

weekly focus: central asia

This month, as members of Calvary's staff and congregation prepare to attend the Central Asia Consultation (CAC), we are sharing stories from our brothers and sisters in that part of the world. Here's what one pastor shared:

In one small town, two young Central Asian women from Muslim families had come to faith in Jesus and were excited about being part of the house church there. When news of their new faith got around at their workplace, however, they were called into their supervisor's office and told that things would not go well for them unless they denied Christ. After weeks of increasing pressure, they were both fired from their jobs.

Several weeks later, the supervisor called them back, pretending that they might get their jobs back. Instead, the two young women found themselves in the office with a member of the secret police, who arrested them. They were taken in for questioning and under pressure, reported to the police the names of their pastor and other believers. Then the women as well as their pastor were fined for illegal religious activity.

What happened next caused all of the believers to question their hearts and motives. Within the space of just a few weeks, all three of the men who had persecuted the women - their supervisor, the secret police officer, and the judge who levied the fine were killed in auto accidents. Yet the church chose not to rejoice and instead to mourn with the families of these men. As the pastor who told this story said, "The hardest thing to do is to continue to love."

This week, please pray for the hearts of persecuted believers in Central Asia and around the world. Pray that they will stay firm in their commitment to Christ, show grace to their fellow believers, and most of all, continue to love and pray for those who persecute them. Pray that they would find seasons of refreshment in him and with the encouragement of other believers.

Short-Term Mission Trip Meetings: March 4 | 12:15pm

If you have a heart for people who are struggling in our area, come to the meeting for our Grand Rapids mission trip. You will have a chance to learn about organizations in our area that are helping individuals in need, as well as gain an understanding of the best practices for coming alongside the marginalized in our community. If you are interested in growing in boldness to share the gospel with both the young and old, come to our Mozambique informational meeting. In preparation for the trip, you will be taught how to share the Bible through storytelling.

- Grand Rapids | Room 110 | Trip Dates: June 21-23
- Mozambique | Room 115 | Trip Dates: June 11-23

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.

DeVos Children's:
Sebastian Winters

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

BEREAVED

We extend our Christian sympathy to Pam Formsma, Alisa, Todd, Sam & Matt Wilde, Ryan, Steph, Brad, Laura, Steve, Emily, Alicia & Scott Formsma at the homegoing of their husband and father, Dick, on February 10; and also to Gerda VanReenen at the homegoing of her father, Herman VanReenen, on February 14.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your words and expressions of sympathy in the death of our mother, Nell Molegraaf. We are thankful for the blessed assurance that she is in heaven with Jesus.

Larry & Mary Molegraaf,
Pete Molegraaf

Thank you so much for the flowers delivered at the passing of my mother, Carol Wood. It was very thoughtful and we really appreciate it. Please pray for my father as he transitions to a new chapter in his life.

Greg & Sherry Wood

Thanks Calvary family for your many expressions of encouragement and prayer for our family these past couple weeks with the passing of Rick's mom. We appreciate the compassionate, thoughtful concern shown during this time.

Rick, Beth,
Ryan and Natalie Huls

February 18, 2018

9:00am & 10:45am

Two Kingdoms

Mark 6:14-44

Jim Samra, Senior Pastor



RESCUED
RESTORED
READY

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 134,370	\$ 130,833	(\$ 3,537)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Feb. 11	\$ 3,826,522	\$ 3,651,639	(\$174,883)
Open Door Project		\$ 166,328	

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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.

today's service

Communion

The ordinance of communion will be observed in today's worship service. If needed, gluten-free bread is available at the back of the Sanctuary prior to the service. We will also collect an offering for our Benevolent Ministry following our time of communion.

Leadership Development Forum

Today's worship service was planned with the assistance of the Leadership Development Forum. The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is a Calvary committee that has been charged: "To prepare godly leaders to take the next steps toward leadership at Calvary." Annually, the LDC selects a small group of men and another group of women to participate in a Leadership Development Forum.

In these Forums, participants are mentored, encouraged to practice spiritual disciplines, taught practical leadership skills and presented the basic elements of a biblical world view. It's our hope that participants will use the skills and experiences they have learned to be servant leaders in their personal, professional and church lives. If you have questions or would like to recommend someone to participate in one of the Forums, please contact Tom Olsson (tolsson@calvarygr.org).

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!

coming events & announcements

Calvary Kids: Lent & Grace Beyond Banks

This year during Lent kids will complete their three-year commitment to learning to give sacrificially by filling banks for the Grace Beyond Building Project. Banks are available at the Calvary Kids Check-in Area. Please return your bank on Palm Sunday, March 25. If your bank fills up prior to Palm Sunday, you may turn them in to the Treasure Chests at Check-In.

Wednesday Dinner with Middle School Staff February 21 | 5:15-6:00pm

Meet: Gathering Place | Cost: \$3
All fifth - eighth grade students are invited to join the MSM staff for dinner! We'll share some delicious food, catch up and play a few games. We will have a spacious reserved section just for us, so there is no need to RSVP. Just find us to pay for your discounted dinner before you get in line!

All-New Wednesday Night Dinner Begins February 21 | 4:30-6:30pm Gathering Place | \$5 / person

We're starting earlier, lowering the family cap to \$20 and cooking up even more delicious food options! Beginning this Wednesday, Fellowship Dinner will start at 4:30pm. You will have three different food stations to select from:

- Soup and Salad Bar
- Rotating Entrée Buffet
- Artisan Oven Delights featuring a variety of Pizzas & Grinders

Your meal includes all you can drink juice and water as well as a selection of desserts. Hospitality volunteers (in bright yellow aprons) will be available to help you navigate the new selections, clear your table and find a seat.

We hope you will come by for dinner this Wednesday! This week's entrée is beef stew with biscuits.

pick up a lent guide Available at Sanctuary Entrance

At Calvary, during Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) 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. 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 Jesus 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.

this week at calvary

1 Short-Term Mission Trip Meetings TODAY! | 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

2 Third Monday Missionary Prayer February 19 | 11:30am | Room 114

Join us tomorrow to hear updates from and pray for our missionaries around the world. Bring your lunch and meet in Room 114 (Entrance G) at 11:30am.

3 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.

4 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.

5 College Ministry: Rock Climbing February 23 | 6:30-9:00pm | \$5 | Meet at Entrance D

College-aged folks - come rock climbing with us at Calvin Collegel. Beginner and advance climbers welcome! Please register at mycalvarygr.org by February 22.