

The Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension

Home Missions Today

This is John Shaw reporting the May 1, 2019, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

KEY WEST, FLORIDA — Bill and Sessie Welzien

Bill Welzien, pastor of Keys Presbyterian Church (KPC), asks you to pray for the upcoming 43rd Annual Swim Around Key West taking place June 1. Over 200 swimmers are registered, and Pastor Welzien is the organizer of this event. He sees it as a way to glorify the Lord. All swimmers will receive goodie bags with Gospel literature, including invitations to the KPC Sunday morning service. This generally is the largest attendance of the church year. Please pray that all they do will be a good witness, for the salvation of the lost, and encouragement of any believers who will be present. Pray also for good, placid weather and a safe event. Bill shares that they are losing a couple from their church due to a job transfer. Pray they find a good Reformed congregation. Pray also that the Lord will bring other committed saints into KPC. Finally, Bill reports that his wife is much improved health-wise, but she still faces one more surgery to remove her dead kidney, which is scheduled to take place in June. Pray that the Welziens would have God's wisdom as they make decisions about her care and for a successful surgery.



CLARKSTON, GEORGIA — Chris and Grace Ann Cashen

Pastor Chris Cashen writes, "How do you pronounce 'resurrection'? What was a 'tomb', and was it full or empty? Over the last couple weeks, the children in our after-school program learned about these unique things of the Christian faith. An Iraqi man that the Lord brought to us is seeking truth. Having concluded that the 'god' of Islam is false, he is asking about who this Jesus is: God or man? An Afghan family, who cut off all contact a year ago, recently asked for help in getting to the airport and storing some items so they could visit family back home. Please pray that God will use these small acts of kindness to open a door to their hearts when they return. Praise God for a safe journey in March, as we took part of the Congolese asylum-seeking family to their first immigration court hearing in Buffalo, NY. Along the way, our new friends were able to see the love of the broader church in action as we were welcomed into the home of an OPC family in Columbus, OH. This past month we welcomed Ethiopian Pastor Melaku and his dear family to Clarkston. Praise God for this joyous family reunion and pray that the Lord will use Pastor Melaku to help us gather true worshipers in Clarkston."



COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO — David and Rebekah Graves

"The Lord continues to show his faithfulness as he grows Coeur d'Alene Reformed," says pastor David Graves. This week David will be meeting with the Banducci family to discuss membership classes. The Banduccis own the local lounge where David leads a Bible study. Since September they have been attending worship, mostly evening, but recently they have alternated with morning worship. Many in the congregation have enjoyed getting to know them, and now they've asked to join the church. Please pray for their membership discussion, and that the Lord would continue to draw the Banduccis to himself. Please also be in prayer for a man with whom David has regular conversations at the lounge. He was raised in a nominally Lutheran family but is a self-identified atheist. He has dealt with depression for decades and a divorce two years ago. David has had multiple deep discussions with him, and one recent conversation stemmed from this man watching a documentary on the Exodus. In this conversation, he asked David questions ranging from Christ's resurrection to his return. Pray in particular that the Lord would call this man to himself.



YUMA, ARIZONA — Jeremy and Gwen Baker

Pastor Jeremy Baker shares that Yuma OPC was very encouraged to have two families visit Easter weekend. One came on Good Friday and another on Easter Sunday. Both of these visitors were invited by members of Yuma OPC. "It's wonderful to see our congregation embrace a culture of everyday evangelism!" Jeremy also praises the Lord that so many winter visitors and military families have made Yuma OPC their home while they are in the area. They are a great source of encouragement to the life of the church. Please pray that the Lord might send more permanent year-round families to join the church. Pray that each one in the congregation would increase in their love for the Lord, love for each other, and especially in love for the lost. And finally, pray for boldness and opportunities to build relationships and share the gospel with others.



Look for the next edition of Home Missions Today on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Check our website, www.chmce.org and facebook page, facebook.com/opchomemissions/ for the latest news on home missions. To receive an email copy of Home Missions Today, send your request to HomeMissionsToday@opc.org.