

# On a Mission

Essential News from Christian Reformed Home Missions

Christian Reformed Home Missions serves the churches, ministries, and members of the Christian Reformed Church in North America through partnerships that work to fulfill Christ's mission.

## Multiplying Mission Impact: Christian Reformed Home Missions Regional Teams

For Home Missions, praying for workers for the harvest is an essential part of our mission and strategy. One way we express that is through our seven regional ministry teams in North America.

In the 1980s, Home Missions deployed regional directors across North America. In 2004, the work was expanded into regional teams with regional leaders. Capacity to serve churches and classes has grown, with paid and volunteer staff to serve on these new teams. As a result, 120 people are now part of Home Missions regional teams.

We see our work in the distributed regions throughout North America as being a way to multiply workers for the harvest.

We give thanks to God for four ethnic leaders — Hispanic, Black, Korean, and Native American — along with seven geographical regional leaders who serve the domestic mission of the Christian Reformed Church of North America on behalf of Christian Reformed Home Missions. Praise God for these committed leaders who are passionate about Christ's mission.



What a blessing they are as they mobilize teams in each region — missional leadership teams that discern and follow God in His mission.

These leaders represent an unfolding story and journey for the Christian Reformed Church and Home Missions. Some of you remember a defining event that occurred around 1973. It was an ecumenical mission effort called Key 73 (Evangelism Thrust was

the CRCNA version). Chief among all of the impacts of Key 73 was an awakening by the CRCNA that North America was a mission field. Along with that was a growing awareness that all of our pastors needing to rethink their roles as "missionary pastors" and that each local church was a "mission."

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**Christian Reformed  
Home Missions**

## Home Missions Regional Team Leaders



*Home Missions  
Western Canada  
Regional Leader:  
**Martin Contant***



*Home Missions  
Eastern Canada  
Regional Leader:  
**Adrian  
VanGiessen***



*Home Missions  
Eastern U.S.  
Regional Leader:  
**Drew Angus***



*Home Missions  
Great Lakes  
Regional Leader:  
**Ben Becksvoort***



*Home Missions  
Central U.S.  
Regional Leader:  
**Peter Kelder***



*Home Missions  
West Central U.S.  
Regional Leader:  
**Jerry Holleman***



*Home Missions  
West Coast U.S.  
Regional Leader:  
**Peter Holwerda***

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A shift has occurred. Home Missions no longer takes the lead in planting new churches and serving as the employer. The move has been to a partnership role with local churches and classes, out of the belief that the local church is the primary agent of God's mission. In order to provide resources for these primary agents of the mission, regional teams formed to be present locally for support.

The synodical mandate for Christian Reformed Home Missions is to give leadership to the Christian Reformed Church in its task of bringing the Gospel to the people of Canada and the U.S. and drawing them into fellowship with Christ and His church.

In working with local partners, Home Missions focuses on church planting, campus ministries, and partnering with mission-shaped churches. There is a deep commitment to a "reformed accent" for our work as we engage in Christ's mission with the whole gospel, for the whole person, for the whole community.

### Clusters Are Forming

The Lord of the Harvest continues to open our eyes to new ways that we are to be a part of what God is doing. A new thing we are seeing develop is missional or kingdom clusters. These are gatherings of missionary pastors and leaders in a given city from church plants, established churches, campus ministries, and leadership development networks.

These clusters serve as essential support communities of encouragement, training, and mission multiplication for all of the leaders and ministries involved. They serve as mission greenhouses that raise up new leaders and assist one another in starting new churches and ministries in the community. They

are springing up in locations such as Seattle, Sacramento, Denver, Tuscon, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York City, and Maine. On the west coast, there are currently 20 clusters of around 170 pastors meeting to **l**earn, **e**ncourage, be **a**ccountable, and **d**ream together (LEAD teams).

### reNEW COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

A goal in all of this is to launch new communities in partnership with local churches. New churches, new campus ministries, and new leaders are initiated by local churches in partnership with Home Missions. Together, we will find a way of resourcing these ministries to be sustainable.

These are exciting and challenging times as we see "the nations" coming to our North American cities and communities. Praise God for the wonderful cadre of missionary pastors and leaders who have heard the call to respond to our North American mission opportunities. Give thanks for regional leaders and teams who are there to serve you and the leaders, churches, and classes to be mobilized for Christ's mission.

Please see a description of the regional leader in your area as an insert to this copy of *On A Mission*. We invite you to pray for these regional and ethnic leaders and work closely with them as together we serve in God's mission.



*—Rev. Allen Likkel,  
Director of Ministry  
Teams, Christian  
Reformed Home  
Missions*

## Church Planters Share Stories at Orientation

Six young, energetic pastors attended Home Missions' recent orientation for new church planters, sharing stories of how God is already at work through their ministries.

The biannual three-day event, held at the CRC denominational building in Grand Rapids, Mich., gives church planters an introduction to the denomination and its agencies. This year, Home Missions placed a special emphasis on equipping ministries for better communication with supporters, as well as raising funds.

Among the attendees was pastor Ryan Goding, who leads *Summit Faith Community* in Farmington, Maine. *Summit* is a new church seeking to bring the Gospel message to a small college town, one of the state's most liberal commu-



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From left to right: David Yi, Brad Vos, Dirk VanEyck, Wayne Coleman, Ryan Goding, Aaron Walters.

## Ethnic Ministry Leaders Celebrate Diversity of Christ's Church

Home Missions' new ethnic leaders — Bob Price, Tong Park, Javier Torres, and Stanley Jim — lead the way in championing the need to integrate ethnic ministries into the geographical regions and classes where they are located.

These four dynamic ethnic leaders have a lead voice in deploying new ethnic leaders, as well as authorizing funding for the start of new ethnic ministries. By forming a new Ethnic Ministry Council and no longer having separate ethnic regions, the new strategy moves Home Missions toward stronger multi-ethnicity in each region, celebrating our unity in Christ and in Christ's mission while being diverse.

As their new roles on the CRCNA Ethnic Council emerge, the four ethnic leaders eagerly look forward to having an influence and impact in the CRC regarding all ethnic groups. The leaders

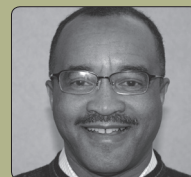
are enthused about the future and the opportunities the Council will have to empower and direct the multicultural culture within the denomination.

Looking to the future of Latino ministry, Torres names several challenges: "To see the Latino people empowered, to help raise leadership from the younger generation, and to see partnerships occur throughout the agencies concerning Latino ministries."

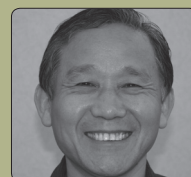
Stanley Jim felt God calling him to his role as leader of Native American Christian ministries. "I want to guide the Native American Christian ministry and assist Native Americans in building their own new churches in their local communities," says Jim. "I want to dream, cast vision, and be a resource to the CRC, and I'm passionate about new Native American Christian ministries becoming self-sustaining and incarnational."



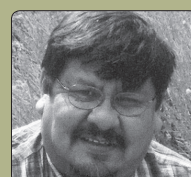
CRCNA Hispanic Ministries Leader: **Javier Torres**



CRCNA Black Ministries Leader: **Bob Price**



CRCNA Korean Ministries Leader: **Tong Park**



CRCNA Native American Ministries Leader: **Stanley Jim**

## Honoring Lives and Legacies through Gifts to Home Missions

Memorial donations to Christian Reformed Home Missions through April 20, 2010. Those memorialized or honored are listed in bold, with respective donors indicated below each name.

### In Memorium:

#### **In Memory of Gerrit Bos**

Henny A. Bos

#### **In Memory of Louise Bronkema**

Rev. Ralph W. Bronkema

#### **In Memory of**

#### **Mr. and Mrs. Albert Curtindale**

Richard C. Jackson

#### **In Memory of Mahlon Dahl**

Mary E. Dahl

#### **In Memory of Melvin N. Haveman**

Cindy Haveman

#### **In Memory of Dorothy Koning**

Laverne Koning

#### **In Memory of Chas Kuipers**

Betty L. Kuipers

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Robert D. and Florence Dieleman

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#### **In Memory of Harold Vander Schuur**

Margaret Vander Schuur

#### **In Memory of Bill Van Popering**

Norma Van Popering

#### **In Memory of Janet VerHoef**

Albert VerHoef

#### **In Memory of Harold Hulford and Cornelia Vis**

Carl E. and Annette A. Hulford

## Home Missions Ministry Prayer Requests

Your prayers make a difference! Please read the prayer requests below to discover how you can provide prayer support.

#### **Ministry:** *Home Missions Regional Teams*

**Prayer request:** Please pray for the seven Home Missions regional ministry teams and their leaders as they serve the CRC by working to plant churches, revitalize existing ones, and develop missional leaders.

#### **Ministry:** *Home Missions Ethnic Leadership Teams*

**Prayer request:** Pray that the Lord will work through the four ethnic teams to find and develop new CRC ethnic leaders and ministries.

**For specific ministry prayer requests (updated weekly), please visit [www.crhm.org](http://www.crhm.org).**



## A Gift That Gives Back

You may be able to significantly increase your annual income through a Charitable Gift Annuity. With a Charitable Gift Annuity, you make a gift that pays you an income for life. The rate of return is based on your age at the time of your gift.

\* Rates are determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities (effective through July 1, 2010)

Did you know you can receive lifetime income in exchange for a gift to Christian Reformed Home Missions? Ask for a FREE copy of "Questions and Answers About Gifts That Give Back" by contacting Kristie Schrottenboer from Home Missions at (800) 266-2175 or [kschrottenboer@crcna.org](mailto:kschrottenboer@crcna.org).

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ities. "God has raised up a group of passionate believers here," says Goding. He shared the inspirational story of a former drug addict who has been attending *Summit*. Now drug-free, the man has given his life to Christ and is deeply involved in the church's community activities.

Another orientation attendee, Wayne Coleman, talked about his inner-city Holland, Michigan ministry, *Imagine Fellowship*. This ministry has a special passion to reach youth in gangs, single-parent families, and African-American men.

Other church planters in attendance were Dirk VanEyck, who leads a new Kentwood, Michigan church called *Encounter Church*; David Yi, who leads a new church in Irvine, California; Aaron Walters, who is planting a new church in the highly unchurched Bellingham, Washington area; and Brad Vos, who is pastor of CrossWay Church in North Vancouver, Washington.