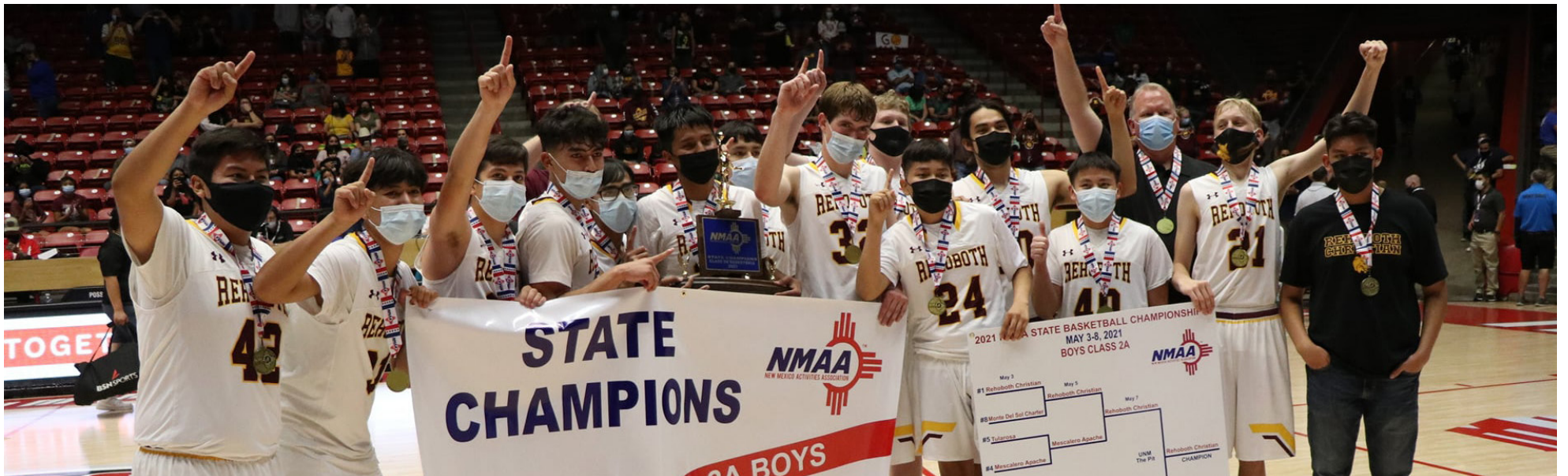




Vigorously Academic · Beautifully Diverse · Thoroughly Christian

Boys Basketball State Champions!



Back in the fall, the Rehoboth boys basketball team was working out in small pods of four players, wondering if there would be a season. The COVID pandemic had put everything in doubt, which raised serious questions for everyone. “We knew after last season what we had. These guys, even through quarantine and some of that stuff, they stayed active. They were working out, they were lifting, they were running, all in the hopes of playing,” said head coach, **Kevin Zwiers**.

In February, word finally came down from the state that there would be a shortened basketball season, starting in late March and ending the first week of May. Reflecting on that time, Zwiers added, “If you had talked to us before Christmas, we weren’t sure this was going to happen. These guys, it’s a

credit to them. They stayed prepared so when the moment came, they would have what they needed.”

Spurred on by success in their early season games, the team and coaches vowed to demand extraordinary effort from themselves for the rest of the schedule. “We were honest with the boys about having enough talent to win the state championship. But unless they were willing to demand the most from themselves, the talent wouldn’t be enough,” said RCHS principal and assistant coach, **Dan Meester**. “Combine that with the unexpected blessing of actually being able to play together, and we saw a recipe for a whole lot of joy.”

As the weeks of the season rolled on and the wins kept piling up, it was clear that something

special was happening—not just for the team or the school, but for whole families and the community at large. Fear, death, and loss had played a prominent role during the pandemic for everyone in the communities of Rehoboth, Gallup, and the Navajo Nation. But the basketball season was bringing people together again to rebuild relationships. For adults and students alike, news and conversations had dwelt only on infection rates, overflowing hospitals, and lockdowns—things that feel like defeat. Now, we had a reminder of what it meant to be joyful as headlines told of

Continued on pg. 5

Wells of Hope



A deep confidence in God's promises underpins the hope of Christian faith. During a year of upheaval and loss, the Well of Hope has been all that has sustained us. Where else do we go when another parent dies? Where else do we go when a family falls apart? Where else do we go when a house burns down? Where else do we go when we are exhausted by virtual learning? Where else do we go when we have a child who is born with special needs? As a community we go to God's promise "I will never leave you nor will I ever forsake you. Do not fear and do not be dismayed." Together we encourage each other to not lose sight of that which is at the bottom of that deep well--the Living Water.

I praise God for the place of hope that Rehoboth continues to be for so many individuals and families who have had to make many sacrifices. I think of Katelyn who desired the kind of education that she saw her cousin and sister experience at Rehoboth Christian School and so worked as many evenings and weekends at a local pizzeria in the midst of the challenges of doing school virtually so that she could attend RCS. I think of Phyllis and all of the extra hours working in the Rehoboth Food Service program as well as the summers of cleaning at Rehoboth so that she could have all seven of her children graduate from Rehoboth Christian School (see photo on right). As she celebrated the graduation of her youngest son Shawn in May, she praised God that all of her children were able to have their lives shaped by a Rehoboth education.

I think of the countless supporters who gave to the Tuition Assistance or Jubilee Funds this year to help those who were struggling to pay their tuition. I think of sponsors who have encouraged students through prayers, cards, visits and financial support. I think of the staff who over the years faithfully



Phyllis Begay worked extra hours for the Rehoboth Food Service program so that she could have all seven of her children graduate from Rehoboth.

maintained the campus and fed students so that each student could sense God's care at this place called Rehoboth. I think of all of you who are taking time to read this newsletter because Rehoboth has a special place in your heart.

Pray that we will continue to be a place of hope for our students, family and community.

Mr. Bob Ippel
Executive Director



Purchase greeting cards and canvas prints of Rehoboth Christian School's Teaching for Transformation throughlines online by taking a picture of this QR code with a phone.

Left: "Wells of Hope" by Autumn Newell



Bible Curriculum Reboot

By: Peter Ippel,
Elementary and Middle School Principal



Above: Our 8th grade class received a new study Bible set as they crossed the stage at graduation. Our hope is that students will read through the Bible from 6th - 12th grade.

“I wonder how it felt for the Levites when God commanded them to kill the other Israelites who worshiped the golden calf?” 3rd graders at Rehoboth Christian School wondered as they studied the stories of Exodus. “I wonder what the ground-up gold water tasted like?” they added. We’ve spent a long time teaching students about the Bible. In years past, 3rd graders would have answered factual questions like these about the golden calf story: “What did Moses do with the golden calf that Aaron had made? What did Moses tell the Levites to do?” Going forward, we want students to notice and wonder. We want them to read with new eyes and see God’s word as living and breathing, not as a set of facts to remember.

Through a series of conversations, some serious self-study and inspiration at the Christian School International (CSI) Bible Symposium, Rehoboth staff determined the need to help students learn how to read the Bible. There will now be a move toward elementary students reading and responding to various Old and New Testament books each year. Students will be encouraged to question, wonder, process and respond together using scripture journals and Immerse Reader Bibles that each student will receive to use throughout their time at Rehoboth. Students will be able to respond right in the text and track how their understanding deepens over the years. 6th through 12th graders will read through the whole Bible at least one time while at RCS.

Two teachers began experimenting with a new approach to teaching the Bible during this past school year. RCS third grade teacher, [Becca Hibbler](#) helped her students to wonder while they read God’s word. Questions like

the examples above became common in the classroom. [Kevin Zwiers](#), 9th and 10th grade Gospels class teacher, began leading his students to dig deeper into the Gospel of Mark. His class was finding so many connections that they asked him to print out the whole gospel and hang it on the wall so they could draw arrows and lines to illustrate all of the connections. His students began to understand the Bible in deep new ways. For many of them, it deepened their relationship with God. One student said, “I got to know what it means to be a Christian, and I feel as if I got closer to God more than ever.” Another added, “Gospels (classes) this year have been life changing for me...I was struggling a lot spiritually and mentally but as Gospels went on, I felt like I was becoming who God wanted me to be.” Another student reflected on the class in light of the uncertainty of this past year: “Gospels helped me realize that we may not be in control, but God will always be in control of any situation.”

This transition in Bible curriculum will require a significant investment as each student receives their own scripture journals (lower grades) and reader Bible sets (upper grades) that will aid them in their Bible reading journey. It will also require significant time investment from the Bible teachers as well. Please pray that students are transformed through this exciting new endeavor. We pray that by digging deeply into God’s word, students will discover more about who God is and who he wants them to be.

Senior Spotlight: Horizon Gillson

By: Gail De Young

Sometimes they become bitter, angry, sullen, withdrawn. You know...the ones that have had a rough go of it. *

That could have been **Horizon Gillson**, recent graduate of Rehoboth Christian High School. While other students were struggling with pandemic problems, Horizon was watching his dad slowly dying...day by day, inch by inch.

Karl Gillson, Horizon's dad, was a man of stature and prominence. When he spoke, the Gallup Independent recorded his words on the front page. You see, Karl Gillson, Gallup District Attorney, was a man for the people - especially those for whom justice was beyond their grasp. Karl bore the weight of his job not only with his shoulders but his entire body. Mentally, physically, emotionally, the abuse of 16 years of holding the stress of his job inside his body and mind, completely deteriorated his health. Karl was a Christian, a Rehoboth grad, a husband, a father and he was dying. His wife Jennifer explains, "Karl was completely professional and confidential in his work. God gave him the knowledge to write, read, explore, and make the lives of others better. He won case after case for the underserved - that was his mission from God. But it was wearing on his soul."

Jennifer, Karl's beautiful, wise wife, should really be given the distinction of saint...Saint Jennifer was told by God in 2014 that her mission in life was to care for Karl while holding her family which included sons, Skye and Horizon and daughter Journey together. That task from God was seemingly impossible, for those seven years. "He (Karl) was impatient. He faced each day with excruciating pain in his back right up until he died in January. I wanted to give up so many times, I

wanted to stop but God gave me direction to care for Karl when it was so rough. I put aside my needs to care for God's child. It was during those exceedingly difficult times that Horizon was there with so much love and compassion during the times I didn't think I could go on."

"Hey mom, dad, I heard a story from my teachers today....I sang words in choir that helped me. I learned about Job in Bible class." Horizon shared his stories from what he learned at school. Karl would weakly reply, "Good, son." Jennifer would quietly think to herself, "I needed to hear exactly that today." Each pebble of wisdom from school became the gem that helped to shine the light of Christ into the shadows of the Gillsons' lives.

"The Rehoboth community," says Jennifer, "has reached out to us beyond our expectations. People were placed in front of my children to carry them in their grief." Three Rehoboth seniors lost their parents this year, some to Covid, some for other reasons. Their classmates responded without hesitation by using their senior class funds that went unused because of Covid, to purchase laptops for their suffering friends. Jennifer says, "I wept for the outpouring of love and sincerity from Horizon's Rehoboth friends."

Horizon also reflects, "I went from the dread of Covid, no interaction with friends, the darkness of my dad's illness, negativity, and anger. There were days I didn't want to get up and I felt as though I was walking but sinking in mud. But through the love of others, and the power of prayer, I was able to overcome. I give God the credit and the glory."

This month of May has been surreal according to Horizon. From the laptop, to his basketball team winning a state championship, the gift of a bonsai tree, to a memorable graduation and so much more, Horizon says with humility, "God



Senior, Horizon Gillson

has blessed me ten fold for all that I have been through."

Karl Gillson always stressed with his kids to leave things better than you found it. And now, his children carry on... to leave this world just a little better.

Sometimes, though, because of a mother's love, a place like Rehoboth, and the grace of God, they become like Horizon....pure gold.

Horizon plans to attend Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, AZ to study physics.

Alumni Spotlight: Cody Henry, '20

Verlena J. Livingston
Director of Community Life

The Navajo Nation created a scholarship in honor of Chief Manuelito (Hastinn Ch'il Haajiin) to recognize its high achieving high school students. Manuelito, a Navajo leader who died in 1893, famously stated, "My grandchild, education is the ladder. Tell our people to take it." The prestigious scholarship for students enrolled in the Navajo Nation awards \$7,000 per recipient per academic year. Students must meet several criteria including completing high school courses in Navajo language and Navajo government then maintaining a 3.0 GPA and earning at least 12 college credits per semester in college.

Cody Henry is the second child of the Henry family to attend Rehoboth. His older brother graduated in 2018 and his younger brother is currently in the 11th grade. After attending St. Bonaventure Mission School, Cody graduated from Rehoboth Christian School in 2020 and

received the Chief Manuelito Scholarship. Upon receiving the news by letter, he remembered his parents were more excited than he, but later Cody appreciated how much the scholarship helped to reduce the cost of his tuition.

One main criteria of the scholarship is the ACT test score. "I was really nervous about the test because I hate timed tests, but my parents told me, 'If there is any test to do well on, it's this one!' Cody remembered the challenge of meeting deadlines during the pandemic as he needed to get all the necessary documents to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA). In the end, it all paid off.

Cody completed his first year of college studying mechanical engineering online at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Studying mechanical engineering remotely was difficult.

"I remember breaking down one night," Cody explained. However he was able to manage a lot of his struggles by praying and sometimes listening to church services online. Cody's family has been attending the Fellowship Church in Albuquerque, NM.

As Cody reflects on his experience at Rehoboth, community was extremely important. "Rehoboth did a great job in connecting with me as a student and making me feel that I was not alone." In particular, Cody explained how much he appreciated his high school counselor, Chris Huizinga, who was always available and made a big difference in Cody's life.

This year's 2021 selection of Chief Manuelito Scholarship recipients will be available late July.

State Basketball...cont page 1

victories on the court, and happy conversations recounted triumphant moments within each game.

Instead of downplaying the larger significance of what they were doing, coaches leaned into that narrative during daily Bible discussions with the players. "Our side of the state, our area, had suffered so much in the past year. The joy that we can bring people is just unbelievable. It lights up their eyes, and we're just so happy we can provide that just by playing basketball. We talk all the time about using our gifts to serve God, and I think our guys did that really well this year," said coach Zwiers.

For the playoffs, the undefeated Lynx earned the #1 seed in class 2A, but that didn't mean smooth sailing. In both the semifinal and the championship

game, the team found itself trailing by double digits, only to claw back for the victory. "The way we won those games was really appropriate for the story we were embodying for the community," said Meester. "We were having to pull ourselves out of adversity and chase down victory on the court, and that's exactly what was happening in people's lives in the homes and small towns all around us."

A few weeks of distance from the school's first state basketball championship since 1977 has given the players even more of a chance to digest the meaning and importance of what they accomplished. Senior guard Casey Joe said, "It gave me happiness at the end of the year. All of this wasn't supposed to happen, and here we won state. My dad kept telling me, 'I don't know if you're going to do sports this year,' so it made him

happy to see us out there and proud of me as his son."

"I never knew I'd be a state champion, even though it's the kind of thing you think about and dream about," said Talon West, 1st Team All-State point guard. "Don't doubt anything, because it can happen. Don't ever lose hope." West went on to say, "People are congratulating me at the car wash, at stores, and even in the McDonald's drive thru. This has impacted the community, but I also see it in my family. They were so happy for me and my brother. My grandpa has been at all our games, and he used to attend them with my grandmother and great grandmother before they passed away. He was crying when we won because he was so happy. And he's already asking when our first game is next year."

Huizinga Farewell

By Kellie Wright, High School Teacher

On a cloudy day in Lancaster, I sat in my car during my lunch break at the elementary school where I was a long-term substitute teacher. My phone rang, and the sunny voice on the other end said, “Hey Kellie! This is Chris Huizinga from Rehoboth Christian School. Do you have a few minutes to talk about your application?” I was nervous thinking about interviewing for my first full time teaching gig, but Chris’ welcoming spirit, which came through the phone, calmed my nerves. That phone call led to a job at a school that has become family to me, and now brings me to write this farewell reflection to an integral part of our Rehoboth family: the Huizingas.

Chris and Abbie Huizinga have been present in the Gallup area for thirteen years. Over those thirteen years, they have raised their four children: Grace, Anna, Audrey, and Eddie; held jobs with Rehoboth Christian School, Gallup McKinley County Schools (GMCS), the US Forest Service; and have embarked on a small business venture known as The Water Store. At Rehoboth alone, Chris has served as mid-school science teacher, mid-school principal, high school physics/senior seminar teacher, and high school counselor. Abbie has taught for seven years as a special education teacher in the GMCS District and just recently came to Rehoboth this past year as our full-time Student Support Service teacher in the elementary school.

As a colleague of Chris, I have known him to be the type of person who pours all of himself into the students, no matter how much of his personal and family time it requires him to sacrifice. His office door is always open to students and his colleagues (despite the fact that we are probably a distraction more often than not). For Chris, this is more than a job, this is who he is as a person. Chris is a great listener, an encourager, and a person who knows what it means to “do life” with people and students from all walks of life. I’ve never known Chris to say “no” to an area or situation where there is a need, but instead to embrace a Christ-like attitude of love and service where needed. While I cannot speak for what working with Abbie is like, I know her to be a



After 13 years of serving the Rehoboth community, the Huizinga family will be relocating to Manistee, Michigan.

person who welcomes you unconditionally and will do everything in her power to make you feel like you belong.

As difficult as it is to say goodbye to the Huizinga family, we know that God is leading them forward into a new adventure where they will invest themselves in their new school community just as they have here. To borrow words from Chris himself in his blessing to the graduating class of 2021: “May the peace of God cover you all. May God give you the boldness and courage to face challenges that are thrown your way. May God raise up greatness in your lives as you transform the world. Whether it be in your home, your job, or your community, make the world a better place in His name. May you shout all the more so that your voice is heard as you go from Rehoboth into this great and beautiful world around us.”

May God bless you, dear friends, as you leave this place, for you have blessed us all in ways for which we are eternally grateful.

Save the Date: Retirement Party!

Please join us in celebrating God's faithfulness shown through the work of Elmer Yazzie and John Lee who are retiring after a combined 78 years at Rehoboth Christian School. There will be an open house and celebration at Rehoboth Christian School on **Saturday, September 4, 2021** following one of the

largest high school cross country meets in New Mexico. Please watch for more information on both events. Did you know that John and Elmer share the same birthday and their fathers were hunting buddies from the Shiprock area? How fitting they retire together! Please come and celebrate the life-long work and faithful service of Elmer Yazzie and John Lee.

“But this I call to mind...”



By Kevin Ruthven, School Chaplain

“I am the man who has seen affliction...he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light...He has made me desolate; He has filled me with bitterness...my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, ‘My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord!’...My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.” (Lamentations 3:1-20)

This year at Rehoboth Christian School, almost every student and family we serve, including numerous staff members, were touched by grief and loss. Students and staff members lost parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or friends to COVID or other causes. Many lost multiple loved ones. We have felt the feelings of Jeremiah as shared in Lamentations. At times we felt stuck in those verses. Praise God though that Jeremiah doesn’t stay stuck, he goes on to say, “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope

in him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” (Lamentations 3:21-25)

Throughout the past year, we have sought to be a tool used by God to help one another, our students, and their families to call to mind the hope we have in Jesus Christ. We have desired to make visible the goodness and faithfulness of our God. I often wonder what helped Jeremiah call to mind the goodness of God. Though God sometimes uses supernatural means to reveal His goodness, He often uses His people to make His love, mercy, and faithfulness tangible. We are His hands, feet, eyes, ears, and mouth in a world drowning in darkness and affliction. God uses our lives to help people “call to mind” the hope they have in Christ. We get to be a part of God’s work in transitioning people from the place of despair in verses 1-20 to the place of hope found in verses 21-25.

Thanks to all of you who have supported and prayed for Rehoboth Christian School this year. Thank you for being a part of helping us, our students, and their families to cling to and point the way to Jesus in the midst of darkness and grief. We pray that God is using you in a similar way in the communities where He has strategically placed you!

Micah 7:8: “Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.” May God help us proclaim and declare this truth!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

LOCAL AND LONG - TERM VOLUNTEERS

Jack and Cindy Ippel
Wes Brower
Paul Brink
Charles Nykamp
John Ide
Lois Harvey
Jim Holwerda
Donna Genzink-virtual
Donna Recht-virtual
Paul and Trudi Ippel-virtual

DESTINATION REHOBOTH GROUPS

Crown College, Bonifacius, MN
Sioux Falls Christian School

SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

Jan Reece
Beadie DeArmond
Marion Tuto
Paul and Trudi Ippel
Sue Kass
Jeff Marshall
Uko Zylstra
Bob and Susanne Jordan
Sharon Sytsma
Gary and Marcia VanEe
George, Richarla, Emma, Alida,
and Hanah Den Oudsten

Ordinary Needful Work



By Kathy Bosscher, '64

Across this past year of our covid-careful lives, I found myself being more attentive to and more grateful for the people who serve me doing ordinary needful jobs. The kid who disinfects the grocery shopping carts. The man who monitors building capacity at the entrance of the store. The medical staff at the covid testing center, asking the same questions and performing the same simple repetitive procedure over and over. The library assistant who meets me at the front door of the library with a bag of books that I've requested online. The bank teller at the drive-through. On and on.

While we may seldom notice or thank people doing ordinary needful jobs, our lives, cradle to grave, depend on them. In fact, whole institutions rise and fall on 'the bakers, the butchers and the candle-stick makers' or as we'd put it today—the food industry and the power grid. Just so, for Rehoboth. It's true today. It was true in the past.

Recently, my friend, [Eunice James](#), and I have been investigating the life of her dad, [Tullie James](#). We've sifted through her memories, looked at old photos and records, and talked to people who knew him. Tullie, we discovered, was an extra-ordinary man doing ordinary needful jobs at Rehoboth Mission. For over forty years, from the early 1930s until 1972, Tullie was a carpenter and handyman, a member of Rehoboth Mission's Industrial Department. In those days, Rehoboth Mission was the logistical hub for the Christian Reformed mission work spread across northwestern New Mexico so Tullie's services reached far and wide—from Farmington in the north to Crownpoint in the east and Zuni Pueblo in the south. Tullie was skilled, diligent and



1962 Rehoboth Industrial Staff: Ed Perkompas, Art Bosscher, Juke DenBleyker, Tullie James, Ted Tibboel

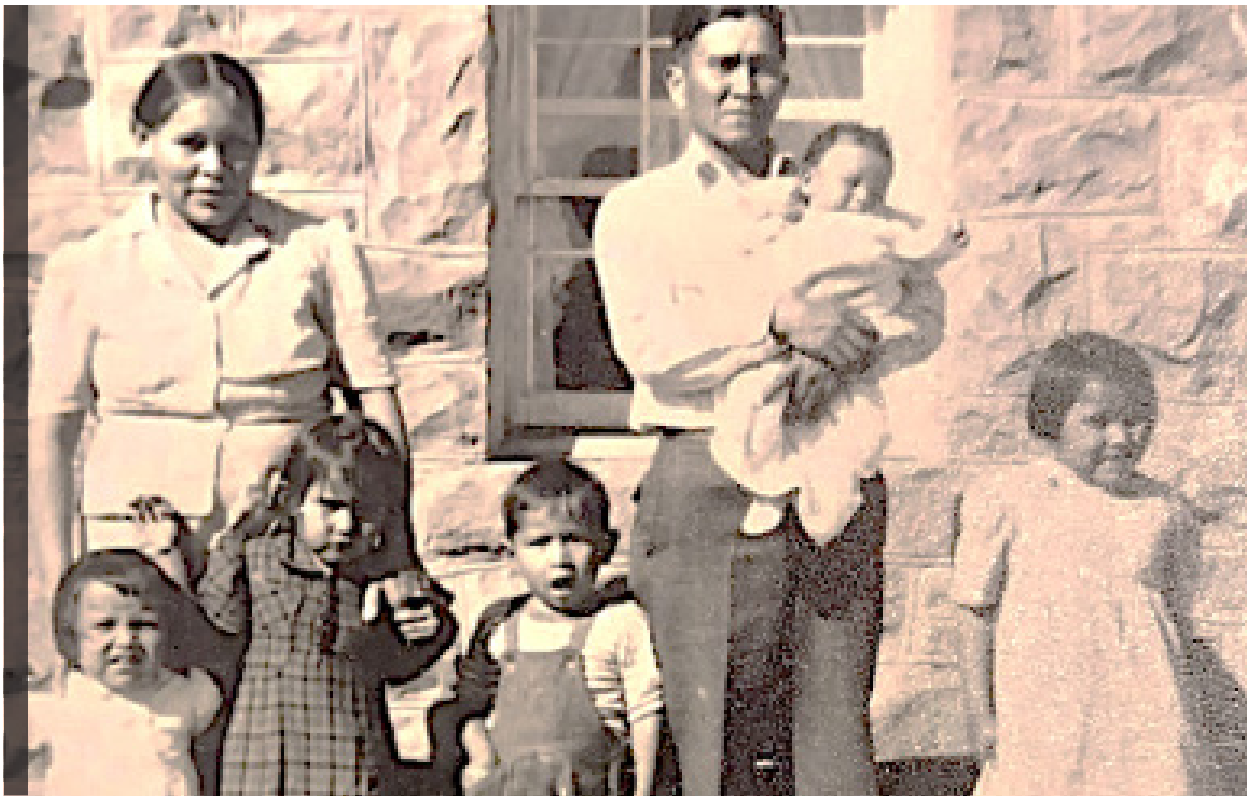
reliable. He knew that his work, ordinary needful work, was a calling. He labored, not for himself, but for God and for Kingdom-building.

Tullie was born in 1905 just a few miles northwest of Rehoboth Mission, the eldest son of a Navajo couple, [Bitjij' łitso Biye'](#) [Son of Yellow Horse] and [Asdzáán Yazhé](#) [Small woman] Begay. He was educated at Crownpoint Boarding School. After finishing school, Tullie tried his hand at a variety of jobs.

Then, when he was around 25 years old, Tullie was hired as a stoker for the boilers that served

the mission buildings. Working at Rehoboth, two life-changing things happened. He began to understand and embrace the Gospel, the 'Jesus Way' that he had probably first heard while a student at Crownpoint. And, he met Evelyn Tso, a young woman who was raised just a couple miles southeast of the mission and an 8th grade Rehoboth graduate. Evelyn was working as an assistant in the mission's laundry. In time, Tullie made a commitment to Jesus, and he married Evelyn.

With marriage, Tullie and Evelyn moved onto the Rehoboth campus and joined the Christian



The James family 1945: Evelyn, Tullie & Delbert
Angie, Julie, Gerald, Eunice
[Pearl, the youngest was born in 1948]

Reformed mission enterprise. There, on the Rehoboth campus, Tullie and Evelyn raised their six children. Tullie's faith was one that required expression. Slow to speak and humble in service, he consistently lived out the injunction of Philippians 2:3-4. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." He gave open-heartedly to both Navajo neighbors and mission co-workers whatever the task—framing a window, translating for a co-worker from English to Navajo, painting a wall, burying the dead, or pulling a vehicle out of the mud.

Here's a story that brings this quiet remarkable man into focus. Across Tullie's years of service, many mission buildings—the dining room, dorms and elementary school building—had hardwood floors. Each summer after ten months of the normal wear and tear of 100+ children's feet,

these floors needed care. Tullie was the appointed floor refinisher. He was renowned for his skill and fortitude.

Many a campus lad watched in fascination as Tullie patiently and dexterously brought beauty back to worn floors. **Doug Bosscher**, son of Tullie's colleague Art Bosscher, described the process. The first step was to sand the floor using a drum floor sander. This was no small feat. The machine was heavy and unwieldy. Tullie had one strap over his shoulder and one around his waist. The electric cord, having been jerry-rigged to the electric panel to accommodate the 220/240 volts of the machine, trailed behind. Tullie gently lowered the spinning disk to the floor, keeping the weight of the machine on the wheels, so that the sander would not make a divot in the wood. This accomplished, the self-propelled machine and Tullie danced slowly across the floor, skimming off the marred top layer of the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch oak. As he came to the end of a 'straight run', Tullie pulled on

the handle and at the same time, gently lifted his heavy partner to its wheels, making a feathered termination.

Sanding the surface was only the first step. The next steps required other skills and a new posture—on hands and knees. The edges where the big drum sander could not reach, were sanded with a handheld sander. Again, feathering was needed to make a seamless transition and a smooth floor without a sanding line. Corners required scraping with hand tools. After all this preliminary work, the newly sanded open wood was filled with a sawdust type material mixed with a binder, then sanded lightly by hand. Sweeping and vacuuming came next. Finally, two coats of finish with hand sanding in between. Of course, this whole process was time-consuming and tedious. Doug's childhood admiration transferred to this adult observation: "I see Tullie in the posture of kneeling as characteristic of his humble serving nature."

Once, Doug watched Tullie, on hands and knees wielding a gunny sack, rubbing down a sanded floor with a filler. Noticing the mesmerized boy, Tullie remarked, "You could do this as easily as me." He did not say this in a self-deprecating way, diminishing either the job or his role. Rather Tullie was encouraging Doug to imagine that he too could develop the skills and the grit needed to do the work that he was doing.

Ordinary needful work. That's what Tullie did. For almost 40 years at Rehoboth Mission, Tullie was a dedicated worker. Dedicated—'set apart', in fact, for holy purposes. There was dignity in that work because his commitment was to Jesus. Surely, Tullie is a solid pillar on which Rehoboth, in all its current permutations, stands.

Advancement Needs



Student Sponsorship- Graduation

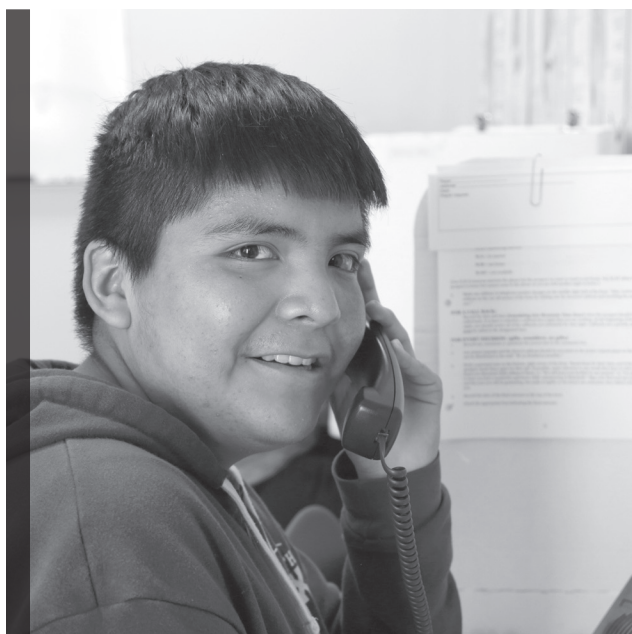
We were thrilled to have some special guests at the Rehoboth Christian High School graduation festivities. This year four of our student sponsors were able to make the trip to Rehoboth to be an encouragement to their graduating seniors and families.

Gary and Marcia Van Ee traveled from Central Iowa for the month of May to volunteer at Rehoboth and then to see Cheyenne Mariano graduate. They have sponsored Cheyenne since she was in 3rd grade. Gene and Phyllis Laninga are also volunteers and sponsors. They took the train from West Michigan to witness RayNique Francisco's graduation. She has been their sponsored student since she was in 1st grade. Fred and Barb Hoekstra visited from the Chicago area and have sponsored Shawn Begay since the 6th Grade. Tex and Debby Pueschel from Central California came to celebrate the graduation of Pete Garcia who they have sponsored since he was in the 8th grade.

Recognizing the student sponsors during the graduation ceremony was a powerful reminder of how the Rehoboth community extends far beyond our local area to many other communities throughout the country. It is so encouraging to have sponsors visiting not only at graduation but also taking the time to connect with their sponsored students and families throughout the school year. There are bonds that continue in the lives of the sponsors and their students even beyond graduation. The gifts received through student sponsorship are a key component of the tuition assistance needed for each school year.

Tuition Assistance:

We have been overwhelmed by the love and support received this past school year allowing us to reach and exceed our goal for the needed tuition assistance funds. We are now able to focus our encouragement for the SALT program expansion and the Bible Curriculum Project. The tuition assistance budgeted amount for the 2021-2022 school year of \$1,850,000 begins this July 1; This fund is used to help over 75% of our students. We ask for your support now, and throughout the school year, and when our phonathon students call to encourage your support, we hope that you will consider giving to this important fund.



Bible Curriculum Reboot:

As Peter Ippel, our elementary and middle school principal shared in his Bible Curriculum Reboot article (see page 3), we are in the process of updating our Bible curriculum as well as adding additional Bible classes to our core curriculum. We believe that the startup costs for this program

of \$35,676 are well worth the investment. The goal in using this new curriculum is to encourage our students to discover more about who God is and who He wants them to be. Please join us in financially investing in our students in this endeavor.

SALT Program Update:

As we continue to pursue a more inclusive education for students with a variety of educational needs, we are thankful to have received \$159,714 towards the needed \$240,950 for our Students All Learning Together program. Gifts received during this school year will help to fund classroom remodeling and furniture, curriculum and training, staffing and therapy services, as well as covering the membership fees to "All Belong." The remaining need for the 2021-2022 school year is \$81,236.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to help:

Ken Zylstra, Director of Advancement
kzylstra@rcsnm.org or
(505) 488-3900

Dave Sytsma, Advancement Officer
dsytsma@rcsnm.org or
(616) 283-4495

Deanna Benson, Sponsorship Program
dbenson@rcsnm.org or 505.726.9603

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In honor of Betty Nikkel
Mr. and Mrs. Marion and Janice VanSoelen

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In memory of David B. Zylstra
National Financial Services LLC

Save the Date:

Retirement Celebration!

Please join us in celebrating God's faithfulness shown through the work of **Elmer Yazzie** and **John Lee** who are retiring after a combined 78 years at Rehoboth Christian School. There will be an open house and celebration at Rehoboth Christian School on **Saturday, September 4, 2021**. Stay tuned for more details.



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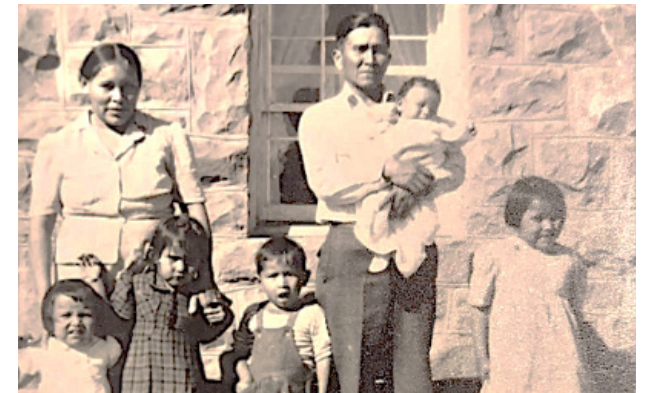
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Boy Basketball Celebrates a State Championship!



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Bible Curriculum Reboot



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The Life and Work of Tullie James