

MINISTRY REPORT 2010



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

CHURCH AT WORK

Word and Deed

Talk is cheap." "Actions speak louder than words." "When deeds speak, words are nothing." "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

When I was a child I was constantly reminded that, while words were very important, what I did mattered even more than what I said. The same applies within the church. James made that very clear when he said, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?" and "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." Actions do speak louder than words, and so it is appropriate that this Church at Work section of *The Banner* tells the story not only of who we are as the Christian Reformed Church,

but what we do.

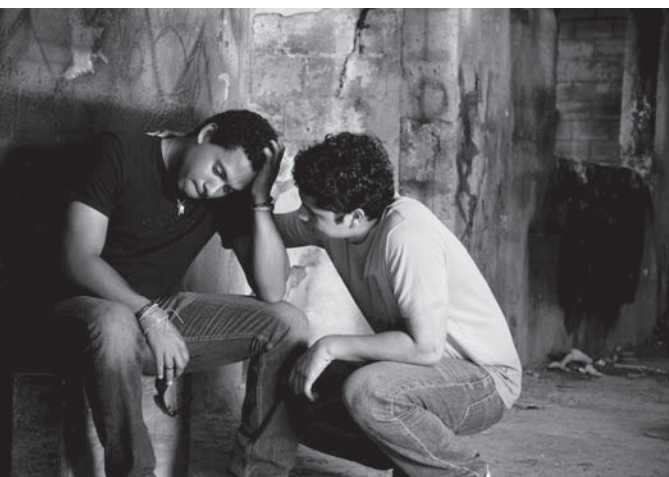
The ministries of our denomination are numerous. Through its agencies, offices, and institutions, the CRC is transforming lives and communities around the world. The actions of the church speak for themselves. While those actions take many different forms, there is no question that what the church does in the world is a powerful testimony of our gratitude for what God has done in our own lives.

In both Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. He specifically

mentions the gifts and passions of the different parts of that body. As he writes he reminds us that prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy are all part of this wonderful body, the church of Jesus Christ. All these are necessary if the body is to function as God intended. One part cannot say to another, "I don't need you." All the parts are designed by God to serve a specific function within the church. That function may be feeding a starving child, or drilling a well. It may be rebuilding a home in Louisiana or Haiti. Perhaps it is preaching to thousands at a revival in Africa. The role may perhaps be offering a prayer for a hurting friend or sending a note of encouragement.

The ministries that may seem small or insignificant are indispensable, and those that might seem less important or less honorable are treated with special honor. God's ways are not always our ways. While the world may focus on the rich and famous, the church is called to care for the poor and helpless.

The stories that follow are the stories of the church being the hands and feet of Christ. They bear witness to how the CRC and its ministries continue to use the gifts you provide—for without the support of churches and individuals these stories would never happen. Together in God's grace we continue to transform lives and communities around the world. Please join me in celebrating our "church at work."



Rev. Jerry Dykstra is executive director of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

CHURCHATWORK

Helping Haiti

When a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, leaving death and destruction in its wake, the Christian Reformed Church in North America responded.

Even as survivors mourned and bodies piled up in the streets, the staff from three CRC agencies already at work in Haiti got busy.

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) collected more than \$10 million for relief and reconstruction—one of the most generous responses ever in support of the church's disaster-relief efforts.

Even before the earthquake, the CRC had been at work in Haiti for more than 30 years. Three of its agencies—CRWRC, Christian Reformed World Missions, and Back to God Ministries International—are active there.

They worked hard amid the destruction and the rubble of buildings, helping to set up tent cities all over Port-au-Prince and showing the love of Christ.

Sous Espwa, the CRC's umbrella organization in Haiti, was a headquarters of sorts. Staff responded around the clock to address immediate needs and future plans. They provided temporary housing for Haitian staff who lost their homes, distributed tools and kitchen kits to those who needed them, and helped to counsel those traumatized by the earthquake.

Almost a year later, CRC agencies are reporting what they have been able to do through the generous support of congregations and individuals in North America.

"Grieving and mourning and trauma still come and go with me from time to time, but with God's help and support from others, we are seeing results," says Jenny LeMahieu, who works with CRWM in Haiti.

CRWRC has undertaken a major response in the Leogane area, where the epicenter of the quake was located. Its international disaster relief coordinators assessed the needs. CRWRC then responded with emergency aid in the form of food, latrines, wells, tarps, tools, and cash to purchase household items.



A girl sits outside her home after the earthquake in Haiti.

CRWRC also began the process of providing wood-framed homes to those left homeless by the earthquake. These homes are built to earthquake- and hurricane-resistant standards and provide shelter and a renewed hope to those who receive them.

"How can I be anything but happy? God has given me a house," one woman said.

CRWM missionaries Zach and Sharon Segaar-King have been crisscrossing the country, helping congregations of the Christian Reformed Church of Haiti to recover. They also helped put on the 11th General Assembly of the CRC of Haiti. Gifts from supporters provided funding for the CRC of Haiti's Reformed Bible Training Institute in 2010.

Back to God Ministries International has restarted a discipleship program in Haiti that is reaching 1,200 students—more than before the earthquake. BTGMI also broadcasts messages of hope and renewal.

Howard and Ruth Van Dam, missionaries with CRWM who lost their own house in the earthquake, have found new ministries sprouting amid the rubble.

"Some of these ministries are new since the earthquake and others are ones that continue to minister and disciple leaders for the sake of the gospel," says Howard Van Dam.

"The earthquake stories continue to amaze us," says Lauris Fuller, one of CRWRC's international disaster relief coordinators.

—Chris Meehan, *CRC Communications*.

Pastors on Point



CRC pastors from across Canada and the United States converged several months ago near Buena Vista, Colo., for Pastors on Point, a program offering a time of refreshment, professional assessment, worship, and outdoor adventure.

Led by two guides of Noah's Ark Outfitters, a faith-based outfitter in Buena Vista, the pastors went backpacking, camped, and made friends with three llamas.

The group was facilitated by Mark Stevenson of St. Paul, Minn., the founder and director of On Point Ministries, and Rev. Norm Thomasma, director of Pastor-Church Relations for the CRC.

Pastors on Point was founded to help pastors understand what helps them thrive in ministry and what work and setting is a "best fit" for them.

Daryl Meijer was part of the Pastors on Point group.



Helping pastors know themselves and their "internal wiring" is part of the mission of the CRC's Pastor-Church Relations office. Pastor-Church Relations helped pastors to fund this experience by administering education grants.

Stevenson and Thomasma plan to lead a 2011 Pastors on Point trip June 20-28.

Philippians Goes Campus-wide



For Calvin associate chaplain Aaron Winkle, the campus-wide Bible study on Philippians that officially kicked off in September at LOFT (Living Our Faith Together), the on-campus worship service, feels a little like flying a kite.

"You can build the kite, and you can toss it into the air, but without the wind it's not going to work very well," said Winkle, who pioneered the study with Calvin chaplain Mary Hulst and the campus ministries staff.

"When we started dreaming about a Bible study for the whole campus, we knew we could get it started, but that others would make it fly," said Winkle.

Carol Rienstra, Calvin's director of church and community relations, has led one Philippians study on campus for a mix of students, staff, and faculty and another with Celebration Fellowship, a prison congregation at Ionia Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America.

The Philippians studies have gone in some unexpected directions, said its organizers.

"Early on," said Hulst, "[German language professor] David Smith was involved in one of our focus groups, and he said: 'What about a Bible study in German?' And the light bulbs went on for us. He e-mailed his colleagues in foreign languages and now we will have Bible studies in Spanish and Korean and even Greek."

Calvin also is partnering in the project with Hope College in Holland, Mich., including a pulpit exchange in November between Hulst and Hope dean of the chapel Tryg Johnson.

Hulst said that after six-plus months of planning and praying, it's a thrill to watch the Bible studies launch.

"Our job now is to stay out of the way," she said. "People got on board with this, they got excited about it, and they will take it places we hadn't even thought about."

—Phil de Haan,

Calvin communications and marketing



Learning from Peacemakers in Palestine



I traveled to Israel and Palestine this past summer with 10 Calvin College and Seminary students on a trip with Hope Equals—a joint project of World Missions and the Office of Social Justice. The trip offered four components of learning: touring of religious sites, visiting organizations working for peace and reconciliation, living with Palestinian Christian families, and working to build a home for a Palestinian Muslim family.

Much of our learning was about the impact of the Wall, a controversial barrier constructed by the Israeli government in 2002. While supporters argue that the Wall is necessary to protect Israeli civilians from Palestinian terrorism, the path of the Wall deviates significantly from the Green Line (the border agreed upon by Israel in 1949) into the land captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967, also known as the Occupied Territories.

We visited a town in the West Bank that was cut off from a thoroughfare by the Wall. The empty storefronts facing the road testified to the Wall's crushing effect on the local economy. We also visited a park built by Christians on a former Israeli army base. It was the only park for children in that town, but after its completion the Israeli military decided that they wanted the land back. Families are afraid to allow their children to play there now.

Shannon Jammal-Hollemans (front row, with hat) and the Hope Equals group pose with the Palestinian family whose house they rebuilt.

Despite the divisions, we were encouraged to learn about ways some Palestinians and Israelis are working together to resist injustice and to create a lasting peace in the land. One group we met with was B'Tselem, an Israeli agency that documents and reports incidences of human rights violations in Gaza and the West Bank.

We also met with Archbishop Elias Chacour, a three-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. It was inspiring to hear the leader of the largest Christian church in the Holy Land today articulate the calling Christians have to communicate "clearly and courageously" as agents of God's peace in the world.

We also helped to rebuild the home of a Palestinian family in the town of Al-Walaja that had twice been lost to Israeli bulldozers.

Practicing the trade of Christ in the land he called his earthly home gave me insight into how God blesses us when we work to bless others.

—Shannon Jammal-Hollemans is an M.Div. student at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Seattle Church Fights Homelessness



Every Wednesday night in the summer, Seattle church planter Ben Katt and his friends host an outdoor meal for up to 100 local residents.

But this is no ordinary neighborhood barbecue. The attendees often include people recovering from drug and alcohol addictions, families without homes, and prostitutes. It's a cross-section of the city's Aurora neighborhood, a tough area overrun with old motels and marked by homelessness and crime.

Yet this is where Katt, pastor of Home Missions-supported Awake Church, feels called to serve. Katt has dedicated his ministry to helping to renew this struggling community, specifically by helping people who are homeless.

But inviting people to worship and sharing food are only the beginning. This fall, Awake will open the Aurora Sharehouse, a 1,500-square-foot indoor community center where the church's weekly gatherings can be held in the

colder months. Katt envisions the Sharehouse as a hub where neighbors, businesses, faith communities, and other groups can collaborate on helping homeless people transition from existing in vehicles and motel rooms to living in stable, affordable housing.

"We feel specifically called to work along the Aurora corridor because for most of the people of Awake, it actually is our community; it is where we live. So when we consider Jesus' command to love our neighbor and ask the question 'Who is our neighbor?' we inevitably find that as followers of Jesus we have a specific calling to respond in love to the realities of our neighborhood."

Awake has also launched the Vacancy Project, an initiative that seeks to help homeless Aurora residents escape the cycle of poverty and move into stable, affordable housing.

—Ben Van Houten,
Christian Reformed Home Missions

A Life Changed, a Family Restored



For the most part, to be Fulani is to be Muslim. Fulani families in West Africa have practiced Islam for generations. Children are expected to pass the faith on to their children. Those who become Christians are often treated harshly; sometimes even rejected by their families.

Yet the gospel is compelling many Fulani people to explore the truth of Jesus.

JD's story is the story of a transformed life. He was an alcoholic who sold everything he could to support his habit. His family life deteriorated and relationships with his wife and children became tense. No one in the family worked unless it benefitted them personally.

JD's mother became very discouraged; her son was bringing shame to the family and their land was suffering from neglect.

But then something changed. JD and his family became followers of Jesus. Gradually, their newfound faith transformed them.

Complete change in habits didn't happen overnight. "For the first few years after they

had become Christians, the family didn't plant all they could, partly because they didn't want to be bothered by it or they thought it beneath them to wield a hoe," says a Christian Reformed World Missions missionary in the region.

"But this rainy season, the area around their small house is full of all sorts of growing things, food of various kinds planted by the family. Now, having understood something about living a responsible life in the kingdom, they tend to spend more time at home than before, fixing the fences, repairing the house, or planting trees for the future."

Some of JD's friends and neighbors are asking questions, wanting to know more about the God who has turned around the lives of JD and his family.

JD is one of a growing number of Christians in West Africa who come from Muslim backgrounds. After years of building relationships with the Fulani of West Africa, CRWM missionaries are seeing them embrace Isa (Arabic for Jesus).

—Sarah Van Stempvoort,
Christian Reformed World Missions

The Power of Goats



The Christmas gift that gives baaaaack—goats from CRWRC's gift catalog—is always popular with people in the Christian Reformed Church, and this past year was no different. Between July 2009 and June 2010, \$224,620 USD was raised for goats.

Why goats? "Goats are great animals for poor farmers. They're easy to care for and will eat almost anything. They can be kept in a small yard, and are strong and hardy. Goats breed after just a few years, providing additional goats for the family and community," explains Joel Nagtegaal of Langley, British Columbia. He and his friends spearheaded a GoatForGold campaign during this year's Winter Olympics that saw 368 goats purchased on behalf of proud Canadians.

"Even though there are some tough economic times right now, we still come from a position of privilege compared to most people in the world, and it feels good to make a difference," Nagtegaal said.

Karin Vermeer of Welland, Ontario agrees. She and her congregation at Grace CRC raised money to buy 187 goats last Christmas. "We wanted to use the abundance that God has entrusted to our care to bless those who are in desperate need. A simple way to do this is with the help of a friendly little creature: a goat."

"Giving goats through CRWRC is one of the most cost-effective ways of purchasing goats for communities in need," Vermeer added. "Through other organizations, goats can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$100 per goat. Through CRWRC, goats cost, on average, \$35 each. More money goes straight to the purchase of goats, so more of the money you give goes directly to help communities in need."

And that's exactly what these goat donations did. In the past year, CRWRC distributed approximately 3,500 goats to people in need. This included 50 goats each in Bangladesh and India.

"Goats are a wonderful project for women in Bangladesh and India, because they can raise the goats near their homes," said CRWRC-Bangladesh staff member Kohima Daring. "They learn how to care for the animals, fatten them up,

then sell them or their offspring to earn money and be able to send their children to school."

As in many other CRWRC goat programs, the women in Bangladesh and India give their goat's first kid to another neighbor in need, who then raises that goat and gives an offspring to someone else. In this way the benefits continue to spread.

Goats are also helpful for those on the fringes of society who have few other options for support. In

One of the 3,150 goats that were distributed to needy families in Kenya last year



Zambia, for example, 100 goats were distributed to people living with AIDS and children who had lost one or both parents to the disease.

"Those who are sick often find it hard to have enough energy to work in the fields or go to a job," explained Eli Toribio, CRWRC-Zambia staff member. "A goat is a great income-generating option. Similarly, children who receive a goat can care for their animals while still having time to go to school."

Those who received a goat from CRWRC this past year say that the goats are producing milk for orphans and vulnerable children, providing manure to grow more and better crops, and are being sold to provide the family with an extra source of income.

This important ministry will continue in 2011. An effort is already underway to distribute 3,000 goats to families in Kenya who lost their entire livestock herds during recent drought. For more information, visit www.crwrc.org.

—Kristen deRoo VanderBerg,
CRWRC Communications

Faith That Never Stops Growing



We all know that faith formation doesn't just "happen," but if we're honest, we often act as if it does. We may acknowledge God at mealtimes, go to church each Sunday, and send our kids to Sunday school, hoping and praying that what we hear and do there will "stick"—that our children will grow into people who love God and their neighbor.

But is that enough?

For a seed to grow into a mature and healthy plant, it needs a good environment in rich soil, nutrients, regular watering, and the light of the sun. And it needs these things throughout its entire lifetime.

Our faith is the same way. For our faith to grow, it needs a rich environment, regular nourishment through God's Word, the water of God's grace, and the light of the Son. And we need these things throughout our entire lifetimes.

So when we hear that young people are leaving the CRC and other churches in droves we sense there's something wrong in the environment where that faith develops—the

home and the church. Somehow, faith isn't sticking.

Recognizing this problem, the CRC has been focusing seriously on faith formation and faith nurture for all church members, infants through adults.

In 2007 Synod appointed a Faith Formation Committee to provide guidance on our current practices of baptism, the Lord's Supper and how it relates to children, and profession of faith.

Faith formation has also been a central focus of Faith Alive's work as the publishing arm of the CRC. While all its products are designed to nurture faith in some way, this year Faith Alive has released an array of compelling resources to help churches, parents and families, educators, individuals, small groups, and Sunday school classes nurture faith.

Samples of these resources are available on Faith Alive's website (www.FaithAliveResources.org).

—Sandy Swartzentruber,
Faith Alive editorial department

Transformations in Northern India



After Vishnu, a blacksmith, heard about Jesus through Back to God Ministries International's Hindi-language program, *Mahima Ke Vachan* (*Words of Glory*), he wanted to know more.

BTGMI connected him with a local pastor who prayed for Vishnu and his family. Soon after, Vishnu and members of his family committed themselves to Christ. They encouraged other relatives to listen to the broadcast. Some have now embraced Christianity.

Lalit, a village leader, was first drawn to the health-related segments of *Mahima Ke Vachan*, which he considered useful for villagers. The teachings of Jesus also impressed him. He told the staff he wants to know more.

"Pray that God will touch Lalit's heart so he will see clearly that Jesus alone is God," asks the Hindi ministry team.

Another story illustrates how media is opening doors in India. A father called asking

for prayer for his young daughter, who had a hole in her heart. Without money, surgery was out. But the Hindi broadcast talked about Jesus healing the sick. He asked, "Would you pray for my daughter?"

As staff members prayed, the daughter began to gain strength and weight. At her next visit, the doctor confirmed that God answers prayer. He said, "That hole is gone!"

Because of the healing, the village invited the local ministry team to visit and share about Christ. The team agreed, hiking three hours off the main road to share the gospel.

Each year, those who produce BTGMI programs in India head out on extended trips to visit listener groups. As they meet with those who respond to the programs, media missionaries are encouraged by how God's Spirit opens hearts to the good news of Jesus.

—Nancy Vander Meer,
Back to God Ministries International

Back to God Ministries International

Back to God Ministries International proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world through audio, video, the Internet, and print media. Ministry teams indigenous to their own cultures are using media tools from shortwave radio to social networking systems to communicate Christ in the “heart language” of those who need salvation and discipleship. Our ministry staff is inspired in their work by the vision of a world where media is used effectively to proclaim good news that brings spiritual rebirth, grows discipleship, and transforms communities.

We partner worldwide with churches and ministries who share a common kingdom perspective that proclaims Jesus as Savior and Lord. Together we produce effective programming that speaks to the real issues our listeners experience in their personal lives and cultural settings.

Thanks to your support and through careful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, people who receive the message of God’s love in Christ are coming to Christ and growing in their walk of faith. Each year we receive contacts from more than six million people—and from nearly every country in the world! Please continue to pray—powerful prayer empowers gospel programming and changes lives!

HIGHLIGHTS

BTGMI program initiatives include:

- 34 websites in nine languages; links to each website can be found at BackToGod.net
- 43 audio programs in ten languages, aired on more than 2,000 radio stations worldwide, plus delivered by Internet, cell phone, and shortwave radio
- 13 unique video programs in six languages, broadcast on more than 150 TV stations and delivered by Internet and DVD
- more than 3.8 million copies of devotional booklets in six languages, printed and distributed to people around the world
- Bible study courses in six languages; last year 30,816 participants enrolled
- 26 international ministry centers on six continents and more than 600 volunteers discipling those who respond to our ministry
- Bible study correspondence courses in six languages
- children’s ministries in seven languages



Contact info:

Website: www.BackToGod.net

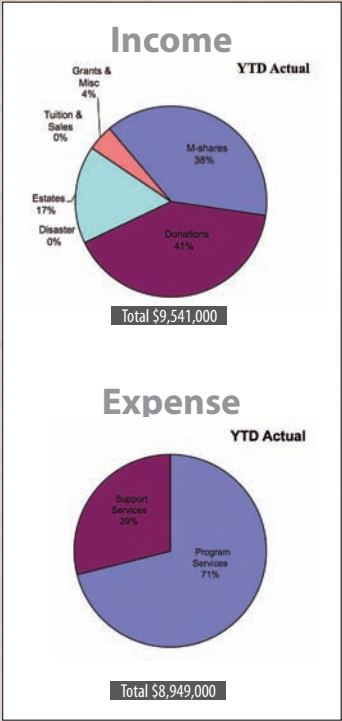
E-mail: info@BackToGod.net

United States: 800.879.6555; 708.371.8700

Canada: 800.730.3490; 905.336.2920



A woman listens to gospel messages on her radio.



Calvin College

In October 2010, Calvin College celebrated the reopening of the completely transformed Covenant Fine Arts Center (CFAC), long considered by visitors to be the “front door” to the college’s 400-acre campus at the corner of Burton Street and the East Beltline in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The project, funded as part of a \$155 million capital campaign, restored an architectural gem on the Calvin campus back to its original beauty, and beyond.

The upgraded facility provides much-needed practice rooms and rehearsal space for more than 500 students who perform in Calvin’s band, orchestra, chamber groups, ensembles, and choirs. It also has a new 3,800 square-foot art gallery, which will include a space for the college’s permanent collection. A new recital hall, increased instrument storage, and new offices for the English and music departments are a few of the building’s other additions.

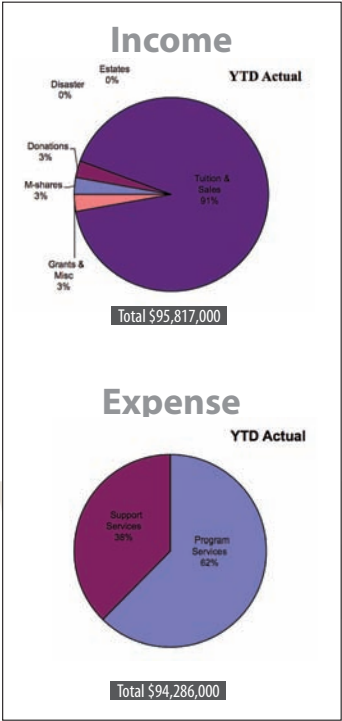
In June 2010, Calvin hosted the Uniting General Council (UGC), an assembly that brought together hundreds of leaders from the two largest networks of Reformed denominations—representing 80 million Christians—around the world. The UGC was preceded by a conference co-sponsored by Calvin College that was designed to strengthen the intersection between Reformed Christian faith expressions and global movements in world Christianity.



Students review Philippians material.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded in 1876 as a school for CRC ministerial students with one teacher and seven students
- 100 academic majors and minors, offering everything from accounting to youth ministry leadership
- More than 4,000 students from nearly every U.S. state, a handful of Canadian provinces, and nearly 50 countries, who join about 375 faculty members on the 400-acre campus
- About 900 graduates annually who serve in a variety of places around the world and join more than 60,000 members of the Calvin Alumni Association
- 2009-2010 tuition of \$24,645 with 92 percent of all students receiving financial aid (average need-based award at Calvin is \$17,000 per year)
- More than 60 percent of all Calvin students receive academic scholarships.
- Ministry shares provide grants for CRC students, who make up nearly 50 percent of Calvin’s student body.
- Semester-long off-campus study programs in 12 locations such as China, Ghana, Hungary, Spain, and more.



Contact info:

Website: www.calvin.edu

616.526.6000 or 800.688.0122

Calvin Theological Seminary

Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to “prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12-13).

As a result, CTS is committed to formation for ministry: developing character, knowledge, and skills in the context of Christian community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 250 students from more than 40 denominations around the world attend CTS.
- Rev. Jul Medenblik will begin his term as president next summer. He and president Cornelius Plantinga are working together to provide for a smooth transition next summer.
- Fourteen Calvin seminary students and three Calvin College students took the seminary’s first international January interim travel course in Turkey, taught by Professor Jeff Weima.
- 34 high school students experienced theological education at CTS and ministry in Paterson, New Jersey; Tualatin, Oregon; and Toronto, Ontario (see photo) through the Facing Your Future program.
- In 2010 congregations collected more than \$100,000 to support Facing Your Future and the Ministry Incentive Plan (a revolving student loan fund).
- CTS offers a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree to prepare people for ordained ministry as pastors; Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees in educational ministries, evangelism and missions, church planting, pastoral care, worship, or youth and family ministries; a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Bible and theology; master (M.T.S. and Th.M.) and doctoral (Ph.D.) degree programs for those interested in teaching Bible and theology.
- CTS offers certificate programs geared toward church members and church staff interested in specialized training, but not planning to complete a degree program. Certificates are available in church planting, educational ministries, English Bible, ministry, missions and evangelism, pastoral care, theology, worship, and youth ministry.

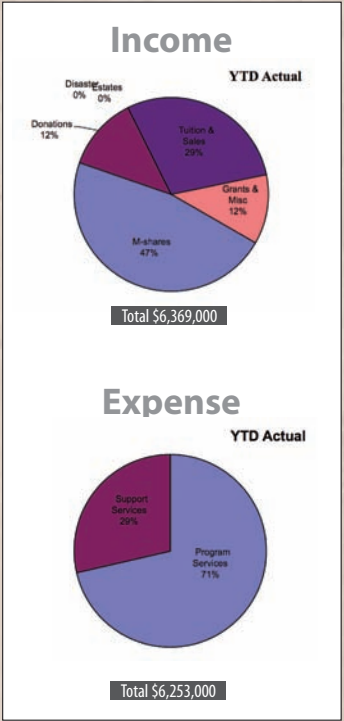


Contact info:

Website: www.calvinseminary.edu

800.388.6034 or 616.957.6036

You can receive regular updates about CTS on Facebook.



Christian Reformed Home Missions

Christian Reformed Home Missions works in regional teams. Home Missions staff members focus on multiplying new churches and campus ministries, cultivating diverse missional leaders, and helping Christian Reformed churches discern their place in God's mission. We help people to clearly speak and live out the good news of Christ—changing lives, healing communities, and renewing culture by God's Spirit.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Home Missions funds 176 ministries in the United States and Canada.
- 75 new churches currently receive financial assistance from Home Missions, with more in the early planning stages.
- More than 500 Christian Reformed churches and nearly 400 congregations from other denominations are active in small groups ministry, thanks to Coffee Break and other programs and resources made available through Home Missions.
- 22 educational ministries (20 campuses and two New Mexico schools) receive Home Missions support.
- 13 Leadership Development Networks are training evangelists in English-, Korean-, and Spanish-speaking communities.



Ben Katt and his wife, Cherie, work among the homeless in Seattle, Wash.



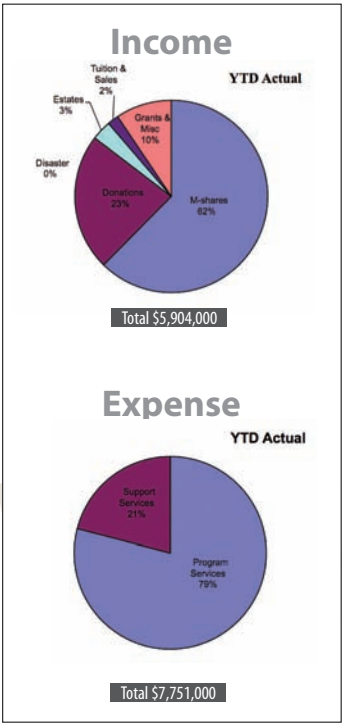
Contact info:

Website: www.crhm.org

United States: 800.266.2175 or 616.224.0772

Canada: 800.730.3490 or 905.336.2920

E-mail: crhm@crcna.org



Christian Reformed World Missions

Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM) partners with churches to respond to the Lord's commission to witness to the good news of God's kingdom and to make disciples of all nations. World Missions challenges CRC congregations in North America to participate in mission with churches and other Christian organizations throughout the world.



HIGHLIGHTS

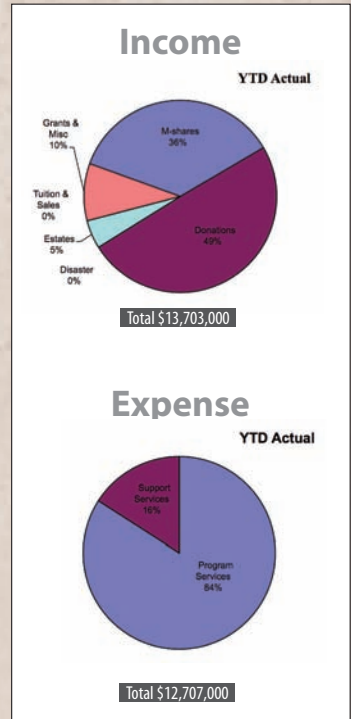
- CRWM missionaries have served among the Fulani, a largely Muslim nomadic cattle-herding people group in West Africa, for more than 40 years. Now, in one country that had little visible response to the gospel after 20 years of ministry, pockets of Christians are developing.
- Educational Care is a new teacher training curriculum for teachers with little formal teaching education and few resources and training opportunities. CRWM will make the first module available in January 2011.
- In Latin America, the Strategy of Transformation focuses on training local leaders to reach out with Christ's love and grace to youths caught up in prisons, gangs, prostitution, and other precarious situations.
- Worldwide Christian Schools (WWCS) and CRWM are joining in support of COCREP, a coalition of 21 Christ-centered schools in the Dominican Republic that serves more than 5,000 disadvantaged students. Also in the last year, CRWM began a partnership with WWCS and COCREP through Hope Rising, a student sponsorship program.
- World Missions has more than 200 missionaries serving in over 20 countries.
- More than 9,000 people committed their lives to Christ this year through the work of World Missions missionaries and partners. Nearly 50 new worshipping communities were established.
- Eleven new missionaries are serving in countries such as Romania, Cameroon, Austria, Lithuania, and Guatemala; 84 teachers and administrators serve in international schools through World Missions, and 75 volunteers served through CRWM in various countries.

Teachers in the Dominican Republic provide Christ-centered schooling to children in need.



Contact info:

Website: www.crwm.org
United States, 1-800-346-0075 or 616.224.0700
E-mail: crwm@crcna.org.
Canada: 800.730.3490 or 905.336.2920.
E-mail: crwm@crcna.org.



Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC)

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) responds on your behalf to poverty, hunger, disaster, and injustice around the world, bringing concrete demonstrations of Christ's love to those who need it most. CRWRC also encourages members of the CRC to participate in this ministry through volunteering, advocacy, prayer, and financial support.



Disaster Response volunteers build a home in Hattiesburg, Miss. Your prayers, volunteering and financial support enabled CRWRC to do more than \$11.4 million in disaster programming last year.



This Nicaraguan boy was among more than a million people helped by CRWRC community development programs in the past year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Last year, CRWRC served in 34 countries, responding to disaster and providing long-term community programs.
- In total, CRWRC's programs helped 1,640,613 people.
- CRWRC's ministry was supported by 3,452 volunteers who donated 345,993 hours of their time. That's roughly the equivalent of 166 full-time employees for a year.
- CRWRC relies on gifts and offerings to support its work. To learn how you can get involved, please visit www.crwrc.org.

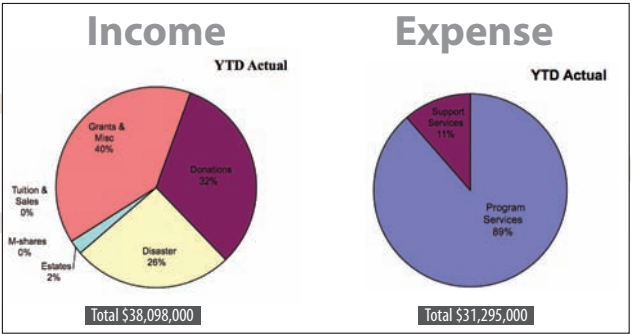


Contact info:

Website: www.crwrc.org
United States: 800.55.CRWRC or 616.224.0740
Canada: 800.730.3490 or 905.336.2920
E-mail: crwrc@crcna.org



Etinada Zulu, who cares for three orphaned grandchildren in Zambia, is one of 180,966 people who benefited from CRWRC's HIV and AIDS programs.



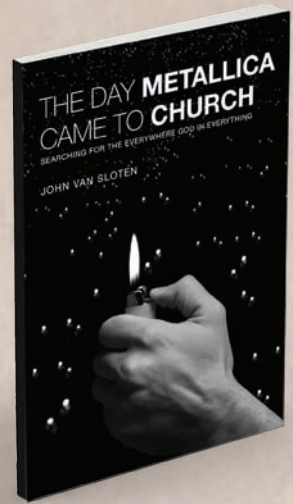
Faith Alive

Faith Alive is the publishing ministry of the CRC and the resource provider of the Reformed Church in America. We produce curriculum, books, and other materials to help people grow in faith.

We serve people from preschoolers through adults, youth groups, small groups, people with special needs, worship planners, and church leaders.

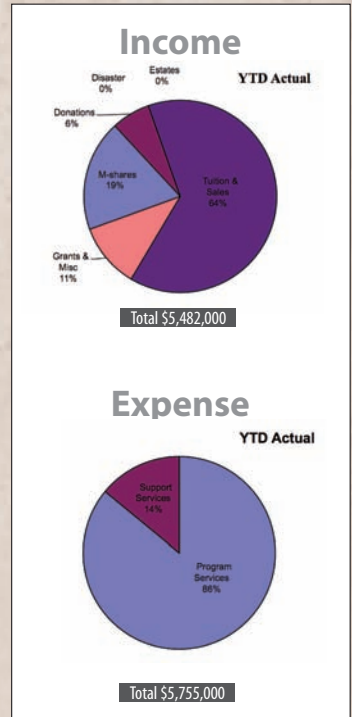
HIGHLIGHTS

- New releases—A focus on faith nurture drove this year's new releases, which included *Celebrating the Milestones of Faith: A Guide for Churches*; *Home Grown*, a Christian parenting handbook and a companion study guide; *Shaped by God*, a collection of accessible essays on faith formation helpful for church educators, teachers, pastors, and parents; and *Seeking God's Face*—a devotional that encourages the practice of praying with the Bible through the church year. Check out Faith Alive's website (www.FaithAliveResources.org) to see what else is hot off the press.
- New series—Two new series launched this year: *In the Works*, which helps people develop a missional life and a vibrant faith; and *Infuse*, a series of Bible studies for people who are exploring or new to the Christian faith.
- Curriculum—In development for release in 2011 are *Dwell*, a children's ministry curriculum that helps kids "live into" God's big story, and *WE*—an intergenerational event-based walk through the Bible.
- New sites—The Banner and Reformed Worship staff are developing enhanced websites to better serve readers, reach new readers, and provide additional content.
- New music—Faith Alive's Music and Worship office is working with a committee to develop a joint hymnal for use by both the CRC and the Reformed Church in America.
- Around the world—World Literature Ministries continues to provide people with Reformed resources in Spanish, Korean, and other languages.
- Rev. John Van Sloten's compelling new book (pictured above) *The Day Metallica Came to Church: Searching for the Everywhere God in Everything*, kicked off a new Faith Alive imprint called "Square Inch," which will publish fresh voices in the conversation between biblical faith and contemporary culture.



Contact info:

Websites:
www.FaithAliveResources.org
www.TheBanner.org
www.ReformedWorship.org
www.LibrosDesafio.org
800.333.8300
Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithalive

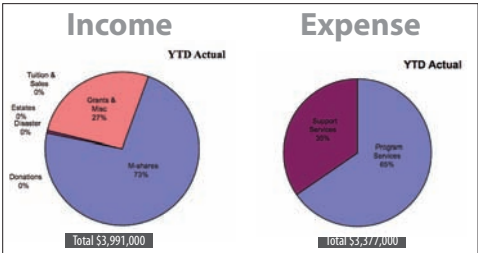


Denominational Services & Specialized Ministries

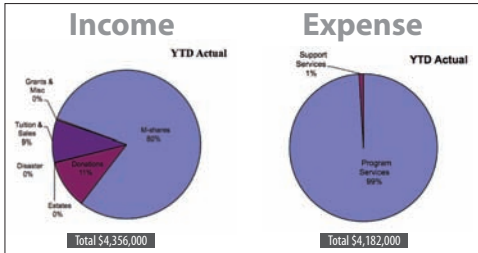
Denominational Services oversees the work of Christian Reformed Church agencies and specialized ministries and provides funds for synodical services, including the Board of Trustees. It also provides ministries such as Ministerial Candidacy, the Leadership Exchange, CRC Communications, and Denominational Advancement, as well as general administration.

Specialized Ministries serve the church by initiating, designing, and implementing ministry programs in the areas of the Chaplaincy and Care Ministry, Committee for Contact with the Government (Canada), Disability Concerns, Pastor-Church Relations, Race Relations, Safe Church Ministry (formerly Abuse Prevention), Social Justice, and Urban Aboriginal Ministries.

Denominational Services



Specialized Ministries



Chaplaincy and Care Ministry

Chaplaincy and Care Ministry is the office that develops and promotes the ministry of chaplains in hospitals, hospice care, prisons, the military, workplaces, and other locations throughout the U.S. and Canada (with some military personnel serving overseas).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chaplaincy and Care Ministry appointed a new director in March of 2010. Rev. Ron Klimp served three Christian Reformed churches from 1977 to 1999, then helped create and served as executive director of Workplace Chaplains U.S.
- In addition, Chaplaincy and Care Ministry is tasked with encouraging churches to recognize and support the chaplains in their area while also encouraging chaplains to share their pastoral care expertise with the local church.
- Because chaplains are paid by the institutions for which they work, every dollar invested in chaplaincy and care ministry through donations and ministry share yields more than \$50 in ministry by chaplains.
- Currently we are blessed to have
 - 95 active full-time chaplains
 - 24 part-time chaplains
 - 75 retired chaplains, and
 - 28 students in chaplaincy-oriented training.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/chaplaincy

Rev. Ron Klimp, director

616.224.0733

E-mail: rklimp@crcna.org

Pastor-Church Relations

The staff of Pastor-Church Relations are available to help pastors, church staff, ministry leaders, councils, and congregations with intervention, consultation, education, leadership development, and staff support.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The publication “Evaluation Essentials for Congregational Leaders: Setting the Table for Healthy Conversations” has been sent to every Christian Reformed Church for use in the evaluation of pastors and church staff.
- Work is beginning on a training tool for congregations on the topic of pastor search committees.
- Training, evaluation, and endorsement of Specialized Transitional Ministers (who work with churches in the time of transition between pastors) is ongoing and expanding to meet the needs of churches.



Contact info:

Rev. Norm Thomasma, director
616.224.0764
Email: nthomasma@crcna.org/pcr

Jeanne Kallemeyn, staff ministry specialist
616.726.1152
Email: jkallemeyn@crcna.org

Rev. Cecil VanNiejenhuis, pastor/
congregation consultant
616.224.0746
Email: cvanniejehuis@crcna.org

Laura Palsrok, administrative assistant
616.224.0837
Email: lpalsrok@crcna.org
Website: www.crcna.org/pcr

Disability Concerns

Disability Concerns seeks to bring about the full participation of all people with disabilities in the life of the church and the full participation of the church in the lives of people with disabilities. In healthy churches, everybody belongs, and everybody serves.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mental Health Resources—About 25 percent of the North American population experiences a diagnosable mental disorder during any given year, and about six percent live with a serious mental illness. Like the population at large, members of Christ’s body struggle with a variety of mental health issues. Yet congregations have a difficult time ministering to people living with mental illnesses or even talking about the issue. Disability Concerns has added a new resource section to our website, including a new free four-part study series for congregations called *Let’s Talk! Breaking the Silence around Mental Illness in Our Communities of Faith*.
- Disability Concerns Network—Disability Concerns has joined the conversation about ministry on the CRC Network. Sections include a blog, articles, recommended websites, and other resources. Let us hear from you about how your church includes people with disabilities in its ministry.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/disability
Rev. Mark Stephenson, director
Phone: 888.463.0272
Network: network.crcna.org/disability
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CRCDisabilityConcerns
E-mail: disabilityconcerns@crcna.org

Race Relations

The ministry of Race Relations continues to engage in a plan to bring about biblical reconciliation within the church. We encourage CRC churches to embrace their identity as God's diverse and unified family through the Dance of Racial Reconciliation (DORR) and Widening the Circle (WTC) workshops. In conjunction with Faith Alive and Home Missions, we are working on a DVD and study guide on racial reconciliation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Students attending the CRC-sponsored colleges and seminary benefited from the scholarship money that comes directly from offerings in response to All Nations Heritage Sunday.
- The Office of Race Relations invites and encourages people of color to be active in their churches and to serve on committees, denominational boards, and synod. When they serve in this manner, they gain valuable experience and leadership qualities and add their voices to decisions and directions that are crucial to the life of the CRC.
- The CRC continues to face the challenge of placing high value on the dignity of all persons, on the inclusiveness of multiple cultures, and on the integrity of that identity. Race Relations continues to lead and encourage the churches, and we attribute all the progress and success that has been made in this ministry to the grace and goodness of God. We covet your prayers.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/race
Rev. Esteban Lugo, director
800.272.5125 or 616.224.5883
E-mail: elugo@crcna.org

Steve Kabetu, coordinator (Canada)
800.730.3490 or 905.336.2920
E-mail: skabetu@crcna.org

Safe Church Ministry

Safe Church Ministry is dedicated to abuse awareness and prevention. Its mission is threefold: to create awareness of various forms of abuse against persons of all ages, to help churches reduce the risk of an incidence of abuse, and to help churches promote healing and restoration through a just and effective response to victims and offenders.

The emphasis of Safe Church Ministry is to support churches in developing and maintaining healthy interactions between adults and youths and between adults and other adults in the context of church programs and ministry. We offer education, training, resources, policies, protocols, and consultation services.

In addition, we train Classes Safe Church Teams to conduct the advisory panel process. We encourage these teams to help churches with educational opportunities; to provide support services to victims, offenders, and their families; and to advocate for claimants.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly half of the denomination's churches have a child safety policy; over half of the denomination's church members do not have access to a Safe Church Team; over 70 percent of the denomination's members do not have access to a Claimant Advocate.
- This year, Classis Wisconsin became the newest classis to form a Safe Church Team.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/safechurch
Beth A. Swagman, director
616.224.0735
E-mail: bswagman@crcna.org

Office of Social Justice

The Office of Social Justice (OSJ) educates CRC members, encourages and supports their engagement in social justice issues, and occasionally is involved in direct advocacy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Office of Social Justice has many ways for people to stay connected. Our latest newsletter, "OSJ Prayers," is a weekly digest of the most pressing justice issues around the world. It's great for use in small groups or personal prayer.
- For a comprehensive overview of various social justice issues, visit our website at crcjustice.org. We also have an active presence on both Facebook and Twitter for folks who prefer shorter, more immediate updates.
- Our Action Center at www.crcjustice.org has an increased capacity. Visit regularly to get a Reformed perspective on the hottest political topics, from the situation in the Middle East to immigration reform and global poverty. Don't know how to advocate? We can help with that too!
- We regularly help other agencies develop advocacy programs. Recent partnerships include CRWRC's World Hunger and Embrace AIDS campaigns, World Missions' Hope Equals campaign, and our work with Disability Concerns. Contact us to learn how your ministry can do advocacy too.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcjustice.org

United States: Peter Vander Meulen,
616-224-0807

E-mail: pvandermeulen@crcna.org

Canada: Steve van de Hoef,
800-730-3490 ext. 296

E-mail: svandehoef@crcna.org

ServiceLink

ServiceLink is the volunteer program of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. It originated in Canada in 1995 and became a bi-national program during the summer of 2009, serving denominational agencies and ministry programs, as well as churches across Canada and the United States.

Through ServiceLink, members of CRC congregations can join agency and ministry staff in offering their time, talent and treasure for meaningful involvement in ministry, at home and abroad. They partner for greater impact in ministry and enable the CRC to stretch further in its mission to transform lives and communities worldwide.

ServiceLink provides volunteers with "one-stop" information on opportunities and resources available through CRC offices in Canada and the United States. Staff gather and promote a variety of diverse opportunities and facilitate meaningful involvement for volunteers.

Mission and service experiences provide volunteers with first-hand glimpses of what God is doing through the efforts of the Christian Reformed Church and generate enthusiasm for a deeper commitment to its mission and vision.



Contact info:

Website - www.crcna.org/servicelink

Canada – Carol Sybenga, program manager
800.730.3490

E-mail: csybenga@crcna.org

United States – Lisa Sochacki, volunteer coordinator
877.279.9994

E-mail: lsochacki@crcna.org

Canadian Ministries

The Canadian Ministries office seeks to serve the Christian Reformed community in Canada—members, congregations, and classes—with a broad range of services that helps them effectively and joyfully transform lives and communities.

We do this by:

- providing consultative services, answering questions about best practices and procedures.
- encouraging connections between the CRC community and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- working through the the Committee for Contact with the Government and the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue to empower the Christian Reformed community to engage political leaders with a Reformed perspective on societal issues.
- representing the Christian Reformed Church in dialogue with many other Christian churches.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/canadianministry

Rev. Bruce Adema, director

905.336.2920 or 800.730.3490

E-mail: bruceadema@crcna.org

Urban Aboriginal Ministries

The Urban Aboriginal Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church are located in some of the most challenging neighborhoods in Canada.

The centers serve as oases of hope, peace, and light where people testify to the goodness of God by offering a listening ear, providing literacy programs, and sharing God's Word.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The sharing circle is at the center of many Aboriginal gatherings. As people bring their hopes and their hurts to the circle, we acknowledge that Jesus is the one who brings healing and enables us to live our lives to their fullest potential.

Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/aboriginal

Indian Metis Christian Fellowship

Bert Adema, director

306.359.1096

E-mail: imcfr@sasktel.net

Edmonton Native Healing Centre

Harold Roscher, director

780.482.5522

E-mail: hroscher@crcna.org

Indian Family Centre

Michele Visser-Wikkerink, director

204.586.8393

Email: mvisser@crcna.org

Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue

In June of 2010 the Committee for Contact with the Government (CCG) of the CRC moved to Ottawa and set up the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue to enrich the CRC's contributions to justice-seeking in Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue will build on the CCG's commitment to thoughtful advocacy and respectful discussion with policy makers, which is one part of what we call "public dialogue."
- Beginning in the spring of 2011 the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue will host events to explore the connections between justice, worship, citizenship, and discipleship!

Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/ccg

Mike Hogeterp, director

Phone: 613.686.6298

Mobile: 613.291.0574

E-mail: mhogeterp@crcna.ca

The Network

Just 10 months old, The Network was created to connect congregations and their leaders for ministry. So far it's done that mainly through an innovative website, www.crcna.org/network. This online Network is actually a group of networks, each one dedicated to a certain ministry role: deacon, Sunday school teacher, pastor, administrator, elder, tech person, or mission team leader.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A primary goal is to get visitors talking to each other on topics of interest to local churches. The Network has had more than 60,000 visits in its first eight months, 300,000 page views, and more than 1,000 comments and posts by users. Here's a sampling of what people have said:
 - Patricia: *"I love the variety of topics, resources, and opportunities to connect on 'The Network.' There's really no excuse to not be 'connected'!"*
 - Ken in St. Thomas: *"This is very worthwhile, and should be promoted more in the churches."*
 - Paul in Pella: *"Very much liking the concept and the implementation."*
 - Terry in Binghamton: *"I just got registered, although I have been following the deacon postings for some time."*
 - From a pastor: *"Actually diggin' the new CRC denominational forum . . . I think they scored on this one."*

For more information about The Network: Connecting Churches for Ministry, contact Kim Chimienti at kchimienti@crcna.org, 616.241.1691, ext. 4419.



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/network
Rev. Michael Bruinooge, director
E-mail: mbruinooge@crcna.org

The Leadership Exchange

A recent survey conducted by the Center for Social Research of Calvin College titled "Spiritual and Social Trends and Patterns in the CRCNA" identified five "keys" to the future of the CRC, of which two were leadership training and disciple-making.

The Leadership Exchange hopes to provide leadership in these two areas in ways that will complement the efforts of all other ministries and agencies in growing a healthy and vibrant church.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Exchange engages with leaders from all walks of life. It is our hope that these leaders will engage with and influence every sphere of life: business, government, schools, communities, cities, and the world.
- The Leadership Exchange is committed to working with any ministry initiative that requires a partner in developing Christian leaders. One of our top priorities this year has been to engage young adult leaders in the CRC.

Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/leadership
Chris Pullenayegem, director
E-mail: cpullenayegem@crcna.org

CRC Loan Fund

The Christian Reformed Church Loan Fund was established by Synod in 1983 for the benefit of CRC congregations in the United States. The Loan Fund makes loans available to any CRC church in the U.S. that wishes to purchase or build a church facility or parsonage, to purchase land, or to make improvements or repairs to existing property.

The Loan Fund's only source of funds (we do not solicit gifts or receive ministry shares) is investments in the Loan Fund made by individuals, Christian Reformed congregations and classes, and other organizations related to the CRC.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Loan Fund experienced a significant contraction in size during Fiscal 2010. During 2010, total assets of the Loan Fund decreased 7.6% to \$34.6 million from \$37.4 million. Last year, certificates payable decreased by \$2.9 million to \$28.3 million, the first decrease in nearly 20 years. Because of the decreased loan activity, the Loan Fund did little to attract new funds, and rates paid on investments reflected that fact.
- During fiscal 2010, new loans were approved for Rehoboth CRC, Rehoboth, NM; Long Beach CRC, Long Beach, Calif.; Noordeloos CRC, Holland, Mich.; and Stephenville CRC, Stephenville, Tex.

This information does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to purchase. Offers will be made only by the offering circular in those jurisdictions where it is lawful to make such an offer or solicitation of an offer. Investments in the Loan Fund involve risks more fully disclosed in the offering circular.



Contact Info:

Website: www.crcna.org/loanfund

616.224.0829 or 800.332.0012

E-mail: crlf@crcna.org

Christian Reformed Church Foundation

The Christian Reformed Church Foundation works on behalf of the denomination to fund priorities and keep the church focused on its mission.

The Foundation is committed to strengthen CRCNA agencies and institutions, it encourages generosity and stewardship on their behalf and works in partnership with them to add resources rather than compete for charitable gifts. Though the Foundation may partner with an agency to develop financial resources, it primarily seeks funds to develop new ideas and start-up programs that

- fall outside denominational agency mandates
- integrate program resources on behalf of the denomination as a whole
- support innovative efforts that are not funded through budgets of synod, classes, or agencies.

The Foundation works under the authority of the CRCNA Board of Directors. It is legally established in the United States and Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2010 the Foundation sought financial resources for projects related to the priority of creating and sustaining healthy congregations:

- The Leadership Exchange
- The Network: Connecting Churches for Ministry
- The Timothy Institute



Contact info:

Website: www.crcna.org/foundation

616.224.0817 or 877.272.6299

E-mail: Foundation@crcna.org

Ministry Share Receipts and Gift Income Summary

	2010	2009
Back to God Ministries		
Ministry Share	3,667,000	3,623,000
Gift and offerings	3,875,000	3,969,000
Estate Gifts	1,580,000	1,483,000
Total	9,122,000	9,075,000
Calvin College		
Ministry Share	2,693,000	2,592,000
Gift and offerings	2,709,000	2,327,000
Estate Gifts	339,000	119,000
Total	5,801,000	5,038,000
Calvin Seminary		
Ministry Share	2,992,000	2,876,000
Gift and offerings	786,000	867,000
Estate Gifts	58,000	311,000
Total	3,836,000	4,054,000
Faith Alive		
Ministry Share	1,024,000	1,090,000
Gift and offerings	32,000	36,000
Estate Gifts	326,000	274,000
Total	1,382,000	1,400,000
Home Missions		
Ministry Share	3,683,000	3,665,000
Gift and offerings	1,360,000	1,430,000
Estate Gifts	195,000	300,000
Total	5,238,000	5,395,000
World Missions		
Ministry Share	4,931,000	4,602,000
Gift and offerings	6,812,000	6,846,000
Estate Gifts	655,000	1,125,000
Total	12,398,000	12,573,000
World Relief		
Gift and offerings	12,527,000	11,766,000
Disaster Gifts	9,851,000	2,830,000
Grants	14,437,000	13,705,000
Estate gifts	868,000	1,425,000
Total	37,683,000	29,726,000
Specialized Ministries		
Ministry Share	3,479,000	3,304,000
Gift and offerings	438,000	374,000
Estate Gifts	5,000	0
Total	3,922,000	3,678,000
Denominational Services		
Ministry Share	2,899,000	2,817,000
Gift and offerings	24,000	38,000
Estate Gifts	0	0
Total	2,923,000	2,855,000
Foundation		
Gift and offerings	260,000	978,000
Estate Gifts	39,000	0
Total	299,000	978,000
Special Assistance Fund		
Ministry Share	118,000	128,000
Gift and offerings	118,000	128,000

Giving Summary 2010

The Christian Reformed Church continues to be blessed by faithful giving to the ministries and programs of our agencies and institutions. Tithing and regular giving remain a priority for our members and constituents.

Economic conditions stabilized during the year and slowly improved, providing capacity for additional gift giving.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010, giving through ministry shares increased by \$772,000 (+3.1%) from the prior year.

Other offerings and gifts decreased by \$958,000 (-3.2%), possibly due to a large increase in disaster response giving.

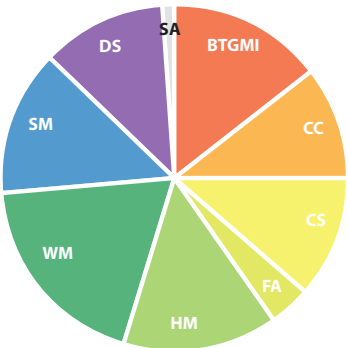
Disaster response giving increased by \$7,021,000 (+248.1%). Disaster gifts totaled \$9,851,000, mostly for Haiti earthquake response.

Income statistics were helped by the strengthening of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar – a 7.7% increase.

Estate gifts were down by \$967,000 (-20.3%).

CRC Agency 2009-10 Ministry Shares Received

Back to God Ministries International	\$3,667,000
Calvin College	\$2,693,000
Calvin Seminary	\$2,992,000
Faith Alive	\$1,024,000
Home Missions	\$3,683,000
World Missions	\$4,931,000
World Relief	\$0
Specialized Mins.	\$3,479,000
Denom. Services	\$2,899,000
Special Assistance Fund	\$118,000
Total:	\$25,486,000



Your ministry shares, gifts and prayers make it happen.

Thank you!

www.crcna.org