

## WHO'S BACK— JASON AND ANGELA GEHRELS



*Jason and Angela Gehrels have arrived back in our midst after travelling for about 1.5 years. We are glad that God has protected them during their travels. What follows is an email interview with them about their travels. I*

*hope it gives you a bit of a window into their lives and some talking points for you and them as the days move forward.*

### When did you originally leave Ottawa, and why did you leave?

Ever since we've had the opportunity to complete CRWRC's summer mission program Jay and I have been interested in travelling. It was always in the back of our minds to see the rest of the world. There is so much to discover and learn, so for us it was more of a matter of when. The timing worked well to leave Aug. of 2007.

### Where did you go?

Central and South America (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua,

Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia) with five weeks in Cambodia and one in Vietnam.

### What did you do during your time away?

The simplest answer is back packing. That seems to be a term that people can relate to. We did not work and we don't like the term vacationing either. With out a pre-arranged itinerary we travelled by bus to explore new places, engage in the culture and meet people along the way. We volunteered in Nicaragua, Ecuador and Cambodia.

The first three months of our adventure we were students. We participated in a whitewater leadership and development course (WILD if you hear us talking about it.) With a group of about 30 people we kayaked, rafted, did all sorts of safety training and got the opportunity to practice being leaders of the day. Oh, there was a little canoeing thrown in the mix too. We practiced on different rivers in Quebec, the US, and eventually in Mexico. Jay

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## POINT TO PONDER: BY PASTOR RON

A couple of weeks ago we invited a couple over to our home after church for lunch. One of the couple has been a member at Calvin for many years. Well known, well established, and well liked. The other of the couple has only been in our midst for several years. As our conversation ebbed and flowed during the afternoon, the latter person expressed sincere thanks for being invited over.

This person also expressed hurt and frustration that this was only the second time in six years that they had been invited to anyone's place in Calvin. This person figured it was because the spouse was well established, and it was assumed that both would then be. This person wanted to be invited over to homes of older couples, couples with children, and even singles homes

would be nice.

I was taken aback by this comment. A bit shocked and saddened myself too. I was also reminded how much work it takes to ensure a community of faith feels connected, loved, cared for and wanted. I share this with you as a reminder, not only for me, but also for you who are members

here at Calvin CRC. We do a great job of welcoming people into our fellowship at the beginning. We invite people over for a time, and then, it seems, that maybe we assume they are ok, and we stop.

I'd like to challenge all of us to re-examine ourselves once again and see if we are reaching out to our fellow Calvin members, guests, and regular attenders. Maybe you are very comfortable going home after Sunday services and not inviting anyone. I think we are all the lesser for it. Maybe you have been derelict in your invitations as of late, and this might be a good time to recommit to getting to know others in our church you might not always invite. It takes time. It takes energy. Yet, it's part of God's calling on our lives as we strive to build community.

I bet you are wondering who that couple was who came over to our home. If that's you, you might want to continue to invite different people into your home until they let you know who they are. :)

**Please send  
any comments  
about the  
newsletter to  
Pastor Ron.**

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Ext# 3  
youthpastor@  
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is addicted to the sport as a hobby and waterfalls are his favourite type of water. Before setting off on our own, we lived in a small Mexican village for about four months. During that time we took a Spanish class.

### What new things have you learned about each other through this experience?

To get the most specific details I encourage you to ask us. I'm sure we'll have a funny story to share. What surprised me most were the things Jay was particular about. We referred to his watch as a pacifier because he couldn't sleep without it being in reaching distance. We grew as people and a couple.

We learned about what drives us crazy ( I hate waiting and often wondered why things couldn't be more efficient), what motivates us (Jay could spend hours sitting on a curb chatting and gesturing with the local men), how we react when we are uncomfortable (you know that the bus driver is crazy when the local people are white knuckled from gripping the seat in front of them), how to deal with the unpredictable (being stranded over night on an inactive volcano) and what we are most passionate about (feeling connected and being able to give).

### What things did you learn about the countries you visited?

As it turns out we are really interested in each person's story and often they were more than willing to share if we showed a little interest. We loved bird watching and found that was a great way to get to know the local areas and the diversity they offer. Markets are a great way to connect with people and participate in their every day activities. We discovered that learning about a country's most recent history (let's say the last 50 years) is also invaluable for understanding the current situations. It gave us a huge amount of insight into the mentality of the people and their culture. It seems that through nature, people and history you learn a lot about a country.

### What things were difficult for you while you were away?

We missed our families and friends more than we could have imagined. Occasionally I missed the luxury of a comfy bed or a cozy, private space. It is hard to have little or no alone time. We had a great variety of very delicious foods and had great fun trying new things.

### What do you appreciate about Canada now that you have returned?

Church and being in community. More of a routine and the ability to give back through our work.

### What were your church experiences like while you were away?

Being at church was rare. In Cambodia we were able to attend an English Catholic church, which was an excellent and exciting opportunity. But for the majority of the time we were overwhelmed by the Spanish, very traditional Catholic churches. It is hard to

appreciate what is happening when you can't understand the language or the liturgy. Two exceptions were English Christian communities that we were involved with in Quito, Ecuador and Managua, Nicaragua.

### What do you appreciate about Calvin now that you are back again?

Seeing people with familiar faces and being able to connect with them again. Having a faith community to call home and be a part of. We look forward to being actively involved. There is a lot our church has to offer and can do.

### How has your life perspective changed now that you have these experiences tucked in your life?

In so many ways that we haven't figured that all out yet. I suspect it will be a life long journey. We view the world and its' politics differently. We feel more responsible for our role in making a difference to those near and far.

### What are you doing now?

We have gone back to work. I am at CHEO and Jay is doing computer stuff at General Dynamics. We spent a bit of time working on our house. We are not sure what our next steps of integrating back into Western culture will be or look like.

### Are there things you view differently about yourself/Canada/God/church/other things now that you've had this experience?

I think that the answer should be another whole newsletter article. In the next months we'll learn how to better articulate what we are experiencing and wrestling with. We encourage you all to ask us more about it if you are interested. When we are forced to try to put our thoughts to words we are challenged and we both feel like that is good. We certainly think differently about all of the above.

### If someone were to come to you and ask you if this is a good idea to do or not, what advice would you give them?

Yes, take every opportunity you can to explore the world and learn about its people. If you can, do it when you are young because it will shape the rest of your life. Plus you don't want to live with any regrets.

### How have you seen God at work in your life over your time away?

God has molded us to become more global citizens. We have become more aware of ourselves and others. We have a much greater appreciation for diversity and differences of people and cultures, for it is in being open and sensitive to others that we are given the opportunity to be a part of their lives and learn from them. We experienced miracles and we are so happy to have been able to see God work through them, even if we didn't necessarily see His hand in the moment of the experience. He was always there and so our faith has been stretched and grown.

*Jon Mak also left our church community for a time to work in another country. He has now returned to us and we are very glad to have him back in our midst. Enjoy his comments and when you see him, invite him over for a coffee, or lunch even, so you can learn more about what he has done.*

**When did you originally leave Ottawa?**

I originally left Ottawa in (about) September 2003.

**Where did you go?**

First I went back home to London (Ontario, of course!). Shortly after I arrived in London, I got an opportunity to apply to teach ESL (English as a Second Language) in Japan, which had me in Tokyo by April, 2004. In 2005 I found myself in Jinju, Korea, where I was until last August.

**What did you do during your time away?**

The short answer to this is, "teach ESL." The long answer could take a book (which I may write some time, who knows!). But, first in Japan, most of my time really was spent teaching. I lived in Tokyo, which is not a cheap place (much cheaper than I'd been lead to believe, but still more than here), and as such, I didn't get much of a chance to travel around or outside the country. I did do my best to learn about the language and culture, which I enjoyed very much.

I left Japan after one year, with some overall great experiences and friends made along the way. I returned to Canada in April 2004. I really wanted to experience Korea the same as I had Japan—I'd heard so many stories about how great it was—so that's where I went in September of that year.

I stayed there for about three years (though I came back for a few months in the middle of it all), again teaching ESL. This time I got many more chances to travel. I travelled Korea itself extensively, including the DMZ—the big militarized and much land-mined border between the North and South. For a while, I even travelled the countryside on a scooter! Quite the experience with traffic laws that are much more lax than I'm used to. I also had opportunities to travel to Beijing, the Philippines, and Taiwan, as well as go back to Japan for a friend's wedding.

**Overall, how would you rate your experience?**

Overall, I would rate the experience as a good one. I learned a lot about many things, and some of those skills I learned have already proven very useful in my current work.

**What things do you appreciate about the countries you worked in?**

The astounding measure that most people would go to to be friendly and helpful to the average person. Sometimes it would be targeted at foreigners; sometimes not. This was refreshing. Having been to some of the larger American and European cities, where so many millions of people are packed in such tiny

places, I figured on average people in Japan and Korea would somewhat ignore others and go about their business. Far from that. You couldn't stand for 30 seconds on the street with a map, or sometimes even just a confused look on your face, without someone coming up, and not just asking you how they can help, but if you need directions. Very often people will stop what they're doing and take you where you need to go!

And naturally, I have to say I particularly appreciated the food! Japanese and Korean food is unbelievably tasty, yet much of it is extremely healthy. One couldn't help but enjoy it, and improve your health at the same time. The very ubiquitous Korean spice did take some getting used to, however.

**What things were difficult for you while you were away?**

One of the biggest difficulties I, and everyone I knew, had was homesickness. At times it was particularly tough. Aside from this (which really can be considered "normal") dealing with the various social groups was probably the biggest difficulty I had. Given the relative cultural homogeneity that these countries feel themselves to be (true or not), we non-locals (non-Koreans, non-Japanese and such) often stuck together, for better or worse. The Korean town I lived in was particularly "small." One of the results of this was that any personal conflicts between even just two individuals could polarize the community, which lead to more than one community schism.

**What do you appreciate about Canada now that you have returned?**

Canada's multiculturalism is definitely near the top of my list of things I appreciate about it now that I'm back. Here, if I want to go for Indian food, or East African, or any number of other things, I can go ahead and do that with relative ease. It's common for Canadians to be of every colour, shape and size, and to speak whatever language they like. This is very different from Korea or Japan, where often enough I would be the only white person around (a fact I was frequently reminded of by local kids). I would be the only person who wouldn't have the local language as my first, and even often the only person six feet tall (a decided advantage to friends who had to find me in a crowd)!

**What were your church experiences like while you were away?**

My church experiences moved from a very collective one here at Calvin, worshiping God with a giant room full of friends (even



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if everyone doesn't always know everyone else), to a personal one, where often (though not always) it would be just me and Him hanging out for a bit.

### What do you appreciate about Calvin now that you are back again?

So many things! As I said before, I've come to realize that being in a room worshiping God with so many good friends that you might not even know is quite an experience.

### Why did you decide to return to Canada?

God had made it quite clear that it was my time to come back. Considering how "lucky" I've been upon my return, that this was His will seems blatantly obvious.

### What are you doing now?

I'm working as a research analyst for a government procurement consulting firm in Kanata.

### Are there things you view differently about yourself/Canada/God/church/others things now that you've had this experience?

As far as myself is concerned, I definitely have a greater appreciation and knowledge of my own strengths and weaknesses, as well as capabilities. On a grander scale, to encompass all of Canada, God, church and other things, I certainly view what people have been talking about recently in terms of "the kingdom of Heaven" in a much more real way than I ever thought possible. There really are places and people quite outside the Gates of the Kingdom, and I'm ever thankful to be inside those Gates.

### If someone were to come to you and ask you if this is a good idea to do or not, what advice would you give them?

My experience is that this experience is a good, even great idea for some, but a really bad idea for others. Not everyone really appreciates the fact that when you get there, you will have no basis to understand the language or the culture. Going from a place with, likely, a good social safety net and community to a place where you have to start from the ground up is very difficult. For most people once you're there, it's nearly impossible to turn back until the time you planned on. That said, there are plenty of people that understand and accept these things, and are still ready to go. Plenty of people can even thrive in this situation. I fared pretty well myself! It's for those people that this would be a good idea. Although, if anyone really does want to consider it, I'm sure there's at least another dozen or so pieces of advice I could give, and that's not even getting into the specifics of exactly how to do it.

### How have you seen God at work in your life over your time away?

To answer this question fully, I really would need a second volume to that book. I've seen His work done in all sorts of events in my life, from getting or keeping me out of situations I wouldn't have otherwise, to bringing the right people in to my life at just the right time, and all sorts of other things. Now that the experience of living in East Asia is over for now (I'd never presume to say what He's got in store for me in the future) I'm looking back and realizing some of the lessons He intended for me that really were not easy to see, nor accept, at the time.

### Anything else you'd like to add?

If I write much more, and do end up writing a book, who would want to buy it?! :-)

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## MINISTRY GROUP HIGHLIGHT - LOFTY STUDIES

**Periodically I try to highlight different ministries that are going on in the Calvin Community. In this issue we take a look at our Lofty Studies group [a.k.a. college/career group] and see what they have been up to.**

On October 18th, 2008 Lofty Studies had a great afternoon at the Carlington chaplaincy. Each year Calvin takes a turn cooking a meal for the residents of the Carlington area, and we were asked if we wanted to help out. Elizabeth Glasbergen, Steve Borgdorff, Jennifer de Bruyn, Mike Bos, Mike's friend Mouy and Derek Miedema cooked the afternoon away making black bean and corn chili and vegetarian paella. Everyone kept busy chopping, dicing, stirring, pouring, measuring until all the ingredients were ready, and then we waited for the meals to cook. It turns out that 18 serving pots take longer to cook than 6 serving pots, so we all had to be patient and, thankfully, the food was all ready by the time it came to serve it. Ed and Annetta Norman helped us serve cake and cheesecake for dessert, and we fed 109 people, which is up from 90-some last year. Cooking together is a great way to get to know people better,

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as we discovered that afternoon. Special thanks to Wilma Berti for buying and helping deliver all the supplies. It was wonderful for everyone involved to be Jesus' hands for an afternoon and to provide hospitality in His Name to everyone who came out to eat.



## PERU MISSION TEAM UPDATE

On Sunday, January 25th, about 15 of us who have been to Peru gathered at the Vlaming residence to talk about a future partnership with the church we have been working with. We dialogued a lot about a letter that was written to Frontline Peru and the Gameliel church seeking possible ways we could partner with them. As we talked, it became clear that we still had many questions, and not too many answers. The end result of our meeting was the following:

First we are going to be asking Pepe, [the Frontline Peru point person] to put into motion bringing Sergio [the Pastor] and Fernando [who works with their youth] and Erin [Pepe's new wife from the U.S.A. and our translator] to Ottawa.

Our goal in having them come is to introduce them to us as a church, to have face to face conversations with them about the goals and dreams of their church, and to find some common ground on which we can all be a blessing to each other. We are not sure what the results of this time together will be, but we are trusting God to show us. Their time of arrival is not yet known, but we will be letting you know when that time comes.

Second, Brian Vlaming and myself will have a phone conversation with Pepe and Erin to talk about some issues that came up in the meeting to make sure we are on the same page.

Third we agreed that we wanted to do something tangible for the church, so we decided, as a group, to support a feeding program that their church has started for their community. **Our group** has committed to supporting them for one year, beginning in March, for up to \$200 CDN/ month, and then reevaluate. [It costs \$1,500 / month US to run this program].

We will run the funds through the deaconate of Calvin, and Nick VanDyk will set this up. It is **not** our intent to seek the support of the general congregation at this time, but if you'd like to know more about this, or want to contribute something for one year, you may certainly talk to Pastor Ron at any time.

In 2008 the Male Choir also gave us a donation of \$500 for use in the area of Peru ministry, so, we will be applying those funds to the feeding program as well. We thank the Male Choir for their generosity.

I will also be contacting CRWRC about how to partner with Latin American churches, and a couple of other things that came up in the meeting as we continue to move forward.

We will let you know more as things fall into place. It is our intention to return to Peru in March break of 2010. We welcome anyone wishing to come along to continue the partnership journey we have begun with this small, but Godly, church.



The following are reports from Ministry Board, Consistory, and the Deacons highlighting their work over the past little while. We wanted you to know :)

## Ministry Board

By: John Brinkman—Chair

Ministry Board meets the third Monday of each month. The board consists of our Pastors, and the elder/deacon representatives from various committees at Calvin. Our meetings are business-like, but we try to keep the tone light. Together with the pastoral elders and the deacons we have committed ourselves to being more intentional about praying together to seek God's leading for Calvin.

Some Ministry Board actions taken since September include:

- ⇒ *Drafted and approved an official policy for extended professional development -- available to pastoral staff every seven years of their employment at Calvin.*
- ⇒ *Organized and hosted the council retreat in early November*
- ⇒ *Spent a lot of time and energy on 2008 income, 2009 budget process, and the Partnering in Ministry campaign.*
- ⇒ *Approved a privacy policy.*
- ⇒ *Drafted 4 overtures for Spring Classis meeting.*
- ⇒ *Drafted a proposal to Classis for campus ministry.*
- ⇒ *Approved Pastor Ron's request for extended professional development in 2009.*

If you have any questions about what we do, or what we've done, feel free to contact me (John Brinkman). Thank you for your support of the Ministry Board and other committees who serve the Calvin Community and beyond.

## Consistory

By: Ed Norman—Chair

### What Does Consistory Do?

As you are probably aware, the Consistory of Calvin CRC is the body of Pastoral Elders meeting and acting as a group. You know your own elder as the person who calls you about special events and initiatives, and who is concerned about your spiritual welfare, and well-being within the church community. But what do the pastoral elders do when they meet as Consistory, you may ask? To answer that, the following are a few of our regular activities, as well as some highlights of recent Consistory meetings.

Elders do discuss individual members and families sometimes. For example, we haven't seen Mr. & Mrs. Smith in church for awhile, it might be a good idea to call and see if there is a problem we can help with. Or the Smith family just had their baby, so a quick congratulatory visit would be good to check that everything is OK. Or Mr. Smith raised a concern about XYZ, so please give him a call. The purpose in all this is to serve Calvin's people so that they feel they belong, are blessed as church members, and that nothing is standing between them and the Lord.

Your Consistory has several formal supervisory roles as well. Pastoral Elders regularly serve as the "officiating elder", which is the public face of formal responsibility for what goes on in the worship service and the preaching. Thus, the Worship Committee and the Pastor both report to Consistory on a monthly basis, and seek the elders' direction for future worship planning, sermon series, and liturgy changes, also including special services, guest speakers, and the like. We also do sermon evaluations, which provide valued feedback to Pastor Ken. Calvin's various prayer ministries also report to and receive encouragement from the Consistory.

Occasionally, some special business comes up that the elders need to handle. For example, we recently approved a proposal to study the possibility of starting a CRC Campus Ministry here in Ottawa. That was well received to fill a long-time need in our city, and it was enthusiastically passed on to the rest of your church Council for recommendation to Classis Eastern Canada (our regional church body) and possible implementation with Home Missions.

These are just some of the things we elders do as Consistory. In addition, our meetings provide a time for sharing our concerns together, learning from one other, praying for the church, and seeking the Lord's direction for Calvin. If you want to know more, you may visit one of meetings, which are open to all members, unless we are discussing confidential matters. We normally meet the first Monday of the month, and you are welcome to come and listen, pray, struggle and laugh with us.

**Refugee Update**

By: Eric Hogeterp

Our refugee candidates, Adiam and Josief (sister and brother), were interviewed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in Khartoum, Sudan in late November. Adiam (age 34) was immediately informed that her interview was successful. She subsequently went for a medical, which was also successful. The next step for Adiam is notice of a departure date for Canada. A best estimate is that this could occur in March or April. Adiam also has a 13-year-old daughter in Eritrea, whom she would like to have join her in Canada. It is not clear at this point whether that will be possible, or if so, when.

Josief (age 21) was not immediately informed of the outcome of his interview. However, we recently learned from CRWRC in Burlington that Josief's application was denied by CIC. This is a great disappointment, including for family members here in Ottawa. However, Josief continues to trust in God's will, testifying that "maybe this is not God's plan" and "if one door closes, perhaps another door will open."

Please pray for Josief, Adiam, Adiam's daughter and the church in Eritrea, where religious persecution continues. For further information, please contact Eric Hogeterp or Nick Van Dyk.

**Point to Ponder**

**You don't *think* your way  
into a new way of living,  
you *live* your way into a  
new way of thinking."**

**Richard Rohr**

Each Sunday we have the opportunity to serve God through our offerings. This year we are focusing on many of the ministries that the CRC supports through its ministry shares. We have pledged as a church to cover 50 % of the cost of our denominational ministry shares through our annual budget, and the balance (25 %) will be covered in monthly offerings. Below you will find the offering schedule covering those organizations, as well as others.

**1 February - Ministry Shares -  
Denominational Services and Special Assistance Fund**

- 8 February - Diaconate
- 15 February - Jericho Road Ministries
- 22 February - Tuition Assistance Fund
- 1 March - CRWRC - Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- 8 March - Diaconate
- 15 March - Ministry Shares - Calvin Theological Seminary**
- 22 March - Ministry Shares -  
World Missions - De Ruyters in Mali**
- 29 March - Tuition Assistance Fund
- 5 April - CRWRC - Refugees
- 10 April - (Good Friday) Carlington Chaplaincy
- 12 April - (Easter) Ministry Shares - Home Missions**
- 19 April - Tuition Assistance Fund
- 26 April - GEMS Girls Club & Boys Club
- 3 May - Operation Manna
- 10 May - CRWRC - Embrace AIDs Program

Since there may be a few changes during the year, please consult the regular announcements in the Bulletins. If you want to know more about ministry shares of the CRC, please go to

<http://www.crcna.org/pages/index.cfm>

Click on "Our Ministries" on the top bar.

This will bring up a box that highlights all our denominational ministries.

Many of the events of Calvin, whether they be Youth Events, or Congregational Life events have been documented on Pastor Ron's blog. If you wish to know more about them, please grab a coffee/tea/juice, settle down and go to

[www.ronhosmar.blogspot.com](http://www.ronhosmar.blogspot.com)

and read about the events and issues that might surround them. You will also find links to blog sites from the Helleman's and Jason and Angela Gehrels, with other missionaries being added when I find them. Below are some of the current entries from October— January. Just click on the menu dates in the blog. Enjoy!

### ETM:

Camping - October 8  
First ETM Night - October 8  
One Homeless Night with OIM—Oct. 20  
R.A.K.E. event—October 24  
Trip to Montreal - December 1  
Christmas Party - December 22  
Skiing at Fortune - January 7  
A Night with Harold and Bea - January 22

### Congregational Life:

NCD Planning Day: November 10  
Calvin Christmas Party: December 1  
Viewing of "The Nativity Story" - December 22  
Outreach Conference with "Calvinites" - January 30

### CIA:

Fall Retreat: November 10  
Youth Service: November 10  
BOYS CLUB and GEMS: December 1

### Pastor Ron's Events/Articles:

Book Review of "Who Stole My Church" January 7  
Pastor Ron's Youth Ministry Conference - January 7  
Trip to Faith Alive Publishing - January 14  
A Chronicle of my fall off my roof—January 20  
A visit from House Call Ministries - January 22

## PASTOR RON'S EXTENDED PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

By: John Brinkman—Chair of Ministry Board

One of the activities of Ministry Board this year was to formalize our policy to grant Pastoral Staff extended professional development leave. You will remember that Pastor Ken used this opportunity to earn a doctorate in worship studies. As Pastor Ron has now been with us for seven years, we have approved a proposal from him to embark on some more intensive professional development later this year.

Ron's will take eleven weeks of leave, beginning just after Easter and finishing at the end of June. Ron's proposal encompasses a smorgasbord of activities. He will:

- ⇒ Reflect on his ministry by way of conferences, spiritual retreats, and reading
- ⇒ Be mentored by the Youth Coordinator of Ottawa Innerscity Missions and learn more of OIM and street youth in Ottawa
- ⇒ Take a writing course
- ⇒ Enrich his family life by attending a marriage enrichment conference with Joycegina.

Pastor Ron will maintain a blog of his experiences, and will report back to council and the congregation when complete.

During his leave the ministry programs he oversees will continue to operate under other leaders at Calvin. Pastor Ron will also be worshipping at other churches in the Ottawa area to observe ministry in other settings. You may see him in his office periodically doing research or reading. If you see him during this time, please be mindful of his focus and try to avoid distracting him with day-to-day issues.

We are thankful for Pastor Ron's ministry to our congregation and trust that this time of professional development will rejuvenate him and equip him for many more years of ministry with us. May God bless you in this time Pastor Ron.

On Thursday, January 29th members of Calvin gathered together in the fellowship hall for a Concert of Prayer. Driven by a desire to be more united as prayer groups, by Council's desire to take time this year to seek God's leading for Calvin, and by some to honor that with a prayer concert, the evening became a reality. Different members of the prayer groups led different sections.

Sheila Balmer's praise team lead us in songs of praise and worship to start the evening out. Bea VanderMeer shared with us the reasons why we were present and James Hall shared some Biblical texts related to prayer. Jodi Hall called on God to bless the evening and called on the Holy Spirit to be present amongst us. After a quiet hymn, Cathy VanArragon led us through a time of prayer using different topics. We prayed in clusters of 2 or 3, and as entire tables. We covered such things as Personal Prayer issues, Prayer for our church leadership, Prayers for our involvement in Calvin church, Outreach in our lives and in the lives of others. We ended with a time where we all prayed out loud, together, at the same time.

After this wonderful time of praying together we ended with the Lord's Prayer and another song. Annette Brinkman then spent some time teaching us about soaking prayer with a brief practical application. She continued with teachings on hearing God's voice, the Prophetic, and Treasure Hunting (ask her about that sometime). It was a great time to hear Annette's heart and learn new things about the different gifts evident, present, and being practiced within the Calvin community of faith.

After James shared his thoughts about the evening we allowed for a brief time of sharing. Our evening ended with a closing song with hands held together in a circle uplifted to our Father in Heaven.

This was a wonderful night of prayer and praise. The thing that I really enjoyed was praying together, out loud, at the same time. It really brought home for me the picture of the body of Christ and how we each function simultaneously in that body, and God sees it all at once. Thanks to all who helped out. Thanks to all who came. If you couldn't join us this time, there will be other times in the near future to participate in prayer for Calvin and each other. Stay Tuned !! :)

A little boy was overheard  
praying:  
"Lord, if you can't make me  
a better boy, don't worry  
about it.  
I'm having a real good time  
like I am."

A father was at the beach with his  
children when the four-year-old  
son ran up to him, grabbed his  
hand, and led him to the shore  
where a seagull lay dead in the  
sand. "Daddy, what happened to  
him?" the son asked. "He died  
and went to Heaven," the Dad  
replied. The boy thought a moment  
and then said,  
"Did God throw him back down?"

Calvin's Skating Party  
@the Governor General's Residence



When: Thursday, February 12th

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Governor General's Residence

First 50 who sign up get to go.

That's it, that's all.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall and read the info sheet BEFORE you sign up, and take one home if you do sign up. See you there.

# CIA & ETM Present

**WHEN:**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

**WHERE:**

CALVIN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**TIME:**

SITTINGS @ 8:00 & 9:00 AM

**COST:**

Once again we will offer a great morning of food and fellowship for our Calvin Church Community. AND, once again we have done away with Pastor Ron's bland pancake recipe and have commissioned John Brinkman as our head pancake chef. We look forward to his creations, as will you : )



## Fundraiser

We will also offer **Sausages** prepared by Chad Lingrell and our crew, as well as:

**Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea, and yes, REAL syrup.**

Sign up for an 8:00 or 9:00 AM seating on the sheets in the fellowship hall, or you can call Pastor Ron at

225-2889 Ext. #3,

or email him at

[youthpastor@calvincrc.ca](mailto:youthpastor@calvincrc.ca)

or just show up on Saturday morning.

**Husbands, treat your wife to breakfast. It's Valentine's Day you know!!**

**Calvin G.A.G. and Chilli Night**



No, that's not Gag **ON** Chili night :)

When: Saturday, March 21st

Where: Calvin Church

Time: 5:00 p.m.

March 21st is the tail end of March break and we thought that by that time you'd be getting the itch to socialize a bit. Hence, the fellowship committee, and Youth Group invite you [and your friends] to come out to Calvin Church

and bring along some of your favourite games. Before we play, the Youth Group is working on providing you with another chili dinner night as a fundraiser. More details will be forthcoming and if the Chilli thing doesn't work out, it will be potluck. **Children welcome.** Stay Tuned.

Donations accepted. Tax receipts can be issued for donations over \$5 / person.



**Chili Dinner Fundraiser**

**WHO:** Youth Group will host you.

**WHAT:** All You Can Eat Chili of varying spice types, Salads, Buns, Desserts, Coffee, and Juice

**WHERE:** Calvin CRC, Fellowship Hall

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 21st

**WHY:** To help raise funds for our youth to attend youth sponsored events.

**TIME:** Seating at 5:00 pm

*We are not responsible for any damage that may occur to your taste buds because you picked a Chili that was too HOT for you. :)*

**SPECIAL NEEDS SERVE—UPDATE**

Last July, 11 participants, 13 mentors, and countless volunteers from several churches helped make the Special Needs SERVE week a blessing for all who attended. As a planning team we have decided to host another one this July 11 - 16. We are planning for 15 participants, and 15 mentors. Our team is well underway in the planning stages. As we move forward, we would ask you to consider how you might be able to be involved this year. Just ask those who were involved last year how much fun they had.

In the near future we will be approaching Calvin, as well as several other churches, for volunteers and donations once again. We ask you to consider what you can do to help make this year's participants enjoy an equally special time.





**WANTED!**

Volunteers Needed:

*A church of this size is always looking for volunteers to assist in the various areas of ministry that happen here. Below are some areas that are in need of beefing up and if ANY of these appeal to you, please give Pastor Ron a call sooner than later and we can talk more about what they involve.*

- ⇒ **Bulletin Editor** once a month to relieve Swanny VanderLaan and when she's on vacation.
- ⇒ **Ushers and Greeters:** We are always looking for more Ushers and Greeters
- ⇒ **Fellowship Committee:** We'd love at least one more person to assist us in the Fellowship Events area.
- ⇒ **Outreach Committee:** We are always looking for individuals who have a passion for reaching out in our community.
- ⇒ **Extencicare volunteers:** We are looking for families/individuals to sign up to assist in the weekly Extencicare Sunday services. We need speakers, musical players, and people gatherers.

## JUST FOR FUN - PONDERABLE IMPONDERABLES

Here are some things that might cause you to simply go "hmmmmm!"

1. Why do banks charge you a "non-sufficient funds" fee on money they already know you don't have?
2. *If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?*
3. What happens if you get scared half to death— twice?
4. *In a country of free speech, why are there phone bills?*
5. Why do black olives come in cans and green olives come in jars?
6. *Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?*
7. Is a metaphor like a simile?
8. *If the #2 pencil is so popular, why is it still #2?*
9. If you ate pasta and anti pasta, would you still be hungry?
10. *Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?*
11. If I melt dry ice, can I take a bath without getting wet?
12. *Crime doesn't pay...does that mean that my job is a crime?*
13. How can there be self-help "groups"?
14. *How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?*
15. How do you throw away a garbage can?
16. *Why is it that bullets ricochet off of Superman's chest, but he ducks when the gun is thrown at him?*