

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the May 15, 2019, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

ANAHEIM HILLS, CALIFORNIA — Chris and Megan Hartshorn

Pastor Chris Hartshorn writes, “As we transition at Anaheim Hills Presbyterian Church from being a mission work to a new and separate congregation of the OPC on June 9, we want to say thank you and let you all know how much we appreciate the prayers of the saints from around the country and around the world. We know that the prayers of the righteous do, in fact, avail much! It has been a wonderful season of life and ministry for me personally, and a wonderful blessing and joy to see God build his church in Anaheim Hills. We are blessed to have gifted and capable men that God has raised up about to be ordained and installed to serve as elders and deacons, and still many other believers that are eager to serve God and one another. Please do pray that this would be a smooth transition, and that God would be pleased to continue to work in the next five years as he has been pleased to work over the past five years— that many would come to faith and that we would grow both numerically and spiritually. Please also pray that our light would shine brightly in Anaheim Hills and beyond, and that God would receive all the glory and honor that is due to him.”

DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA — Gregory and Ginger O'Brien

Pastor Greg O'Brien of Christ Church Downingtown (CCD) shares that the Lord continues his work in their midst, causing the church to grow in various ways. They are particularly grateful after finishing up a new member's class with 17 adults and children! Also in the past three months the church has had a steady stream of visitors, some already becoming regular attendees while others are considering whether or not CCD will be their church home. Greg personally has had the opportunity to meet many neighbors (none of whom are believers) and either invite them to church or share the Gospel. This month the church is starting a regular meeting devoted to teaching the faith to the youth while continuing to encourage families to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They are also starting a new Sunday school series on evangelism. Please pray for the new members, follow-up with visitors, conversion of neighbors, discipleship of children and youth, and in all of this the ministry of the word.

CORONA, CALIFORNIA— Andrew and Rebekah Canavan

Andrew Canavan shares that while Corona OPC is still in a season of transition, things are going very well. The core group remains strong, and on a given Sunday they have 55-60 people in attendance. They also continue to see a steady stream of visitors, most of whom are looking for a reformed, confessional church. “It's very encouraging!” Other notes of praise: officer training is underway and is going well. Pray for wisdom in this process as they wait to see who God will raise up. A monthly women's Bible study has just begun, co-led by Jane Crum and a woman from the church, and it's been very well received. Andrew reports that outreach has largely been informal, but the church recently started a new practice of spending one Sunday school a month in prayer, and the bulk of that prayer time is for evangelistic contacts made by church members. Ask the Lord to bear fruit from these efforts, and that more visitors would come and join the church. Finally, join in praising God that Andrew's ordination to serve at Corona OPC is this coming Lord's day, May 19.

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST — Jim Bosgraf

Regional Home Missionary Jim Bosgraf writes, “We praise God for the particularization of the Church in Pella, IA. Please pray for our mission works in Crystal Lake, IL; Davenport, IA; Andover, MN; and Oshkosh, Chippewa Falls, and Shawano, WI. We praise God for new contacts in Apple Valley, MN (with Nate Strom leading); West Plains, MO; Stevens Point, WI; Kearney, NE; and Iowa City, IA. There are also some potential opportunities coming up in Eastern Kansas and Nebraska. Please pray for wisdom in these opportunities, as well as for the Presbytery Home Missions Committee as they look for a man to be the new RHM. On an evangelism note, in my work as RHM I visit many churches. On these visits I will often encourage each family present to pick out one family in their area that may need Christ (or may need to see the love of Christ because of a difficult circumstance in their lives) and pray for that family for a year. If after one year their attentions have not produced fruit, they should trust them to the Lord and move their focus to another family.”

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

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