

Home Missions Today

This is John Shaw reporting the April 3, 2019, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

ZEELAND, MICHIGAN — Michael and Naomi Schout

Pastor Mike Schout reports that the Lord has generously provided a wonderful worship space for Grace Fellowship OPC. He opened a door for them at a place called “The Bridge,” a weekday after-school ministry to middle and high school students located on a main street in town. Of the 200 students in the program, 130 have no church home. Pray for Grace Fellowship as they explore ways to partner with this ministry. The church had their evening service launch on Sunday evening, March 17. They had many visitors, several supporters from Harvest OPC, together with the core group. God has been faithful, and the group looks forward to a full launch on Easter Sunday (morning and evening worship). Mike also shares that they recently had a wonderful outreach seminar at the local library called, “Hope and Help for the Depressed”. The seminar was led by Dr. David Murray of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and author of *Christians Get Depressed Too*. There were 150 in attendance and several new contacts were made. Mike asks you to pray that Grace Fellowship’s focus would be on Christ, His mission, and His glory.

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN — Bob and Grace Holda

Pastor Holda shares that God continues to bless Resurrection Presbyterian Church (RPC) with new members and regular visitors. Bob expects that most of the 12 people in the current membership class will join the church this spring; pray that it would be so! Also cause for praise— two new ministries have developed at the impetus of members’ interest in serving the body: (1) A weekly men’s theology group now gathers at the church on a weekday afternoon to study reformed doctrine. (2) Grace Holda is leading a one-time event: A Women’s Missionary Support Night in April. The women and young ladies of the church will gather at the church to enjoy a time of fellowship where they will hear some updates on OPC foreign missionaries and will then pray for them and write cards of encouragement. Bob requests prayer for RPC as they restart their door to door neighborhood walks in April, that they would have many opportunities to share Christ with those in need. Please also pray that RPC would have favor with their lessor, and that their upcoming lease renegotiation would result in a longer lease that continues to be reasonably affordable.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA — Matt and Lois Cotta

Matt Cotta is excited to share a new weekly outreach ministry happening in Pasadena. This past Friday the Pasadena OPC Outreach and Evangelism Committee began a prayer ministry at the Monrovia Street Fair. Starting at 6pm, Pastor Cotta and a half dozen church volunteers set up a table on the sidewalk with a banner that read “FREE PRAYER”. Matt reports that their first night went quite well. They met about two dozen people, many of whom were professing Christians, but not all. They prayed with all of them, shared the Gospel, and had some good conversations. They also passed out a lot of flyers about the church and “Ultimate Questions” tracts. A few people told them they would be visiting the church in the near future! Continued prayers are appreciated for this outreach ministry. Please also pray for their ESL outreach, Pasadena English Corner. It’s on hold right now. Volunteers are needed. Finally, pray that the church might be allowed to use the social hall in the church building they’re renting.

HURON, OHIO — Larry and Kalynn Oldaker

Grace Fellowship held joint worship services on a Sunday morning in February and March with Firelands Grace Church, an independent church that has discovered reformed theology and the OPC. This church of many younger families and led by a lay-pastor comes from a Pentecostal background but had already begun to adopt reformed theology and reformed principles of worship. The lay-pastor contacted Larry Oldaker late last year responding to Grace Fellowship’s outreach efforts and seeking his help to disciple them. After regular monthly discussions and expressing a desire to join the OPC by seeking membership in Grace Fellowship OPC, Pastor Larry Oldaker started weekly membership classes in March. Some twenty people are attending the classes each week. Grace Fellowship also continues to have visitors at their worship services and the combined group equals about 50. Larry shares that they’re excited about what the Lord is doing in opening a door for stronger and outward facing reformed witness in Erie County Ohio. Please pray that God will grant a unity among believers as they discuss theology and plan for the future. Pray that God will encourage others to join and empower their witness in the Sandusky-Huron area. Their next joint worship service is planned for Easter Sunday.

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

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