

Christian Reformed World Missions Advocate

Helping Christian Reformed Churches to fulfill the Great Commission

April 2011

The Network

The CRCNA's online Network is just what you think it is – a place for people to ask questions and share resources with others involved in similar ministries across North America. Networks are available for pastors, deacons, church administrators, and people involved in small groups, worship, global missions, and other ministries.

Two types of networks are available – guided and discussion. Each guided network is listed on the website as a separate tab and discussion networks are all under the “discussion forums” tab. In guided networks someone who knows a bit about the topic offers relevant blog posts, articles, and other resources. For example, Pastor James Dekker from Covenant CRC in St. Catharines, Ontario is the guide for the Pastors network.

Discussion networks are places for everyone to ask questions and share resources about a specific topic. In the audio-visuals discussions, one discussion topic is, “What software program does [your church] use?” People have responded with advice on user-friendly programs and their own questions on how to fix computer “quirks.”

Check out the Network's Global Mission section for resources and discussions on missions. Recent blog posts talk about child sponsorship, taking your children into missions, and Muslim ministry in unexpected places. Resources include articles on short-term missions, global partnerships, trends in missions, community development, and more. Video resources are also available. Visit www.crcna.org/network today.

Nepal: A Window of Opportunity

Christian Reformed World Missions has supported small ministry projects in Nepal for several years. But this spring, World Missions is expanding its ministry in Nepal by transferring Troy and Faith Bierma from missionary service in Bangladesh to Nepal.

Last November, World Missions' Eurasia Regional Leader, Russ Palsrok, traveled to Nepal to evaluate ministry possibilities. He met with current and possible partners and heard over and over again of the “window of opportunity” for sharing the Gospel in Nepal. He came back convinced that Nepal's political, spiritual, and economic situation and available ministry partners made the time ripe for mission work.

“People [in Nepal] are turning to Christianity,” says Palsrok. “As churches are rapidly being planted, there's an opportunity to be in on an expanding church growth movement throughout the country.”

“There are two needs: one, to share the Gospel with spiritually hungry people, the other is to provide discipleship training for leaders and laity.”

Troy and Faith have had a heart for Nepal for some time. Arbin and Bimala, the Bierma's long-time Nepali friends and prayer partners, returned to Nepal after studying in the United States, intent on serving the local church. Their stories and vision ignited a spark within the Biermas for ministry in Nepal.

Although they ended up serving in Bangladesh instead, Troy visited Nepal several times a year for short leadership training sessions. Now, Troy will build off of those short visits. His main responsibility will be to work at the Evangelical Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He will also follow through with Timothy Leadership Training sessions already begun in Nepal.

The move to Nepal is not without its challenges. The Biermas will have to learn a new language, develop new friendships, adjust to life in another cultural context, and carefully plan where and how to invest their time and ministry focus. Yet, excitement is building for walking alongside the blossoming Nepal Church and strengthening its leaders for greater service in their communities and beyond.

Celebrating Easter and Pentecost

Christian Reformed Home Missions and Christian Reformed World Missions have once again created joint resources to help your church celebrate Easter through Pentecost. This year's theme is *From the Cross, Through the Church, To the World*.

In March, your church will receive the following resources at the church address:

- DVD – with separate Home and World Missions videos. Suggest to your pastor and/or worship coordinator that they show the Home Missions video on Easter Sunday and the World Missions video on Pentecost Sunday.
- Poster
- Home Missions bulletin covers and inserts
- Home Missions children's bulletin cover master
- Missions Activity Guide – 28-day guide for individuals, couples, and families with weekly devotionals and daily activities designed to engage people in missions
- Missions Activity Guide Bulletin Insert that explains the Missions Activity Guide
- Bank Lids and Labels (Only sent if ordered. Please note that people may be turning banks in to your church on May 29 or June 5 for your church to forward the funds on.)
- Reformed Worship article with ideas for planning Easter and Pentecost services

In April, churches will receive a second mailing:

- World Missions bulletin covers
- World Missions' *Unleashing the Power of Ten* bulletin inserts
- World Missions children's bulletin master

Ask your church's bulletin editor to include Home and World Missions' suggested bulletin announcements when she/he is putting the bulletin together. If you have not already done so, check with your deacons to see whether offerings on Easter and Pentecost have been set aside for Home and World Missions respectively.

Further information, along with a downloadable version of the Missions Activity Guide, is available at www.crcna.org/fromcrossthroughchurchtoworld.

Reminder: All entries for Christian Reformed World Missions' Poster Contest must be postmarked by April 15, 2011. Poster contest entry forms and details are available at www.crwmm.org/postercontest.

Plugged-in to Missions: A DVD Curriculum for World-Minded Christians

From Beijing to Timbuktu, the Plugged-in to Missions interactive DVD-based Sunday School curriculum takes you on an exciting journey of discovery. The



six lessons cover a wide range of topics including Islam, the persecuted Church, voodoo, and the changing face of Christianity. To find out more or to view the trailer, visit www.crwmm.org/pluggedin. The six DVD set costs \$75.

To order a set, contact Faith Alive Christian Resources by calling 1-800-333-8300, by visiting their website at www.faithaliveresources.org or emailing sales@faithaliveresources.org.

Perspectives Scholarships

Christian Reformed World Missions has up to six \$200 scholarships available for qualified applicants to attend a Perspectives course. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a 15-lesson curriculum covering God's mission in the world from four perspectives – biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic. If you're eager to learn more about God's desire to spread the Gospel to all people all over the world, this is the course for you. Visit www.crwmm.org/perspectives or contact Bill Thornburg (bthornburg@crcna.org, 616-224-0858) to find out how you can qualify for a \$200 scholarship. For more information on Perspectives or to view course locations, visit <http://www.perspectives.org>.

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