

Christian Reformed World Missions Advocate

Helping Christian Reformed Churches to fulfill the Great Commission

February 2011

Global Mission Webinar Series

CRCNA ministries are leading a series of webinars on missions-related topics. Webinars enable you to participate in a presentation from the comfort of your home. To participate, all you need is a computer, a high speed internet connection, and a phone to dial-in for the presentation's audio portion. All these webinars are free.

Webinar Schedule (listed in Eastern Time):

February 16 at 7:30 p.m.

"Long-term Missions Essentials"
(Mary Dykstra, CRWRC)

March 3 at 12:00 p.m.

"Are Missionaries Still Needed?"
(Steve Van Zanen, Christian Reformed World Missions)

March 3 at 12:00 p.m.

"Evaluating Your Missions Program"
(Wendy Hammond, CRWRC)

April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

"Advocating Peace in the Middle East"
(Micah Schuurman and Justin Van Zee, Calvin Seminary students and Hope Equals campus leaders)

April 13 at 12:00 p.m.

"Outreach to People with Disabilities"
(Mark Stephenson, Disability Concerns)

May 4 at 12:00 p.m.

"God Centered Missionary Care"
(Trish De Jong, Christian Reformed 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. Once you're registered, you will receive a confirmation email that includes information on how to connect to the webinar.

Celebrating Easter and Pentecost

From Easter through Pentecost, join Home Missions and World Missions in celebrating missions *From the Cross, Through the Church, To the World*. Celebration resources will be mailed to churches in March and April. Please check with your deacons to see if the offering on Easter, April 24, has been set aside for Home Missions and the offering on Pentecost, June 12, for World Missions.

Poster Contest 2011

Pictures tell stories, stories written by expressions on faces, colours, and shapes. Our poster contest is an opportunity for children to share the story of the Gospel through pictures.

Your church school coordinator will soon be receiving the necessary materials at the church address. Please encourage him/her to engage the children in this contest as a way to highlight missions. This year's poster contest themes are:

- From the Cross, Through the Church, To the World
- Planting Churches in All Kinds of Soil
- Let's Go Fishing
- We're All Missionaries
- Seeking Sheep for the Shepherd

All entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2011. Last year's winning entries are viewable at www.crwmm.org/postercontest.

Flag Presentations

Christian Reformed World Missions now has a PowerPoint flag presentation available for churches that don't have access to a flag set or who prefer something electronic.

The presentation focuses on the countries where the CRCNA is working to spread the Gospel. The PowerPoint is just over 10 minutes long and can be used before the service, during an offering, or set up to go five minutes before the service and five minutes into it. For a downloadable version, visit www.crwmm.org/flags.

Thirty-Five Seconds in Haiti

-adapted from an article by CRWM missionary Zach King. A full version is available in CRWM's January 2011 eNews (visit www.crwmm.org/membership to sign up for this monthly publication).

At 4:53 p.m. on January 12, 2010, an earthquake registering 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Port-au-Prince and its environs for approximately thirty-five seconds. In those seconds approximately 200,000 structures were destroyed and 230,000 people eventually lost their lives.

The recovery has been challenging, but God's grace is more powerful than even the shaking earth. As soon as the tremors subsided, Haitians filled the air with prayers and songs and they continue to pray and work today.

Sous Espwa, the Christian Reformed Church in North America's ministry team in Haiti, immediately began working to help the survivors. Thousands of people in Sous Espwa's partner communities were among the first to receive food aid. Within a week after the earthquake, CRWRC's Disaster Response Team (DRT) was functioning in Haiti. Since then, DRT has begun a massive project in Leogane, near the center of the quake. Wood-framed houses have been built for 831 families, nineteen wells have been dug, and food and tarps have been given to nearly 5,000 families.

Meanwhile, Sous Espwa's long-term ministries have focused on assisting local partners. Sous Espwa has developed effective faith-based programs for survivors' emotional health, helped rebuild four churches, provided housing for twenty staff members of its Haitian partner organizations, and offered grants for relief projects run by partner organizations.

The future will not be easy. The cholera epidemic has redirected relief efforts. Political instability following the November elections has slowed down the work. But, by God's grace, we know that progress will be made. In January, our radio ministry partner Perspectives Réformées began broadcasting messages of comfort. Soon the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti will begin making materials available for communities in Jacmel to repair homes damaged by the earthquake. While the thirty-five seconds on January 12, 2010, were the worst moments in the history of Haiti, God has shown His grace more than equal to nature's fury.

Planning a Missions Emphasis Event

If you've wanted to plan a missions emphasis event, but you don't know where to start, these ideas may help:

- Bring a team of people together to plan the event.
- Clarify the event's goal(s).
- Set a date that gives you enough time to plan.
- Choose a theme.
- Assign separate persons or groups to handle the publicity, food, and the day's actual events (such as the speaker, audiovisual programs, music, children's events).
- Plan music that compliments your theme.
- Gather people to pray for the event.
- Find or create a prayer guide for church members to use leading up to the event.
- Select a speaker (e.g. a pastor, missionary, former missionaries, or others involved in missions or outreach).
- If one of your missionaries is participating, plan informal meetings outside of the event for him/her to meet church members.
- If you'd like a more interactive event, plan a theme night highlighting an area of the world where your church is involved in missions. Use costumes, movies, and artifacts to tell people more about the region. Your missionary can offer you helpful advice.
- Invite representatives from local and global organizations over for an evening or after a worship service to highlight volunteer opportunities.

Further ideas and resources are available at www.crwmm.org/missionemphasis. Resources include a missions emphasis how-to guide, sample themes, goals, and children's activities, a flag litany, and links to sites like Reformed Worship for ideas on planning a service.

RMM

Regional Missions Mobilizer for
Classes

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