

Annual Report

2019-2020



Calvary
CHURCH

Leadership Team

STAFF

Jim Samra
Senior Pastor

Tom Olsson
Lead Pastor

Celeste McDonough
*Mercy & Missions
Team Leader*

Susan Sorensen
*Team Leader,
Adult Ministries
Pastoral Staff,
Women's Ministry
& Adult Bible Study*

Don Tuuri
*Director of
Operations & Security*

Kristen White
*Personal Assistant
to Jim Samra,
Tom Olsson,
Lisa Samra
& Calvary Elders*

In writing and preaching one of the sermons from this past year, I was reminded that while many of us may forget 2019, none of us will ever forget 2020. That is the nature of what we have been through this year with the coronavirus. In fact, this annual report technically reports on things that happened all the way back to September 2019, but to be honest, it is hard to remember much of what ministry was like before COVID-19.

For the Christian, COVID-19 takes on added weight and importance because it is a sign of God moving on the earth. Habakkuk 3:5 reminds us that when God walks upon the earth, plagues accompany his presence. So for those of us who have eyes of faith, we have seen beyond the pandemic to God moving among us.

Now it is true that God being among us is always good and always a blessing, but it doesn't mean that it is without pain and difficulty. When God moves among us he is often involved in pruning, disciplining, judging, and testing. These are hard things to experience. For that reason it has been a hard year. A hard year to be a pastor. A hard year to be a church. A hard year to be a Christian.

But in the struggles there have been great blessings. Some of the greatest blessings that I have experienced this year are the ones Paul speaks of in 1 Thessalonians 2. Amid great suffering and persecution for being a Christian, Paul says that he still worked and did ministry. Not to please people, but to please God. I was reminded again in a very real way during this pandemic that there is no way to please people. Many decisions that were forced on us as a church were guaranteed to leave one group displeased with how they were handled. But this year was a great reminder that seeking to please God brings joy and peace and he provides clear guidance to navigate even the most complex challenges.

Paul also rejoices that despite (or because of) the suffering he was able to be among the Thessalonians like a nursing mother, caring for her children. He recalls with joy their toil and hardship as he, Silas and Timothy were like fathers with their children encouraging, comforting and urging the Thessalonians to live lives worthy of God. I have felt that this year. More than any other year that I can remember, we have spent our time encouraging, comforting and urging people to remember God in this season.

Like Paul, I thank God continually that while during this year we have been orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), we the staff and leadership team have made every effort to see you through phone calls, emails, Zoom, video messages, and regathering for worship and ministry. For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed you are our glory and our joy.

Jim Samra
Senior Pastor

Elders

ELDERS

Bill Azkoul

Bob Bass

Bob Boverhof

Bruce Bradford

Louis Burrell

Steve Doren

Dave Ellis

Chad Kerr

Greg Mangione

Dale McNinch

Earl Thomas

Scott Tuburgen

Allen VanHaitsma

John Zimmerman

As I sat down to write an elder report for the 2019-2020 ministry year, it was hard to think back that far! It seems like a lifetime ago since our last Annual Meeting in October of 2019. In order to supplement my memory, I reviewed the minutes from each elder meeting since our last annual meeting. It was a great reminder of how God was alive and well last fall and winter at this place we call Calvary Church.

The October minutes reported the commission of new deacons and noted some difficult decisions the elders were wrestling with. The elders were fasting and praying, seeking the Lord's will for Calvary. November's elder packet contained applications for several new members, each with a testimony of how Christ had changed their lives. December's minutes reported that the elders met with several congregants who came to the elders for prayer and reflected significant time spent praying for the ministries and congregation of Calvary Church. They shared thanksgiving for answered prayer.

January's treasurer's report shared how God had poured out His riches on this congregation. Receipts exceeded expenses and the Benevolence Fund and Jerusalem Projects accounts continued to be full even as each committee aggressively sought ways to financially bless individuals and churches with financial assistance. February 2020's packet is full of minutes from the different staff advisory committees: Mercy & Hospitality, Adults, Kids and Students, Care and Worship Committees all documented how God is blessing to Calvary Church. In March's minutes, I was reminded of an encouraging devotional shared by Pastor Tom and a powerful theological teaching from Pastor Jim. It is amazing to look back and see God at work at Calvary Church during the first half of this past ministry year!

And then in April's Minutes, at the top of the page is a phrase that had not been used before, "Virtual Meeting." Many of our personal lives changed drastically this spring as COVID-19 dominated our lives. My memories are of a society full of change, cancellations and confusion. However, as I read through the elders' minutes from April through September of 2020, I was struck at how the minutes seemed remarkably the same as they had the first half of the ministry year! Yes, there were some differences, however, I was amazed how similar things were. Deacons were commissioned last Spring, new members were added each month, elders met with congregants for prayer, and God continued to answer our prayers. The elders continued to wrestle with God through difficult decisions, ministry committees minutes continued to document God's goodness. The elders were fasting and praying, theological teachings and encouraging devotions continued throughout the summer and we ended our fiscal year with receipts far exceeding expenses.

In conclusion, God led me to Matthew 16:18, "I will build my Church and the gates of hell [or COVID-19] will not overcome it." The minutes from all the elder meetings of this past year are evidence of Jesus's declaration.

My friends, life is ever changing, but God is the same and He will build His Church no matter what.

Chad Kerr
Elder

Deacons

DEACONS

Rick Huls

Deacon Chair

Don Armbrester

Treasurer

Lynne Bass

Worship

Nate Benham

Benevolence

Faith Bergakker

Benevolence Chair

Nigel Crompton

*Adult Sunday Class Leader
Development*

Dan DeVries

Benevolence

Craig Johnson

Missionary Care

Cy Jourdan

Parking Guide

Wilhelm Kliewer

Finance

Angela Klinske

Personnel Chair

Matt Kromke

Offering

Doug Lipinski

*Jonathan Fund
& Benevolence*

Mike Metcalf

Personnel

Kurt Mirandette

Benevolence

Like everyone else, the past year for the deacons has been far different than anticipated. Though we entered this past year expecting change, little did we know the magnitude of the change God had in store. Yet no matter how many plans were interrupted, canceled, changed, or delayed due to COVID-19, God was still at work.

To highlight specific ways the deacons have seen God working in and through Calvary Church this past year, I asked several of them to share what that looked like in their area of ministry.

WORSHIP MINISTRY - LYNNE BASS

At the beginning of COVID, when the choir, orchestra, & praise team were not able to meet, Lynne asked God what they could do to be a blessing to others as a group. As she prayed, Lenski from Sanctuary Church (a Calvary church plant that meets at York Creek Apartments in Grand Rapids) came to mind. She called and heard from Lenski about people losing jobs and financial struggles. He prayed about the best way to receive help. He came back to Lynne with the request for gift cards to Meijer, Aldi, or Walmart. Lenski would hand them out as needed; their church had no benevolence program. Lynne made the request known to the worship teams. In a short time, \$1,190 in gift cards was collected and delivered to Sanctuary Church. This is one example of ongoing ways the worship teams are being used of God to bless others. As Lynne says, "when God asks you to help someone, do it. It always works out."

BENEVOLENCE - FAITH BERGAKKER

The Benevolence Team has seen an increase in requests for financial help since the onset of COVID-19. An unexpected request resulting from the virus and the necessity of wearing face coverings was the need for a young man to have improved hearing aids. After much prayer and seeking help in other places – as well as

the young man taking on lawn mowing jobs – they were directed to seek help from Benevolence. Although reluctant at first to request help, in the end they were willing to submit to God’s direction and plan for their son.

JONATHAN FUND - DOUG LIPINSKI

As part of the restructure of the role of Deacon, this year God led the Elders to entrust me with the role of Deacon of the Jonathan Fund. The Jonathan Fund’s purpose is to bless and encourage Calvary congregants, staff, as well as other individuals associated with Calvary Church. The Jonathan Fund is intended to fulfill a different role than Calvary’s Benevolence Fund which may involve ongoing needs for a season. Instead, the Jonathan Fund provides those in our Calvary community with encouragement by way of a financial blessing for a specific need or purpose. The Jonathan Fund committee prayerfully seeks God’s guidance discerning His will in financially blessing and loving on those whom He leads us to bless.

This year, we have seen families, individuals, widows, sick and hurting people being blessed, loved upon, encouraged, receiving hope and joy, through an unconditional gift from God via the Jonathan Fund.

EVANGELISM - DAVE WEISKITTEL

Like many Calvary activities, one-on-one evangelism and discipleship became a challenge with the onslaught of COVID-19. However, early on, the Lord provided an opportunity for encouragement and faithfulness. At the end of the Easter Sunday service, Pastor Tom encouraged anyone who needed help, or had questions to contact us through a provided email address. Later that afternoon, I responded to an email from someone who turned out to be a former homeless man, currently in transitional housing. This man, in his early 40s, was

Charylene Powers
Prayer Garden

Vernon Spears
Communion

Rob Umstead
Finance

Chris Walkup
Nomination Chair

Dave Weiskittel
Evangelism

in a very deep valley, suffering the consequences of some extremely poor choices. Working with the Benevolence Team, we quickly provided him with much-needed rent assistance that also provided him the ability to purchase a refurbished laptop to start computer classes.

Early on, I had suggested we get together, over Zoom, for a short Bible study. After his initial physical needs were met, he expressed an interest in the Bible study – but in person. That was a somewhat risky request considering he was living in close quarters with four other men and continued to be in contact with a number of homeless people. So, for ten Saturday mornings, we met outside on a picnic table at a downtown park to study the books of James and 1 Peter. While I'm sure it was a blessing for him, I believe the Lord had a lot more in mind.

Over those ten weeks, we were working on the soon-to-be implemented “Calvary Church First Steps Discipleship Plan.” Not only was I blessed through the study of these two great books, and protected from contracting COVID-19, but this mentoring experience was invaluable in the development of the “First Steps” discipleship plan. As my friend and Calvary employee Ed Vermurlen often recites, “God the King is Faithful.”

DEACON CHAIR - RICK HULS

These are a few of the stories that speak of God's great purpose and His marvelous work through His people who seek Him and obey Him.

At our house, when the COVID-9 shutdown first began, it meant that both of our college students had to finish the school year online from home. Pastors Jim and Tom were preaching from Titus. As we worshiped online those first few months we made it a point to memorize together Titus 2:11-13, which were the benediction that closed each service. I believe those few verses summarize God's greater ongoing work, even in the midst of a pandemic. I'll end with those verses along with a word of thanks to all of you at Calvary Church for your generosity in 2020 during this time of adversity. God is at work.

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Rick Huls
Deacon Chair

Table of Contents

Leadership Team	Page 2
Elders	Page 4
Deacons	Page 6
Worship	Page 10
Community & Care	
Calvary Equip, Small Groups, and Adult Sunday Classes	Page 11
Young Adults	Page 12
Men	Page 13
Women	Page 14
Senior Adults	Page 15
Calvary Care	Page 16
High School	Page 17
Seventh & Eighth	Page 18
Calvary Kids & Fifth-Sixth	Page 19
Mercy & Missions	
Department Reflections	Page 20
Missions Support Updates	Page 23
Operations	
Culinary Services	Page 25
Events	Page 25
First Impressions & Serving	Page 26
Technical Services	Page 26
Facilities	Page 27
Additional Ministries	
Prayer	Page 29
Communications	Page 30
Jerusalem Project	Page 31
Financials	Page 32



HIGH, LOW, BUFFALO

For this year's Annual Report we asked our staff to use one of the world's great conversation starters to frame their reflections. Maybe you've used this with your family or with your small group as a way to get people sharing. Each ministry has shared a highlight and a struggle from the past year, along with something weird, random or fun that stands out in their memory. We hope you enjoy looking back at the 2019-2020 Calvary Church ministry year through this lens.

Worship Ministry

STAFF

Andy Crowder
Pastoral Staff

Mark Welling
Assistant Director

Mark Grevengoed
Orchestra Director

Carson Straube
Facilitator

Christie Thompson
Ministry Assistant

HIGH

One of the highlights of the Worship Ministry this past year is seeing younger people, high schoolers and interns, leading worship alongside their mentors, and seeing them grow in their desire to worship God and in their desire to encourage others to worship God. Being able to see the diversity of age and race throughout our year has been a huge blessing as we seek to worship as every tribe, tongue and nation.

LOW

This year, as is true for many, a great struggle has been reacting and adjusting to COVID-19 and the changes that it has made to our lives and our church. We spent months only meeting online as a church, even over Easter, before opening the Sanctuary again to smaller numbers. This focus on livestreaming our services brought with it unknown challenges from a tech standpoint, as well as a service planning standpoint.

BUFFALO

One of the things that stands out in my mind has been the incorporation of different technology into our music on Sundays. We have a piano now in the Sanctuary that we can have on stage! Because of that flexibility and the incorporation of other things, we've even been able to have the entire praise band on the stage for the first time that I can remember.

And, if I'm allowed another, it was also fun this year to see our orchestra and choir come together digitally in the form of a virtual prelude and a virtual song. Seeing the faces of those we minister with and being joined together virtually was something we wouldn't have tried before.

Calvary Equip, Small Groups & Adult Sunday Classes

HIGH

GROUPS & ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES: One of the highlights was seeing new people get connected and find community. Despite some of the challenges this season presented, people have risen to the occasion by learning to Zoom, strengthening care for one another, and stepping out of their comfort zone to connect in new ways.

CALVARY EQUIP: We increased Equip offerings, worked to develop specific tracks, and refined several offerings to be more impactful and effective. The greatest highlight is hearing the encouraging reports of how Calvary Equip is working to grow people in ministry.

LOW

GROUPS & ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES: With social distancing and the likelihood of isolation, there was the challenge of engaging with people deeply enough on a relational level to know where they are in their faith. However, I believe this also provided us an opportunity to encourage greater personal initiative in faith, spiritual leadership, and influence in the lives of others.

CALVARY EQUIP: Calvary Equip is relatively new and this year it was a struggle to find the best ways to raise awareness and communicate the vision to Calvary and to effectively share class offerings.

BUFFALO

GROUPS & ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES: It's been a hoot learning to Zoom with y'all!

CALVARY EQUIP: Over 850 people participated in an Equip Class this past year!

STAFF

Mason Sherrill
Pastoral Staff

Karen VanHolstyn
Assistant Director

Carla Boon-Julien
Ministry Assistant

Young Adults

STAFF

Mark Schaap
Pastoral Staff

Abby Nuenke
Facilitator

Quinn Santa Ana
Facilitator

Ann Bagley
Ministry Assistant

HIGH

Despite the pitfalls of COVID, this year has really been a blessing and has spurred the Young Adult Ministry forward in a spectacular way. God has used our downtime to connect us with some new employees. The Young Adults Team has been working so well together and I praise God for that!

LOW

I don't know if I can say it differently than any other ministry, but COVID has certainly thrown a wrench in plans, activities, and ministry. However, despite the frustrations, God has been on the move and has certainly used these things to spark creativity and has called us to something new. I'm excited to see how God will continue to shape us through this unique season in history.

BUFFALO

This new season has sped us up in a lot of ways and I'm excited to say that we were able to kick off our new podcast for Young Adults called MI Fresh Coast. This is a relevant look at issues facing young adults today through the lens of the Gospel. We are having such a great time exploring the sound waves of podcasting as we take on the challenge to produce effective and creative content.

Men

HIGH

One of the highlights this past year is seeing men take their faith more seriously. Men at Calvary are committing to monthly prayer gatherings for our church and leaders, entering into discipleship relationships, sharing their faith, and growing in consistency – it has been a year full of growth for many of Calvary's men!

LOW

It was a struggle to make decisions at the onset of COVID-19, especially in March. There was a lot of momentum and excitement heading into March and we had several big events planned. I remember sitting in several meetings where we'd spent a long time in prayer and deliberation to get to a decision only to have someone receive an update moments later that completely quashed our plans. It was really discouraging at the time.

BUFFALO

Men's Ministry started an Instagram account (@men.calvarygr) this year and it's been fun to use this platform to connect, challenge, and encourage men in their faith... and remind them when it's National Cheeseburger Day!

STAFF

Mason Sherrill
Pastoral Staff

Joe Symonds
Project Staff

Carla Boon-Julien
Ministry Assistant

Women

STAFF

Susan Sorensen
*Adult Ministries Team
Leader & Pastoral Staff*

Donna Ross
Ministry Assistant

HIGH

It was wonderful to see our Monday night and Tuesday morning Bible Study small groups go virtual and continue on meeting well past the normal ending of our year. Many of these groups finished Titus & Thessalonians and then did the NBS2go study titled “Trusting God During a Crisis (COVID-19).” Another big highlight was watching our MOPS Exploratory Committee prayerfully discerning the next step for moms of young children at Calvary. From this, a wonderful new ministry and excited leadership team emerged with the title, *Embrace: Women Embracing Motherhood Together*.

LOW

The Lord graciously used COVID to expand ministry to more virtual options which was exciting but, at the same time, lacking the connection and interaction of being with one another in person. No doubt, this was especially hard for those without the virtual option and those who were more isolated. I was so encouraged by our small group leaders and the C19 Task Force, who made calls and sent words of encouragement. Nonetheless, there is really nothing like being together!

BUFFALO

It was fun to see the creative ways women reached out to others during COVID. I loved receiving photos of women gathered for Bible study and fellowship with lawn chairs outside. One woman prayerfully moved a beautiful pot of flowers with an inspiring poem from house to house in her neighborhood. It was amazing to hear of God’s perfect timing as the planter arrived at each house! It was also great to hear of Easter gift bags given to neighbors and even a church member coordinating neighborhood houses to decorate similar to the Resurrection Eggs (the Easter story) with the journey laid out via sidewalk chalk.

Senior Adults

HIGH

When we look at our highlight it may seem like a low point. Moving to Zoom technology and now Livestream was difficult because of the lack of personal interaction. BUT, what resulted was people becoming connected that we had never thought of connecting before! Many of our homebound and those locked down during the pandemic were now able to be part of our group. The laughter of people figuring out how to mute or unmute themselves always brought smiles to a lot of faces. So, I praise God for how technology helped us minister in new and fresh ways... and I did not even bring up the new PB&J (Pastor Bruce & Jim) Report (which may fit more in the fun and random category)!*

LOW

Probably the biggest low point for me was seeing many of our community enter eternity. Two men especially who had been my friends and mentors are now with Jesus. In reality, how can that be a low point? They are with the Lord and I will be with them again. Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

BUFFALO

The most fun, random event of the past year had to be our Picnic Praise nights. The first one was like the apple cart upset, but God provided amazing people to fill in. The second one we had to cancel because of COVID and the final one was an example of God's goodness. To see people interact face to face worshipping the Lord brought great joy to all.

STAFF

Bruce Huseby
Pastoral Staff

Carla Boon-Julien
Ministry Assistant

*Find these videos at calvarygr.org/oasis.

Calvary Care

STAFF

Josh Warren
Pastoral Staff

Dane Bjork
Assistant Pastor

Lynnell Bok
*Facilitator & Wedding
Process Coordinator*

Andrea Reiffer
*Care & Counseling
Coordinator*

Leslie Iverson
Ministry Assistant

HIGH

Calvary Care remained in-house (in-church) during the COVID-19 crisis, so we mixed up our ministries with positive results. Some counseling went online. Those with financial hardship received Meijer gift cards, bills paid and Calvary-made frozen meals. The Food Pantry also expanded their hours to allow for private shopping and grocery delivery.

LOW

This year, we struggled with people wanting weddings and needing funerals. Extreme limitations on numbers of attendees caused frustrated brides and grooms. Additionally, funerals were postponed or limited to just a few grieving family members.

BUFFALO

Last November and December found Calvary Care looking like the North Pole as Calvary folks “adopted” other Calvary folks who needed some Christmas cheer. Wish lists were distributed, gifts were purchased and given anonymously and dozens of Calvary families opened surprise packages that reminded all of us of the gift of Jesus.

High School

HIGH

When I look back on this past year, the greatest highlight from my perspective was not a singular event, but the opportunity to watch God working to grow Christ-centered relationships in our youth group and in the communities in which our students live. Whether it was partnering with Adam Anderson to share a weekly meal with East Grand Rapids students and discuss Christ with a mix of believing and unbelieving students, watching cross-grade relationships blossom at our Winter Retreat and our *Camping with Tom* trip in July, or meeting twice a week over Zoom in the midst of quarantine to read and discuss the book of John — absolutely all of our highlights involved Jesus stirring up mutual affection between students and a desire to spend time together in His presence.

LOW

While we know that God was both at work through quarantine and growing us in ministering to students, the greatest difficulty of COVID-19 for us was the consistent threat of exhaustion that our staff faced from constantly reinventing our approach to staying connected with students and offering a variety of new, online touch-points throughout each week.

BUFFALO

At one point over the lockdown, we challenged students to bake and decorate a cake to share over Zoom. I'm not exaggerating when I say that our students rose to the occasion to present professional quality designs. The winner of the competition was a cake with an accurate representation of Danny DeVito's face in frosting.

STAFF

Josh Karhan
Pastoral Staff

Abby Nuenke
Facilitator

Rodney Velting
Facilitator

Ann Bagley
Ministry Assistant

Seventh & Eighth

STAFF

Sara Tindall
Pastoral Staff

Rodney Velting
Facilitator

Kaylynn Woznick
Facilitator

Ann Bagley
Ministry Assistant

Pam Cook
*Facilitator,
Special Needs Ministry*

HIGH

This past year, our high was watching our community adapt and endure an unexpectedly adventurous year. From severe weather on our first Wednesday night to many months of not being able to gather in person, our students and leaders kept rolling with the punches. Our plans were flipped on their head more times than we can count, and we faced disappointment along the way, but we didn't give up. We kept trusting God, building community and caring for one another.

LOW

This past year, our low was having to let go of some really great things we were looking forward to. Students were bummed to have to miss out on some of their favorite events.

BUFFALO

Our buffalo this year was being able to still carry out our tradition of throwing confetti to celebrate all the ways big and small that God showed up this year – virtually! We mailed everyone a package complete with party snacks and confetti balloons, and celebrated in a special new way.

Calvary Kids and Fifth-Sixth

HIGH

CK: Studying the attributes of God and realizing what a BIG God we serve, LUMIN8 visiting nursing homes at Christmas and spreading the joy of Christmas through singing, finding new ways to connect with our kids during quarantine. We especially loved our drive-thru event! And of course being able to regather with our families this summer!

56: The kids' energy when it came to Bible lessons was a highlight. We had a sixth grader ask if she could read ahead in 1 Samuel because she wanted to know what was going to happen in the story, creating a fun environment as we moved into our new space.

LOW

CK & 56: For both ministries, the abrupt end of meeting together due to COVID-19 was a real low. We would have loved to end the year properly.

STAFF

Shelly Lamport
Pastoral Staff

Don Hancock
Facilitator

David Prichard
Facilitator

Zach Schmuck
Facilitator

Liz Thelen
Facilitator

Kirsten DeMoss
Ministry Assistant

Betsy Nolan
*Care Coordinator for
Children & Students*

BUFFALO

Connecting with kids on our YouTube channel brought out our secret talents:

- We learned that Miss Shelly can only fit three big marshmallows in her mouth through *Chubby Bunny*.
- We learned that Mr. David is oblivious in Hide and Seek, and has a hard time looking under chairs.
- We learned that Mr. Don has a creepy clown puppet named Colleen during the *Puppet Making Challenge*.
- We learned that Miss Liz could easily have her own cooking show in the *Ultimate Sandwich Challenge*.
- We learned that Mr. Zach can make a glass mug out of duct tape in the duct tape challenge... and He can put on 35 shirts at the same time in the *T-Shirt Challenge*.
- We learned that Miss Kirsten can turn her entire living room into a fort in the *Fort Building Challenge*.

Mercy & Missions

HIGH

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY (JUDI WARNER): What happens when weekly worship with 130 of your ministry friends suddenly stops? You grieve, you pray, you wonder what God is up to, you remember He is still faithful. And you move forward - holding tightly to His hand. The shut-down allowed me to get to know so many of my friends at a deeper level. Making phone calls, sending care packages and making “yard” visits turned into a new way of doing ministry and one that I am so grateful for.

REFUGEE MINISTRY (LANA DUOIBES): We saw God at work in a powerful way as refugee families came every Wednesday to use the church’s Food Pantry. During that time, they were not only fed physically but spiritually as well. They listened to short devotions in Arabic and we prayed for them in Jesus’ name. We watched as they left each week, filled up with encouragement, peace, and hope to face their daily challenges.

LOW

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS (NATALIE UECKER): It was heart-wrenching to have to cancel all our Short-Term Mission Trips, as well as fact-finding trips planned to prepare for future teams. It was as if we had opened a beautiful gift that someone took back, wrapped it up again, and walked away saying “This isn’t for you.” Even as we grieved those losses, we were able to draw closer to God as we sought His will for this year and the future.

GLOBAL OUTREACH: We have grieved with international friends who have lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. Joseph Marwa, our partner who leads the Mwanza Bible Institute in Tanzania, lost his wife and ministry partner, Esther, to COVID. Sasha and Olga,

STAFF

Celeste McDonough
*Mercy & Missions Team
Leader &
Pastoral Staff*

Lee Content
*Pastoral Staff, Mercy &
Hospitality*

Ardo Draper
*Pastoral Staff,
Prison Ministry*

Nam Kim
*Pastoral Staff,
International Ministries*

Judi Warner
*Director of Special Needs
Ministry*

Natalie Uecker
*Assistant Director,
Missions & Outreach*

Sheri Schmidt
Director of Orphan Care

Pam Cook
*Facilitator, Special Needs
Ministry*

Betsy Nolan
*Care Coordinator for
Children & Students*

Lana Duiobes
*Facilitator,
Mercy & Missions*

STAFF

Lou DeGraaf
*Ministry Assistant,
Mercy & Hospitality*

Emily Franklund
*Ministry Assistant,
Missions & Outreach*

Courtney Hoekwater
*Ministry Assistant,
Mercy & Missions*

friends who serve the Lord in Central Asia, experienced the grief of losing their 21-year-old son Daniel. Missionary retirees Sylvia Heintzelman and Elinor Kruger also went to be with the Lord.

BUFFALO

FOREVER HOPE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE (SHERI SCHMIDT): Prior to the lockdown, our ministry had sent out a survey to all our adoptive and foster families and collected information on their favorites: restaurants, coffee and ways we could be praying for their family. We had no idea when we collected the information that we would be able to use this to care for families during the spring and summer months. It was a huge blessing to contact a family and provide their favorite meal or stop by with their favorite drink from Starbucks.

GLOBAL OUTREACH: One way that Calvary helps to reach unreached people groups is through supporting media ministry. One partner has moved from just producing and distributing Christian video content in the national languages of Central Asia to actively reaching out through online ads and social media. Believers engage online with those who want to learn more about Jesus, see them come to faith, and then connect them physically to the local underground church. In just three months of 2020, over 2,000 people were led to the Lord this way!

SUPPORTED INDIVIDUALS

Arendt Pyle, Peggy
USA

Baloyi, Sybil
Mozambique

Bursma, Tom & Karen
Canada

Carter, Denise
Ukraine

Castillo, Andy & Carmen
Honduras

Ceton, Dave & Laura
Niger

Clore, Jaime
Spain

Crooks, Mark & Kris
Germany

Dominguez, Manuel & Lydia
Mexico

Gaylor, JP & Stephanie
France

Girwarnauth, Andy & Kathleen
Guyana

Hanna, Bob & Sandy
USA, Serving Worldwide

Lazarus, Shalom & Sheri
USA, Serving Worldwide

Mnisi, Lucky & Sonnet
Mozambique

Poggemiller, Dwight & Melissa
Romania

Riepma, Mike & Cher
Bolivia

Rittenhouse, David & Flora
USA, Serving Worldwide

Roedema, Chad & Laurie
USA, West Michigan

Schutter, Marlene
Papua New Guinea

Sytsma, Anna
USA, West Michigan

Thelen, Sean & Liz
Greece

Valenza, Frank & Judy
Brazil

VanderWerf, Terry & Helen
Mexico

Victor, Jonathan & Hannah
India

Africa
Jeremy & Joy
Dan & Teresa
Jason & Jamie
Katherine

Middle East
Tom & Jan
Gary & Jami

Central Asia
David & Julia
Brad & Sara
Sasha & Olga
Joanna
Glenn & Mary

Southeast Asia
Keith & Grace
Jake & Sara
Tanner & Kelsey
Leta

USA, Serving Worldwide
Dave & Sonja
Amy
Jon & Kris
Joel & Carla
Ken & Rhonda

South America
Reinaldo & Brenda

Europe
Roy & Jennifer

RETIREMENT AGE WORKERS

Olsen, Sally
Florida

Smith, Joe
West Michigan, IFCA Hospital Chaplaincy Coordinator

MISSIONARY CARE & SUPPORT

46 retired and active missionaries were blessed by your generous giving for Christmas 2019. Your tangible expression of love and care totaled \$30,000.

MONTHLY SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations will continue to be supported in 2020-21:

Global

Bangla Ministries Worldwide

Church Planters Training
International

Deaf Opportunity Outreach
International

Partners in Evangelism
International

Youth for Christ
(Oak House)

Institute for Religious
Research

Local

Alpha Women's Center

Child Evangelism
Fellowship

David's House

Garden of Hope

King's Table Ministries

Mel Trotter Ministries

Oasis of Hope Center

Safe Haven

Servant's Center

The West Michigan
Friendship Center

Urban Family Ministry

Urban Transformation
Ministries

Youth for Christ West
Michigan

MISSIONARY CARE & SUPPORT

Estate and memorial gifts given to Missions through Calvary Church are given through our *All Nations Project* and are used for Bible translation and distribution, media outreach, and equipping and resourcing national believers for disciple-making. Here are the projects we have helped this past year:

Training leaders for deaf churches in Central Asia; translating children's Christian videos in Central Asia; producing a video series to teach about the biblical value of women; creating an updated translation of the Bible into a South Asian language spoken by almost 80 million people; providing theological books to seminaries and Bible colleges in South Asia.

Thank you for generously giving your time and gifts this past year!

NOTES

- Support for Zac & Leigh Lloyd ended in late 2019 due to their leaving the mission field
- Support for Josh & Julie Webb ended in late 2019 due to their leaving the mission field
- Support for Jonathan & Rebecca Schuster ended in the summer of 2020 due to their leaving the mission field

At the end of the 2019-20 year, Calvary was supporting 2 missionaries of retirement age, and 50 active missionaries.

SUPPORT INCREASE

The following support increases will take effect for the 2020-21 fiscal year:

Missionary Name	2019-20 Support Level	Amount of Increase	2020-21 Support Level
Mark & Kris Crooks	\$750	\$150	\$900

Culinary Services

HIGH

We were grateful to be able to serve hundreds of dinners each Wednesday night until programming ended in March.

LOW

It has been difficult not to see the Gathering Place filled with people eating and fellowshiping together on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

BUFFALO

We are blessed with faithful volunteers in the Culinary Services area who came in during COVID to help package frozen meals for hundreds of our congregants.

Events

HIGH

I enjoyed working with Calvary Ministries on new and different ways to keep people connected through virtual events. During this time, I also enjoyed making phone calls to congregants as well as continuing communications with “outside organizations” that we have worked hard to build relationships with.

LOW

Seeing events get canceled was disheartening after so many months of planning had gone into them.

BUFFALO

I learned to appreciate the time of stillness that God had brought to the area of events. This has been an amazing time for prayer and reflection on how I spend my time and what is really important.

STAFF

Kevin Troupe

Director of Culinary Services

Neil Milburn

Lead Cook

STAFF

Denise Winkelman

Director of Events

First Impressions & Serving

STAFF

Rebekah Kennedy
*Director of Serving
& First Impressions*

Heather Lee
*Ministry Assistant,
Serving & First
Impressions*

HIGH

One of the things I love doing is Explore Calvary; it is one of the highlights of my job. The class this August/September was special, as it was the first class I have had since COVID, and everyone was excited about getting involved.

LOW

The struggles we have seen this year are very similar to other ministries; it's been hard to navigate with ever-changing guidelines and limited human capital.

BUFFALO

We have had the great joy of seeing some surprises this year. While we have needed volunteers in many areas, we have seen some amazing new volunteers step into the gap. I have had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful new people. I am not sure I would have ever met these individuals if COVID didn't happen.

Technical Services

STAFF

Mark Kotlarczyk
Director

Benjamin DeYoung
Assistant Director

Brad Visser
IT Support Specialist

HIGH

This year we were excited to roll out MS Office365 Cloud services and the power of MS Teams. These have proven to be excellent collaboration tools and have allowed our staff to work off-site during the challenges of COVID-19.

LOW

The process of remote training and education while everyone was simultaneously challenged with new and shifting ministry dynamics, was particularly interesting to embrace. Engaging the congregation via online event registration for worship services has also proven to be challenging for some.

BUFFALO

We have been blessed to see Calvary's live internet audience swell to reach an estimated 5,000 people each Sunday morning. Serving a live stream for funerals, weddings, Oasis Bible Study and other live events is humbling to be a part of as we adapted equipment and processes to embrace people in their homes during this pandemic.

Facilities

HIGH

God has remained faithful, molding our team into what He wants us to be. Part of that growth is an outreach program we took part in, 70 X 7, that mentors and supports people who are re-entering society after being incarcerated. Watching the men and women soak up the love and acceptance of Jesus at the hands of Calvary staff is incredible! Sadly, this has been put on hold for the time being, please pray for these folks as they strive to be more like Jesus.

LOW

Saying goodbye to 2 faithful employees who moved on to what God is calling them to for this season. Finding workers and volunteers has been challenging as on-site ministry begins to pick up.

TECH STAFF CONT'D

Elaine Lohroff
Database Specialist

Marlene Timmer
Ministry Assistant

STAFF

Ken Meines
Director of Facilities

Tom Eggleston
Preventative Maintenance

Tiffany Freeman
*Custodial Team Leader,
Second Shift*

Brian Novak
*Custodial Team Leader,
First Shift*

Jon Nuenke
Custodial Supervisor

Adot Ajaing
Custodial Staff

FACILITIES STAFF CONT'D

Barb Clauson
Custodial Staff

Joni Byl
Custodial Staff

Seneca Case
Custodial Staff

Isaiah Hageman
Custodial Staff

Jeremy Jacoby
Custodial Staff

Amber Langan
Custodial Staff

Ed Vermurlen
Custodial Staff

Valerie Bierlein
Ministry Assistant

FINANCIAL SERVICES STAFF

Sue Schroeder
*Director of Financial
Services*

Nathan Johnson
*Assistant Director of
Financial Services*

Cheri Davis
Accounting Assistant

Susie Saunders
Accounting Assistant

BUFFALO

There's quite a bit of wildlife surrounding the church. We have a group of crows that perch up in the windows by the crosswalk who peck at their reflection, causing staff to look around to see who's knocking! Plenty of deer and turkeys who look at themselves in the windows too, but the most curious of wildlife finds was the six-inch goldfish spotted the middle of the parking lot. Our best guess is that a bird dropped it while flying over (possibly from the Meijer Gardens?). There's always something interesting in the Facilities Department!

OPERATIONS STAFF

Don Tuuri
*Team Leader &
Director of Operations &
Security*

Chris DeHaan
*Executive Assistant to Don
Tuuri*

Marilyn Lorenz
Receptionist

Prayer

HIGH

We had three 24-hour prayer events starting in December, one with the focus on praying for the salvation of almost 700 people by their first name. I loved being asked when were we going to do it again. We prayed for the comfort and salvation of the community of East Grand Rapids as they came to Calvary for the funeral of a beloved coach. But the highlight for me was the 200-member prayer group God formed, in less than two weeks. Their purpose was to pray for our congregation as requests came through phone calls made by other staff and volunteers. They demonstrated such care for brothers and sisters they didn't usually know and told me repeatedly of the honor and blessing of being used by God in prayer.

LOW

I'm grateful for the creative use of technology by many prayer group facilitators. But that technology was not without challenges and it was tough not praying together in person.

BUFFALO

I love that there are regular times available for people to pray with our elders in accordance with James 5. That didn't stop because we were required to stay at home, but it looked different on video calls. We couldn't circle around the person, give a prayer shawl or anoint with oil. Yet, I still remember one of the elders piping up and suggesting a family member go find any oil from their kitchen. It was a treat to watch that wife help the elders anoint her husband.

STAFF

Cindy Marrell
Prayer Coordinator

Communications

STAFF

Jackie Rice

Director of Communications

HIGH

While the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench in many of our plans, it also made it possible to try some things we wouldn't normally have had the time or capacity to pursue. I enjoyed the opportunities we've had to be creative with video and social media as we seek to connect online with a greater audience. There's a freedom that's come with so many of our norms being stripped away.

LOW

It was a struggle to move to so much online communication when I know that some in our congregation don't have access to the internet. We have done our best to come alongside this segment of our church with phone calls and physical mail. And, while I can get stuck in wondering who we're missing, God gently reminds me that He is not limited like I am. His Word goes forth, no matter what.

BUFFALO

I've really enjoyed the opportunities I've had to interact with our congregation on Facebook, Instagram and email over the past several months. I've received so much encouragement from those who recognize the difficulty of this work in our current environment and don't hesitate to drop a thoughtful word my way. I truly enjoy connecting with our congregation.

Jerusalem Project

HIGH

The highlight of the past year was encouraging partner churches as they ministered to their congregations and communities. The Jerusalem Project supplied personal protective gear to our partner church in Poland to care for vulnerable people. We assisted local urban churches as they moved their services online. We supported church leaders during this challenging time with prayer and by sharing best practices. It was also a blessing to facilitate a virtual Good Friday service with many local partner churches.

LOW

It was really difficult to have to cancel several overseas trips to visit partner churches. While disappointed, our teams have worked hard to continue to build relationships virtually. We were also looking forward to hosting George Tolia and his family for a sabbatical in Grand Rapids but trusting God's timing for a future visit.

BUFFALO

The Jerusalem Project got a makeover! As we continue to communicate our mission and objectives, we have a new logo and tagline.

STAFF

Lisa Samra
Advisory Staff

Chris Snedeker
*Jerusalem Project
Coordinator*

Clarence Stamps
Pastoral Resident

Rodney Velting
Pastoral Resident

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

	August 31, 2020	August 31, 2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 3,251,890	\$ 1,698,770
Certificates of deposit	584,777	575,871
Other current assets	35,310	114,194
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,871,977	2,388,835
NET PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT	28,712,774	30,162,708
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 32,584,751	\$ 32,551,543

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 113,147	\$ 347,201
Other current liabilities	150,196	162,024
Grace Beyond construction loan	-	248,997
Paycheck Protection Program loan	875,090	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,138,433	758,222
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	\$ 30,198,202	\$ 30,827,849
Temporarily restricted	1, 248,116	965,472
TOTAL NET ASSETS	31,446,318	31,793,321
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 32,584,751	\$ 32,551,543

Note 1 - The department expenditures below do not include personnel costs. These costs are presented in total under Personnel and Benefits.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

	August 31, 2020	August 31, 2019
RECEIPTS:		
General Offerings	\$7,857,051	\$7,647,742
Estate Gifts	24,748	--
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,881,799	\$7,647,742
EXPENDITURES:		
<i>MERCY & MISSIONS</i>		
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,166,769	\$ 1,190,591
Special Needs	17,014	25,557
Mercy & Hospitality	84,050	119,889
Pastoral Residents	147,000	147,000
Subtotal Mercy & Missions	1,414,833	1,483,037
<i>COMMUNITY & CARE</i>		
Adult Ministries	72,134	69,557
Calvary Kids	62,310	68,434
Calvary Students	70,753	83,989
Young Adult Ministries	31,260	35,338
Calvary Care	21,403	19,888
Prayer	842	798
Subtotal Community & Care	258,702	278,004
<i>WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATION</i>		
Worship Ministries	59,161	74,128
Communications	36,345	59,996
Technical Services	73,715	81,506
Facility Services	304,137	352,832
Food Services	76,579	50,005
Administration	306,389	536,690
Board Initiatives	19,133	22,181
Equipment	206,714	189,693
Reserve Funding	142,372	142,372
Subtotal Worship & Administration	1,224,545	1,509,403
<i>PERSONNEL & BENEFITS (Note 1)</i>	4,411,693	4,094,982
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,309,773	\$ 7,365,426
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 572,026	\$282,316

PROJECT STATEMENT

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Balance at 9/1/19</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance at 8/31/20</u>
Benevolence	\$ 179,299	\$ 575,122	\$ 463,143	\$ 431	\$ 291,709
Celebrate Missionaries	36,631	89,353	29,342	-	96,642
Jonathan Fund	-	76,555	38,054	-	38,501
Jerusalem Project	476,966	388,015	553,736	227,400	538,645
All Other Projects	272,576	319,945	322,345	12,443	282,619
TOTALS	\$ 965,472	\$1,448,990	\$1,406,620	\$ 240,274	\$ 1,248,116

Note 1 - The department expenditures below do not include personnel costs. These costs are presented in total under Personnel and Benefits.

BUDGET

For Fiscal Year Beginning September 1

	2020-2021 Budget	2019-2020 Budget
RECEIPTS:		
General Offerings	\$7,980,109	\$7,980,109
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,980,109	\$7,980,109
EXPENDITURES:		
<i>Mercy & Missions</i>		
Missions & Outreach	1,358,689	1,378,000
Special Needs	33,200	33,200
Mercy & Hospitality	123,675	128,675
Pastoral Residents	147,000	147,000
Sub Total Mercy & Missions	1,662,564	1,686,875
<i>Community & Care</i>		
Adult Ministries	126,940	114,860
Prayer	1,250	1,000
Calvary Kids	81,200	72,000
Calvary Students	67,615	77,365
Young Adult Ministries	47,600	46,700
Calvary Care	33,900	33,900
Sub Total Community & Care	358,505	345,825
<i>Worship & Administration</i>		
Worship Ministries	79,750	78,750
Communications	54,750	54,750
Technical Services	101,272	105,350
Facility Services	390,305	376,605
Food Services	39,000	39,000
Administration	241,100	361,140
Board Initiatives	11,500	23,500
Equipment	200,851	197,851
Reserve Funding	194,823	142,372
Sub Total Worship & Administration	1,313,351	1,379,318
<i>PERSONNEL & BENEFITS (Note 1)</i>	4,645,689	4,568,091
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	7,980,109	7,980,109
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ -

Calvary Church

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