



MERIDIAN, ID

Kris Wassam

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

It has been a year and a half since our church plant held its first service in Meridian, Idaho and we are pleased to say that we have encountered the Lord’s smiling providence at every turn. We began with a core group of 12 families (40 people) from Christ Reformed Church in Nampa, Idaho. The Lord has grown our number to 29 families (87 people), and a handful of regular attendees.

While we are grateful for the numerical growth, we are most excited about seeing our members grow spiritually. For the first time in the life of our plant, we saw one of our covenant children make a profession of faith and receive the Lord’s Supper. God has also nourished all of our members with his Word, as we have just finished our summer series through Titus and the Psalms, and eagerly look forward to returning to 1 Kings and the Heidelberg Catechism. We are also growing in our love for one another. This summer has given us many opportunities for fellowship including our monthly luncheons, our summer BBQs, and our first annual church camping trip.



The support that we have received from churches in our federation has been truly humbling. For our first year, we depended entirely upon pulpit supply from ministers and



licentiates. It is our joy to report that we have not gone a single Lord’s Day without someone to proclaim God’s Word to us. This would not have been possible without your kindness, as many of you have generously shared your ministers and interns with us.

In April of this year, our mother church called Mr. Kris Wassam, a newly declared candidate, to be our church planter. He is currently serving as our stated pulpit supply until his

ordination exam in Classis Pacific Northwest this September. Please pray for his studies and preparations. This classis will be an especially meaningful time in the life of our church plant because, in addition to Mr. Wassam’s exam, we are also requesting advice from classis to organize as a church. Please pray for us as we continue to make steps towards particularization.

The Lord has blessed us with wonderful leadership in the form of a steering committee that has worked tirelessly for our church plant. While we still benefit from the spiritual care of the entire council of Christ Reformed Church, we currently have two elders and one deacon whose district is solely focused on the members of our church plant. We covet your prayers for the Lord’s sustaining grace in the days ahead.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Kris Wassam

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 **SANBORN, IA**

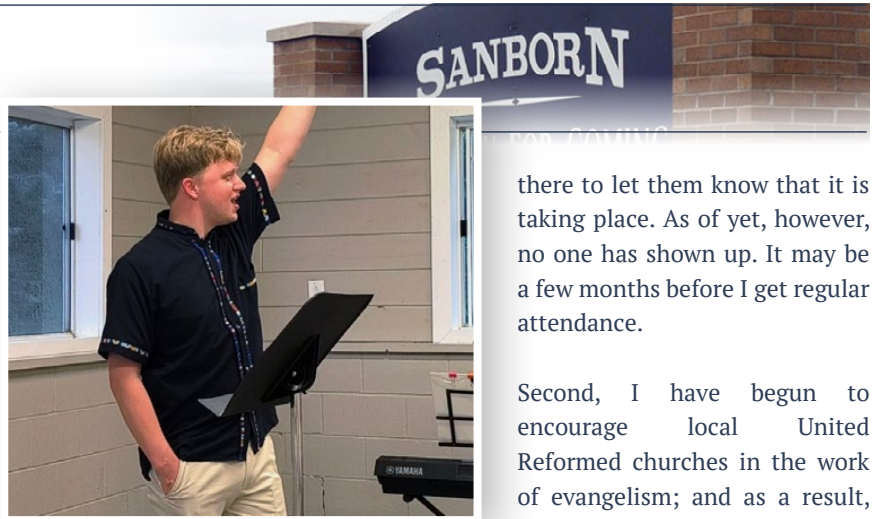
Rev. Elijah Anderson

Flock of God,

It has been about four months since I was ordained, and we began the work of preaching the gospel to the Spanish speaking people of Northwest Iowa. I am settling into the area and getting to know people both from Cornerstone URC and from the local community. It's certainly a big change, considering I grew up in big cities; but the Lord has been faithful and kind, and I am loving Iowa far more than I expected to!

So far, we have yet to see much fruit- but then again, the work of the ministry takes time and patient effort. Nonetheless, the Lord has opened doors to preach the gospel in several different ways, far beyond what might be expected. A few highlights:

First, we have now 5 Bible studies taking place: two in local jails, two directly connected to Cornerstone URC, and recently one in a nearby town (Sibley). With regards to this last Bible study, it's the first one that I have begun without having several contacts in the area. I am operating on the philosophy that "if you build it, they will come"; and I have left out flyers and spoken to people



there to let them know that it is taking place. As of yet, however, no one has shown up. It may be a few months before I get regular attendance.

Second, I have begun to encourage local United Reformed churches in the work of evangelism; and as a result, two churches are beginning

evangelism committees. My prayer is that eventually every URC in the area will be actively involved in evangelism.

Third, at Cornerstone URC, I have been translating the services from English into Spanish; at the same time, I have begun offering to translate for local Christian conferences. This has so far been very well received, and several people have invited friends and family to attend.

Of special note, however, recently we had what might be called the first unofficial service of our Spanish church plant. On the last weekend of July, the City of Sanborn held a major celebration called "railroad days", and we held dinner and a service in Spanish in the park. About 30 people attended, with 2/3 of those being Hispanic families. I preached from Philippians 3:4-11, on "the surpassing worth of Christ". It was a wonderful time, despite the fact that halfway through the sermon it started to rain and we were forced inside. Soon, we intend to have services more frequently- though as of yet we have not set a date for that.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Elijah Anderson

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