



VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

Rev. Adam Kaloostian

Dear partners in the gospel,

To me, Ventura, California feels 'small town', insular. As a product and devotee of the sprawling Los Angeles metropolis, and therefore geographically and by personality an outsider to Ventura, I have felt, at times, claustrophobic.

That's symbolic, really, of how our group feels sometimes to be Reformed church-planting: maybe 'stifled' is the word? Ventura's visible people are closed-ranks Secular, monied, fit, post-Christian

(pockets of wild west evangelical subculture break up the monotony). Yesterday came word that Hollywood is producing a new soap opera, Ventura Shores. I'm sure it will be visually stunning. Probably it will not highlight Ventura's underbelly of homelessness, addiction, mental illness, marriage trouble, or right and left political hypocrisies and trivialities.

Enter the gracious power and light of our Lord Jesus Christ as he breaks through and shines in the darkness! What we can report from Ventura is that he is working for rescue and extending his glory in and through the church plant (such as we are)!

Three years ago, Matt, one of our core members, teacher and coach at Ventura High School, was talking with the Head Custodian there, Chris, whose wife Kathy was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Matt had invited Chris to his classroom to pray with him a couple times, trying to encourage him while Kathy was dying. Fast forward to six months ago- Chris, now widowed, retired, came to church here for the first time, and hasn't missed a service or event since. We are doing cartwheels that Chris is here and in the pastor's class. God is helping him in church, and at home with a single adult daughter and special-needs granddaughter.



Adam, Lena, and John Kaloostian



Meet Chris, at the center of the table.

Here's a California family for you, all in the pastor's class together . . . start with Royce, high school friend of a couple of our core guys, arguing religion over video-game marathons, at last making his mom bring him to try our church. Mom, raised staunch Roman Catholic, had drifted, nothing had stuck since, but, this quickly became her church home. Next, dad came with them, totally unchurched from birth, now learning the faith from ground up. Later came grandpa, true to Roman Catholicism until ten years ago when he couldn't stomach the scandals anymore; he is laser-focused on reorienting his faith here.

The three youngest people in the class are from core group families working on their professions of faith; they are teaching and encouraging their elder classmates. Amazing.

The broader URCNA prayers and financial support have been game-changers for us. Thank you. Be assured the Lord is answering your prayers as we by his grace are making steady progress. Please do not forget us in 2026 in your prayers and support!



Baosheng, who from China with his Dad has been here now a couple years, continues to grow and thrive through some challenges.

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS TRAINING **2026**

Have you thought of serving the Lord outside North America? CCMT takes young men and women aged 18+ through two weeks of Bible teaching and cultural and language immersion followed by two weeks of service in a foreign context. Seasoned missionaries and pastors train in culture, language, and Bible teaching, both in a classroom setting and then on the field.

For more information please contact Pastor Rich Bout at: urcnamissions@gmail.com



WHEN? May 16 - June 13, 2026

WHERE? Mexico

WHO? Young Adults 18+





SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Rev. Ben Davenport

Providence Reformed Church – Sioux Falls, SD

(Under the oversight of Christ Reformed Church, Sioux Falls)

It's hard to believe that a full year has passed since Providence began gathering as a congregation. The Lord has been good to us throughout this time. As we assemble each Lord's Day to receive His Word and sacraments, He continues to teach us deeper dependence on Him and to rest in His fatherly care. "Providence," it turns out, has been an apt name for our congregation, reminding us that His ways are higher than ours and that He remains faithful, even when He graciously sends afflictions.

We gather each Lord's Day morning at the McCrossan Boys Ranch Visitor Center for an all-ages Sunday School class followed by worship. Attendance has been encouraging—usually between seventy and eighty—and the fellowship is warm. The congregation is intentional in hospitality; each Sunday a family welcomes visitors and members into their home for a meal.

Every Sunday evening, we join Christ Reformed Church for worship, followed by a potluck. These shared services, along with our combined prayer meetings, have strengthened the bond between our congregations. Over the past year, the Lord has brought new faces to Providence. Four households are currently taking the membership class co-led by the pastors of Providence and Christ Reformed. We've also rejoiced in baptisms and professions of faith, seeing the Lord continue to build His church. A recent prayer meeting drew about thirty people, including many children—it is a joy to hear their young voices call upon the Lord.

The congregation has taken small but meaningful steps in outreach—distributing door hangers in nearby neighborhoods and hosting a community picnic at a local lake. We're praying for and pursuing more opportunities in the coming year.



After our first baptism Sunday, rejoicing in God's covenant promises (March 2025).



Another joyful baptism at Providence (May 2025).

Several men are also being trained for future service as elders and deacons, who will be needed before we can particularize. Please pray specifically that the Lord will lead us and strengthen us in these areas.

Looking ahead, our most pressing need is for a larger and more permanent worship space, as we are nearing capacity at our current location. Property in northwest Sioux Falls is costly, and construction would add to that challenge. Please join us in praying for the Lord's provision. If He leads you to give toward that need, we would be grateful.

To learn more, visit www.providencesiouxfalls.com or contact Rev. Ben Davenport at davenporter@gmail.com.

Praise God—our sanctuary is nearly full, and we're praying for more space (November 2025).

