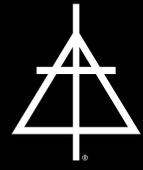


MINISTRY REPORT

TO CLASSES AND COUNCILS



Christian
Reformed
Church

WINTER 2014

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Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

We continue to receive a significant number of applications for training grants to prepare for chaplaincy and/or for endorsement to complete the preparation. These have led to the interview process, which is the last step of endorsement. We completed endorsement of 10 chaplains in the last nine months and there are eight others who are very close to completing this process and will likely do so in the next few months.

In the past six months I had the opportunity to visit Western Theological Seminary and Dordt College, interacting with 25 students. I also had the privilege of visiting chaplains in California (8), Michigan (21), Seattle (9), Vancouver (4), Nebraska (1), Iowa (2), and South Dakota (1). This continues a roughly three-year rotation of visiting all of our 130 chaplains.

Among our military chaplains, one has earned the rank of Navy Commander (O-5; Tom Walcott), one has successfully completed Special Forces training (Peter Hoffman – the first in U.S. history to complete both Ranger and SF qualifications), and two have been assigned positions as trainers at the national chaplain training school located at Fort Jackson (Peter Hoffman and Scott Koeman).

Among our civilian chaplains several have completed Board Certification, several more have begun training to become CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) supervisors, and one has nearly completed this process (Alida van Dijk). Two have also been appointed as members of committees of national chaplain associations – Assoc. of Professional Chaplain in U.S. (Ryan Swieringa) and the

Canadian Association of Spiritual Care in Canada (Alida van Dijk).

We continue to reinforce the connection between the chaplains and their calling churches by way of:

- formulating Covenants of Joint Supervision (required at the time of endorsement and/or at five-year renewals of endorsement)
- encouraging churches to utilize the special training and gifts of chaplains, and
- encouraging recognition of chaplains on the second or third Sunday of November.

Rev. Ron Klimp, director

Disability Concerns

About 13 percent of children and youth in U.S. public schools and more than 10 percent of Canadian youth have learning or other disabilities. Some of them are attending our churches as well, though evidence suggests that a smaller percentage of them attend church compared to their non-disabled peers.

Churches can be difficult places for people of any age who have autism; hearing, visual or mobility impairments; intellectual or developmental disabilities; mental health challenges; or other disabilities. A recent study showed that one-third of families who have children with disabilities left their congregation because they did not feel welcome. Some left the Christian faith entirely.

Some teachers and leaders of youth programs have difficulty including children and youth with disabilities in their programs because they don't know how. Christian Reformed and Reformed Church in America Disability Concerns ministries recently released five training videos for children and youth ministry leaders.

Congregational Student Ministry

Three veteran ministry leaders describe ways that they seek to ensure that all children and youth engage fully in the life of the congregation.

Church Experience of Parents of Children with Disabilities:

Three parents of youth with disabilities describe their experiences in church life.

Redirecting Challenging Behaviors:

Author and special educator Barbara Newman describes ways to respectfully redirect participants who are having a hard time staying focused.

Resources for Disability Awareness and Ministry:

Disability ministry leaders discuss tools and resources for engaging all children and youth in church life.

Young Life Capernaum: In the U.S., starting a Young Life Capernaum group can be an excellent option for engaging young people with intellectual disabilities in a youth group.

We hope that many churches will use these free videos (on our website, crcna.org/disability) for training their teachers and leaders.

Pastor-Church Relations

Early every November we gather the Specialized Transitional Ministers (STMs) for a Conference at the Prince Center of Calvin College.

This year's group included STMs in various stages of ministry: 14 currently serving, 1 recently retired, one retiring in the next few months, two about to begin their first assignment, and three in the endorsement process.

Twelve of their spouses, along with four members of the PCR staff, made for a total of 37 people who gathered to listen, share insights, and support one another.

The heart of the conference was the time of telling and listening to each other's stories. The learning that comes from sharing experiences, challenges and joys was invaluable to all. Meals and breaks offered times for one-on-one or small group conversations.

Specialized Transitional Ministers are experienced pastors trained to help congregations during times of

transition.

These pastors provide strategic assistance when churches need help with both regular pastoral duties and the processing of key systemic dynamics in preparation for calling a new pastor.

The Office of Pastor-Church Relations supports this work through endorsing qualified STMs, assisting with placement, providing continuing education and by strengthening the protocols around the contracting process between a congregation and an STM.

Congregations that anticipate or are experiencing a time of pastoral vacancy are welcome to contact the Office of Pastor-Church Relations and engage in a conversation unique to the specific situation that gives an opportunity for exploring the various options for pastoral leadership until the new pastor arrives.

Race Relations

The Office of Race Relations continues to connect with a growing number of congregations through our Community Connect initiative. In addition, staff is developing relationships and creating conduits for increasing diversity.

In predominantly Anglo congregations, our new publication "[Latinos: The Next Wave](#)" is being distributed to counter the myth that a Spanish-speaking ministry is the only way to reach Latinos. This booklet has been received well by Anglo leaders.

In the past, the Office of Race Relations has met regularly with ethnic caucus groups. This year we helped to convene groups of Latino pastors in most of the regions where the CRCNA has a presence. The Southeast Pacific Asian group also met in Denver but we were not able to join them this year.

We have collaborated with leaders in the United States and Canada who are working with First Nations and Native Americans. We would like to develop a better collaborative relationship with the Home Missions ethnic groups but have not yet found natural connecting points to bring that about.

Our staff continues to collaborate with World Renew, World Missions, Office of Social Justice, and Pastoral & Congregational Excellence.

Strategically, we are aiming for broadly-owned diversity and equity work, rather than working only with projects that are exclusive to the Race Relations. Race Relations and its staff would like to continue collaborating and helping to change the face of our denomination.

In November, Race Relations held an advance Dance of Racial Reconciliation (DORR) workshop in the denominational buildings. Racism is still terribly alive in our nations. DORR II will help leaders begin to address the systemic issues that keep racism in place in our congregations and beyond. For more info please contact the [Office of Race Relations](#) or like us on [Facebook](#).

Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church Ministry equips churches in abuse awareness, prevention and response. Safe Church is a resource and support to congregations and individuals:

About 200 interactions were recorded by Safe Church Ministry this quarter. Key words help us keep track: 57-related to awareness; 41-related to a situation of abuse; 38-safe church team; 37-policy; 33-Circle of Grace

Safe Church provides educational opportunities and equips safe church team members to do the same:

- Each month: about 400 safe church team members receive our newsletter, 15 prayer partners receive a prayer guide, and three blogs are posted on the Network (<http://network.crcna.org/content/safe-church>).
- Summer Intern: Robin Rhodes, a Calvin Seminary student, finished her summer internship, which involved follow-up with churches who have ordered the Circle of Grace safe environment program. The summer intern strategy, new for Safe Church, turned out to be a win/win for everyone.
- September 4: Safe Church and Pastor-Church Relations worked with an ecumenical team to facilitate a successful, day-long Boundary Tending workshop, supported by Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, at St. Francis Retreat Center. Healthy boundaries provide for effective, transformational ministry. We

welcome partnership with Pastor-Church Relations in this endeavor.

- September 15: A virtual team training meeting took place with people desiring to form a safe church team in Classes Hackensack/Hudson. Many places have no active safe church team; we welcome this expansion into a new area.
- September 28: Churches all over the U.S. and Canada participated in Abuse Awareness Sunday in a variety of ways using resources from Safe Church Ministry. New resources were added and topically arranged on the Safe Church website: www.crcna.org/SafeChurch/resource-s-abuse-awareness

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

Recently SPE hosted a conference for CRC pastors' spouses in Toronto, Ontario. Over 80 participants from across the U.S. and Canada gathered for 48 hours of spiritual nurturing, fellowship, encouragement and refreshment.

The theme, "Face to Face: Becoming Brighter and More Beautiful," focused on 2 Cor. 3:17-18. Ruth Vander Zee (speaker, author, and experienced pastor's spouse) encouraged the women to think deeply about who they are and their relationship with Jesus.

In addition to the plenary sessions, participants enjoyed worship led by Ruth Ann Schuringa (local worship leader and pastor's spouse), small group discussions and free time for rest and connecting with each other.

The women ranged from those in their first years of ministry to those nearing retirement. For many, this was their first spouses' conference, and they expressed much appreciation for this opportunity. To date, SPE has hosted five of these conferences. Altogether, 285 CRC pastors' spouses have attended a conference and 130 have attended two or more.

When asked what the best part of the conference was, one spouse said, "How can I pick one? Reconnecting and meeting new friends, time to relax, worship, the accommodations, and freedom to just be and be nurtured."

Another said, "I'm so grateful for this opportunity to be refreshed and revived with sisters in Christ. Thank

you for being so intentional in letting me know that I'm not alone."

The next conference will be held in 2016. No details are available at this time.

Centre for Public Dialogue and Canadian Aboriginal Ministries Committee

This quarter has been a busy one for the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee and the Centre for Public Dialogue. Two workshops are in the final stages of development. The Living the 8th Fire set of workshops is nearly ready and there are already people waiting to use the resource. It was highlighted in a workshop at the Day of Encouragement in Ancaster.

The Refugee Justice Task Force, a collaborative effort with Diaconal Ministries, World Renew, and several other refugee service organizations, is in the final editing stages of a 90-minute refugee justice workshop, along with an [online toolkit](#) with worship resources, film discussion questions, and much more. This workshop was also piloted at the Day of Encouragement.

The reForming Relationships art tour will be winding down in the coming year and plans are in the works for a homecoming celebration.

In August, time was spent training facilitators of the Blanket Exercise with the staff of Race Relations in Canada and in the US.

The controversy over Indigenous education reform led to the resignation of National Chief Atleo and the suspension of Parliamentary work on this important element of reconciliation.

Due to chronic underfunding and related challenges, only 37percent of Indigenous students graduate from high school today. This is deeply troubling in an era that should be characterized by reconciliation.

We are working with a coalition of churches and Indigenous people to raise the urgency of reconciliation in education with Canadian citizens and our governments.

Our Communications and the Arts intern, Grace Vanberkel, continues her

work with churches to encourage them to learn the [local history of their land](#). You can contact her at gvanberkel@crcna.org.

Finally, we received the report of the Justice and Faith Project with great interest and are pondering its implications for ministry.

Calvin College

At Calvin we believe that Christ calls us to engage a broken world. This calling is not just theoretical. It lives in our classrooms and labs, in the Chapel, on the playing fields and in the many vital partnerships we foster as a college both around the corner and across the globe.

Calvin recently hosted a critical summit on literacy efforts in West Michigan, convened by the Community Literacy Initiative, a coalition that empowers community leaders, parents and residents. According to the 2014 State of Michigan Education Report just 56 percent of low-income students are proficient in reading. This must change.

Two Calvin alumni are in key leadership roles in these local initiatives, alumnae who are thirsting after the kind of renewal they encountered at Calvin.

Calvin promotes the life of the mind among Christian scholars and lay people, including students. The Plaster Creek Stewards, a collaboration of Calvin faculty, staff, students and community members who are working to restore the highly contaminated watershed, recently received a \$1.1 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The grant will fund education and research efforts (many of which include our students) and on-the-ground restoration projects on campus and in the community.

We seek to identify, establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships locally, nationally and globally. From now through Dec. 20, the Center Art Gallery at Calvin presents "Tracing the Past: Edward Curtis and The North American Indian," a tribute to the ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.

Calvin College equips students to think deeply, to act justly and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of

renewal in the world. Campus Ministries includes more than 250 student leaders this year: nine worship apprentices, 90 worship team leaders, seven seminary interns, 55 Barnabas leaders, 24 prayer team leaders and 81 student bible study leaders. They have all undergone extensive training and are busy leading their peers.

We are pursuing an environment of inclusive excellence, cultural competency and global awareness. Last month more than 100 students, faculty and staff gathered throughout the day to pray for our world. The event included personal prayer and three short worship services.

In addition many prayer resources were provided, including lists of things around the globe in need of prayer: the Ebola outbreak, the Syrian and Iraqi refugee crises, the conflict in Ukraine, protests in Hong Kong, and the persecution of Christians in China, among others.

John Calvin said: "The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart." It is precisely because we are fallen that we must pray that the gospel should penetrate the mind, the whole soul and the inner recesses of our hearts. The gospel is a doctrine of life, for life.

This wholehearted living is what we hope to daily model for our students, knowing that we depend on God's grace as we reach out to touch the Kingdom of God.

Calvin Theological Seminary

Using "The Story" in Chapel: This fall, each student, faculty and staff member was offered a free copy of the book "The Story" by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee, which highlights the Bible as one continuing story of God and his people. The book is being used as a guide for chapel services and other community conversations and events this semester.

Justo Gonzalez and Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez were welcomed to Calvin Seminary in September in conjunction with the Hispanic Pastor ministry certificate program (now in its

second year) led by Old Testament Professor Mariano Avila.

Dr. Gonzalez was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1937, educated in his home country and then immigrated to the U.S. to earn both his master's and doctoral degrees at Yale University. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, he taught at the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico and at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. In addition to his epic treatises on church history and theology, Gonzalez has written more than 100 academic books and 1,300 journal articles.

He is married to Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez, an ordained Presbyterian minister and expert in church history and liturgy who is a professor emerita at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

Together they lead a faculty development seminar. Justo gave a public lecture and preached at a seminary-hosted Hispanic worship service. Catherine met with women students, faculty, and pastors to reflect on changing roles for women in theological education and the church.

Faculty Member Searches: The seminary recently put together two search teams for the following faculty positions - Moral Theology or Moral and Philosophical Theology and Missiology and Missional Ministry. In addition, a search team is currently working on filling a History of Christianity faculty position.

Center for Excellence in Preaching Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary: With gratitude to God for 10 YEARS of service to the church through the Center of Excellence in Preaching directed by Reverend Scott Hoezee.

Book Launch at Seminary: On December 2 Rev. Scott Hoezee reflects on the publication of his latest book *ACTUALITY: Real Life Stories for Sermons that Matter* in a conversation moderated by his friend and colleague, Rev. Peter Jonker, pastor at La Grave Avenue Christian Reformed Church.

New Calvin Seminary Website: A simpler, smarter, and much-needed website design has been implemented. The purpose for this upgrade was in part to better target our key audiences – prospective students, donor partners, and ministry practitioners. For all the

latest events and other Seminary activities, please feel free to check it out at www.calvinseminary.edu

Thank you for your prayers for Calvin Theological Seminary.

Back to God Ministries International

Thank you to all the classes and churches who participated in Back to God Ministries' 75th anniversary celebration of media ministry. Thank you for faithful support through prayers, ministry shares and special offerings. Because of your support, millions of people are hearing the gospel and lives are being transformed.

By God's grace we will continue to proclaim God's Word, disciple those who want to know him better, and strengthen the church.

Additional updates for celebration and prayer:

- In 2015 the Today devotional will celebrate its 65th birthday. "The Today is a strong connecting point for CRC members from almost every congregation in the U.S. and Canada as people read and reflect on the same daily scripture and devotion," says BTGMI director Rev. Kurt Selles. "And when you read these Today devotionals, you are part of a vast international family of believers and seekers who are blessed by God's Word each day."
- In addition to the printed Today booklets individuals can receive the daily devotionals by email, websites, smart phone apps, and social media. Churches can offer the daily posts to their members by linking the digital version of Today to their own websites and Facebook pages. To sign up visit www.today.reframemedia.com.
- Continue to pray for BTGMI French outreach following a leadership transition in our French ministry. Because of our fruitful cooperation with CRWM in Haiti, BTGMI ministry there remains strong. BTGMI is working to establish ministry in several new African locations where the content for broadcasts will be produced and distributed according to more local needs. BTGMI is also striving to move away from being an independent media ministry in Africa

working on its own, to one that fosters collaboration with other CRCNA-related organizations (CRWM, WR, and TLTI), as well local church denominations in Francophone Africa.

Home Missions

Where is your mission field? Who is God calling you to reach? Home Missions is committed to helping churches answer these questions. We seek to join God's mission - Home Missions calls, catalyzes, and collaborates with God's missionary people to start and strengthen missional churches that transform lives and communities.

With prayer, hope, and imagination, we can join God in mission in our own neighborhoods - Home Missions is excited to have many partners in ministry working together toward finding new ways to share the message of God's grace. God has blessed our ministries and partners in a multitude of ways:

- In Surrey, British Columbia, Hope Community Church broke ground on a new worship facility and community center on November 9th. The site of this new building was purchased with assistance from Home Missions over 20 years ago - now in the middle of a thriving neighborhood, the church rejoices at the opportunity to embed itself in its neighborhood and serve those who live there in the name of Jesus.
- In Paw Paw, Michigan, Home Missions' Great Lakes Regional Co-leader Al Mulder brought greetings at Red Arrow Ministries on the occasion of their becoming an organized church. Red Arrow Ministries, which now hosts three morning worship services every Sunday, is the most recent church plant to be organized in the CRC, just six years after the closing and rebirth of the former Paw Paw Christian Reformed Church.
- In Niagara Falls, Ontario, a new church plant is soon to take root. With hard work from Home Missions and partners like The Village Church in Thorold, Ontario; Providence CRC of Beamsville, Ontario; Classis Niagara, cluster leaders, pastors, and church planters Allen and Freda Kleine Deters, the journey from vision to fledgling church is under way.

As we partner with ministries both new

and old, we covet your prayers for God's overwhelming presence in one of the world's largest mission fields—North America.

World Missions

Thank you for remembering to pray for those who have been affected by the Ebola virus. In early October, two missionary families living in Sierra Leone evacuated the country and returned to their homes in Nigeria.

Rev. Istifanus Bahago and Rev. Ezekiel Sudu were serving in Kabala, a region where most of the Christian Reformed Church of Sierra Leone (CRCSL) is located. Since they left, relief workers discovered several cases of the virus in Kabala.

Paul and Mary Kortenhoven served with CRWM in Sierra Leone for 23 years and are in regular contact with their friends and loved ones there. "The people who we worked with and the many Christians in the 40 CRCSL churches are all suffering. Four of our dear friends have died from Ebola and two of the three left from this family are being treated in an Ebola center."

CRWM is working in partnership with World Renew and the Timothy Leadership Training Institute to educate people on how Ebola is spread, how to recognize the symptoms, how to prevent the transmission of Ebola, and the role of the whole community in dealing with the virus.

Pastors will receive a short training manual that will enable the numerous church communities of the region to face the Ebola epidemic with a biblically-minded approach. CRWM is working to raise \$25,000 and conduct training sessions in at least 250 local churches/Christian parishes.

Continue to pray that this deadly virus will be stopped. Pray for those who are experiencing death, famine, and poverty as a result of this virus.

World Renew

In recent months our world has been marked by wars, conflicts, pestilence and disaster. The impacts of these horrors weigh heavy on us, yet through it all, we proclaim that our God reigns. He gives encouragement and inspiration to his people to rise up and live in his victory.

At World Renew, we see examples of God's hope and victory in the stories of transformation that result from our work. Here are some recent highlights.

- In Iraq, families are now living in a World Renew-rented apartment building after fleeing ISIS.
- In Burlington, Ont. homes that were flooded have been restored, in partnership with Samaritan's Purse.
- In the Philippines, fishing families have received boats and fishing gear to restart their livelihoods following Typhoon Haiyan.
- In Sierra Leone, communities are receiving medical equipment and education on preventing the spread of Ebola.
- In Uganda and Kenya, families have gained better access to food all year long thanks to improved agricultural training.

These success stories are made possible through the prayers and support of churches like yours. Thank you! In the coming months, we invite your congregation to participate in these World Renew offerings:

- Dec. 25/14, Christmas Day
- Feb. 15/15, Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday (Canada)
- Mar. 1/15, Disaster Response Services Sunday
- Apr. 12/15, Refugee Sunday (Canada) and Foods Resource Bank Sunday (USA)
- May 10/15, Mother's Day - Child and Maternal Health Sunday

One World Renew beneficiary, Evarist Kasuguli, recently told us, "My family has seen a light in agriculture and our lives will never be the same again." We thank God for stories like Evarist's and ask for your continued prayers as we seek to share God's love, compassion and mercy with those in need.

To read these stories and more, visit www.worldrenew.net and subscribe to World Renew's electronic newsletter.

Partners Worldwide

Our global conference held October 30-31, 2014 brought together almost five hundred partners from Iowa to India, from Haiti to Hong Kong, from Minnesota to Myanmar gathered to celebrate business as a calling to do God's work.

A highlight of the conference was at

the end where we commissioned and recommissioned each other to be renewed in pursuit of our holy mission. Representatives from all over the world read affirmations about our call to business:

- We believe that God has created all men and women in His image. We believe that all ordinary daily work is a joyful expression of our calling to image our Creator.
- We believe that business is our calling to do God's work. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who constantly and consistently met the needs of the people he encountered, especially the poor.
- We aspire to end poverty so that all may have life and have it abundantly. We desire that all find the spiritual and physical abundance that Christ provides.
- We believe that Christ is making all things new, and that the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.
- We recognize the great need to grow our global Christian network that uses business as the way to create flourishing economic environments in all parts of the world, catalyzing entrepreneurs and job creators to bring release for those in the bondage of poverty.

Then we agreed together with the following words:

I affirm these convictions regarding my calling and responsibility in building God's Kingdom. I accept and embrace my calling to business and eagerly anticipate the way God will work in and through me to bring about His holy reign in my life, my business, my community and to the ends of the earth.

Please join us as we work together to fulfill our vision to end poverty so that all may have life and have it abundantly.

Dynamic Youth Ministries

Cadets

As the Cadet season gets underway, regional conferences bring in hundreds of men for training, inspiration, and fellowship. The two largest such events are in Michigan and Ontario.

On November 1, about a hundred men assembled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to

spend the morning and half the afternoon training to become more effective in their calling as leaders of boys. One week later, about 50 men traveled to Oshawa, Ontario to learn mentoring for Christ. Other regional conferences are still coming, and these have proven a good way to connect men with each other and the Lord.

This has also been a year of potential changes in personnel for the Calvinist Cadet Corps. The training coordinator retired in July, leaving that position open. Training continues, however, with others taking up the slack.

The executive director, Dick Broene, announced his retirement after more than 31 years. As of this writing we don't have a replacement, but expect that to change at any time. Keep watching the Cadet website at www.CalvinistCadets.org for updates.

Finally, this was an election year for the Cadet Corps president. That one won't change, as Larry DeHaan of Jenison, Michigan has been reelected for a second three-year term.

GEMS Girls' Clubs

Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior (GEMS) is experiencing growth across North America and around the world. We currently have over 24,000 girls and 5,300 women actively engaged in our 942 clubs. At GEMS we believe every girl needs to know Jesus Christ, and with our annual theme, "Bring the Message", we are sharing the good news and equipping girls to pass it on.

Our SHINE brightly and Sparkle Magazine subscriptions are perfect for the young girls in your life. Each issue focuses on how to grow her relationship with Jesus and how to live a Christ-centered life in a secular world. Visit gemsgc.org to have your holiday gift to her last all year long.

The 46th Annual Counselor Leadership Conference will be at Messiah College in Harrisburg, Penna., on July 9-12, 2015. In this time we are living in, building strong leaders is essential to expand the church and raise the next generation for Christ.

At the Leadership Conference, women are equipped to develop their leadership skills and are trained to bring girls to Jesus. Women will also be engaged with one another as they share successes and brainstorm through challenges in their clubs.

Lastly, many women have testified that the GEMS Leadership Conference has transformed their walk with Jesus and has helped them become missionaries in their own backyards.

Youth Unlimited

Over the past six months Youth Unlimited has been visiting churches and their youth workers. This has taken us to places like Massachusetts, Texas, Iowa, Illinois, Ontario, Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota and more. One common message we hear from churches or congregations is the need for Youth Unlimited to be more present.

Youth Unlimited's heart is to serve every CRC congregation by providing life changing faith-forming events that include scriptural teaching, time for personal devotions, corporate worship, prayer and focused community service. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we believe these disciplines will provide each student a better understanding of what faith in Jesus Christ really means and how to live that out day-to-day.

The scriptural focus for Serve and Live It in 2015 will come from John 20:21-22 where it says, "Again Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". By using the tagline "THE OTHER 51" we will help students understand it's not just about one week (at the event) but about the rest of the year and their life.

If you would like to know more about how Youth Unlimited could assist your congregation or classis or are simply in need of a refresher on who Youth Unlimited is, please reach out to us by contacting Jeff Kruthof (Executive Director) at jeff@youthunlimited.org or Jerry Meadows (Missions Director) at jerry@youthunlimited.org. We would be humbled and honored! You can also find us at www.youthunlimited.org or on Facebook.