

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Summer has now gone and the start of another school year is upon us. In this issue, we look back on our activities as well as changes to come.

## Angel Tree Camp

By Carla Nieuwsma

Angel Tree Camp is a yearly event that takes place every summer in June, July or August. Eligible kids that attend are from homes where the parent or parents/caregiver has been incarcerated. The kids are from Iowa, and range in age from 5 years through high school. This year's Pella camp occurred June 19-23. Typically, the Pella kids are 5-11 years old.

On June 19, the kids arrived at Central College where they are each given a backpack and assigned a cabin and a counselor for the week.

Throughout the week they do various activities such as horseback riding, fishing, slip & slide, a choice of a helicopter or airplane ride, boating, climbing the Elk Rock tower and going to Camp Creation for an afternoon. Along with that, they get a meal or two from churches in the local community and they worship at least twice a day.

On Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30-11:00, Pella II gets a third of the group each day for crafts. My helpers this year were Kathleen DeHaan, Marilyn Vander Molen, and Kim Hoekstra.

We had several crafts for them such as bug keepers, braiding with cords and beads, rubber band bracelets, painting sun catchers, birdhouses, crosses and wooden shapes.

The rubber band bracelets always seem to be the most popular. We always "try to distribute their paint" but somehow there are always a few eager little hands that get more paint than they need.

That being said, I know they are thinking, "Why share the extra paint when I can create a new color?" Year after year, no matter what colors they start with, and no matter how they twirl their brush, the end result is still the same...the lovely color of mud. As long as there are kids and paint...this will always happen!



And at the end of craft time when a little one asks for extra things to make something later, how does one resist those pleading eyes?

Thursdays are always a special day at Pella II, when all the kids, counselors and Joe and Diane Brummel are served a hardy breakfast and supper by Lola and several ladies and a few fellas. Needless to say there is never a quiet place in the building when that happens!

With full tummies and thankful hugs, some may even tell us, "This is my favorite camp because...." As they leave we wonder what they'll return home to when they leave on Friday morning.

I am thankful to know that over the years some of the campers that pass through end up being counselors themselves.

I know that Joe and Diane have many stories to tell. Some would break your heart, and some would make you smile!

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever."

Psalm 107:1

## My GEMS Camp Experience

By Aurelia Zylstra

My experience at GEMS Camp was really great. When I first got there, I ran into my friends Erika and Cora. I didn't expect them to be there but I was so glad to see them. It was their first time at camp so I got to tell them all about it! The first day there we sang songs in the gym and got to know each other. We did some activities but it was really hot. I really liked GEMS Camp and all the activities were really fun. My favorite thing to do was canoeing. I remember I was afraid to try the canoe last year but it was so much fun. My favorite activity would have been horseback riding but that was cancelled because it was 102 degrees out, which was dangerous for the horses. Instead of horseback riding, my friend Allisa and I got the pool all to ourselves for almost an hour. We also did a string art craft. Mine is the state of Iowa with a heart. We had devotions and sang a lot of great songs. I'm looking forward to camp next year!



## GEMS Summer in Review

By Katie Magnussen

The Pella II GEMS club may have taken a break for the summer but a couple of the members were still able to attend two great events.

Club Coordinator Katie Magnussen attended the GEMS leadership conference held at Dordt College. There she attended several worship sessions and breakout workshops to learn about this year's theme.

GEMS 5<sup>th</sup> grader Aurelia Zylstra was able to attend GEMS camp, July 21-23 at Camp Wesley Wood. She also had a great time as she explains to the left.

As GEMS starts up again we are excited for another year of lessons, service projects, crafts and games. This year our theme verse is 1 John 2:6, "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did". The GEMS girls will

be learning how God's word tells us all about Jesus and teaching them to "Walk In His Steps."

## Reflections

By Pastor Tom Dykman

As they say, "time flies when you are having fun." We came for 10 weeks and stayed for 100 or so, and it just seemed to fly by. Yes, we did enjoy it, immensely. Thank you for accepting two Texans and making us feel at home.

There will be many memories of our stay in Pella, some lodged in our phone (imagine images in a phone and not just words), others on our dashboard, or on the walls of our little house on wheels. But the most lasting and deeply planted memories are the ones within.

We learned about basket, boer jongens, and Dutch letters. Early on I asked, innocently, at Jaarsma's bakery, "Why does the Dutch alphabet have only one letter?" I found out that though I am Dutch I sure didn't know much. The newest game we learned and never mastered was Dutch Bingo. Everyone seems to know how to play, even the young ones. I guess it must be a prerequisite in the schools. One strange thing about this game is, you never know when it begins. No one invites you or says let's begin, it just starts and the moves are made very quickly, sometimes there are double and triple jumps, and no one ever calls foul. We have found that playing the game very long can cause dizzy spells. I hear some foreigners have complained of nausea after extended periods of exposure to this Dutch pastime.

Most of all we have enjoyed and come to love Pella 2. We have missed our family and



been received into God's bigger family. Sundays at 2 have been delightful. Oh, how we have loved the singing, and the inclusion of all ages in the expression and leadership of worship.

The musical gifts and leadership here are awesome. You have learned that it is right and healthy to encourage participation, and you have demonstrated that grace that makes it safe to try, even if I am not yet accomplished. It has been a blessing to come beside you as you came through a time of difficulty and uncertainty. We witnessed God working, bringing healing and the return of joy which was in your DNA.

I have enjoyed making and delivering sermons again after five years without. There was blessing in walking through the difficult times, rejoicing in celebrations, and there was always the wonder of God's grace and love.

We are excited for your future. You stepped out in faith to encourage the pursuit of the merger with Grace and First. You encouraged something much greater than your personal preference and reached for something attainable only through faith. As you make a final decision later this month, I am convinced that you will prayerfully "seek first his kingdom and righteousness, and all the other things will be added to you." Remember, if it's not big enough, you can likely do it on your own, or so we think and go. Expect great things of God, and attempt great things for God. Remember always, He promised to be with us always. We will hold you fondly in our hearts. If we had children and grandchildren within 500 miles we might even settle here, well if you

could do something about the winters. They just aren't conducive to little house on wheels living.

We join the apostle Paul when he said, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

We are convinced that, though Iowa was not in our plans, it surely was in God's, and we are so glad it was. We know that He who began this good work in all of us, will Himself bring it to completion.

Tom and Erin Dykman  
110 E. Center St., #1730  
Madison, SD 57042

## One Step at a Time, One Day at a Time

By Will Van Wyngarden

Running a race is a very well-known metaphor for describing one's Christian walk. Values like perseverance, attitude, and stamina are very evident in passages like Hebrews 12:1b- "...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

There is no question in my mind that running a marathon is the most difficult

thing that I have ever done. After completing my first marathon last October, when people asked how it went, I would describe in great detail about how horrible it made me feel, how miserable I was throughout, how my muscles and joints ached. Then they would ask if I would do it again, and I would invariably answer yes. That's the thing about completing something



very trying and difficult. The satisfaction that comes from completing a task that seemed insurmountable compels you to try again to recapture that feeling.

One misconception about running a marathon is that you feel great at the beginning and you gradually feel worse and worse. The reality is that the start is often when you feel the worst. You have to "get in the groove," so to speak, or get your body, heart, and lungs used to what you are asking them to do. Then you can have long stretches in the middle where you feel great. Then near the end things feel like they are falling apart.

Similar things can happen in our spiritual lives as well. Sometimes it feels like you are on the top of the world. Other times it feels like every hour of every day is a struggle. But you must continue on. In Philippians 3:14 Paul says "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

It has always been interesting to me that you can have a goal in mind and reach it no matter what. I firmly believe that if a marathon was 22.6 miles, very few people

would run 26.2, the actual marathon distance. After all, you don't see people training to run 30 miles! The

point is, whatever you set your goal at, you will do what it takes to achieve that goal. And we have the capacity as humans to reach those goals; it is just a matter of setting them high and continuing to strive. For example, it is only 24 miles to Prairie City from my house. When I think about just running to Prairie City, it seems

ridiculous. But if that is your goal, you will find a way.

Here is the reality when it comes to training.

The last 5-6 miles are going to be very difficult. For the average marathoner, no amount of training will make a huge impact on making the last few miles easy. It is a battle to put one foot in front of the other. It is a mental game. You have to put the pain out of your head and focus on the finish. For me, the last couple miles my calf muscles were really starting to cramp up. I felt like it was a glorified walk. But I decided I could walk a block while I rehydrated, and then I could complete the rest of that mile. And with that strategy I was able to finish.

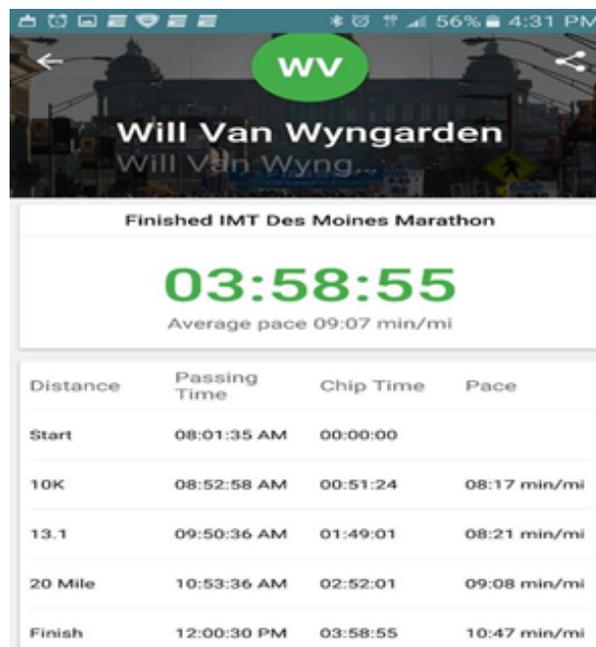
That is true in our spiritual walk and battles, as well. And not just finishing our life well, but also working through all the obstacles we face every day and standing firm until the end. This is what Paul said to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:24: “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”



In marathon training it is incredibly important to have a committed training partner. You need someone to hold you accountable for those early morning runs.

You need someone to encourage you when you feel your feet may fail you. For me that was Brent Pierson. I always knew Brent was going to be at my house at 6 A.M. on Saturday mornings to run with me. And we would encourage each other every step of the way. And it doesn’t hurt to have someone to have a conversation with when you are running for hours at a time. This is also true in our spiritual

lives. We need to have people in our lives that can encourage us and help us to persevere, to make us stronger. Proverbs 27:17 says “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”



Training for a marathon is all about learning how to set a pace. You really can’t teach your body to run 26.2 miles. You simply have to learn how to sustain a certain pace for as long as you can. You don’t want to wear yourself out, but you also want to go as fast as you can.

Typically to go from a short distance runner up to a full marathoner, you run short runs during the week, with one long

weekly run added into the mix. That long run should steadily increase over the length of your training. For instance, we will run 13 miles one Saturday, then 15 the next. We

might go down to 11 the following week, but then go up to 16 the next. Most authorities on this matter say you shouldn't go any more than 20 in your training, but current opinions say you could get by with 16 as your longest run.

My training for my next marathon is almost complete. The Des Moines Marathon is

coming up on October 15. Maybe you are finishing your life's work, or simply conquering a challenging time in your life. Hopefully, just as a runner like me would say about a marathon, you can say with Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

## Congratulations

**Keegan and Cassi (Alread) Vander Molen**

Married June 30, 2017

**Wyatt Jay Nieuwsma**

Born to Lance and Megan  
on July 25, 2017

## In Remembrance

Wilma Vos



July 4, 1920-July 18, 2017

*Pella II Newsletter invites your contribution. Drop a note in the "Newsletter" box in the church library or contact one of our editors.*

*Joel Vander Molen  
joelvan@vmtweb.com  
628-1303*

*Ryan Hoekstra  
hoekstrateam@iowatelecom.net  
628-3964*

*Ruth Van Hal  
secretary@pella2crc.org  
628-2966*