



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE IN MISSIONS?

Cross-Cultural Mission Training (CCMT)

CCMT is an opportunity to experience evangelism and disciple-making in a foreign context. This one-month intensive program combines missiology, language, and cultural instruction with mentorship and field experience.

Missionaries and pastors from the URCNA and OPC will invest their time and expertise in you!

- WEEK 1:** Boot Camp with Missionaries
- WEEK 2:** Cultural Immersion
- WEEK 3 & 4:** Full-time On-field Service & Debrief

WHEN: May 14 – June 14, 2022
WHERE: Central Mexico
WHO: Young adults (18+)

For more information, contact Pastor Richard Bout at ccmissiontraining@gmail.com



JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

Pastor Sam & Emily Perez



Greetings from Jersey City!

May the love and righteousness of Christ be your strength this new year.



Like all years, 2021 was full of many twists and turns, pleasant surprises and grievous disappointments. Yet, through it all, God has been our faithful Lord, delivering us from our fears, sin, and misery, and strengthening us to continually believe His promise together as His people.

In January, our congregation was rocked by the death of a close relative of one of our members in a tragic accident. In February, we were shut out of our facility for a month because of a water pipe leak. In mid-February, our seventh child, Martha Elizabeth Joy, was born to my wife and me. In March, we had a COVID outbreak in the congregation. In May, we baptized into membership a “COVID convert” who found us at the beginning of COVID. In September, we welcomed into membership two Christians who discovered us during COVID in 2020. This year, we hosted a number of “parents’ fellowship” meetings with Messiah’s Reformed Fellowship (parents and their children gather from both congregations; we eat together and then the parents have a teaching time on a topic related to parenting while the children play with a babysitter). During the warmer months, our congregation had two joint picnics with Messiah’s. In the fall, we had a joint picnic and worship service with Grace OPC. We began our first discipline case even as our congregation celebrated its 8 year-anniversary. Our women’s meetings have continued throughout the year, as have our men’s meetings. We pray our newly formed singles group will be used by God to grow the younger Christians in their faith.

In the last quarter, seven men in the church have had their jobs threatened by what we believe to be unlawful vaccine mandates. The choice given by their employers is to apply for a religious exemption or face termination. Two of the men had their applications accepted. One had their application denied and faces termination in January 2020. Another has been suspended until his application can be processed. The three remaining men are currently weighing their options with a looming deadline in coming days.

My family is doing well, from our oldest, Adam (he turned 9 this year) to our newborn. Emily is busy homeschooling and caring for all the children. Our days are full of all the sorts of things that have characterized Christian households for millennia, including many joys and frustrations.

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The Church's work of Reformation continues. The Church is not called to make cyber-disciples who grow spiritually by listening to sound doctrine from internet personalities. She is called to make disciples who love God and love the real people God has placed in the local body. We confess the Church is a communion of saints, not a consumerism of goods and services. Christians are formed by the Word and Sacraments, by the preaching of their pastor, the example and shepherding of their elders, and the encouragements of their fellow Christians as we love one another and are loved by one another in the local body.

Pray for us.



MILAN, ITALY

Pastor Mike & Janie Brown



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin yet another new year, Janie and I look back on 2021 and give thanks to God for his mercies to us and to Chiesa Riformata Filadelfia, the URC mission work in Milan, Italy. Here are some of the ways in which God has blessed us:

- The Lord added nine new members to our congregation (no small number for a Reformed church in Italy!)
- In January, our church returned to in-person services. By God's grace, there has not been another lockdown.
- In May, we were able to travel to the States to see our son Isaac graduate from Providence Christian College. We spent some precious time with our family, including our granddaughter Isabella!
- After graduation, Isaac was able to spend nearly five months with us in Milan before moving to Vermont to take a new job.
- In August, we began a much-needed remodel of our little church building, doubling our seating capacity.
- In October, our church hosted a Reformation conference with two other Protestant churches in Milan, reaching many people and building bridges with other Christians in the city.
- In November, we received an encouraging visit from the URCNA Missions Coordinator, Rev. Rich Bout, and his family.
- In December, we began another new member's course with four people. The church also received a gift that will allow for the completion of the remaining work on the remodel.

In addition, we give God thanks that he has supplied our church with two outstanding elders (Mimmo Altobelli and Vittorio Calderaro) who humbly and faithfully lead our congregation. We

thank God that he continues to cause his gospel to be preached and his Word to be studied at Chiesa Riformata Filadelfia. We thank him that plans are now being made to establish a Reformed & Presbyterian denomination amongst the churches in Milan, Perugia, and Lecce. We thank him that Janie is working as an English teacher to foreigners and Iain is doing well in high school. We thank him that he has kept our family physically healthy this year. We thank him that we continue to grow and mature as followers of Jesus Christ.

Above all, we thank God for his grace that has been given to us in his Son. Only in Him do we have a living hope, a hope that looks beyond the horizons of this present evil age and the difficulties and suffering that we must endure. Whatever 2022 brings, one thing is certain for all who trust in Christ: God is good, and his steadfast love endures forever.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support of Mission Milan. May the Lord bless you and keep you in the coming year!

Mike, Janie and Iain Brown

