

Home Missions Today

This is John Shaw reporting the December 23, 2020, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

CORONA, CALIFORNIA — Andrew and Rebekah Canavan

“In spite of the curveballs of 2020, Corona Presbyterian Church, by God’s grace alone, is able to close this year on several joyful notes,” shares Pastor Canavan. “We’ve recently welcomed several new members and have another membership class planned for January. One of these new members is a covenant child whose profession of faith showcases God’s faithfulness through the ordinary means of grace in his church and the ordinary discipleship that happens within families. A second cause for rejoicing is that we were able to hold our Christmas Lessons & Carols service a few weeks ago. Due to COVID restrictions, we did this outdoors. This actually made for a festive atmosphere where we were able to welcome a number of newcomers. We read key Scriptures, sang familiar carols, and gave a brief gospel presentation. Everyone left with a beautifully decorated Christmas cookie and a card inviting them to join us on a Sunday morning. We are very grateful not only for an outreach event, but also that this service enabled many members of the mission work to use their gifts toward a common goal of making Christ known to our neighbors. We prize the prayers of God’s people for, first, an end to COVID-related restrictions in our area; second, for clear progress in our officer training efforts; and, third, for a solid close to the year in terms of giving. We give thanks to the Lord for his goodness in building his church in Corona!”

NEON, KENTUCKY — Jay and Andrea Bennett

The Lord is sustaining Neon OPC. Most families are now back in worship on Sundays, and weekly studies have continued on Zoom. Pastor Bennett meets each Thursday evening at the local men’s addiction recovery center. The church hopes to partner with them to provide a theological library for the men in the near future. Please pray for the continued blossoming of ministry there. Please also pray for healing for five (and possibly six) congregants who have tested positive for COVID in the last few weeks, including Pastor Bennett and his wife Andrea. The Bennetts are recovering well, but a couple members are currently hospitalized. Finally, pray for resolution and return, as Neon lost the attendance of visiting families and some members due to COVID.

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS — Carl and Stacey Miller

Pastor Miller writes, “New Braunfels OPC has been richly blessed by our Lord. We have entered into a new and exciting chapter in the life of our church.” The congregation moved into their new building on November 1, and the transition has gone smoothly. This new location has enabled the church to achieve its goals of being able to meet for morning worship, as well as have flexibility to expand midweek ministry in New Braunfels. Pastor Miller shares, “From day one in the new space, we began a new cadence of Sunday School (for all ages), Morning Worship, and Evening Worship each Lord’s Day. We’ve also been able to have in-person midweek prayer meetings, officer training, and membership class at our new building. Folks have been encouraged and are actively participating.” New Braunfels OPC has several new families who have become regular attenders in the last few months. Pastor Miller has recently started another new membership class. Class discussion has been good and fruitful. Please pray that the Lord would continue to sustain peace and unity in the body. Pray for the congregation as they launch new outreach opportunities. Pray that God would encourage and build up the men in officer training. Pray also that the Lord would bless and be at work in the discipleship opportunities He has brought about in the congregation.

PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHWEST — Mark and Peggy Sumpter

Mark Sumpter, RHM for the Presbytery of the Southwest, serves newer groups and mission works scattered around Texas. He writes, “As God hears and answers your prayers, six different fields (Wichita Falls, Waco, Bryan-College Station, New Braunfels, Crosby, and Richmond) are developing and expanding their service and witness unto the Lord Jesus. What specific matters need your prayers? Telephone visitor follow-up; diaconal counseling, care, and financial assistance; open-air preaching on a state university campus; the preached Word, presenting Christ’s claims in week-to-week public worship; weekly prayer guides sent out to highlight answers to prayer and items for petition; informational and planning meetings to foster encouragement and progress; a special focused season of prayer; gift cards dropped off to households who experience an unexpected hardship; welcome packets for visitors to worship; text messages sent as a new way to do a ‘door-step visit’; sermons uploaded online to reach out in a wider way; communicants’ class training by using *Confessing Christ*; a gospel literature table set up for ministry at a city park; Zoom or Google hangout counseling meetings taking place; men taking classes and getting practical experience for elder and deacon training; and session meeting reviews of objectives and goals for these fields. Your prayers for faith, wisdom, guidance, and grace and truth are central for the daily nitty-gritty progress of the gospel throughout these six fields! Thank you!”

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

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