

GLA Newsletter

May 2013

Better together in mission.

Send GLA news and evangelism stories to the clerk at glaclerkss@gmail.com for future issues

ISLAND MINISTRIES: Myra, a retired teacher, is the younger of identical twins. But for a few hours each day she boasts being a day older than her sister who lives in Maine. Myra is a member of **Faith Presbyterian CRC** in Guam, and as the natives will tell you "America's day starts in Guam". Adriana and I met Myra and all the wonderful folks of Faith Church when we represented Classis GLA and installed their new pastor Tom Van Engen on May 26. Faith Church has been a GLA church since 2004. Before that they were a ministry of World Missions. The Guam mission, as we discovered, started as a Navy Chapel in the 1950's and a Christian Bookstore in the early 1960's. (see <http://guampedia.com/faith-presbyterian-christian-reformed-church/>). After 50 years of ministry - 27 by our deceased colleague Neil Culbertson - Faith Church is excited and poised to start a new chapter in the Guam mission. Tom and Rose Van Engen were called from frigid Minnesota, and are particularly well suited and gifted to serve the people and the mission in the tropical paradise of Guam. Faith Church is a vibrant church community made up of many contagious and entrepreneurial followers of Jesus. They are known for their spiritual gift of island hospitality, and it is no wonder that they were instrumental in birthing close to 30 churches and ministries over the years. In talking to Dr. and Maggie Chen, members of Faith for over 30 years, they with the help of Peter Tong and pastor Neil have been involved with four Chinese church plants. Dr. Bill and Crystal Wood, president and provost of the Pacific Island University, told us of their connections with the International Theological Seminary in El Monte. One of the members of Faith Church is a Supreme Court judge in Guam. Faith Church is truly a multicultural church with bridge members from the Micronesian islands, the Philippines, Korea, China, Kenya, Japan and the USA mainland. Recently one of the Faith members bought an island hotel for the sole purpose of housing and doing ministry. With many strategic connections to the community, the Asian tourists and the two military bases Faith is firmly planted to bear much Guam fruit. And Myra? Now that she is retired Myra spends several months a year in Maine being the younger sister fulltime. *Sid Sybenga*

You can see pictures of the Van Engen installation and Faith Church at the GLA web site classisgla.org.

MISSION TOOL BOX: Tim Keller's award winning book **Center Church** and his web site centerchurch.com are sure to produce ministry fruit.

ABLAZE: All Nations Harvest Festival is June 2 at 3 PM in Bethel CRC Bellflower. All GLA churches are invited to participate in this many nations celebration.

FREE OUTEACH/MISSION IDEAS: Simple & Practical www.vergenetwork.org/practical-ways-to-be-missional/

CLASSIS PRAYER MEETING: 30 people from Classis GLA attended the bi-national Prayer Summit in April at the **All Nations Church** in Lake View Terrance. It was a powerful testimony to see the Executive Director of our denomination, instead of giving us a state of the union address and blessing us, inviting everyone present (as representatives of the whole CRCNA) to kneel with him in prayer and plead with the King of the church to revive us and lead us during the challenging and changing times we are facing today. "Your Kingdom come; Your will be done" was the urgent cry of the Prayer Summit. As Classis GLA we say "Thank You!" to Pastors Tae Kim and Jin Soo Yoo and all the ANC pastors and staff for their hospitality and exemplary service.

In response to the Prayer Summit's call to pray a number of people from Classis GLA have started to meet together to pray for the Classis, GLA churches, pastors, leaders and ministries. They meet on the first Saturday of the month in God's Grace's building at First CRC of Bellflower. They pray from 8 - 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to come and pray and/or to be prayed for. Prayer requests can be sent to Annette Mendez or Diony Aguhub at worldtrippn@yahoo.com or daquhob@yahoo.com. The next prayer meeting is June 1.

Tim Keller in **Center Church** writes (page 73) "To kindle every revival, the Holy Spirit initially uses "extraordinary prayer" - united, persistent and kingdom centered prayer. Sometimes it begins with a small group of people praying for God's glory in the community. What is important is not the number of people praying but the nature of the praying. [What we need is not maintenance prayer but **frontline** prayer] Maintenance prayer meetings are short, mechanical and focused on physical needs inside the church. There are three components to **frontline** prayer. 1. A request for grace to confess sins and to humble ourselves, 2. A compassion and zeal for the flourishing of the church and the reaching of the lost, 3. A yearning to know God, to see his face, to glimpse his glory. ... Some kind of "extraordinary prayer" beyond the normal services and patterns of prayer is always involved in gospel renewal."

PRAYER: Some of the highlights and prayer talks of the Prayer Summit can be seen at www.crcna.org/PrayerSummit/watch-and-pray-events.

WELCOME to GLA: Tom & Rose Van Engen pastortve@gmail.com

CLT MEETING: June 18 11:30 AM ministry Center