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# The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM  
REFORMED CHURCH

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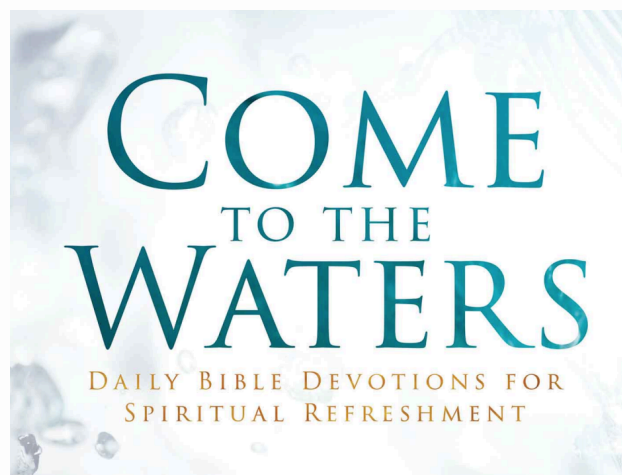
## From the Pastor's Desk

BY KRISTOFFER POPOVITCH

Last month, the newsletter's book-of-the-month recommendation focused on three different devotions. The reason why is, as I mentioned, the elders have been talking quite a bit about how we can encourage the congregation to devote time each day to be in the Word as a family. Devotionals can be great way to help families commit themselves to reading the Bible.

Well, as a follow up to this, I thought I would include in this month's newsletter one of the devotions that I read in the month of December, *Come to the Waters*. I found it to be a great help of explaining how important it is to read the Bible daily BUT also offering some advice as to how to read the Bible. For many of you, this will be a good reminder for the new year, but for others, it may be a new concept when we think about how to read the Bible..... In some ways it sounds strange to think about different ways to read God's Word but there are different methods we need to consider. So, take a look at this short devotional and if you have any questions, I am happy to talk with you!

This devotion was originally written by Dr. James Montgomery Boice and is now published through ByFaith, which is an online magazine from the Presbyterian Church in America (I received permission to have this reprinted). See the following page.



## **Studying the Word of God**

### **Psalms 119:161–76**

My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. Psalm 119:167

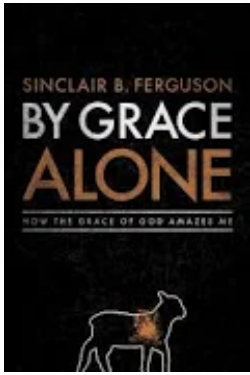
Study of the Bible must be the consuming passion of a believer's life. This is because it is only by the study of the Word of God that we learn what it is to obey God and follow Jesus. If you want to know God as he speaks to you through the Bible, you should do the following.

1. Study the Bible daily. We should discipline our lives to include regular periods of Bible study, just as we discipline ourselves to have regular periods for sleep, eating our meals, and so on. These things are necessary if the body is to be healthy and if good work is to be done. In the same way, we must feed regularly on God's Word if we are to become and remain spiritually strong.
2. Study the Bible systematically. The best system is a regular, disciplined study of certain books of the Bible as a whole. The psalmist did this. The proof is the great variety of terms he uses for the Scriptures. As he saw it, the Bible embraces the law, statutes, ways, precepts, decrees, commands, words, and promises of God. He did not want to neglect even one of them.
3. Study the Bible comprehensively. There should be an attempt to become acquainted with the Bible as a whole. This means reading it comprehensively. Paul told Timothy, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).
4. Study the Bible devotionally. Nothing is clearer in this psalm than the close, indissoluble link between knowledge of God and study of the Word of God, between loving God and loving the Bible. In reading the Bible, we study to know God, hear his voice, and be changed by him as we grow in holiness. Furthermore, we must memorize important sections of Scripture. As Christians we need to allow the Word of God to become a part of us. To have that happen, we must memorize it.
5. Study the Bible prayerfully. The best way to study the Bible is to encompass the study in prayer. Before we begin to read, we should say, "Lord God, I am turning to your Word. I cannot understand it as I should. I need your Holy Spirit to instruct me and draw a proper response from me. What I understand I want to obey. Help me to do that for Jesus's sake." Then we must study the passage, and when we find something that pertains to our lives, we must stop and acknowledge it prayerfully. Without regular, personal Bible study and prayer, we are not really walking with Christ as his followers, and we are certainly not obeying him in specific areas.

Taken from *Come to the Waters* by James Boice ISBN 9798887790954 used with permission from P&R Publishing, Phillipsburg NJ 08865

## Book-of-the-Month

***By Grace Alone: How the Grace of God Amazes Me***  
**Sinclair B. Ferguson**



Many people think of the new year as a fresh start. Kind of a renewing of our mind, reordering of priorities, and a developing new habits. If this describes you, even a little bit, I would suggest you consider reading a book written by Sinclair Ferguson called *By Grace Alone*. It is a fantastically written book that focuses on recharging our souls with

the joy of the grace of God. One of the best parts of this book and something I really like is the probing questions it asks about how we view grace like, "How do I know I am living in a state of grace? And, "Does grace really amaze me"?

If you are considering starting up a good spiritual exercise program this New Year, I would recommend starting here, with these questions and this book. Hope you have a great Christmas-centered and godly start to 2026!

## November 2025 Financial Report

### General Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$38,038.66
Disbursements: for the month	\$38,009.08

### Building Fund

Receipts	\$1,056.00
Disbursements	\$0.00

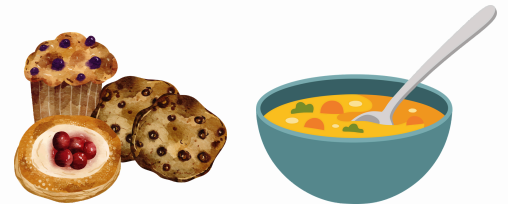
### Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts	\$7,035
Disbursements	\$4,980.37

## Upcoming Events



**January 20: Women's Ministries**  
7 p.m.



**February 21: Soup/Dessert Cookoff**

### **January Meetings:**

January 5: Executive Committee Meeting  
January 6: Committee Meetings  
January 12: Elders & Consistory Meetings

# Max Tyler Update

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you, from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

November and December have been fantastic, the last semester has been the best one so far!

Classes were amazing, I have learned so much so far, both head knowledge and heart knowledge. Poetics was particularly phenomenal, I absolutely loved the Proverbs and Psalms. The final for the Psalms project was to create something inspired by a Psalm or a theme in the Psalms. My creation was a wooden structure with the word "Glory" burned into the pillars, and there is a piece of cedar (spruce) shattered and suspended in the middle. Attached below is a picture of the creation. It demonstrates the power of the voice of the Lord from Psalm 29.

Funny story, one of the missionaries here, Andy, was a missionary in Uganda for 14 years, and in the later years, he needed a plane. So he went searching for a plane, and ended up buying it from Dan Smith from Paradise Bound!!! What a small world we live in! After finding this out, Andy took me out flying the next day, the day before he sold it to someone else.

I did some duck hunting, well sort of, we left at 5:15 am, drove an hour and a half to the river, I got out of the truck into the crisp 15 degree winter air, "slipped on" my 15 degree un-insulated waders, and got in the boat. Immediately I discovered that the waders were not as warm as I thought they would be, and as we are driving to the hunting site, it was so cold that my mustache began to freeze, and my toes couldn't move anymore. I unfortunately relay this to the captain and once we were done dropping the decoys he brought me back to the truck, and I sat there for 5 hours while my friends got ducks. It was still fun though, and I got some super heavy duty snow-pants now for next time.

Christmas break is much quieter this year, there are only two of us staying in the dorms, and I work half the day so we never see each other.

Oh yeah, I got a job! It's part-time and I am sort of remodeling/building someone's house. He moved up here with his wife, six kids and mother-in-law, and couldn't afford to hire a full crew to finish the house, so he is paying me to do it instead. I was skeptical at first, but I figured it wouldn't hurt to give it a go.

I greatly look forward to next semester, looking forward to whatever God has in store for me.

I miss you Bentheim, and I wish I could be there for Jonah and the Whales, as well as to hear Pastor Kris preach, but God has me up here for a reason this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all, and have a happy New Year!!

**For previous updates and additional photos, visit  
[www.bentheim.org/max](http://www.bentheim.org/max)**



# Growing Hope Globally 2025 Report



**GROWING  
HOPE**  
G L O B A L L Y

The Bentheim, Drenthe, Niekerk, and Oakland churches were truly blessed again this year in raising money for Growing Hope Globally. Even though yields were not as good as we hoped, churches were blessed by businesses, churches, and individuals increased giving. We are able to distribute \$62,400 to Growing Hope Globally. The

following programs have been recommended to be supported:

1. Bangladesh Dewanganj (Local leadership, sustainable agriculture and crop diversification): \$2,846.47
2. Kenya Igembe (Food security, savings and lending, nutrition, and sanitation): \$10,813.53
3. India Dimoria (Increased production and diversity through sustainable agriculture practices): \$8,500.00
4. Uganda Rubanda (Conservation agriculture and other soil fertility restoration practices): \$8,500.00
5. Zambia Lundazi (Addressing food security and nutrition with a holistic approach): \$8,500.00
6. West Africa (Training on gardening, rice production, chicken raising, and nutrition): \$8,500.00
7. Cambodia South (Enhancing farm productivity and access to markets): \$8,500.00
8. Growing Hope Globally Operations (To help us continue growing lasting solutions to hunger!): \$6,240.00

# Missionary of the Month:

## Sanctity of Human Life and Positive Options



On January 22, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday of January as National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

Pastors, churches and life organizations across the United States use this day to bring awareness to the attacks that are daily waged against human life through the abortion industry.

One of the best ways we can protect unborn lives is by bringing into the light the darkness of abortion and supporting local pregnancy help organizations who daily reach women and families with messages of hope and life.

Bentheim Reformed Church is coming alongside Positive Options again in 2026.

Since 1991, Positive Options have lived out their mission to love people to life before, during , and after a pregnancy decision. They provide free medical services (pregnancy tests & ultrasounds), prenatal and parenting education, relational and sexual health education, as well as church partnerships. They are building a vibrant community where every life is valued, loved, protected, and transformed because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The organization aims to help individuals navigate their options and make informed decisions about their health and future.

### **Positive Options Services**

At Positive Options, we'll provide you with services and resources you need, at no cost. Our professional and caring staff will help you navigate through ALL your options regarding an unplanned pregnancy so you can make an informed decision.

#### Pregnancy Testing

Lab-quality pregnancy tests at no cost

#### Ultrasounds

Limited Ultrasounds

#### Pregnancy Options

Exploring your pregnancy options in a confidential, secure space

#### Just for Men

Support for men whose partners are facing an unplanned pregnancy

# Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
January 4	Laura Lengkeek Leah Walters Taylor Patmos Blake Lugten	Carol Brower Hannah Walters	Shawn Hulst
January 11	Kelly Eding Kiel Patmos Bethany Kalmink Hannah VanDyk	Dan & Jodi Geurink	Hannah Walters
January 18	Amanda Schurman Tammy Bosch Rylan Schutter Kelsey Geurink	Mike & Lisa Lugten	Russ Lameris
January 25	Lisa Lugten Gail Schutter Oliver McCleery Evie Boeve	Keith & Ann Walters	Sandy Hoeve Paula Scholten
February 1	Ronda Lameris Jen Vander Kolk Sadie Schutter Claire Debo	Rick & Lisa Dirkse	Sheri Popovitch
February 8	Carolyn Dekker Paula Scholten Mallorie Koetsier Brinsey Hoeve	Carol Brower Jodi Mesbergen	Darla Groenheide
February 15	Renee Breuker Andrea Mulder Marisa Patmos Chloe VanDyk	Bruce & Jill LaMar	Erma Eding Nancy Sal
February 22	Alyssa Schipper Brielle Groenheide Mia Brink Evelyn Busscher	Cris Walters Hannah Walters	Brielle Groenheide

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 - 6 pm: High School Ministry	5 - 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	6 - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Committee Meetings	7 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 9 am: Play Group - 5 pm: Supper - 6 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	8 - Release Time Bible Club - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	9 - Middle School Ministry Retreat	10 - Middle School Ministry Retreat
11 - Middle School Ministry Retreat - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - AI Gemen's Class - 6 pm: High School Ministry	12 - 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting - 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting	13 - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Women's Ministries	14 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	15 - 9 am: Coffee Break - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	16	17
18 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - 6 pm: High School Ministry	19	20 - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship	21 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	22	23	24
25 - 9:30 am: The Lord's Supper - AI Gemen's Class - 6 pm: High School Ministry	26	27 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship	28 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	29 - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	30	31