

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the January 6, 2021, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY — Chris Byrd

We are pleased to welcome Evangelist Chris Byrd to denominational prayer support as he labors at Grace OPC in Westfield, NJ. Following his graduation from WTS in 2018, Chris completed a year-long pastoral internship at Knox OPC in Silver Spring, MD. At the end of 2019 he began serving part-time at Grace OPC in Westfield, NJ (about 30 minutes from NYC) until he was ordained and installed as Evangelist there this past October. He writes, “The vision is to grow Grace church (currently 60 members) and daughter a second church in the next 3-5 years. I praise the Lord for the ways He has already begun to work (average Sunday worship attendance has increased by about 20 over the past 6 months, and we now have 12 in a new members class!). Pray the Lord will bless my evangelism in the community with His power. Pray for wisdom in equipping and leading the congregation in evangelism, that He would give us an increasing passion for the Great Commission. Pray for the Lord to pour out His Spirit upon Westfield and the surrounding communities to convict and convert lost people—both nominally church and unchurched—and that He will use us as His instruments!”

ARROYO, PUERTO RICO — Bradney and Eileen Lopez

Iglesia Presbiteriana Sola Escritura continues to grow in the midst of uncertain times. Pastor Bradney Lopez reports that the church is still seeing many regular visitors, often simply because their doors are open for in-person worship. The new family that joined in October plugged into ministry right away, with one family member creating a church website and redesigning the church’s social media sites and podcast format. “This is something that I tried to do for years but I never had the time. Then the Lord brought us this family,” shares Bradney. Another blessing is a family from Cabo Rojo who have expressed an interest in joining and will begin membership classes this month. It is a two-hour drive from Cabo Rojo to Arroyo, and yet this family has been faithfully coming every Sunday and even to some mid-week activities. Bradney explains, “They’ve said there are no solid reformed churches there. Who knows, maybe we’ll be planting a church in Cabo Rojo one day?” Pastor Bradney asks that you please continue to pray for church growth in 2021. He also asks you to pray for his wife Eileen who had an early miscarriage last month.

WILMINGTON, OHIO — Stephen and Felicia Lauer

Pastor Stephen Lauer writes, “Our Lord Jesus continues to build his kingdom in Wilmington. We recently went Christmas caroling as a church. We were well received by neighbors on streets near the church, and hope to follow up with them in the near future. Due to COVID, we have been unable to conduct monthly nursing home services since March, but were blessed to be able to go caroling outside the windows of residents! We give thanks for this chance to reach the elderly with the joy of Jesus’ birth. Please be in prayer for families of Wilmington Reformed Church, the overseeing session, and the Presbytery Home Missions Committee as we work together through some significant challenges at an upcoming congregational meeting on January 13.”

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA — Dave and Elizabeth Holmlund

Presbytery of Philadelphia Home Missions continues to seek God’s leading on how to add a second mission work to what the Lord is doing at Christ Church Downingtown with organizing pastor Greg O’Brien. RHM Dave Holmlund has had one steady Bible study up in northeast PA in the town of Mountain Top for about two years, but it has been especially hard to grow the ministry during the COVID pandemic. The silver lining to that situation is that a regular newspaper column in the Mountaintop Eagle presented an opportunity to comment upon the difficulties in our society during the pandemic with natural connections back to our hope in Christ and the truth of God’s word. Meanwhile, a large group in Central Bucks County near Doylestown has been meeting on Sunday mornings and considering steps to become a mission work. Pray that Pastor Holmlund would have sufficient wisdom to help lead this group to greater doctrinal unity, closer attachment to the church, and greater zeal for carrying out Christian mission in Bucks County through faithfulness to God’s word.

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

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