

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the December 9, 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

Grace Fellowship OPC is currently in the middle of a couple major steps. Pastor Michael Schout shares, “The first step is preparing for particularization as four men have been nominated for elder and four for deacon. These men will be interviewed by the Harvest Session and, if certified, will be up for election at our congregational meeting in January. Our hope is to particularize after the April presbytery meeting, Lord willing. We’re also seeking the Lord’s will as a church family regarding a potential future home. A congregational vote is scheduled for December 15 to purchase a 14,000 square foot property that was once a grocery store but was transformed into a church within the last five years. It is located on Main Street in Zeeland, right next to a Dollar General and Ace Hardware. The Dollar General has an average of 800 customers every day, so the location is great! Please pray for these next big steps for our church; for wisdom, unity, and a gospel mission vision. Our desire is not to get comfortable, but to respond to the glorious generosity of God in the gospel by bringing Christ to the lost in our community and discipling one another. We are humbled by God’s goodness and energized by Christ’s power to save and sanctify.”

WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI — Paul and Sarah Mourreale

Pastor Paul Mourreale writes, “The Lord has been so good to us here in the Ozarks. Covenant Reformed Church is blessed to meet in our building (social distance style) and continues to see newcomers. We will be holding our third new members class of the past four months in December. We recently had a family in the process of moving to West Plains, which gave our church an opportunity to minister. The family rented an old farmhouse which needed work and it was so encouraging to see the body of Christ rally together and help with cleaning and painting. The church also came out to help unload the moving truck. We are so grateful for a body who is willing to serve! Finally, we are encouraged by others who have reached out to us from beyond our community via email and phone calls. One recent phone call was from a man who lives in Springfield, MO and desires us to plant a church there. He has been following our ministry online. He said that he grew up in West Plains, and that his father had prayed for over 30 years for a reformed church to be planted here! We have been so humbled by the Lord’s goodness in answering the prayers of his saints. Here is a man who no longer lives in this community, who prayed for years and we are reaping the fruit of that prayer! WOW! Thank you for continuing to pray for our work here in Southern Missouri.”

SANDUSKY, OHIO — Larry and Kalynn Oldaker

Pastor Larry Oldaker reports, “The Lord of the Church graciously moves us forward in sanctification and grace here in Sandusky, Ohio. God has protected us from ill effects of the pandemic at Firelands Grace OPC. One member was recently diagnosed with a positive case, but his symptoms were mild and he has completed his home quarantine. We resumed our in-person mid-week Bible study and prayer time this fall. We still meet for prayer prior to morning worship on Sundays. We’ve made prayer a vital part of our ministry. Several have taken an initiative to plan a Christmas program that will be available by live-stream to area nursing homes since we will not be able to go caroling in the nursing home this year. While a few families who have older relatives or those with compromised health haven’t returned to worship, we continue to connect with them in various ways. Two new families have been faithfully attending worship weekly since October. Radio advertisements are being run in December focusing on hope, God’s grace in Christ, and our need for fellowship. The men have done some work on our building and enjoyed the fellowship. There are plans to get the men together more. Please pray for those families with health concerns, those still needing employment, a building project opportunity as our building is inadequate, that our visitors would connect more, and that others would come as many of us have conversations day by day.”

YUMA, ARIZONA — Jeremy and Gwen Baker

Yuma OPC and her pastor Jeremy Baker continue to appreciate your prayers. Pastor Baker writes, “Currently in Yuma, we continue to meet in-person and stream our Sunday AM service and PM Bible study online. Over the last several months, several families have received new orders and have moved but several have also visited and are considering making Yuma OPC their church home. We definitely miss our winter visitors as they either are not traveling this year or cannot because they live in Canada. In the midst of this challenging season, the Lord is still blessing and sustaining us here in the desert! Please pray for evangelism opportunities as things are still somewhat restricted. And please pray that our new families would make Yuma OPC their church home.”

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, December 23, 2020.

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