

Note From Your Missionaries

August 2026

It has been a while since I wrote a newsletter, so here are some highlights! I know that writing on the inside cover of the hymnal is not ideal, but if you are going to write something, at least this is a good one! I am so happy someone loves Jesus so much that they will write it inside the hymnal!

As usual I have had a good number of baptisms this year, adults, children of adults I baptized long ago, and babies. It is always a good day when we get to have a baptism, and let Christ give his blessing of making these to be Children of God.

Unfortunately we have also had a large number of funerals also. As you may have heard on the news there has been a surge of violence on the reservation lately. I don't want to go into all that, or glorify it, but do ask that you would pray for us in that regard. Include in the prayers, the trauma that follows all of that. We know that Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly. We pray that more of us might live in that life!

One of the men who has been coming to church told me the other day how "way back when Jesus suffered and died, He was thinking about me, even though it was thousands of years ago." That made me happy. It is fun to see how the life in Christ impacts people today!

In Parmelee I have a couple of helpers each Sunday. One of them is Bradley. He helps to set up the flannelgraph Bible story, and to set up the TV for the PowerPoint, and he collects the offering, then takes it all down after service. One Sunday he decided to wear my ball cap, so I gave it to him. He was so proud to wear it!

Sometimes the kids bring their dogs to church too. As my dad used to say, I guess instead of CATEchism, we will have DOGmatics.

I am also really proud of Tessa who graduated High School. She has been part of our family since she was little. In many ways she has been an adopted daughter to me, and often asks advice. She has recently moved to Grand Island, Nebraska and is making a life there. Please pray for her that as she lives in a new environment she will continue to live a life in our Lord Jesus.

Our summer Bible schools went well. We had some of the High School youth from our church in Rosebud help us this summer. The Bible school in Rosebud was one of the best we have had in a lot of years, both with numbers, and with the way the whole Bible school went. That was a good week. In Parmelee, the numbers were lower, but the Bible School was good!

Thank you for your help and support! Keep praying for us!

Love in Christ, Pastor Utecht

