

Disciple



October 2026

**The mission of Anchor Bible Church is to love God, love people,
and make disciples of Jesus Christ.**

Operation Christmas Child: A Testimony by Zac Vakadweatabua

an article from the GMC November 2025

My name is Sakiusa Rokovasa Vakadewatabua, Jr. But I go by Zac. I grew up in Fiji, an island nation in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The International Date Line cuts straight through my country, meaning that Fiji is the first to see every new morning and new year. We are literally at the very end of the earth.

Childhood there was different than you might expect. Fiji is rich in clear blue waters and warm temperatures, but my four siblings and I grew up playing with sticks and stones. Often kids in our neighborhood played rugby, Fiji's national sport. Except no one could afford a ball. Instead we played with empty soda bottles, even after someone inevitably got hit in the face.

I come from a long line of pastors, from my great-grandpa, to my grandpa, to my father, to me. My family lived right next to our church, positioned near the river which flooded during rainy season. Routinely my father and the men of our congregation trekked downriver to fetch pieces of the church that swept away. I gave my life to Christ at a young age during a revival camp in my grandmother's village. Throughout my life, God continues to remind me of His faithfulness.

One reminder of His love was through Operation Christmas Child.

This specific Monday afternoon when I was nine, my mom oversaw a special outreach event to present the Gospel to children in our community. She already told me there was a surprise at the end, but as her son,

my name would be the last called – just in case they ran out. All day at school, I prayed, “Please let my name be called!” At the event, I waited anxiously as my mom started calling names, first the kids from the community, then those who regularly attended Sunday School. Soon the celebration drowned out all my worry. Infectious joy burst from my friends and in my own heart as they received their shoebox gifts.

Finally, with the last shoebox in hand, my mom called my name.

Excitement shot me forward to retrieve my very own shoebox gift. From coloring books and pencils to a jump rope and racecars, all these colorful items kept coming out of my shoebox. I didn't have these new things before!

But the jaw-dropping item which most reminded me of God's love was a bright yellow yo-yo. I only ever saw this toy in stores that were financially out of reach. Now here it was in my shoebox, a special gift just for me. That yo-yo meant more to me than simple plastic and string. It was a tangible gift from someone around the world, given in faith, to remind me of God's love.

Going through my shoebox, God brought to my mind Romans 5:8, “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” I was a Christian before, but this moment was impactful. We are all undeserving. But someone spent their time, money, and resources just to pack this beautiful gift for a child at the ends of the earth. Somebody around the world

thought of me.

After God opened doors for me to move to the United States years later, He called me to pastoral ministry at my local church in Kansas. Soon after starting my position, I rediscovered Operation Christmas Child.

The youth group participated every year, and the task of leading the project fell to me. Ecstatic, I told my church about how I received one of these shoebox gifts, and the news caught fire! For the kids in my youth group, this put a real face to the mission they were doing and gave them a renewed drive to serve the Lord. Watching those kids pack over a hundred shoebox gifts as an outpouring of God's love to others around the world, I was so overwhelmed that I cried with joy.

I remember one child in my youth group praying over the shoebox gifts, “Thank you for what I've been blessed with that I may bless other kids.” That's when it hit me that these kids have a profound understanding of what it means to show God's love.

Being a part of someone's discipleship journey is incredibly humbling. Whether through pouring into the church I serve in Kansas or through packing a shoebox gift for someone around the world – I know that God blesses such faithful ministry because of my own testimony. Packing a shoebox gift may look like a little thing, but the impact is profound. It's the fingerprint of God. My shoebox gift shaped me and continues to shape millions of lives all over the world.

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What's UP?

October 2026

October 4: Confirmation Class 10:30-noon
October 4: Townhall Meeting 2pm
October 6: Ad Council Mtg 6:30pm
October 7: D6 Family Night 5-8:30pm
October 14: D6 Family Night 5-8:30pm * Bonfire Night*
October 17: Prayer Shawl Ministry 9-11am
October 18: Confirmation Class Bowling Outing 12:45-3:45pm
October 21: D6 Family Night 5-8:30pm
October 25: Confirmation Class 10:30-noon
October 28: D6 Family Night 5-8:30pm

Townhall Meeting at Anchor Bible

on Sunday, October 4 at 2pm
with GMC Conference Superintendent, Rev. James Parks,
and our Presiding Elder, Rev. Phil Rogers.
They will explain our Process and how we handle concerns,
care for people, and protect confidentiality in the
Global Methodist Church.

ANCHOR BIBLE CHURCH
275 Green Street West / PO Box 283
Center Point, IA 52213

ph: **319-849-2518**

email: office@anchorbibleia.org

facebook: Anchor Bible Church

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am - 12Noon

Worship times: 8:45am & 10:30am

*Please call or email the office
to have events and information
included in the newsletter.*

Vision Statement:

*Leading our community to become Christ-centered
disciples who are anchored in the the Gospel.*

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary
behind the curtain.*

Hebrews 6:19



Wednesday October 14th — D6 Bonfire

Not a normal night of D6
Everyone is invited to an evening around the bonfire filled
with fellowship, worship, testimonies, games, and food.
A main dish will be provided,
but we ask everyone to bring a side dish to share.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Would you like to learn how
to knit or crochet
or learn more about this ministry?
Please join us!

Saturday, October 17 at 9am

At the church

Bring your own drink
A light brunch will be provided
For info: Linda Sweeting: 849-1391

Prayers

Please Join Us *as we* Pray



**Brothers & Sisters in Christ
Serving in the Military:**

(Our list contains those in full time military duty)

Sam Vick

husband of Chelsea (McEvoy) Vick

Chris Butterfield

husband of Lindsay Butterfield

Allison McEvoy

daughter of Mike & Tammy McEvoy

Ethan Parrott

husband of Allison McEvoy

Clark Schoch

son of Chad and Jamie Schoch

Nick & Sarah Schultz

niece and nephew-in-law of Scott & Lisa Millikin

We will continue to lift those who are in the Reserve or a part-time basis when we pray for our Nation and those who serve our country.

Mark Callahan
Jim Carver
Karen Chapman
Verlene Montgomery Hawker
Stan Hepker
Amy Hromidko
Todd Ramsey
Chad Schoch
Anne Stender
Bob Wittmer

Continued Prayers for

Brian Lage, Linda Marlow's nephew
Renea, Jamie Schoch's mom
Duane, Kelly Shuniak's dad
Dean, Dustin Mallie's dad
Larry, Jodi Beck's dad
Gene, Andy Maloney's dad

Prayers of Bereavement for:

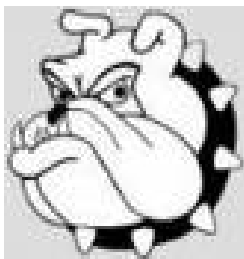
Please pray for comfort and peace for Jodi & Joel Weber and family in the passing of her mom, Sheila Demmel



**Please pray for these
Upcoming Marriage
Celebrations:**

Autumn McGowan & Ben Opfer
October 3, 2026

Ellie Eikenberry & Nels Fossum
October 11, 2026



Bulldogs

Who: the MEN of Anchor Bible Church & Surrounding Communities

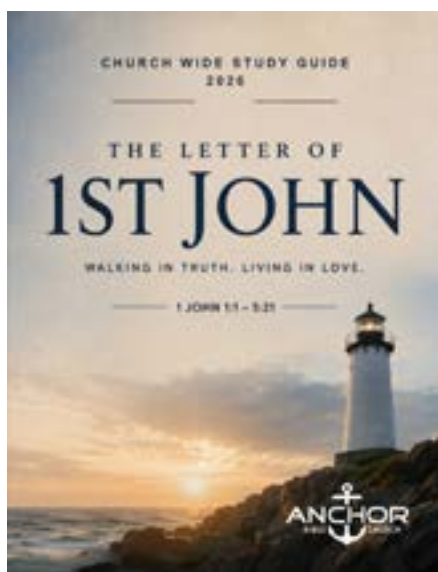
What: Men encouraging men through understanding God's Word.

Where: Anchor Bible Church, 275 Green St West

When: 5:45-7am, Wednesday Mornings

Contact a Bulldog to find out how to join!

Russ Brandt (319-329-9703)



The Letter of 1st John

Walking in Truth. Living in Love.

The Book of 1 John is a book of love and joy. It explains the fellowship we have with others and with Jesus Christ.

It differentiates between happiness, which is temporary and fleeting, and true joy, which 1 John tells us how to achieve. If we take the words written by John and we apply them to our daily lives, the true love, commitment, fellowship, and joy we long for will be ours.

Come & See What You are Missing!

Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."



Confirmation

Anchor Bible Church Confirmation Calendar 2026-2027

Day	Date	Time	Place	Topic
Sunday	10/4	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 31-34 & Sacraments
Sunday	10/18	12:45-3:45	Bowling	Field Trip
Sunday	10/25	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 4-6
Sunday	11/8	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 7-9 & 12
Saturday	11/14	9:00-4:00	Faith Bible Church	Dare2Share Live
Sunday	11/15	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 10,11,14,15
Friday	12/4	5:00-8:00	Fellowship Area	Live Nativity (6-8pm)
Sunday	12/6	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 13, 16-19
Sunday	12/13	5:00	Fellowship Area	Caroling/Christmas Party
Sunday	1/3	9:15-12:15	TBD	Alternate Worship Experience
Sunday	1/17	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 20-26
Sunday	1/31	10:30-noon	Library	Catechism Section 27-30 & 35,36
Sunday	2/21	12:00-2:00	Murdoch Funeral Home	Life After Death
Sunday	2/28	10:30-noon	Library	Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments
Sunday	3/14	11:30-2:00	Sanctuary	Prep for Holy Week
Sunday	3/21	11:30-1:00	Sanctuary	Prep for Holy Week
Wed	3/24	5:15-7:00	Sanctuary	Confirmation Holy Week Presentation
Sunday	4/11	10:30-noon	Library	Q & A, Next Steps - Life of a Disciple
Friday	4/23	5:00pm	Ridge Haven Overnight	
& Saturday	4/24	12:00pm	Ridge Haven Overnight	
Saturday	5/1	5:00pm	Fellowship Area	Confirmation Dinner
Sunday	5/2	8:45 & 10:30	Worship Center	Confirmation Sunday Services (8:45am-introduced to church family, 10:30-official joining church)

July 12-16, 2027 Summer Games University, Grinnell University, Grinnell, IA

This is a working calendar. Dates and/or times are subject to change.

Confirmation Class of 2027 Confirmands & Mentors

Haydent Covington - Dillon Fawcett
Grady Goettsch - Landon Tweeton
Chyler Grennan - Vicki Anderson
Ryder Plein - Matt Grennan

Alexis Shuniak - Brooke Umdenstock
Layken Timp - Jenn Van Gorder
Sydney White - Mary Beth Maloney
Carter Williams - Nate Holub

Ways to Give

Our New Platform where everything is all tied together!

We are excited!!

“Church Center”



Donate your Stuff to help the building fund!

Take your stuff to Stuff Etc. at 252 Blairs Ferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids

Drop off times: Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm

Anchor Bible Church's consignor number: 18846



- Enter the far door on the back side of the building
- Enter our number #18846 in the computer, it will print a tag
- Staff will give you one red tote to fill, place the tag inside
- Furniture is taken separately at the side of the building
- Anchor Bible will receive 50% of the amount the item is sold for
- You can call 373-2380 or use <https://www.shopstuffetc.com> to look up items currently accepted and restrictions.

All money raised from your stuff will go to our Building Fund.

Treasurer's Corner

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

	AUG 2026	AUG YTD 2026	AUG YTD 2025
INCOME-General Contributions	34,230	283,240	230,605
		(24% increase!!)	
Pastors, Benefits and support	20,649	166,767	127,687
Directors - Children's	1,931	14,698	13,120
Connectial Giving	957	7,649	6,568
Wages - Office & Support/Payroll taxes	3,743	32,049	31,527
Administrative & Office Costs	581	6,126	7,815
Worship activities	61	2,870	4,059
Programs (Childrens, Youth, Small Groups)	704	8,610	5,620
Ministries & Outreach	850	8,017	9,808
Facility costs	3,448	30,130	27,549
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	32,924	276,916	233,753
NET INCOME(DEFICIT)	1,306	6,324	(3,148)

2026 BUDGET- General Fund

428,000 = 36/Mo

General Fund bank balance

79,325

56,144

OTHER FUNDS

Savings - Not Earmarked	36,510	33,778
Savings - Earmarked Funds	57,782	54,978
Memorial Fund	5,572	5,320
Endowment Fund	577,861	479,243

BUILDING FUND

Building Cash	23,862	19,820
Building LOAN	(176,897)	(327,241)

Building Fund Giving	2026	2025
January-June	122,818	50,825
July	17,725	4,163
Aug	11,589	3,194
Total YTD	152,132	58,182
Loan monthly mortgage payments	(26,843)	(22,742)
Loan extra principal payments	(128,500)	(56,500)

AUGUST 2026

General Fund giving for August was \$34,230, covering expenses of \$32,924. In April, we introduced the "Anchor the Future" challenge to the congregation to raise \$140,000 to help pay off the loan by the end of the year. In six months (September), we reached the goal!! Hallelujah!! The Finance committee earlier in the year had committed Endowment Funds to pay the remaining, which ended up \$148,500. The original loan in 2016 was \$921,000. Thank you to everyone for your faithful giving over the last 10 years, especially in this home stretch. Anchor Bible Church is now DEBT FREE. On top of that, since we are now Global Methodists, we now own our real estate and building. Before our disaffiliation, the United Methodist denomination owned the property.

Timber to Table Ministry



Mission

Our mission is to provide food to those in need by distributing fresh, healthy, and responsibly harvested meat in the name of Christ.

Join Us On Sunday!

You are invited to join us for church at Anchor Bible on Sunday mornings at 8:45am or 10:30am.

Wednesday Nights!

Our Wednesday evening D6 program is a community favorite! We host a community meal starting at 5:00 PM followed by classes and groups for all ages at 5:45!

Need Assistance?

Please submit this form to request assistance from the Timber to Table ministry. Each request will be reviewed by the board and will be distributed accordingly.



Request Assistance



Want to Give?

We combat food insecurity in our area by providing venison to families in need at no cost to them. Meat is processed by Edgewood Locker.

GUIDING VERSE

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.
Matthew 25:35



(319) 849-2518



office@anchorbibleia.org



anchorbibleia.org/timber-to-table

Bible Studies

SUNDAY

High School Youth Bible Study 7:30PM
Landon Tweeton & Pastor Keith Steffek

Storm Shelter 6PM
Beth Larson

MONDAY

Amazing Grays 9:30AM
Linda Marlow

Young Adults 6:00PM
Landon Tweeton/Dillon Fawcett

Acts 29 ~ College Age Group 6:00PM
Kyle & McKenna Coppess
at Kyle & McKenna's house ~ 1220 Franklin St, Center Point

New and Bold 6:30-8:00PM
"Genesis"
How everything began and why it happened
Verse by Verse Ministry curriculum
Beginning October 12
Tracey Taylor/Anne Stender/Cindy Graham

WEDNESDAY

Bulldog's Men's Group 5:45AM
Russ Brandt

Wednesdays in the Word ~ 6:00PM

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ADULT MINISTRY OR BIBLE STUDIES FEEL FREE
TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (319) 849-2518 OR office@anchorbibleia.org

Anchored Life Groups

What is an Anchored Life Group?

An Anchored Life Group is a small group of 4 to 12 people who meet weekly to give testimony to and encourage one another in the pursuit of developing a robust, transformational relationship with the living God who cares deeply for each of us.

We have 3 types of groups; men's, women's, and couples. As we meet together for 1-1.5 hours per week we will be asking questions such as "How is it with your soul?" meaning "How is your life with Christ?" All members are asked to respond with the intention of learning how to examine and share about all areas of our life in relationship with Jesus.

Members in these groups will also challenge one another to apply themselves to keeping all the ordinances of God, such as Bible reading, praying, fellowship, attending church and consistent attendance of the group meeting.

Our Group Guidelines

We acknowledge our relationship with the Holy Spirit living within us as believers.

We need to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit who reveals the Word of God; Christ Jesus our Lord

We love one another and want to continually grow in relationship by doing life together.

Our presence in this group is just as important as being in church.

Please be mindful of time, it is important that everyone gets a chance to share.

(Early Stages of the Group)

Answering questions and sharing will become more natural when we do it.

Let's continue to learn how to interpret our lives through the lens of the gospel. This will result in us experiencing God throughout our days in new and deeper ways.

What is shared in this group stays in this group.

If you are interested in joining or leading an Anchored Life Group please reach out to the church office, or Pastor Andrew.

Operation Christmas Child



Girl Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A “WOW” ITEM

- Small backpack or purse
- Doll
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Jewelry making or hobby kit
- Large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Costume jewelry
- Hair accessories
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



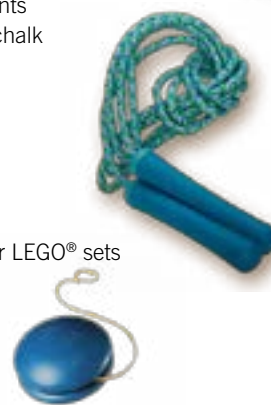
GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Finger puppets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



Collection Date:
November 8
Shipping Cost:
\$10/box

Operation Christmas Child



Boy Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL**, and **PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A “WOW” ITEM

- Small backpack
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Hobby kit
- Large toy truck or car
- Other large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Toy cars
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

Wondering if an item will fit in an Operation Christmas Child preprinted shoebox?

Cardboard dimensions: 12 x 7 x 4.38 inches

Plastic dimensions: 13 x 7.5 x 4.7 inches

Youth Activities

10	OCTOBER						2026
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00				1 Disciple	2 Disciple	3 Disciple	
4 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	5 Disciple	6 Disciple	7 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	8 Disciple	9 Disciple	10 Disciple	
11 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	12 Disciple	13 Disciple	14 D6 Bonfire Night 6:00-7:00	15 Disciple	16 Disciple	17 Disciple	
18 Fields of Faith 6:00-7:00	19 Disciple	20 Disciple	21 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	22 Disciple	23 Disciple	24 Disciple	
25 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	26 Disciple	27 Disciple	28 Disciple + Fellowship 6:00-7:00	29 Disciple	30 Disciple	31 Disciple	

Wednesday October 14th – D6 Bonfire

Not a normal night of D6. Everyone is invited to an evening around the bonfire filled with fellowship, worship, testimonies, games, and food. A main dish will be provided, but we ask everyone to bring a side dish to share.

Sunday October 18th – Fields of Faith

Join students from around the area at the Vinton-Shellsburg football field for Fields of Faith! This student-led FCA event gives the youth an opportunity to share their faith, pray together, and challenge one another to read the Bible and follow Jesus. Time is TBD

Wednesday October 28th – Student Led D6

Our Student Leadership Team will once again take the lead! Middle school students will have a normal night of D6 from 6:00-7:15 PM

And High School students will have a normal night of D6 from 7:30-9:00 PM

Check out our Church Center App for more details

D6 Wednesday Nights



**Join us at
D6 Family Nights
Our Normal Wednesday Night Schedule**

5:00-6:30pm	D6 Diner (Come as a family and enjoy dinner together ~ free will offering)
5:45-7:00pm	PreK to 5th grade
6:00-7:00pm	Adult Group Study
6:00-7:15pm	Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades)
7:00-8:30pm	High School Youth Group (9-12 grade)

*“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.
Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk
along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

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The Lord continues to fill the D6, Sunday School, and Nursery schedules -Praise be to God!

If you would like to be a part of this humbling and fun ministry, please reach out.

Text, call, or email Randina Johnson with any questions.

Phone: 319-573-6645

Email: Randina@anchorbibleia.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

