

weekly focus: central asia

This month, as members of Calvary's staff and congregation prepare to attend the Central Asia Consultation (CAC), a gathering where national believers and interested outsiders can encourage and bless one another in ministry together, we are sharing stories from our brothers and sisters there.

"Stan" is the pastor of a house church who loves his flock, even though individuals sometimes cause heartache for him.

Last year, there was a family in Stan's church where both the mother and father had chosen to follow Christ. Their oldest son - who had not yet accepted Jesus - had recently turned 20, the age at which many young men's families begin to look for a bride for them (most marriages are arranged). The son indicated that he would like to be married, and extended family members began pressuring the parents to make a good match for him.

However, as the matchmakers approached families with eligible daughters, the response was always the same, "We won't let our daughter marry into a family of Christians. You have sold out your religion." As the parents grew more and more worried, Stan encouraged them to take their time, trust God, lead their son to Christ, and eventually find a believing wife for him.

Instead, the parents stopped going to church and the father began praying regularly at the mosque. When others saw the family's "new found devotion" to their religious heritage, the reluctance to arrange a marriage with their son decreased. The family found a bride for their son and made plans to go through with the wedding and return to the church afterward. You can imagine the consequences of their deception - on the new couple, on both their families and on the way all the believers are viewed in their community.

This week, will you pray for God's Spirit to bring miraculous transformation of character into the lives of new Central Asian believers - so that they can live openly and abundantly in front of their neighbors and families? Please also pray that the time at the CAC would be refreshing and encouraging for leaders like Stan who face these challenges in the infant church.

Missionary Prayer Guides

Missionary Prayer Guides are available at the Information center to guide you as you pray for our global and community workers throughout the month of February. You can also see a summary of prayer requests updated monthly at 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.

Blodgett: Jerry Lane

Butterworth: Dick Formsma

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

BEREAVED

We extend our Christian sympathy to Marianne and Frank Lipcsei at the homegoing of Marianne's sister, Marlene, on January 22; to friends and family of Delores Gustafson on February 1; to Lois & Jim Gaikema, Dan, Katie, Daniel, Jordan and Bailey Wynalda at the homegoing of their grandson, nephew, and cousin, Matthew Gaikema, on February 5; and also to Kevin and Theresa Troupe and family at the homegoing of Kevin's brother, Scott, on February 5.

THANK YOU

Thank you for hosting the funeral of Don Koopman and for the flowers. Pastor Mike Looney did a wonderful job.

Dawn (Koopman) Jones

We appreciate your prayers, cards, notes, flowers and visitation as we grieve the loss of our precious grandson. Our hearts are heavy but we are thankful for the promises we have in Jesus.

Larry and Judie Fielstra

February 11, 2018

9:00am & 10:45am

Journeying with Jesus

Mark 6:6-13

Jim Samra, *Senior Pastor*

RESCUED
RESTORED
READY

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 123,212	\$ 104,527	(\$ 29,843)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Feb. 7	\$ 3,692,152	\$ 3,518,814	(\$173,338)
Open Door Project		\$ 165,554	

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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.

lent begins february 14

Lent Guides Available at Sanctuary Entrance

In the early centuries of the church, the forty days before Easter came to be recognized as the season of Lent (a Latin word that means "spring"), when new converts were prepared for baptism. This preparation included biblical instruction, prayer, repentance and fasting. In time, the practices of Lent were embraced by the entire church. Its purpose has always been self examination and spiritual preparation leading to an exuberant celebration of Easter.

At Calvary, we emphasize the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving as Jesus encouraged in Matthew 6. Lent provides a wonderful opportunity to do this together, as a church body.

This Lenten season is an invitation for each of us. It is a call back to the basics of faith. It is an opportunity to not just know the truth of Scripture but to live out what it means to follow Christ. As we walk through the Gospel of Mark, we want to encourage you to examine what it means to be a disciple, to be someone who recognizes the way of the Savior and models their life accordingly. In Calvary's 2018 Lent Guide, *A Handbook for Disciples*, you will find not just instructions for discipleship, but also questions to consider, action steps to take and real life stories to contemplate. We encourage you to pick up a Lent Guide and walk through this season in step with the Calvary Church community beginning this Wednesday.

coming events & announcements

Join Calvary in Partnering with Hand2Hand

As part of an effort to show tangible love to our community Calvary Church is partnering with Hand2Hand, an organization that prays for and provides hungry children with food over the weekends. Join us in collecting donations for hungry children in our community. Items needed are displayed on the Hand2Hand banners found in the West End (right by your Sunday School class!). This is also the donation drop-off location. Questions? Contact Courtney Hoekwater (choekwater@calvarygr.org).

Short-Term Mission Trip Meetings February 18 | 12:15pm

Do you want to develop a stronger prayer life and learn how to share the gospel? Come to one of the three informational meetings upcoming short-term mission trips. If you have a heart for those in our state, join the meeting for Calvary's trip to Detroit. Attend the meeting for the France mission trip if you have kids and are looking for a hands-on experience to grow as a family. For those who

want more of a challenge, come to the Central Asia meeting to hear how to share the gospel with teens while hiking and camping. Prayerfully consider if God wants you and your family to learn more.

Detroit | Room 106A
Trip Dates: June 24 - July 1

France | Room 115
Trip Dates: May 3-9

Central Asia | Room 110
Trip Dates: June 16-30

Calvary Equip: Freed Up Begins February 21 | 6:30pm

A 5-week class that will explore what the Bible teaches about our attitude towards money. Cost is \$25. Register at mycalvarygr.org.

GriefShare

Begins February 20 | 6:30pm

GriefShare is a 14-week session with friendly, caring people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. To register, contact Dane Bjork (dbjork@calvarygr.org) at ext. 3149.

Update on Executive Pastor, John Zimmerman

With gratitude for his service to our church family, we share that Calvary's Executive Pastor, John Zimmerman, will retire February 21. John's leadership has been integral to the management of our Grace Beyond building project over the past three years. His skills for creating structure and systems, combined with a deeply prayerful spirit, have been a gift to our church. Join us in celebrating the conclusion of this season and all that will come as John steps into retirement.

this week at calvary

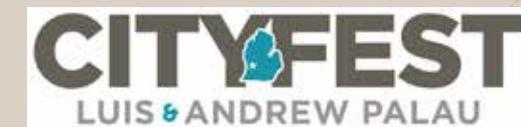
- 1 Grandparenting Prayer Group**
February 14 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Room 207
Join with us to spend time encouraging one another and most importantly, in praying for our grandchildren.
- 2 Blessed2Bless Prayer Gathering**
February 15 | 7:00-8:30pm | Gathering Place
All are welcome to gather for inspiration and prayer. Jim Hoekwater will share about his workplace Bible Study and how the Lord has been working in and through it. This will be an opportunity to discuss how to reach out in the workplace with its unique challenges.
- 3 Being One: God's Design for Marriage**
Feb. 15 | 7:00-8:30pm | Room 108
Whether you are preparing for marriage or are already married, this seminar is helpful for understanding God's blueprint for marital union. Being One is open to anyone but required for couples marrying at Calvary church. To register, contact Lynnell (lbok@calvarygr.org) at ext 3510.

sunday night service

6:00pm | Gathering Place

Sunday night services at Calvary Church are an opportunity to worship God in a unique, discussion-oriented setting. Join us!

CityFest – Re:New Gathering
March 1 | 7:00pm | Free (Tickets required for entry)
ResLife Church, 5100 Ivanrest Ave SW



We're excited for churches across West Michigan to come together for a special night of inspiration, prayer, worship, and unity. Francis Chan will be joined by Andrew Palau and musical artist Phil Wickham as they lead thousands of believers in unified worship. God willing, CityFest will shake this region with the Gospel of Jesus as we reach thousands who are in need of hope.

Tickets are required for this free event and are available at cityfestwestmichigan.org/renew.