

ZUNI CHRISTIAN REFORMED MISSION



Torch

June
2015



Small but noteworthy: the Zuni Christian Mission School's graduating class of 2015

OBEDIENCE • SMILING FACES • FAITHFUL SERVANTS

principal's desk

Teachers do not, despite what we tell students, see everything. Pulling off a spring program with a school of excited distracted students puts sufficient evidence of that fact on the table.

An example: I had the first and second graders on the risers recording the 'silly song' they'd sung at their program. Nine kids on the back riser; eight on the second. Choreography was minimal—a line or two of speaking, a snippet of acting, a few simple hand motions and one deadly turn-around. We bounced through the first verses of the song; then raced into the verse with the turn-around action. I was, as the expression goes, multi-tasking: eyes on the children, eyes on my notes, ears to the piano, attentive to words, actions, pace, volume, participation—the works—so I didn't see what caused the ruckus on the back riser but ruckus there was. We stopped. I told the kids, "Let's try again."

Try two: My eyes were riveted on the children at the top left. This time when we turned ourselves around, a little boy fell off the riser. Again we stopped. "He pushed me!" he wailed. "No, he didn't push," I responded. Although I had watched carefully, I still couldn't pinpoint the problem but I knew it wasn't pushing and I did know the two responsible parties. The youngster clamored back up on the risers.

Try three: The kids sang lustily, "...and you turn those trucks around..." The two boys, side by side, focused with all their might. But there it was again—wobble, wobble, bump—minor collision. This time we went on, careening to the end.

Finally, I understood. Here were two little boys doing their best—their obedience stymied by their six-year-old frailty. For one, a turn-around on a riser hemmed in on either side by classmates was too much for his developing coordination. For the other, a clockwise turn made no sense whatsoever to a brain programmed to go the other way. It was quite explainable and wholly forgivable.

Does this strike a cord? Obedience isn't all that easy. Flub-ups stalk our creaturely territory. Indeed, though we bend our wills towards God's will and though we desire to please Him, human frailty easily foils obedience. Here is a great mercy. Unlike me with my young students, our heavenly Father is not slow to understand nor is he hesitant to give comfort. Psalm 103: 13-14 puts it this way: *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.*

In the end, I was enormously pleased that these two little guys had tried so hard to please me. Never mind the wobbly collision—it was actually kind of cute. Just so, we can strike out on the path of obedience with courage and good cheer. The Lord, our God, delights in us. *Praise the Lord, O my soul.*

Classroom Corner

Enjoy the many smiling faces at ZCMS.



Mission Info



The Building Project

Summer brings a change of pace at Zuni Christian Reformed Mission. This summer, the building project is in focus. While the students are on break, Contractor Rick Murphy expects to complete the playground and parking area. In July, a mission work team from Seymour Christian Reformed Church (Grand Rapids, Michigan) will come to help put the play structures together. These are exciting times. The outpouring of gifts specifically for the playground and generally for the building project is an amazing affirmation of God's faithfulness to the Zuni community. Thank you for the part you have played with your prayers and gifts.

Gratitude and Celebration

The retirement of Sam Chimoni, our maintenance man/custodian of 43 years, and Percilla Chimoni, our educational assistant and Zuni language teacher of 16 years, has given us many opportunities to reflect on the service they have given in Christ's name. We are immensely grateful for the contribution they have made across the years to hundreds of students and their families. Join us in thanksgiving and blessing as we mark this transition with them.



Sam and Rosita Chimoni with their children Cheryl, Kevin, and Calvin.



Percilla and Rex Chimoni

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