

# THE PROCLAIMER

MAR/APR 2021

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CALVARY CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH IS  
**CHRIST-CENTERED**  
**BIBLE-BELIEVING**  
**GOSPEL-MOTIVATED**  
**COMMUNITY-BUILDING**

OUR MISSION IS TO  
**PROCLAIM THE GOOD**  
**NEWS OF JESUS**  
**IN WORD AND DEED**  
**HERE, NEAR, AND FAR.**

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## A YEAR OF COVID-19

On Monday, March 9, 2020, the Full Council of Calvary Church had a normal, monthly meeting. We agreed that because of rising COVID-19 concerns, we should not have a normal "Mutual Greeting" during worship the following Sunday. Three days later, in-person worship was cancelled and would be for the following three months.

If you would have told me a year ago the persistent challenges that we would need to endure as students, parents, workers, citizens, leaders, and church-going disciples of Jesus, I would have been in disbelief. To be sure, there is much to grieve and there are many whose challenges have been greater than what many of us have faced. But so many of the challenges we have faced this past year have been so peculiar and sustained, it is hard to conceive of life and thought in a pre-COVID-19 world.

I write these words as a pastor and leader at Calvary. I want you all to know how proud (in a humble,

Christ-like way!) I am of Calvary Church. The grace, patience, kindness, and faithfulness with which we have endured these challenges together brings joy and gratitude to my heart.

The patience you have had in embracing the changes in worship, the guidelines we have followed, the loss of programming, the loss of social interaction (how we all miss church cookies!), has made being a leader/pastor here at Calvary not only easier, but invigorating. Additionally, to witness so many people step up in so many ways with sound, audio, camera work, stage improvements, lighting, worship leadership challenges, care for others, adapting ministry/ Bible study, etc.

*...continued on page 2*

Editorial by  
Nick Van Beek  
Lead Pastor  
[pastornick@calvarycrc.net](mailto:pastornick@calvarycrc.net)



... Editorial continued from page 1 with so much commitment and resolve, has brought me much peace amidst much chaos. There are 1,001 things that we could have done or done better; you have been gracious and patient with what we have done and not done.

I have many colleagues in ministry. Many are facing financial issues because of the pandemic. Many are facing division related to mitigating the pandemic (mask-wearing, guidelines). Many are facing division related to social and political issues compounded by the pandemic. Many are facing logistical issues related to online-worship: getting enough volunteers, needing equipment, resources, etc. Many are facing burnout because there are so many things "you could do" during such a challenging time. Many are struggling to maintain worship attendance numbers either in-person, online, or both.

In each case, Calvary has not only persevered, but flourished. I know not why the Spirit continues to bless Calvary so richly. I can only express my thanks to God and to you. Thank you all for your grace and patience. Thank you to those of you who have stepped up the use of your time and gifts for our ministry. Thank you for your commitment to your discipleship and the ministry of Calvary.

I do not know what other challenges await, but I am confident in God's faithfulness, the sustaining work of the Holy Spirit, and the faithful perseverance of Calvary Church.

By Pastor Nick Van Beek

## MINISTRIES UPDATE

HERE

"What does this Bible verse teach us about the Holy Spirit?"

"How does the wisdom of God differ from the wisdom of the world according to 1st Corinthians?"

"Husbands, what is a way your wife displays inner beauty? Wives, what is a way your husband treats you with respect?"

What does it mean to "cast your anxiety on him"?

These are some questions that we have discussed at Life Group on Wednesday nights with young adults in our 20s and 30s this past year. As you can imagine, the questions sparked deep conversations in which we learn from each other's experiences, insight, and primarily, from the Word of God.

For example, I remember the first question stated above was asked about 1 Corinthians 1:18-26. We always take note of what the Bible teaches us about the Spirit given the mystery but immense importance of the Spirit's activity in our lives. We examined the fascinating phrase that Apostle Paul inked to the church in Corinth that reads in the Greek *"πνεύματος, πνευματικοίς πνευματικά"* which is the Greek word for Spirit three times in a row in different forms, transliterated "pneumatōs, pneumatikōis, pneumatika." The phrase means that as spiritual people, we need the Spirit to help us understand spiritual truths from God. In this situation, the Spirit is a guide into truth, helping us learn about the gospel of Jesus. The Spirit fires in our hearts and minds so we can deepen our knowledge and love for God.

Our group loves to go deep into the Holy Scriptures and I'm so thankful for everyone's hunger for truth. I pray the Spirit continues to guide our discussions to encourage us in our faith and deepen our trust in the Lord. The focus on the Bible is foundational to our Life Group - without it we would simply be a social club - but we do more than just study the Scriptures. We build relationships. Many young adults come to the Twin Cities either fresh out of college or after accepting a new job in the area. Trying to connect





**FOLLOWING JESUS**  
1 Peter



September 9 - 1:1-12 - Glorious Joy  
September 16 - 1:13-2:3 - Be Holy  
September 23 - 2:4-10 - A Chosen People  
September 30 - 2:11-25 - Honor the Emperor  
October 7 - 3:1-7 - Wives and Husbands  
October 14 - 3:8-22 - Repay Evil with Good  
October 21 - 4:1-11 - The Will of God  
October 28 - 4:12-19 - Sufferings of Christ  
November 4 - 5:1-4 - To the Elders  
November 11 - 5:5-6 - Cast Your Anxiety  
November 18 - 5:7-13 - The Devil

**Life Group**  
5:30-7 pm  
Singles and Married  
20s and 30s  
Meal provided  
5300 France Ave  
Edina, MN 55410



**SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST**  
LIFE GROUP ON 1 CORINTHIANS  
6-7:30 PM SINGLES AND MARRIED  
20S AND 30S  
MEAL PROVIDED  
5300 FRANCE AVE  
EDINA, MN 55410



JAN 13 SANCTIFIED 1:1-9  
JAN 20 DIVISION 1:10-17  
JAN 27 CHRIST CRUCIFIED 1:18-2:6  
FEB 3 GOD'S FIELD 3:1-22  
FEB 10 FOOLS FOR CHRIST 4:1-21  
FEB 17 DISCIPLINE TO SAVE 5:1-13  
FEB 24 KINGDOM OF GOD 6:1-20  
MAR 3 THE MARRIED 7:1-23  
MAR 10 THE UNMARRIED 7:25-40  
MAR 17 FOR THE GOSPEL 9:19-27  
APR 7 EXAMPLES FOR US 10:1-13  
APR 14 LORD'S SUPPER 11:1-32  
APR 21 SPIRIT GIFTS 12:1-31  
APR 28 LOVE 13:1-13  
MAY 5 GOOD ORDER 14:1-40  
MAY 12 RESURRECTION 15:1-34  
MAY 19 RESURRECTED 15:35-58  
MAY 26 DOOR OF MINISTRY 16:1-24

with other young adults who are committed to Christ in a metro of three million people is actually very challenging. Just ask anyone in our group! In college, you are surrounded with people your age and you can find others with similar interests who are in the same life phase. Once you enter the "real world" there may be no one at your job that is your age, and if there is, they may be living a lifestyle that you do not want to emulate. Sometimes you may have family connections in the area, which is great, but that doesn't fill the desire for friends that are close in age.

That's where Life Group comes in clutch. We have welcomed many newcomers to the Twin Cities with open arms and I've heard many of the young adults say how thankful they are to connect with a group like ours. They feel affirmed in their faith that is challenged everyday by the society around them. They feel like they belong to a community of faith and they feel full after eating a delicious meal!

Let's be honest, everyone likes to eat! Especially after a hard day's work on Wednesday! Many Life Groupers have told me they look forward to Wednesdays because they don't have to plan or make a meal that night. I don't blame them!

Eating together is something Jesus did with his disciples all the time. It wasn't just to fill hungry tummies; it was to talk about life while enjoying a meal. I've learned through my experiences at other churches, through seminary and my internship, that focusing on the relational side of Life Group is an

essential part of the discipleship process. To discuss the life-changing gospel of Jesus, it makes sense that you should know and care about the people you are talking to. Enjoying a meal together and talking about the construction site, the classroom, the office, the in-law visit, and everything else about your week is a very Christ-like thing to do, and that's why we spend about 45 minutes eating and about 45 minutes discussing the Bible verses.

If you know anyone in their 20s and 30s who is looking for such a group, please send them our way! Text or email me their contact info if they are willing, and I will gladly invite them. I've invited many people. Some have never come, some came once, and some have come almost every time and have joined our church! I have learned some individuals not connected to a church might be more willing to come to small group Bible study than a church service because it is more casual and low-key; and there's food!

If you have a network of people that you think would like to enjoy friends, faith, and food together, please contact Pastor Nick or myself and we will help you set up a group and show you how to be a facilitator. It's not that hard and it's very enjoyable and fulfilling. It is an awesome way to be a "mini-church" inside Calvary Christian Reformed Church and do life together.

**Life Group**  
6-7:30 pm  
Wednesdays

**Eli Groenendyk**  
Pastor of Discipleship  
[pastoreli@calvarycrc.net](mailto:pastoreli@calvarycrc.net)



# SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

*Interview with  
Carol Bengry*

NEAR



## **Where do you work?**

I am employed at WEX, the Health division located in Edina, MN. WEX is a leading financial technology service provider simplifying payment solutions across the globe and industries including fleet, corporate payments, and healthcare.

## **What are your roles and responsibilities?**

I have been with WEX for thirteen years and have been through three merger/acquisitions over that time; with each change my role and responsibilities changed. I am the receptionist - answering phones, maintaining security controls and visitors. Secondly, I am the administrative assistant for two of our executives, maintaining their calendars, expenses, travel, meetings and special projects. Lastly, I am the human resources contact in the Edina office. I conduct the onboarding process for new hires as well as assisting with some terminations. I lead our culture club which organizes charity events and social events for employees.

## **What are you currently working on that you are excited about?**

With our entire organization working from home, WEX has adopted the virtual world rapidly and efficiently. Our partner events which usually would be in Miami or Scottsdale, are now done from our home offices. Currently I have been participating in Executive Round Table discussions. Our executive leadership team invites ten to fifteen of our Partner executives to discuss topics that are important to them and how WEX can help them improve and simplify those areas of concern. Examples in some of these discussions are how to recruit good sales people, how to maneuver new legislation pertaining to healthcare and how to better assist our Partner's customers.

## **What in your job reveals God's sphere sovereignty?**

Let me highlight key words from the WEX mission statement: community driven, honest, innovative, and relational. WEX is very clear, empathetic, friendly, and

personal with our external and internal customers. I see God through our Employee Resource Groups (ERG), these groups all led by WEX employees range from WEXVets, WEXPRIDE, Women@WEX and WEXInclusion. WEX uses all the diversity in it's employees to broaden our worldly view in technology and community. For example, when the George Floyd protests and riots occurred in May 2020, WEX allowed their employees use ETO (Emergency Time Off) to help out the community by gathering necessities for those affected by the riots. I see God at work through a variety of ways: we started open dialogue around race, inclusion and acceptance using virtual meetings to discuss and learn about unconscious bias and helped our employees and their community in Costa Rica when tropical storms caused extensive damage. I see God's handiwork in the use of our new technologies that help people better understand and access their healthcare benefits.

## **How do you see God at work in your job?**

I have been given opportunities to expand my duties and network internally and externally with the WEX organization. Each new opportunity I see God guiding me and opening up my mind to see His handiwork in each of these new roles. I mainly see Him through the many people I am in contact with and the many ways I can assist them. I am blessed to work for an organization that values it's best resource, people.

## **Are your co-workers Christians? Have you had opportunities to talk to them about what they believe? Have you been able to share your faith in Christ with them?**

I work with many Christians and am grateful to be able to talk freely with them as well as those coworkers of other faiths. I've learned about their beliefs and we have nice conversations. I consider myself the WEX bartender if you will... my desk is located in the lobby. I have seen my coworkers come and go and through the years have developed strong friendships with some. One example is when a friend came to me with a heavy family issue. She needed to talk to someone. We went to a conference room and I listened and prayed with her. Other advantages of these friendships are talks about our lives, children and what we did over the weekend. I get to share openly about the great concerts I've been too and our church events such as Fall Fest and VBS. I've shared our church website with coworkers and I have had coworkers share faith-based apps with me. God is present and I see his works throughout my day. It is a blessing!!

# LEADING THE MISSION

## Council Update

HERE

One of my more memorable council meetings took place on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. The meeting was called on short notice to decide if we should cancel worship for the upcoming Sunday. I recall saying something like this: "We probably need to cancel this week, and maybe next week. But we shouldn't get ahead of ourselves. Maybe we can be back in a few weeks." That was just over a year ago. It shows, as well as anything, that our lives truly are not in our own control, but are entirely in God's hands.

The last three years have certainly been an interesting time to serve on Calvary's council. I started as a deacon in the summer of 2018. Since I started, we have hired two pastors, welcomed Agamim, and learned what it means to worship on our sofas and in our cars. This was on top of all the usual events in the life of our church: celebrating births, mourning deaths, saying good-bye to friends who move away, welcoming new ones, preparing annual budgets, rejoicing in professions of faith from our youth, and all the other both mundane and profound details of our life together.

Through everything, God's hand has been apparent. I have served as Calvary's treasurer for the past two years. In that role, I have a front-row seat to observe how many blessings God has showered on us. I don't mean primarily financially – although God has blessed us with a generous community that always steps up to provide for our communal needs – but mainly through the commitment and love our community has for each other. There are a lot of moving parts in keeping our church going, from just keeping the lights on to making sure our ministries have what they need. We have dedicated staff who work hard to keep our facility and operations running smoothly as well as an incredible group of volunteers who lead and guide our ministries. (Even those who are tardy in providing me with proposed budgets for next year. You know who you are!) I have seen, first-hand, that everything everyone is doing is done out of love for our church. That love, in turn, is rooted in a love for God and a desire to see His kingdom work advanced.

When I started as treasurer, I thought of it as a good way to serve. However, it didn't occur to me that God's hand would be so clear in a budget spreadsheet; but it is there. I thank Him for that opportunity and all of you for helping me see it.

By Nathaniel Zylstra  
Deacon and Treasurer



## CALVARY COUNCIL

### Elders

Len Attema  
Karen DeKam  
Randy Hedman  
Greg Marcus  
Tim Ribbens  
Casey Soerens  
Wayne Tobak

### Deacons

Andrew Feikema  
Angela Orcutt  
Jesse Post  
Marcus VanderBrug  
Nathan Zwagerman  
Tim Zwiars  
Nathaniel Zylstra

### Officers

Council Chair:	Len Attema
Council Vice-chair:	Tim Ribbens
Council Clerk:	Andrew Feikema
Consistory Chair:	Nick Van Beek
Consistory Vice-chair:	Eli Groenendyk
Deacon Chair:	Tim Zwiars
Deacon Vice-Chair:	Angela Orcutt
Treasurer:	Nathaniel Zylstra
Membership Clerk:	Randy Hedman

### Shepherding Districts

District 1: A – Feikema

E: Wayne Tobak, D: Angela Orcutt

District 2: Groen - Liddle

E: Greg Marcus, D: Nathan Zwagerman

District 3: Marcus - Schumi

E: Casey Soerens, D: Jesse Post

District 4: Soerens – Z

E: Karen DeKam D: Andrew Feikema

### Council Teams

**Shepherding Team:** Karen DeKam, Andrew Feikema, \*Randy Hedman, Greg Marcus, Angela Orcutt, Jess Post, Casey Soerens, Wayne Tobak, Nathan Zwagerman, Pastor Nick

**Administrative Team:** \*Len Attema, Matt DeKam, Elmer Jelgerhuis, Tim Ribbens, Marcus VanderBrug, Nathaniel Zylstra

**Youth Ministries Team:** \*Pastor Eli, Deb Attema, Kim Attema, Tim Zwiars

*\* indicates chairperson*



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

## 15 things you didn't know about Trey and Abby Schemper



1. Abby played volleyball, basketball, soccer, and softball in high school. She was a small but mighty catcher in softball all her years of playing.
2. Abby won her high school senior year talent show singing the Cup Song from Pitch Perfect.
3. Abby spent a summer as a camp counselor at Inspiration Hills in Inwood, Iowa during college.
4. Abby taught 4th grade her first year of teaching, and now teaches 3rd at Avail Academy.
5. Trey is a CPA and works as an auditor for Ernst & Young, focusing primarily on the firm's banking clients.
6. Trey sang in the Concert Choir while at Dordt.
7. Trey caught one of the largest walleyes in Manitoba on an ice fishing trip to the Red River.
8. Trey doesn't do horror movies.
9. Trey recently started giving piano lessons. With this experience he's also felt equipped to start giving Abby tips on classroom management.
10. Trey and Abby met during their junior/senior year of high school, got married in summer '17, and moved to Minneapolis in the summer of '19.
11. Trey and Abby sang a duet, a High School Musical song, at their junior/senior prom.
12. Trey and Abby went to Dordt, both having the opportunity to play sports during their time there. Abby played volleyball and Trey played baseball, with Abby having slightly more success by playing in two national championships.
13. Trey and Abby are expecting their first child in July.
14. Trey and Abby enjoy playing card/board games, going for bike rides, and spending time with friends from church.
15. During Trey's EY internship in the summer of 2018, Trey and Abby lived in a missionary's house in Roseville, MN for free, in exchange for painting the entire interior of the house.

## March Birthdays

Mar 1	Grace Schmidt, Barb Zwagerman	Mar 11	Tara Bosch, Julia Brouwer	Mar 22	Connor Van Hulzen
Mar 2	Marcia Pulscher, Vonnice Vanden Berg	Mar 13	Carrolle Hop	Mar 25	Joseph De Penning, Janet Ledebor
Mar 4	Michelle Brouwer, Marion Sandfort	Mar 16	Steve Bosch, Sarah Hooyer	Mar 28	Jill Nieman
Mar 9	Aleida VanderBrug	Mar 18	Thelma Buss, Alan Rindels	Mar 29	Ron Vis
Mar 10	Sophia Marcus	Mar 19	Evan Koelewyn	Mar 30	Dianne De Penning, Connie Spoelstra
				Mar 31	Elianna Van Hulzen

## April Birthdays

Apr 1	Holland Kobes	Apr 13	Eva Hedman, Verla Maynard, Andy Terpstra	Apr 22	Levi Abbring
Apr 2	Daniel Beekman, Steve Hall, Rich Zable	Apr 15	Kim Attema, Bob Buys, Ethan Hoekman	Apr 23	Kay Harkema, Shannon Hoekman, Karen Meyer
Apr 3	Brian Liddle	Apr 16	Joe Schumi	Apr 24	Cheryl Boonstra
Apr 6	James De Kam, Ivy VanderBrug	Apr 19	Hannah Groenendyk Sarah O'Donnell, Jon Van Hulzen	Apr 25	Lynnae Bouma, Annika Veurink
Apr 10	Isaac Wu	Apr 20	Katherine Zylstra	Apr 28	Nick Van Beek
Apr 11	Zach Staudt,			Apr 29	Bridget VanderBrug
Apr 12	Burt Boonstra				

## Worship Service Schedule

### March 7

Worship led by Pastor Nick  
John 10:1-10  
I Am...The Door  
Offering: Chr. Education Fund

### March 14

Worship led by Pastor Nick  
John 10:11-18  
I Am...The Shepherd  
Offering: Ministry Fund

### March 21

Worship led by Pastor Nick  
John 14:1-4  
I Am...The Way  
Offering: Urban Homeworks

### March 28

Worship led by Pastor Nick  
John 15:1-8  
I Am...The Vine  
Offering: Chr. Education Fund

### April 4

Worship led by Pastor Nick  
John 11:1-45  
I Am...The Resurrection  
Offering: VEAP

### April 11

Offering: SALT

### April 18

Offering: GEMS

### April 25

Offering: Chr. Education Fund

## Offering Totals

### November

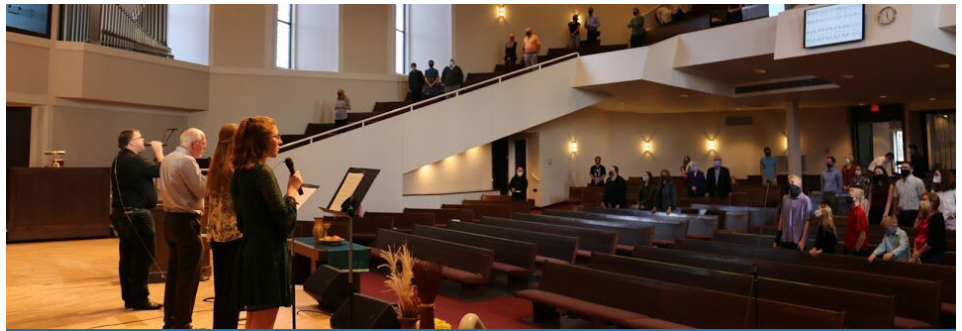
Chr. Education Fund - \$645.50  
World Renew - \$1,420.43  
VEAP - \$3,610.50  
Urban Homeworks - \$1,335.50  
Honduras Team - \$2,105.50

### December

Chr. Education Fund - \$4,240.50  
World Renew - \$935  
VEAP - \$1,325.50

### January

Bethany Chr. Services - \$880.75  
MN Adult and Teen Challenge - \$1,806.73



## CALVARY COMMUNITY GROUPS

HERE

**Sunday School** is for all ages to deepen their faith through study. Ages 3 through grade 8 are using the Gospel Project curriculum, high school students are studying Calvin's Institutes during Young and Reformed, and adults have education opportunities as well. Classes have resumed with masks and distancing.

Sun | 9:30am

**Anchor** is a youth group for grades 6-12 that includes worship, service, and community building activities.

Sun | 5pm | Refuge

**Praise Team** worships the Lord through music and leads the church to do the same.

Sun | 9:15pm | Sanctuary

**Life Group** is for young adults who want to deepen friendships while delving into God's teachings.

Wed | 6pm | Fellowship Hall

**GEMS** stands for Girls Everywhere Meet the Savior. GEMS is for 2nd through 8th grade girls to learn and grow as they discover who God created them to be.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Middle Level Classrooms

**Cadets** is for 2nd through 8th grade boys. Its purpose is to share Christ's love through Bible study and activities.

1st and 3rd Wed | 6:30pm | Mid Level Classrooms

**Volleyball** meets in the gym. All are invited, so bring your friends!

Friday | 7-9pm | Gym

Please join us! Check out Calvary's website for more activities and groups at [www.calvarytwincities.org](http://www.calvarytwincities.org)



[www.calvarytwincities.org](http://www.calvarytwincities.org)

 calvarycrdina

 calvary.gram

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Edina, MN 55410-2020  
952-831-6264

# HONDURAS PARTNERSHIP

FAR

It's been a difficult year for our brothers and sisters in El Guanacaste. The pandemic and not one but two hurricanes have brought significant challenges especially to the remote communities in Honduras.

Through the generosity of several Christian Reformed churches, including Calvary, World Renew and Diaconia Nacional were able to carry out a food distribution to several communities that were in great need of assistance after the hurricanes swept through the countryside. Arturo Colindres, with Diaconia Nacional, has been visiting the communities when travel is permitted and safe and recently he was able to meet with members of the community of El Guanacaste. While Arturo was there, he recorded some video greetings to share with Calvary church. You can find the video on the Calvary Youtube page or by clicking this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LZdEkX3QDQ>

**Here are some of the people you will see in the video:**

We hear from Pastor Modesto, the pastor of the Christian Reformed church in Guanacaste, where he lives with his wife and children. When we were last in Honduras Pastor Nick and Pastor Modesto visited each member of the church in their homes and prayed with them. Pastor Modesto is mentored by Pastor Livil, from Mangulile, who works with several churches in the area supporting leaders and encouraging them in their work.

Hermado and his wife Jarellie are a couple from the community that teams from Calvary have gotten to know during our visits. We learned Hermado is an excellent soccer player. One of the projects Calvary supported was a cement floor in their house. In the video, Jarellie, who is a teacher, talks to us from her kitchen.

Casiano is another member of the community we see briefly in the video. When we were last in Guanacaste he happily allowed the women on the team a ride on his horse and joked that if he charged a fee for the rides he could raise enough money to build a bridge over the river. We discovered he also likes pizza when we hosted pizza night for the community.

These are a few of the sweet faces of the people in Guanacaste, we are glad to introduce them to you and thankful for the technology that allows us to stay connected when we are apart.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Calvary's partnership with El Guanacaste.

By Linda Marcus



Pastor Modesto and Pastor Livil studying Scripture



Hermado and Jarellie at the front door of the house he built



Casiano, holding paper, and community leaders after partnership meeting with Calvary Church team