

weekly focus: update from indonesia

BY JAKE & SARA TIBBE

Last weekend we participated in our neighborhood's "Merti Desa" celebration. This is a combination of a birthday and thanksgiving celebration... to the tune of about 500 households. The event involved a parade, performances, music, and a traditional show. Events like these are always great opportunities to interact with our neighborhood, learn culture, practice language, and build deeper relationships. But these events are not like a typical Christmas parade in Grand Rapids.... Indonesian community events are much more involved, and a bit stressful, for a variety of reasons:

- The events are LONG. Indonesians have amazing stamina. Our neighbors started testing the sound system at 5:30am, and when we went to bed at 10:00pm, the party was still going strong.
- Because of language and cultural differences, we often don't know what is fully happening until the event starts. Our family was under the impression that just Jake was dressing up. However, from 6:50-7:10am, it was a rush as the rest of the family was costumed after informing Jake earlier that morning. Flexibility is a must!
- [Our kids] tolerate these events differently. It is stressful as parents to know how much to push our kids to participate. It is stressful for the kids also, as they are on full display for the neighbors, who want photos and cheek pinches.
- Intense cultural interactions like these are very tiring. There is stress deciding on a graceful way to bow out when our family has reached our limit.

Community celebrations are LOTS of fun, but they are also another opportunity to rely on God's wisdom and strength. Please continue to pray for us as we interact with our neighbors and build strong relationships.

Thank you for remembering our missionaries who are in different cultures during the holidays, as they navigate and learn the customs and celebrations of their host countries. Pray also that these would be opportunities to share Christ.

BURMESE TRANSLATOR NEEDED

We are looking for someone to help us communicate with our new refugee family from Myanmar as our friendship grows in these first months. Contact Brenda (bneher@calvarygr.org).

congregational care

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED PRAYER LIST

If you have been hospitalized, or anticipate hospitalization, and would like to be added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 956-9377.

Butterworth: Paul Ceton, Earl Jenkins

PRAYER CHAIN: If you need prayer, contact Don & Cindy Marrell (cmarrell@calvarygr.org) at 450-9622.

THANK YOU

We received a gorgeous floral arrangement from the church, just as the flowers from the funeral were fading. We are so grateful for our church family's many expressions of care after the death of Wayne's father. Thank you.

Wayne and Pepper Meulendyk

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee requests your input, in helping identify qualified, godly men for consideration for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Nomination

forms are available at the Welcome Center (at the center of the Crosswalk), or send an email with the nominee's name and the reasons why you are nominating him, to nominate@calvarygr.org.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Thank you to those of you who have given gifts or signed up to help at UFM and Dégagé's Christmas stores. They seem to have plenty of volunteers, but are asking for some more gifts to make their stores a success. Please go to calvarygr.org/christmasgiving to find their Amazon wish lists.

YEAR-END GIVING

As you plan your year-end charitable giving please remember Calvary Church. We also accept donations of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Please note that our account information has changed. Should you wish to contribute any of these securities, please contact Chris Snedeker in the Financial Services Department for new giving instructions.

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 250,072	\$ 171,009	(\$ 79,063)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Dec. 3	\$ 2,064,647	\$ 1,997,414	(\$ 67,233)
Open Door Project		\$ 26,156	

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calvarygr.org

 CalvaryChurchGR

 calvarygr

December 10, 2017

9:00am & 10:45am

The Crowd and the Called

Mark 3:7-19

Jim Samra, Senior Pastor

RESCUED
RESTORED
READY
STORIES OF REDEMPTION

calvary 
CHURCH

welcome

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here. For information about our many groups, programs and events for all ages, pick up a copy of the quarterly *Calvary Life* magazine, visit us online at calvarygr.org, or stop by the Connection Point (located in the Gathering Place across from the main Sanctuary entrance). We would love to meet you! If you need hearing assistance, listening devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Crosswalk.

this week at calvary

- 1 Christ's Church in North Korea**
December 11 | 7:00-8:30pm | Room 252-254 (Entrance K)
North Korea has for years been the nation where Christians are most persecuted, but God is still at work. On Monday you can hear directly from Pastor Peter, who works with Cornerstone Ministries International in encouraging believers and reaching unbelievers in North Korea. Join us to learn how Christ is building his church.
- 2 Christmas at Calvary**
December 15 at 7:00pm | December 16 at 3:00 & 7:00pm
Tickets on sale today in the Gathering Place
Christmas at Calvary includes dynamic performances by our choir and orchestra centered around a timely and important Christmas story that reminds us all to take another look at how we're celebrating this season. Music will feature beloved holiday classics and modern favorites. Tickets can be purchased online at mycalvarygr.org. Tickets are also available Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm, in the Worship Office located at Entrance G. Tickets purchased on-site are payable by cash or check only.
- 3 24-Hour Prayer Vigil**
December 15 at 9:00pm - December 16 at 9:00pm
Join our church-wide 24-hour prayer vigil. We will be praying for Grace Beyond, various ministry needs, for Christmas at Calvary, and for revival in Grand Rapids. Please register in advance (at calvarygr.org/events) to spend a minimum of 30 minutes praying, preferably in the Prayer Garden. Prayer guides will be provided.

coming events & announcements

LUMIN8 Kids Choir Christmas Musical

December 17 | 6:00pm

Bethlehem's homes and stable are bursting at the seams with travelers for the census! Bethlehem's top temp agency must call on their most eager but often-inept family of workers, the Wooltons to help them through this difficult time (temporary "staffing" takes on a whole new meaning!). What they expect to be an unglamorous assignment will soon put them face to face with the good Shepherd himself- Jesus! Join the kids choir for this fun Christmas evening.

Widows' Christmas Brunch

Dec. 18 | 10:00-11:30am | Rm 108
Join us for brunch and a fun time of decorating Christmas Cookies. We will donate the cookies to Urban Family Ministries to hand out. Contact Katy (klambert@calvarygr.org) to RSVP.

Widowers' Monthly Coffee

Dec. 18 | 11:30am | Rm 112
Join Jack Huizenga for a time of fellowship and lunch. Contact Katy (klambert@calvarygr.org) to RSVP.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 | 9:00am, 10:45am and 10:00pm

We invite you to make Calvary's Christmas Eve service part of your holiday tradition. We will sing car-

ols around the piano and read the Christmas story by candlelight. It's a simple service; a warm and spirited prelude to your Christmas celebration. We hope you'll join us.

Childcare will be available for children through preschool in the morning services.

2018 Houston Short-Term Team

Trip participants will partner with Calvary missionary Jon Shepherd to share the gospel in a cross-cultural setting, mainly to Muslims in Southwest Houston. To apply for this trip visit calvarygr.org/ministries/missions-outreach, and click on the Adult Short-Term Mission Trip Application link on the right-hand side of the page. Applications should be submitted to the Missions Office by December 15.

Christmas Baskets Drop-Off By Friday

Be a Christmas blessing this year by providing a food basket for one of our Calvary families currently receiving financial assistance. We need 30 more baskets to meet our goal for this season. Baskets can be dropped off at the Yellow House between 8:30am-5:00pm, through Friday. A list of suggested items for filling your basket is at calvarygr.org. Contact Lynnell at ext. 3510 to sign up.

GRACE BEYOND GIVING UPDATE

Total Giving Commitment to Date: \$ 23,885,498
Cash Received: \$ 17,641,822

second sunday of advent - peace



On this second Sunday of Advent we light the **peace** candle. For many this season of merriment highlights the loss and longing in their life. The festivities only heighten insecurities and busy schedules. We lament the chaos and pain we experience and wonder, "How long Lord must we continue in this way?" But we don't lament as those without hope, for we know Christ will one day return. We take our aches to the Him and await the Lord's coming justice and glory.

Advent Guides Available: Advent is the beginning of the Christian Year. It is a time of waiting in hopeful expectation for the birth of Jesus. A church-wide Advent Guide is available for you to pick up at the back of the Sanctuary. This week we're reading *The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant* in the Jesus Storybook Bible (1 Samuel 16 & 17).

grace
BEYOND

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY
NEXT WEEK**

We have reached the point in our Grace Beyond journey where an end is in sight. This morning you received a brochure highlighting many of the ways that we have seen God move through this church over the last few years. We hope these reflections will encourage you as you prayerfully prepare for December 17.

Calvary is not the same church it has always been. God is doing a new thing here. This Commitment Sunday is a chance to take part in what you may have missed. It's also a season to reaffirm your commitment to Calvary, to consider giving more. Next week we will have an opportunity as a church family to celebrate how God has led us through our Grace Beyond journey and commit to where He is leading us in the future.

As we prepare for that day, we encourage you to pray about how God is asking you to respond. Ask God if He is asking you to make an initial pledge, extend your current pledge through April 2019 or simply fulfill your existing pledge. **Pledge cards are available in the back of the Sanctuary to facilitate your communication of God's direction for your giving. Please bring them with you to next week's service. If you have questions about your current pledge, please contact Chris (csnedeker@calvarygr.org) in the Finance Office.**