

**ZUNI CHRISTIAN REFORMED MISSION**



# Torch

**June  
2016**



A fun group photo of our staff and students on the last day of the 2015-2016 school year.

***BUILDING COMMUNITY • SPRING ACTIVITIES • KEY PEOPLE***

# Principal's Desk

Adversity—seems as though we've had a hefty portion this school year. It's been true most years, now that I think of it. Some difficulties are the results of sin—large and small, individual and communal. Some are the result of the human condition—frail and vulnerable as we are. The inevitable nature of adversity is hopelessly unnerving without the Gospel. But truth is: We know and claim the Gospel for ourselves and for the children who attend Zuni Christian Mission School. This is a great comfort. We have confidence in the sovereign love of the Savior who, for the sake of his children, works all things for good.

That being said, what I've noticed so poignantly is that adversity, handled under the grace of God, builds community. This is a great gift. Here's a sweet and simple example from the younger children.

As the children came in from recess one spring afternoon, Miss Lynch stopped by to tell me that a second grader had accidentally tumbled down the wet stairs leading to the play area. He had a scrape but seemed O.K. In our classroom, I talked to the 1st and 2nd graders about what had happened. "Miss Lynch told me that everyone was very cooperative and helpful when the boy took a tumble." Then I addressed the child, "Are you O.K.?" "Yes," he answered. Then came an affirming chorus:

"I accidentally tripped him. I said 'Sorry,'" a little girl said.

"I asked him if he was O.K.," said one.

"Me too," a few others chimed in.

"I helped him get up," another child said.

Each wanted a place in the circle of caring. The sting of misfortune dissolved in a sense of belonging to a caring community.

"If only," we think, "'real' problems were as easy as this." As we know so well, they're not. Nonetheless here is what we do know—God's grace. And we, the followers of Jesus in this place, are the privileged people who embody that grace in our little school and in our dusty little town far off the beaten track.

Grace comes daily in small unremarkable acts that draw us together—a smile, a calming touch, a word of correction, an expression of forgiveness, a burst of laughter, a greeting, a naming—little sparks of fire, warmth and light, that attract us to the Light. Through such, the Spirit of God builds, bit by bit, the community of faith. Best of all is prayer. Recently, the teachers commended a sixth grader: "He volunteers to pray for others before lunch and at the end of the day." Prayer—there it is—a mysterious compelling channel of grace, always drawing people of faith into a deeper Christ-shaped community.



# Classroom Corner

Spring brings wonderful and diverse activities to education.





# Mission Info



## Partners in Mission

In April, Quincy and Josephine Panteah (ZCMS secretary and her husband) and Kathy Bosscher (principal) had the privilege of representing the Zuni Christian Reformed Mission in Grand Rapids, Michigan—at a fund-raising banquet, at school chapels, and around conferences tables. They provided a glimpse of the adventure that lies ahead as we complete the mission facility construction. Soon we will have a sanctuary for the first time in 45 years and enough space to eventually double our enrollment. The sheer physicality of it was such a gift. Then there was the outpouring of financial support—around \$88,000 toward the ZCMS Annual Fund. These speak so loudly and clearly of the calling and commitment of God's people to His work in Zuni. As your gifts continue, we anticipate ending the fiscal year in the black. We thank God for our faithful partners in mission.



## Back to School

We are so pleased that Stanley Kurley is the Murphy Builders' foreman for our gym/ministry center construction project. Stanley graduated from 8th grade at Zuni Christian Mission School in 1968. He attended Rehoboth Christian High School and went on to a career in construction. Two of Stanley and his wife Sue's children, Stanley Jr. and Charmayne, attended our school and his youngest son, Richard, is on his dad's building crew. This serendipitous return on the investment of Stanley's Christian mission education of so long ago is a precious gift. Pray for Stanley, the Murphy Builders' crew and Contractor Rick Murphy and as they make the 'big push' through the summer.

## Contact information

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