Calvin Seminary Celebrates *Dies Natalis*

Calvin Theological Seminary has celebrated *Dies Natalis* (Latin for “birthday”) every March since the Depression.

Even though the seminary is 138 years old, this celebration goes back about 80 years, beginning in the Depression when seminary professors and their wives hosted a meal for the students.

As this became an annual event, the students wanted to show their gratitude by presenting a brief program of entertainment—music, skits, and monologues, said seminarian Elaine May.

Fast-forward to 2014, and *Dies Natalis* brought faculty and students together for a meal and laughter, even though the dinner was replaced by breakfast. Classes were canceled for the day.

Connie Mulder, advancement assistant, remembers helping her mother, Claire Kromminga, wife of President Emeritus John Kromminga, make table favors in the late 1950s.

“*My mom and I spent hours putting sticks on cloth bags that mimicked the old Dutch ‘offering bags,’*” she said.

May said that this year’s event was tied to “Called to Serve,” the inauguration theme of seminary president Jul Medenblik.

“We felt the origins of the event tied in nicely with the seminary’s renewed focus ‘Called to Serve’, and we are grateful for the ways faculty, staff, and administration serve us.”

—*Jinny De Jong, Calvin Theological Seminary*

Ovide Bighetty Dies

Ovide Joseph Bighetty, a Cree artist whose series of paintings continues its tour across Canada, died in late March.

The tour, featuring his series of paintings called “Kismanito Pakitinasuwina—the Creator’s Sacrifice,” was organized in 2011 by the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee of the Christian Reformed Church.

Bighetty, 44, died peacefully on March 20 at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. His wife, Linda, and other members of his family were at his side.

Bighetty’s connection to the CRC started in 1994 when he visited the denomination’s Indian Metis Christian Fellowship in Regina, Saskatchewan.

“My mom and I spent hours putting sticks on cloth bags that mimicked the old Dutch ‘offering bags,’” she said.

—*Chris Meehan, CRC Communications*

Churches Growing in South Texas

New Life CRC is one of several churches being planted or strengthened with the help of Christian Reformed Home Missions in southern Texas.

Located in places like El Paso and Austin along with a network of Korean churches, these ministries are learning from the past as a way to honor the church planters who came before.

Pastor Andy Sytsma of New Life in Spring, Texas, summarized three lessons they are following.

The first, he says, is keeping evangelism as key. The second is continual training for pastors, elders, and deacons. The third is recognizing that there is power in community.

Church planters and pastors meet regularly to share ideas, offer financial support, and pray together.

—*Rachel Gabrielse, Christian Reformed Home Missions*