

The Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension

# Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the March 18, 2020, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

## **ZEELAND, MICHIGAN — Michael and Naomi Schout**

Pastor Mike Schout and the congregation of Grace Fellowship OPC continue to see the Lord's hand at work in very encouraging ways. Led by evangelist and intern Eric Cuer, a group of about eight people meet twice a month after evening worship to consider "Praying Evangelistically". This group has stimulated numerous evangelistic opportunities and has led to some amazing fruit. For instance, a young woman and her five kids have now attended worship several times because of a workplace invitation from one of the group members. Friday Night Fellowships continue to provide both fellowship and outreach opportunities. In February Grace hosted a movie night and showed "Overcomer". Several people from the community came, including a family from The Bridge Ministry where the congregation worships. "Please pray that, in light of our quick numerical growth, we wouldn't lose sight of our mission to reach the lost around us and among us." Pastor Schout also asks to you pray that the Zeeland church would lovingly and generously welcome and assimilate visitors into the fellowship of the body, for the glory of God.



## **WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA — Calvin and Connie Keller**

Harvest OPC rejoices in new members, including the Nevergall family whose six children were baptized. Also, Pastor Keller shares that they have several new families who are almost ready to join. Please pray for the outreach committee as they plan ahead for the annual Dixie Fair and "Evening Service in the Park". Pray for the follow-up of contacts made in the neighborhood and for Rolando, a brother of a member, who has begun attending worship. Ask the Lord to call them to faith. Pray for people in the congregation with continuing health problems and for Calvin's wife Connie, who was recently diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a genetic degenerative syndrome. Finally, pray for the Lord to provide a larger meeting facility that will meet the needs of Harvest's growing body, and for the Lord to raise up elders. Harvest is so grateful for your prayers!



## **NEON, KENTUCKY — Jay and Andrea Bennett**

Pastor Jay Bennett reports the following exciting happenings at Neon OPC: "A young man named Austin Ison was recently received into membership by reaffirmation of faith. Pray for his continued growth in the faith. We've had a family of four and an older gentleman visiting regularly. Pray that they would take the step of becoming members. We continue to hold two weekly outreach Bible studies on two college campuses. Pray that the studies would continue to be well attended and that others might join us. A men's addiction recovery center is in the process of opening across the street from our church building! Pray that they will be receptive to our ministry, and that we might be invited to hold Bible studies for the patients. We also have a young man named who will likely begin elder training in the next few months. Pray for the Lord's blessing and for discernment with respect to his potential call. Giving has continued to increase over the last year. Giving among local members has reached 54% of our budget! Pray for continued and increased faithfulness in giving among the congregation."



## **PRESBYTERY OF OHIO — Mike and Elizabeth Diercks**

Regional Home Missions Coordinator Mike Diercks has met with the overseeing sessions and committees of the presbytery's mission works to complete an annual review of progress toward becoming new and separate congregations. It is exciting that Firelands Grace OPC in Sandusky, OH has called two men to serve as elders and Rev. Larry Oldaker to be their pastor. Pray for this work as they continue to grow in love and unity. Along with supporting the existing mission works, Mike is helping two new emerging works (Sharon, PA and Fairmont, WV) on building their core group members. Ask the Lord to add to these core groups and further the work according to his plans and purposes. Mike is currently working with two groups who have inquired about becoming possible church plants. Pray for wisdom for future interactions and planning. Finally, Mike is serving the committee and presbytery by organizing an evangelism conference on May 30, 2020 with Rev. Eric Hausler as the keynote speaker. Ask the Lord to guide these plans, and to be with Mike as he ever seeks to wisely balance his time between his work and church ministry.

