



Living the Call

A REPORT FROM THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

GLOBAL MISSION

The Christian Reformed Church seeks to express God’s love by living out five callings:

Faith Formation

As a community of believers, we seek to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to nurture their faith through all ages and stages of life. (Report in August)

Servant Leadership

Understanding that the lifelong equipping of leaders is essential for churches and ministries to flourish, we identify, recruit and train leaders to be servants in the Kingdom of God. (Report in October)

Global Mission

Called to be witnesses of Christ’s Kingdom to the ends of the earth, we start and strengthen local churches in North America and around the world. (Report in February)

Mercy and Justice

Hearing the cries of the oppressed, forsaken and disadvantaged, we seek to act justly and love mercy as we walk humbly with our God. (Report in April)

Gospel Proclamation and Worship

Believing that faith comes through the hearing of God’s Word, we proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ and seek to worship him in all that we do. (Report in June)

From the Executive Director’s Desk

In Matthew 28:18—20, Jesus commands, *“therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

Often, our words and actions give the impression that this command was not meant for each of us. Instead, we limit it to being for special individuals who are called to go to new lands, new nations and cultures, and spread the word of God as they “make disciples“.

But Jesus’ command to “therefore go” can be more properly translated as “as you go” make disciples. In other words, the work of making disciples belongs to all of us, every day, as we go about our lives. And the “us” isn’t limited to people in North America.

Today, missionaries are arriving in the United States and Canada from other cultures and countries. Missiologists describe this as a movement away from “from here to everywhere” to “from everywhere to everywhere.” Meaning that missionaries are people of all cultures who relocate to various areas on the globe where they feel the call of God to share the Good News. We should rejoice in this new development.

My own conversion story includes hearing the gospel from a missionary. He was a young, 20 year old African-American missionary by the name of Tom Skinner. Tom was a former gang member, who was called by God to preach and spread his word far and wide. In this case, Tom felt called to go to a former British colony and preach the word to a crowd which included a 10 year old boy whom God had prepared to hear it. I am thankful and eternally grateful that Tom answered the call.

We can see further evidence of missionaries from everywhere traveling to everywhere in our own denominational ministries such as Resonate Global Mission, ReFrame Ministries, and Raise Up.

As we obey Christ’s call and engage others, we discover the rich differences, complexities and textures of their ethnicities and cultures. As we experience God at work in them, we marvel anew at God’s goodness and wisdom in the creation of the wide diversity that is humanity.

I praise God that he did not create us to be a monolithic human culture and

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Resonate Global Mission

We've come through a difficult year—but with your support and the work of the Holy Spirit, we've accomplished a lot together. Your gifts and prayers made this possible!

Micro-churches and House Churches

Resonate continues to help the CRCNA join God's mission through planting churches, but new churches look different than they did even a few years ago. Today we're adding micro-churches and house churches to the mix, which are small communities of anywhere from five to thirty people who share a specific interest, characteristic, or location.

Micro-churches have a missional edge. They are specifically designed to reach people who have never been part of a church, or people who have left the church. And they can be run with fewer staff and less expense.

Witness From Home

Working from home has highlighted the opportunities we have in our own neighborhoods—to meet our neighbors and be witnesses for Christ. How do we witness in a world where people are unfamiliar with Christianity, even wary of our faith? This year, your support helped Resonate launch a new, free curriculum called *Witness: Equipped to Share the Good News*. This downloadable resource provides five sessions with short videos, small group guides, and a participant journal.

Read more and download the free digital booklet at www.resonateglobalmission.org/witness today!

Tools You Can Use

Being a witness for Christ isn't always easy, but *Witness* is a free resource from Resonate that will help you join God on mission right where you live. Read more and download the free digital booklet at www.resonateglobalmission.org/witness today!

Encourage the people in your congregation to be open to God's calling to a mission-focused ministry! Resonate has 15 openings for new missionaries right now at www.resonateglobalmission.org/careers.



The house churches and micro-churches you support through Resonate Global Mission are specifically designed to reach people who have never been to church, or who have left the church.

From Everywhere to Everywhere

Overseas work is picking back up with renewed energy as Resonate has added some new missionary staff, including some who are not from North America! We're delighted to walk alongside these new missionaries as they discover God's plan for their ministry. Yet we still have openings for **15 new missionaries**, so please encourage those in your congregation to consider whether God may be calling them to a mission-focused ministry. Visit www.resonateglobalmission.org/careers for more information.

ZACHARY KING, DIRECTOR
RESONATE GLOBAL MISSION

People You Should Know

Resonate's team of Local Mission Leaders from across North America is here to serve you, help your congregation, and connect you with what God is doing in your region! Find the team nearest you at www.resonateglobalmission.org/regions.

ReFrame Ministries



ReFrame Ministries is well positioned to reach people around the world with the gospel through media, even in times of pandemic isolation and restrictions.

As a media ministry, our partners around the world have long been asking about how we can share the good news of the gospel, even when we are separated from one another. Tools in the digital era have made it easier than ever to share information, and our programs are reaching people in nearly every country even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Adapting to New Challenges:

In China, the internet is becoming more and more difficult to use for sharing the gospel due to new restrictions from the Chinese government. After losing access to several major social media accounts, our Chinese ministry team is refocusing its efforts to print ministry for Chinese speakers who live both in and outside of China.

Our Arabic ministry in Egypt has been slow to move forward, due to a number of reasons, including the pandemic. We're dedicated to continuing partnering with the Synod of the Nile, but we may be working with partners there to appoint a new ministry leader.

Our Hindi ministry team in India has developed new discipleship groups using WhatsApp, allowing them to deepen their relationship with listeners who want to learn more about what they're hearing on the radio and internet programs.

Despite new challenges, we know from people like Azami in Tokyo that God is working through our ministry partners around the world. Azami recently reconnected to her faith and our radio program after stepping away from them for many years. After turning on the radio and finding a familiar radio host, she shared, "Memories from being raised in the church from an early age began overflowing. I couldn't stop crying because of that nostalgic voice."

**KURT SELLES, DIRECTOR
REFRAME MINISTRIES**

Some Resources for Your Own Spiritual Growth From ReFrame's English ministry:

- Request prayer or join our prayer team: prayer.reframeministries.org
- Receive daily devotions in your inbox or as a podcast: todaydevotional.com
- Build your family's relationship in Christ: FamilyFire.com
- Find God's Story in pop culture: ThinkChristian.net

Raise Up Global Ministries



Meet leaders who use the resources of Raise Up in their Kingdom adventures. Raise Up Global Ministries is a partnership of Global Coffee Break, Timothy Leadership Training, and Educational Care. They work to equip church leaders by 1) developing biblically-based interactive materials and 2) training leaders to facilitate learning and change.

Several Rwandan pastors had just completed TLT manuals *Caring for God's People* and *Christian Stewardship* before pandemic shutdowns. Immediately, they put learning into practice by dividing their congregation into house churches and leading them through the manuals. As a result, 242 individuals were equipped to lead small groups and minister in creative ways in their communities. They applied action plans to plant more acreage, give food away, and redirect their tithes to assist others impacted by pandemic restrictions. These churches are stronger and more effective than ever before. Timothy Leadership Training develops leadership materials — that are now available in video

and print formats — so that leaders and pastors, even in remote areas, have access to high quality training.

Brookfield CRC's Coffee Break leaders endured last year, despite the uncertainty of a pandemic, with only two leaders. God has been faithful; this year, six leaders are watching Coffee Break families commit their lives to Christ and join their church. Global Coffee Break (GCB) is also bearing fruit in 26 countries around the world. Pastors in Costa Rica are exploring interactive Spanish Bible studies by working together through *Descubra Colosenses*. Next, these pastors will train their congregations to lead welcoming, Word-centered small groups. GCB supports these gospel stories by creating and distributing interactive *Discover Your Bible* studies and training leaders to facilitate community and learning.

Jamila teaches at a child development center in Northern Uganda and attended training in the Educational Care module, *A Christian Worldview*, in January 2022. The teachers explored questions like, "In what ways does your treatment of students honor the image of God in them?" They had the opportunity to think about their job and the children through a Biblical lens. Many were convicted. Their classrooms caused groaning rather than joy. By the second day, teachers were already making plans to show children love and care rather than inflicting punishment. Educational Care supports this type of learning by developing manuals and methods to equip teachers with a holistic, God-centered approach to teaching so that students become salt and light in the world.

**SAM HUIZENGA, DIRECTOR
RAISE UP GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

Tools You Can Use

- New Studies: *Discover Revelation 1-3*, *Discover Revelation 4-22*, *Discover Micah* (Fall 2022), *Discover 1 and 2 Timothy*, (Spring 2023)
- Intro to Leading Bible Discovery workshop or other training events — Contact Juan Sierra
- New Timothy Leadership Training Manual — *Fear Not*
- Timothy Leadership Training manuals available on video through WhatsApp

People You Should Know

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society. Our understanding of God is deepened as we see him from multiple perspectives. The more we see, the more layers of discovery and meaning are revealed.

In these early months of 2022, we can be comforted by knowing that we serve a God who is working in hearts across cultures, races, communities and countries to amplify what we do for the Kingdom, and is bringing a deeper awareness and understanding of God to the nations through our efforts.

May we continue to live into this truth.

COLIN P. WATSON SR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CRCNA

Help is Only a Call, Click, or Chat Away



Click Call Chat

We're making it easier for you and your church to access CRC resources. If you're involved in Global Mission work or another part of church ministry, and wonder if your denomination can help with something, just CALL (800-272-5125), CLICK (www.crcna.org/Resources), or CHAT (from any page on www.crcna.org). We're here to serve, and would love to connect you with people and resources to support your ministry.

Want to Learn More?

Stay up-to-date on what the CRCNA is doing in Global Mission:

CRC News — Subscribe at crcna.org/subscribe for a weekly digest of stories in your inbox

The Network — Visit crcna.org/Network to post your questions, participate in discussions around the topic of "Global Mission", or review available resources

Resonate Global Mission e-updates — Stay up to date with ministry stories and prayer requests by subscribing to our email updates. resonateglobalmission.org/resources

ReFrame Ministries — Join our email list and stay updated ReFrameMinistries.org

Call 1-800-272-5125 with any of your ministry questions.