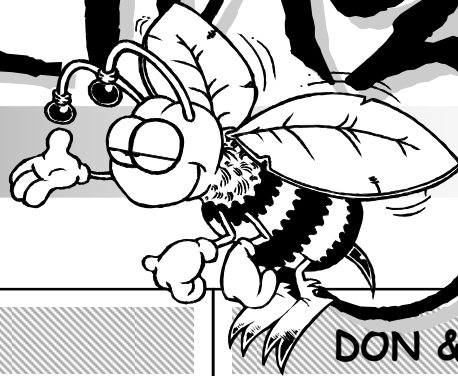


Buzzings

The latest happenings from the family of
Albert & Rena Bakker



GRANDMA BAKKER

Feb 15—My sister, Henrietta DeHaan, passed away. My other sister, Anna Eldrencamp, had hip surgery. She is doing well.

Elaine took me to Meijer Gardens to see the butterflies. Alan came here. We went to the farm and he took all the pine needles off the roof of the house.

April 3—Deacons of Moline Church here to bring an Easter Lily.

April 9—Hymn Sing by a couple ladies and also a young played a trumpet.

April 14—Hymn Sing by Henry & Marg Zuverink, very good.

Moline Christian School is cleaning land across from the school. They hope to plant corn there. I don't know all the details.

April 24—Jayne and girls here. Jake was in school.

Elaine took me to W.W. Greenhouse in Hudsonville as she wanted some containers to plant flowers in and put them by her garage.

We also had a very nice Christian music by the Pete Nobles family. They called it Jubilee.

Well, I can't think of any more news.

So bye now and God bless you all.—Grandma Bakker



DON & MARY

Been busy at Apol's this spring with the usual spring work. First major cleanup in our yard and greenhouses since we had 2 seminars here plus our Koi Club came to visit. Then Don and Matt unearthed our big oil barrel near our front porch so we have a mess in our front yard. Maybe we'll get some new landscaping there sometime. We had a lot of rain 2 weeks ago which resulted in a sump pump failure in our basement. What a mess! We pulled the carpet out of 2 rooms so we have another project going on there. Then Meow crossed over Kalamazoo Ave and didn't make it back. She left 4 orphan kitties behind (4 weeks old). So we took them to Matt and Joni and now we are the best grandparents around!

That's about it in a nutshell. Hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Don & Mary



BOB & ARLA

Hello family

Ahhh! We love the sight's & sound's of Spring and are grateful for the beautiful palette of colors all around us from our Creator. Awesome!

In March we escaped the deep freeze and enjoyed 80 plus degree temperatures for 4 weeks in Bonita Springs, Florida. This year we took a 2 day road trip down Alligator Alley through the Everglades to Key West.

Scott, Shelly & our 2 granddaughter's rented a place in Cape Coral and we all enjoyed a boat ride together to see the dolphin's swim in the Punta Gorda Harbor, and we also saw the dolphin's swimming at the beach when we picked up seashell's.

One day we took a ride to Gasparilla Island and visited the Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum. Very interesting.

We also enjoyed going to the nearby Flea Market's in Florida and we brought home several "flea's". Bob did all the driving. 4200 miles.

We are thankful for our hobby job's that were waiting for us when we got home. They help support our hobbies.

Blessings to all and have a great summer. Bob & Arla



ALAN & LYNN

Ok- here's the latest scoop from up north!

It appears to be spring here-the tulips, daffodils, and forsythia are blooming. It has been in the 40's and gray up until yesterday. I expect the cherry trees will be blooming any time now if the warmth holds. It's 62° today, and sunny for a change, and windy, which is normal.

Last Sunday it was 38° and the water in the river was 38°, and Ben was floating in it! It was one of his training sessions for the Leland Fire and Rescue. He passed his state certification and his practical test, and is all set to start assisting the community. A lot less happens here than what Ryan deals with, but he still gets a chance to use his adrenaline.



Josiah has been chosen for the Jamboree Troop. He's one of the boys going from this area of Michigan to the 100th year of Boy Scouting celebration near Washington DC in June 2010. Working on his Star Rank, he is heading for Eagle Scout. His Scout troop camped out this winter in shelters they built, and have camping, hiking, canoeing, and other fun stuff planned.

The play "The Wiz" (a version of the Wizard of Oz,) is this spring's school production, and Andrew is one of the Munchkins that dance and sing. He is also on the Mice Squad and is the mouse that arrests the Lion. He will be bridging from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts next week, so we will have 3 boys in the troop. Anyone want to buy popcorn?! (that's their big fundraiser in the fall)

Forestry, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, helping at school, Leelanau Conservation District, chauffeuring, and feeding munchkins are just a few of the activities that keep Lynn busy. Alan and I got to do some canoeing last Saturday, which was a great way to enjoy the spring-time.

Our outdoor wood stove worked well this winter. Alan and Ben kept us well stocked in wood. After fitting in tree pruning between meetings for most of the winter; Alan has just finished the tree planting season. He will be grafting- changing - some less productive varieties of apples to our new SweetTango apple variety, and, of course, be working day and night on the sprayer once the blossoms are out.

Our family was able to take a spring break trip to Virginia. It was cloudy and cold down there too, but we had fun and absorbed some history. Went to historic Williamsburg, to Jamestowne, ate seafood, saw the Yorktown battlefield where the Revolutionary war ended. Were impressed by the stone houses that still had cannonballs embedded in their walls. Then went to Chincoteague and Assateague Islands, and saw the ocean, picked up seashells, and saw the Chincoteague ponies.

Happy Spring to all!



DAVE & KAREN

Happy Spring to all! Yes, we survived another long, cold winter in Big Rapids, and are beginning to see some signs of spring. The ponds have melted and the fish, frogs and tadpoles have survived! The trees are starting to bud and we have even seen a few (very few!) flowers here. Looking forward to more!

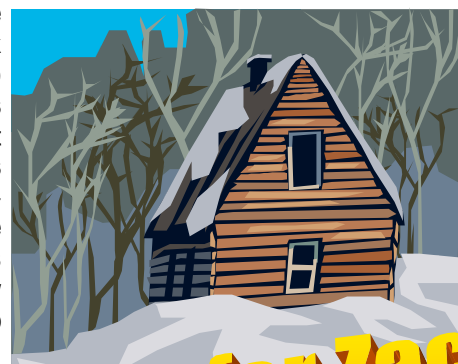
When we get to this time of the year, we are winding things down in school. For us, we are really winding things down as Zac is in his senior year and thus will end more than 30 years of sending our kids off to school. However, he is not really done with his education as he plans to attend Calvin College in the fall to potentially major in Political Science and Communication. He had researched going to Trinity Christian College in Illinois, but decided that Calvin will be a better fit. He will be graduating from Crossroads Charter Academy on Sunday, May 31 at 2pm. Everyone is invited to come to his open house afterwards at our house in Big Rapids from 4-8. Sure hope the weather cooperates! Yes, that is Dave's birthday, too! (and, no, he is NOT retiring!)

Zac is playing on his school baseball team. He has even pitched in a few games! Abi is completing her third term at Baker College in Muskegon. She is done the middle of June and then hopes to work somewhere the rest of the summer.

Dave and Zac managed to get in one golf game during Spring Break in early April. It was 50°, cold and windy. Dave's shoulder has sufficiently healed so that he can swing a golf club. He also is able to chop wood, so we know that the 4 months of physical therapy three times a week paid off.


Karen stays busy with "working" in many different ways. She substitute teaches in White Cloud and also has spent time working at city hall on election things when they need her. Real estate does seem to be picking up a bit, so that keeps her busy, too. It's a great time to buy something, so if anyone knows anyone who wants to buy something anywhere in Michigan, let her know!

We really enjoy spending time at our cabin, Hidden Creek Lodge. With all of the rains lately, the creek was not always so hidden, but it finds it's way back to where it belongs. There is always an open invitation to folks to come out and visit us there. Just let us know when you want to come!



Open House for Zac!

Come and celebrate Zac's graduation from
**Crossroads Charter Academy on
 Sunday, May 31, 4-8 PM.
 at 321 Williams Street, Big Rapids, MI**



ELAINE



After snow blowing the driveway 22 times is it now safe to put the blower in storage?

The grass has finally greened and it's time for the first mowing!

Lake Macatawa welcomed the eagles again this year and now a Baltimore Oriole visits the hummingbird feeder regularly. His orange coat is so bold!

The library's "Let it Snow" program required reading 16 books in several categories including a mystery. I won a \$20 certificate to use for a book at Barnes and Nobles, I bought one called Making the Most of Shade to improve my yard this spring! That should take the mystery out of what to plant!

Winter was a time for going to the G.R.Symphony with delightful (usually) orchestra music featuring programs including a power point presentation of the planets, a renown harpist, and the L.A. Guitar Quartet. Now I listen to my tuned piano with Virgil Bartman's expertise, and the sounds in God's creation, bird songs and spring peepers in my backyard.

Going to Audubon meetings has become a new activity, one afternoon was spent volunteering at the Cottage and Lakefront Living Show at the DeVos

Place. Bat houses seemed to be in high demand. We sold 2! We didn't have more!

F.M. Gardens was often visited. I spent time there with friends and family. The excitement of Toddler Todd was worth a million to see his pointing and waving of arms amid laughter on spotting butterflies. Danielle was a busy "butterfly" in her own way!

The "G.R.Press" has shrunk to a mere pamphlet, with fewer commentaries, but a visit to Calvin College provided an opportunity to see Cal Thomas and hear him speak. It helped to put the current affairs of the world in perspective ... it is God who changes the heart.

It has been a year since Oscar passed away and I thank you for your love and caring thoughts. Many things occurred that often lifted my spirits at just the right time. I know that they didn't just happen. The Lord provides!

May we all be held in good health as we journey along this life's pathway.

Elaine

And a couple pictures for you to help you enjoy spring!



Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson

CAL & LISA

News from Cal and Lisa: We've survived another winter. Over 200 inches of snow, and seemed colder than the last few years. Just think how much worse it would have been if we were not suffering from Global Warming! The last of the snow finally melted about May 1, but we probably could still find some deep in the woods if we wanted to.

We're still employed. GFS business is down (not as many people eating at restaurants), so rather than lay anyone off, they reduced everyone's hours. Cal is down to about 40 hours a week, but that's much better than no work at all.



Cal made his annual bus driving trip to Florida for spring break, the first full week of April. Had 87 high school kids and about 15 adults. The busses made it with no major problems, and the kids were great. The weather was rather cool, and had a couple of days so windy it knocked tents down, but we had no rain all week, and we knew it was warmer than the blizzard we heard they were having back in Michigan. At least eight teens made first-time commitments to Christ, and had many re-commitments. Pray for Atai. He's an exchange student from Kyrgyzstan in Asia (formerly part of USSR). He was raised a Moslem, but he had a lot of questions about Christianity. Hopefully we planted some seeds that will bear fruit some day.

While Cal was wit the youth group, Lisa packed Anna and the boys in the camper and headed south. They picked up Lydia in Fort Wayne, and headed south to Hudson, Florida (near Tampa) to visit John's parents and sister. This was the first time any of them had seen the new grandson, Braden. They did spend a day

at Sea-World, but otherwise were so busy visiting family that they didn't even have time to go to the ocean. Thankfully, the truck and trailer made the trip with no problems.

Cal took the boys out to the Pigeon River country to look for elk antlers. Got a lot of exercise walking, but found no antlers.

Lisa got to do some camping already. Took advantage of the county park's free camping weekend—they let you camp free, if you rake up the campsite.

Hope you all have a great summer!

JASON & JOLEEN

I think spring is finally here in Hopkins. It has been a long couple of months, but on April 29, David got the rods taken out of his leg, he had the stitches checked over this week and now he is able to ride his bike! It will still be another 4 weeks before he can play soccer or softball, but he's just glad that the worst part of having a broken leg is over. He's doing really well and we thank everyone for their cards, gifts and prayers they sent to him....THANK YOU!

Alex, Esther and Sam have been keeping busy playing outdoor soccer on Thursday mornings and in three more weeks will start playing softball on Thursday nights in Hudsonville. We plan on having a garden this summer and that should also keep us busy.

Jason has been busy working "in town" the past couple of months. We've been blessed that he's been busy and his work weeks have been full of billable hours. He also just got the new website up and running—check it out: www.lcft.com. This weekend he's going to be building some panels in the shop. We're very thankful he's got work to do.

We spent part of this spring working in the yard cutting down even more trees and just trying to do some general cleanup. I made a stone walkway and changed some landscaping on the west side of the house. We also had a portion of the pasture plowed up and replanted it, so we are beginning to see the new grass growing. We also planted some dogwood trees this spring.

The kids and I have enjoyed spending more time outside and we're glad to see David moving around so well and riding his bike. Rebeekah wants to learn to ride a bike like David. She just turned 5 on April 7 and is keeping up with the other kids really well. The past couple of weekends we've gone fishing and the kids love being outside by the water. We've got plans to do some camping this summer and just spend time in state.

I hope that everyone has a great summer! - Joleen



Mother's Flu !!!!

(Notes pinned to the pillow of a mother who has the flu by her well-meaning husband.)
Monday A.M.

My Dearest: Please sleep late. Everything under control. Lunches packed.

Kids off to school. Menu for dinner planned. Your lunch is on a tray in refrigerator: finger-sandwiches and fruit cup. Thermos of hot tea by bedside. See you around 6:00. Hope you're feeling better.

Tuesday A.M.

Honey: Sorry about the egg rack in the refrigerator. I tried to catch it. Hope you got back to sleep. Did the kids tell you about the Coke I put in their Thermos bottles? Apparently not a good idea. The school might call you on this. Dinner may be a little late. I'm doing your door-to-door canvas for liver research. Your lunch is in refrigerator. Hope you like leftover chili.

Wednesday A.M.

Dear Doris: Why in the name of all that is sane would you put soap powder in the flour canister! If you have time, could you please come up with a likely place to find Chris's missing shoes? We've checked the clothes hamper, garage, back seat of the car and wood box. Did you know the school has a ruling on bedroom slippers? There's some cold pizza for you on a napkin in the frig. Am trying to find out what smells in the kitchen. Will be late tonight Driving eight Girl Scouts to tour meat packing house.

Thursday A.M.

Doris: Don't panic over water in hallway. It crested last night at 9 P.M. Will finish laundry tonight. Please pencil in answers to following:

1. How do you turn on the garbage disposal? I thought it was automatic.. Guess not.
2. Why would that rotten kid leave his shoes in his boots?
3. How do you remove a Confederate flag inked on the palm of a small boy's hand?
4. What do you do with leftovers when they begin to snap at you when you open the door? I don't know what you're having for lunch! Surprise me!

Friday A.M.

Hey: Don't drink from pitcher by the sink! Am trying to restore pink dress shirt to original white. Take heart. Tonight, the ironing will be folded, the house cleaned and the dinner on time. I called your mother.