

# Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the September 4, 2019, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

## **GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN — Shane and Rachelle Bennett**

We are pleased to introduce to you Rev. Shane Bennett, organizing pastor of Reformation OPC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Shane grew up in the small town of Edenville, Pennsylvania. His wife, Rachelle, was born in Portugal as a missionary kid and lived there through her high school years. Shane graduated from Westminster Seminary California in 2013 and served as pastor of Faith OPC in Fawn Grove, Pennsylvania for the last four years. The Bennetts have four children: Malachi (8), Isaiah (5), Eliana (4), and Esther (2). Shane looks forward to working with Reformation OPC through preaching the gospel, administering the sacraments, and reaching out to the community of southeast Grand Rapids with a focus on serving the students of Calvin College. Please pray for the Bennetts as they relocate and face the challenges that come with moving to a new home: beginning a new school year in a different place, establishing a new routine, and making lasting friendships. Pray for Shane as he prepares to take up the duties of this new call.

## **DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA — Greg and Ginger O'Brien**

The challenges Christ Church has faced in recent months have been outweighed by the generous blessings of the Lord. There is a growing sense of love and unity among the members as well as a deep concern for the lost and underfed. New and returning visitors continue to come and are warmly received by the congregation. A Sunday evening prayer service has begun as well as regular youth discipleship meetings which meet once or twice a month. Two families will soon be moving from the area. While they will be greatly missed, others have joined the fellowship. Nine communicant members and eight non-communicant members were received in the month of August. A Sunday School class on evangelism has provided opportunities to learn how to share the faith and to practice doing it. Pray that the members of Christ Church would grow in the conviction that the gospel is the power of God to give life to those who are dead in their sins, and out of this conviction be emboldened in their Christian witness.

## **OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN — Bob and Grace Holda**

Organizing Pastor Bob Holda offers reasons for giving praise to God as well as prayer requests for Resurrection OPC. The Lord has provided new members [twelve this year] and an average of fourteen visitors per week. Some new visitors are interested in pursuing membership. The offerings have increased and are covering 90% of the income goal. A four-year lease of their meeting place [with options for years five and six] has been arranged at an affordable rate. A women's Bible Study is now underway and is expected to be well-attended. Pray for the four ordained elders in the group and their work with Pastor Holda in establishing long-range plans for the congregation. A meeting is set for September 16 for this purpose. Specifically pray for God's wisdom as the men discuss the path to organization as well as the development of the congregation within the realms of divine worship, mutual edification, gospel witness, and OPC identity. Finally, pray for the Lord to foster an organized approach to diaconal care within the flock, and that he would provide deacons to take up the work.

## **WACO, TEXAS — Jason and Amanda Kirklin**

Pastor Jason Kirklin reports that fourteen members have been added to the roles of Trinity OPC so far in 2019. In light of growing interest, another membership class may begin soon. Rejoice with Jason that giving has been strong. A current ministry emphasis is officer training with the use of the book *The Elder*, by Cornelius Van Dam, along with sermons on the pastoral letters. Pray for the ongoing outreach efforts to students at Baylor University. Last month, members participated in the Baylor Fair by welcoming students to a display table. Despite their less-than-optimal location, conversations took place with forty people. Students have visited Trinity as a result—some new, some from contacts made at last year's fair. On Sunday, September 8, Trinity will receive a family of seven. Pastor Kirklin will have the honor of baptizing five children along with their mother who has believed in Christ for years but has not yet received the sacrament. Give thanks to God for the others who attend worship and are inquiring about membership.

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

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