

the garden report *November 7, 2011 Kevin & Amy Edlefson Fond du Lac, WI*

Soundbites

"Dad, I really enjoyed this! We got to stay together and have fun and we actually were helping people and serving God." – 8-year-old Owen's comment after spending three hours going door to door in our neighborhood raking leaves for people. Unfortunately, we had a small turnout for the event, though we impacted several lives and had some great conversations

"Do you perchance have the wrong address?" – someone who drove up as we were raking their yard.

"Yes" – spoken in affirmation as a young woman joined the church on Sunday through profession of faith.

"It seems like when I stop trying to make things happen for myself, things finally start to fall into place." – a young man I'm discipling who is coming out of a life of substance abuse and looking to make a new start. Also words that I am taking seriously as it seems my leadership role is shifting to spending more time with people and doing less event-planning and trying to 'make things happen' and make the church grow.

As you can hear, we continue to be active in our community and are seeing new people get connected to the church and to God as He works to transform lives. We have people coming who are still actively searching and not sure about God. We have others who are newly convinced, excited and growing. And still others who are maturing and stepping into leadership roles within the church. **Pray that we continue to see accelerated growth in all these areas!**

Listening

As we finish this year and begin to pray and plan about God's desires for *the garden* in 2012, we are facing a major milestone. We are currently asking our people to make pledges for the first six months of 2012 (the final months of our support from the denomination, though our classis and other churches continue to support us at declining levels). If we do not get enough support from within we will need to make some changes, most likely reducing my compensation. **Please pray that God will continue to provide for His work through *the garden*. Pray for our leadership to be able to listen clearly and follow God's lead.**

For the display of His splendor!

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(cont'd on back – read about this year's Advent Conspiracy and how you can participate with us!)



Praises

- recent **profession of faith** and upcoming **baptisms**.

- **transformation in the trenches**.

- **learning opportunities** through conferences and D. Min. classes.

- **people stepping up** and serving in different capacities.

Prayer Points:

- **transformed lives and numeric growth**.

- **more partners in ministry** and **renewed strength and encouragement** for our core volunteers.

- **God's guidance and wisdom**

- that God would continue to provide all we need for **sustainable Kingdom work in Fond du Lac**.

**Christian Reformed World
Relief Committee (CRWRC)
gift catalog:**



Fruit Tree	\$1 each
Maize Seeds	\$15
	(5 kg)
Chickens	\$1.50 each
Rabbit	\$21
Goat	\$35
Sheep	\$60
Pig	\$80
Calf	\$90

*All gifts are tax deductible.
Make checks out to CRWRC or
to the garden. Gift cards are
available if you want to give
donations as gifts or ask others
to donate in your name.*



Conspiring Again

The Christmas decorations are out and it won't be long till the Christmas music is blasting all around us in the strange subversion of the greatest story of generosity ever into a celebration of commercial greed. And once again this year we are going to participate in the **Advent Conspiracy**, a growing movement to recapture the true meaning of the season (learn more at www.adventconspiracy.org).

This year, we are hoping to 'fill the stable' – giving gifts of animals, seeds and saplings to families in various parts of the world. We are encouraging our members to give donations as gifts to their family and friends and to consider asking others to donate on their behalf in lieu of expensive gifts or unnecessary 'stuff' we collect this time of year. If you want to help us fill the stable, take a look at the gift options (attached) and let us know what you want to order. When we've received payment (make the check out to CRWRC or to *the garden*), we'll send you a card thanking you for your donation (and a tax deductible receipt). We can also send you gift cards that you can give to others or order forms if you want to ask others to give a donation in your name.

Finally, as we look ahead to 2012 already, we will be receiving our year end offering again this year, the only time of year that we ask for any above budget giving or for gifts from supporters outside the church. In the past, this money has been used to support our summer interns and last year, half of the offering went to support clean water initiatives. This year, we are keeping our Advent Conspiracy giving through CRWRC separate from the year end offering and will be using our year end offering to cover the expenses of a summer intern again or as a budget supplement if we find ourselves needing to fill a gap between internal giving and the diminishing external funding. **Please consider helping us with a financial gift during this critical period of growth.**