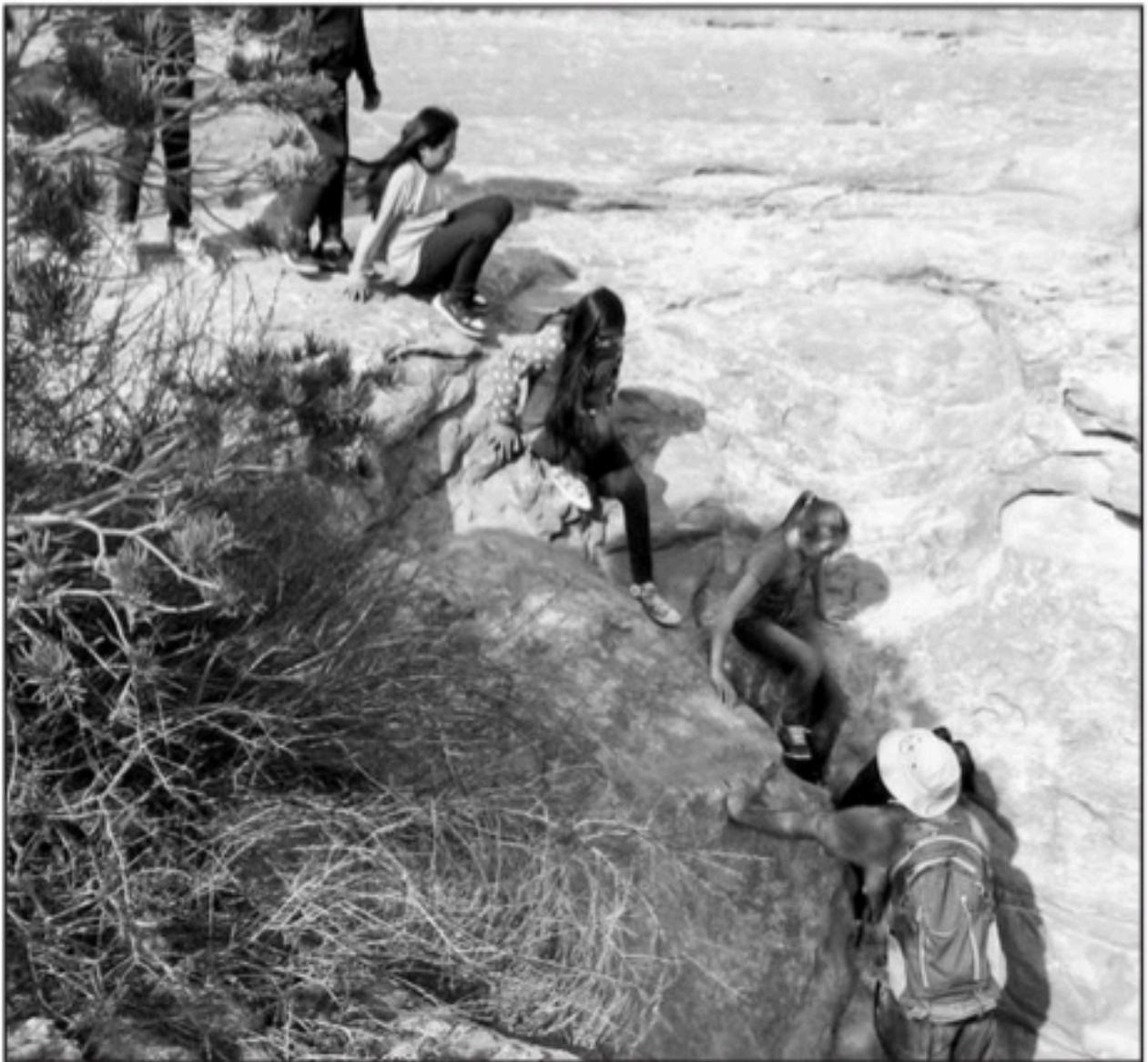


ZUNI CHRISTIAN REFORMED MISSION



# Torch

March  
2016



5th-8th grade students on a day-away hike in Gallup.

***KNOWING JESUS • GRANDPARENTS DAY • HOPE & HEALING***

# principal's desk

**What do you know?** It's an important question. It's a life question. It's a question that is never far from an educator's mind. Knowing—it's at the core of our passions and our labors. Not long ago, the 1st and 2nd graders put me to fresh pondering of the question.

It happened like this. The children's independent reading skills are gaining traction. This is a fledging skill—worthy of celebrating and worthy of encouraging. For the little ones, earning a ticket is the great prize. For teachers, giving a ticket is a pleasure. So, we're liberal with tickets when they succeed at this tricky business of reading. On this particular day, I planned to check the children's reading practice assignment during their recess. So just before heading outside, I prompted the children to guess that I love to give tickets for careful reading.

With a little drama, I began, "I love..." and I paused. "Yellow!" a child called out. "I do love yellow," I affirmed. Happy yellow—fresh corn and sunshine, sunflowers and sharp new pencils.

"I love..." I said again. "Reading!" "Oh, yes. For sure. I love to read."

Now the game was on a roll: "I love..." and someone shouted, "Coffee!" "I love..." and another called, "Teaching us!"

I was enamored by the ease and accuracy of their teacher-knowledge. "I love..." "Peace and quiet!" I laughed, "Yes, I love that too!" And I sent them out for recess.

This simple knowing—it's not a big surprise and not especially important. The children know me because they're with me—a lot. Now what of the thing that matters most? Knowing Jesus. For our children to know Jesus, he has to be here—here in this little mission school—in our classrooms and on our playground, in our hallways and in our lunchroom, in every nook and cranny of our lives together. And how can Jesus be here unless we, as his disciples, embody him by speaking truth and offering grace every moment of every day?

Every now and then, our children give witness to the fact that they are getting to know Jesus and we give thanks. Here's one. The kindergarten classroom is quiet. The children are intent on the task in front of them. A little boy looks up from his work and says to his teacher, "I love Jesus."

# Classroom Corner

We celebrated Grandparents Day on February 12. Grandparents light up their grandchildren's lives. For a morning, we enjoyed those special bonds.



# Mission Info



## Building news

The gym/ministry center shell, formed from SIPs (structural insulated panel), is finished. Vision is becoming reality. The beams soaring over the gym space are breathtaking. The Murphy Builders crew is now doing interior framing and the outside covered walkway. Join us in thanking God for the steady construction progress.

## Public Playground

In the summer of 2010, we prepared for the up-coming building project by taking down our playground. It took six years to fulfill our promise to the community that we would rebuild, making an even-better playground. Now it gives us great pleasure to see community members, young and old, enjoying the new playground.



Neighborhood kids enjoy the play equipment until the gates are locked when we go home. The basketball court sees action well past dark. Pray that the hospitality of the playground will represent Christ's invitation for community members to explore every good thing that takes place at Zuni Christian Reformed Mission.

## Celebrate Recovery

The Zuni Christian Reformed Church recently initiated a Celebrate Recovery group. The focus of the program is to help people submit their hurts, hang-ups and destructive habits to the Lordship of Christ and to find God's path to wholeness and spiritual growth. Pray for the leaders and those who attend—that it will be a place of hope and healing.

## Contact information

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