

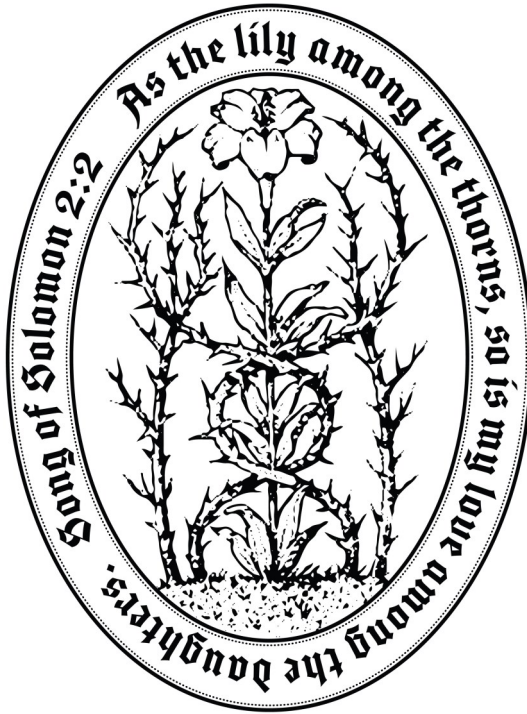
# BULLETIN

OF THE

**SPRINGFORD REFORMED CHURCH**

No. 329

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024



**“As the lily among the thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”**

**Song of Solomon 2:2**



# Church Directory

~Please send in all information by the last Monday of the month~



***“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” — Mathew 11:12***

John the Baptist, hearing in prison of the fame of Christ, sends two of his disciples to Him with this question, Are You He who should come, or do we look for another? verse 3. Not that John Baptist knew not that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah, for he was confirmed in this both by the Spirit of God and by a sign from heaven (John 1:33). But John the Baptist hereby endeavored to correct the ignorance of his own disciples who had a greater respect for him, than for Christ. In the fourth verse Christ answers their question, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." Jesus Christ demonstrates Himself to be the true Messiah by His miracles which were real and visible proofs of His divinity. John's disciples being departed, Christ falls into a high praise and commendation of John the Baptist, Verse 7. "What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?" As if Christ had said, John the Baptist was no inconsistent man, fluctuating in his mind and being shaken as a reed from one opinion to another; he was no Reuben, unstable as water—but was fixed and resolute in piety, and a prison could make no alteration in him. Verse 8. "But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment?" John did not indulge his senses; he wore not silks—but camel's hair; nor did he desire to live at court—but in a wilderness, Matt. 3:3,4. Again, Christ commends John as being His forerunner who prepared the way before him; verse 10. He was the morning star which preceded the Sun of Righteousness. And that Christ might sufficiently honor this holy man, He does not only parallel him with—but prefers him before, the chief of the prophets. Verse 9. "Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." He was eminent both for dignity of office, and perspicuity of doctrine; and so our text is ushered in: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

Let us then EXAMINE whether we put forth this holy violence for Heaven? What is an empty profession without this? It is like a lamp without oil. Let us all ask ourselves—what violence do we use for Heaven?

1. Do we strive with our hearts to get them into a holy frame? How did David awaken all the powers of his soul to serve God, Psalm 87:6. "I myself will awake early."
2. Do we set time apart to call ourselves to account, and to try our evidences for Heaven? Psalm 87:6. "My spirit made diligent search." Do we take our

hearts as a watch all in pieces, to see what is amiss and to mend it? Are we meticulously inquisitive into the state of our souls? Are we afraid of artificial grace, as of artificial happiness?

3. Do we use violence in prayer? Is there fire in our sacrifice? Does the wind of the Spirit, filling our sails, cause "groans unutterable?" Romans 8:25. Do we pray in the morning as if we were to die at night?

4. Do we thirst for the living God? Are our souls big with holy desires? (Psalm 73:25). "There is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee." Do we desire holiness as well as Heaven? Do we desire as much to look like Christ, as to live with Christ? Is our desire constant? Is this spiritual pulse always beating?

5. Are we skilled in self-denial? Can we deny our ease, our aims, our interest? Can we cross our own will to fulfill God's? Can we behead our beloved sin? To pluck out the right eye requires violence.

6. Are we lovers of God? It is not how much we do—but how much we love. Does love command the castle of our hearts? Does Christ's beauty and sweetness constrain us? (2 Cor. 5:14). Do we love God more than we fear hell?

7. Do we keep our spiritual watch? Do we set spies in every place, watching our thoughts, our eyes, our tongues? When we have prayed against sin, do we watch against temptation? The Jews, having sealed the stone of Christ's sepulcher, 'set a watch,' (Matt. 27:66). After we have been at the Word, do we set a watch?

8. Do we press after further degrees of sanctity? (Phil 3:13). "Reaching forth unto those things which are before." A godly Christian is a wonder; he is the most contented yet the least satisfied: he is contented with a little of the world—but not satisfied with a little grace; he would have still more faith and be anointed with fresh oil. Paul desired to "attain unto the resurrection of the dead," (Phil. 3:11), that is, he endeavored (if possible) to arrive at such a measure of grace as the saints shall have at the resurrection.

9. Is there a holy emulation in us? Do we labor to out-shine others in piety? To be more eminent for love and good works? Do we something which is singular? Matt. 5:47. "What do you do, more than others?"

10. Are we got above the world? Though we walk on earth, do we trade in Heaven? Can we say as David? Psalm 139:18. "I am still with thee." This requires violence; for motions upward are usually violent.

11. Do we set ourselves always under God's eye? (Psalm 16:8). "I have set the Lord always before me." Do we live soberly and godly, remembering that whatever we are doing our Judge looks on?

If it be thus with us, we are happy people. This is the holy violence the text speaks of, and is the right way of taking the kingdom of God. And surely never did Noah so willingly put forth his hand to receive the dove into the ark, as Jesus Christ will put forth His hand to receive us into Heaven.

*Taken from Thomas Watson, Heaven Taken by Storm*

Dear Congregation,

When I write this piece for this bulletin, the year 2023 is nearly over. God has given us many blessings again this year. Children are born and baptized, confession of faith has been made, marriages have been solemnized, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been administered. And this list of blessings can easily be extended with other blessings we received as congregation, but also in our personal lives. The greatest blessing that remains is that God has given His Word and the preaching of it. The faithful preaching of God's Word is still the main means in bringing sinners to the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and Him crucified. It is the spiritual food for a Christian. It is a danger to be unaware of this blessing. In other parts of our country and of this world the candlestick of the Word of God and the preaching of it seems to be taken away. Many adults and children don't hear the Gospel anymore. Living a life without a lasting hope and perspective. How blessed we are! But the question remains whether we are aware of it. Do we really value the preaching of God's Word?

I am writing this piece after we had the Lord's Supper yesterday. During this communion season I read in *The Pious Communicant Encouraged, and Directed in What Manner he May Approach, the Holy Supper of the Lord*, written by Rev. Peter Immens, where he is dealing with the well-being of the believers, being God's children. He encourages them to keep the Word of God and the faith in it, according to Revelations 3:11 "*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown*". Immens writes "The Lord has given a connection between His keeping and that of ours. God keeps the life of grace immediately by His almighty power. But we have to keep it by a faithful use of the means". This in accordance with 1 John 5:18 "*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not*". Immens continues his instruction of the Christian by writing that it is not enough to keep the faith, but also to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). We cannot be satisfied with being a child in faith, but we are called to come to be a Father in Christ (1 John 2:12,13; see also Ephesians 4: 14-15). And how to come to this growth in the knowledge of Christ Jesus? Immens' answer is to study the Scriptures, which he calls to be the "testament of your Father" in secret. To be under the preaching of God's Word. "I cannot tell you what harm you do to yourself by withdrawing yourself from it without necessity", Immens writes. The second way to come to growth is the use of the sacraments. To have a clear understanding of the sacrament of Baptism. And also, to attend the Lord's Supper faithfully.

It is a clear and biblical instruction. Because when we know the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and don't attend the Lord's table according to Christ's own command

“Do this in remembrance of Me”, we will remain in darkness and in a situation of uncertainty of faith. But more serious is that we dishonor Christ and His Father with it and are grieving the Holy Spirit. Yes, I know the battle which is often there in the life of faithful believers. There are thousands of reasons in ourselves to stay away. I know it very well. But I also know the answer: “But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup” (1 Corinthians 11:28). To examine ourselves will bring us to condemn ourselves, but also in the life of the believer, to bring us on our knees before Christ. And in that way, we need not stay away as such a sinner, but to ‘eat of that bread, and drink of that cup’. When we don’t know Christ by a true faith then the answer is “repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15b). But the instruction of Peter Immens is also clear in dealing with the means of the preaching of the Word. If we want to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, we need to be there when God’s congregation gathers and God’s Word will be preached in our midst. During the services on the Lord’s Day, but also during the week. Withdrawing ourselves from it without necessity will harm our souls and of our children but also will dishonor our Lord and Savior who has sent His servant to proclaim God’s Word. What does it reveal when during our week services a significant part of the congregation doesn’t show up? Often, we speak about and pray for a revival in our midst. Once I met an old lady who was converted during a revival in Scotland. She told how the people of her village came almost every night together in church services and prayer meetings in church and in private houses to hear the Word of God. That’s what we need as congregation. A true hunger for the Word of God worked by the Holy Spirit. In history we also see another development. Parents starting to avoid the faithful attending of the church services, and children following their footsteps by going to church only once a Sunday which ended up by grandchildren leaving the church. This has been often the road by which the candlestick of God’s Word was taken away. Let us be careful and obey the word of Paul to Timothy: *“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us”* (2 Tim. 1:13-14).

We would like to congratulate Arie and Geertje Schep who had their 50th anniversary on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They had a day of remembering with their children, grandchildren, and family. It is really a gift of God to be together for such a long time. Many couples don’t reach it. Such an anniversary is a time for looking at the past. The Lord has blessed your marriage with children and grandchildren. He has blessed your business. And up till today you are together in good health. So many reasons to be thankful for. But most of all that our faithful Lord has given you His Word daily in which He has revealed the way of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit teaches us in Romans 2:4 *‘Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?’* A day of remembrance like this is also a moment to look forward to. The main part of your life is already behind you. And what will tomorrow bring us? We don’t know. The prophet Amos spoke to Israel and also to us: “prepare to meet thy God, O Israel”. When God comes to call us,

we need to be prepared, that means, then we need to be in Christ by a true faith. Then we will live another marriage life. When we may be the bride of the heavenly Bride groom. Then we are on the way to the day of our eternal marriage with our Lord and Savior. May God bless you together as a couple and may you both be a blessing for your family and also for Christ's church. We are thankful for the efforts of Arie as a member of the Stewardship board.

We remember also our sick people. We think about Mrs. DeHaan, who had to go to the hospital again. And Mrs. Erna de Bie who is also in the hospital. She is struggling with mental issues. Tests need to answer the question if also physical matters can cause these problems. May the Lord remember them and their families. Also Mrs. Vermeer went to the hospital to have a surgery because of skin cancer. We are thankful that she was able to return home and be present in church again. The results of the tests were also positive. We mention again Jason Van Londersele. May the Lord also remember him in his specific circumstances.

And let us also not forget Bernard Van Woerden in Hamilton. He's still dealing with his schizophrenia. With medication and rest, it seems to be in control. We commend all those people in the intercession of the congregation.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> Herman and Willemijn Visscher were blessed with the birth of a baby girl Naomi Wouterina. It's so true what they wrote on their birth card "The Lord, Who spared life and gave life". The life of Willemijn was spared again. And the little Naomi is a gift of life. We would like to congratulate these parents with their other children Tamara, Benjamin, Matthias and Anna. God gives life. And that's also necessary in the life of this little baby. It is a grieving reality to be born in a spiritual state of death because of our sins and trespasses. Naomi needs to be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. But He is called the God 'Who gives life'. Life in his Son Jesus Christ, Who called Himself to be "The way, the truth and the life". May God bless Herman and Willemijn in raising their children as means in His hands to lead them to this Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> Ezra David Butyn was baptized. The baptismal sermon was from 1 Peter 3:20-21 "...saved by water". The ark of Noah during the flood as a sign of the meaning of Baptism. When we are in the Ark Jesus Christ by faith, then we are safe for the wrath of God. May our covenant keeping God fulfill His covenant promises signed and sealed in this sacrament in the life of Ezra and his brothers Liam, Jesse and Silas. And may David and Bethany receive the wisdom and the grace to raise their children in the fear and the admonition of the Lord.

Candidate H. Ottema, who preached for us last summer, finished his studies and received several calls from congregations in Holland. He accepted the call from the congregation of Achterberg. A big change for him as well as for his wife. It is our prayer that the Lord who confirmed his calling to the ministry by this calling, may bless our brother with his wife and that they might be a blessing amid the congregation of Achterberg and in our church as a whole.

We are looking forward to meet our children Jos and Stéfanie during Christmas time and be together as a family again. This coming year our son Jos with his

girlfriend Grisette hope to get married in the Netherlands in August. Lots of preparations need to be made, of course. They found a place to live on the same street as our previous parsonage. This coming March, as a family, we have again planned to visit our family in the Netherlands for a couple of weeks. We really have concerns about the health of our parents. My wife's mother is still struggling with cancer. In the past year she received chemo treatment and later radiation treatments. But recently, the doctors discovered new spots on her skin which are under investigation. Last week, my father received the diagnoses of dementia. His health is visibly going downhill. Although we have to go in August again, you can imagine that we also like to see our family in March. We are glad that during our stay in the Netherlands, Rev. G.T. van Appeldoorn, with his family, will come over to Springford and preach for us. He hopes to come with his wife and five children.

On behalf of my wife and children, I wish you all God's blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

With love,

Pastor W.M. Mulder



## Announcements:

### **Birthdays**

The Lord willing, Mrs. H. de Haan will turn 81 on January 13, Mrs. I. Roos will turn 68 on January 21, Mr. D. Reyneveld will turn 69 on January 30 and Mrs. J. Kranendonk will turn 82 on March 4, 2023. That they may be blessed and be a blessing in the aging of their years.

### **Weak and Sick**

We would like to remember those that are shut-ins and those who may not be able to attend the regular worship services or who have ailments. We remember Mr. A. Binnendijk, Mrs. M. Everts, Mr. I. Gelderblom, Mr. G. Janssen, Mrs. S. Koenig, Mr. J. van Londersele and Mr. B. Van Woerden in their circumstances. That the Lord will be near each of them in their individual circumstances.

### **Ladies Aid**

By the grace of God, we are entering a new year. We would like to wish you all a blessed and prosperous 2024.



Every other Monday, we come together in the meeting room of our church at 7:30pm. We heartily welcome all ladies to attend. We are currently meditating on Expository Thoughts on JOHN, Volume 2, from J.C. Ryle. Extra copies should be available in the Book Nook. The next few meetings will be listed below.

Jan 15 – John 10:19-30

Jan 29 – John: 31-42

Feb 12 – John 11: 1-6

Feb 26 – John 11: 7-16

Last month, the Ladies Aid enjoyed a wonderful presentation from Goats for Girls about their work in Africa. It was very informative and thought provoking.

We would like to thank everyone for their many contributions to the Ladies Aid Bake Sale. The proceeds are to be donated to the Trinitarian Bible Society.

Please continue to collect your receipts from the Norwich Deli and Foodland, Norwich. You can hand over your receipts to Henry Verveer or leave them in his mailbox. \$90 was collected from the Norwich Deli. Because of your efforts, we can continue to donate to the Stephanos Children's Home in Malawi.

Also, a friendly reminder that there are homemade cards available for purchase in the card rack at the front entrance of the church. The total proceeds are donated towards various missions. Thank you so much to all those who purchase these cards. We try to keep the rack full, but as always, if you can't find a specific card, don't hesitate to let us know.

## **Membership**

Mrs. Dorothy Kleen has transferred her membership to the Burgessville HRC; her daughter Emily goes with her as a baptized member.

## **Youth Group**

The youth group has had a few changes in the past months. A vote was taken for the new parliament leaders. Caleb Mol was voted president, Kaleb VandeKrol was voted treasurer, and Helena Van Woerden was voted secretary. The next meetings will be held January 17th, February 7th, and March 7th. We hope to see you all and feel welcome to bring your friends!

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support and prayers during Erna's stay at the hospital. Words cannot express how grateful we are. We hope and pray that the medication may be blessed. We also wish everyone a blessed New Year.

*From, Nico de Bie and family*



# Financial Statement:

## November

5	Church	\$2370
	Education Fund	\$1285
9	Church	\$950
12	Church	\$1295
	Building Fund	\$1045
19	Church	\$2570
	Benevolent Fund	\$1615
23	Church	\$640
26	Church	\$1917
	Open Doors Mission	\$3117

## December

3	Church	\$1630
	Education Fund	\$1360
7	Church	\$535
10	Church	\$1755
	Building Fund	\$1175
	Lord's Supper (CLDA)	\$186
17	Church	\$5780
	Benevolent Fund	\$1482

**Subtotal** **\$30707**

<b>Church</b>	<b>\$19442</b>
<b>Education Fund</b>	<b>\$2645</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$2220</b>
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	<b>\$3097</b>
<b>Open Doors Seniors Meeting</b>	<b>\$276</b>
<b>Open Doors Mission</b>	<b>\$3117</b>
<b>E-transfers Nov./Dec.</b>	<b>\$2600</b>

**Total** **\$33397**



**Collections to be Held**

	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>January</b>		
7	Church	Education Fund
4	Church	Building Fund
21	Church	Benevolent Fund
28	Church	Timotheos
<b>February</b>		
4	Church	Education Fund
11	Church	Building Fund
18	Church	Benevolent Fund
25	Church	TBS
<b>March</b>		
3	Church	Education Fund

**All mid-week service collections are for Church**



## Dates to Remember:

### January

7	after p.m. service	Youth Singalong in Parsonage
10	10:30 a.m.	Seniors Meeting ( <i>Pastor Mulder</i> )
15	7:30 p.m.	Ladies Aid
17	8:00 p.m.	Youth Group
20	7:00p.m.	Prayer Meeting in Basement
22	7:30 p.m.	Consistory Meeting—visitors welcome after 8:30p.m.
29	7:30 p.m.	Ladies Aid

### February

7	10:30 a.m.	Seniors Meeting ( <i>Pastor Mulder</i> )
7	8:00 p.m.	Youth Group
12	7:30 p.m.	Ladies Aid
17	6:00 p.m.	Youth Topic Evening
19	7:30 p.m.	Consistory Meeting—visitors welcome after 8:30p.m.
26	7:30 p.m.	Ladies Aid

### March

3	after p.m. service	Youth Sing-a-long in Parsonage
7	8:00 p.m.	Youth Group



# Worship Services

## January

7	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	(Baptism Service) (Re-Installation of office bearers)	Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
11	7:30 p.m.	(English Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
14	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
18	7:30 p.m.	(Topic Evening)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
21	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
25	7:30 p.m.	(Dutch Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
28	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder

## February

4	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
8	7:30 p.m.	(English Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
11	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
18	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
22	7:30 p.m.	(Dutch Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
25	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
29	7:30 p.m.	(Topic Evening)	Pastor W.M. Mulder

## March

3	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	(Preparation Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
6	9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	(Prayer Day Service — censura morem after pm service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder
10	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	(Lord's Supper) (Reflection Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder



Hello Kids!

This month's puzzle continues a series of puzzles where we work through the Bible, starting in the Old Testament. Read Genesis 3 to help you complete this puzzle.

If you complete 6 puzzles in a row you will be able to pick out a book at the Book Nook of \$10 or less! \* **Please remember to write your first & last name clearly on the puzzle before you hand it in.** There have been several puzzles submitted without a name, so unfortunately they can't be counted.\* Please leave completed puzzles in the blue puzzle box in the Book Nook.

This month **Nolia Dzinja, Eliane Koekoek, and Tamara Visscher** have completed 6 puzzles. Congratulations! You may pick out a book from the Book Nook.

Annette de Bie – 9	Rhoda Hoeve – 11	Kaleb VandeKrol – 22
Esmée de Bie - 1	Justin Klyn – 56	Jesse VandeKrol – 4
Nick de Bie - 1	Phylicia Klyn – 19	Logan VandeKrol – 4
Steffan de Bie – 7	Rebekah Klyn – 10	Shane VandeKrol – 2
Winston de Bie – 8	Stephen Klyn – 10	Jonas Van Dorland – 1
Dirk-Jan de Boer – 14	Eduan Koekoek - 4	Arien van Ginkel – 2
Benjamin Dzinja – 11	<b>Eliane Koekoek - 6</b>	Sophia van Ginkel – 4
Christopher Dzinja – 8	Mare-Leah Koekoek - 7	<b>Tamara Visscher – 12</b>
Joshua Dzinja – 33	Alayna Kroesbergen – 32	Isaac Zekveld –21
<b>Nolia Dzinja – 24</b>	Maeghan Kroesbergen – 20	James Zekveld – 35
Annika Dzinja – 2	Abigail Schep – 37	Nettie Zekveld – 10
Ezra Dzinja - 1	Angelina Schep – 17	
Jordan Hoeve –14	Jezra Schep – 6	



## Man's Fall in Paradise

Cross out the words to find the hidden Bible text

Adam

Animals

Devil

Die

Eat

Eve

Evil

Fig leaves

Fruit

Garden of Eden

God

Good

Head

Heel

Man

Naked

Paradise

Punishment

Serpent

Tree

Woman

"

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-----"

Genesis 3:23

G	F	I	G	L	E	A	V	E	S	T	E
H	A	D	A	M	W	V	E	R	E	V	A
F	O	R	R	E	O	H	I	T	E	H	T
P	E	L	D	O	M	R	E	L	D	N	G
O	A	D	S	E	A	E	N	A	E	T	H
S	E	R	P	E	N	T	I	M	D	M	G
F	O	R	A	I	T	O	H	H	A	F	O
F	G	O	O	D	R	S	F	O	M	N	D
R	T	D	E	V	I	L	H	E	E	G	E
U	A	E	R	N	E	S	D	E	D	N	K
I	R	O	U	E	F	E	E	D	E	E	A
T	N	P	H	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	N



# Babysit Schedule

## January

7	Anne Reyneveld Heidi Overbeek Annika Dzinja	Jacoba Kroesbergen Nolia Dzinja Phylicia Klyn
14	Marlies van Dorland Amanda VanWoerden Maeghan Kroesbergen	Martha Hoeve Rolies Penning Tamara Visscher
21	Willie de Boer Shira Mol Annette de Bie	Marlinde Moerkerken Sophia Van Ginkel Nettie Zekveld
28	Linda Koekoek Harlene Hoeve Angelina Schep	Bethany Ryksen Roseanne Zekveld Eliane Koekoek

## February

4	Ingrid Zekveld Lydia Hoeve Mare-Leah Koekoek	Adriana de Wit Alayna Kroesbergen Iris Verhey
11	Martina vandeBruinhorst Elrene Koekoek Phylicia Klyn	Erika Overbeek Joanne Kroesbergen Annika Dzinja
18	Klazina Klyn Charina Klyn Tamara Visscher	Marlies van Dorland Emma Mulder Maeghan Kroesbergen
25	Bethany Butyn Petra-Lynn Kroebergen Angelina Schep	Anne Reyneveld Esmee de Bie Nettie Zekveld

## March

3	Jacoba Kroesbergen Heidi Overbeek Eliane Koekoek	Bethany Ryksen Amanda Van Woerden Annette de Bie
6	Marlinde Moerkerken Shira Mol Iris Verhey	Willie de Boer Nolia Dzinja

**\*Please find a replacement if you are unable to take your turn!\***



The following is a true story, written by Rosalind Goforth. She was the wife of Jonathan Goforth, who was born in Oxford County, Ontario. They went to China in 1888 as missionaries. Manchuria, where this story takes place, is part of China and is located in the Northeast part of the country.

### **Blind Chang**

### **Missionary Martyr of Manchuria**

#### Chapter One

#### **The miracle wrought**

*“Behold, I am the LORD.....is there anything too hard for Me?”*

*“Ah, LORD God! behold.....there is nothing too wonderful for Thee.”*  
*Jeremiah 32:27,17.*

The country around Szepingkai has a peculiar formation, somewhat resembling great ocean swells after a storm. Nestling in one of these undulations, protected from the fierce winds which sweep Manchuria from the desert reaches of Mongolia, lies the village of Taipingkow (Valley of Peace). Here Chang Shen was born, and most probably would have lived and died in that region, quite unknown to the outside world, had it not been for certain rumours which, in the winter of 1886, came floating in concerning a wonderful place in the city of Mukden some one hundred twenty miles to the South. It was said that the foreign doctor there could cure all kinds of diseases, even blind men were known to have gone into the hospital and returned seeing.

Blind Chang, as he was called, was then thirty six years of age. He listened with intense interest to these tales and hope gradually dawned within him, that he too might receive his sight. At last his resolve was made; he would somehow make his way to Mukden.

Thus we find him one morning in May setting forth on his long tramp, without even a guide, only a stout stick with which to feel his way. The Chang clan was large and fairly well to do. They saw to it that he was provided with a little money and warm clothes, for the nights at that time of the year were very cold.

All went very well for the first part of the journey; but when still more than a day's journey from Mukden he was suddenly attacked by robbers who took from him his little money, stripped him of his warm clothing and left him bruised and well-nigh helpless, by the roadside. One can imagine the plight of the blind man as, trembling with cold and rage, he pressed on. That night his only resting place was the cold brick floor of an open wayside temple. Here he contracted the dread disease of the East-- dysentery. How he made the rest of his way to the hospital in Mukden he himself could hardly tell.

On reaching the hospital gateway, too exhausted to stand longer, he threw himself down beside the gate while word was sent in asking for his admittance. Soon a message came that the hospital was full, not a bed vacant, there was therefore no

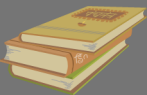
room for him. When this was told him, the blind man seemed not to hear and continue to lie there. Can we doubt but that it was indeed the Holy Spirit Himself who spoke to the hospital evangelist and caused him, at this juncture, to go out to the gate. As the evangelist looked down upon the cold, hungry, suffering, perhaps dying blind man, his heart strangely stirred within him. He had looked upon perhaps hundreds of cases as sad, some sadder, than this, but never had felt moved, nay impelled, to do what he did now. Stepping quickly into the hospital, he went direct to Dr. Christie and begged that the man at the gate be given his own bed!

How little did either doctor or evangelist know then what was in the balance! But the Lord knew this blind man was then His chosen vessel to carry the cup of salvation to thousands in Manchuria, and in his own wonderful way opened what seemed an impassable door. Thus Blind Chang entered the Mission hospital where a new life for him was to begin.

For one month he remained in the hospital where relief and healing came to his suffering body, but only very partial sight to the blind eyes; at best he could but grope his way about with difficulty. Sad to say, this dim but still precious sight given him in the hospital was, not long after totally and permanently destroyed by a "Needle Pricker" doctor, such as are found everywhere in the land.

The bitter disappointment Blind Chang must have felt at the failure to get back his sight was more than made up to him by the great joy with which he received the story of Redemption as it was unfolded to him in the hospital. He had, as you will see later, been a great sinner. The fact of forgiveness, as experienced by Blind Chang, came to a man, brutal, vulgarized, debauched and debased. But suddenly he came into touch and acceptance of Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and his whole life was changed forever.

Dr. Christie later wrote: "Never had we a patient in our hospital who received the Gospel with such joy as Blind Chang. The rapidity with which he grasped the leading truths of Christianity was remarkable." — *(to be continued)*



## Children's Story

### "Christie's Old Organ" by O.F. Walton.

#### CHAPTER XI.

#### ALONE IN THE WORLD.

What could be the matter? Where were the children gone? surely no one else was lying dead in the house. Christie felt that he could not go home without finding out; he must ask the old woman. So he stood at the garden-gate, and turned the handle of the organ, hoping that she would look out and speak to him. But, beyond a passing glance, she gave no sign that she even heard it, but went on diligently with her work. At length Christie could wait no longer; so stopping suddenly in the middle of "Poor Mary Ann," he walked up the gravel path and

rang the bell. Then the old woman put her head out of the window and asked what he wanted. Christie did not quite know what to say, so he came out at once with the great fear which was haunting him. "Please, ma'am, is any one dead?" he asked. "Dead? No!" said the old woman, quickly. "What do you want to know for?" "Please, could I speak to little Miss Mabel?" asked Christie, timidly. "No, bless you," said the old woman, "not unless you'd like a walk across the sea; she's in France by now." "In France!" repeated Christie, with a bewildered air. "Yes," said the old woman, "they've all gone abroad for the summer;" and then she shut the window in a decided manner, as much as to say, "And that's all I shall tell you about it." Christie stood for a few minutes in the pretty garden before he moved away. He was very disappointed; he had so hoped to have seen his little friends, and now they were gone. They were far away in France. That was a long way off, Christie felt sure, and perhaps he would never see them again.

He walked slowly down the dusty road. He felt very lonely this afternoon, very lonely and forsaken. His mother was gone; old Treffy was gone! the lady was gone! and now the children were gone also! He had no one to cheer him or to comfort him; so he dragged the old organ wearily down the hot streets. He had not heart enough to play, he was very tired and worn out; yet he knew not where to go to rest. He had not even the old attic to call his home. But the pavement was so hot to his feet, and the sun was so scorching, that Christie determined to return to the dismal court, and to try to find a quiet corner in the great lodging-room. But when he opened the door he was greeted by a cloud of dust; and the landlady called out to him to take himself off, she could not do with him loitering about at that time of day. So Christie turned out again, very heart-sore and disconsolate; and, going into a quiet street, he sheltered for some time from the hot sun under a high wall which made a little shadow across the pavement.

Christie was almost too hot and tired even to be unhappy, and yet every now and then he shivered, and crept into the sunshine to be warmed again. He had a strange, sharp pain in his head, which made him feel very bewildered and uncomfortable. He did not know what was the matter with him, and sometimes he got up and tried to play for a little time, but he was so sick and dizzy that he was obliged to give it up, and to lie quite still under the wall, with the organ beside him, till the sun began to set. Then he dragged himself and his organ back to the large lodging-room. The landlady had finished her cleaning, and was preparing the supper for her lodgers. She threw Christie a crust of bread as he came in, but he was not able to eat it. He crawled to a bench in the far corner of the room, and putting his old organ against the wall beside him, he fell asleep. When he awoke, the room was full of men; they were eating their supper, and talking and laughing noisily. They took little notice of Christie, as he lay very still in the corner of the room. He could not sleep again, for the noise in the place was so great, and now and again he shuddered at the wicked words and coarse jests which fell on his ear almost every minute. Christie's head was aching terribly, and he felt very, very ill; he had never been so ill in his life before. What would he not have given for a quiet little corner, in which he might have lain, out of the reach of the oaths and wickedness of the men in the great lodging-room! And then his thoughts wandered to old Treffy in "Home, sweet Home." What a different place his dear old master was in!

"There's no place like home, no place like home," said Christie to himself. "Oh, what a long way I am from 'Home, sweet Home!'"



## From the Pen of our Fathers

***As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel, Isaiah 47:4***

There is no name of MESSIAH more significant, comprehensive or endearing, than the name REDEEMER. The name of *Saviour* expresses what He does for sinners. He saves them with an everlasting salvation. But the word 'Redeemer' intimates likewise the manner in which He saves them. For it is not merely by the word of His power, as He saved His disciples when in jeopardy upon the lake, by saying to the winds and the seas, 'Peace, be still: and there was a great calm;' but by price, by paying a ransom for them, and pouring out the blood of His heart, as an atonement for their sins.

The Hebrew word for Redeemer, *Goel*, primarily signifies a near kinsman, or the next of kin. He with whom the right of redemption lay, and who, by virtue of his nearness of relation, was the legal avenger of blood. Thus MESSIAH took upon Him our nature, and, by assuming our flesh and blood, became nearly related to us, that He might redeem forfeited inheritance, restore us to liberty, and avenge our cause against Satan, the enemy and murderer of our souls.

But thus He made Himself also responsible for us, to pay our debts, and to answer the demands of justice and law of God on our behalf. He fulfilled His engagement. He suffered, and He died on this account. But our Redeemer, 'Who was once dead is now alive, and liveth forevermore, and has the keys of death and of Hades.' He is the living One, having life in Himself, 'the same yesterday, today, and forever.' Such was his own language to the Jews, 'Before Abraham was, I am.' Therefore the Redeemer is mighty, and His redemption is sure. He is able to save to the uttermost. His power is unlimited, and His official authority, as Mediator, is founded in a covenant, ratified by His own blood, and by the oath of the unchangeable God. (Psalm 110:4)

*Taken from Jewels from John Newton, June 11*