

OUR STUDENTS WILL FIND THEIR CALLING IN GOD'S WORLD

Sometimes it's hard to articulate the genius of the Reformed tradition. Abraham Kuyper helps by exploring the Reformed concept of occupational "calling" through a story he shared during his Stone Lectures at Princeton in 1888. After the 16th-century plague devastated Milan, Italy, Cardinal Borromeo bravely stayed to help and pray for those who were dying. But when the city of Geneva was similarly afflicted, Calvin not only cared for the spiritual needs of the sick and dying—he also introduced a whole new system of hygienic measures that stopped the plague and prevented future outbreaks (The Reformed Journal, March 1975).

"Calling" can be a dangerous word in Christianese. It is often perversely mystified with graduates, inducing anxiety and fear of the future, or weaponized to justify things we want to do (or avoid doing). I often joke about how amazing it is that so many people are conveniently "called" to live where it benefits them financially or brings them closer to loved ones. Yet the concept has deep biblical roots and real-world relevance. Kevin DeYoung writes:

"So go marry someone, provided you're equally yoked and you actually like being with each other. Go get a job, provided it's not wicked. Go live somewhere in something with somebody or nobody. But put aside the passivity and the quest for complete fulfillment and the perfectionism and the preoccupation with the future, and...start making some decisions in your life. Don't wait for the liver-shiver. If you are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, you will be in God's will, so just go out and do something." (Kevin DeYoung, Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will).

If we have done our job as a Christian community, where God's presence is evident, and if we've provided a quality, Christ-centered education equipping students for a life of service, then we can be confident that

graduates of Central will possess a calling to help them navigate a life that glorifies God. Whether heading to college, trade school, or directly into the workforce, our students will find their calling—wherever they go and whatever they do—through an exceptional education delivered from a biblical worldview.



-APRIL/MAY 2025

Jon De Groot, Superintendent

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34-35

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

In Elementary Chapel and Small Groups, we spent the end of March and the beginning of April talking about forgiveness. We heard a message from Travis Berry about the power of our words and how God gives us the grace we need to forgive others. We also had a powerful demonstration of the bitterness that can take hold of our hearts if we choose not to forgive others (lemon juice) compared with how sweet our lives can be if we do forgive (Mamba candy).

Students enjoyed celebrating Easter during our last Flock Day of the year on April 17. The Middle and High School students hid eggs for the Elementary students to find, which had symbols from the Easter story in them. We spent the rest of the month talking about acceptance and how accepting or welcoming someone, even someone we don't always get along with, is a way to show God's love. We look forward to reflecting on our year together and celebrating the start of summer with Small Group Field Day during the last week of school!

— Mrs. Becky Berry; Academic Support Coordinator & Elementary Student Discipleship Coordinator



Elementary students drinking lemon juice in Small Groups.



Students gather to celebrate Easter in Flock.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Chapels in April and May have consisted of a variety of topics. Heather Flies, Junior High Pastor from Wooddale Church in the Twin Cities, spoke to our students about "Biblical math", stressing the importance of finding our identity in Christ rather than in our relationships with others. Cody Speh, Pastor in training at Rock Haven in Montevideo, taught us from 1 John 3:11-24 on what it means to love one another. Tara Griess gave her testimony to our High School students about how poor decisions regarding alcohol and drugs that she made in High School and college impacted her life. Annika Gustafson, Youth Pastor at AG, will speak on May 5 about friendships. Our final Chapel on May 21 will be led by Mr. De Groot as we close out the year.

Squad time has been used to go deeper into the topics that were discussed in Chapels. We also dedicated a number of squads to Mr. Buteyn's riddles for High School, and some puzzles/riddles were provided to Middle School students!

I have been encouraged this year by the spiritual growth I have witnessed in students. We have had a number of student-organized before-school prayer and study groups, positive feedback from students about how they view chapels and squad groups, and wonderful conversations with students about what God is doing in their lives!

— Mrs. Lorna Cook; Faith Formation Coordinator

Graduation 2025



Join us in honoring the achievements of our graduating Class of 2025 on Friday, May 23 at 5:00pm in the Central Event Center. We celebrate their incredible journey through High School and all their accomplishments. We join in the anticipation as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their lives. We give God all the glory and thank Him for all He has done in the lives of our Seniors!

Class Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23

Class Flower: White Rose



Pottery Wheel Art

The Art 2 students: Reece D., Kaylee D., Alysia B., Carene J.L., Asher W., Braxton Z., Sidney D., and Mikayla B. spent the 4th Quarter working on ceramics. Each student gets an in-house field trip to the Art room to spend a full day on the pottery wheel,



learning the basics of throwing on the wheel. The Art department recently purchased a third pottery wheel from former potter, Grace Johnson. Each of the Art 2 students were able to create a variety of pieces, bowls, cups, plates, and other wheel thrown forms. This unit tends to be a highlight for the art students, and from their smiling faces, this year's group was also a success.











TEACHER APPRECIATION



As we approach Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9, it is essential to spotlight the dedicated educators who shape the minds and hearts of future generations. Teachers are the unsung heroes of our society, devoting countless hours to nurturing young minds and instilling essential values. Beyond their teaching academics, they serve as mentors, counselors, and role models, guiding students through challenges and celebrating their successes. Please help us thank our dedicated educators who shape the minds and hearts of our children and future generations by sharing a note or a small gesture of appreciation.

SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is open for summer camps! Click <u>here</u> or visit <u>centralbluejays.org/stay-connected</u> to view the booklet of the camps that will be offered to students. Please use the QR codes on each registration form to register for each camp by Friday, May 9.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of Central families and community members, we raised \$39,735 towards investing in Christian education, nurturing spiritual growth, and fostering a lifetime of service.

Thank you for your support!





MISSION TRIPS

A group of Juniors went on Mission Trips to Tanzania, Africa, and Hendersonville, North Carolina.



As part of a mission trip to Tanzania with the EPIK Youth Group, students helped renovate a school dedicated to training future missionaries and pastors. While there, they visited two schools and hung out with the local kids. They were also able to see a couple of wells, one of which was still being made. They even went on a safari trip and saw a bunch of animals. The students said that the people there were really nice and welcoming and that they had fun and learned a lot from the trip.















On the Hendersonville, NC trip, students renovated homes that were damaged from recent floods, cleaned up trees and brush at Travis and Becky Bonnema's Echo Mountain Inn, and shingled a house. After the students were done with their shingling project, the elderly women who owned the house expressed her appreciation and thankfulness for the group.







The Year in Review

By: Our Student Body President, Carene Jean Louis

Hello everyone! My name is Carene Jean Louis, and I am this year's Student Body President. It has been an honor to be able to represent the student body over this last year, and I am forever grateful!

One aspect of our student body that I deeply admire is the leadership demonstrated by our Student Council. They have excelled in organizing and executing a variety of events throughout the school year. We began the year with a successful fall party, which featured both Powderpuff and Peachfuzz games. In mid-January, we were also able to participate in our annual Spirit Week, which was a highlight of the year. It is always a pleasure to witness the students embracing a fun, lighthearted approach to school by showcasing their creativity through unique outfits. Even



though it got pretty competitive between the Seniors and Juniors over who really won Spirit Week, it is safe to say that everyone had a good time.

I truly mean it when I say that our student body is a unique group of kids. They have done an amazing job of representing Christ in everything they do. I have been so blessed to watch these students grow, not only academically but in their faith and character as well. I have loved being able to see all the students excel in the talents God has given them and express themselves in so many different ways. The most beautiful thing about this is that no two students are the same. Each person brings something different to the table. A unique perspective and passion that contributes to the student body as a whole. We have kids who are into volleyball, soccer, track, basketball, and so many other sports. Not only that, we have kids who excel in robotics, music, art, or even theater.



One event that has really stuck with me this year was our girl's Basketball season. I'm sure that many of you kept up with our girl's basketball because you enjoy the game, and I also know that many of you have daughters who play. Our girl's team did an amazing job this year and was able to make it to the subsection finals. It was exciting to see so many people come out and support the girls. I know it was a tough loss for them, but the way

they held themselves after the loss was truly amazing. After the game, I texted all the girls individually and congratulated them on an amazing season, and apologized that it had to end the way that it did. What made this experience so special was that almost all the girls gave me the same response. "God has a plan." Although it wasn't word for word, each girl told me that even though it was a sad end to the season, God has a bigger plan for them, and they were grateful for the time spent together. Experiences like this are what, I believe, truly sets our student body apart from those around us.

As my Senior year comes to a close, I have gotten to reminisce on my life at Central throughout the years. And while there were a lot of things that made my experience here enjoyable, the student body and community are what made it so great. From the 1st to 12th grade, I have gotten to be a part of something so much larger than myself. I have gotten to be a part of a student body that doesn't just exist together but grows and experiences life together. Every challenge, success, and moment shared together has been an opportunity to reflect Christ's love and grace to those around us. To be a part of such a well-abled body of



students has been nothing short of a blessing and is something that I will forever be grateful for.

ART AWARDS







Congratulations to Sidney Duininck (flower) and Braxton Zimmer (fish) as they were awarded Honorable Mentions by Congresswoman Fischbach for this year's Congressional Art Competition.



Elzie Wassenaar, Maggie Setrum, Sidney Duininck, Mikayla Bolkema, and Braxton Zimmer were recent participants in 3 art competitions.



Mikayla Bolkema's car drawing was awarded a level of Excellence.



Elzie Wassenaar's clay art was shown at the MSHSL competition in Redwood.



Maggie Setrum received a shout-out from David Platter, Art Professor from Dordt, congratulating her on the notable recognition and Award of Excellence for "Bird of Paradise". She was applauded for her use of nuance and color development throughout the composition, but was particularly impressed with the various tonal developments in the lower portion of the flower and stem. Way to go, Maggie!



<u>College and Military Visits</u>

Central welcomed representatives from various institutions this Spring. These visits provided students with valuable insights into future opportunities in higher education and military service:

- January 14: National Guard
- March 7: University of Northwestern St. Paul
- March 17: Calvin University
- March 20: Dordt University

<u>Renville-Sibley's Scholar of the Month Program</u>

Central is proud to participate in the Renville-Sibley Scholar of the Month Program. Each month, teachers from local school districts nominate one High School Senior from their school. From the pool of nominees, one student is randomly selected to receive a \$100 donation made to their school in their honor. The chosen student gets to decide which school program—such as music, athletics, or the arts—will benefit from the donation. In June, a banquet will be held to recognize all the students selected throughout the year and their families. At the event, one of the honorees will be randomly chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Renville-Sibley.

- January Nominee Wesley Fussy
- February Nominee Isaac Asche
- March Nominee Ryan Erickson
- April Nominee Naomi Asake

Congratulations to Isaac Asche on being selected as the February Scholar of the Month. Isaac was nominated because he is a hard worker who enjoys tackling the hard projects. He has exhibited great problem solving skills, has a positive attitude, and gets along well with other students. Isaac has shown amazing dedication to a variety of projects this year and definitely earned this nomination.

Isaac has chosen to direct his \$100 donation to support Central's Industrial Tech program. Thank you, Isaac, for making a difference in our school community! (pictured)

Congratulations to Ryan Erickson on being selected as the March Scholar of the Month. Ryan was nominated for his strong commitment, positive attitude, and willingness to go above and beyond expectations. He has played a key role in several school projects, demonstrating impressive troubleshooting and problem-solving skills. Ryan collaborates well with his peers and consistently shows respect to teachers and staff. A standout example of his community-minded spirit is his work in organizing Ag Day, where he and a few classmates planned a hayride, a petting zoo, and a "farmer-style" ninja warrior course for students to enjoy.



Ryan has chosen to direct his \$100 donation to support Central's Industrial Tech program. Thank you, Ryan, for making a difference in our school community! (pictured)

West Central CEO

On March 11, Central hosted West Central Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (WCCEO) for their annual presentation to our Sophomores and Juniors. WCCEO is an off-site, two semester program available to Juniors and Seniors. The program is a partnership between Central, MACCRAY, KMS, and RCW, with its own board of directors that includes local business leaders who are interested in investing in the local community by empowering the next generation. At this presentation, students learned more about the program and about how to apply for the 2025-2026 school year.





Classroom to Career

The Business Education Network (BEN) brought the Classroom to Career program to our school for the fourth consecutive year. This initiative connects business professionals with students, giving them the opportunity to discuss their career paths and highlight how choices made in High School can shape future opportunities. Aimed at 8th Grade students, the program encourages them to take ownership of their educational goals by understanding the impact of personal decisions and academic direction. On March 12th, Jeff Duininck from Duininck

Construction visited our 8th graders to share his insights and experiences during a special presentation. (pictured)

Student Job Fair and Career Expo

On April 24th, High School students who signed up had the opportunity to attend the Job Fair and Career Expo at Willmar Senior High. While there, students visited booths hosted by a variety of local businesses, learning about job opportunities, career paths, and the skills employers are looking for. The event provided valuable insight into the local workforce and helped students explore potential future employment options.







Join us in saying thank you to Laura Brouwer, Cari Bulthuis, Lorna Cook, Antonio Jean Louis, Kourtney Schwitters, and Megan Wolfe for their unwavering dedication and commitment to education. Their passion for teaching has ignited countless minds and inspired generations of students.



Laura Brouwer



Antonio Jean Louis



Cari Bulthuis



Kourtney Schwitters



Lorna Cook



Megan Wolfe



Quarter 3 ~ 2024-2025

indicates pictured prize winners

Central ShoutOuts are blue cards that CMCS staff write to acknowledge a student's outstanding character. Thank you to the following students for displaying the values of CMCS!



Elementary ShoutOuts *Lillian Ahrenholz Lydia Berry Parker Hoekstra Ella Jerve Lawson Molden Jael Slagter Waylon Slagter Alexandra Van Dyken Maggie Ziehl





Middle School ShoutOuts

Kipton Antony Caden Bolkema *Tucker Bonnema Jamin Buteyn Evalyn Cleary Vivian Fussy Penelope Grussing Luca Ledeboer-Martinez Carson Lundeen Keisha Miller Lily Moorlag Isaak Rohlik MacKenzie Ruplinger Hawken Slagter Kelaya Ulferts Macy Vander Ark Charles Vogel Oliver Vogel



High School ShoutOuts

Walter Ammermann Carson Beerman Riley Broberg Kaylee Dannen Griffin De Groot Drew Duininck Reece Duininck Ryan Erickson Elijah Gerdes Etta Grannes Samuel Groen Seth Groen Kelsey Hillenbrand Abenezer Larson Aaron McLagan Carrie Mulder Logan Roelofs Aurora Rosen *Kaiden Ruis **Brooke Schlegel** Ketcie Ulferts Jacob Ver Steeg Madison Vogel















- A. The High School Choir received an Excellent rating at Large Group Contest.
- B. The High School Band received a Superior rating at Large Group Contest.

C. Our students enjoyed celebrating AG Day. From driving tractors and interacting with live farm animals to hayrides and fun farm games.

D. Minnesota Vikings player, Andrew Van Ginkel, donated one of his signed Minnesota Vikings jerseys to the school. He also gave a Minnesota Vikings drawstring bag and a signed photo of himself to all of our 3rd-5th graders for their support of Rock Valley Christian School during their Health.Moves.Minds fundraiser.

E. The Middle School and High School students presented "The Glass Slipper" theater production to our community.

F. Our students came together in support of the Family Promise of Kandiyohi County. They generously donated essential care items and worked together to make soup mixes and cozy fleece blankets for families in need.





- A. Our 4K students performed their Spring Fling concert for their friends and families.
- B. Gabby Pederson received a Superior rating on her flute solo at Solo Ensembles.

C. Thank you to our school bus drivers who get our students to and from school safely each day. Pictured: Dave Groen, Joan Marcus, Bob Stoel, Andy Rosen, Rachel Marcus, Mindy Grannes, Ruby Graves, Rachael Zigterman, David Zigterman, and Wade Buss. Not Pictured: Garrett Hovland, Roger Groen, Bill Harrington, Greg Punt, Joe Vander Ark, Daryl Vander Well, and Roger Wubben.

D. Thank you to our Administrative Assistants, Cassie Slagter, Moriah Brower, Melanie Vander Ark, and Janey Landberg for their hard work, dedication, and all-around superhero skills throughout the year.

- E. Our K-5th graders enjoyed Grandparent's Day. Thank you to the grandparents and special visitors who joined us for a day of fun and memories!
- F. Our Middle School students participated at the P.E. Track & Field Day at the MACCRAY track.

Central Minnesota Christian School BOARD MINUTES

March 31, 2025

Members Present: Joe Vander Ark. Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Chris Schlegel, Trevor Duininck, Jon De Groot

Devotions and Prayers: Chris S talked about taking risks=stepping out in faith and used Biblical examples of Zaccheus, Hebrews 11:1, Abraham leaving homeland, Peter stepping out of the boat. We need to step out in faith as a school.

 Approval of Consent Agenda MSP Motion- Paul L

Second- Sarah VB

a. Board Committee Minutes

- b. Board meeting minutes from February
- 2. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

3. 2025-26 Budget: Pam Harrington presented some highlights of the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

a. Jon DG prayed before the vote. b. Motion: Chris S

c. Second: Paul L

Discussion:

*Tuition reduction is not taxed due to the type of organization Central is.

*Audit for energy, phone, internet rates might be something to look at.

*Property insurance deductibles are watched and Pam reported that there are limited options to consider for covering schools.

- 4. Grievance Policy: Jon DG
 - a. Jon DG reviewed the documents.
 - b. Board discussed.
 - c. Jon DG would like feedback for revisions this week with a vote taken next month.
- 5. Access to building: Jon DG
 - a. Jon DG has drafted a letter with current policy and letter with a policy change.
 - b. Incident happened without harm that made this issue come to surface.
 - c. Jon DG will edit the letter and bring for more discussion in the future.
- Feasibility Proposal for voting process change: Paul L

 Discussion was had regarding current and proposed voting practices.

 - b. Feedback was given regarding a draft letter.c. Governance will refine letter and send before next board meeting.
- 7. Student Demographic Study Findings/Implications: Paul L

 - a. Presentation of enrollment per year for last 25 years.b. Percentage of students from 33 different churches, 17 cities, and denominations.
- 8. Zach Clark & Strategic Plan Report: Jon DG
 - a. Progress on Development plan- reflected on past 5 years, next 5 years, and future dreams.
 - b. Development message a comprehensive overview document for aligning objectives.
 - c. Connection to mission/vision.
 - d. Will revisit at future meetings for more discussion.
- 9. Annual Meeting: Joe VA
 - a. Preparation of agenda is completed.
 - b. Members will be present to assist with ballots and counting.
 - c. Al discussion following the Annual Meeting is being finalized by Sarah VB, Jon DG, Dean S.
- 10. Financial Sustainability Multi-committee meeting: Joe VA a. Debrief with committee chair people-meeting will be planned soon.
- 11. Book Club: Guiding Schools to Flourish: Chapter 21: Christy G
 - a. Discussed importance of hiring quality teachers.
 - b. Complemented Jon DG on high-quality teachers on staff.

Central Minnesota Christian School BOARD MINUTES Continued...

15. Closing prayer: Matt H

16. Meeting adjourned. MSP a. Motion: Sarah VB b. Second: Joe VA

April 28, 2025

Members Present: Joe Vander Ark, Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Luke Mulder, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Chris Schlegel, Trevor Duininck, Jon De Groot

Devotions and Prayers: Matt H reflected on a devotional about calming fears from David Tripp's book, "New Morning Mercies," about continuing to surrender. We continually work to find out how much God will take care of things in life and how much I have to do.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion-Sarah VB

Second- Chris S

- a. Board Committee Minutes
- b. Board meeting minutes from March
- c. Discussion: Student volunteerism has been a topic of conversation on the Advancement Committee.

2. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

Ryan M thanked Jon DG for doing the Coffee with the Superintendent meetings.

Development Message: Reviewed Board alignment motion led by Jon DG-MSP Motion: Trevor D

Second: Heidi G

a. Discussion:

i. Development messaging is clear and consistent and will be used in donor meetings, new staff orientation, marketing, etc.

ii. Board made sure there is alignment on the financial sustainability plan before voting on the development message.

4. Financial Sustainability: Joe VA

- a. Discussion guide and written motion was reviewed.
- b. Discussion was had around the following topics:
 - i. Enrollment growth target and strategic planning challenge
 - ii. Cost Rationalization
 - iii. Next future capital priority alignment: music/industrial art facilities

 - iv. Strengthen student culture & clarifying leadership roles v. New to You Thrift Store: strengthening impact and planning growth
- c. Vote for alignment-MSP
 - i. Motion and Rationale document was reviewed: Joe VA
 - ii. Second: Trevor D
 - iii. No further discussion
- 5. Board Retreat Debrief: Attendees will share highlights in meetings with those who were absent.
- 6. March 2025 Board Action Items a. Send out to Board members for review.
- 7. April 2025 Board Action Items: a. A new document will be created with a running list of all action items from the year.
- 8. Closing prayer: Paul L
- 9. Meeting adjourned. MSP a. Motion: Chris S
 - b. Second: Heidi G



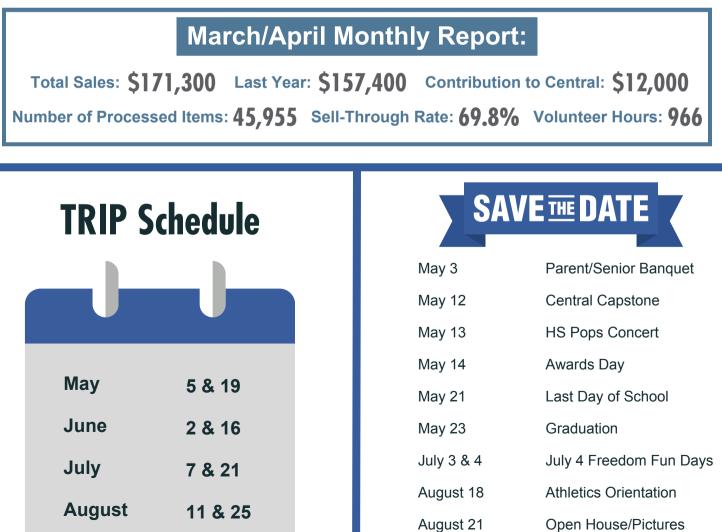
Flexible Service Opportunities!

Thank you to our awesome team of staff and volunteers! About 60 of us had some great fellowship and entertainment together at "The Glass Slipper" play. "Great job!" to the Central Drama team for an excellent performance.

Most quarters are fairly predictable, but within the quarter, the months can ebb and flow. March donations were up, and April donations were down from last year. Now that we are getting warmer weather, it's a great time to do some spring cleaning and bring in those donations!

We need volunteers for some specific tasks. If you can serve in any capacity, we likely have a task to fit. Examples include puzzle testing, help with recycling, sorting greeting cards, donation pick-ups, and cashiering. Thank you for considering!

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations



August 26

First Day of School

CENTRAL CABLE CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CENTRAL BLUEJAYS.ORG



MISSION

To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.

VISION

Surrounded by our community of believers where God's presence is evident, our students will find their calling in God's world through an exceptional education, delivered from Biblical worldview. Students will be known personally, discipled intentionally, and challenged academically.

VALUES



Better Together: God created us in his image to live in Community. Therefore, we honor and care for the well-being and success of all. We value encouragement and helpful communications while speaking the truth in love. We celebrate the individual gifts and character of each member and provide an environment for them to struggle and grow. (Rom 12:4-5; Gen 1:27; Col 3:12-14)



Building Trust: We strive for Excellence in our character and proven-ness in our work. We do our best to earn respect by exceeding expectations, maintaining high standards, challenging complacency, and aiming for full potential. (Matt 12:12; Titus 2:7)



Being Transformed: We value whole-person Growth and practice continuous improvement through learning, personal reflection, and Christian development. We are open to new ideas and seek God's kingdom dream for our lives and the world. (Rom 12:2; II Cor 5:17; Ps 51:10)



Bridging the Gap: Through Service, we identify needs and address them. We see Godpossibilities and obediently follow the Spirit to make them our reality. In humility we give of ourselves, investing in the cause of Christian education and thus, the future. (I Peter 4:10; Col 3:23, Is 58:10)