

WITNESS

The latest news and updates from Reformed Mission Services



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What Happens When You Volunteer and Support Those Who Do?

by Glenn Moots (Christ Covenant OPC Midland, MI)

When mid-Michigan was affected by the dam failures, strangers from everywhere showed up to help. The evident tragedy mobilized a lot of hearts, hands, and wallets. As in other disasters, however, the fickle news cycle and the tug of commerce and comfort drew volunteers away. We are making progress only because Rob Brinks and other RMS volunteers partnered with OPC Disaster Response to help us rebuild. Why should you join RMS and volunteer, even after others have left?

1. We obey, imitate, and serve the Lord by obeying His Word. Jesus was mindful of the physical needs of both his disciples and those who came to hear him (Matthew 15 and John 21). James 2:16 reminds us that it is not enough to wish one another well but to meet physical needs. When we meet even the humblest of needs, we serve our Lord (Matthew 25:40).

2. We build up the body of Christ. In John 13:34, Jesus commands us to love one another and says that the world knows us by that love. In I John 3:17, we are told that compassion for brothers and sisters who have lost their worldly goods is one way of showing God's love.

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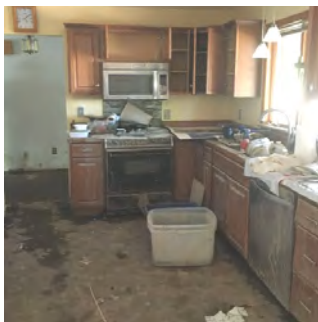
3. We give encouragement to those afflicted. Satan and our fallen world intend evil for us, but God uses evil for good (Genesis 50:20). When Christians turn evil to good through their good works, God is glorified not only by the help given to those afflicted but also by those who see those good works (Matthew 5:16).



4. We multiply the effect of the work being done. Galatians 6:9-10 warns us against growing weary while doing good. How can we heed the wisdom of Scripture and avoid this weariness? One solution is to remember the mathematics of volunteering. Mathematically speaking, when three volunteers are joined by a fourth, the number of volunteers rises by 33 percent. But any volunteer can tell you it feels like 50 or 100 percent more. The work goes faster, hearts are happier, and burdens are lighter. One volunteer often feels like more.

5. We do good for ourselves. Scripture doesn't just warn us of the pitfall of weariness in doing good, it promises us a reward when we press through that weariness – a harvest that comes from helping anyone and especially those in the household of faith. Such rewards are in God's Providence, but at least one reward is immediate: God wires us to feel better after helping others.

As a beneficiary of RMS's good work, I encourage you to reach out to Rob and find out how you can help through RMS. You will be surprised by how much good you can do.



Through cooperation with the OPC Disaster Response team, we have been working to restore a Midland family to their home.



SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER

by Joe Hovingh (Faith URC, West Olive, MI)

On the morning of Aug 29th, 67 shooters of all ages and skill level made their way to Blendon Pines Gun Club in Zeeland, MI, for the 2nd annual RMS Sporting Clays Fundraiser. Upon arrival, a ready group of volunteers was there to greet them and see that they got coffee, donuts, and completed their registration.

It was good to see familiar faces that we haven't seen in awhile and catch up with brothers and sisters in the Lord who support RMS's work and their service to the Kingdom. The refreshingly cool morning and occasional misty rain early on did nothing to dampen the spirits of all who gathered.



Congratulations to our top scoring winners!

Following an opening greeting and prayer from Rob Brinks, the staff at Blendon Pines gave some safety reminders to the participants, explained the course layout, and how things would begin. The shooters then gathered up their teams and headed out to their starting points. Once everyone was at their station, the shooting began and didn't stop for the next couple of hours. Each participant shot 50 rounds, divided up at the 12 different stations on the course.

Once all the teams had completed the course and turned in their score sheets, an outdoor lunch was served. The chicken, baked beans, chips, potato, pasta, and macaroni salad options were delicious. After lunch, the high scorers were given awards, the silent auction wrapped up, and the items were awarded.

All in all, it was a great way to spend a Saturday morning with friends and family, and to support Reformed Mission Services in the process.



Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see more photos in our 2020 Sporting Clay Fundraiser album!

THANK YOU

FOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR
SPORTING CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

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Silent Auction Donations & Other Financial Contributions

Friends of RMS	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Niezink	 BLUE ALPHA	 BLACK RIVER OUTFITTERS
 Michigan Wood Fibers			


Reformed Mission
SERVICES

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Herb Thalen

Zion United Reformed Church
Ripon, CA

My name is Herb Thalen. My wife Jeanny and I have been married for 36 years. We have been blessed with four children and ten grandchildren! We are members of the Zion United Reformed Church in Ripon, CA.

My wife and I were both born in Ontario, Canada but have lived in the United States for over 30 years, initially in Lynden, WA and now in Ripon, CA. We were both raised by dutch immigrants and blessed to grow up in Christian homes.

I am an interior and exterior painter by trade but have always had an interest in mission work. Recently I had the privilege to visit Costa Rica with our church and witness the work being done there. Jeanny and I were involved with RYS as youth group leaders and board members. I have also served on our church's truck stop ministry.

Spending time with our kids and watching my grandchildren grow is one of my greatest joys. In my free time, I enjoy reading personally but mostly to my grandkids.

Albert Rumph

Bethany United Reformed Church
Wyoming, MI

I grew up as a son of a missionary family. My father was a pastor who served several churches in Canada before being called to Argentina, where I spent most of my young life. Growing up in different countries has given me a broader view of the world as well as seeing how God is working through His church in various parts of the world.

Because our family traveled a lot by air, I became interested in aviation and pursued that as a career. God called me and my wife, Sue, along with our family to go to Nigeria, where I flew as a missionary pilot for the Christian Reformed World Missions. Sue used her expertise as a nurse helping at a Leprosy clinic and assisting in various missionary activities. Upon returning to the United States, I joined American Eagle and retired from American Airlines in June of this year.

Our church, Bethany URC in Wyoming, MI, is the calling church of Rev. Green to Costa Rica.



Since I am somewhat fluent in Spanish, it was natural that I would serve on the Joint Venture Committee for Costa Rica. This committee functions under the direction of our consistory to assist in the work there. This work has led to numerous opportunities to travel to Costa Rica with workgroups as well as to visit.

My hobbies and interests continue to be with aviation. I also enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, all of them living nearby.

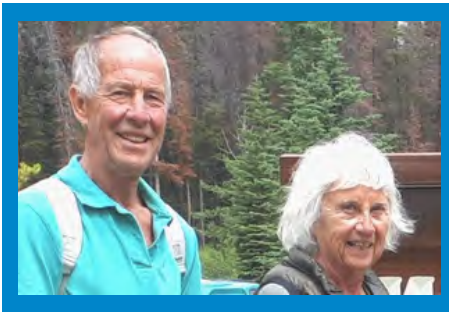
We know God calls each one according to the gifts He has given us. At the same time I retired, I noticed in our church bulletin a request for new RMS board members. I hope my experience will be helpful towards serving on the RMS board and I look forward to it.

Kevin Offringa

Dutton United Reformed Church
Caledonia, MI

My name is Kevin Offringa, and I am from Caledonia, Michigan. I attend Dutton United Reformed Church. I enjoy spending time being a Cadet counselor and running the soundboard for our church services. I work at Moline Christian School. I am the Technology Administrator as well as the 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher.

I have been on many RMS trips, including Disaster response trips to Texas as well as Puerto Rico. I also have been involved in planning and running a couple of TASC events. I am looking forward to using my gifts to glorify God in any way I can on the RMS board!



Chris Van Eeden Petersman

Trinity Reformed Church
Lethbridge, AB

I have been married to Lenie for 48 years and am retired from farming. We immigrated in 1972 from the Netherlands. The Lord has blessed us with five children and 23 grandchildren. I have been involved in Kingdom work as a council member, Sunday school and catechism teacher, coordinator for our local prison ministry, and leading chapel/singing services in secular retirement homes.

Both Missions and Evangelism conferences in Guelph and Bonclarken, NC have been a blessing to me in growing the conviction of reaching out past my comfort zone. I had the privilege of serving a 2-week mission in Gulfport, Mississippi after hurricane Katherina wiped out and flooded many homes, under the supervision of Word and Deed and the local PCA.

I desire to serve Christ by bringing the Good News of salvation to the lost, those who have not heard the Gospel, local, nationwide, and international.

My observation and experience are that evangelism is 80% relationship and attitude, and without a Christlike servant attitude, our words are not convincing. Ephesians 2:4 is my drive to reach out. (But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by Grace you have been saved.)

I see a significant lack of involving young adults in the church and mission outreach. They are willing and knowledgeable, but the churches do not tap in to their enthusiasm. Through the involvement of RMS, we can see more participation in smaller communities doing VBS along with charitable outreach, strengthening and encouraging the smaller congregations to reach the lost.

I am willing to travel if the need arrives and blessed with good health. My hobbies are hiking, machine quilting, and visiting the older generation and learning from their experience.

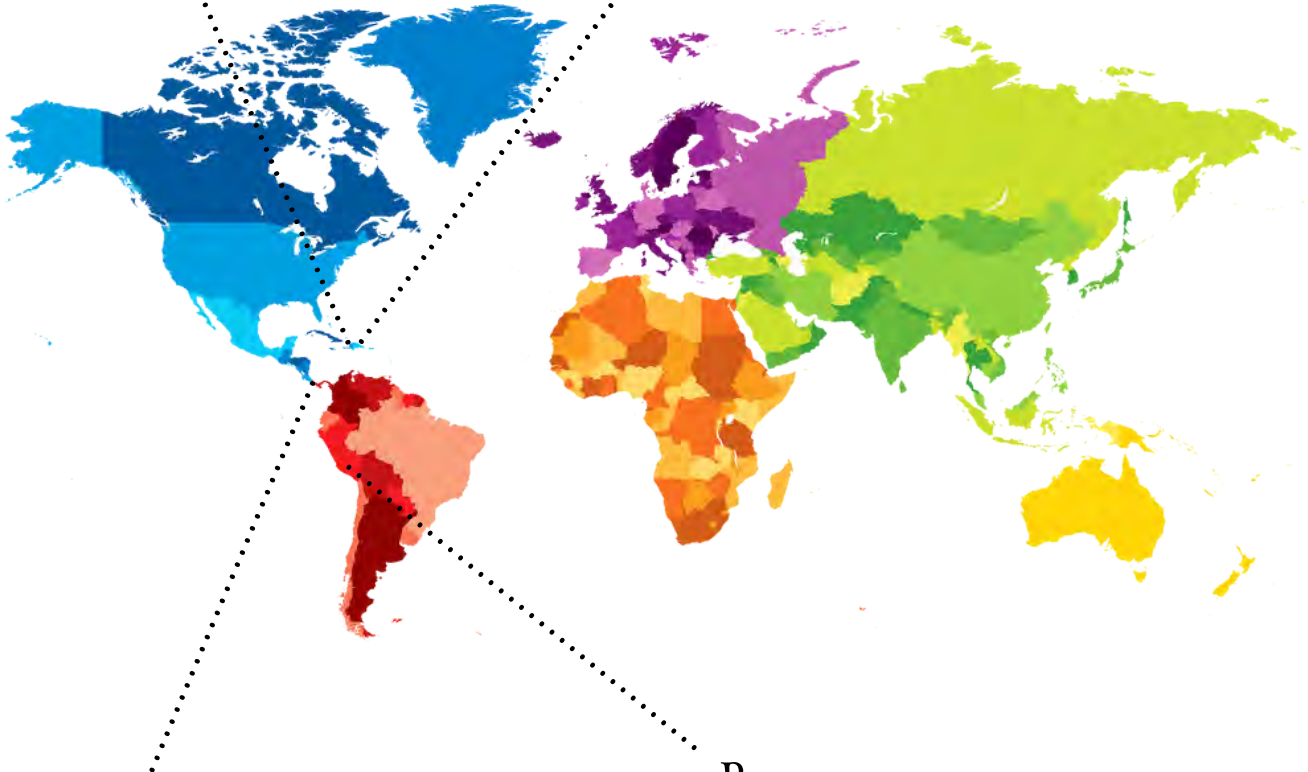
UPCOMING TRIPS

Haiti Trip Postponed

RMS works with The Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF), an organization that serves the local people with medical and dental clinics, vocational training, Bible study courses as well as providing a secondary school for the region. RMS plans to return in the spring of 2021.

Dominican Republic January 2021

RMS will return to Sabana Grande de Boya to work with the local people in constructing a church and will also perform some needed maintenance on the Ministry Center and Christian School.



Costa Rica February 2021

RMS will be traveling back to Costa Rica to assist Rev. Bill and Aletha Green with their ministry in San Jose. Dates will be coming soon!

Peru Trip Postponed

RMS plans to return to Peru to work with the local people in finalizing the construction of their church, visit and encourage other area churches, and check the status of other building projects.

"...and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sumaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8b

United Reformed Missions Association



Our Canadian supporters can now use (URMA) when donating to RMS. There are several ways to send your donation. One way is to write a check made payable to your local church. In the memo, write URMA-RMS. Your treasurer will send your gift to URMA and issue you a tax receipt. If you prefer to send it directly, please make your check payable to URMA with RMS in the memo line and send it to United Reformed Mission Association, 1100 40th Ave. N, Lethbridge, AB T1H 6B7.



Legacy Giving

Legacy Giving, otherwise known as Charitable Planning, is an opportunity to plan how you can benefit your family, friends, and ministries such as RMS after you have gone home to be with the Lord. A Legacy Gift is an excellent way to partner with RMS in supporting the future and growth of this ministry. You can significantly impact the mission of our organization without having to give up anything today. You can also change your mind at any time if your circumstances change. Please speak with your financial advisor about how you can support our ministry in the future. If you would like to discuss the ways RMS will use your gift, please contact Rob at rob@rms.org or call (616) 446-8214.

SHOWER TRAILER UPDATE

The RMS Shower trailer has arrived! On June 23, 2020, RMS picked up its first shower trailer for the Disaster Response Fleet. On June 25, it was delivered to Christ Covenant OPC in Midland, MI, to be used by the many volunteers who are serving those who suffered a loss after the Edenville and Sanford dams failed in May. This trailer joins two tool trailers that are being used in other areas of the country.



While the trailer is 100% paid for, there are ongoing costs associated with the maintenance and storage of this unit. Will you prayerfully consider donating towards our Disaster Response Fund to help us maintain and purchase new equipment? You can donate online at rms.org/donate/ and specify "RMS Disaster Response Mobile Fleet (Shower and Tool Trailers)" for your gift to be designated to this cause. Thank you!



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support RMS every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Reformed Mission Services.

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

As you begin your holiday online shopping, keep RMS in mind!



RMS now accepts Venmo payments for donations!

Contact us for more information about connecting with us on Venmo!



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