

NOT SO NEW Classis Mission Leaders APPOINTED

At our GLA Classis meeting October 22, 2013 Classis approved the appointment of Sid Sybenga as the new Classis Mission Leader. Instead of having one Home Missions Regional Leader to foster the missional work of the CRC in the five Classes along the West coast like in the Peter Holwerda days, Home Missions has encouraged and supported each of the Classis to appoint their own Classis Mission Leader. In his acceptance of this role at the Classis meeting Sid conveyed his appreciation for the unique diversity in Classis GLA and his desire to help all the churches flourish and grow. Hopefully his 17 years of ministry relationships in Classis GLA can be leveraged for the expansion of God's kingdom. Sid can be reached at sshope10@yahoo.com for consultation and church resourcing.

THE DEADLINE for applying for a CENT Fund outreach/evangelism or church planting grant is December 1, 2013. Applications and guidelines are on the GLA web site. www.classisgl.org.

MISSION TOOL BOX: The Timothy Leadership Training Institute - an accomplished and comprehensive training tool box for the local and global mission - will offer a one week training, January 20 – 24 in Houston TX. In one year you can become a Master Trainer. Check it out at www.tlti.org. Register before December 14 to get the early bird price.

CLASSIS GLA EVENT CALENDAR

LDT Meeting: January 7, 11 AM Ministry Center
CLT MEETING: January 9, 11:30 AM New City Office
TEAM REPORTS Due for agenda: January 7, 2014
CENT MEETING: January 21, 6 PM Ministry Center
RCA-CRC MEETING: February 19, 2014
CLASSIS MEETING: February 25, 2014

COMMUNICATIONS: Send your outreach and evangelism stories to glaclerkss@gmail.com for inclusion in the GLA newsletter.

If your Classis team or church is planning a training event please inform the clerk for inclusion in the Classis events calendar.

WELCOME TO CLASSIS GLA: Sam Lee, Hitomi Korlinov, Micah Bruxvoort, and Myo Sook Cho, all recently called, ordained and/or installed as ministers in GLA.

The interview with Micah Bruxvoort in the next column was conducted by Matt Sapp of the CENT.

CENT Interviews New Pastor Micah Bruxvoort

Matt: I understand you spent a couple years in Africa while your wife was working on a project. What kind of opportunities did you have to share your faith when you were there?

Micah: In Tanzania I had the opportunity to volunteer with World Renew, a Christian relief and development organization. World Renew partners with churches in educating communities about AIDS prevention and care, developing savings and loan funds, and starting new businesses. We were very clear whenever we started work in a new community that we came to serve out of love for Jesus. Interestingly, many of the people that we worked with were Muslims. I believe the respect that we showed our Muslim partners and the love with which we carried out our work was an effective testimony of the gospel.

Matt: I heard that different people groups across the globe emphasis different aspects of faith and Scripture. Did you have any barriers that made it hard to share your faith?

Micah: I didn't experience many cultural barriers, per se, but I did experience linguistic barriers. Speaking about my faith in Kiswahili is not easy! Whenever my words failed, I hope that my actions got the point across. The youth group that I pastored in Tanzania would regularly do service projects at a local children's hospital. We colored pictures with the kids, taught them how to make paper airplanes, and played balloon games. I'll never forget the big smiles on the kids' faces as we batted balloons back and forth. I hope they'll remember the big smile on my face as well!

Matt: Now that God has blessed you with a senior pastor position in Los Angeles, what is your vision for Bethel concerning outreach and evangelism? How do you hope to encourage the congregation to share their faith both individually and corporately?

Micah: My hope for Bethel is that we will develop relationships with people who currently do not attend church, and in the context of those relationships share the good news about Jesus. We have a lot of opportunities to develop relationships since people from our community love to send their kids to our GEMS and Cadets programs and to events that we have on campus, like the Family Festival. A lot of people from our community also come into contact with Bethel through the Sol del Valle Community Center, which is based on our campus. In addition to these "on-campus" ministries, we also have opportunities to develop relationships off-campus. One of our members leads a Good News Club at a local elementary school, and I would love to see us replicate that success in other nearby schools. I'm also eager to see how partnering with para-church organizations like our local rescue mission can lead to evangelistic opportunities.)