

mission info

Twenty Years of Service

On a sunny winter day in January 1989, a small family of Midwesterners arrived in a small town in Northwestern New Mexico. 20 years later, Pastor



Mike and Ardy Meekhof are still here and are still pouring their servant hearts into the work at Zuni Christian Reformed Mission. The Meekhof



family has been a tremendous blessing to this Mission and to the entire Zuni community.

Some things have changed slightly—the kids are taller and hair is “lighter”; but the Meekhof family continues to bless us in countless ways. We recently celebrated their 20th year of service. Please join us in thanking God for abiding with them and blessing us through them across these years.

Community Cooperation

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning before school, Lorinda Gchachu from Schools Healthy Lifestyles, a Zuni Tribal Program designed to promote healthy habits among Zuni children, meets with some of our youngsters for exercise and breakfast. Once a month, under the same program, the students have the opportunity to get swimming instruction. We appreciate the opportunity our children have to benefit from these community services. Pray that these efforts will help lay the foundations for healthy life choices.



Healthy Lifestyles employee and ZCMS mother, Lorinda Gchachu, comes to school early to get this group of students off to a good start.

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ZUNI CHRISTIAN MISSION

Torch

March 2009



Sheldon Tamez (8th) and Joshua Besselente (K) enjoy kindergarten reading time with the 8th graders.

ZCMS
EDUCATION WITH A MISSION

NORMAL & ORDINARY • COMMUNITY COOPERATION • 20 YRS OF SERVICE

principal's desk

It is right and good, now and then, to reflect a bit on the extraordinary nature of God's kingdom—ordinary people doing ordinary things in Jesus' name and in so doing, bringing about the high purposes of the Holy. It's easy enough in any Christian community—a home, a school, a church, a business—to collect a full measure of examples in just a few minutes of paying attention. Our school is no exception. In Jesus' name, the janitor mops the hallway. In Jesus' name, a teacher bends to a child's question; a parent brings a child's forgotten homework; an exuberant child slides across the ice on the playground. Though a great mystery, our days are flooded with significance and flushed with gratitude that we are Kingdom people doing Kingdom work.

But Kingdom building is harder to notice and even harder to acknowledge when our ordinariness is so ordinary, when our humble efforts prompted by lofty ideals get trimmed by the reality of our humanity. Recently, we had a pointed lesson in just how ordinary we are. Here's the story:

I had been sick through the night, but decided that with a couple extra hours of sleep I could probably teach my first scheduled class at 10:30 AM. Then I got a call from the 3rd and 4th grade teacher, Ruth Lynch. She too had been sick but hoped to be back at noon. After some telephoning, I had located a substitute for the morning. I threw on some clothes and went to the office to print out the lesson plans that Ruth was emailing to me. I intended to do that job and disappear for a while. Not so. While I was in the office, Jan Yzenbaard, my co-teacher in the 1st and 2nd grade classroom, popped in with a question, "Just when is our Junie B. field trip?" [Way back in September, we had booked the 1st-4th graders for a children's theater production in Albuquerque. The musical was based on the Junie B. Jones easy chapter books beloved by new readers.] "Let's look," I said, pulling out the file where I'd stashed the tickets. There big and bold, we read, "February 2." It was 8:10 AM, February 2! Albuquerque is 3 hours away—no permission slips, no preparations of any kind, two sick teachers and a performance at 12:15 PM. Believe me, I was awash in my own ordinariness—pervious to the flu and forgetfulness. But grace, as it so often does, stepped in. Within an hour, we were rolling down the highway to Albuquerque with two van loads of buoyant children stunned by their good fortune.

Is this not the Gospel? Our sin-wrecked ordinary selves have been intercepted by extraordinary Grace. It is because of that Grace, the profane has become sacred and everyday business has become God business.

classroom scene

Normal and Ordinary

In a school year filled with meetings about building plans, Centennial celebration events, surprise field trips and the Arizona Cardinals in the Superbowl (really?!), it is sometimes easy to overlook the normal, ordinary and central business of Zuni Christian Mission School—the children and their learning. In this edition of the Torch, we thank God for the normal and ordinary.



Ariki Lewis-Seoutewa (1st) has fun learning how to spell.



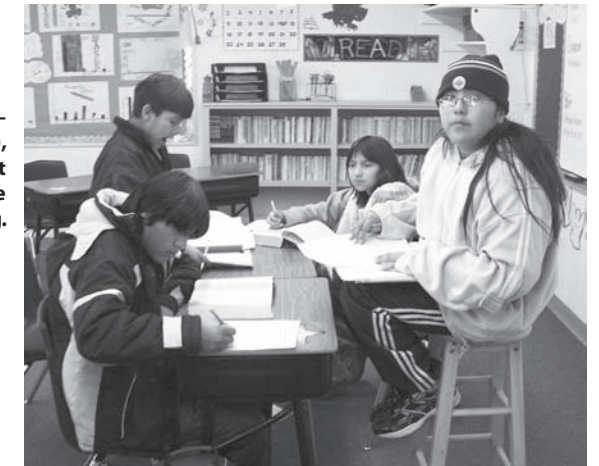
Mariah Charley (8th) reads to an intrigued Devanna Martinez (K).



Tyrell Natewa (8th) goes up strong and tries to break through the opponents' defense.



The "behind the scenes" activities are important for helping a school run smoothly. Long-time ZCMS custodian, Sam Chimoni, repairs a lunch table.



Ryan Charlie (6th), Caine Chimoni (5th), Hope Becker (6th), and Shanell Leekya (6th) put their heads together for some group learning.



Abigail Chimoni (3rd) looks on while 3rd-4th teacher Ruth Lynch answers a question for Kara Gchachu-Ukestine (3rd).