



June 2025

Dear Friends,

We have some big news to share: our daughter, Laurey, became engaged to Ian Thompson on May 31, 2025. These two have known each other since 2019, when they were both summer missionaries with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), and they have dated for over two years. They are planning for a July 11, 2026, wedding date and then will finish their senior years at Iowa State University as a married couple. Ian is training to be a surgical nurse, while Laurey is studying Human Development-Family Studies and French. We're very happy for them.



I continue to work with immigrant pastoral candidates online. Most of the work is in French, but three prefer to work in English. That's perfectly fine, particularly as we still can talk about the material in French, if needed, mostly when there's some confusion over terminology. Next on my agenda is developing the French version of Coram Deo's biblical/pastoral counseling course, which means sorting through a lot of videos and readings to find the best content, as not everything can be translated from English.

We were hoping to begin work with several Florida Haitian candidates, but after several months of discussions, they chose not to proceed. I'm still hopeful that the seeds we planted will germinate with some of the people involved, though. There's a surprising amount of interest in existing denominations (RCA, CRCNA, etc.) recruiting immigrant congregations to affiliate with them, even though these churches have little or no Reformed history. Thus, there's a need to help these immigrant church leaders become familiar with our theology, pastoral expectations, and denominational ordination or commissioning requirements, and that's a role that Coram Deo is well-suited to perform.

This summer has our three older girls busy with CEF outreach again—for the eighth year in a row for Marie. She is again a summer coordinator for their five-day clubs (mini-VBS). Laurey will help with Iowa CEF leader training in June, but will spend six-weeks in Québec at the Christian Camp des Îles, as camp staff, which will serve as her required internship for her French major. Ellie is a team leader for the local CEF, meaning that she will lead teams of 2-3 summer missionaries to conduct the clubs throughout south central Iowa. All three girls are also involved in our home church's VBS, too. Thekla

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will attend two camps this summer, in addition to swimming, piano, and tennis lessons. She's thrilled to have her own kitten, after years of begging for a pet.

Ever since COVID, my church support and mission share funding have declined. Two churches that supported me closed, and others informed me this past year that their budgets have shrunk and they were reducing their mission giving. If your church or you as an individual could increase your financial support of my pastoral training ministry, I'd be very grateful. I am willing to visit or speak with any group or person on this topic or to preach at your church.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

1. We're thankful that the three older girls are engaged in youth ministry this summer, as is Aichatou, who continues to serve as a resident advisor at a home for trafficked girls. Pray for their safety and effectiveness this summer as they travel to various communities and camps for their work.
2. Please pray for new and generous supporters to allow me to continue working full-time in cross-cultural pastoral equipping. Continue to pray for new candidates to learn about and enroll in our pastoral formation training.
3. We're grateful for Ian and Laurey's decision to marry. Please pray for the couple as they prepare for a July 2026 wedding.

Tom Johnson