



VIGOROUSLY ACADEMIC 🐾 BEAUTIFULLY DIVERSE 🐾 THOROUGHLY CHRISTIAN

Fall 2022

An Unexpected Tenor

Rehoboth Alumnus Finds His Voice... in Italia!

By Gail DeYoung

“Pete, you mean you’ve never had private vocal lessons?” Dr. Saunders, Northern Arizona University vocal coach, was amazed. Pete Garcia (RCHS Class of 2021) missed out on sharing his rich tenor voice during his senior year because of the COVID shutdown; but at NAU, he re-discovered that voice, and his professors noticed. Their next question: “Pete, how would you like to go to Italy and study opera?” A strong audition provided Pete the chance to study in Mondavio, Italy, but he worried about not having the space to focus on both his nursing major and his singing. But God was preparing a new, exciting path for Pete.

Pete Garcia IV lives in the heart of the Navajo Nation with his father, Pete III, and his mother, Felica. Emily, his sister, is a junior at Reho-

Pete Garcia spent the summer studying opera in Italy after one of his professors suggested he audition for a vocal program there. Pictured in Urbino with his visiting sister, Emily.



both this year. The close knit family has always supported their children’s endeavors, and when it came to the Italy trip, Pete’s extended family, church, and community shared the enthusiasm.

They raised money for Pete with 3-D archery competitions, raffles, and donations by people excited for him. Pete says, “Other people on this trip didn’t understand what it took for me to travel to Italy and study opera. It was my community that supported me so that I might have the chance. I was representing them, my family, God, and myself.”

While in Italy, Pete stayed with Gianpaolo and Luana, an amazing and inclusive host family who were also great cooks. The challenging Italian Opera training consumed all of Pete’s waking hours and sent him to a variety of venues like the castle of Mondavio, an opera house, an old theater, and a winery estate. Every day for six weeks, he studied Italian for three hours, diction for

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Il Teatro Apollo in Mondavio, Italy, one of the spaces in which Pete Garcia's opera program took place.

Right: One cannot live by singing alone. Pete discovers another beautiful artform in Italy—food.

two hours, and finished with voice lessons for three hours. Evenings featured rehearsals from 7-11 PM to prepare for the upcoming performance of Don Giovanni, Part 2, in which Pete played Don Ottavio. Even when he contracted COVID, Pete worked hard to keep up while missing a few days of practice.

Pete reflected on his time in the program, "I was challenged by people who had higher expectations for me because they didn't know me. They had the key and resources to unlock my vocal potential and were able to get so much out of me. I met amazing people and developed lifelong connections. Being around people equally as passionate and talented pushed me beyond what I thought I could do."

Pete performed a thank-you recital when he returned to New Mexico, and all who heard him were deeply moved by his performance. "Pete," Dr. Saunders wisely counseled, "if you can't live even a day without music, then follow your passion and switch your major." Pete took that advice and switched from studying nursing to majoring in vocal performance and music education. His Italian Opera experience has placed him on a whole new life changing trajectory and revealed the Lord's remarkable guidance in Pete's life.



Mathias Takes First!

By David Smith, Jul 14, 2022, *Track & Field, Navajo Times* [edited for length]



Mathias Milford competed at the Star Spangled's Strongest strength competition on July 2-3, 2022 and placed first overall in his weight division, his first overall win in a strength contest.

Coming in first in the men's super-heavyweight division this summer in Rio Ranch, NM was Mathias Milford, RCS 2013 alumnus. Milford said. "I was in a pretty good realm of positive emotions, getting this first-place finish and knowing that I was able to qualify for nationals. A lot of good hard work

has paid off, and I was able to see that throughout the competition, I am definitely overjoyed and blessed and happy and glad to be able to be where I'm at physically and mentally."

Milford had to compete in five different events in his division, each being scored by time or by how much he could lift. It was a tough race, and he had to fight through each event while maintaining his focus and stamina to pass to the next one.

Weightlifting started for Milford about eight years ago in high school and he continued lifting during college until he earned his degree in

exercise science. Today he is a professional personal trainer who occasionally takes part in strength competitions.

Milford always placed in competitions, but this was his first time coming in first place overall, and he will now be heading to nationals, which will be held in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, in June 2023.

It gives Milford a sense of pride to compete in these events and to represent the Navajo Nation as he does so.



Knowing he will be representing his people at nationals always prompts him to do his absolute best.

"When I go to some of these competitions, I'd be the only Native American and I feel like I am representing the Navajo people as well as myself. I feel like being able to compete in the sport, I'm definitely able to benefit not only in my physical journey but also my mental, emotional and spiritual journey" he added.

Veteran Counselors Fill in for Long COVID- Impacted Staff

As we have reported multiple times, COVID-19 has had a great impact not only on our school community but also on our staff, particularly for Elementary/Middle School Counselor Daniel Ensign. His family's COVID journey has been a difficult one. In November 2020, Daniel's entire family tested positive



Gail DeYoung

for COVID. Two-week old

Sylvan ended up hospitalized and once released was dependent on oxygen for the next five months. 20-month old Arlo was also sick and needed special care. Both dad and mom, Daniel and Heather, were weak from the virus. While the rest of the family did eventually recover, Daniel continues to suffer with Long COVID. After attempting different work schedules, Daniel finally realized that he could no longer work. Currently his working diagnosis is under the Long COVID umbrella of



Heather Ensign

dysautonomia, neuropathy, and chronic fatigue. While hoping that Daniel would experience healing before the 2022-23 school year, that did not happen. Meanwhile, God has provided three people to step into the role of K-8 counselor.

Retired counselor Gail De Young has agreed to step back into the role of middle



Leanne Gillson

school counselor. Even though she had been out of this position for three years, Gail's instincts and passions have allowed her to easily step into the lives of Rehoboth's 6th-8th grade students. While she thoroughly enjoys retirement, she is thrilled to step back into her role as counselor for ten hours each week.

Former Kindergarten teacher Leanne Gillson agreed to support the emotional needs of Rehoboth K-5 students by providing them with the tools to help them navigate their social/

emotional challenges through a curriculum entitled "The Toolbox Kit." Leanne meets weekly with each class as they learn and rehearse strategies pulled from their "tool box".

God has also provided Heather Ensign, Daniel's wife, to work halftime with our elementary students. Heather had been a school counselor for three years before she became a stay-at-home mom. She is a Registered PlayTherapist whose desire is to create a safe space for each child where they can safely work through issues that arise using a play therapy model with sand, puppets or other toys.

Heather says, "I'm honored to be one of many safe places where the little souls of this school can land!"

While we are thankful for Gail, Leanne, and Heather's willingness to fill these roles, we ask that you join us in praying for Daniel's complete recovery.



I wonder what happened to

the crown of thorns. I imagine Mary removed that hideous thing from Jesus' head as soon as the soldiers pulled him down off the cross, and there it lay discarded as she tended to his body, eventually tossed off to the side where it wouldn't accidentally pierce someone's foot. And there it sat for maybe a few days, after the crowds were replaced with stillness and quiet.

And then and only then, just like all the other dead and ugly things He touched, that lifeless symbol of mockery and evil, those twisted and menacing spines, felt a sudden pulse, a breath of life stirring in their brittle dryness. Maybe it's where the blood got on them, where the thorns entered his head. Not where plants normally grow. Dead spikes pop open and fresh life unfolds right from their very tips. Roots dig into the dirt, split rock and the crown is gradually, imperceptibly lifted into the air, a great and living tree.

Tragedy is real. We feel the sting like mortal wounds. There's no use denying it. It is true. But what is also true is suffering is not the end. Death does its business, expends all its energy, bestows its damage. But there is a new day, a new kingdom, that it cannot conquer, that it can only swallow for a time. And all the bad that we do and have done to us will be transformed, ever so slowly and most quietly, into something so beautiful, we can hardly imagine. "Look!" he whispers through the drops of blood, "I make all things new." Even thorns such as these. Look!

—Theo Bremer-Bennett

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

The reality that God makes All Things New is woven into everything around us. Every fiber of the Gospel tapestry shouts out this reality. New life springs out of the thorn of suffering and cross of death. The creation around us bears witness to the reality that new life and new landscapes come from decay and death. We hear of this reality through the stories we and others tell. I look at how God has provided for Rehoboth through the scourge of Covid! I look at the miraculous provision of each of our new staff persons that God has provided. Yes we are people of HOPE because God is Making All Things New!

—Bob Ippel, Executive Director

Build Your Kingdom Here

Teens Gather for Service Project Week at *Destination Rehoboth '22*

By Jeff Klein,
dR22 Speaker

Before his last meal with his disciples, Jesus picked up a towel and washed their feet. Then he said, "Follow my example." (John 13:15) When Jesus' followers actually picked up their towels, it compelled others to pay attention and created a bridge of trust for the truth of the gospel to travel across.

This past summer, the last week of July, a group of us gathered to be a part of Destination Rehoboth (DR) and to follow Jesus' example. The DR participants were mostly high school students and their leaders from faraway places like California, Texas, and Minnesota. We came to make a difference in Jesus' Name, to build His Kingdom, and to come alongside Him in doing His work going on through Rehoboth Christian School.

We did lots of work: demolition work in the old Keith Kuipers gym, assisting teachers in getting their classrooms ready for the school year, working on the campus of Zuni Christian Mission School, rebuilding Eunice James' shed in Superman Canyon (site of the 1970's Superman film!), shearing sheep at the Musket family farm, beautifying the property at Church Rock CRC, and more.

We also met lots of amazing people. Tim, the Principal of the Zuni Christian Mission School, Eunice, the Musket family, the staff at Rehoboth, Deanna's family who showed us their Navajo dance skills, and many others who shared their lives and stories with us.

And even though we came to make a difference in others



Praise and worship gathering, led by Brad Winchell of Rosewood Church, CA.

in Jesus' Name, our interactions and our service made a difference in us also. We had

our perspectives challenged. We were inspired. We grew in our relationships with Jesus. We came to understand that we can make a difference.

As we worked and listened and worshiped together, something struck me; the work at Rehoboth for the Kingdom of

Jesus has gone on for well over 100 years. It began before any of us were alive, in answer to a call to bring the gospel to a people group who had never heard it before. And now, in a small way, we also have become part of the story of God's work in New Mexico.

Hopefully, through our acts of service, following Jesus' example, we were able to put the gospel on display and shine enough light to draw some people towards Jesus.

For too long now, Christians have taken on a posture that communicates, "we have the answers, we know what's wrong with you, and we can fix you." This way of being in the world is not effective in our post-Christian society. A better way forward, one that compels others to pay attention begins with the kind of work done as a part of Destination Rehoboth.

It reminds me of what Madeleine L' Engle said, "We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

dR22 Groups

St. Paul's Lutheran
Brenham, TX

The Church at Green Hills
La Habra, CA

Grace Baptist Church
Santa Maria, CA

Rosewood Church
Bellflower, CA

River Terrace Church
East Lansing, MI

New Life CRC
Spring, TX

First CRC
Edgerton, MN



Small teams spent the week working at various sites in the area.

You're Invited!

We want YOUR youth group at dR23

July 22-29, 2023

Please contact Deanna Benson for more details:
dbenson@rcsnm.org | (505) 726-9603

Lift Up Your Heads You Ancient Gates

Rehoboth Pilgrims Delve Deeper in the Holy Land

By Dan Meester

This past summer, Bev Jonkman's alarm would go off before dawn because it was time to get dressed, drink a liter of water, and have breakfast before heading out for ten to twelve hours of rigorous hiking in 100-degree weather. But the Rehoboth 4th/5th Grade teacher wasn't the only one doing this. For a fifteen-day stretch in the middle of June, 32 staff members and three graduates from Rehoboth Christian School trekked their way through a life-changing trip to Israel, courtesy of Ray Vander Laan's *That the World May Know Ministries*.

Over three decades ago, Vander Laan invited people to experience Scripture more deeply with his trips and study videos, and along the way he inspired a new group of leaders. One of those leaders, David Mosterd, guided the group from Rehoboth, along with 25 adults and students from Holland Christian Schools in Holland MI.

The trip brings the Bible to life and helps provide historical and geographical context for Scripture that we don't often have when we read it normally. Long-time Rehoboth teacher and principal, Jim Holwerda noted, "The Israel experience had a profound impact on how I read and see the Bible. It inspired me to dig deeper into God's Word and listen to the story with a fresh perspective. I feel excited and encouraged to strive to bring shalom to a world and people in chaos."

Our group trekked through Judea, the desert, Galilee, and Jerusalem, but the point of the trip wasn't just finding spots where biblical events occurred. Instead, the experience drew

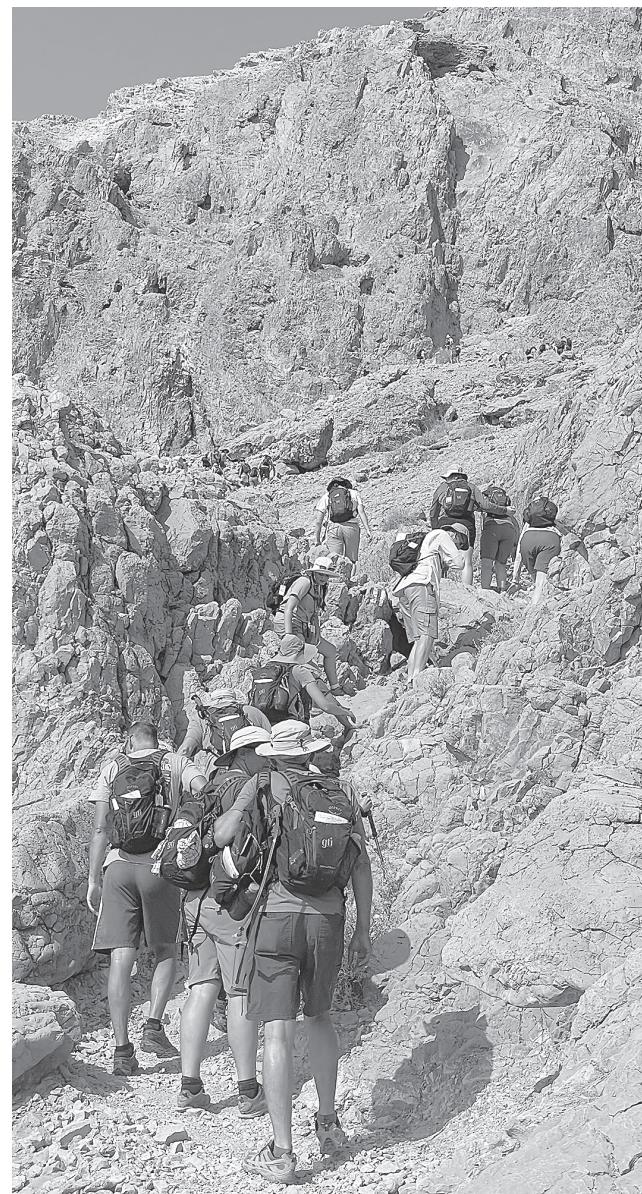
people together and equipped them with common images and vocabulary needed to build the communities we want so desperately in our classrooms, homes, and churches—images that can be shared with students for years to come. Rehoboth SALT Director, Emily Jeninga, recalled those lessons. "At En Gedi we were reminded that in community we can be a roaring, rushing waterfall of living water. At Hippos we were reminded we are called to RUN to those on the margins and those in chaos."

Partnering with God is demanding work, but we are not alone in doing it. Daphne Nelson, RCS Pre-K Teacher, said, "Every day God reminds me specifically of our hikes in the desert because he always provided just enough to keep on going."

Marie Ippel, Rehoboth's middle school science teacher, loves to teach students about desert plants, and she found plenty of examples to incorporate while on the trip. "When we are rooted in God, like the acacia tree, our shade and our fruit don't bless ourselves, they bless those around us."

Throughout the halls and classrooms of Rehoboth, teachers and students are digging

deeply into the Bible and demonstrating what it means to live a life of partnership with God. There's a stickiness to these concepts now because of the Israel trip, and we look forward to sending more staff in the summer of 2023. In fact, we would love for this to be an opportunity for RCS teachers and students for years to come.



In the Judean Desert, the group hikes the cliffs above Qumron, Essene site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found buried and preserved in caves.



Rehoboth's trip to the Holy Land was largely subsidized through a special grant, allowing both teachers, students, and staff members to make a trip of a lifetime. At left, the entire group gathers at the Herodium, a man-made mountain and palace built by Herod just south of Jerusalem.

New Staff 2022

Tara De Young

As a Rehoboth alum and parent of three delightful Rehoboth students, Tara is excited to be serving the school as Elementary/Middle School Principal. She and her husband both



grew up here in Gallup, lived in other parts of the country, and then moved back ten years ago to raise their family. The De Youngs enjoy camping in McGaffey, hiking around Red Rock Park, and building relationships in this beautiful community.

Paul Marotti

Paul Marotti is the new Director of Facilities. He is originally from Michigan and moved west in 2005 to work at RCS in the maintenance department. He and his wife Carrie have 2 children who also attend RCS. After a



few years in other facility-based work, Paul is excited for the opportunity to work again at Rehoboth.

Rachael Kass

After working in the advancement office for eleven years, Rachael Kass



transitioned to working on the teaching side of education in 2020. She has been assisting in the elementary school during the pandemic and more recently in the Kindergarten. She earned her teaching degree during the pandemic and is now the head teacher in the Kindergarten.

Nikki Van Slooten

Nikki grew up in Michigan, but moved with her husband and infant son to New Mexico in 2006. Her family grew and made their home



here at Rehoboth for the next 13 years. During that time Nikki stayed home with her kids, teaching both in the public schools and at Rehoboth. She has returned to teach first grade after spending the last three years teaching and living in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Her husband, Chris, is teaching in the High School

as a Math Specialist. Nikki has a BS in secondary history education from Huntington University and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Western New Mexico University.

Tressa Weidenaar

Tressa Weidenaar graduated from Rehoboth in 2000. After earning her Elementary Education degree at the University of New Mexico, she joined the Rehoboth staff to teach 7th and 8th grade Math in 2006. She taught at our school for nine years before taking a break to stay home with her two children. Now that both of her children are school age (and attend-



ing Rehoboth), she is joining the team once again to teach 6th grade. She is looking forward to being back in the classroom and working in Rehoboth's place-based High Desert Horizons curriculum this school year.

Carol Sanches

Carol Sanches moved to Gallup almost nineteen years ago, and she has three children and seven grandchildren. Carol comes to Rehoboth with a wealth of experience—having spent 27 years in the field of education. For six years, she taught special education before transitioning to serving thirteen years as a principal and eight years as a special education administrator.



Carol is thrilled to join Rehoboth as a SALT teacher at the Middle School and prays for God's blessings in the year ahead.

Kris Pikaart

Kris Pikaart is our new high school counselor, but she is not new to the



area or to the Rehoboth Community. Before coming on board in her current role, she served the greater Gallup area tirelessly as the Chaplain at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital for nearly twenty years. Kris is a Rehoboth graduate and parent as well. As the child of a Rehoboth teacher herself, she is excited to be part of the high school staff and to support and learn from our teenage students.

Cody Gilliland

Cody Gilliland moved from Montana with his wife and three children



God's provision of staff for our 2022-23 has been nothing short of miraculous. You may know, there is a nationwide teacher shortage. Here's one quick story: This spring, I received a voice message from an unknown number—somebody from Montana had questions about teaching at our school. I called back and talked to Cody Gilliland who had heard of Rehoboth back when he taught at Lynden Christian School. He had since taught at a Catholic school on the Crow reservation and more recently at a Bible college in Montana. He wanted to know more. Through God's providence, our High School band was touring and playing only

to teach English for upperclassmen at RCHS. For eight years in the Big Sky state, Cody worked with students and families from the Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes. He studied at both Montana State University and Trinity Western University. He and his family enjoy being outside and listening to good stories.

Carol Gonzales

Carol Gonzales is the new High School custodian, and she is engaged to Leonard, the custodian for the PreK program. She was born and



raised in Gallup, NM and enjoys camping with her three children and nine grandchildren. In addition to her job here, Carol works as a part-time hospice aid on the Navajo Nation. She connected with RCS through another staff member, and she is thrilled to be a part of the school.

Shawna Begay

Shawna Begay, from Nakaibito, NM is the new high school administrative assistant this year. She is a mother of two children and a 2000 Alum of RCHS. Shawna is excited for a new year of education for her children and

a new opportunity in her own career in which she can place God at the



center of her daily life. After serving in similar roles within the Gallup-McKinley Community Schools system, Shawna looks forward to the new adventures with students, staff, and the Rehoboth community.

Sarah Marlowe

Sarah Marlowe heads up the before and after school program. She and her family recently moved to Gallup from Pennsylvania, and her husband works for the USDA. Their four children range from age 11-16. Sarah



enjoys reading, taking walks at parks, and spending time with her family. Like all the other new staff, she is so excited to join the Rehoboth Christian School community.

10 minutes away from where Cody was calling. Cody jumped in his truck to go and meet Rehoboth staff and students that were a part of the tour. Within a week Cody, and his wife Erica along with their three children visited Rehoboth. Cody now teaches high school English here and Erica helps in our after-school program. If you want to hear more stories, give me a call. There is an amazing story behind each of our new staff members for the 2022-23 school year! With humble gratitude, we praise God for providing us with staff. —Bob Ippel

CES Staff

One of the blessings of COVID has been the unusual gift of federal support for private schools. Because of EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non Public Schools) and EANS ARP (American Rescue Plan), Rehoboth has been able to explore additional staffing positions as a way to address Covid induced learning loss. The addition of educational assistants and curriculum specialists have given support to both staff and students who are rebounding from several years of educational challenges. This funding has also allowed Rehoboth to develop an after-school program for Pre K- 8th grade students. The use of high school students in the after-school program is also a means of inspiring young people to consider education as a potential career.

The High School Academic Counselor position was also created as the result of this extra funding. Camilla Lynch has ably served Rehoboth for ten years in administration, both to the executive director and as the High School Administrative Assistant. She always has encouraged students to use the gift of Rehoboth as a place to grow academically and spiritually and to help them to prepare for the future so it was an easy decision to ask Camilla to fill this position.



From Left: Meghan Cavanaugh 2nd grade assistant teacher, Marlinda Lytle 5th grade assistant teacher, Leanne Gillson Kindergarten assistant teacher, Shirelle Joe 4th grade assistant teacher, Seth Weidenaar High School English specialist, Annelies Vander Meulen Middle School assistant teacher, Neil Weeda High school Assistant, Chris Van Slooten High school math specialist, Jerome Yazzie Food service Not Pictured: Amanda Larson 1st grade assistant teacher, Erin Neilson 3rd grade assistant teacher

Marie Arviso

A Member of the 1st Graduating Class of Rehoboth Remembers

by Verlena Livingston

A lumna Marie Arviso (Peshlakai), age 92, was a part of the first group of students to graduate from Rehoboth Mission High School—the class of 1949. Seventy-three years later, Arviso's granddaughter, Shelby Arviso, also graduated from Rehoboth and was named the salutatorian of the class of 2022.

Rev. J.R. Kamps first introduced Rehoboth Mission School to Arviso's family during his weekly visits to Mariano Lake Day School when he would teach Bible stories and sing with the children. Arviso recalled arriving at Rehoboth knowing very little English, but she would ask classmates what certain words meant. She continued to speak Navajo at home and English at school.

Arviso has many fond memories of teachers who contributed to her life. "I really sincerely appreciated all my teachers. I found out what kindness was [and] what consideration for another person was like," she stated. It was at Rehoboth that Marie's faith grew and her desire to become a teacher was planted. She became excited about education when she heard that teaching could be done anywhere in the world. She and her friends even dreamed of teaching in India.

She describes Rehoboth's teachers and matrons as people who really prepared her for the future and made chores fun. "In the kitchen you learned to cook and [were] able to make

cakes. I surprised my grandpa off his chair when I baked him a cake at home in a wood stove," she stated. A lot of the chores back then were to help the community of students—including tasks like helping the younger children with laundry and mending. "Sometimes we would get mischievous and

sew paper buttons on the boys' shirts," Arviso laughs. In 10th grade, Arviso made profession of faith.

Miss Jansen was the first teacher she recalled that asked what she was doing after high school and whether she was go-

"Sometimes we would get mischievous and sew paper buttons on the boys' shirts," Arviso laughs.



ing to college. "It was a big awakening," Arviso stated. Later, Miss Jansen found out Native American students could go to Haskell College (now Haskell Indian Nations University) for free, along with Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Arviso decided to attend Bacone College to become a teacher. However, the summer after graduating from Rehoboth, Rev. A. Poel showed up at her work in Window Rock, Arizona with news that one family wanted to sponsor a Rehoboth student to attend Calvin College (now Calvin University), and Arviso was chosen to go. "I didn't question it one bit and was ready to go. Everything was paid for, and those people were coming out to take us to Calvin," Arviso stated.

At Calvin

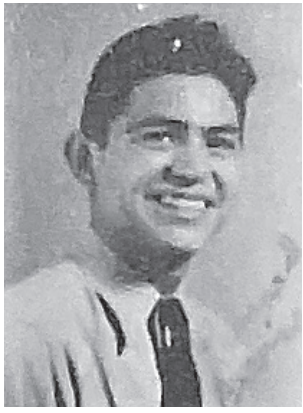
Arviso set off to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and soon after arriving at Calvin, she met a friend from Rehoboth, Leonard Arviso, who was also studying there. Upon meeting, she



Above: Rehoboth's first graduating class. Mrs. Arviso is pictured 3rd from the right.

Rt: Mrs. Arviso shares memories with Executive Director, Bob Ippel, from old photos mounted in the Admin. Building hall.





Leonard Arviso & Marie Peshlakai (Arviso) Senior Photos

noticed he had his own car. “He was just as blessed as I was. One of the Rehoboth teachers helped him get to Calvin,” Arviso recalls. Miss Wiersma, a Rehoboth teacher, helped Leonard get a job at the local grocery store. The store owner knew he needed a vehicle and offered Leonard the chance to purchase his car at a very discounted price.

While attending Calvin, one memory that stood out was a trip to New Jersey for Christmas with some fellow class-

mates. They traveled by train, and that was Arviso’s first time seeing a train go into a building and drop off passengers. “It was a real experience,” she stated.

To earn money, she began ironing for a family as her first job. Later, her mom began to help support her by sending rugs she had woven for Marie to sell. “I took them to the ladies from the church, and they always gave me double what the rugs were worth. That was always a blessing. There was a lot of kindness I experienced throughout my time at Calvin. That’s who God is,” Arviso explained.

To her recollection, she and Leonard were the only two Native American students on Calvin’s campus. Arviso studied education—a two-year program at that time, and upon completion, she returned to New Mexico to teach 3rd grade at Rehoboth for one year.

After College

Leonard joined the U.S. Navy after attending Calvin College for one year. On July 15, 1953, Marie and Leonard were married. They moved to California where he was stationed for four years. Upon leaving, some Rehoboth staff helped Marie get a teaching job at Bellflower Christian School. The happy couple returned back to New Mexico after Leonard was discharged and began his next career with Kirtland AirForce base in Albuquerque.

With only a couple of courses left to earn a 4-year degree, Marie finished at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque with a teaching degree. She then taught in Albuquerque for several years before they moved to Window Rock, Arizona. For the next twenty-five years, she taught for the Window Rock Unified School District. Her first classes had her teaching the non-English speaking students, and Marie later created a program for language development. Eventually, Arviso became the assistant principal and went back to UNM for a master’s degree in educational leadership. After earning her master’s degree, Arviso became a principal and retired in 1990.

While living in Window Rock, the capital of the Navajo Nation, Leonard and Marie were members of the Window Rock Christian Reformed Church. After retiring, they moved to Crownpoint, New Mexico where they were also members of the Crownpoint Christian Reformed Church. For several terms, Arviso also sat on the Rehoboth Christian School Board of Trustees and Leonard on the steering committee. Leonard passed away in 2007. They had three boys and later adopted a fifteen-month-old daughter.

Many high school students leave for college and have difficulty adjusting. In retrospect, Arviso explained that while attending Calvin she knew two things. First, this part of her life was not going to be forever, and second, she had a personal mission. These certainties kept her on track to finish college and overcome homesickness. However, having someone you know always brings comfort when so far away from home. Arviso recalled the Lord providing when a teacher from Rehoboth returned back to Grand Rapids, Michigan and offered her to share an apartment. “The Lord’s hand was right on me,” she stated.

Student Attends Calvin Summer Program

Every morning, Rehoboth senior, Ryan Jim makes the 45-minute drive to school from Fort Defiance, AZ. When he arrives, he demonstrates the kind of enthusiasm for learning that will take him far. With his perfectly styled hair and a twinkle in his eye, it might be easy for people to assume that Ryan’s life requires no effort—that things just magically fall into place for this 17-year-old.

But Ryan is self-aware enough to realize that wisdom comes from hard work and experience. To position himself for success in college, he knew that he needed to get a sense of what it was like to be away from home. He set out to gain that wisdom by enrolling in the Entrada program at Calvin University this past summer.

“I got interested in Calvin because my teacher, Mr.

Kass, went there. He encouraged me to check it out, and I realized there is a historical connection between Calvin and Rehoboth. I thought the Entrada program would give me a sense of whether or not Calvin is a good fit for me.” said Jim.

Ryan spent a full month in Michigan this summer and took Sociology 250 while also going through a college success boot camp dealing with everything from personal health to study habits to establishing community.

“I enjoyed learning a new subject, and I got to live in the dorm with a roommate from Los Angeles. Entrada brought us together as a group and grew our faith. By the end, it was very emotional for me to leave because we had bonded so deeply.”

“Calvin is definitely my dream school. I’m thinking of going into the medical field.” The whole experience brought me out of my shell and gave me great insights into future college life. I would highly recommend this to any student thinking of going away to college.”

Ryan Jim will apply to several colleges this fall, but more than likely, as the summer of 2023 ends, he’ll head out much farther from Ft. Defiance than his typical commute today. And he’ll be ready to take on the challenge of higher education thanks to the wisdom he gained as an Entrada scholar. —Dan Meester



Ryan Jim, Rehoboth Senior

Gifts Given in Memory & Honor

In memory of Edward & Cecilia Begay

Ms. Melvina Musket

In memory of Ernest Benally

Mr. and Mrs. Cornie and Dolores Rylaarsdam

In memory of Rev. and Mrs. Roger J. and Marijane Buining

Mr. and Mrs. Karl and Vicki Roelofs

In memory of Kathy DeHaan

Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Andrea VanKooten

In memory of Winifred (Hoekstra) Dykstra

Dr. and Mrs. Donald and Mary Swierenga

In memory of Sheryl E. Groenink

Mr. Luke Groenink

In memory of Judy Hoeksema

Mr. Paul Hoeksema

In memory of Bernard Koops

Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Eileen Hofstra

In memory of Phyllis R. Laninga

Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Bonnie Kooiman
Ms. Juliana Meiste

Mr. and Mrs. Dale and Gail Laninga

Ms. Thelma Hoekman

Mr. and Mrs. Gary S. Warners

Ms. Mary A. Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Kathleen Spoelman

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick and Marjorie Vedders

Ms. Janice K. Bosch

Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Lori Bouwman

Mr. and Mrs. Ty and Dawn Hogue

Ms. Carla Vande Steeg

Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Andrea VanKooten

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Marilyn Harms

Mr. and Mrs. John and Debra Kryger

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Wanda Hassevoort

Dr. and Mrs. Robert and Muriel Renzema

Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Sharon Leerar

Ms. Melvina Musket

Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Cindy Ippel

Holland Christian Schools

Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Laura Voogt

Mr. Gordon Grevengoed

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard and Sharon Gosselink

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Eleanor Feenstra

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Diane VanZee

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Nancy Hardy

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Sandra DeKock

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and Nelvia Sterkenburg

Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Nickie Sterkenburg

Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Fern Berk

Mr. and Mrs. Jack and Joyce Koeman

Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Ruth Breuker

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Ruth Hekman

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Elizabeth Matthews

Mr. and Mrs. James and Kathleen Hekman

Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Twila Lanning

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Cindra Meiste

Mr. and Mrs. James and Catherine Dreyer

Mrs. Cora Dykema

Mrs. Betty Lantinga and Family

Ms. Sally J. VanHemert

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Alma Vanderveen

Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Bonnie Kooiman

In memory of David Nysse

Mr. and Mrs. James and Janet Nysse

Ms. Dianne Reid

Mr. and Mrs. John and Judy Benson

Mr. Robert A. Hanenburg

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie and Lori Holzaphel

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight and Maryanne Logterman

In memory of Harley Riemersma

Mr. and Mrs. Gary and DeDe VanEssen

Mr. and Mrs. Arnel and Hester Koster

In memory of Miriam Schaafsma

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Krista Schaafsma

In memory of Lorraine Tapahonso Gleason

Ms. Sue Tapahonso

In memory of Dalbert Temple

Mrs. Jean Temple

In memory of John VanderWeide

Mr. and Mrs. Willis and Janice Hilbrands

In memory of Leona VanGronigen

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry and Sherri VanGroningen

In memory of Ronda VanSoelen

Mrs. Betty A. Nikkel

In memory of Charlotte Veenstra

Mr. and Mrs. George and Sharon Visser

In memory of Rolf and Nella Veenstra

Mr. and Mrs. George and Sharon Visser

In honor of Don and Joyce Braschler

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Elizabeth Matthews

In honor of Jim and Trudy De Groot's 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley and Harriet Brouwer

Mr. and Mrs. Arlan and Carolyn Apol

In honor of John and Emily Lee

Ms. Winabelle Gritter

In honor of Elmer Yazzie

Mr. and Mrs. R. Edwin and Judith Reed

In honor of Sian Zylstra

Mr. and Mrs. James and Allyson Koeman



Email or call our Volunteer Coordinator,
Deanna Benson at dbenson@rcsnm.org
or (505) 726-9603 today!



Thank you Volunteers!

It's a well known fact that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for Rehoboth to function without its many volunteers. During the pandemic our volunteer numbers took a big hit, but we're beginning to see a comeback. We are so grateful for all they do: from office work, to teaching, to construction and campus upkeep. Please consider joining us, as a group or individual!

Long Term

Wes Brower
Paul Brink
Jack and Cindy Ippel
Destiny Peywa
Johnny and Lois Harvey
Norma Tsosie
Jim Holwerda

Short Term

Doug and Norene VanAndel
Annelies VanderMeulen
Joel and Alice Schipper
Mike and Janet Dykema
Gary and Marcia VanEe
Roger and Jan Boyd
David and Susan VanderHeide
Ron and Judie Zwiers

Volunteer Groups

Kalamazoo 2 Rehoboth-
Kalamazoo, MI
Inner City Youth for Change-
Kalamazoo, MI



Scan to Give Today

Advancement Needs

Tuition Assistance Update

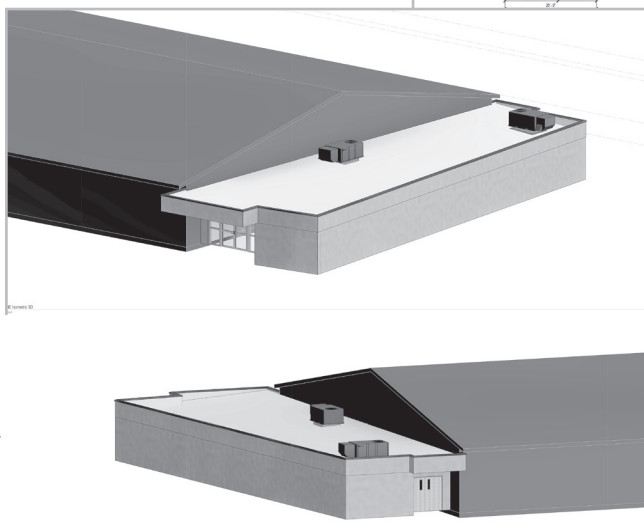
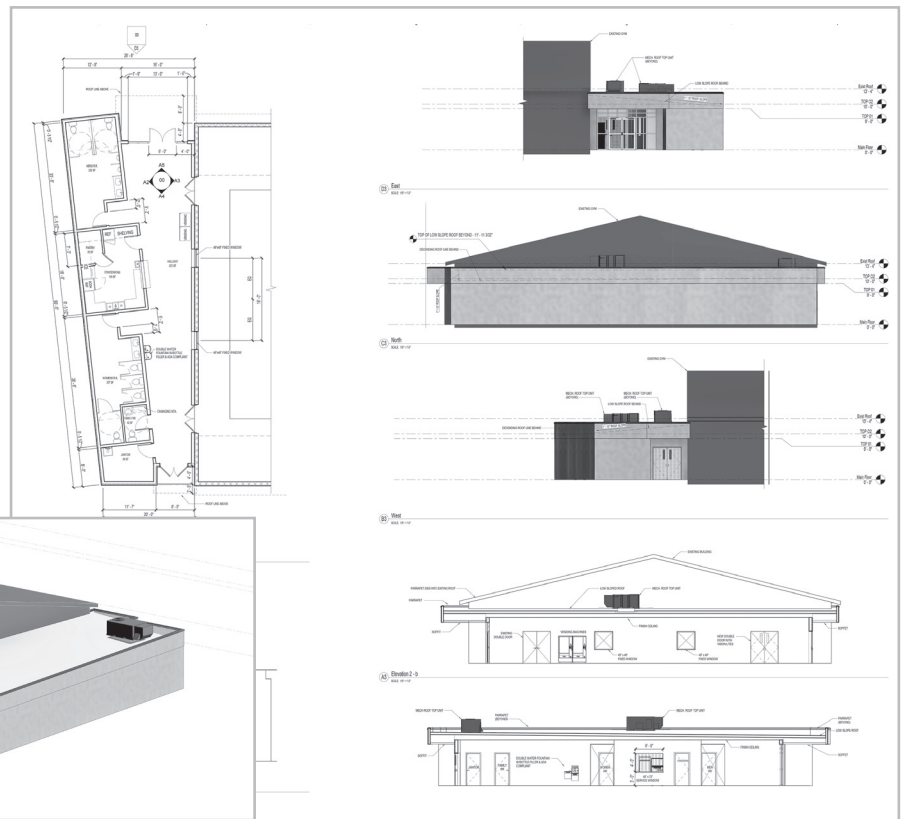
Through September 27, 2022, we have received gifts and pledges towards our Tuition Assistance Fund totalling \$568,714. This represents 31% of our budgeted need of \$1,862,500 for this current school year. We look forward to kicking off our Phonathon Program later in October to encourage support of our tuition assistance needs. We are grateful for the generosity that has been shown to our school and community so that we are able to provide tuition assistance to all families that apply. We project that 80% of our families will receive approximately \$3,750/student in assistance this school year.

Endowed Scholarships

Our 59 endowed scholarship funds provide over \$160,000 in tuition scholarships (in addition to tuition assistance) to help families afford Christian Education at Rehoboth. These LYNX Scholarships were provided to 110 families at Rehoboth this school year through the distributions from our endowed scholarship funds, and we are grateful for the generous gifts we have received from many families to begin these funds. The total of these endowed scholarship funds is currently over \$4,000,000. We encourage you to consider establishing an endowed scholarship as a meaningful opportunity for you to give to Rehoboth and directly support our students and families. Please reach out to Ken Zylstra, Director of Advancement, for more information.

Keith Kuipers Gym Project

Progress on the Keith Kuipers Gym project continues. We are working through the final design on the addition, which will include restrooms, concessions, and a new entry into the gym. We are hopeful to have the design and engineering completed this fall. Ground-breaking will hopefully begin in late winter with the goal of opening the facility in fall 2023.



We are thankful to have received over \$312,000 in gifts towards this campaign, and we look forward to updating the campaign needs as the design package is completed. We hope you appreciate the updated design!



Questions? Concerns? Want to Help Out?

Donations and Advancement

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

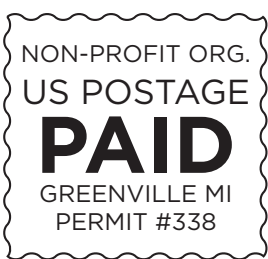
Dave Sytsma, Advancement Officer
dsytsma@rcsnm.org
(616) 283-4495

Campus Hostess, Volunteer Coordinator,

Deanna Benson
dbenson@rcsnm.org
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PO Box 41
Rehoboth NM 87322



VIGOROUSLY ACADEMIC ✦ BEAUTIFULLY DIVERSE ✦ THOROUGHLY CHRISTIAN

What's Gospel without the Blues?

When Rehoboth approached me to create a logo for this year's school theme, *All Things New*, I got excited... and apprehensive. I mean, I LOVE those words, have drawn great comfort from them, but I also felt both the enormity of their expression and the blank slate I'd been given.

I did an internet image search to see what was already "out there." I scrolled pages of positivity—many bright flowers springing freshly from lush green. These images were "nice." Too nice. It wasn't the perfect things that Jesus came to make new after all. These images skipped to the end of the story. What's spring without winter? What's gospel music without the blues? My mind flooded with other, more graphic possibilities. I thought about human hearts, not happy valentines, but real ones with blue veins and bulging arteries dangling. I drew distressed butterflies, half crushed, still clutching at life in the mud. Cocoons hanging from strands of barbed wire, rusted nails bent in the cross... wounded, hard things that needed serious help. Lately, it so often feels like the bad is growing stronger and the old is unbreakable. After many sketches, none of those seemed quite right either. And it was then that I thought about the crown of thorns, a real plant—*Euphorbia Millii*, maybe even the actual plant Jesus' crown of thorns was made. An image that contained both a recognition of the danger and tragedy of real life and a hint at the redemption and justice and rebirth we all rely on and long for.

And then I began wondering whatever happened to that crown? I'm sure more than one cathedral in Europe says they've got the real one. Right. But what if it really still existed out there? You can read what I imagine happened to it on [P.3](#). *For the old things shall die...*

—Theo Bremer-Bennett