

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the February 19, 2020, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

CLARKSTON, GEORGIA — Chris and Grace Ann Cashen

Evangelist Chris Cashen writes, “The body of Christ is such a blessing. At times, the providential hand of God allows us to see and appreciate different facets of the body. This past November, we were given the privilege of participating in the joy of a Congolese wedding. The family of four which the Lord brought to our doors in 2018 came as an unmarried couple due to deeply held traditions in their home country. As they received the ministry of the Word, the Spirit convicted the couple that they needed to submit themselves to the Word of God and not cling to the traditions of men. It is only as we have engaged in ministering to those aliens and strangers who are suffering the tribulations of this world that we have been enabled to see the blessings of the culturally disparate body of Christ. Please pray that the Lord would bring more of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness to our multi-lingual Bible studies, and that we would have the wisdom of God as we seek to open the truths of Scripture to this diverse body of Christ.”

CORONA, CALIFORNIA — Andrew and Rebekah Canavan

Corona OPC is thankful for an increase of visitors in recent weeks. Since many of these visitors come with previous church experiences, Pastor Andrew Canavan asks that you pray for wisdom and clarity for the congregation as they answer questions and share what it means to be a Reformed and Presbyterian church. Corona recently welcomed a covenant child into full communicant membership. This was a day of rejoicing for the family and for the whole church as they saw such a clear example of God’s faithfulness to his covenant promises. The monthly men’s breakfasts have grown into a rich time of fellowship and discussion. They are currently working through Tim Keller’s *Making Sense of God*, and the apologetics focus of this book has led to great conversations and reminders of foundational biblical truths. Pray that this book would equip the men to share the gospel with neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Pastor Canavan shares that they are very thankful for spiritual and relational maturity in the group of men who are considering service as elders or deacons. Please pray for wisdom for these potential church officers and for the provisional session as they seek the Lord’s direction for next steps. Finally, please join in praying that the Lord would continue to shape Corona OPC into a church that is marked by love for God’s Word, rich fellowship, and commitment to the means of grace and constant prayer (Acts 2:42).

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN — Bob and Grace Holda

Resurrection OPC is getting more outside requests for diaconal help which is leading to more opportunities to share Christ. Pastor Bob Holda reports that there is one particular family that has attended worship once and seems genuinely interested in learning more about the church and Christianity. Since there are no deacons at Resurrection, Pastor Holda and one of the elders have been working with this family as well as fielding the other requests. They would appreciate your prayers for wisdom and discernment in this mercy ministry. One of the bigger things going on in the life of the church is preparations for a new Sunday school program this spring. Pray for qualified teachers to volunteer, wisdom about curriculum, and for the coming change in worship schedule to be well received. There are a great number of refugees in Oshkosh, and recently a Swahili-speaking couple from the Congo, along with their children, have been attending worship on a regular basis. Since they don’t speak any English, Pastor Holda has been working with Pastors Chris Cashen and Dan McBride to minister to this family. Please pray for this unique ministry opportunity! Bob offers a praise that Grace’s pregnancy is going well, and the symptoms of his Lyme’s disease have lessened significantly. Thank you for your prayers!

PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA — Chris and Nancy Walmer

The Presbytery of Central Pennsylvania (PCPA) continues to see new churches established within its bounds. Elder Chris Walmer serves the PCPA as its part-time regional home missions coordinator. He is assisting the presbytery’s evangelist, Ron Beabout, at Grace and Truth OPC in Mifflintown. During 2020 Grace and Truth plans to reach out to the nearby and larger community of Lewistown. The congregation is praying that the Lord will lead five new families to worship with them during the year. The PCPA’s second mission work is Covenant OPC in Chambersburg. Covenant is currently enduring a trying time as the young daughter (Zoey) of its pastor Josh McKamy is in a battle with cancer. Please pray for Zoey, Josh, Kristen and their other children Micah and Kayla. Remember the session, congregation, family and the wider church as they minister to the needs of the McKamy family at this time. Also, two groups are meeting regularly within the presbytery with the hope, that in time, they would become OPC mission works. Pray for wisdom as the PCPA home and foreign missions committee considers how to conduct church planting beyond 2020. The committee is considering their need and ability to call a full-time regional home missionary.

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

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