



AN ABUNDANT HARVEST

Matthew 9:37

Presbytery of Wisconsin & Minnesota



PWM Home Missions
Newsletter October 2024

Welcome to the October edition of “An Abundant Harvest” the newsletter for Home Missions in the Presbytery of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Upper Peninsula of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Shining a Spotlight on the Lord’s Work in

Breakwater OPC, South Sheboygan, Wisconsin



Church planter, Nate Strom and the people of Breakwater OPC have been very busy reaching out with the gospel. In a month’s time they hosted a Kids’ Camp and a Brat Fry on “Neighborhood Night Out.” Sixty people from the community turned out along with their own people and people from other OP churches. The Lord gave them lots of exposure to the community. Pray for the after effects and follow up from that. Additionally, they enjoyed a successful fellowship meal in the park and hope to do this on a regular basis.

They have had several visitors recently who have also returned for several weeks. Many long time attendees are beginning to take the step of church membership. This is building the enthusiasm of the original core group and encouraging others to take the step of membership.



Ministry teams are finally taking shape and becoming a felt reality in the church life. There are six men from Breakwater being trained for office on an individual basis. Pray for God to provide an administrative assistant soon.

Breakwater had their first Sunday PM hymn sing. It was well attended with good enthusiasm for the idea of an evening worship service.

The Lord has granted energy, unity, and enthusiasm. Give thanks for all He is doing!

Moving on to the Apple Valley, MN Bible Study

Praise God for answered prayer! We were able to rent two rooms in the Apple Valley Community Center on Friday nights for Bible study. We had our first Bible Study with 25 people (adults & children). What a great turnout! The children joined us for the first 20 minutes to sing a couple of hymns, take prayer requests from them and pray. Then they went to their own room for a lesson of their own. The adults are studying 1 Peter. For the second Bible Study, Bonnie and I were gone on our retreat and a ruling elder from Mission OPC in St. Paul led it.



The rooms are side by side and sometimes the noise can be distracting. Pray for wisdom and grace in handling the noise. Pray that the study would grow and ask the Lord for wisdom to know when to start worship. I will lead them for awhile and then we will bring in a church planter.

Moving on to Brainerd, Minnesota

Thanks for your prayers for this potential new work. This week I will meet virtually with the three families from Brainerd. In that call, we hope to discuss an informational meeting, location for it and ways to get the word out. We are aiming for the Baxter/Brainerd area because that is where the population is centered and where residents are accustomed to traveling to. Pray that we would be able to find a location for the meeting and the subsequent study.

New Areas and Bible Studies in the last few months:

Grantsburg, Wisconsin

Located on a diagonal line about 50 miles west of Rice Lake, WI and 35 miles SE of Hinckley, MN, Grantsburg has a population of about 1600 people. The Bible study was started when a member of the Hammond, WI church asked ruling elder Seth Belz to lead a study. The Hammond session has been discussing and supporting this effort. The Bible study has opened the Gospel of Luke for three months. Now there are regularly 6 people present including three prison guards. It is a wonderful study testifying to what we are all about in Home Missions! Pray as we make plans to advertise the study via Facebook, word of mouth, and newspaper.



Bessemer/Ironwood (Upper Peninsula)

Bessemer and Ironwood are located on the western end of the Upper Peninsula with an area population of about 10,000. We have 3 interested families, two are OPC ruling elders. In this area, there is a real famine for hearing the Word of God (Amos 8:11). Other than a few WELS and LCMS Churches, and a Baptist Church, there is little gospel witness.

The three families have taken the lead and are excited. They are canvassing stores, bars, and restaurants as well as libraries and community centers with a flyer they designed regarding the upcoming informational meeting. They have searched for potential meeting places and are looking forward to Jim's visit late October. Please be in prayer for the informational meeting that is set for October 30th at the local community college. The meeting is being advertised in several local papers as well as Facebook. "We are shaking the bushes to see what falls." We are planning a regular study out of this.

Both these last ones are in the beginning stages. Pray for me as there is quite a bit to keep up with now.

Please pray...

- For 35-40 people to be in regular attendance in worship in Shawano.
- Divine appointments with people in these communities.
- Good attendance at informational meetings and a clear presentation of what we are about.
- For plans to visit with conservative Christian Reformed and Reformed Church in America ministers.

Give thanks for...

- The Lord raising up new potential groups.
- The fine start in Apple Valley.
- For connections made with seminarians at Mid-America Reformed Seminary's conference on missions and evangelism.

Please sign up to receive this monthly newsletter by emailing pwmchex@gmail.com.