

# Crosspoint Strategic Network News

Winter 2008

## Crosspoint Strategic Network Team

**Tim Douma**  
Classis Northern Illinois  
Representative

**Merle Den Bleyker**  
Classis Northern Illinois  
Representative

**Roger Lefers**  
Classis Chicago South  
Representative

**Jul Medenblik**  
Classis Chicago South  
Representative

**Henry Reyenga**  
Classis Illiana  
Representative

**Harley VerBeek**  
Classis Illiana  
Representative

**Ruth Kelder**  
Small Group Ministry  
Developer

**Pedro Aviles**  
Leadership  
Development

**Bethany Dudley**  
Church and Community  
Consultant

**Cindy Wessels**  
Administrative  
Assistant

**Peter Kelder**  
Regional Leader

**Mobilizing leaders and Churches in God's Mission.... Together**

## NEW YEAR – NEW NAME

**Chicagoland Regional Team** was the designated name for our work as handed to us by our denominational agency, Christian Reformed Home Missions. While that was helpful, we have become excited about our new name, Crosspoint Strategic Network, because it gives a glimpse of how we go about accomplishing our mission in the three Classes.

**Crosspoint** was chosen because we are about the kingdom, pointing people to the cross of Christ. Crosspoint also speaks of a junction where two lives intersect. Whether you think of major roads in the areas that cross each other or as "crossroads of the heart" place where decisions are made about which to follow, our way or the Lord's way, the name fits our task.

**Strategic** is the way in which we work, partnering together to accomplish goals, strategies, and work plan in churches planting churches, equipping mission-focused congregations, emerging campus ministries, and developing leaders for the work.

**Network** was chosen because that is our means of accomplishing all of this, by networking leaders and ministries for greater Kingdom impact. Synergy happens as we are brought together to accomplish common goals, as led by the Lord of the church.

## PRAISE GOD!

Rob Knol was installed as church planting pastor at Pathway Church, St. John, IN last December. It was a day of celebration and gladness for all who have anticipated this answer to prayer for both Rob and Pathway. Pray that God richly blesses both church and pastor as they together share good news in their context!



## WEBSITE

It's up and running! Check out the latest addition to our communication of what Crosspoint Strategic Network is about. Go to [www.crosspointstrategicnetwork.org](http://www.crosspointstrategicnetwork.org) and see for yourself.

## EDUCATION

### MINISTRIES FORUM

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Peter Schuurman and Joyce Suh will meet with our region to explore ways to enhance campus ministry in the region. Come to Hyde Park CRC and hear their vision for this, and dialogue about next steps. Lunch will be provided.

Please rsvp if you are coming, by e-mail ([kelderp@crcna.org](mailto:kelderp@crcna.org)) or call 815-690-2408.

## **LEAD TEAMS**

LEAD (**L**earning, **E**ncouraging, **A**ccountable, and **D**iscerning) teams are networking groups of pastors who meet monthly around great book discussions, good food, and even better sharing of best practices that have led to insights and changes in pastoral perspectives. A Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Grant was received for this and there are presently two groups started. Testimony from a couple of pastors include statements like "I couldn't ask for anything more from this..." and "This group has given renewed life to my ministry."

If you would like information about LEAD teams or would like to participate in such a group, contact Peter Kelder at [kelderp@crcna.org](mailto:kelderp@crcna.org).

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## **CROSSPOINT PRAYER INITIATIVE**

"Devote yourselves to prayer...and pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message...pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should."  
--Colossians 4:2-3

You may recall that last fall, we encouraged you to pray on Wednesdays over the lunch hour, for people to come to an awareness of Christ and to respond to His desire for a relationship with Him. Churches were encouraged to let their membership know about this prayer initiative and to implement it in an effective way. Attractive reminder cards were made available. Several congregations used the cards and encouraged their congregations to pray. We have distributed 2,000 cards and know that they have been given to the membership of the churches.

Several congregations used the cards and encouraged their congregations to pray. We have distributed over 2,000 cards and know that they have been given to the membership of the churches. Some churches included the prayer initiative in a sermon or prayer, or some other special series in which the prayer ideas fit their context. Other churches opened their doors to those who were committed to praying over their Wednesday lunch period. One such church, Community Life in Lockport, IL, has shared that they have already seen God answer their prayers for others by seeing significant spiritual breakthroughs in lives.

Prayer cards are available for those of you who would still like to participate. Contact Cindy Wessels at [cindywessels@gmail.com](mailto:cindywessels@gmail.com). While the six month initiative will conclude in March, there is no reason that you can't extend the prayer initiative beyond its limits. After all, scripture tells us to "pray continually" . (I Thess. 5:17)

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## **METRO CHURCH PLANTING TEAM**

At the fall meeting of classis it was approved to assign a point person from each classis and to allocate \$10K for metro church planting. That team is now meeting together and is comprised of the following people:

Bethany Dudley – Church and Community Development, Peter Kelder – Regional Leader

Jul Medenblik, John Hoekwater, Kris Vos – classical point persons

Tim Hoekstra, Tim Douma, Pedro Aviles – urban participants

The team has met and will collaborate on strategic plans for metro church planting.

God is way ahead of us! Already six church planters have inquired about planting churches in the region.

## **NEW SITE OPENS**

Horizon Community Church has taken up ministry in Downers Grove. They are located in Meadowbrook Shopping Center, 2129 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. Dedication was held on Sunday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. Ministry opportunities are close at hand for Horizon in this new setting. Pray for them to connect with their community!

## **READER'S TIDBIT**

"It is often said that the church's pre-eminent responsibility is evangelism. This is not so for three reasons. First, evangelism comes under the heading of our duty to our neighbor; worship is our duty to God, and must take precedence. Second, all are worshippers, and while all of us have a role in evangelism, there is a special gift of evangelism. Third, evangelism is a temporary activity, which will cease when the Lord Jesus returns; but our worship will continue throughout eternity. From John Stott The Living Church pg. 1