

Home Missions Today

This is John Shaw reporting the March 17, 2021, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN — Shane and Rachelle Bennett

Reformation has been blessed to be growing numerically in recent months. Pastor Shane Bennett reports, “In January, five new members were received into the rolls of the church, one of which included an adult baptism. In February I was informed by two families who have been visiting for the last several months that they wished to transfer their membership. Finally, in March I began an inquirers course that includes six individuals: three adults in two different households and three covenant children. Praise God for his steady building up of his church! We long for the day when we would be self-sustaining and able to plant other congregations as well. In January I began going into the local neighborhoods, door to door, and inviting neighbors to worship at Reformation. We plan to continue doing this once a month. One positive interaction we had came from a woman who told me she had been weeping for the nation and feeling sorry for herself. In the midst of that we knocked on the door and asked her how we could pray for her. This greatly encouraged her. We have yet to see her visit for worship, but I continue to pray for her. Pray that God would bring in the harvest and open up gospel conversations through these very ordinary meetings.”

YUMA, ARIZONA — Jeremy and Gwen Baker

Pastor Jeremy Baker shares, “Winter and spring are beautiful months out here in sunny Yuma! Yuma OPC continues to be a faithful and steady group of saints. The last Lord’s Day of February was extra encouraging. Four of our young people (including my youngest daughter, Dahlia) made public profession of faith! All four kids were incredibly excited to become communicant members and to take the Lord’s Supper. We had a BBQ at the park planned but wind forced us to have our fellowship meal at First Pres (where we meet). We had a wonderful couple hours of fellowship, feeling normal, etc. Please pray that winter visitors would be able to return next winter—we miss them. Also pray that we would continue to grow in our love for the Lord, one another, and for the lost.”

NEON, KENTUCKY — Jay and Andrea Bennett

Since the last report, Neon OPC has experienced both growth and loss. Pastor Jay Bennett writes, “We were saddened that one of our elderly members died due to Covid-19. A week later, we also rejoiced at the birth of a covenant child to one of our young married couples. Another couple within the congregation was recently married. We continue to do one weekly Bible study on Zoom. I’ve also been meeting with a young visiting family (father and two young adult sons with disabilities) for Bible study in their home. We’re hopeful that a family that stopped visiting due to Covid will be returning to worship soon. Finally, a big praise is that one of the young men who joined Neon out of the college ministry is almost finished with seminary and planning to come before presbytery for licensure! Please thank the Lord with us for his work here in our midst and pray that he would continue to grow his church in Neon.”

SANDUSKY, OHIO — Larry and Kalynn Oldaker

Pastor Larry Oldaker provides the following update on the life and ministry of Firelands Grace Fellowship OPC: “We continue to give thanks for God’s sustaining grace and your prayers. Real winter came in February as temperatures dropped into single digits, over a foot of snow fell, and Lake Erie froze over 80%. We’ve had a number of visitors attend worship since the last quarter of 2020. We rejoice in meeting these new people God has brought. A membership class is slated to begin this month. The Men’s Group for fellowship and discipleship was begun in February and it meets monthly. Several men from the visiting families have joined. The Women’s Group is studying *The Pilgrim’s Progress* with Derek Thomas. Please pray for wisdom as we explore building options and needs. The men continue outreach in inviting friends, our sermon-audio site is being visited with frequency, and my ‘Promise and Deliverance’ series on YouTube Sunday evenings is gaining a small but regular viewership.”

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

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