



CHRISTIAN REFORMED

HOME
MISSIONS

Great Lakes Newsletter

September/October 2011

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For more information on
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[Great Lakes Web Page](#)

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All Grown Up

This fall many high school graduates pack up their bags and move out of their parent's house and into a college dorm. Their progression is not unlike that of a church plant, born, raised, and supported by a parent church (with a lot of help from others too), that finally grows up and makes the move to go out on their own. It is a time of reflecting on God's amazing work, a time of celebration to have reached this milestone, and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the new church.

On September 11, 2011 (10:30am worship) Monroe Community Church will celebrate its organization as a Christian Reformed Church. Begun in 2001 with the support of Classis Grand Rapids South, Classis Grand Rapids North, LaGrave Ave CRC, Sunshine Community Church, and CRC Home Missions, this church has reached the benchmarks necessary to step out on its own. MCC has developed leaders, found financial stability, and is expecting continued growth in its downtown context.

Like any college student, however, there will be unique needs and support that will require the continued assistance of its ministry partners. Pastors Henry and Amy Schenkel are thankful for the partnership of their brothers and sisters in the CRC, and they celebrate God's continued work in the MCC community.



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The Great Lakes Region includes 12 Classes:

[Georgetown](#)

[Grand Rapids East](#)

[Grand Rapids North](#)

[Grand Rapids South](#)

[Grandville](#)

[Holland](#)

[Kalamazoo](#)

[Lake Erie](#)

[Muskegon](#)

[Northern Michigan](#)

[Thornapple Valley](#)

[Zeeland](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Dunamis V – Spiritual Warfare and Kingdom Advancement
Rogers Heights CRC
Beginning 9-22-11

Dunamis I – Gateways to Empowered Ministry
Traverse City MI
Beginning 9-29-11

Dunamis IV – Healing Ministry of Jesus
Camp Geneva, Holland, MI
Beginning 10-26-11

For information, contact Mary Sterenberg and visit prmi.org.

“The Call” Detroit
11-11-11

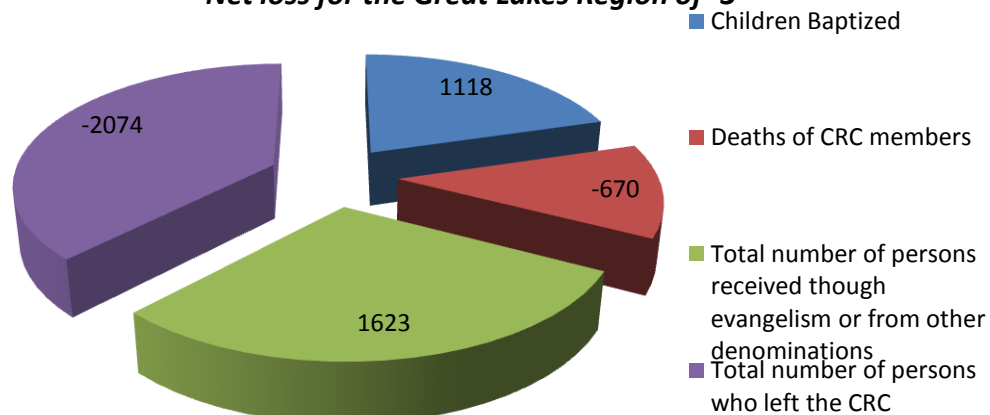
Calling all Christians from all denominations from all over Michigan to gather at Ford Field in Detroit MI for 24 hours of fasting, repentance and worship, seeking God to change the course of our Nation. Especially notify your youth groups and youth leadership about this historical event.

www.TheCall.com/detroit

Great Lakes Region Totals for 2010

245 Congregations 79551 Members

Net loss for the Great Lakes Region of -3



Prayer Focus

Things We Can Learn about Prayer from Children

Recently my daughter attended an adult prayer gathering with me. The prayer requests were mature, challenging, even confusing to her young ears. But we prayed. And it was good.

On the way home, she observed how important it was that we pray with that group. What if we weren't praying for this person or that person, what would happen to them? Moving forward, she began praying regularly during our evening prayers for the concerns she had heard.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he urges that "petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people" (1 Tim. 2:1). I wonder how seriously we take this directive. Do we pray for every person God puts on our heart, believing our prayers matter, that they make a difference in the lives of God's people according to his will? Do we pray with urgency?

Another child I know has recently taken to stopping in the middle of any random activity several times a day to utter a brief prayer. He closes his eyes, prays, and then carries on with Lego or basketball. True, bike rides are taking longer. But Scripture calls us to "pray continually" (1 Thes. 5:17). Is it possible that, more than just a cute expression of faith, God is working wonders through this child's prayers?

One of the challenges with prayer is that we often don't get to see the results of our prayers, and we don't necessarily receive the encouragement that making a meal for someone yields. Often we never learn how God uses our prayers. But Scripture is clear: We are called to be "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). Children seem to simply believe that prayer works and they keep on keeping on. They have been told by people they trust that God hears and uses our prayers, and so they press on with confidence.

We have their same Intel from a legitimate source: God's Holy Word. Perhaps we can apply Jesus' words to "become like little children" (Matt. 18:3) to our prayer lives. Let the adventure begin!

