

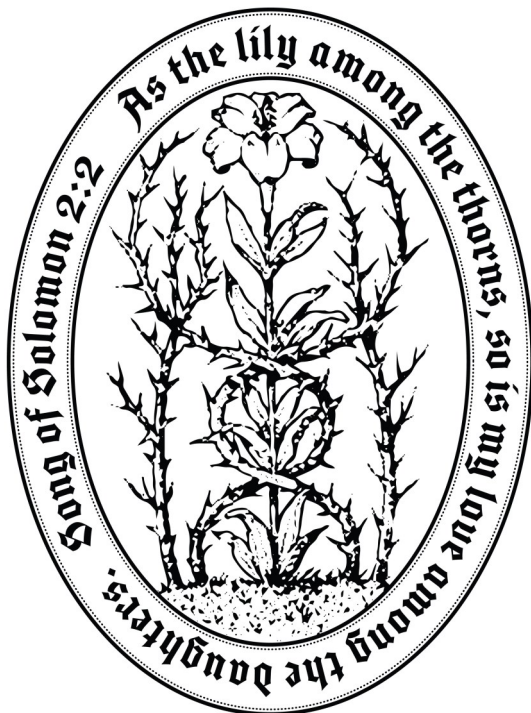
# BULLETIN

OF THE

**SPRINGFORD REFORMED CHURCH**

No. 330

MARCH / APRIL 2024



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

**Song of Solomon 2:2**



# Church Directory



*“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” – Romans 3:20*

## **The Knowledge of Misery from the Law**

Behold, beloved, the blessed and precious use of the law in man’s conversion! In this manner all the elect and all believers become acquainted with their sins and miseries by way of the law of God. This is true not only in their initial conversion or being united to Christ, but it also occurs daily during the entire course of their lives—and increasingly so.

As far as we ourselves are concerned, if only we would be so blessed as to have learned to know our misery rightly and spiritually out of the law of God. But sadly how many still are among us who have never made use of God’s law for this purpose and still are living in great ignorance of their sins and miseries!

Examine yourselves therefore as to whether God has ever, by way of His law, truly opened your eyes.

1. Have you ever truly and quietly taken inventory of this law? Have you ever truly perceived its holy and perfect demands? Have you ever truly acknowledged that you are fully obligated to keep and observe this law perfectly, and that you are worthy of eternal death should you transgress it in the least?
2. Have you ever truly seen how shamefully and dreadfully you have violated and transgressed this law of God? How ungodly and utterly corrupt your nature and disposition are? How fully you hate God and your neighbor, so that you can do nothing other than sin against the Lord?
3. Have you ever been confronted by God regarding your guilt and your hell-worthiness? Have you ever seen that you have dreadfully provoked the most high God by your sins, and that you are subject to the curse of the law— that you have eternally forfeited life and heaven, and are worthy of hell?
4. Have you ever been perplexed and grieved in your heart regarding your misery? Have your sins ever become a burden to you too heavy to bear? Have you ever exclaimed in bitter sorrow, “Woe is me that I have sinned so grievously and have subjected myself to such woeful perdition”? Have you ever become truly displeased with yourself, so that you could not find any good in yourself, but, rather, had to sign your own death sentence—even in regard to your very best duties and works?
5. Have you ever truly despaired of yourself, so that you completely had to cease and desist from your side; that you had to declare yourself to be without hope and incapable of contributing anything to your salvation; and that in yourself you are eternally lost?

6. Have you ever beheld the Lord Jesus in the precious promises of the gospel? Have you ever seen Him in His fullness, all-sufficiency, indispensability, and willingness to deliver and save you? Did He ever offer Himself to your soul, calling you to turn unto Him?

7. Have you ever, with your whole heart, surrendered yourself to the Lord Jesus and taken hold of Him as the only horn and rock of your salvation, in order that through Him, out of pure grace, you might be justified, sanctified, and redeemed eternally? Have you ever, with Paul, suffered the loss of all things, and counted them but dung, that you might be found in the Lord Jesus (Phil. 3:8)?

Oh, that the God of all mercy would truly convict the hearts of men and arrest them, so that they would see their true condition! He who has never experienced all these things in truth will also not know his misery out of the law of God. Such a person will still be a blind sinner who lives his life entirely apart from the Lord Jesus. And if he were to die, he would be eternally lost, regardless of the good thoughts he may have regarding himself and his spiritual state. We must arrive at this point if we are ever to be saved. May the Lord impress this on the hearts of some, causing them immediately to come to themselves so that they will acknowledge their misery and earnestly seek after a means to be saved! And you, upon whom God has bestowed the grace of having been discovered to who you are, and who have been united to Jesus by a true faith—oh, that:

First, you would truly recognize the magnitude of your happiness, and being amazed regarding this, you would sink away in humility and worship, crying out, “Who am I that the Lord has been pleased to open my blind eyes, causing me to see who I am?”

Second, you would frequently magnify and exalt the sovereign grace of God that has been bestowed upon you! It was indeed the Lord who first sought after you when you lived peacefully in your sin; who granted you His Spirit, whereby He gave you self-knowledge and stripped you of all that was of self; and who then led you to Jesus. Otherwise you would have eternally remained focused upon yourself, and never would have sought the Lord Jesus and His grace.

Third, you would daily make proper use of God’s law, so that you would increasingly become acquainted with your misery. This is absolutely necessary, so that you would increasingly loathe yourself and look to the Lord Jesus alone for all your righteousness, holiness, comfort, and salvation. To that end, may the Lord continue to enlighten your darkened understanding and unveil to you the holiness and spirituality of His law, thereby causing you to see the sin and corruption that remains in you, and may He experientially lead you increasingly to the Lord Jesus, so that you might grow up in Him, your head, and be increasingly established in Him—to the praise and glory of God’s sovereign grace. Amen.

*Taken from The Christian’s Only Comfort in Life and Death  
by Theodorus Van der Groe*

Beloved Congregation,

Isaiah says in chapter 53:10 about the coming Messiah: "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand." And in chapter 55:11 he continues, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." The first thing I would like to underscore is that Christ and Him crucified shall see his seed. No doubt about that. And these words are confirmed in the next text which confirms that God's Word shall not return unto Him void. These words are such a big comfort for the ministry among you. Last February 2nd, it was two years ago that I was installed as your pastor. The Lord has given us a place among you. And in so many occasions, God's Word has been expounded. With that expectation as mentioned from Isaiah, based on the fact that it has pleased the LORD to bruise Christ, the fact that it has pleased Christ to make his soul an offering for sin and the fact that Christ has promised that the Holy Spirit will glorify Christ in the life of a lost sinner. May the Lord also bless the preaching of His Word in this time in which we remember, in particular, the suffering, the death, but also the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our lives are frail and weak. As we have seen with the surgery of Jonas Van Dorland, this does not only apply to the life of our elderly people. At the end of January, Jonas received a serious open heart surgery. A great concern for Jonas himself, his parents Aart and Marlies and the rest of the family. But by God's mercy, everything went well. The surgeon was able to repair the valve. The conduit (artificial artery) was also replaced by an adult sized one. Dear Jonas, the Lord has done what he promised: *"Open", saith the Lord, "wide thy mouth, believing this my covenant-word: "I will, if thou plead, fill thine every need, All thy wants relieving"*. And that what the Lord did with your natural heart He is more willing to do for your soul. We sometimes call that 'a new heart'. What does that mean? That I feel sorrow for my sins against the Lord, that I long to know that God is willing to forgive them and also trust the Lord Jesus that He is willing and able to do so because of His sacrifice.

That our lives are frail, we also saw in the passing of Mrs. Magrieta Everts. She has been the widow of Arend Everts since March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The last years she became weaker. The last service she was able to attend was my installation service. But at home she was able to follow the services on Sermon Audio. Often she expressed her desire to again attend the church services, in particular, the administration of the Lord's Supper. She often spoke about the past. For example, the impressive event of her immigration, showing me the picture where she was on the boat. Mrs. Everts was a true farmer's wife. That was her joy. By God's grace she was able to do this work for a long time. The last years she became increasingly weak. With the care of her granddaughter Jolene and her family, Mrs. Everts could stay at home until she died on February 20 in her 98th year. Her life passed like a candlestick. Sometimes we thought it's almost over, but it revives again. Peacefully she passed. The Lord had prepared Mrs. Everts. In full surrendering to her Lord and Savior she has gone. At the graveside we meditated about Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." During the funeral service I spoke about Genesis 49:18: "I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD." May the Lord remember the Everts family and be their only comfort in life and death.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> Naomi Wouterina Visscher has been baptized. During the service we heard from Luke 2:21-24 about the presentation of the Lord Jesus in the temple. May Herman and Willemijn receive the wisdom and the grace to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

As a family we suddenly had to go to the Netherlands because of the fast decreasing health of our mother-in-law. After the doctors spoke about days instead of weeks we decided to go to the Netherlands right away. We are so thankful that we could be with our mother, mother-in-law and grandmother in her last days. After we arrived on Saturday, she passed away on Thursday morning. Although it is tough and painful to have lost her, we are grateful for those days of farewell and her funeral. We also would like to express our thanks for your care and messages of sympathy during those difficult days.

The week after our return I had already planned to visit BC and Alberta on behalf of the Canadian Lord's Day Association. Also, I had planned already to go along with our youth to Grand Rapids for a youth meeting with Providence Reformed Church. As a Springford congregation we have had good connections with this congregation for a long time. On Friday I did a topic about Transgenderism. On Saturday morning Rev. J. Th. Pronk did a topic about "How to know God's will for our life."

Besides the topics, there was also time for other activities for the youth. We are thankful for this meeting. I also was asked to preach in Providence Reformed Church on the Lord's Day. Initially pastor Pronk was going to preach in Springford, but because he has applied for a permanent status in the US, he still wasn't allowed to cross the border. Hopefully it will be possible in the near future.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> candidate H. Ottema was installed as a minister in the congregation of Achterberg. A special day in the life of our brother, to be installed in the office of a Minister of the Word. Paul says in 2 Cor. 5: 18 *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation*; Given to us as sinful man, that's a real wonder. We wish our friend and his wife Agatha God's blessing in this part of God's vineyard. I also like to remember pastor G. Procee, retired pastor of the FRC of Dundas. I know Rev. Procee already from the Netherlands where he served the CGK of Middelharnis. Pastor Procee is diagnosed with stage 3 cancer in his lung and some of the lymph nodes in his chest. We commend our brother to the Lord, together with his wife and family. We wish them that what our Lord has spoken in John 15: 4 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me"*.

With several ministers out of our community we meet almost every two months. As colleagues we are not only shocked by the illness of Rev. Procee; we also have to say farewell to Rev. Lipsy and his wife. The Lord called him to Arkansas (US). Although the call was clear for our brother and his wife, it is still a change in their lives. We commend them both to our Lord and Sender who has promised in Matthew 28:20 *"(...) and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"*. May the Lord also remember the congregation of Burgessville when they also will lose their second pastor.

On March 6 we hope to have our annual Prayer Day. I am also looking forward to the administration of the Lord's Supper on March 10<sup>th</sup>. May the Lord give us a blessed Prayer Day and also the Sabbath rest at His Table and with His Word.

We remember the widowers, widows, orphans and all who are in troubled circumstances or unable to attend our weekly church services.

Please let one of the consistory members know if there are any sicknesses, births, anniversary dates, or the like, so that we can be kept up-to-date or for visiting matters.

On March 11th we hope to go to the Netherlands as planned. We are thankful that Rev. G.T. van Appeldoorn with his family will come and serve the congregation in the preaching of the Word, in leading a seniors meeting and also a youth topic evening. In the Netherlands, aside from visiting our family and friends, I also hope to preach several times. On March 15 I hope to visit the synod meeting of our Church. On behalf of the Mission Board of ZHHK, I also have to travel to Uganda, because of the preparations of the start of a new mission project, from March 20-27. After Easter we hope to be back home on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

May all the work in our midst, in particular the preaching of God's Word, be blessed and be fruitful by Christ through His Holy Spirit.

With love,

Pastor W.M. Mulder



## Announcements:

### Birthdays

The Lord willing, Mrs. J. Kranendonk turns 82 on March 4, Mrs. T. Vermeer turns 83 on March 7, Mr. A. Schep turns 73 on March 25, Mr. R. Peursum turns 86 on April 5, and Mr. R. de Jager turns 72 on April 23, 2024. That each 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, Mr. I. Gelderblom, 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.

### Stewardship Board Report

Dear Congregation:

On behalf of the Stewardship board, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the many gifts received to maintain the outward needs of the congregation. We have been blessed with much, but that also increases our responsibility. May we be given to give the honor and thanks to God above all. In light of the church building filling to capacity over the past couple of years, we see that provisions for more seating



may be required. The stewardship would like to bring forward a plan at our next male members meeting at the end of May. We propose the idea of removing the back centre walled entrance and making a new entrance in the carport section, which would allow for a balcony to be built in the sanctuary. More details will be available at the male members meeting. However, to any renovation, cost is involved. We hope to have a special building collection at the upcoming prayer day, dv.

We also feel as a board and consistory, that with a growing congregation, it is a good idea to have a first aid team in church, in the event a medical emergency occurs. If you have a desire and are certified in first aid (or willing to become certified), please contact anyone in the stewardship board.

We also wanted to let you know that the Springford Reformed Church website is up and running. You can find the weekly announcements, our bulletins, as well as other info and the link to sermon audio. Visit <https://springfordreformed.com>

## **Membership**

We welcome Byron and Janita Klyn as new members. They aren't strangers to us. We pray that they will find a place among us, but especially that the preaching will be blessed to the salvation of their souls. Their address is 123 John street South, Otterville, N0J 1R0.

Daphne vande Krol and her boyfriend Pieter Kuivenhoven intend to go to the FRC when they are married. Therefore she has requested her baptismal membership to be transferred to the Oxford County FRC.

## **Thank You**

We want to thank you for your visits, phone calls, cards and best wishes that we received for our 50th Anniversary. — *Mr. & Mrs. A. Schep*

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank everyone for the meals, gifts and cards after the birth of Naomi. It is very much appreciated! Thank you.

— *from the Visscher Family*

## **Thank You**

Dear congregation,

We received out of your midst several Christmas/New Years' cards. We would like to wish you too the blessing of the Lord in the New Year. May the Lord use His Word and the preaching thereof in the New Year and remember all of us in His grace to His honour and our salvation.

— *With kind regards, Fam. A. de Groot*

## **Thank You**

We would like to heartily thank Pastor Mulder, the consistory and the congregation for the many prayers, thoughts, visits, cards, gifts and meals as Jonas went through surgery and recovery. We really appreciate it; it does not go unnoticed! We thank the Lord for His goodness and mercy!

— *Aart & Marlies Van Dorland and family*

## **Open Doors**

Extra Volunteers are still needed to help out at the Open Doors mission in Tillsonburg each Friday evening. So far we have been able to keep our commitment of two helpers each week, but it is becoming a bit of a struggle. If you would like to give some help, maybe even just one Friday evening a month, please contact someone from the mission committee. Duties would be anything from setting up for the meal, cooking, serving, cleaning up after the meal, or just simply eating a meal with the homeless and speaking with them. It usually runs from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, but for those who wish to help prepare the meal the start time would be around 3:00pm.

## **Youth Group**

The past couple months have been exciting for the youth group. One of the major highlights that happened recently was that we visited the youth group of the Providence Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. Here we had a topic by Pastor Mulder about trans-genderism and a topic about the will of God by Rev. Pronk. We hope to organize a spring clean-up this coming April to raise funds for the Pennsylvania mission trip; more information will come. We hope to see you all at the next youth group meeting and feel free to bring a friend.

## **Annual CLDA meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Lord's Day Association (CLDA) is set for Friday April 12, 2024 at 7:30pm DV. Rev. W.M. Mulder from the Springford Reformed Church is scheduled to speak. The meeting will take place in the Dundas Free Reformed Church (253 Weir's Lane, Dundas, ON) and begins at 7:30 PM. Refreshments to follow.

All are warmly invited to attend and learn about the work of the CLDA and listen to an instructive topic on the Lord's Day. Those wishing to join the session remotely can listen on [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com). There will be a free-will offering during the meeting. Donations can also be made online via e-transfer or credit card.

## Ladies Aid

We've already had 4 meetings in this new year. Every other Monday, we come together in the meeting room of our church at 7:30. 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.

March 11 – John 11: 17-29

March 25 – John 11: 30-37

April 8 – John 11: 38-46

April 22 – John 11: 47-57

With the many contributions to the Christmas Bake Sale, we were able to donate \$1,400 to the Trinitarian Bible Society. We asked that this be directed to the translation of Bibles into the Chichewa (Malawi) language. Thank you very much.

A few girls from the congregation hope to get married later this year; we would like to host a bridal shower for them in May. Date yet to be determined.

The Ladies Aid is planning a Yard Sale where we can sell and shop! This will be on the parking lot of our church. We are thinking to have this in May but we will confirm the date with you all yet. It would be wonderful if you could start collecting your unwanted things to sell. (For example: clothing, décor, furniture, kitchen ware, toys, outdoor things, tools etc.) Our hope is that this will be a gezellige day with our church and community while raising money for a good cause!

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. Because of your efforts, we can continue to donate to the Stephanos Children's Home in Malawi; this time we received \$190.

Also, a friendly reminder that there are homemade cards available for purchase in the card rack at the front entrance of the church. We would like to thank those who purchase these cards. The total proceeds are donated towards various missions. This time we were able to send \$296 to the Canadian Lord's Day Association.

# Financial Statement:



## December

24	Church	\$3327
	Bonisa Mission	\$2180
25	Church	\$1510
	Children's Books	\$1220
31	Church	\$1905
	Elderly Care Fund	\$1665

## January

1	Church	\$1310
7	Church	\$1605
	Education Fund	\$1335
11	Church	\$730
14	Church	\$1285
	Building Fund	\$1287
21	Church	\$1655
	Benevolent Fund	\$1345
25	Church	\$405
28	Church	\$2635
	Timotheos	\$1975

## February

4	Church	\$1195
	Education Fund	\$900
8	Church	\$305
11	Church	\$1685
	Building Fund	\$1312
18	Church	\$2295
	Benevolent Fund	\$1005
22	Church	\$660
25	Church	\$2595
	TBS	\$3000

**Subtotal** **\$42326**

Church	\$25102
Education Fund	\$2235
Building Fund	\$2599
Benevolent Fund	\$2350
Bonisa Mission	\$2180
Open Doors Seniors Meeting	\$179
Children's Books	\$1220
Elderly Care Fund	\$1665
Timotheos	\$1975
TBS	\$3500
Mission Boxes	\$265
Bake Sale & Card Sales – TBS	\$1801
E-transfers Jan./Feb.	\$4500

**Total** **\$49571**



**Collections to be Held**

	1st	2nd
<b>March</b>		
3	Church	Education Fund
6 (Prayer Day)	Church	Special Collection
		Building Fund
10	Church	Building Fund
17	Church	Benevolent Fund
24	Church	CLDA
31	Church	Open Doors
<b>April</b>		
7	Church	Education Fund
14	Church	Building Fund
21	Church	Benevolent Fund
28	Church	Come Over and Help
<b>May</b>		
5	Church	Education Fund

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



## Dates to Remember:

### March

1	7:30p.m.	Boys & Girls Club
3	after p.m. service	Youth Singalong in Parsonage
6	8:00p.m.	Youth Group
9	7:00p.m.	Prayer Meeting in Basement
11	7:30p.m.	Ladies Aid
25	7:30p.m.	Ladies Aid
27	10:30a.m.	Seniors Meeting — <i>Rev. G.T. van Appeldoorn</i>
27	8:00p.m.	Youth Group

### April

5	7:30p.m.	Boys & Girls Club
6	6:00p.m.	Youth Topic Evening — <i>Rev. G.T. van Appeldoorn</i>
8	7:30p.m.	Ladies Aid
12	7:30p.m.	Annual CLDA Meeting
15	7:30p.m.	Consistory Meeting—visitors welcome after 8:30p.m.
17	8:00p.m.	Youth Group
22	7:30p.m.	Ladies Aid

### May

1	10:30a.m.	Seniors Meeting — <i>Pastor W.M. Mulder</i>
3	7:30p.m.	Boys & Girls Club



## Worship Services

### March

3	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	(Preparatory 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
17	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Reading Service Reading Service
24	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn
29	7:30 p.m.	(Good Friday Service)	Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn
31	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn

## April

4	7:30p p.m.	(Dutch Service)	Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn
7	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Rev. G.T. Van Appeldoorn 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.	(English Service)	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.	(Topic Evening)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
28	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder

## May

2	7:30 p.m.	(Dutch Service)	Pastor W.M. Mulder
5	9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.		Pastor W.M. Mulder Pastor W.M. Mulder



Hello Kids!

This month's puzzle is about Cain and Abel. You can read Genesis 4:1-8 to help you complete the 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 **Rhoda Hoeve** has completed 6 puzzles. Congratulations! You may pick out a book from the Book Nook.

Annette de Bie – 10	<b>Rhoda Hoeve – 12</b>	Kaleb VandeKrol – 22
Esmée de Bie - 1	Justin Klyn – 56	Jesse VandeKrol – 4
Nick de Bie - 1	Phylicia Klyn – 19	Logan VandeKrol – 5
Steffan de Bie – 7	Rebekah Klyn – 11	Shane VandeKrol – 2
Winston de Bie – 8	Stephen Klyn – 11	Jonas Van Dorland – 1
Dirk-Jan de Boer – 14	Eduan Koekoek - 4	Arien van Ginkel – 2
Benjamin Dzinja – 11	Eliane Koekoek - 7	Sophia van Ginkel – 4
Christopher Dzinja – 8	Mare-Leah Koekoek - 8	Tamara Visscher – 13
Joshua Dzinja – 33	Alayna Kroesbergen – 32	Isaac Zekveld –21
Nolia Dzinja – 25	Maeghan Kroesbergen – 21	James Zekveld – 35
Annika Dzinja – 2	Abigail Schep – 37	Nettie Zekveld – 10
Ezra Dzinja - 2	Angelina Schep – 17	
Jordan Hoeve –14	Jezra Schep – 6	





# Cain and Abel

Unscramble the letters to find the hidden text.

inac “ \_\_\_\_\_  
seor \_\_\_\_\_  
pu \_\_\_\_\_  
igasant \_\_\_\_\_  
elba \_\_\_\_\_  
shi \_\_\_\_\_  
hrobetr \_\_\_\_\_,  
dna \_\_\_\_\_  
lews \_\_\_\_\_  
mhi \_\_\_\_\_”  
ssegnei 4: ? \_\_\_\_\_

Which verse from Genesis 4 is this from? \_\_\_\_\_



# Babysit Schedule

## 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
10	Victoria Verhey Sophia Van Ginkel Mare-Leah Koekoek	Martha Hoeve Rolies Penning Annika Dzinja
17	Linda Koekoek Roseanne Zekveld Tamara Visscher	Willemijn Visscher Harlene Hoeve Nettie Zekveld
24	Ingrid Zekveld Elrene Koekoek Angelina Schep	Marlies VanDorland Lydia Hoeve Maeghan Kroesbergen
29		Alayna Kroesbergen Phylicia Klyn
31	Erika Overbeek Emma Mulder Eliane Koekoek	Martina vandeBruinhorst Joanne Kroesbergen Annette de Bie

## April

7	Bethany Butyn Esmée de Bie Annika Dzinja	Klazina Klyn Charina Klyn Iris Verhey
14	Lindsey Sommer Heidi Overbeek Mare-Leah Koekoek	Adriana de Wit Petra-Lynn Kroesbergen Nettie Zekveld
21	Anne Reyneveld Amanda van Woerden Tamara Visscher	Bethany Ryksen Sophia Van Ginkel Angelina Schep
28	Jacoba Kroesbergen Nolia Dzinja Rebekah Klyn	Victoria Verhey Shira Mol Phylicia Klyn

## May

5	Willemijn Visscher Rolies Penning Annette de Bie	Willie de Boer Alayna Kroesbergen Annika Dzinja
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**\*Please find a replacement if you are unable to take your turn!\***



### Blind Chang

#### Missionary Martyr of Manchuria

Chapter One (*continued from previous bulletin*)

Before leaving the hospital for home, the blind man went to the Rev. James Webster and asked for baptism. He was anxious to get rid of all his sins and be cleansed from his black past. Mr. Webster saw that he needed further instruction, for Chang thought being baptized by the missionary would ensure him of complete cleansing. Gently but firmly the missionary made it plain that Chang must return home and show by his life the reality of his faith, then later he, Mr. Webster, would visit him and if he still wished to follow the Lord he would be baptized.

Blind Chang's disappointment at this was so keen the missionary almost repented his decision, but reasoned that if the man were sincere he could only profit from waiting. So, with a few Christian books and tracts for distribution, he was sent on his way.

Yes, Blind Chang had a "black past". It may be that the secret of his great passion later for making Christ known to other sinners such as he had been, was that "he loved much because much had been forgiven." One would fear indeed to use the following words of the Apostle Paul in describing the change wrought in this man did not his after life fully bear out the truth of each word.

When he left the mission hospital in Mukden, he was "A new creation in Christ Jesus." "Old things had passed away..... all things had become new." He had "put off the old man with his deeds.....he had put on the new man." In Blind Chang's own hymn given at the close of this story, we get a glimmer of the inner spiritual life which came to be his. A life of sweet fellowship with the Saviour who through all the hard years was to be his Guide and Companion.

But what of that "black past"? Is it necessary to give any details of it? Yes, for otherwise we could not know how real, how great, was the miracle of grace which had taken place in him. The following facts were given us by a relation of Blind Chang's many years after his martyrdom. We were told he bore a very bad name throughout his home region. He was a hardened gambler, and a man of such immoral life as to be a by-word, and that in a land where such lives are not uncommon. He made his living by acting as a sort of Official and using his self-assumed power to prey upon the people who feared him. His only child, a daughter, he turned out of doors, to be forced into beggary and a life of shame. Not long after he drove his wife from home. Seventeen days after the wife had gone he became totally

blind. Some said this was a judgement upon him because of his evil life, while others said it was a *direct result* of that life. The people spoke of him as a “Wu soa pu wei te”, meaning “One without a particle of good in him.”

Mankind's faith staggers at this or that miracle, but what greater miracle can be recorded than such a life as this, changed, not gradually, but quickly as the human eye can open to the light? It is the miracle of the New Birth and we have seen this miracle in evidence again and again as slaves of sin and habit, bound with chains as real and as strong as any forged in a furnace, have had their fetters snapped by the grace of God through faith making the soul a free man in Christ.

**“Ah! Lord God, Truly “THERE IS NOTHING TOO WONDERFUL FOR THEE.”**



## Children's Story

### **“Christie's Old Organ” by O.F. Walton.**

#### CHAPTER XII.

#### CHRISTIE WELL CARED FOR.

"What's the matter with that little lad?" said one of the men to the landlady, as she was preparing their breakfast the next morning. "He's got a fever, or something of the sort. He's been talking about one thing or another all night. I've had toothache, and scarcely closed my eyes, and he's never ceased chatting the night through." "What did he talk about?" asked another man. "Oh! all sorts of rubbish," said the man with the toothache, "bright cities, and funerals, and snowdrops; and once he got up, and began to sing; I wonder you didn't hear him." "It would have taken a great deal to make me hear him," said the other, "tired out as I was last night; what did he sing, though?" "Oh! one of the tunes on his old organ. I expect he gets them in his head so that he can't get them out. I think it was 'Home, sweet Home,' he was trying at last night;" and the man went to his work. "Well, Mrs. White," said another man, "if the boy's in a fever, the sooner you get him out of this the better; we don't want all of us to take it."

When the men were gone, the landlady went up to Christie to see if he were really ill. She tried to wake him, but he looked wildly in her face, and

did not seem to know her. So she lifted him by main force into a little dark room under the stairs, which was filled with boxes and rubbish. She was not an unkind woman; she would not turn the poor child into the street in his present condition; so she made him up a little bed on the floor, and giving him a drink of water, she left him, to continue her work. That evening she fetched the parish doctor to see him, and he told her that Christie was in a fever. For many days little Christie hung between life and death. He was quite unconscious of all that went on; he never heard the landlady come into the room; he never saw her go out. She was the only person who came near him, and she could give him very little attention, for she had so much to do. But she used to wonder why Christie talked so often of "Home, sweet Home;" through all his wanderings of mind this one idea seemed to run. Even in his delirium, little Christie was longing for "the city bright." But, after a time, Christie began to recover; he regained his consciousness, and slowly, very slowly, the fever left him. But he was so weak that he could not even turn in bed; and he could scarcely speak above a whisper. Oh, how long and dreary the days were to him! Mrs. White had begun to grow tired of waiting on him, and so Christie was for many a long hour without seeing any one to whom he could speak.

It was a very dark little chamber, only lighted from the passage, and Christie could not even see a bit of blue sky. He felt very much alone in the world. All day long there was no sound but the distant shouts of the children in the court, and in the evening he could hear the noise of the men in the great lodging-room. Often he was awake the greater part of the night, and lay listening to the ticking of the clock on the stairs, and counting the strokes hour after hour. And then he would watch the faint gray light creeping into the dark room, and listen to the footsteps of the men going out to their daily work.

No one came to see Christie. He wondered that Mr. Wilton did not ask after him, when he missed him from the mission-room. Oh, how glad Christie would have been to see him! But the days passed slowly by, and he never came, and Christie wondered more and more. Once he asked Mrs. White to fetch him to see him, but she said she could not trouble to go so far. If little Christie had not had a friend in Jesus, his little heart would almost have broken, in the loneliness and desolation of those days of weakness. But though his faith was sometimes feeble, and he was then very downcast in spirit, yet at other times little Christie would talk with Jesus, as with a dear friend, and in this way he was comforted. And the words which the clergyman had read to his old master were ever ringing in his ears, "Let not your heart be troubled." Still, those weeks did seem very long and tedious. At last, he was able to sit up in bed, but he felt faint and dizzy whenever he moved. For he had had a very severe attack of fever, and he needed all manner of nourishing things to bring back his strength. But there was no one to attend to the wants of the poor motherless boy. No one, except the dear Lord; He had not forgotten him.

It was a close, tiring afternoon. Christie was lying upon his bed, panting with the heat, and longing for a breath of air. He was faint and weary, and felt very cast down and dispirited. "Please, dear Lord," he said aloud, "send someone to see me." And even as he spoke the door opened, and the clergyman came in. It was too much for little Christie! He held out his arms to him in joy, and then burst into tears. "Why, Christie," said the clergyman, "are you not glad to see me?" "Oh," said little Christie, "I thought you were never coming, and I felt such a long way from home! Oh, I am so glad to see you." Then Mr. Wilton told Christie that he had been away from home, and that another clergyman had been taking his duty. But the night before he had preached for the first time since his return in the little mission-room, and he had missed Christie from the front bench. He had asked the woman who cleaned the room about him, and she had told him that Christie had never been there since he went away. The clergyman had wondered what the matter was, and had come as soon as he could to hear. "And now, Christie," he said, "tell me all about these long, weary weeks." But Christie was so glad and so happy now, that the past seemed like a long, troubled dream. He had waked up now, and had forgotten his sorrow and his loneliness. The clergyman and Christie had much pleasant talk together, and then Mr. Wilton said, "Christie, I have had a letter about you, which I will read to you." The letter was from little Mabel's papa, who was a friend of the clergyman.

MY DEAR MR. WILTON,--There is a poor boy of the name of Christie (what his surname is I do not know) living in a lodging-house in Ivy Court, Percy Street. He lived formerly with an old organ-grinder, but I believe the old man was thought to be dying some weeks ago. My dear wife took a great fancy to the boy, and my little Mabel frequently talks of him. I imagine he must be left in a very destitute condition; and I should be much obliged if you could find him out and provide for him some comfortable home with any respectable person who will act as a mother to him. I enclose a check which will pay his expenses for the present. I should like him to go to school for a year or two and then I intend, if the boy desires to serve Christ, to bring him up to work as a Scripture-reader amongst the lowest class of the people in your neighborhood. I think I could not perpetuate my dear wife's memory in any better way than by carrying out what I know were her wishes with regard to little Christie. No money or pains will I spare to do for him what she herself would have done, had her life

been spared. Kindly excuse me for troubling you with this matter; but I do not wish to defer it until our return, lest I lose sight of the boy. The dismal attic where Christie and his old master lived was the last place my dear wife visited before her illness; and I feel that the charge of this boy is a sacred duty which I must perform for her dear sake, and also for the sake of Him who has said, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

Believe me, dear Mr. Wilton,  
Yours very sincerely,

"GERALD LINDESAY."

"Christie," said the clergyman, "the dear Lord has been very good to you." "Yes," said little Christie, "old Treffy was right; wasn't he, sir?" "What did old Treffy say?" asked the clergyman. "He said the Lord had some work for me to do for Him," said Christie, "and I didn't think there was anything I could do; but He's going to let me, after all." "Yes," said the clergyman, smiling; "shall we thank Him, Christie?" So he knelt down by Christie's bed, and little Christie clasped his thin hands and added his words of praise:-- "O Jesus, I thank Thee so much for letting me have some work to do for Thee; and, please, I will stay outside the gates a little longer, to do something to show Thee how I love Thee. Amen." "Yes, Christie," said the clergyman, as he rose to go, "you must work with a very loving heart. And when the work is over will come the rest. After the long waiting will come 'Home, sweet Home.'" "Yes," said Christie, brightly, "'there's no place like Home, no place like Home.'"



## From the Pen of our Fathers

***Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.***

— *Matthew 20:28*

### **Christ's death was an atonement for sin.**

What says the Scripture? "The Son of Man came to give His life as a ransom for many."

This is the mightiest truth in the Bible. Let us take care that we grasp it firmly, and never let it go. Our Lord Jesus Christ did not die merely as a martyr, or as a splendid example of self-sacrifice and self-denial. Those who can see no more than that in His death, fall infinitely short of the truth. They lose sight of the very foundation-stone of Christianity, and miss the whole comfort of the Gospel. Christ died as a sacrifice for man's sin. He died to make reconciliation for man's iniquity. He died to purge our sins by the offering of Himself. He died to redeem us from the curse which we all deserved, and to make satisfaction to the justice of God, which must otherwise have condemned us. Never let us forget this!

We are all by nature debtors We owe to our holy Maker ten thousand talents, and are not able to pay. We cannot atone for our own transgressions, for we are weak and frail, and only adding to our debts every day. But, blessed be God! what we could not do, Christ came into the world to do for us. What we could not pay, He undertook to pay for us. To pay it He died for us upon the cross. "He offered himself to God." (Heb. 9:14.)

"He suffered for sin, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." (1 Peter 3:18.) Once more, never let us forget this! Let us not leave these verses without asking ourselves, where is our humility? what is our idea of true greatness? what is our example? what is our hope? Life, eternal life, depends on the answer we give to these questions. Happy is that man who is truly humble, strives to do good in his day, walks in the steps of Jesus, and rests all his hopes on the ransom paid for him by Christ's blood. Such a man is a true Christian!

***Taken from Day by Day with JC Ryle (February 3)***