

Regional Home Missionary (PMA) Prayer and Praise Report

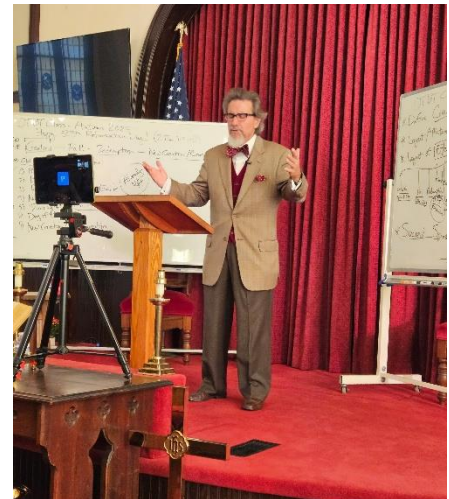
2025 Year-End Report

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Reception of New Member at
Word of Life- Autumn 2025



Teaching Old Testament Biblical
Theology Class- Autumn 2025

Regional Home Missionary (PMA) Prayer and Praise Report

2025 Year-End Report

Devotion: *“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man His thoughts; let Him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:6-11).*

Prayers and Praise Opportunities at a Glance

Word of Life (Columbia, MD): Pray for church planter Pastor John Jee (Grace and Judah) as he continues to shepherd faithfully the flock. Praise God for new member and new convert who will likely be taking New Members’ Class soon. Pray for God to grow the congregation in grace and numbers. Pray for God to raise up elders. Pray that our God would bless our outreach opportunities (next evangelistic outreach: Dec. 12 at Columbia Mall). Pray for wisdom in delicate and difficult counseling situations. Pray that prayer would be the highest priority!



Word of Life Congregation Worship Service

West Creek (Short Pump, VA/West Richmond, VA): Praise God for providing church planter Pastor Devin Gaye (Megan and Sophie, James, and Emma) installed and ordained on April 25, 2025. Pray as He continues to faithfully shepherd the flock. Praise God for new members, young folks becoming communicant members, visitors, and growth in grace. Pray that our God would continue to bless Pastor Devin and Elder John Waddill as they serve the congregation, and as they continue to reach out to neighbors and community. May West Creek be a faithful witness to the Gospel of glory and grace! Pray for wisdom in delicate and difficult counseling situations. Pray that prayer would be the highest priority!

Emmaus Presbyterian Church (Leesburg, VA): Praise God for the excellent worship and fellowship that Emmaus has been enjoying, meeting presently at Bethel OPC in Leesburg, VA. Praise God for their first anniversary as Emmaus in December! Praise God for Pastors Kenneth and Emerson who

are faithfully serving the congregation (and ministering to larger PMA congregations). Pray for RHM, Home Missions, and Candidates and Credentials as we continue to walk alongside and mentor this beloved congregation as it seeks to join the OPC.

Trinity Reformed (Lanham, MD): I have been greatly blessed to serve as a pastor-minister with Pastor Chris Cashen, Elders Alex Caulderon, Jim Van Damm, and Dennis Maeder in the past year at Trinity Reformed. I have had the privilege of serving on the session, preaching, doing outreach and seminars, teaching, and being involved in a search for a new pastor in 2026 (bittersweet because we love Pastor Chris so much!). Please pray that the congregation would continue to see visitors, would be unified and expectantly enthusiastic-zealous in Christ in this new chapter of the congregation. May there be unity and patience and gentleness as we seek our Risen-Ascended-



Seth and Jeremy Colon with RHM, Berryville Outreach

Enthroned Savior and covenantal friend to provide a new faithful pastor for this congregation's next chapter in God's story.

Berryville Bible Study (Berryville, VA): Praise God for our meetings this summer that were well attended and exciting, especially with Elder Jeremy Colon serving with us in a summer internship. Our attendance has been lower in the past few meetings, but we are continuing to pray, meet together, and seek to move forward as God gives us opportunities. Pray that we

might grow with interested and enthusiastic Berryville (and surrounding area) families and be able to begin worship services in 2026. Pray for our teaching and guidance and discipleship for those who attend. Pray as we continue to meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings. Pray for wisdom as we considering with Ketocin Covenant OPC in Purcellville, Virginia, of beginning worship services in Spring 2026.

Your RHM's Opportunities Teaching/Discipleship/Counseling/Shepherding:

Praise God for my dear wife and best friend, Margaret! We celebrated her birthday and our 34th wedding anniversary recently! Please pray for your RHM as I continue to have many opportunities for discipleship, mentoring, teaching, and evangelism. Please continue to pray for open doors for the gospel, Col. 4:2-6 (as I was typing this in a coffee shop nearby, I was able to meet and witness to a new "friend"; he even invited me to speak at a community event in Reston! Let us remember that all whom we meet are potential "friends" and hopefully become brothers and sisters in Christ by His power and grace!).



Word of Life Congregation Bible Study

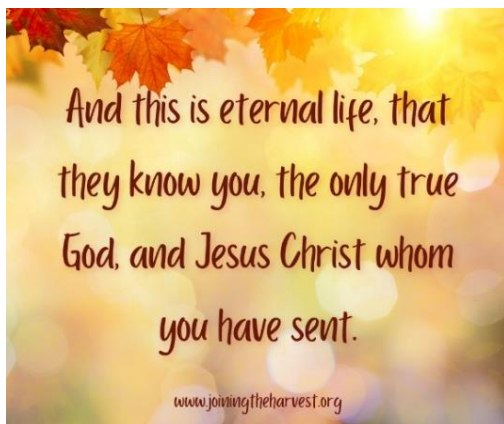
Thankful for Serving PMA as a Pastor-Elder: Pray for your RHM wisdom and love and grace as he continues to serve on session for Word of Life OPC, West Creek OPC, and Trinity Reformed OPC.

Thankful to Teach at 2025 Autumn Singles' Conference (MRCC): I was so thankful to be blessed in worship, fellowship, hiking, and laughing with about 35-40 singles who gathered at MRCC at the end



Autumn 2025 Singles' Retreat at Machen

of September to learn about the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. It seemed very well received. Pray that much fruit will be borne. It was a great privilege to serve with Elder Ken and Miss Linda Barnes—we had a blast!



Old Testament Biblical Theology Class (Round Hill/Purcellville/West VA/Frederick, MD and through video conferencing): Pray for my teaching each Friday morning to about 35-40 folks (young and maturer) on an understanding of the gospel revealed in the Old Covenant, and pray for growth and blessing upon each student and family. Praise God for Josiah Hemp (PHC, under care of PMA who is my teaching assistant).

Cottage School Chapel (Winchester, VA): Pray for my regular ministering the gospel of God in Winchester (near Berryville) on Thursdays to young and maturer. Pray for all of the seeds planted, that our God would continue to do his work and bring a great harvest for the glory of Christ (John 4:34-38; Isa. 55:6-11).

Patrick Henry College Ministry (Purcellville, VA): Pray as I continue to meet for mentoring, prayer, and preaching-teaching at chapel services at PHC.

Pray for Conversions/Growth in Grace: Pray for Johnnie and Trish, Steve and M.J., and Sean as I have had the privilege of praying with, discipling, and counseling them in the past few months.





Highlights/Timeline of Regional Home Missions for 2025

“Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me...” (Psalm 86:11-13a)

Thank God for Many Opportunities for Ministry as RHM in 2025! Pray for Much Fruitfulness in Christ! (John 15:1-16).

January 2025

Installation Service of William Sloan at Providence OPC (Charlottesville, VA)

Begin Pre-Marriage Counseling for Byron Payne and Grace Mazzolla (Culpeper Bible Study) (January – April)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at West Creek OPC (Richmond, VA)

Teaching Culpeper Bible Study Twice Monthly (Culpeper, VA) (January – May)

Teaching Berryville Bible Study Twice Monthly (Berryville, VA) (January – Present)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Acacia Reformed OPC/ RHM Presentation (Manassas, VA)

Teaching Westminster Confession of Faith Weekly at Loudoun Classical School (Purcellville, VA) (January – May)

Teaching John Calvin and Theology at Providence Preparatory Academy (Round Hill, VA)

Serving on West Creek OPC (Richmond, VA) Session (January – Present)

Serving on Word of Life Session (Columbia, MD) (January – Present)

Serving on Trinity Reformed OPC (Lanham, MD) (Spring – Present)

Shepherd’s Voice Podcast with Pastor Ben Franks (January – April)

Attending Meetings of Home Missions Committee Every 6-8 Weeks

Mentoring Emmaus Church/Pastors Kenneth and Emerson Kim (January – Present)

Writing Prayer and Praise RHM Newsletters/Reports Every 4-6 Weeks

February 2025

Ministry at Memorial Service for Isaac Gill (Purcellville, VA)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Knox OPC (Silver Spring, MD)

First Contact with Interested Person on Potential Northern Neck, Virginia Mission Work

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Acacia Reformed OPC (Manassas, VA)
Leading Question and Answer Session with Emmaus Presbyterian (Leesburg, VA)
Ministry of Word of Gospel at Cottage School Prep School Twice Monthly (Winchester, VA) (February – Present)
Attended Deacon's Conference in Leesburg, VA
Ministry of Word at Word of Life OPC/ RHM Presentation (Ellicott City, MD)
Teach Biblical Theology Youth Retreat for New Covenant OPC (Abingdon, MD)

March 2025

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at West Creek OPC (Richmond, VA)
Attended Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Pastor's Conference (Greenville, SC)
Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Grace Church OPC/ RHM Presentation (Vienna, VA)
Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Ketocin Covenant OPC/ Baptism of Franks' Son/ RHM Presentation (Purcellville, VA)
Ministry at Funeral Service (Hagerstown, Maryland)
Special Meeting of Presbytery of Mid Atlantic
Attended Reformed Theological Seminary's 30th Anniversary Dinner

April 2025

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at West Creek OPC (Richmond, VA)
Ministry of Word at Temple Baptist Church (Herndon, VA)
Serving on Candidates and Credentials Committee Meeting
Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Ketocin Covenant OPC (Purcellville, VA)
Ministry to Franks Family and Funeral Service of Emma Jane Franks (Purcellville, VA)

May 2025

Presbytery of Mid Atlantic Meeting/RHM Presentation
Ministry of Word at Word of Life OPC (Ellicott City, MD)
Attended Ordination Service of Mitch Watson Knox OPC (Silver Spring, MD)
Pastoral Counseling with Couple at KCPC
Trinity Reformed OPC Evangelism Seminar/Food Pantry Outreach (Lanham, MD)
Final Culpeper Bible Study for the Present Time

Officiating Wedding of Byron Payne and Grace Mazzolla (Gainesville, VA) (Culpeper Bible Study)

Acacia Reformed OPC's Organization/Particularization Service! (Manassas, VA)

Ministry of Word at Emmaus Presbyterian Church/RHM Presentation (Leesburg, VA)

Begin Discipleship of Unbelievers from Berryville, VA (May – September)

Speaker at New Covenant Christian School (OPC) Graduation Service (Abingdon, MD)

June 2025

Vacation/Senior Trip with Daughter Elisabeth Grace

Speaker at Apologetics/Evangelism Youth Conference at All Saints OPC (Suffolk, VA)

Ministry of Word at All Saints OPC (Suffolk, VA)

Begin Church Planting Summer Internship with Jeremy Colon (June – August)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Acacia Reformed OPC (Manassas, VA)

Ministry of Word at Emmaus Presbyterian Church/Teaching on Worship/Liturgy (Leesburg, VA)

Fourth of July Parade Outreach at Ketocin Covenant OPC (Purcellville, VA)

Begin Pre-Marital Counseling of Micah Torcellini and Catherine (Purcellville, VA) (June – August)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Trinity Reformed OPC (Lanham, MD)

Serve as Ministerial Advisor at KCPC Session Meeting in Pastor Franks' Absence (Purcellville, VA)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Trinity Reformed OPC (Lanham, MD)

Attended Pastor Kenneth Kim Family Retreat (Emmaus Church)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Ketocin Covenant OPC (Purcellville, VA)

First Contact with Brazilian Brother Interested in OPC (Zoom Meeting)

August 2025

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Acacia Reformed OPC (Manassas, VA)

Berryville, Virginia Summer Outreach

Officiated Torcellini Wedding (Purcellville, VA)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Providence OPC/RHM Presentation (Charlottesville, VA)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Staunton OPC/RHM Presentation (Staunton, VA)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Word of Life OPC (Ellicott City, MD)

September 2025

Begin Teaching Old Testament Biblical Theology Class at Providence Preparatory Academy Weekly
(Round Hill, VA) (September – Present)

Ministry of Word at Word of Life OPC (Ellicott City, MD)

First Contact with New Covenant Church (Lewes, DE) (Non-Affiliated, Interested in OPC)

First Contact with Brother in Hanover, Maryland, Interested in Joining OPC in 2026 (?)

Attended Congregational Meeting of Trinity Reformed OPC (Lanham, MD)

Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic Meeting/RHM Presentation (Frederick, MD)

Ministry of Word at New Covenant Church (Non-Affiliated) (Lewes, DE)

Teaching on Holy Spirit at Singles' Retreat Weekend at Machen Retreat and Conference Center

Ministry of Word at Machen Retreat and Conference Center

October 2025

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Trinity Reformed OPC Three (3) Lord's Days in October (Lanham, MD)

Participated in the Annual Reformation Service at Bethel OPC (Leesburg, VA)

Chapel Speaker at Patrick Henry College (Purcellville, VA)

November 2025

Worshipped at Word of Life OPC (Ellicott City, MD)/Reception of New Member!

Attended/Participated in RECHEx (Regional Church Extension) Annual Conference (Austin, TX)

Contact Professional Videographer Ethan Weitz for Home Missions/RHM Video in 2026

Worshipped at Trinity Reformed OPC (Lanham, MD) for Special Service of Welcoming Potential Pastor

Attended Congregational Meeting Trinity Reformed OPC for Potential Pastor Interviews (Lanham, MD)

Ministry of Word at Word of Life OPC (Ellicott City, MD)

Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Ketocin Covenant OPC (Purcellville, VA)

Ministry of Word at Lovettsville Reformed Baptist (Lovettsville, VA)

December 2025

Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic Meeting/RHM Presentation

Pastor's Study Leave

Biggs Family Christmas Vacation/REST!

Regional Home Missionary Goals/Prayer Requests for 2026

Growing in my prayer life and faith

Continuing to reach out and seek to establish congregation in Berryville, VA with Ketocin Covenant OPC (Purcellville, VA) – Begin Worship Services? -Spring

Update on Joining the Harvest Website- January

New Video on PMA Home Missions- March

Church Planting/Evangelism Conference- April

Continuing to communicate and visit PMA organized congregations and mission works for RHM presentations, ministry of the gospel of Jesus

Continuing to teach evangelism/outreach seminars at PMA congregations

Cultivating relationships for conversions and church planting

"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake His way, and the unrighteous man His thoughts; let Him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" - Isaiah 55:6-11

www.joiningtheharvest.org

Further Adventures of Your Regional Home Missionary in 2026: Pray for my maximal fruitfulness and maximal joy as a husband, father, minister, and RHM; Pray for much prayer and praise to come from your RHM's newsletters and communications; pray for traveling mercies for my family and me ("Biggs Team") as we travel to worship and fellowship with many of our organized and mission congregations; pray for my preparation and preaching and learning as I have the privilege of ministering God's Word and Sacrament almost every Lord's Day! My schedule is already filling up

for 2026. Pray for the evangelism-outreach seminars I have been invited to teach in 2026, and the wonderful ministry of the Word and Sacrament at our organized and mission works in 2026. Pray as I continue to plan and prepare for our church planting and evangelism seminar on April 11 (see above).

Submitted with love and respect, I am your brother, servant, and friend in Jesus,

Charles R. Biggs

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



Our prayers and hopes for each of our PMA's church planting and evangelism seminars:

1. Exalt and gaze together upon the Risen-Ascended-Enthroned CHRIST together.
2. Grow in COMPASSION for the lost.
3. CONNECT with one another for edification and church planting.
4. COMMIT yourself afresh to the Great Commission.
5. CULTIVATE a culture of evangelism in your family and congregation.

Wisdom from RECHEx Conference- November 2025



Here are pictures and a digest from our November 2025 RECHEx Conference in Austin, Texas. Our RECHEx Conference is an annual gathering of Regional Home Missionaries and Home Missions Committee Members who gather for a wonderful time of prayer, fellowship, encouragement, discussion, strategizing, and challenging one another to continue to be faithful and to rely upon God's power and grace!

We are thankful that we have 36 mission works presently being supported by our OPC Home Missions Committee. Throughout the United States, our Risen-Ascended-Enthroned Savior and Covenant Friend is at work keeping His powerful promises that He will build His church! Our God is faithful. Let us continue to sow the seed in evangelism and church planting that will not return empty but accomplish our God's good purpose and plan and succeed by His power (Isa. 55:6-11).

Wisdom for Regional Home Missionaries/Church Planters/Evangelists¹

1. Relationships require cultivation. As we seek to evangelize, and seek the lost, let us remember the importance of cultivating relationships with all that we come into contact with. Perhaps the LORD will be pleased to bring conversion, adult baptisms, and church plants through our interactions. Every new “friend” is a potential church plant and/or convert to Christ.
2. Assume self-centeredness in yourself (and others we shepherd and gather); we all struggle with an “entitlement mentality”. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord with heart-felt repentance, and honest confession, knowing He will forgive us, cleanse us,



¹ These are only some of the nuggets of wisdom I collected during our formal talks, discussions, and training as Regional Home Missionaries. These are in no particular order of importance, but they are all important for us to remember. Thanks to Mark Sumpter (RHM), Mark Winder (Home Missions), Brad Peppo (RHM), and Erik Watkins (Home Missions) for many of these great insights.

and to grant us the filling of His Spirit that will grant us proper boldness, humility, and expectation in our ministry as we walk by faith and not by sight.

3. Authorities and those we are accountable to are given by God and are described as “fathers/mothers”. We desire to anticipate correction and be thankful for them to guide us and evaluate us. God is our father, those who kindly gives to us to be fathers to us in our growing and learning. Let us continue to learn to listen well, to receive good evaluation and critique from our “fathers and mothers”, and to exemplify for others what this looks like. Let us be quick to listen, slow to speak (especially in proud self-defense), and slow to anger.



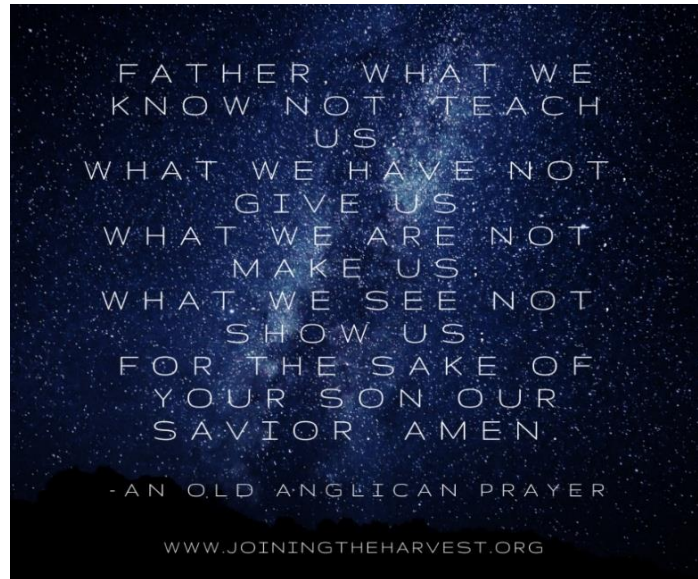
4. The older (wiser in knowledge and experience) must serve the younger; let us model humility and gentleness. Let us be eager to learn and to help them and bless them as fathers. Let us mentor church planters and other brothers and sisters with encouragement, gentleness, kindness, compassion, patience, approachability, and availability as faithful shepherds of Jesus.
5. We are called to be stewards of the work of Regional Home Missionary: Let us communicate, communicate, communicate through casting vision, correspondence, social media, and written newsletters. Ask: Are we listening well to others? Let us remember ultimately it is the Lord Christ we are serving, and let us serve Him for the “Well done, my good and faithful servant”. Let us seek to please Christ in His power, and we will usually please all the right people.



6. Plans are plans, but the heart is the harvest. The heart is in the hands of the king. Keep our hearts before Jesus and grant them priority over our plans. “Thy will be done!” Let us not be discouraged when our plans seem not to succeed. If we have been faithful to teach and make known God’s Word, there will be success. Pray for eyes to see that success. Sometimes we just can’t see, because we are too focused on what we planned, and not what God might have as His better and wiser plan.

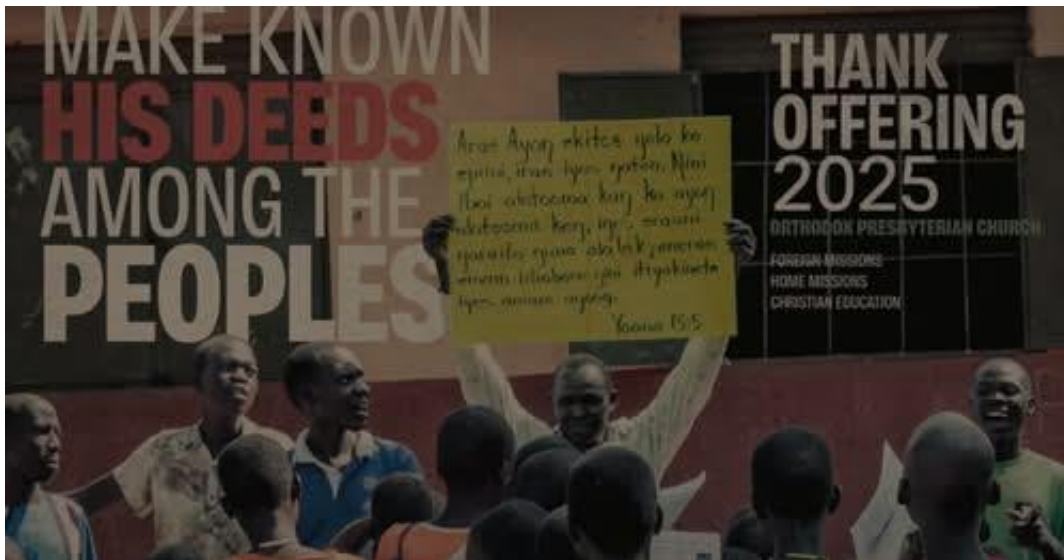
7. Aim to “Romans 8:28-29 it”! All things work for good, even the things we don’t anticipate and/or desire. Let us in church planting and evangelism to anticipate conflict yet remember that through conflict there is conformity to Christ; “conflict is always an opportunity for love, repentance, growing in grace” (paraphrase of K. Sande).
8. As crucial as relationships are in our work as Regional Home Missionaries, we must work with intentionality on infrastructure in our church plantes/exploratory bible studies, or someone else will. Let us cast vision of what it means to be a gospel-oriented, confessionally reformed (and always reforming!) Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

9. Model and implement to recognize people and their gifts. Slowly and patiently moving toward establishing infrastructure. Let us seek prayerfully to recognize gifts and grace, and not to fall into micro-managing. Let us serve with others as we see they are gifted, gracious, and faithful.
10. Begin to practice presbyterian polity immediately in church planting. Get ruling elders to go with us if possible, on visitations to folks in seed groups. Let us demonstrate the plurality of elders/leadership in visits, counseling, and informational meetings. May there be elders/deacons on sight for all of our church planting efforts if possible.



Please Prayerfully Consider Daughtering a Congregation.

Watch this brief story of Sterling OPC and daughter congregation Acacia Reformed and the blessings and benefits of daughtering a congregation.



<https://vimeo.com/1127690554>

Ideal Characteristics of Church Planters/Evangelists (A Summary):

Praying: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **PRAYING** men, who are seeking Christ daily and depending upon His good work and the power of His Spirit. *Does he pray for himself, for his family, congregation, and the unction of the Spirit upon His own prayers, preparation, preaching, leading worship, and shepherding ministry?*

Inspirational: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **INSPIRATIONAL** men, who are being filled with the Spirit and the Word of God, and sharing that vision to be faithful with boldness and humility, while listening well, and leading “backwards”. *Does he cast a biblical and clear vision with conviction and boldness with humility and patience that will inspire the congregation and presbytery?*

Approachable: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **APPROACHABLE** men, who gladly seek to shepherd, help, listen, and counsel the flock. *Does he make himself available as he is able?*

Relational: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **RELATIONAL** men, who desire to cultivate relationships whenever and wherever possible, regardless of their personality type. *Does he seek to cultivate relationships with others, or is he always in the books in his study?*

Empowering: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **EMPOWERING** men, who are prayerfully seeking to discover and observe gifts and graces in others, especially the congregation for service in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the vision of the congregation. *Does he seek to develop the gifts and talents of the congregation, especially the men for formal officer training?*

Encouraging: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **ENCOURAGING** men, who seek to stir others up for love and good works through the truth of the Holy Scriptures. *Does he patiently and gently encourage his family and congregation in the truths of God’s Word?*

Trusting: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **TRUSTING** men, who trust God and others that God has given to them to serve with in the congregation, the regional church, and the larger denomination. *Does he trust his brothers and sisters in his service with them, and does he seek to maintain unity as much as possible within the congregation and larger church?*

Welcoming: Church Planters and Evangelists must be **WELCOMING** men, who seek to make the gospel known to the lost, and to disciple those who are in his care. *Does he seek to make new contacts in the community, inviting them to worship? Does he welcome folks into his home and appropriately into his life for discipleship and mentoring?*



The Jee Family: John, Judah, and Grace

Prayers for OPC Home Missions and Regional Home Missionaries²

Praise God that we have 36 mission works in the OPC being funded by Home Missions presently

Summary of need for prayers by one of our RHMs: *“Every congregation and every presbytery have trials and tribulations; we are a pilgrim people. Only Jesus can help. Yet our God is always faithful. Help us to come to Jesus Christ daily and die to self, to take up the cross, and “live fast for Christ”. Pray for wise and faithful fund raising for mission works. May our God grant a growing zeal for prayer, evangelism, desire to plant churches. The most important thing we can do as RHMs is to have conversations with folks, seeking the lost, teaching the found, cultivating relationships within presbytery. Let us remember the enemy of our souls seeks to isolate us and make us feel alone. Let us dream big and move forward.”*

Lord, we pray that you will....

Continue to grow us in our prayer life.

Grant us wisdom for church planting and increased trust and gracious relationships in our presbyteries.

Grant to us organized/healthy congregations that are also church planting congregations.

Fill us with your Spirit and grant a renewed zeal for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Faith, hope, and love in Christ to overcome our fears and unbelief.

Grant us increased opportunities for evangelism/church planting/adult baptisms.

Give us congregations growing in grace and numbers, especially during times of trials in our presbyteries.

Provide the necessary finances for continued church planting/support of RHMs (especially our Thank Offering).

Supply faithful preacher-shepherds-church planters for our mission works.

Provide RHMs where they are needed in the OPC.

Raise up elders and deacons in our congregations, especially our mission works.



Praying together Acts 9:31: “And the [regional church] had peace and was being built up. And walking the fear of the LORD and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

² These are summaries of prayer requests and prayer times during our RECHEx Conference in Nov. 2025.

Deliberate and Purposeful Plans for Church Planting: Exploratory Bible Studies/Parachute Planting

Forming/Gathering a Seed Group

Connecting
Relationshiping
Conversing
Networking
Interacting

Specific/Deliberate Gathering a Seed Group

Personable
Approachable
Development
Gathering
Inviting
Welcoming
Advertising

Prayerful Process

- ➔ Seed Group
- ➔ Informational Meetings
 - ➔ Bible Studies
- ➔ Worship Services
 - ➔ Outreach
- ➔ Growth in Christ
- ➔ Particularization

From Pastor Gerry Malkus, Our Home Missions Chairman

*I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.*

*I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds. Psalm 77:11-12*

This past week, with Charles, I attended what will probably be my final RECHEX conference. It has been one of the highlights of every year I attended, to be a part of this very positive and moving elements of the Church's work. I don't recall the exact count, but I think it has been more than 15 times that I joined with other chairmen of Home Missions presbytery committees, with several RHMs and the executives of CHMCE. I thought it might be encouraging to you men of the PMA committee to read a brief report.

Jeremiah Montgomery began our time with words of Psalm above. Reminding us what a joy it is to remember the wonderful works of the Lord in the life and work of the OPC. Most of the sixteen presbytery representatives then told of what the Lord is doing in their regions of the church. Almost all the presbyteries are very active in new works, with the expectation that up to 12 new works will begin in the next year. So, from Homer, Alaska to Daytona, Florida; Grand Forks, ND to Houston, TX- the nation is crisscrossed with church planting efforts.

Two elements of a rather new feature of church planning were the very motivating talks by Eric Watkins and Brad Peppo, who are both involved in what is called *parachute* church planting. Eric is working on the beaches of Daytona, meeting many new people on his surfboard and beginning a Bible Study with the view of gathering a group in a place where there is *no NAPARC presence*. The emphasis is to build a body with an emphasis on new converts to Christ, not merely transfers from other churches. Brad, dropped into the region of Flagstaff, AZ and began to meet people in coffee shops, native American reservations and the town hangouts in the area. His work has been blessed by the Lord in the past year.

Another feature of the conference is usually to allow the executives of CHMCE to remind the group of any changes in the process of church planting. One of the important elements within the past year is the desire of the Committee to be more effective in the evaluation of church planters. There is a new document entitled *Guidelines for Organizing Pastors*, which gives an outline of the sorts of qualifications and gifts the Committee is seeking to find in those who are supported by CHMCE funds. The focus will be in five primary areas: preaching, evangelism, leadership, equipping and denominational involvement. [Frankly, I think I would fall on my face being held to the suggested standards] Nevertheless, new candidates suggested to become organizing pastors will be examined by the sub-committee before funds are committed to a field. It is the express desire of the Committee to make their decisions on support by a more objective standard. This is going to be a special challenge since there are now 30 established congregations without pastors in the OPC and a hope to being 12 new missions works next year. We must pray that the Lord will supply these pastors for his church.

So, all of that, plus the wonderful times of fellowship, conversations and prayer make for a wonderful time in the heat of central Texas. I will miss it.



Regional Home Missionary Video- 2025-26

Q: What is your mission and vision as a church planter and evangelist?

Mission: Our Lord Jesus gives us our mission: “Go into all the world to make disciple-followers through the proclamation of and the living out of the gospel” (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus told His church “As the Father has sent me, so I have sent you” (John 20:21-22). Jesus promises to build His church as He provides Spiritual power and grace as we go in His name to make the good news known to every tribe, tongue, people, and family.

Vision: In light of this mission of the Lord Jesus, our vision in the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic is: *“Prayerfully and passionately joining the harvest through a Christ-saturated, Spirit-filled ministry of serving, proclaiming, orienting, and encouraging God’s people to faithfully do, as well as generously support, church planting and evangelism in the Presbytery of the Mid Atlantic for the glory of God and the extension of Christ’s Kingdom.”*

Q: What kind of congregations do you seek to plant?

Gospel congregations: We want to proclaim and live out the good news in Jesus Christ! Because the bible tells us that we are “ambassadors” (2 Cor. 5:18-21) entrusted with the ministry and message of reconciliation, we desire to plant gospel “embassies” in new locations where the gospel can be made known in word and deed. We know that God is pursuing a people for His own and we desire broken and sinful people to seek the LORD while He may be found, and to find grace and peace in Christ through His Spirit (Isa. 55:6-11; 2 Cor. 5:20-21). Imagine a new congregation where the lost can be found?!

Community: We desire to plant growing, maturing believers growing together through the means of grace (Eph. 4:11-16). We desire to see communities being discipled with the truth of God’s Word, feeding on Christ in the Lord’s Supper, praying together, eating together, suffering together, laughing together, and reaching out to the community together in a welcoming and loving manner. Imagine the difference of the town/county/city where a new congregation is planted—through gospel transformation!!

Evangelism/Compassion: Let me emphasize this more. We desire to plan welcoming and compassionate congregations, living out the gospel in words and deeds in our community; we desire to enjoy proper community involvement to know and care for our neighbors.

Complementary, not competitive: We desire to plan congregations that are reformed and always reforming according to Scripture; we are confessional, which simply means that we seek to learn the love of Christ together with all the saints (Eph. 3:17-21). We desire not to compete with other faithful, gospel-oriented congregations in the community, but to complement, and work together for the common goal of glorifying God and enjoying Him forever.

We Believe in Daughtering Congregations. When our organized congregations reach a certain stability in growth, shepherd-elders, and finances, we desire to prayerfully consider daughtering a congregation with a select “seed-group” or “core-group” from the larger, more established congregations. We have seen much success in this in our denomination, and through this process, we can enjoy prayerful support and financial funding that is available from our larger denomination.

What other ways do you plant congregations? We also through outreach, begin bible studies in communities, seeking to find out if our God has plans for a congregation in this community. A “seed-group” can come through daughtering, but also through God bringing a growing, loving, unified group together through other means, such as a bible study. Our God is faithful to build His church and to establish faithful, gospel congregations. We seek to be good stewards of the resources He has given us through prayer and seeking the collective wisdom of our Home Missions Team.

What does an Ideal “Seed Group” look like? Summary of characteristics: a Praying people/ Patient people (with one another, waiting upon the LORD, walking by faith, not by sight)/ a growing and strong Personal Relationship with God/ Proper Priorities of knowing what is most important in a congregation is Christ at the center, biblical worship, preaching, prayer, fellowshiping, breaking bread together, trusting God for the increase and growth (Acts 2:42-49; 9:31)/ Promoting through evangelism and warm welcomes and outreaches where the congregation is involved together/ Willing to die daily in Christ: Seed must die in order to live and bear fruit (John 12:24-32).

Interested? Contact Info: www.joiningtheharvest.org / 571.334.7420 / crbiggs7777@gmail.com





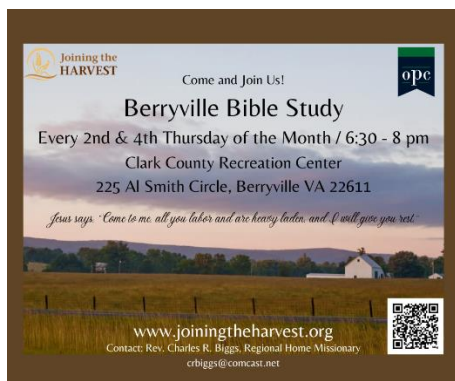
What Are the Ideal Gospel Characteristics of a Seed-Group in a PMA Bible Study or Church Plant?

We are thankful that in the PMA has recently had two exploratory bible studies in Culpeper and Berryville, Virginia. As we pray and plan for the future, what are some of the ideal Gospel characteristics of a **seed-group** (often called a “core-group” as well)? Because church planting is front-line spiritual warfare as well as part of our sanctification (John 17:17-18; Eph. 6:10-20), we should consider these characteristics and pray that our God would faithfully gather groups that have a kind of built in potential for biblical success in growth in grace and fruitfulness. Jesus promises us that if we abide in Him, and His word abides in us, we will bear fruit that will last (John 15:1-16).

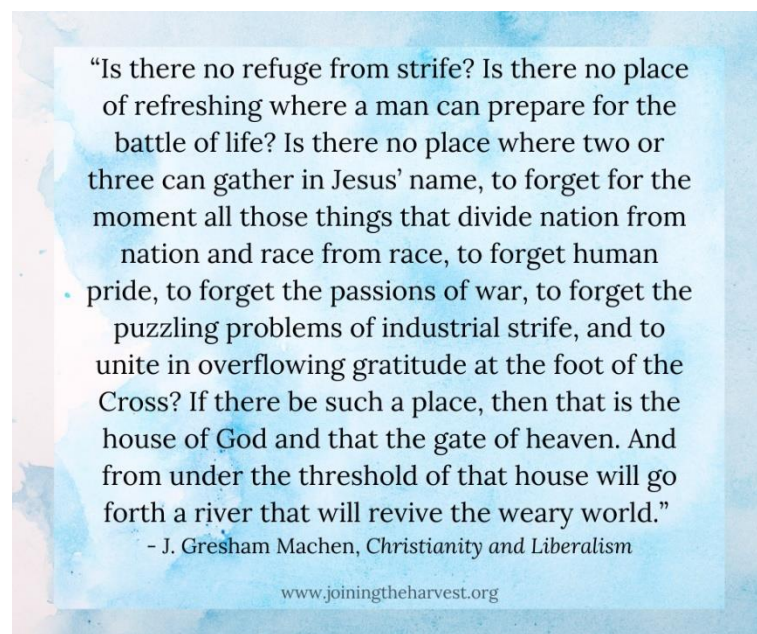
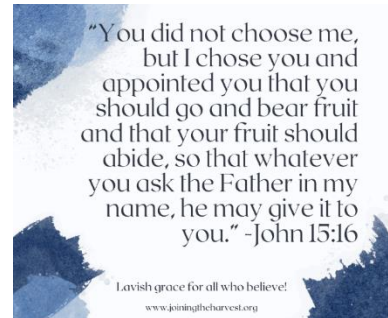
These characteristics can be easily summarized in seven, three-word sentences: (1) He sat down; (2) I need Jesus; (3) Please forgive me; (4) I die daily; (5) Here am I; (6) Pray for me; and (7) Come, Lord Jesus. Let us look briefly at each of these by asking specific questions.



These are a few questions that the RHM and the PMA Home Missions Committee are asking in evaluating the potential success of a bible study seed-group. (1) **He Sat Down**: Are the folks in this seed-group focused on Jesus and His gospel primarily? Do they truly believe that Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and on earth and has promised to build His church, storming the gates of hell? Are they committed to serving ultimately Him and not self (Heb. 1:3-4; Matt. 28:18-20)? Have they demonstrated their humility and obedience before Christ by being a baptized and faithful member of His Church? Are they presently serving Christ in a congregation of saints? (2) **I Need Jesus**: Are the folks in this seed-group self-aware of their own need for Jesus each day, especially in doing the challenging work of spiritual warfare and sanctification of potentially establishing a new congregation of saints? Are they aware of their weaknesses and watchful of the sins that easily beset them, while being confident in the transformative power of Jesus and His Holy Spirit that makes us fruitful (John 15:1-17; Gal. 5:22-26)? (3) **Please Forgive Me**: Are the folks in this seed-group aware of the sins that easily beset them, and are they daily repenting of their own sins, removing planks from their own eyes, and living by faith in Jesus’s promise of goodness and mercy towards them (Matt. 7:1-5; Heb. 3:12-13, 19; 12:1-3)? Are the folks in this seed-group characterized as those who seek to forgive and to show mercy for the glory of God and the sake of unity and peace (Matt. 6:12; 18:35)? (4) **I Die Daily**: Are the folks in this seed-group those who are seeking to die daily to sin and seek to live unto righteous, joyous obedience in Christ by His Spirit (Deut. 10:12-13; John 15:9-12)? Are the folks in this study and seed-group because they want God’s dream and will fulfilled



in the life of this potential congregation, or because they are looking merely for something for themselves? Are they merely serving convenience or comfort, or are they seeking to die daily to serve Christ? If the folks in a seed-group are not willing to die from the outset to Christ and to others, then there is no hope of establishing a Gospel-oriented, fruitful congregation (John 12:24-26; Phil. 2:1-5; Eph. 4:1-3). We are by nature those who seek greatness and recognition in the wrong way. We must be willing to die and as our Lord Jesus says: *"The Son of Man has come not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45). *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but **if it dies, it bears much fruit**"* (John 12:24). (5) **Here Am I:** Are the folks in this seed-group servants? Are they seeking to be great in Christ by His Spirit in being great servants of others, considering others more significant than themselves? Are they looking for how they can be a blessing or are they merely seeking more convenience and comfort? Are they seeking to serve so that others might prosper and be fruitful and the congregation would thrive? Are they serving their present congregation seeking to use their gifts faithfully (John 13:14-17)? (6) **Pray For Me:** Are the folks in this seed-group prayer warriors? Are they those who pray regularly in seeking the LORD in private devotion, family worship, public worship, and praying at all times and in all ways for others? Are they praying in the power of the Spirit knowing that nothing will be accomplished without prayer and full dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ (Zech. 4:6; Matt. 7:7; Eph. 6:10-18)? I have found that there are **four primary bible study/church plant poisons or killers**: 1. **Selfishness** (Phil. 2:1-4); 2. **Impatience** (Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 13:4); 3. **Unforgiveness/Judgmental Spirit** (Matt. 5:3-12; 7:1-5); 4. **Over-love of Convenience/Comfort** (John 17:17-18; James 4:1-6). Does this seed-group desire a bible study or new congregation primarily for their own convenience or comfort? Or ultimately and primarily does this seed-group desire to glorify the Father in Christ by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18), enjoy the faithful worship of the Triune God (Heb. 12:25-29), the unity, fruitfulness, peace and fellowship of the saints (Eph. 4:1-3), and the seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10)!? Are they praying against their own propensity to selfishness/vainglory, impatience with God and others, lack of mercy, and the god of convenience/comfort? Are they praying for boldness in prayer in evangelism and inviting sinners



to join them so that Christ will be build His church not merely through transfers, nor merely through covenant children (although these are wonderful!), but through new converts? (7) **Come, Lord Jesus:** Are the folks in this seed group serving eagerly in anticipating the immanent return of Jesus Christ? Do they have a misplaced emphasis on politics or mere earthly powers to solve the problems and miseries of this present age, or are they more ultimately concerned with God's wrath abiding on unrepentant sinners, looking with hope to the Gospel alone as the power of God unto salvation for all who believe (John

3:35; Rom. 1:16-32; 3:20-26)?! Are they living as good Spirit-filled stewards of their time and resources, seeking in all things to please the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9-21)? Are they living ultimately for the *“Well done, my good and faithful servants”* (Matt. 25:21, 23)? Are they living with an urgency in evangelism in faithfully living out their faith, and praying with compassion for and inviting their neighbors to join them in the study and the potential new church plant because they are ambassadors of Christ who desire to establish a Gospel-Embassy, and they know today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 5:18-6:2)? *“Whoever loves his life loses it...will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him”* (John 12:25-26).

These are seven, three-word characteristics that can be most useful in evaluating the spiritual health of every Christian, but particularly of a seed-group meeting with hopes to be a church plant and mission work one day. Remember, these characteristics can only come through the grace of the Lord Jesus, and by His powerful Holy Spirit, but come, they will, in fullness according to Christ’s promise: *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you”* (John 15:16; cf. 2 Peter 1:3-11). Join me in praying to our faithful God to call, gather, form and transform people into fruitful bible studies with a goal of becoming worshiping congregations of the Lord Jesus Christ, embassies of the New Heaven and the New Earth!

I am your brother and servant in Jesus, Charles Biggs, Regional Home Missionary of the PMA

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Use of the Seed and Sower Fund from OPC CHMCE

Purpose of the fund:

To provide one year matching grants equal to the first year of the CHMCE four-year declining scale of support, to start new works through the mother-daughter church relationship.

Objective:

To encourage the start of new works through mother-daughter church relationships as a healthy, stable model for church planting in the OPC.



New groups form in many different ways, but the mother-daughter model often provides the most stability due to the connection of the work with a familiar church and session. Such stability offers long-term benefits for the new work as well as the ongoing labor of home missions in the OPC. The mother-daughter model also provides an opportunity to think strategically about where and how to plant new churches, and to consider with a local session/presbytery the right man for a new work.

Parameters:

The following guidelines will govern the distribution of these funds.

1. The mother church must send member families to the new work. Mother churches that send officers (elders and/or deacons) will receive preference.
2. The mother church must complete and submit a CHMCE stewardship plan for the proposed mission work.
3. A work shall normally meet the following benchmarks before receiving a matching grant:
 - a. 8 committed family units;
 - b. 20 committed adults;
 - c. 20,000 in reserves (or set aside for reserves in the first-year budget).
4. An approved work will receive grants from the fund equal to the first year of the CHMCE four-year declining scale of support, every dollar to be matched
5. by the financial support of the mother church.
6. The mother church will work directly with CHMCE to identify a church planter to serve the new work.

7. An approved work will be eligible to receive financial support from CHMCE according to an approved funding scale year following the reception of the initial grant.
8. CHMCE will support up to three new works from this fund per year.

Process:

1. The committee and staff will identify mother churches and potential locations to most effectively utilize these funds in the planting of new churches according to the following criteria:
 - a. congregations that the Lord has grown and prepared and gifted in such a way that they could effectively plant a church at this point in their history;
 - b. places where there is a need to plant a church at this time—particularly centers of population and influence where an Orthodox Presbyterian church would serve the need well.
2. Once potential locations have been identified, opportunities will be pursued in the following manner:
 - a. staff will contact the local pastor and session to consider whether the Lord might be providing an opportunity to birth another church from among them; or respond to contacts from interested churches wishing to plant a daughter congregation;
 - b. willing sessions will develop a plan, with the help of CHMCE staff if they so desire, to plant another church;
 - c. CHMCE (or some portion of CHMCE) will review the plan to provide any feedback;
 - d. a CHMCE staff member will visit the church to meet with the session and further evaluate their church planting plan;
 - e. CHMCE will determine whether to approve funding for the work upon action of the presbytery to request support;
 - f. the session and CHMCE will together identify a man with particular gifts for church planting—possibly a man who has already proved these gifts in the planting of another church;
 - g. The CHMCE church planting subcommittee will interview and approve the candidate.
3. Upon completion of this process, CHMCE will approve the dispersal of monies from this fund based on a positive answer to two questions: (1) Does this work fit the objectives of the fund; and (2) Does this work meet the parameters for the fund?