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Home Missions Today

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

This is Ross Graham reporting the February 18, 2009 edition of Home Missions Today. God is using your prayers to develop the ministries of Orthodox Presbyterian mission works across North America.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—Gospel Life OPC is still small in number, but in the past six weeks at least one new visitor per week has been in attendance at the Sunday morning worship services. Rejoice at the blessing of a growing sense of unity and purpose for this new church plant. Several people helped with outreach to two universities in the area. Pastor John Ro reports that follow up on those contacts is underway. Please pray that God would develop a solid core group of people who wholeheartedly share the vision and purpose of the church and that the evangelistic outreaches may bear fruit.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA—Philip Dharmawirya reports that the Indonesian ministry of Emmanuel Chapel celebrated its seventh anniversary. It has a lot to be thankful for—new members, new visitors, and improved giving. And yet many members are still without steady jobs. The immigration situation remains unpromising. These two factors have forced more Indonesians to leave the U.S. Nine brothers and sisters, almost one third of the average adult attendance, returned to Indonesia in the past year. But a congregation of about forty people remains. Please pray that as the church faces an uncertain future, it will press forward in holding high the name of Jesus in the Indonesian community in Philadelphia.

HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN—Hillsdale OPC rejoices in the continued ministry opportunities to local college students. Pastor Everett Henes reports that upwards of 80 students attended Sunday services throughout the month, exposing them to reformed preaching and ministry. The congregation also rejoices at the addition of a new member from the community and the five individuals currently going through membership classes. The Sunday services continue to be well attended by students and faculty of Hillsdale College, and outreach to the community is growing. Hillsdale OPC gives thanks for its overseeing session as it joyfully does the work of the church. Please pray for Pastor Henes' continued zeal in outreach and preaching and that God's Word would be used to call his people to himself. Pray that God would bring families from the community interested in faithful Christianity and that God would raise up local elders and deacons from within the congregation. Pray that the many students who come would be impacted by the Reformed faith in ways that would last long after their college years.

DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA—The past year has been a redefining year in the life and goals of Redeemer OPC. Organizing Pastor Roth Reason reports that the work had hoped to be adding officers and even looking forward to becoming a particular congregation in 2009. However, various circumstances have led the session to take things more slowly. Several men are currently being trained for service as elders or deacons, but this is a long process. And the lone local elder has just begun an urgently needed leave of absence. Please pray for the Lord to raise up additional qualified and willing leaders at Redeemer. Pray as well that, with the elder's leave of absence, all would be able to persevere under the strain of extra work that has been laid upon the shoulders of the pastor and other members of the congregation.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA and ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA—Two of four Readiness for Ministry in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Seminars have been held with twenty-one men in attendance. Please pray for the two remaining seminars: February 20-21 at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and March 6-7 at Westminster Seminary California. Pray that that the Lord will use these endeavors to help equip men for pastoral ministry in the mission works and established congregations of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

WILLOW GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA—Thank you for your prayers for home missions administrative assistant Vickie Swann. She is still recovering from her surgery, but she is gradually feeling better. We praise the Lord that she was

able to come to the office for a few hours for the first time in three weeks.

Look for the next edition of Home Missions Today on Wednesday, March 4, or call 215-830-9424 ext. 46

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