

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the August 5, 2020, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA — Ethan and Catherine Bolyard

Heritage OPC is grateful for the Lord's provision and protection. Pastor Ethan Bolyard shares that they recently lost their rental space, but two churches in the area, including the local PCA congregation, have graciously allowed Heritage to use their sanctuaries. This arrangement is only temporary, and so they continue to look for other options until their new building is ready for use. Please pray for wisdom and zeal as they seek to complete renovations on that building sometime this fall. Pray, too, for discernment as Heritage begins the process toward becoming a particularized congregation. They recently opened nominations for elder and deacon, with hopes that the Lord will raise up men full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit to serve. Praise for the Lord's recent protection during hurricane Isaias. Pray for those adversely affected by the hurricane, especially small business owners, including a local farmer in their congregation whose barn was damaged and who lost a number of animals. Finally, Pastor Bolyard asks you to pray "that the upheaval of our times would draw us closer together as a community of faith, bearing one another's burdens and stirring up one another to love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the Day approaching."

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA — Matthew and Lois Cotta

Pastor Matthew Cotta writes, "The denomination can give thanks with Pasadena Presbyterian Church that, despite all that is going on, we are experiencing no strife or disunity as is plaguing other congregations. This is truly of the Lord. You can also give thanks that while gathering for indoor public worship has been banned by the principalities and powers here in California, we have been able to gather publicly outdoors for worship. God has blessed California, after all, with a very hospitable climate. It has actually been quite refreshing worshipping outdoors of late. We've been worshipping in the backyard of my house (which is providentially quite large for the area and features a nice, shaded car port). We've even had visitors come to worship with us. We are also launching an online ESL outreach through meetup.com using platforms like GoToMeeting and Zoom, and we ask for prayers that the Lord would cause it to bear fruit."

MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA — Ryan and Rochelle Cavanaugh

Mission Church joins the grateful chorus of many churches excited to be meeting in person for worship. Pastor Ryan Cavanaugh shares the praise that in addition to meeting together for two months, they've also had regular visitors who are now ready to take steps towards membership. Praise God! The new semester at Mid-America Reformed Seminary is starting and so Mission has also recently seen some new student visitors. They are planning to do three *Christianity Explored* home gatherings in different communities in the region in the next twelve months. Please pray for wisdom as they plan these outreaches as well as our powerful Lord to move people to come. Please pray for creativity as they consider outreach in the "new normal." Continue to pray for unity as Mission grows as a church body. Last, ask the Lord to raise up officers among his people at Mission.

DAYTON, OHIO — Brad and Cinnamon Peppo

Pastor Brad Peppo writes, "First Street Reformed has been able to meet for in-person worship for the past few months; attendance has not yet returned to pre-COVID numbers, but new folks have been visiting, and several others have begun participating in worship via livestream. The group thanks God for the year of service provided by the family of a ruling elder from their mother church and rejoices in the election of a new ruling elder to take his place at the end of this month. Signs are encouraging for the previous Bible study to be able to resume at one local college campus; the group is praying that studies might resume at two other campuses second semester. A mask mandate has delayed the work's plans to launch an English as a Second Language program in September, but a new relationship with a local Turkish community is beginning to blossom in promising ways. Intern Tyler Detrick has been a great blessing to the group!"

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

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