

CELEBRATIONS OF NEW LIFE

AUGUST 2023

In August we rejoiced in the baptisms of three new believers, and the professions of faith of three more adults! Earlier in the year, we had a catechism class together in which we asked questions like, What does it mean to be Christian? What does it mean to be Reformed? And what does it mean to be a church family in Zuni?



On August 6, we gathered at the home of a church family in Ramah and celebrated the baptisms in their backyard pool. Pastor James baptized Vince, Felicia, and Georgette in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We heard the professions of faith of Pedia, Buffy, and Karen. We celebrated new life in Christ with a joyful feast of fried chicken, green chile, posole, orange jello moon salad, and more!

Testimony: Georgette Lunasee



"Hello, my name is Georgette Lunasee. When I was growing up my parents believed in the Zuni religion. They never talked about God so I went along believing the Zuni religion. I came a long way believing the Zuni Way. I started going to church because my grandson invited me, but I told him I didn't know how to pray. Then he told me he was still learning and I have been going to church ever since. I found out there was only

one God. I turned to God. I longed to change my life around. The only way was to become a Christian. I want to live by faith and accept God's gift of love. I believe that God created us, and recognizes us when we seek Him. He who we call our Father God is why I wanted to get baptized and become His follower.

I felt scared when I was submerged in water. After a while, I felt relieved and very proud of myself. I feel this is the beginning of my journey with God and I have started going to the women's bible study group which I am very excited about. I have started to listen to Christian music when I am anxious. I would like prayers for my health. I have rheumatoid arthritis along with very bad knees and need to exercise. I fear the need for surgery."



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GALLUP, NM
PERMIT NO. 813



Zuni Christian Reformed Mission
P.O. Box 445
Zuni, New Mexico 87327

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLANTED IN BIBLICAL TRUTH, SURROUNDED BY GOD'S GRACE



SUMMER/FALL 2023

2023 GRADUATIONS



THEY WILL BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, A PLANTING OF



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

THE LORD FOR THE DISPLAY OF HIS SPLENDOR. ISAIAH 61:3B

NEW SCHOOL YEAR



Front cover: ZCMS graduate Johnathon Harker and sister, Alexandria (4th)



Dear Friends,

Our theme for this school year is "Oaks of Righteousness" based on Isaiah 61:1-3 (Jesus quoted part of this passage at a synagogue in Nazareth; you can read that story in Luke 4). We know that oak trees come from acorns. We also know that oak trees do not spring up overnight. According to some studies, it can take 5 to 6 years for a sprouting acorn to be self-sustaining. In the same way, as our mission statement reminds us, we are planting children in Biblical truth and surrounding them with God's grace. Sometimes seeds take a while to turn into trees, and yet every day we get to see how the seeds of faith are beginning to grow into something more beautiful. Here are just a few stories from the start of our school year:

- The mother of a kindergarten student was telling me that a family member is quite sick. Her kindergarten son has taken up praying for this relative. Recently, they were visiting her in the hospital when they walked past the meditation chapel there. The kindergartener stopped and said, "Mom, I know what to do here. We have a chapel at school. We should go in and pray."
- At one of our recent school chapels, a ZCMS staff member was preparing to share about someone in her life who was an example of an oak of righteousness. Because this person was close to her and had passed away, in the song before the time of sharing, the staff member began to cry softly. A sixth grade student noticed this, and without saying word, she walked over to the staff member and gave her a hug. It was a bold and beautiful thing for her to do. Later that day, that same sixth grade student wrote a note to the staff member which read in part, "Just know that your worth and purpose are secure when rooted in Christ."
- When a middle school student—new to our school this year—was asked, "What class are you enjoying most right now and why?" she answered, "I am enjoying Bible class the most because I finally get to learn about God."

ADVENT PRAYER VIGIL NOVEMBER 25, 2023

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and through it, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior as the Light that overcomes the darkness. This year In Zuni, November 25 is when Shalako takes place. In the Zuni religious tradition, this is the night the Zuni gods and ancestors come among the people to bring blessings and usher in the new year. It is accompanied by a period of fasting and darkness.

We invite you to kick off this Advent season by joining us in a 12-hour Prayer Vigil on Saturday, November 25 from 6:00pm – 6:00am. The evening will begin with a time of worship. The purpose of this event is to be unified in prayer for the Zuni community – humbling ourselves and seeking God together for the healing light of His presence in every dark, broken place.

How can you participate? We encourage you to not only join us in praying from home, but also to **write down a prayer for Zuni prior to the event and mail it to us** to post around the church sanctuary where people will gather to worship and pray throughout the night. Please send prayers to PO Box 445, Zuni, NM 87327 attn: Joy Burmeister or email jburmeister@zunichristianmission.org.

Even though it appears that growth happens too slowly at times, there is a hunger among our students (and others in Zuni) to know God more and to learn how to live in the knowledge of their worth and purpose in Christ. God's Spirit is at work here—changing lives, growing faith, and causing acorns to begin growing into oaks.

We are grateful for your prayerful partnership in this Kingdom work. We are encouraged by your support and strengthened by your prayers.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated. Isaiah 61:4a

CURRENT NEEDS

OUR ANNUAL FUND NEED FOR THE NEW FISCAL YEAR IS \$679,377

Because of your help and generosity, we were able to complete our fiscal year on July 31 with a surplus! Thank you for giving our kids a safe place to be planted in Biblical truth and grow in righteousness.

We have now moved into a new school year, and we ask that you would continue to stand with us through your prayers and gifts. We praise God for so many dear friends, and pray that you and your families will experience His provision and abundant love this Thanksgiving season!

SPECIAL NEEDS

Teaching Positions: We are currently looking for candidates to fill our **MS Science** and **Fifth Grade** teaching positions. Currently, one of our wonderful volunteers has come out of retirement to teach our fifth grade students just for this year, and our MS Math teacher is taking on the extra duty of teaching all 6th-8th grade students science together for one class period each day.

Bookkeeper: We are still searching for a bookkeeper to join our administrative team here in Zuni! Responsibilities include processing donations and receipts, reconciling bank statements, managing tuition payments, processing payroll, etc. If you or someone you know has financial experience and a heart for serving in a mission setting, please contact us!

West MI Development Officer/Ambassador Coordinator: ZCMS is seeking a Development Officer to serve as a regional representative in West Michigan, and as Coordinator for our group of West Michigan Ambassadors. A regional representative would help us to maintain our important connections in the West Michigan area and allow us to further develop connections with our supporters in other parts of the country.

For all job inquiries, please contact Principal Tim Becksvoort,
Phone: (505) 782-4546 · Email: tbecksvoort@zunichristianmission.org

P.O. Box 445, Zuni, NM 87327 · Give online at www.zunichristianmission.org

ZUNI CRC MISSION STATEMENT:

"Forgiven by God through Jesus, we are growing together to be a people of grace, truth, love, and light."

Dear friends of Zuni CRC - Thank you for your prayerful support of the mission of God! This has been a season of death and new life in our congregation. We have celebrated baptisms and funerals of young and old; new life and the life to come. In April, we grieved with two families who lost young men to addictions. The words of 1 Thess. 4:13 about those who grieve with no hope took a deeper meaning for me. In May, we celebrated the baptism of Harper, daughter of Jacob and Kelly Jones. That same week, we grieved with the Lee and Chimoni families at the funeral of Emily Jane Lee. Many of you may have known her from their time in Grand Rapids in the 60s, or her decades of faithful service at Rehoboth Christian School as a dorm parent. We praise God for her faithful witness! In August we celebrated the baptism and professions of faith of six adults. You can read more about that elsewhere in this newsletter!



John & Emily Lee

We praise our faithful Savior in life and in death!

MINISTRY UPDATE

On Eagle's Wings: This summer we welcomed a team of Native youth from On Eagles' Wings for a three-day outreach event in Zuni. With the support of Hutchcraft Ministries, OEW strives to bring hope to their fellow youth on Native lands. This year their tour focused on the southwest. Their high-energy evening events brought basketball, games, and stories together. They told the good news of the Gospel through the stories of their own lives - real, relatable, and pointed toward the hope of Jesus Christ.



Inspired by their outreach efforts, we held a follow-up event in August. The basketball tournament was a big hit. Barlow Gasper, our youth leader, drew the story of the good news in one man's life. We hope to have another outreach event this fall. Barlow has also refocused the youth group on intentional outreach on Wednesdays, and more focused discipleship on Sunday evenings. We're grateful to be able to partner with ministries like OEW that show that new hope in Christ is for all tribes and nations, including the people of Zuni.

