



The Newsletter

February 2025

*glorify God in all we do,
grow with Him daily &
go with Him to share His love.*



INSPIRATION HILLS
Summer Camp

2025

INSPIRATION HILLS
50 YEARS OF MINISTRY

YESTERDAY | TODAY
CHRIST IS THE SAME
Hebrews 13:8
FOREVER

REGISTER YOUR CAMPER ONLINE AT
inspirationhills.org

1242 280th St, Inwood, IA
ihills@inspirationhills.org
inspirationhills.org
712-986-5193

February at a Glance

- 9: Cooking competition Round 4: "Bean Dishes"
- Youth Choir will sing
- 10: 6:00 pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 12: 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
- 17: 9:30am: Faith Bible Study will meet
- 3:00pm: Patience Bible Study will meet
- 26: 2:00pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services

Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School for 3yrs-Adult
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evenings:

- 6:30-7:30pm 1st-5th gr. Bible Classes
- 6:30-7:30pm MS Remnant will meet
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant will meet

*Thursday Evenings:

- 7:00 pm Practicing the Way Class

CONTACT INFORMATION: 712-754-2783
sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com
www.sibleyfrc.org



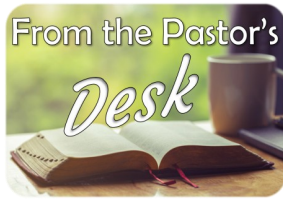
https://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/



www.facebook.com/firstreformedsibley



@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566



A Future and A Hope

I'd like to take these next few newsletter articles to communicate with you a little bit about what I would like to see happen at First Reformed in the next few years. I'm not issuing any commands or telling anyone how things are going to be. That's not how I operate. Instead, I am floating ideas for discussion. These things will not be foisted upon you. They (or something like them) must be chosen by you.

First let me give you my analysis of how things are going at First Reformed. I think we have a few years to turn things around and ensure the future of the church going forward, but if we keep proceeding with business as usual, we'll be in a terminal decline pattern before long. Most churches that are dying don't really become aware of the fact that they are dying until it's waaaaay too late to do anything about it. For that reason these next 2-3 years are critical in the life of First Reformed.

Most churches that are dying also have an unreasonable expectation that "if we just get the right minister in, that'll fix the problem." It won't. Things might have worked this way a few decades ago when most people were involved in church and therefore were seeking a place to attend worship. In that situation having a "better" minister (whatever that means) than the other churches in town might have been a draw. Today everyone who wants to be involved in a church is involved in a church. Those that aren't are fairly resistant to the idea of becoming involved in a church. Many people who do go to church are fairly committed to their chosen church under ordinary circumstances, but overall the numbers of people in American society who actually want to be involved in a church are declining. For younger people that decline is very steep. In other words, there is no floating pool of interested people waiting in the parking lot to beat down our doors every Sunday morning and check us out. There is a floating pool of consumers of religious products and services, and most of the churches that are "growing" are growing by recruiting these spiritual tourists. But they are notoriously finicky shoppers, usually don't stay around long, and our church isn't rich enough, big enough, or well-enough staffed to provide the expected levels of service to these sorts of people. They tend to frequent the big box megachurches, and generally aren't an asset to the health of the church when they are present anyway. They don't want to serve. They want to be served. Preferably by trained and paid staff so they can be more confident about the quality of the "product" they are consuming.

As a congregation ages, more and more of the members move into what church health experts call "Home and Hearth Mode." Nostalgia takes over. Losses accumulate. A kind of mild but pervasive sadness creeps in. "Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou who changest not, abide with me," says the hymn. The world changes all around you, and you want just one place in your life to stay the same. Often the church is the vehicle chosen for that nostalgia project. There are signposts when this starts to happen. For instance, people will begin to talk about how "out of control" the kids are these days. They become less tolerant of children (except their grandkids, who are perfect!) conveniently forgetting that their 7-year-old son almost burned down the barn in 1965 by trying to light his brother's face on fire with grandpa's pilfered Zip-po lighter.

The idea that the kids just get worse and worse, and the parents softer and softer in each generation is an old and venerable one. One of the ancient Latin phrases I used to give to my students as an assignment was, "*Antiquis temporibus, nati tibi in rupibus ventosissimis exponebantur ad necem!*" Which translates to "In the good old days children like you would have been left to perish on windswept crags." Complaining about the rising generation is a truly ancient pastime. Children haven't changed that much. The fact of the matter is that as we age we often become less tolerant of noise, childishness, repetition, messes,

snotty noses, red Kool Aid, and little people zipping around underfoot making us feel vulnerable to a fall. It's us who change, not the kids.

I think "Home and Hearth Mode" is probably an inevitable part of aging, and I don't see it as necessarily negative, so long as it isn't allowed to become the main theme of the life of a church. I begin to feel the pull of it myself as I contemplate the fact that since overweight men don't generally live long lives, I probably have about 20 years left in this world, give or take. Sometimes I find myself looking back, wondering what I actually accomplished and what it all meant.

Let me also hasten to say that most older folks have endured a lot of loss. Many are lonely and socially isolated. They need to be in community, and the church should be a major source of this community. But they need two kinds of community: They need community with their peers, and they need community with those who are younger than them, so that they can bless, teach, and be a resource for those younger adults and teens. When Laura and I were in our 20's, our best friends were a married couple from church in their 50's named Kathy and Stan. Stan died of Covid in 2020, but I just spoke to Kathy on the phone last night for almost two hours. We are still close 30 years later. Kathy is a 77 year old woman, but when I am struggling, I know I can say anything to her and she will still love and accept me. The idea that people only benefit from relationships with people their own age is just stupid. We should be actively reaching both up and down from the rung of the aging ladder we are currently standing on. Grab a teen-aged boy and help him work on his car. Grab a teenaged girl and teach her your super-secret snickerdoodle recipe. Ask them about themselves. Listen and don't give advice unless you are asked to. Pray for them. Pray with them if they will let you.

If too large a portion of a congregation is in Home and Hearth Mode, that's the end of the church, even if it takes another 5 years for the money to run out and the doors to close. The oldsters will find a million different subtle and creative ways to run the young families off, from snippy remarks about child-rearing practices, to parking themselves in the prime meeting spaces in the church and refusing to share, to declining to fund or volunteer for programs that are designed to meet the needs of young families. The new ones who wander in the door won't stick around because there's nothing for them and their families in the church. In its most pernicious form, I've seen the oldsters want the younger people to join the church to give and serve, but change absolutely nothing. Two of the Presbyterian churches I served as a seminary student in the 90's did exactly that. These two churches were within blocks of 5 others that were in the same boat. They were all defunct within 7 years of me graduating from seminary. Basically they just wanted fresh labor and money to keep their club going a little longer. They didn't get any takers. It's hard to feel even a twinge of sadness that they are gone.

I'm going to round off this article by just giving a brief outline of my ideas for the future. Idea #1 is spiritual care for the senior citizen set. In particular, I would like to see a daytime group for anyone over the age of 55 that meets on, say, Wednesdays from 11-1. There would be a Bible study, a meal, maybe a craft or a project, maybe a guest speaker. Once in awhile we should take a field trip together.

I would also like to start a Meal Club for people who live alone. Cooking for one stinks. Getting all the single/widowed/divorced together once a month to cook 4-5 big meals that could be divided up and sent home with the participants to put in the freezer would provide both fellowship and a welcome respite from the relentless demands of finding something nourishing to eat when you don't feel like cooking, and you can't afford to eat out all the time.

Continued -->>



#2 we need a really well promoted and well-run children's ministry. In my last church we did Awana because a lot of the materials were pre-prepared and you could just take it out of the box and implement it. Another church in town is doing Awana, so we probably need to look at a different, though similar program.

And we would do well to have a ministry to young parents at the same time. I spoke briefly to a young mother this past Sunday. During the conversation I asked if her baby was sleeping through the night yet. Alas, he was not. I recommended a book that helped Laura and I enormously called BabyWise. Our kids slept through the night by about 2 months of age thanks to what we learned from that book. Momma was interested in that! A six week study on BabyWise could help a lot of young moms and dads with their sleep. Flexible, defined commitment groups targeted at young parents will help foster community and give young parents extra resources for living their lives. We need studies on Christian parenting, on being a Christian husband, on being a Christian wife, on being a Christian man, on being a Christian woman, etc, etc.

#3 we also need to think about the demographic makeup of the people who are moving to our community, because they are the future of Sibley. Broadening our outreach to build relationships with the Hispanics who are coming to town is a very wise move, but it is a heavy lift. The language barrier is not insignificant, but it is possible to overcome it. We especially need to be reaching out to their children (see #2 above!) who will become fluent in English pretty quickly and can provide an excellent bridge to their parents.

#4 we need to focus on spiritual transformation (or discipleship or growth in sanctification.) Jesus did not call us to become masters of complex theological systems. Having that knowledge is a good thing, but it's not the most important thing. Instead, Jesus called us to become disciples... people who have learned how to actually do "whatsoever [he] commands." (Matt 28:20) That task doesn't require that much "good" theology up front. And the theology you learn along the way, you tend to learn by living interactively with God and with his scriptures, which is the best kind in my opinion.

In the coming months I will flesh some of this out more, but let me finish with this thought: I, as your pastor, cannot possibly implement and run all of these programs. If they are to happen individuals in the church must say, "I think Jesus wants me to be responsible to birth this ministry together with others and raise it up to maturity." Perhaps you have ideas nobody else has thought of. If so, I'd love to hear them. God created you and saved you and gifted you to build up his body, the church. Will you ask him if any of these things are on his agenda for your life?

fRC Men's Cooking Competition

**-- Round 4--
February 9: "Fresh Wind"
(your best bean dish)**





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through January 25:

- **General Fund: \$15,169**
Budget: \$363,794.52; 4% of budget
 - **Benevolent Fund: \$260**
Budget: \$62,125; .004% of budget
 - **Building Fund offerings to date: \$50**
- *****

Average Monthly Offering Needed:
\$35,493.29

Total Ben./Gen. Offerings through Jan 25:
\$20,844

*Total Ben/Gen offering does not include
"Special Monthly Offering" donations as they
are technically not part of the estimated budget.*

Special Offering for February



High School & Middle School Remnant

Faith In Action for February:

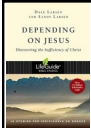
Random Acts of Kindness

Cheer up a friend Thank a Teacher Lend a hand
Read to a young child Do a kind act daily
Leave a thank you note Offer your seat
Cycle courteously BE TOLERANT Let another go first
Bake cookies for firefighters Give a compliment
Help a student make friends Assist an adult
Give a balloon away Lend a classmate a pencil
Celebrate something every day Encourage a friend
Respect others Walk a dog Do a favor
Forgive mistakes Smile at someone new

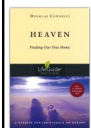


Genesis Trivia Time!!

1. My grandpa is one of the most famous people in Bible history, and my son, Nimrod, became famous as a mighty hunter. Who am I?
2. How did Isaac meet his wife Rebekah?
3. King Abimelek of the Philistines caught sight of this man hugging his wife, although he had represented her only as his sister. Who was he?
4. Which of these is not one of the four headwaters from Eden? Gihon, Habor, Euphrates, Pishon
5. Who said: "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared"?
6. Who was banished by God to be a "restless wanderer on earth and settled in the land of Nod?"
7. As the sun was setting, who fell into a deep sleep, a thick and dreadful darkness.
8. Who was Abraham's first born son?
9. What did Rachel name her youngest son, before his father renamed him Benjamin?



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, February 17 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #6, "Courage Within Injustice" in our study book *Depending on Jesus*. Scripture will be Acts 16:16-40. Leader will be Jan Henrichs and Jan Harskamp will serve as hostess. All are invited! If you would like to join, please let us know! Hope to see you there!



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, February 17 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #6 "Welcome to the Party," in our book *Heaven: Finding Our True Home*. Scripture for the lesson is Luke 14:7-24. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.

6:30 pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Message Discussion and Application Bible Study****

*FRC Fellowship Hall

****Digging into God's Word****

This group is currently studying the book of **John**.

FRC Fireside Room

All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend. Come, join a group and let's grow together!

Consistory Meeting Highlights January 13, 2025

- MMSA to split the Christmas Eve offering equally between BEECIN Family Crisis Centers, and Upper Des Moines.
- The Consistory will be meeting with Classis on January 13.
- ARC Roundtable discussions will be held on January 5 and 26th to discuss our denominational affiliation.
- Installation and Ordination will take place on January 12 during the morning worship.

Wisdom is learning to discern
God's ways in a cluttered world of
opinions, personal thoughts,
mantras, and make-believe.

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 2: E: Cole and Kayla Hoekstra/family
C: Dale and Karen Honken
W: Loren and Deb Hulstein
- 9: E: Mark Hulstein
C: Michael and Chelsea Hulstein/family
W: Rod Hulstein
- 16: E: Scott and Jamie Hulstein/family
C: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt
W: Cody and Kristen Hurlburt/family
- 23: E: Josh and Hannah Lucas/family
C: Merlyn and Julie Janssen
W: Jeannette Juffer

Worship Service Nursery

- 2: Peg and Curt Van Kley
9: Laurel and Natalie Klaassen
16: Anne Maxwell and Sandy Heronimus
23: Pam Vande Hoef and Jenny Weg

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 2: Curt and Peg Van Kley
9: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
16: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar
23: Nate and Angela Buysman

Willing Hands Group



**November:
Group #2**
will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Julie/Merlyn Janssen
- Luella Eggink
- Jan/Ed Harskamp

Children & Worship during the service



Leader

- 2: Deb Kosters 16: Deb Kosters
9: Deb Kosters 23: Deb Kosters

Library Volunteers



- 2: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn
9: Jamie Hulstein
16: Gert Gaalswyk
23: Jan Henrichs

Congregation Meeting

February 12, 2025

FRC Congregational Meeting to decide whether or not our church should leave the RCA. Absentee Ballots will be available by contacting the church office on Mondays and Thursdays.

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries
Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Pray for our College Students | 16. Pray for our Church |
| 2. Pray for our Church | 17. Joel and Kathy Verdoorn |
| 3. Ger and Barb Van Diepen | 18. Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn |
| 4. John and Lois Van Diepen | 19. Roger Verdoorn |
| 5. Janelle Van Drunen | 20. Faye Vos |
| 6. Jim and Pauline Van Engen | 21. Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar |
| 7. Joel and Angie Van Gelder | 22. Pray for our College Students |
| 8. Pray for our College Students | 23. Pray for our Church |
| 9. Pray for our Church | 24. Alyssa Wassman |
| 10. Curt and Peg Van Kley | 25. Austen Wassman |
| 11. Dean and Amy Van Marel | 26. Brent and Brenda Wassman; Austin |
| 12. Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler | 27. AJ and Jenny Weg; Addison, Alivia, Austyn |
| 13. Jim and Jena Ver Steeg; Aiden, Logan | 28. Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma |
| 14. Bryan Verdoorn | |
| 15. Pray for our College Students | |

<u>College Students:</u>	Marissa Ackerman	MacKenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer
	Halle Block	Teddy Van Gelder	Andrea Leusink
	Tayler Bremer		
	Madison Brouwer		
	Regan Crichton		
	Keegan De Zeeuw		Dalten Bremer
	Makya Dykstra		Natalie Klaassen
	Maverick Elser		
	Jared Kruger		
	Emma Langstraat		
	Matthew McDougall		Grant Brouwer
	Gannon Rockman		Ryan Van Marel



Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure: If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

- Sunday School Classes as normal

◇ **Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):**

- No Class on February 12 due to Congregational Meeting
- ### ◇ **MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:**
- No Youth Groups on February 12 due to Congregational Meeting

College Addresses

Andrea Leusink

BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer

2013 Fox Run Trail
Brookings, SD 57006

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Ted Van Gelder

617 Jackrabbit Ave
Brookings, SD 57007

Grant Brouwer

1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukee, IA 50263

Marissa Ackerman

#313 Caldwell Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Halle Block

1343 SW Prairie Trail Pkway
Apt. #302
Ankeny, IA 50023

Madison Brouwer

901 Rose Street
Apt. #244
Vermillion, SD 57069

Keegan De Zeeuw

812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Makya Dykstra

1631 4th St NE
Apt 115
Watertown, SD 57201-8797

Maverick Elser

612 S. 16th Street
Ames, IA 50010

Jared Kruger

410 Campus Drive
Apt. 4
Calmar, IA 52132

Emma Langstraat

Meadows South
#120C
Brookings, SD 57007

Matthew McDougall

Room #701
IA Lakes Comm. College
3200 College Drive
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Gannon Rockman

3099c Nest Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Ella Bruxvoort

405 5th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Aiden DeZeeuw

Stalnaker Hall
2875 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311

Michael Block Jr.

208 8th St. SW
Unit 103
Orange City, IA 51041

Grace Bevers

Beede Hall
Room 227-2
702 E. Cherry Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

If your student will have a different address for the 2024-2025 school year please let the office know.

February Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Dale Honken
Aiden De Zeeuw | 12 Loren Hulstein | 21 Amy Van Marel
Jeannette Juffer
Riley Alexander |
| 2 Mark Dykstra
Hunter Rockman
Jim Ver Steeg | 13 Michael Hulstein
Nancy Soat
Emma Boeke | 22 Karen Keiper |
| 3 Jenny Weg | 14 Elesson Joseph | 23 Daphne Bremer |
| 4 Dick Oldenkamp
Jordan Carpenter | 15 Evelyn Carpenter | 24 Ron Dykstra
Mariah Elser |
| 5 Karen Jurgens | 16 Harold Van Der Sloom
Jan Henrichs | 27 Dave McDyer
Zoey Alsip |
| 6 Sydney Ackerman | 17 Kendra De Boer | 28 LaVonne Prins |
| 7 Ashilyn Hulstein | 19 Nick Mans | 29 Connor Christensen |
| | 20 Eric Schiphoff
Joanna Lucas | |



I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 14 | Burt and Jan Henrichs - 50 years |
| 15 | Gary and Jessa Wolter - 62 years |

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

Hello First Reformed Church,

Even though a lot of you have seen her, here is my newsletter article this month. Please meet Sarah Jordan Lucas. She was born Saturday December 21 st , 2024 at 10:09am in Avera Hospital Sioux Falls, SD. She weighed a whopping 6 pounds 12 OZ and was 19 in long. She is our little pride and joy, and she solidified that her daddy is and will be the last man standing in the Lucas household. Be ready for a baptism coming soon. Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and gifts during this time of Sarah being born. Hannah and I truly are blessed to have such a loving church family. May God bless you and your family this 2025!

Blessings,

Josh



Raising
MY GIRL
GANG

Dad Jokes with Josh:

Fun fact: The sentence, "Are you as bored as I am?" Can be said backwards. And still make sense.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph . . . Always Be Prepared To Give An Answer To Everyone



Bible Study Verse

John 9:24-27

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" (ESV)

Thoughts

Are there mountain lions in Virginia? This is a pretty common question I hear from people. The official state answer is "No."

But, I know people who have seen them. The people I know who have seen them are men who are extremely seasoned outdoorsmen. I also know guys who are extremely knowledgeable of the outdoors who have collected footprints of a large cat.

So do I believe there are mountain lions in Virginia? Yes. Why because I trust the men who have seen them.

Action Point

The man being questioned in the above scripture was born blind and Jesus healed him and gave him sight. This man was a living witness to the power of Christ. So imagine the weight his testimony had with people who knew him.

I always wonder when I read this verse how many people he ended up leading to God through his witness. I have never seen a mountain lion in Virginia, but I believe in them because of the witness of good men.

How many people can you touch in your daily life? "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV).

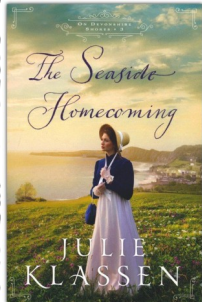
Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

If you are having difficulties in your outdoor hobbies or personal life seek out the wisdom of people who have knowledge and that you trust will guide you straight.

Genesis Trivia Time Answers:

1. Cush (10:8-9) 2. Abraham had her brought to him (24:1-67) 3. Isaac (26:7-9) 4. Habor (2:10-14) 5. Jacob (32:30) 6. Cain (4:10-14) 7. Abram (15:12) 8. Nebaioth (25:12-13) 9. Ben-Oni (35:18)

From the library--



There are two new books to add to our inventory. The first one is in LARGE PRINT and is the third book in the 'On Devonshire Shores' series: *THE SEASIDE HOMECOMING* by Julie Klassen. "Disgraced eldest sister Claire Summers has been living in exile as a companion to a stern great-aunt in Scotland. About to lose her place and longing to be reconciled with her estranged family, Claire sees an advertisement from someone looking for a "respectable female partner" in a Sidmouth boarding house. Is it a sign? She answers the ad, hoping she has not made another reckless mistake. When she meets the handsome, secretive proprietor, she wonders what he's hiding and if he's any more trustworthy than the nobleman who betrayed her years ago. Claire is drawn to him even though she fears he will reject her when he discovers her genteel facade hides a less-than-respectable past. Meanwhile, the Summers family learns their great-aunt has died and Claire has disappeared without a word. The sisters rally together to find their lost sibling, but will their unexpected reunion heal old wounds and rekindle their bonds...or deepen the divide? Return to the captivating Devonshire coast as the Summers sisters navigate romance, second chances and the enduring strength of sisterhood in the face of adversity."



Book #2 in the 'Pearl River' series *FATAL WITNESS* by Patricia Bradley is the second book this month. "As a child, artist and potter Dani Bennett witnessed the brutal murder of her parents. With little memory of the incident or her true identity, she was forced to take on a new name and a new life, hidden away in Montana for the past twenty-five years. Mae Richmond has spent the same stretch of time searching for her granddaughter, who went missing the night her daughter and son-in-law were murdered. Convinced the woman she saw in a pottery magazine feature is the woman she's been searching for, she enlists the help of K-9 officer Mark Lassister of Pearl Springs, Tennessee, who tracks Dani down. Skeptical but curious, Dani sets out on a journey to uncover the secrets of her past and reclaim her true identity. But someone close to her is determined to keep the truth of what happened all those years ago hidden."

Stop in soon to peruse all the books available. There is bound to be one that you would enjoy reading.

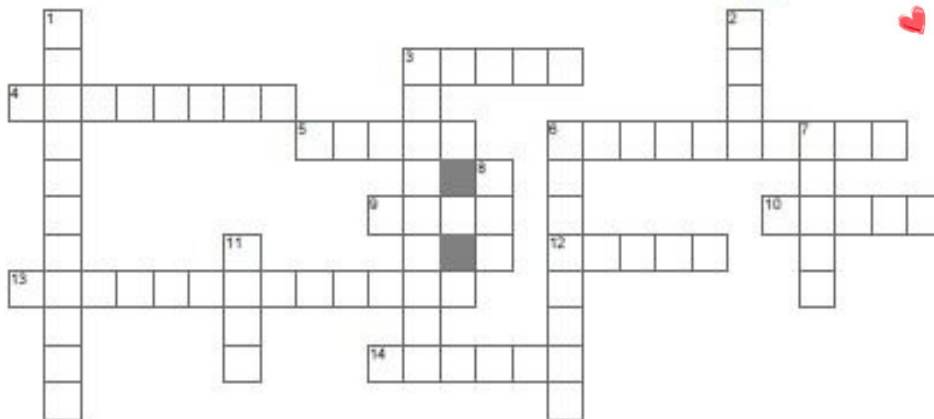
Jeannette Juffer



AQUARIUS
CANDLELIGHT
CARNATION
CHOCOLATE
COZY
CUPID
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FRIENDSHIP

GROUNDHOG DAY
HEART
HUG
KISS
LEAP YEAR
LOVE
MARDI GRAS
PINK
PISCES

PRESIDENTS DAY
RED
ROMANCE
ROSES
SKIING
SNOW
SWEETHEART
VALENTINE
WINTER

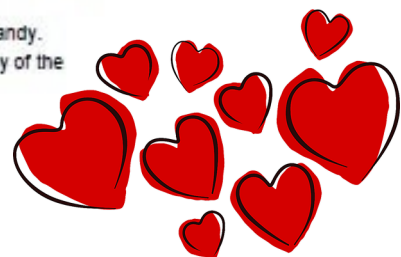


HORIZONTAL

3. Shoots arrows at people.
4. The month of Valentine's Day.
5. Cupid shoot this and people fall in love.
6. Valentine's Day is also time for...
9. Valentine's Day is the day of
10. Kids love Valentine's Day because they want to eat a lot of
12. Favorite flower for Valentine's Day.
13. The name of this holiday is
14. Expression often said on Valentine's Day "Be

VERTICAL

1. Heart shaped candy with words
2. Many people send one to a friend on Valentine's Day.
3. "Kisses" is one kind of this type of candy.
6. Valentine's Day is celebrated this day of the month.
7. Symbol of love.
8. Favorite Valentine's Day color.
11. A present.

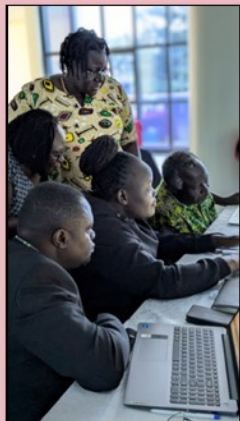




The Bible is for everyone.

It was great to be in Uganda a few weeks ago. The Bible translation movement throughout the world continues to thrive. Meeting new teams and hearing of their triumphs and challenges inspires me day in and day out. Being a part of their journey and helping shape the quality of work they do gives great satisfaction. Far beyond any personal experience, Bible translation pivots history by transforming people and cultures. The translators are on the front line of that historical change, bringing the Word to their people.

As the years go by, over and over I see new teams take up the work of shaping and translating God's Word into their language. However, world events impact the work and progress. With this trip to Uganda I listened as several teams shared how COVID challenged them to learn how to work well. During COVID, they got new computers, knew generally how to translate, but Each and every Bible translation project is unique.



Each language is different. The scripts, letters, and characters vary. The translator's biblical knowledge differs. The teams are shaped by different cultures. The age and gender makeup of every team varies. Teams are small, usually with only three or four translators.

In spite of these variables, as I said before, Bible translation is thriving. There may be as many as one thousand active projects going on around the world today. With the software we use, we can track some of the work being done and do all we can to support each project. Every day hundreds of never-written-before verses are translated. The message and stories that are so familiar to us are brought into a new space, a new culture, and a new language.

Just as new projects start each year like those in Uganda, others finish. This graphic above shows the number of Bibles, New Testaments and portions, that have been completed over the past 200 years. (from progress.bible) As you can see, in recent decades a lot of progress has been made. That comes from the efforts of many Bible translation organizations but also from your support. Currently and thankfully, there are 744 languages that have a full Bible. The Bible is for everyone. The challenge continues. Join us in praying for and supporting this mission and ministry.



Your partners in mission.
Brian and Donna Renes

THERE ARE
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LIVING LANGUAGES
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744
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