

The Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the August 7, 2019, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

CORONA, CALIFORNIA — Andrew and Rebekah Canavan

Pastor Andrew Canavan shares that Corona Presbyterian Church (CPC), like many churches, experienced a small dip in attendance over the summer as families traveled. But they also welcomed visitors throughout the summer who have returned and are considering making CPC their church home. In July they began what they hope will be a monthly tradition of church fellowship dinners every 4th Sunday. In addition to knitting the congregation together, they hope these dinners will provide an opportunity to invite newcomers or those who might not feel comfortable coming to a worship service. Please pray for CPC as they gear up for fall outreach. They have many plans in the works, from the fellowship dinners mentioned above, to evening events to engage with friends and neighbors, to *Christianity Explored*, to planning for a Christmas Lessons and Carols service. Ask the Lord to bless these outreach efforts and to give the church wisdom as they interact with unbelievers and also believers from different church backgrounds. “Our prayer is that we would be a welcoming and hospitable church where people can be refreshed with the gospel of God’s free grace to us in Christ.”



KEY WEST, FLORIDA — Bill and Sessie Welzien



Pastor Bill Welzien is pleased to share the following update on Keys Presbyterian Church. They had good weather for the 43rd Annual Swim Around Key West, and 176 swimmers from 27 states and 3 foreign countries participated. The Lord’s Day after the swim (June 2) gave a good crowd, with about a dozen visitors in attendance. Praise God! Thank you for praying for this big event in the life of the church. This fall will mark two special anniversaries: 1) In September the church will celebrate its 30th year since the first worship service in 1989. 2) The month of August is Bill’s 33rd anniversary of open air preaching at the Mallory Square pier. “It is more of a joy to me today than ever!” In one of his recent interactions at the pier, he asked a man who said he sometimes attended a Roman Catholic church with his family, “Why does God save sinners?” The answer, “So that they can then walk in the good works He prepared for them to walk in!” Bill pointed out that if we get the order wrong, we miss the gospel. He gave the man several tracts and books and urged him to read John’s Gospel. Please pray for this man and for the Lord’s continued blessing on the ministry in Key West.

COEUR D’ALENE, IDAHO — David and Rebekah Graves

Pastor David Graves reports that Coeur d’Alene Reformed has seen a surge of visitors over the summer. While this surge typically coincides with vacationers, this year it has also included six families that have moved to the area. Three of them are from OPC or Bible Presbyterian backgrounds and have talked of transferring their membership, and three of them are currently in the membership class. Praise be to God! Please pray for two of those families as they contemplate covenant baptism. Pastor Graves also requests prayer for a couple counseling situations: 1) for an unbelieving man who recently lost his believing mother. David was able to share with him the hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ. Pray that the Lord would grant him repentance unto life. 2) for an unmarried couple who are expecting a child. Pray that by the time the child is born that Christ would call them to repentance and life. Finally, on a personal note, please pray for the Graves’ middle son, Josiah, as he has been experiencing ongoing illnesses the past six months and has been referred to a children’s hospital. Please pray that the doctors would discover the cause of his illnesses and that they will be able to cure him of whatever is ailing him.



CLARKSTON, GEORGIA — Chris and Grace Ann Cashen



Evangelist Chris Cashen writes, “Certain experiences over the past months have helped us marvel at the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of these occurred at the end of July. We were given the opportunity to take many refugee children from Brentwood Apartments to a three day summer camp. These young ones from Syria, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and the Congo were exposed to the truth of the constant presence and saving grace of the God of Scripture. They rode horses, swam, fished, canoed, and even climbed a 45’ tall ‘rock’ wall and zip-lined back down to the ground. After one of the younger children made it to the top of the wall, looking down, she burst into tears. The fear of height was so significant, this little one was paralyzed. So, Grace Ann donned a helmet and safety harness and climbed her way to the top. Once on top, Grace Ann convinced our little friend that the rope could be depended upon to get her safely back to the ground. As the children were taught, it is quite amazing that the Lord Jesus has promised to be always present with each child of God. Especially when, like Peter, we take our eyes off of Jesus and become fearful of the winds and the waves of this world, Christ reaches down and pulls us up to safety in His powerful arms. Please pray that these children would clearly see the light of Christ within our hearts as we seek to minister to them in, sometimes, unexpected ways.”

Look for the next edition of Home Missions Today on Wednesday, August 21, 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.