



September 2025

Dear Friends,

Summer is over and all the girls are back in school: Marie and Laurey at their respective universities, Ellie is a senior at PCHS and Thekla is in third grade at PCGS. The three older girls had summer ministry roles with Marie and Ellie working for the regional Child Evangelism Fellowship chapter. Laurey had an internship (it counted for her French major) at the Christian Camp des Îles in Québec, where she supervised teenage staff, translated from English to French at chapels and shared with the young campers. Unfortunately, she also got a mild concussion after some camp hijinks and has been dealing with that.



All the girls were either counselors or campers at Camp Good News (which had a medieval theme) in August.



Pastor Christof's father was a pastor in central Africa, thus, his immigrant community asked him to be their pastor in Iowa, despite his lack of training. He's now starting our French pastoral formation program.

My summer was mostly spent adapting two Coram

Deo courses in French, in addition to my regular mentoring with the pastoral candidates. I finally finished the pastoral care class and found the needed French materials to make it parallel to our English version of the class. The other course that is now ready is Church History, which I really enjoyed researching and identifying the most important events in the last 2,000 years that impact the church today. What amazed me was the rapidly growing number of AI-produced videos on historical church topics—and not all of them are worth watching!

This past week, we received three applications for the French pastoral training program. Two are from Niger, which is where I worked for 16 years, and these are both working professionals who feel led to acquire pastoral credentials after years in lay leadership. The other man is a Congolese/Rwandan immigrant who found himself as the de facto pastor of an immigrant church because he was the son of a respected pastor, and the community turned to him for leadership, despite his having never studied for the ministry. As a result, he felt that he owed it to his congregation to obtain some formal study.

As 2025 comes to a close, I'd like to request that you, as an individual, or your church, consider further supporting this ministry. For the first time in 24 years, my accounts are

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short, with post-COVID shortfalls, church closings. church re-affiliation and inflation are combining to produce the perfect storm of declining resources with increased expenses (insurance and cost-of-living). For more information on giving to the ministry, please go to rca.org/johnson. Thank you!

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

1. We praise God for these three new applications, and we pray that all will go well in onboarding these candidates into our pastoral formation program. Also, please pray for each individual: Christoff, Issaka, and Yao as they begin their training.
2. Pray for Laurey and Ian as they consider all the details in planning for their July 11, 2026, wedding. Seating for the church and the reception hall is limited to just over 200 people, and we don't know how many of Aichatou's family from Niger can come.
3. Pray for Laurey's recovery from her concussion. Classroom bright lights and looking at computer screens bother her, and she finds she tires more easily.
4. We thank God for the new school year and the fact that both Marie (UNW-St. Paul) and Ellie (Pella Christian High) will graduate at the end of the academic year. Both these girls plan to spend several weeks in Europe in the spring as part of Marie's student teaching (at a missionary school in Hungary) and for Ellie, as part of a student exchange with a Christian school in Zwolle, the Netherlands.

In Christ,

Tom and family