

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the September 2, 2020, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

COEUR d'ALENE, IDAHO — David and Rebekah Graves

As Coeur d'Alene Reformed Church completes denominational support this month, Pastor David Graves writes, "We give thanks to God for His faithfulness over the last four years. The congregation continues to grow, and it is our hope that within the next year CDA Reformed will be ready to petition for particularization. When I arrived, CDA Reformed largely consisted of one extended family that has since moved on. Yet, in the Lord's faithfulness, He has continued to add to our numbers. I am currently leading the fifth membership class in four years. Please pray that the Lord would add these families to the congregation as faithful members. Also pray for the four men in officer training that they would be diligent in seeking wisdom from God and the session as they pursue the office of elder. We are grateful for the financial and prayer support we have received from the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension, and we pray that God would continue to use CHMCE to grow His church."

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS — Carl and Stacy Miller

Pastor Carl Miller shares, "God continues to pour out His grace abundantly in His work in New Braunfels!" New Braunfels OPC continues to meet for in-person worship and Christian education on the Lord's Day. The congregation is healthy and growing. They are excited to have two new families who have finished membership classes and will be welcomed into membership in the coming weeks. The congregation is also in the process of acquiring a new meeting place. The new facility will give them the ability to move to morning worship, as well as provide increased flexibility in ministry activities during the week. Please pray for God's blessing and provision in the remaining steps of that process. "In this time of societal turmoil, we're thankful for God's work in maintaining peace and unity in the body. The saints enjoy sweet fellowship and take benefit from events such as our weekly Prayer Meeting, Men's Fellowship, and monthly Ladies Fellowship," Pastor Miller commented. Please pray for God's guidance and blessing of New Braunfels OPC in having a greater and greater impact in the community for the cause and glory of Jesus Christ!

WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI — Paul and Sarah Murreale

The Lord has been greatly blessing the work in West Plains. Pastor Paul Murreale reports that Covenant Reformed Church has had newcomers on an almost weekly basis, most of which stay. A number are driving over an hour in order to come. They finished an eight-week new members Sunday School and already need to hold another new members class! They've also had the delight of interviewing families for membership and experiencing them take their vows. It has been a really joyous time! Pastor Murreale also notes that the congregation has genuinely enjoyed times of fellowship and getting to know one another. He says, "You can pray for us as we seek for opportunities to reach out to our community. Like everyone we are struggling with a lack of natural community events because of the pandemic. We have grown a lot faster than we thought we would; pray that we can shepherd the people that we have well. We had started praying in January for five new families in 2020. God has been answering this prayer almost fully in the past two months!"

CLARKSTON, GEORGIA — Chris and Grace Ann Cashen

Evangelist Chris Cashen writes, "As Jesus speaks of separating sheep from goats upon His return, He references works done by the faithful. We may be tempted to think of these works (Matthew 25:35-36) as blessings for the recipient. Yet, as the work in Clarkston continues, we are learning that it is the worker who is blessed. Beginning in April, we have had the great privilege of ministering to a young asylum-seeking Christian from Africa. Imprisoned in his home country, he was beaten for trusting only in Christ. Fleeing Africa, leaving everyone and everything behind, he sought refuge in the US. At the border, he was immediately placed in ICE detention, where he has remained since December 2018. Despite his imprisonment - despite his beatings - despite his 20 month-long detention in the US, he remains faithful to his Savior. While all of us have recently 'suffered' through lockdowns (with much grumbling), this young man has truly suffered. Nonetheless, as he waits patiently upon the Lord (Prov 27:14), he prays that he would learn all that Jesus would teach him through his current detention. As we minister to this one in prison, this stranger, we are the ones being blessed by his joy in Jesus. Please pray for the Lord's mercy to be poured out upon our dear brother in Christ."

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

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