in cost for children in our congregations that attend a "Reformed" college or post-graduate school.

****Remember, CRWRC contributions are direct and do not come from ministry shares--a great extra way to help others around the world.**

These ministries don't have to spend a fortune raising the funds because of our ministry share system. What a great way to share the money God has entrusted to us!

(for more details, visit www.crcna.org/MinistryShares)

Council Briefs – January 2012

1. Condolences and flowers were forwarded to the families of Pastor Nick Cornelisse and Pastor Jack Van de Hoef in the loss of their mothers. We wish them God's grace, comfort and sustaining love during this difficult time.
2. Negotiations for contract renewals for Stepping Stones Day Care and Palliative Care are in process.
3. Offering schedule for 2012 was reviewed and approved.
4. Memorial donations will be directed towards the Building Fund unless otherwise requested.
5. As was noted previously, children should not leave the sanctuary unattended or play in unsupervised areas. Children/teenagers are encouraged to play in the gym after the service, but untoward conduct or behaviour will not be tolerated. And ultimately parents are responsible for their children in the building.
6. Executive is reviewing the insurance coverage for our facilities.

Back to God Ministries International
Chinese Ministry Letter
Winter 2011

What can I say but THANKS?

Dear Friends,

The beautiful Christmas lights lit up around the block of my house also light up my thanksgiving to our Saviour Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He chose to be born into such a hostile world. While most of you in the States were enjoying the turkey

feast at Thanksgiving time this year, I was thousands of miles away in Hong Kong. However I was just as thankful as you were because of the wonderful experience I had at the Gospel For China Conference. It was held from 11/24 till 11/27 at the Asia World-Expo in Hong Kong. More than 5000 Christians from China came to the conference! They were mainly from house church background, but also quite a few from the Three Self churches too. Some of them pastor thousands of people, while other were new believers. Some of them came from as far west as Yunan, while others came from the northern province of Inner Mongolia.

Like the last conference we had four years ago in 2007, our products were in hot demand with long queues at our booth at each session. All in all we handed out a total of 10,000 booklets, CD and DVD. One noticeable difference this time was that people did not just take the materials we handed out because they were free, they took them because they are good. They asked questions to make sure it was something that was helpful to them and they did not hesitate to leave their contact information in order to be kept informed about that particular program/product. It was a very precious experience to be able to interact with so many Christians from so many different places in China at one time. It was even more encouraging to meet many of our long time listeners/readers. As a young house church leader from Inner Mongolia said, "I have listened to and have been nurtured by Truth Q & A radio program since I was 12 years old. It has really strengthened my faith in difficult times and equipped me to serve. Now I am continued to be nurtured by your Today site and Weibo every day." All these experiences reinforced strongly my conviction of continuing to reach out to China through radio, internet, printed materials and CD.

I believe that the Word "goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:11). What can I say but THANKS to the Word who also came to the world and gave the hope that nobody can give?

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas!

In Christ, Jimmy

Your prayers and gifts open up doors of ministry for Chinese around the world. Thank you!