

From Calvin Theological Seminary

- ❖ Biblical Study Tour to Italy - (March 28 - April 9, 2019) Visit the Vatican with its Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral; the impressive monuments of ancient Rome; Hadrian's Villa; Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius; Paestum; Assisi; Florence; Ravenna; and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu or 616-328-3110.
- ❖ Calvin Seminary's Dig Program - Dig is a summer program hosted at Calvin Seminary that helps youth uncover their future by exploring their callings while enriching and deepening their faith. By the end of the program, each student will leave with a clearer sense of their gifts and skills and an understanding of how God can use them to meet the needs of the world. This summer's program takes place July 8 - 27, 2019. To nominate a student or to apply yourself, visit dig.calvinseminary.edu.



***Anyone Requesting Placement Of An Advertisement In Christian Exchange
Must Write Their Ad(s) And Forward It/Them To The Church Administrator
Along With Their Toonie.***

**The In Common Editor will no longer be accepting advertisements
for the Christian Exchange.**

Alterations by Jane DeVos:

No job too big or too small. Willing to do wedding dress alterations and zippers as well. Call Jane for more information at 604.746.5069.

House Exchange / Woningruil

Do you have a family member(s) or friends that would like to participate in a house exchange next July for some 2 weeks? If so, please send us an e-mail so we can try and set this up. We will be travelling with 3 adults, no children.

Peter and Louise Riezebos: riezebos@telus.net

Shop for rent in Yarrow.

Ideally for storage. \$500 per month plus utilities. 950 square feet with 300 square foot mezzanine. Natural gas heater, fully insulated. 14-foot bay doors.

Also available: a one-bedroom suite attached to shop. High ceilings, lots of windows and private yard backing on to greenspace in a country setting. Laundry in suite. \$1200 month including utilities. Call Corwin Timmermans 604-309-8516 for more info.

"In Common" is published twice each month, but not necessarily every other week.

Please submit announcements relevant to the Christian Reformed Churches in Abbotsford to:

Tena Blink, phone 604.854.3932, e-mail: blinkmctj@gmail.com.

Church administrators will also forward information.

The deadline for the next issue: 12 noon, Wednesday, December 5.

IN COMMON: November 25, 2018
A publication of the Christian Reformed Churches of Abbotsford



THE CHURCH FAMILY



ANNIVERSARY

☆ December 2: John & Lynn Samplonius 50 years Trinity

EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER

An exciting volunteer opportunity to join us in this mission outreach project right here in Abbotsford. Gateway Community Church is hosting an Extreme Weather Shelter for the homeless this winter **from now to March 31st**. Assistance is needed in the following areas: crock pot meals, prepared buns, volunteering from 7:30 to midnight with two other people, or volunteering from midnight to 8:30 am with one or two other people. The shelter is open if there is snow on the ground, and/or the temperature is 0 or below, or if there is a heavy rainfall warning. For more information contact Jenny Vanderheide at 604 854 5215 or by email jvanderheide@shaw.ca

SPECIAL BOOKLET FOR LIVING HOPE'S ANNIVERSARY:

In celebrating 50 years of God's faithfulness, Living Hope CRC is putting together a special booklet to commemorate this occasion. The Living Hope 50th Anniversary Committee invites you to send in your anecdotes & pictures to be shared in the 50th anniversary booklet! Send anecdotes (maximum 500 words) to Al Wisselink: alwisselink@gmail.com
Send pictures to office@livinghopecrc.ca *If you don't have access to a scanner, please bring them to the church office.* All submissions are due no later than **December 15th**.

In Common Christmas Card

Once again you have the opportunity to "greet" each other via the annual In Common Christmas Card while supporting a worthwhile cause. This year all proceeds will go to the Telecare Crisis Line. Cost is \$3/person, \$5/couple and \$7 per family, to be paid to your church administrator. All names must be submitted by **December 18**.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Living Hope CRC will be celebrating 50 years of God's faithfulness **March 1-3, 2019**. For more information, visit www.livinghopecrc.ca/50th-anniversary/.

Community Volunteer Opportunity:

Are you a single woman, mature in your faith? Retired? Have a heart for ministry but do not want to travel? Consider LIFE Recovery. We are a women-only ministry & we are in need of women willing to spend time in our second stage home, connect with our clients & mentor them as they reestablish their lives. Our 2nd stage home is in the heart of Abbotsford, near all transportation. Training & support provided. For more information, call Jeanne@778-808-5965

Employment Opportunity:

Addictions Support Worker: Want to do local ministry? Share the hope of Jesus? Have you considered working with women recovering from drug & alcohol addiction? Temporary full time & casual positions available. Support for training available. See LIFE Recovery's website for information about LIFE Recovery & our Job Descriptions: <https://www.liferecoveryassociation.com/job>

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday, November 30 | 7 – 9pm

Saturday, December 1 | 10am – 2pm

Living Hope CRC Women's Connections will be hosting a Christmas market again this year! Interested in selling your arts, crafts or business products at our Christmas Market? Rent a table to sell your items! Registration forms can be found at Living Hope church or www.livinghopecrc.ca/events/ For more information, please contact Kristen Olthuis, Women's Connections Coordinator: phone: 604-768-7141 or email: wkolthuis@gmail.com

Christmas at the Chan--Tickets on Sale! TWU's beloved holiday tradition, Christmas at the Chan, is coming soon! Award-winning conductor Dr. Joel Tranquilla, Director of Choral Activities at TWU, brings together four choirs and full orchestra in one exquisite Christmas program. This enchanting afternoon of musical performances is sure to usher in the spirit and meaning of Christmas. Tickets are on sale now through tickets.ubc.ca. Concert takes place **Sunday, December 2 at 2:30pm** at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts'

A Christmas Hymn Sing will take place on **Sunday, December 2 at 3:30 pm** at Gateway Community CRC, in the church lobby. Join us as we gather around the grand piano and celebrate the birth of Jesus together in song.

Songs Strings and Steps presents **An Irish Christmas** at Gateway Church in Abbotsford, **December 14th and 15th**. Producer Calvin Dyck is pulling together a delightful show including Irish dancers, "The Alumni Project" (an outstanding chamber choir from Abbotsford), the award winning Abbotsford Youth Orchestra and some surprises for the audience including an "Uilleann Piper" from Ireland. Tickets are available at House of James, King's Music or at <https://sssirishchristmas.eventbrite.ca>

A NEIGHBOURHOOD CHRISTMAS

Saturday | December 15 | 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Living Hope hosts a neighbourhood Christmas! Free admission. Invite your friends and neighbours – this is a community event! Refreshments, photo booth, live animals and more! Check out www.livinghopecrc.ca/event/ for more information!

The King's University
November 2018 Announcements

Campus visit opportunities - Consider a university with nationally recognized programs, world-class research opportunities, and where discovery and career prep happen in Christian community. Dates for our 2018 visit events are on our website: www.kingsu.ca/visit. If you have questions about King's events, programs, or applying for admission, please contact Admissions at 780-465-8334 or admissions@kingsu.ca.

Donations to the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection

The Gerry Segger Heritage Collection on Dutch-Canadian and German Reformed immigration housed in The King's University library is requesting donations of any of the following items:

Diaries, letters, and journals | Immigration paperwork | Tickets and boarding passes | Government promotions | Church promotional materials | Personal stories | Church newsletters, etc.

For details, call Bonita at 780-465-3500 ext. 8054 or email heritagecollection@kingsu.ca

Personal visits - King's Admissions is happy to arrange a meeting or campus tour with an Admissions Counsellor. Schedule a personal visit Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m

2019 National Gathering

I have always enjoyed the sign on the door of a government employee which said, "Deadlines Amuse Me." Well, the deadline for submitting nominations to the National Gathering at King's University in Edmonton in May is not amusing but it certainly is flexible. If your church has not yet made a nomination, please give this matter urgent attention. We are still looking for a few more nominations of engaged leaders who are willing to participate in a weekend of sharing their vision for the future of the Christian Reformed Church. Who are these "engaged leaders"? It might be your pastor, a youth leader, a church planter, a worship director, a deacon or elder, a GEMS leader or your office administrator. Really, anyone with a passion for the church could be nominated.

For more information: www.crcna.org/gatherings/canadian-national-gathering-2019.

Send nominations to the Stated Clerk of the classis: statedclerk.bcse@gmail.com



DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS



From Back to God Ministries International

- ❖ Devotions for Hard Times - Turmoil. Stress. Sorrow. These words describe our lives today. Yet, in Christ we have hope. Let this 21-day devotional series from Today remind you where true hope and comfort come from. Get "Our Only Comfort" in your inbox when you subscribe to Today at TodayDevotional.com/ouronlycomfort.
- ❖ GOD PRINTS - Liz decides to open a detective agency. He, Lucille, and Morrie investigate a series of "coincidences" and come to a surprising discovery. Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Check out KC's Gifts of Kindness Advent Calendar and Devotional and invite your whole family to join you in giving daily gifts of kindness. www.kidscorner.net
- ❖ I BELONG: THEREFORE, HE WATCHES OVER ME - Can we be sure of God's protection, even if accidents still happen and diseases still get diagnosed? Join Groundwork as we look at Matthew 10:29-31, Romans 8:28, and Psalm 121 for the assurance that no matter our circumstances he watches over us, because we belong to him. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

From Faith Formation Ministries

Family Faith Formation Tip - Help kids become eager participants in your family's giving by inviting them to identify a ministry for your family to support together, either financially or through volunteering. For older children, suggest that they research local ministries to find one that connects with their own gifts and passions. For young children, give them a short list to choose from. (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation)

From Chaplaincy and Care Ministries

PRAY FOR CHAPLAINS - Chaplaincy is a healing, reconciling ministry of God, an expression and extension of God's activity and mission in the world. The CRC endorses 140 chaplains to embody the grace of Christ in our communities. Join us in praying for and supporting the ministries of chaplains everywhere.

From Office of Social Justice

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Bulletin Inserts - January 20 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and the CRC Office of Social Justice has created bulletin inserts for your church to honor the day. "We believe...that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world." These words from the Belhar Confession, along with Isaiah 65:23, are the focus of our worship materials. Visit crcna.org/life for worship resources and to learn more about this year's focus. Order by December 19. NOTE: If your church has already ordered our bulletin inserts through the church ordering link you received from the CRCNA, you do not need to order them again.

From Other

- ❖ POSITION OPENING - Youth Unlimited is looking for their next SERVE Director. This is a full-time position based in Grand Rapids, MI, that will work closely with our host teams in the US and Canada. We are seeking someone who is passionate about Youth Ministry and wants to help guide the future of our SERVE program! For more information, please see youthunlimited.org/us/our-team or email Rick Zomer at rick@youthunlimited.org.
- ❖ Tour the Biblical Lands of Israel - March 11-22, 2019. Experience a renewal of your faith and a deeper understanding of the Bible as you tour biblical lands with Pastor Peter Tuininga and Sindbad Tours of Israel. See Jerusalem, Galilee, Jericho, and other biblical places that will help the Bible come alive for you. For information go to toursofisrael.wordpress.com or contact Peter Tuininga at 1-289-877-8433 or peter.tuininga@gmail.com. Register by December 15, 2018.

From CRC Communications

- ❖ Are You the Right Person To Attend? - The next Canadian National Gathering is scheduled for Edmonton, Alberta, May 24 – 26. For the past 113 years, God has blessed the work of the CRC in Canada. Canadian society has different needs now. How is God calling His people to address those needs? Participants from every region of Canada will be asked to listen to what the Spirit is telling them, and have meaningful conversations about the mission God is setting for the CRC in Canada. No degree or certificate is required, just a love for the church, and a passion for God's mission in Canada. If you are interested in being considered, please tell your pastor or elder.
- ❖ SAVE THE DATE - Inspire 2019 will once again bring together people from across the denomination for a time of inspiration, connection, and encouragement. Join us August 1-3, 2019 in Windsor, Ontario! Designed for ministry volunteers and leaders from across our denomination, Inspire 2019 is a chance to discover new resources, connect with people in similar types of ministry, share your stories, and learn from others. Get the details at www.crcna.org/inspire

From Resonate Global Mission

- ❖ Join the Global Prayer Safari! - In Swahili the word "safari" means "journey." Join a team of North Americans who appreciate the power of prayer as you journey hand-in-hand with teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. You'll learn about prayer from other Christian traditions as you visit schools, hospitals, jails, government buildings, markets, and more. Dates: January 31 - February 11, 2019. For more information, visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/safari.
- ❖ Journey Through Egypt - Join Resonate Global Mission on an Egypt Vision Tour. History comes alive as you learn how scripture is connected to ancient Egyptian monuments. Dates: April 2-10, 2019. For more information visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/Egypt.
- ❖ Summer Language Institute Chaplain - Each summer, 300 youth from across Eastern Europe study English on the campus of LCC International in Lithuania for the Summer Language Institute. The chaplain is responsible for fostering spiritual growth among students. Learn more about this summer volunteer opportunity at resonateglobalmission.org/chaplain.
- ❖ Summer Language Institute Resident Director - Each summer, 300 youth from across Eastern Europe study English on the campus of LCC International University for the Summer Language Institute. The Resident Director is responsible for building community among students in LCC's residence halls through events, programs, and more. Learn more about this summer volunteer opportunity at resonateglobalmission/residentdirector.
- ❖ Teach English in Lithuania - Each summer, 300 youth from across Eastern Europe study English on the campus of LCC International University for the Summer Language Institute. As an ESL teacher, you will be the heart of the program by helping students improve their English language skills and gain a better understanding of what it might be like for them to go to college. Learn more about this volunteer opportunity at resonateglobalmission.org/sli.

From World Renew

- ❖ Prepare Your Heart - Starting December 3, World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice will distribute free email devotionals during Advent in 2018. Don't let Christmas presents overtake the Christmas Presence. Sign up to receive reflections on this year's theme, Holy Impatience, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through Christmas Day. The series will explore doing justice in a world that belongs to God, a world where so many are both celebrating glimpses of the kingdom and eagerly yearning for it. Go to crcna.org/advent to sign up today!
- ❖ World Renew - RFP - Marketing Firm - World Renew seeks to engage an experienced marketing/fundraising consulting firm. Recently, World Renew created a Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign (CFC) with the objective of changing fundraising practices, and increasing the engagement of constituents. The key objective of this consultancy is to run analytics of the present donor database and an audit of marketing practices to make recommendations to the CFC Director and Executive Directors. Full details, along with instructions on how to submit a proposal: <https://worldrenew.net/RFP>.
- ❖ World Renew Opportunity in Cambodia - Have a heart for Cambodia? Have 5 years of community development consultation experience? World Renew, an agency of the CRCNA, is seeking a Country Consultant for Cambodia to provide leadership in the development of World Renew's strategy and programs in Cambodia. Candidates with a bachelor's degree, and a minimum of 5 years of community development work and 5 years' of cross-cultural experience are invited to apply. Preference will be given to candidates with fluency in oral and written Khmer language skills or willingness to learn to speak Khmer. For information, please visit <https://worldrenew.net/careers>.