



"The great trumpet will be blown,
they will come,
who are about to perish"

The Trumpet

Isaiah 27:13 (NKJ).

Jersey City Church Plant

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We want to inform you of an opportunity to partner with us in the cause of Christ's Gospel and Church in Jersey City, NJ. We have been praying and strategizing for some time that the Lord would open the doors for another confessionally Reformed witness in the New York metropolitan area. This metropolitan area, the largest in the country, comprises about 20 million inhabitants, is spread over four states, and is in dire need of the transforming power of the Gospel.

The opportunity of a new mission field is on the horizon in Jersey City. Although separated from NYC by the one mile wide Hudson, Jersey City is a world away from life in NYC. Here are a few factors that make Jersey City a strategic mission field. First, Jersey City is the biggest urban area adjacent to New York city, and home to many new immigrants. These unreached populations will continue to increase according to population trends. Second, there is no Reformed church in Jersey City. Think about it: all the things you've come to love (growing in the knowledge and fear of God, Biblical worship, expository and Christ centered preaching, warm fellowship among the people of God, a vibrant evangelistic witness, and Reformed doctrine) are yet to be enjoyed by residents in Jersey City. In fact, there are many Christians who, although having embraced the truth of God's Word, cannot attend a

healthy church since there isn't one near them. Third, Messiah's Reformed Fellowship now counts five families committed to a church plant in Jersey City and willing to serve as its core group. In God's providence, these families are clustered within and near Jersey City. Fourth, the church plant in Jersey City would be near to Messiah's Reformed Fellowship, the overseeing and sponsoring Consistory, a unique and necessary advantage especially in an area that lacks a confessionally Reformed presence.

We believe this may be a testimony of God's grace in answering prayer. Messiah's Reformed Fellowship held its first worship service in February 2003. Now, almost ten years later, we believe God is pushing us out to Jersey City to gather the harvest in that city that will be part of His Church.



Sam Perez, elder at Messiah's and recent graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, lives in Jersey City with his wife and son, and is currently developing

the initial steps of the church plant. Every week Sam meets with new contacts over lunch or coffee, and promotes the church plant work. Sam and his wife also regularly host believers they've met in Jersey City who are interested in the church plant. One couple they have come to know is Grace and Jeremy Jerschina via Facebook. The Jerschinas are really interested in the church plant, and will be attending the first core group Bible study,

which begins in mid-October. Additionally, Sam is seeking to begin a Christian Bible study among the students of the local community college, and an evangelistic Bible study at another location. Sam can visit your church and show you what opportunities lay in Jersey City for the cause of Christ. He is licensed to exhort and is willing to travel to lead your congregation in worship and bring God's Word. Better yet, we invite you out to Jersey City to "come and see" this mission field, and what the Lord is doing (as our sister church, Hudson Valley United Reformed Church did recently).

As we plan for the church plant's start in Spring/Summer 2013, we are faced with a number of costs. Please consider partnering with us in prayer and with your financial support. If you desire to donate, your tax deductible gifts can be sent to Messiah's Reformed Fellowship at the following address:

Messiah's Reformed Fellowship ("Jersey City church plant" in the memo line) 2152 Ralph Avenue #554 Brooklyn, NY 11234

This is an exciting new opportunity where the fields are ripe for harvest. We invite you to pray and, when possible, visit the work in Jersey City to see the confessionally Reformed witness in the inner city. Thank you for your commitment to the growth of healthy Reformed churches in the New York metropolitan area.

URCNA MISSION WORK IN SIOUX FALLS, SD

SFURC Grows

While Scott & Emily Shultz had grown up in a Baptist tradition, they increasingly were convicted of the truths of Reformed theology taught throughout the Scriptures. The couple initially found out about SFURC when they had met Rev. Aalsburg a couple years ago. Scott and Emily eventually

began to attend worship service and later made profession of faith, having their infant son, Alexander, baptized during the same service. "We wanted to be a part of a church that faithfully proclaimed the Reformed faith and its implications on daily life," the Schultz family remarks. In reflecting on the SFURC community, they've experienced: "It's very close-knit; they are our family." Scott currently works as a Senior Geek Squad Technician at Best Buy, while taking a class at nearby Heidelberg Theological Seminary. He aspires to preach and teach in Christ's Church someday. Emily keeps busy like all first-time mothers, while maintaining a photography business on the side.



Darlo Verdoorn first learned about SFURC on the Internet. He listened to the radio program

White Horse Inn and learned that the host, Dr. Michael Horton, was a URC minister. Darlo set out to locate the nearest URC and found one right in his backyard! When asked what drew him to join SFURC, Darlo responds: "The Biblical worship service, the Christ centered preaching, and the warm reception from the people I met there." Darlo grew up in the northwestern Iowa area, and he has lived the past ten years in Sioux Falls. Darlo works as a Service Advisor at a local Honda dealership.

Adam VandeKamp grew up in Sioux Falls and attended worship at our mother church, Hills URC. In the past couple years, he began attending SFURC more regularly—and he later made his profession of faith at SFURC. He's thankful for a URC in Sioux Falls to spread the truth of the gospel, and notes "the SFURC community is

very welcoming and caring. You get a good sense of fellowship when you attend.” Adam has a 4 year old son, Jack, and is engaged to be married next year to his fiancé, Mindi. He is studying to become a nurse, while working at the county jail and serving in the National Guard.

Prayer Requests:

—Thank our God for graciously prospering the labors in Sioux Falls, and ask for His continued blessing on Sioux Falls URC, to the increase of His glory, our edification, and the good of the city

—Thank Him for our new members

—Thank Him for continuing to bring new visitors

—Thank Him for providing for us through sister churches—financially and volunteer help

—Thank Him for our core group unity, and ask Him to preserve and protect us.

—Pray for doors of ministry possibilities to be opened through the various studies around the community

—Pray for committed families & individuals to join the core group in laboring for the gospel in Sioux Falls

—Ask Him to raise up office bearers from our midst

—Pray for Rev. Aalsburg and his family

—Ask Him to continue providing for us financially as a church plant.

Hispanic Christian Ministry

Nicaragua: Prison Ministry La Modelo – I was scheduled to preach in a worship service in this maximum security prison of Nicaragua. Once again, as has been the case in each of my visits there for the last 4 years or so, I was not able to get in because of security issues related to 18 Mexican narco-trafficker prisoners. Please pray that the Lord will open the door on future visits.

Nicaragua: Peniel Reformed Church – I met with several students who are finishing up

the Hermeneutics course that I had taught some time ago. They have also received a course called, “Teaching to Change Lives”, taught by Norma Arias of Honduras who has her Masters Degree in Theology with MINTS and is teaching courses in the area of counseling and education for MINTS. Most of the ten students are teachers in their school who are also members of their church. They are developing a Bachelor in Theology with an emphasis in Pedagogy.

Nicaragua: Juigalpa – This new centre has been started by the MINTS Centre in Nandasmo who has been teaching the courses in Juigalpa. They have 21 students who completed two courses and are currently finishing up Hermeneutics. I taught ‘Canon of the Scriptures’. It is so good to see MINTS Centres multiplying in this way.

Nicaragua: Nandasmo – This group has excellent leadership. It is the fastest growing and one of the most serious of all the groups I have in Central America. They started mid-2011, and have already completed 11 courses! They plan to have a graduation of the Certificate level on my next trip. One 70 year old student from this group asked me if MINTS would grant him a Bachelor’s degree posthumously should the Lord take him home before he finishes the degree. That would be a first!

Nicaragua: Baptist University Theology Department – I was invited to meet with the rector of Upoli (a Baptist University with a Theology department. They were impressed with what MINTS has to offer. The students would like Upoli to accept MINTS courses as part (or ideally all) of their programs of study. Please pray for the Lord’s direction in this.

Belize: Presbyterian Seminary – The director of this seminary was present at the MINTS Central American Congress held this past January. His participation has encouraged him to pursue further MINTS activities in Spanish in this primarily English-speaking country. I taught no courses with them, but we did meet for the



better part of the day discussing plans for a bi-lingual MINTS program in the country.

Jesus is Alive Church and Study Centre – The church of a student in Guatemala has sent a missionary to this community of Siene Bight which is primarily Spanish speaking but has English and Garifuna (an indigenous group) members. I spent four days with this group, leading the inauguration of a MINTS Centre, registering 15 students from this in this very enthusiastic church. Three nights of sleeping on the floor in the sanctuary of the church certainly develops a lot of character, but what an amazing opportunity for relationship building with the students!

Rev. Eric Pennings, Missionary of Covenant Reformed Church of Toronto, Miami International Seminary (MINTS) Central America Regional Coordinator

Canadian Donations: Hispanic Christian Ministry, c/o Covenant Reformed Church, 265 Albion Road, Toronto, Ontario M9W 3P1

US Donations: Hispanic Christian Ministry, c/o Faith United Reformed Church, 8270 120th Ave., West Olive, Michigan 49460

Ongoing URC Missions

Foreign Missions

*Armenia
Honduras
Mexico (Tepic)
Trinidad*

*Costa Rica
India
Philippines*

Church Plants

*Lancaster, PA
Sioux Falls, SD
Washington, DC*

*New York City
Toronto
Jersey City, NJ*

Florida Vacationers and Residents

*American Reformed Fellowship
Worship Services Every Sunday*

8:30 AM and 3:00 PM.

URCNA Pastors; Rev. R. Stienstra and Rev. M. Zylstra;

Social Hour after the 2nd Service. Services are held at the, Palm View Baptist Church, US Highway 41 N. and 49th Street E., 415 49th Street East Palmetto, Florida 34221

Florida Contact # 941-723-6898

Bible Study Every Wednesday at 10:AM

Seasonal Worship Services end April 21- '13

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