

Christian Reformed World Missions Advocate

Helping Christian Reformed Churches to fulfill the Great Commission

May 2011

Japan update

Japan has been rocked by the March 11 earthquake and ensuing tsunami. Over 13,400 deaths have been confirmed so far and almost 15,000 people are still listed as missing. People have lost family members, friends, colleagues, and their homes. Now, as workers struggle to stabilize the Fukushima nuclear plant, fear and questions about radiation affects linger.

Christian Reformed World Missions missionaries, CRWRC, and the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) are working with other disaster relief agencies to assess and respond to needs. Pray for good working relationships, for wisdom on how to best respond, and for a smooth rebuilding program. Pray for the aftershocks to end so work can continue unhampered.

Pray for the people of Japan. Pray for God's comfort and peace to surround those who've lost so much and who fear what the future may bring. Thank God that all RCJ members are alive and well. Pray that God's Church may be a strong witness for Him so that others will see their faith and place their hope in God.

Pentecost Update: Final Pentecost celebration materials will have arrived to your church office by mid-May. Remember to ask your church to show the Christian Reformed World Missions video on Pentecost and see what else has been planned to remember Pentecost. For further information on Pentecost resources, visit www.crcna.org/FromCrossThroughChurchToWorld.

Upcoming Webinars:

May 4 at 12 p.m. "God Centered Missionary Care" (Trish De Jong, World Missions)

May 11 at 12p.m. – "Launching and Landing Successfully: Short-term Missions" (Trish De Jong, World Missions)

May 18 at 12:00 p.m. - "Kids and Missions" (Wendy Hammond, CRWRC)

To view workshop descriptions or to register online, visit www.crcna.org/missionwebinars.

Prayer for Synod: CRCNA's 2011 Synod will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from June 10-16. Pray for safe travels and for healthy discussions. Pray that God may fill the delegates with wisdom and discernment for the decisions before them.

Home Service Planning Ideas

With the arrival of spring, many Christian Reformed World Missions missionaries and partner teachers will be returning to North America to share how God is working through your partnership together. Listed below are some event ideas your church could use to welcome your missionaries and learn more about your ministry together.

- Create questions for an interview-style presentation with your missionary.
- Ask your missionary to present on a specific topic such as the traditional religions/beliefs of people in their area of ministry.
- Schedule visits with church leaders and spouses over breakfast, lunch, coffee, or dessert.
- Invite them to participate in prayer groups, small groups, and other church activities.
- Plan a church potluck, picnic, BBQ, or dessert social.
- Link missionary children with similarly-aged children in your congregation and invite them to be part of your church's VBS or Sunday school programs.
- Organize a bonfire for youth to ask missionaries any questions they have about being a missionary.
- Encourage your church to evaluate their role and responsibility to their missionaries and vice versa. A helpful tool to guide your church through this process is the *Missionary Partnerships: Role & Expectations* document found at www.crwmm.org/missionarypartnerships.

