THE TRUMPET

Missions Newsletter of the URCNA

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you…" Act 1:8 ESV

DECEMBER 2017

Regina, Saskatchewan, CA

Rev. Brian and Julie Cochran

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ from Regina, Saskatchewan!

Redeemer Reformation Church is coming up on its eighth anniversary since joining the URCNA. We are thankful for the unity in the faith and partnership in the Gospel that we have. In our previous update in the Trumpet we asked for prayers that we would become a self-sustaining, self-governing and self-propagating URCNA church. We are thankful to report that God has answered your prayers by blessing us with two elders. Lord willing, on Sunday, December 3, we will ordain brothers Tim VanderHooft and Shane Williams as elders. Please pray for God's wisdom, love, and strength for these men as they take up this call to serve as elders.

On the Lord's Day our flock continues to be fed through the Word and sacraments. In our morning service we are meditating on what God's Word teaches us in the Ten Commandments as we confess them in our Heidelberg Catechism. In our afternoon service we are still in the Gospel of John (such a rich book!). This Sunday we look forward to having our eighth annual Festival of Lessons and Carols service and Christmas banquet. We also have Sunday school classes for the adults and children. Our adults are half way through Dr. W. Robert Godfrey's six- part *Survey of Church History,* put out by Ligonier Ministries. Our children are studying the Heidelberg Catechism. We also have mid-week studies for men, women and youth that meet twice a month.

Recently, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Our guest speaker was Dr. Scott M. Finch, Associate Professor of Music at Covenant College, and a former elder of our congregation. The theme of our conference was on the priesthood of all believers, one of the doctrines recovered by the Reformers. You can listen to the audio on our web-site.

Our membership class also continues to meet throughout the year. We currently have eight adults in the class, some are married with children, others are dating couples. Earlier in the year we received seven new members in our church and the Lord continues to bring new visitors as people continue to move to Regina. But we also were sad to see some of our members move away. Redeemer's membership continues to be made up of a diverse group of people from various ethnic, socio-economic, and church backgrounds.

In terms of outreach we are thankful to lead a bi-monthly worship service in a local prison. Our pastor also has had opportunity recently to participate with a local youth pastor in a weekly lunch time club at a public high school, where he has already had the opportunity to share the Gospel with unbelievers. Pray for more opportunities!

We also rejoiced to witness the marriage of Wayne DeJong and Karen Mon. And we rejoiced to hear the news that our pastor and his wife are expecting their fifth child in 2018.

Thank you for your prayers and support! In the words of Psalm 67, *"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your saving way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations."*

Web-site: **www.redeemerchurch.ca**
Follow us on Facebook
Listen to our sermons at **www.sermonaudio.com**

NEW WORK INVESTIGATION:

The Canadian Reformed Churches of Abbotsford and Vernon, BC are looking to begin a new gospel ministry in Queretaro, MX in connection with Pan de Vida orphanage. URCNA Missions Coordinator Richard Bout was approved to be "on loan" for to them for three weeks this past November to help with planning. Give thanks for this exciting collaboration in the Lord's work!

MINTS International Seminary

Rev. Eric Pennings

Cuba is country with many challenging circumstances. Among the challenges is securing permission to teach and preach in Cuba, which requires a religious visa extended by the government of Cuba. Both Rev. Neal Hegeman and Rev. Eric Pennings have been denied a religious visa, restricting them from being able to teach and preach in the island country. But by God's grace, José Ramírez has been able to secure religious visas for his travels in Cuba, so he has recently taken over from Rev. Pennings the role of coordinating the ministry of MINTS in Cuba.

MINTS began its ministry in Cuba about 15 years ago. Over the years, several thousand Cubans have benefited informally from MINTS materials through 'house church groups' as reported by one of our Cuban PhD graduates. José recently returned from a visit in which he met with the primary leaders of three different Seminaries with whom MINTS is working. He reported that we currently have 676 Cuban students studying on the Bachelor and Masters level. Since MINTS began its ministry in Cuba, 333 students have graduated from various levels of study, including two PhD graduates.

Another country in which MINTS has been developing leaders is Mexico. Rev. Hegeman has been travelling to Mexico for years, but Rev. Pennings had an opportunity to visit there in October. During the trip, he had the privilege of teaching in the province of Chiapas. In Las Margaritas, he taught the course of Nehemiah to 17 students and led two conferences (Nehemiah and Philippians) in Tapachula with 71 in attendance.

While in Mexico, he was able to participate in two days of meetings with the National Coordinators of MINTS-Mexico. What an awesome time of listening in on the reports of the growth of MINTS in different parts of the country presented by MINTS leaders who are pastoring local congregations, and training future generations of Mexican leaders. There are 372 students dispersed among 25 MINTS groups, among them five Presbyterian seminaries, four of which were initiated by MINTS students. Over the years, 264 graduates (among them 3 doctoral graduates) have made a tremendous impact on the growth of the Presbyterian church in Mexico. MINTS also has a Study Center with Eternal Life Mission in Tepic, Mexico under the direction of Rev. Matthew VanDyken, another URC missionary.

Rev. Pennings concluded his ministry trip to Mexico with three days of celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, hosted by the Tabasco Presbytery of the National Presbyterian Church and the Latin American Fellowship of Reformed Churches (CLIR with executive director Rev. Bill Green). Association meetings with CLIR and twelve conferences filled these three days. The highlight of these days was the gathering of 4,000 Presbyterians from the region in a local stadium, with a 400+ voice choir and a marvelous Reformation speech by a Brazilian Presbyterian pastor. This is by far the most amazing Reformation Rally I have ever attended!

As of October 31, HCM budgeted expenses are on target, but the income has shown a $45,000 deficit. We appreciate prayers and support as we close out the last months of ministry in 2017. For more info please contact: suvrosem@gmail.com

Hispanic Christian Ministry (HCM) is a ministry of Covenant Reformed Church of Toronto of which Rev. Eric Pennings and Mission Worker José Ramírez are members. Through HCM, they train leaders for Christian ministry through Miami International Seminary (MINTS).

José