

Home Missions Today

This is Al Tricarico reporting the September 1, 2021, edition of *Home Missions Today*. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA — Calvin and Connie Keller

Pastor Calvin Keller writes, “Harvest OPC gives thanks for many blessings, including a stream of visitors, many of whom have stayed. We are also grateful for the fellowship of the Men’s Leadership Class, the Women’s Bible Study, and Wednesday Prayer Meeting. We need a larger, affordable meeting place soon—we have filled our current facility with over 90 in attendance last Sunday and have people sitting in an anteroom. In addition to our building need, we have many in the church with serious health problems. Pray our Lord will bring healing. And most importantly, pray the Lord will provide elders and deacons. Finally, pray for opportunities to speak to people about our church and the hope of gospel at the Carolina Classics Fair where we’ve rented a booth for October 1–10.”

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA — Ethan and Catherine Bolyard

From Pastor Ethan Bolyard: “After many months of meeting in two temporary locations, we were finally able to worship in our newly renovated sanctuary on May 30, for which we give thanks to the Lord!” Although there’s still work to be done on the rest of the facility, Heritage OPC is grateful for the privilege and joy of assembling morning and evening in its own building. On Friday, July 23, Heritage was organized as a particular congregation of the OPC. Greg Bebb and Marc Yandle were installed as ruling elders, while Ethan Bolyard was installed as pastor. He shares, “We rejoice in the Lord at reaching this important milestone! Christ continues to build his church. Since July, we’ve had several households attend our new members class, a number of whom expressed a sincere desire to join our congregation. We also look forward to receiving several covenant children into the visible church by baptism in the coming days. We request prayer for an unconverted young man who has been attending our evangelistic Bible study, for the ongoing building project, and for our upcoming men’s leadership and officer training class this fall. In all these areas and more, may the Lord of the covenant strengthen our hands in the work of his kingdom.”

WACO, TEXAS — Miller and Stephanie Ansell

We are grateful at Trinity OPC for a number of new members and baptisms, and we are preparing for more! We rejoice to have so many covenant children—may they never recall a time apart from the Lord. We also have a strong number of Baylor students. Our session covets your prayers as we love and shepherd these families and young people. Pray that we would minister well to them, and that we would have persuasive means of outreach at Baylor University. Upcoming means of outreach include psalm-singing in the park, game nights, and open-air preaching. We recently went door-to-door in the neighborhood extending invitations to worship, and while many already had home churches, they offered to pray for our young church. It’s a blessing to have Christian neighbors praying for Trinity.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA — Matthew and Lois Cotta

Pastor Cotta reports, “Not despite, but *because* conditions on the ground would seem incompatible with church growth, God has been pleased to grow His church here (1 Cor. 1:25). With the addition of Isaac Zhou (our year-long intern) and his family, we’ve been able to resume real-time English to Mandarin translation during our morning services and are looking forward to re-launching our ESL ministry.” Pastor Cotta has had opportunity to share the gospel with his weekly “Holy Rollers” meetup (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Bible study), and has been leading a weekly Bible study at a local Panera. He continues, “We’ve seen a remarkable uptick in visitors. They’re excited about the work and thankful to have found it. As the pews fill with worshippers, we have the sense that God’s church is truly an oasis in the desert, a foretaste of heaven. Our fellowship groups and our monthly luncheons have been great occasions for growth in unity and love. Various men have demonstrated servant hearts and gifts which commend them for church office; pray with us that God would set apart men unto ordained service in our midst. Pray for Isaac’s internship and preparation for future ministry. Pray for God’s continued blessing upon our outreach efforts, and that we might never grow cold with respect to our lost neighbors. And pray that we might keep our eyes on Christ, at the right hand of God, ever reliant upon His wisdom and power, trusting His promises.”

Look for the next Home Missions Today on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

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