

Home Missions Today

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

CUMMING, GEORGIA — Kevin and Rachel Medcalf

As of July 31, Providence Presbyterian Church was organized as a particular congregation of the OPC. Praise be to God! Roughly 115 were in attendance at the service of particularization. Two elders were installed and Kevin Medcalf was installed as pastor. Pastor Medcalf shares his gratitude to the Lord, not only for these good things, but also for new visitors and an upcoming infant baptism on August 30. He asks you to pray for the church in the following ways: for the Lord to raise up deacons in the congregation, for the new session as they transition from mission status, for those looking for job changes, and for God's Spirit to bless the ministries of Providence, especially the ministry of the Word. He also asks that you would join in praying that pre-Covid visitors would return, that more would find and join the church, that their outreach would be fruitful to bring the lost into Christ's flock, and that one day Providence would be used by the Lord to plant a daughter church.

YUMA, ARIZONA — Jeremy and Gwen Baker

The Lord has continued to bless Yuma OPC throughout the summer. Since the middle of May, the congregation has been meeting in person, though live-streamed services are ongoing. On average, about 30 people attend in person and 30 attend online. The Lord has also added to Yuma's number. A family of five (year-round residents!) joined in June and another couple has been attending regularly for the last two months. Pastor Jeremy Baker shares, "our God continues to sustain us, but we are definitely missing each other. For the most part, the only church activity we have had for the last several months has been morning worship. The saints miss being together. We are hoping to begin two small group Bible studies in September. Please pray that these will take place!"

CORONA, CALIFORNIA — Andrew and Rebekah Canavan

Pastor Andrew Canavan writes, "From a human perspective, 2020 has been an unexpected year for all churches, and Corona OPC is no exception. But we are thankful that this year does not take our Lord by surprise and that he lavishly gives wisdom and provision when we ask. We have been meeting for worship outdoors since mid-July due to the state government's restriction on indoor services. In God's providence, we have an ideal location and all the equipment needed to make this happen. Please pray for good weather on Sunday mornings: holding outdoor worship during the summer in a desert climate can get warm. Praise the Lord for visitors who have stayed including members of sister churches who are new to the area. Since the beginning of the year, we've also had a few visitors from mainline churches which have remained closed. One of those visitors has become a faithful attender. Please pray for our new members class this fall and for the Lord to provide as we recover from a dip in giving during the late winter and spring. In the midst of an unpredictable year, the Lord is working through Corona OPC: there has been great unity and love among the members of the mission work, a covenant child has professed faith, leaders are being raised up to serve as officers, members are reporting remarkable growth in their love for Christ, and God's Word is proclaimed in person each Lord's Day!"

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO — Mike and Elizabeth Diercks

Regional Home Missions Coordinator Mike Diercks organized an evangelism conference entitled "God's Sovereignty and Everyday, Ordinary Encounters" with Rev. Eric Hausler (Christ the King OPC - Naples, FL) as the keynote speaker. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the conference was shifted from onsite to online. Over 50 attendees from 8 churches tuned in, learned, and interacted with Rev. Hausler. These presentations were recorded and uploaded to the Presbytery of Ohio's website (pohopc.org; see "Conference"). Mike also created a study questionnaire to complement the conference. Recently, Mike launched a YouTube channel where he will do a monthly 3-5 minute interview with a different presbytery church planter. These videos can be shared during a Sunday School hour, during a spotlight on missions moment, or sent to the members of the church. Each video will give a current update on the work as well as current prayer needs. Finally, Mike still visits the mission works to encourage and support them during these strange times. He also has several groups and individuals inquiring about the OPC and mission works. Your prayers for these matters are appreciated.

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

To receive an email copy of Home Missions Today, send a request to HomeMissionsToday@opc.org.