

NEWS

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A Tale of Two Pella Christian Schools

The newest Pella Christian School is located far away from the one Iowans are most familiar with. It sits in the north central town of Pignon in Haiti. What links the two schools is strong support from the people of Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa.

When Pella residents Tim and Lucia Van Maanen facilitated the building of the Haitian school, they discovered that Pella, Iowa, had chosen Pignon, Haiti, as a sister city 30 years prior. They named the new school Pella Christian.

Last summer, Calvary CRC sent several youth group members on a trip back to Haiti, putting the finishing touches on the near-complete school—painting, hanging chalkboards, and building and delivering school desks.



Calvary CRC youth group at Pella Christian School in Pignon, Haiti.

In the fall Pella Christian School in Haiti opened its doors to 153 students from kindergarten through third grade; all but a few were sponsored by members of Calvary CRC.

"We come back and we don't live lives the same here again,"

Van Maanen said. "We make different choices, and we see Calvary doing that. The whole thing is about changing lives. It's changing lives in Haiti, but it's also changing lives in Pella, Iowa."

—Melissa Holtrop

Ontario Pastor Sings the Blues

Pastor Daryl Meijer has been singing the blues a lot lately—to appreciative audiences in Harriston, Ontario. He recently took a role in the premiere production of *Job's Blues*, a blues opera based on the life of the biblical Job.

Meijer, who is currently on a study leave and serving as interim pastor at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Woodstock, said he saw the casting call for musical *Job's Blues* and knew immediately it was for him.

Job's Blues, by R. William Muir, sets Job's story in a sketchy blues bar where Job, a Chicago blues singer, has arrived to play a show.

Meijer played the bartender character, a sort of narrator. "The show received great response, with standing ovations each night," he said. "I had been experiencing blues of my own over the last couple years. God used the whole experience to help me consider my own sufferings and struggles, to admit my desperate need for God." [MORE ONLINE](#)

—Anita Brinkman

Rev. Daryl Meijer plays the bartender in *Job's Blues*.

